

BROWN TOWNSHIP

ESTABLISHED 1830

Summer 2025

Dever Building Dedication

Brown Township Maintenance Building Renamed as the Dever Building

In a sometimes emotional May 29 gathering, the Brown Township Board of Trustees named the building housing the township hall and maintenance facility the Dever Building, in memory of long-time trustee, the late Gary Dever. Trustee Pam Sayre presided over the dedication ceremony, remembering, in particular, Gary's ability to read a room and defuse difficult situations.

"At times, he was my friend, my dad, my mentor, and always our trusted trustee," she said.

A lifelong Brown Township resident and farmer and a township trustee for 47 years, Gary Dever was honored for his dedicated service to Brown Township.

A second ceremony the same evening featured the planting of two October Glory maple trees in the nearby Brown Township Nature Preserve to honor Gary Dever and his wife, the late Sophie Dever, a long-time teacher at Brown Elementary



Members of the Dever family help plant a tree in memory of Gary & Sophie Dever.



School. The trees were generously donated by Greg and Gayle Ruwe and by the Gillfilan family.



Gary Dever



Sophie Dever

Gary and Sophie Dever graduated from Hilliard High School where Sophie was a cheerleader and Gary played sports. They were pillars of the Brown Township community who will long be remembered for their many years of selfless service. Their daughter, Gay Sowers, and Gary's brother, Scott Dever, spoke at the building dedication to express their appreciation.

Contributed by Beth Clark, former executive assistant to the Brown Township Trustees and friend of Gary Dever's for over 30 years.

ABOVE: Members of the Norwich Township Fire Department proudly unveil a sign that will identify the Dever Building, in honor of Trustee Gary Dever.



Scott Dever (left), Gary Dever's brother and Gay Sowers (right), Gary & Sophie Dever's daughter, both spoke at the dedication of the Dever Building.

New Trustee Appointed



Trustee Pete Marsh

The Brown Township Board of Trustees has appointed Pete Marsh to fill the Board vacancy created by the death of long-time Trustee Gary Dever. He will serve the remainder of Dever's term, through December.

A ten-year resident of Brown Township, Marsh is a landscape designer and owns Blue Oak Patio & Landscape in Hilliard.

He served on Hilliard City Council for six years and was a founding member and one-time chair of the Environmental Sustainability Committee and served on the board of Destination Hilliard.

Currently, he is a member of the Hilliard Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the City of Hilliard Planning & Zoning Commission, and is involved in a start-up non-profit organization called Home in Hilliard which will soon offer services to residents 55 and older.

He has been participating in the Brown Township Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee and sees the Trustee appointment as an opportunity to be more engaged with the community in which he resides.

Marsh notes that residents of the portions of Brown Township that are also within the city of Hilliard are sometimes confused about the overlapping layers of government.

A native of Bowling Green, Ohio, he received a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Notre Dame and a master's degree in landscape architecture from The Ohio State University.

Marsh and his family – wife, Bev, and daughters Clare (12), Violet (11), and Anna (6) – are active in the St. Brendan parish. He also coaches two of his daughters' softball teams.

He feels strongly about local service and looks upon this opportunity as a way to serve and to help bridge the gap between concerns of rural residents of the township and those who live in incorporated portions of the township, as he does.

Fellow Trustee Pam Sayre says, "We feel very fortunate to have Pete with us. He brings a wealth of community experience and a fresh perspective to the Board."

Contributed by Beth Clark, former executive assistant to the Brown Township Trustees.

Brown Township Awarded "Housing Technical Assistance Program" Grant Funded by State of Ohio

Zoning in Brown Township is currently administered by the Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department. This office oversees all zoning, code enforcement, and land use planning activities in our township.

Other local townships that also outsource these functions include Clinton, Franklin, Hamilton, Madison, Mifflin, Norwich, Pleasant, Sharon, and Truro. Local townships that administer their own zoning include Blenden, Jackson, Jefferson, Perry, Plain, Prairie, and Washington.

By the end of 2026, Brown could join the list of townships that administer their own zoning.

In the past year, the Brown Township Trustees have undertaken several efforts to respond to the increased pressure for development throughout the region. To date, the most visible form has been in the undertaking of a Comprehensive Plan Update.

Our Comprehensive Plan was last updated in 2005 and certainly many things have changed since then! Out of this process came the seedlings of an

idea to consider self-administered zoning regulations. As development continues to knock on the doorstep, it makes sense that we take greater control of setting our own zoning regulations and enforcement so that we can support the community that we want, rather than having those decisions made for us at the county level.

In early June, Brown Township was notified that our grant application to the Housing Technical Assistance Program for funding the development of a township zoning code was successful.

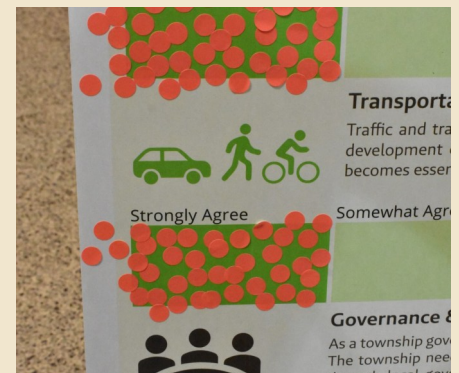
In total, the Ohio Department of Development awarded \$1.5 million in grants to 29 cities, villages, and townships across 20 counties.

Brown Township was the only local government in Franklin County to receive this funding. We will receive \$50,000 to be put toward the process of developing and implementing a township zoning code. This effort is ex-

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Comprehensive Plan Update

The Brown Township Comprehensive Plan Update has made significant progress since the community Open-House in February. As we are working on a final draft, your Brown Township Trustees want to hear from you.



Please join us for a formal presentation on Tuesday, July 15 at 5:30 PM in the first-floor bay of Fire Station #82 (2491 Walker Road).

We will present the goals and objectives of the plan, and participants will be given the opportunity to provide feedback and input for consideration for the final draft. Once the draft is finalized, it will be posted on the township website prior to going before the Board of Trustees for approval and adoption.

Changes in Township Staffing



Donna Palmer

Donna Palmer Resigns

The Trustees are sad to announce that Donna Palmer has resigned as Assistant to the Trustees to care for a family member with health issues.

Donna held the position for a little over a year and in that small amount of time was a huge help to the Board. Her constant availability and her bubbly personality were received well by all.

We will miss her, but we know she is where she needs to be. Happy trails, Donna.

Meet Heidi Feathers

Heidi was born in Columbus, Ohio, and moved to the Hilliard community when she was four years old. She and her family lived on Feder Road, and she attended Brown Elementary School.

Heidi is a graduate of Hilliard High School, class of 1997. After high school, Heidi attended Indiana Wesleyan where she received her bachelor's degree in social work. Her first job after obtaining her degree was with Netcare at the Juvenile Detention Center in Columbus; she then moved on to Lifeway for Youth, Inc., a private agency that provided foster care services, for eight years. After her tenure at Lifeway, she worked for Franklin County Children's Services.

Heidi's husband, Jeff, is a teacher at Bradley High School where he also helps coach the boys' soccer team. Their oldest son, Hayden, played soccer at Bradley and just recently graduated. He is interested in marketing as a future vocation. Their younger son, Beckett, is 15 years old and plays volleyball for Bradley. Hence, much of her time is spent at volleyball and soccer games.

She also works for PYB Sports, which



Heidi Feathers

provides housing for youth sports tournaments. Heidi is responsible for setting up blocks of hotel rooms for teams. Her trouble shooting skills and calm demeanor come in handy.

In her very spare time, Heidi likes to spend time outside, especially tending to her landscaping. She also enjoys baking and socializing with friends in her neighborhood.

Heidi has been learning the ropes from her predecessor, Donna Palmer. In Heidi's new role as "Assistant to the Trustees," her duties will include scheduling the usage of the Township Hall, answering the office phone and relaying messages to the Trustees, and making sure the Hall and the upstairs meeting room in Station 82 are clean and ready for the next use. She also will be responsible for making sure the maintenance contracts are being honored as agreed to. With the new security system installed in the Dever Building, Heidi will be the liaison between the Trustees and the representative of Silco. We're excited to work with Heidi and welcome her aboard!

The Dever Building Hall

Located at 2495 Walker Road

Is Available for Use by
Brown Township Residents

The Cost is \$50 per event

- No cost for Civic groups
- Resident must be present
- No alcohol

Contact Heidi Feathers

Heidi_Feathers@BrownTwp.org

(614) 876-2133

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pected to cost \$140,000 and so this important source of state funds will cover over one-third of that total.

To fulfill the grant requirements, the process must be completed by the end of May 2026. This will require a great deal of work in a short period of time!

Brown Township will once again partner with Verdantas as our consultant on this project, the same firm that is assisting with the Comprehensive Plan Update that is concluding.

This process will include a new Working Group of residents to provide input throughout and many other opportunities for broader community feedback through public forums and open houses. Stay tuned for more information about how to become involved!

After a proposed zoning code has been finalized, it will be placed before the voters for adoption in the fall 2026 election. If successful, the township will develop plans for processes and personnel to administer the new code, as well as the creation of a Planning & Zoning Commission to be comprised of appointed members of the community.

This is not a small undertaking and there are a lot of steps to get from here to there.

There will be a strong need for resident input and involvement at each step along the way.

In the end, the result that we hope for is to have Brown Township better positioned to control our own destiny.

With local code development, local land planning, and local code enforcement the residents who live here will be the ones who are making decisions about how we want our community to move forward together.



Franklin County disregards township in rezoning case



Brown Township
2491 Walker Road
Hilliard, OH 43026

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
COLUMBUS OH
PERMIT# 5964

BROWN TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHED 1830



L-R: Trustee Pete Marsh, Fiscal Officer Becky Kent,
Trustee Pam Sayre, Trustee Joe Martin.

Brown Township Administrative Offices

2491 Walker Road, Hilliard, Ohio 43026
(614) 876-2133

Website

www.BrownTwp.org

Officers

Pam Sayre, Trustee • (614) 582-0191

Joe Martin, Trustee • (614) 309-8879

Pete Marsh, Trustee • (419) 575-1137

Becky Kent, Fiscal Officer • (614) 446-2359

Norwich Fire Department

Dave Baird, Chief • (614) 876-7694

Franklin County Sheriff's Department

Emergency • 911

Non-Emergency • (614) 525-3333

Regular public meetings

Third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Upstairs Meeting Room of Firehouse
2491 Walker Rd., Hilliard, Ohio

PUBLIC SAFETY SUMMARY

Each issue of the Brown Township newsletter contains a quarterly wrap-up of public safety reports and calls in Brown Township.

Norwich Township Fire Department

Calls to addresses in both incorporated and unincorporated portions of Brown Township.

Fire Calls

EMS Calls

Incorp Unincorp Incorp Unincorp

MAR 2025	2	8	1	17
APR 2025	7	8	3	14
MAY 2025	6	17	3	11

Franklin County Sheriff

Calls to addresses in Brown Township:

March 2022

3/22 - Criminal Trespassing, Damaging or Endangering at an address on Hubbard Rd.

April 2025

4/4 - Grand Theft of personal equipment occurred at an address on Walker Rd.

4/7 - Identity fraud occurred at an address on Hayden Run Rd.

4/8 - Possible Illegal Dumping on Walker Rd.

4/16 - Criminal Damaging of property occurred on Dellinger Rd.

May 2025

5/19 - Criminal Damaging or Endangering occurred at an address on Jones Rd.

Hilliard Division of Police

Non-routine calls to addresses in Brown Township:

March 2025

No calls reported.

April 2025

No calls reported.

May 2025

No calls reported.

Medication Disposal

Dispose of unused medication in the red disposal station inside main entrance of the Joint Safety Services Building located at 5181 Northwest Parkway, which is next to the Franklin County Fairgrounds.