

BROWN TOWNSHIP

ESTABLISHED 1830

FALL 2019

Firehouse Celebration a Success

More than 100 children and adults participated in the Brown Township Firehouse celebration open house on August 11. Held in observance of the 20th anniversary of Brown Township's construction of the Firehouse, the event featured information and displays from a variety of agencies.

Norwich Township Fire Department gave station tours, scooped many servings of free ice cream, staffed a bounce house for kids, and introduced Sparky the Fire Dog to residents.

The Franklin County Board of Elections

demonstrated new voting machines. Information was available from Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District, Brown Township Block Watch, Focus Hilliard, Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio, and Franklin County Public Health.

Residents had the opportunity to meet and talk with their Brown Township elected officials—Trustees Gary Dever, Pam Sayre, and Joe Martin and Fiscal Officer Greg Ruwe.

Many thanks to those who participated in the celebration.



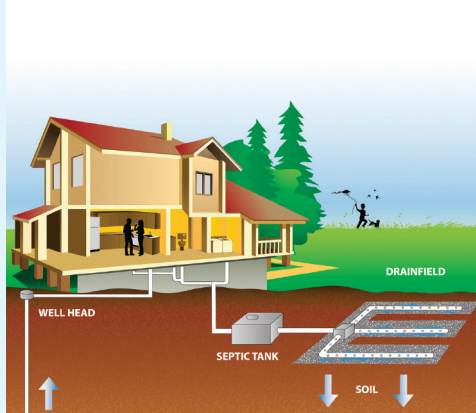
Maintaining Household Sewage Treatment Systems

Household sewage treatment systems (HSTS) is the fancy term for septic systems, aeration tanks, or secondary treatment systems such as leachfields or mounds. They treat household/human wastes in areas without access to public sewers or where a public sewer system is not feasible.

It's important to properly maintain your HSTS to protect the environment and to keep you and your family from getting sick from untreated sewage.

When HSTS fail, untreated sewage may pool onto the ground's surface or back up into your home. Any contact with untreated sewage can pose health risks. It can contaminate your drinking water supply or your neighbors' and it could contaminate streams, drainage ditches, rivers, and lakes. Untreated sewage could also carry disease-causing organisms and provide a breeding environment for mosquitoes, flies, and other disease carriers.

These health risks are directly tied to your exposure to and ingestion of untreated sewage. The young, the old, and persons with chronic health conditions or weakened immune systems are at higher risk for getting



sick if exposed. If you are in an area where failing HSTS may be located, do not ingest the surface water from ditches or streams, wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water, and do not allow children or pets to play in water that looks or smells like it is contaminated with sewage.

What You Can Do:

- Have your septic tank or aeration tank pumped every three to five years by a registered Franklin County Public Health septage hauler. You can find a registered septage hauler by going to myfcph.org.
- Keep septic tank covers and risers accessible and watertight.

- Conserve water and repair any plumbing leaks.
- Avoid doing all your laundry in one day to prevent overloading your system.
- Do not put paint, diapers, medications, cigarettes, cat litter, grease, chemicals, or feminine hygiene products into your system.
- Keep drainage and surface water away from your HSTS.
- Don't drive or park over any part of your HSTS.
- Routine maintenance is critical. It protects your investment by improving efficiency and prolonging the life of your system.

A household sewage treatment system is considered a public health nuisance if it is discharging onto the ground; into a stream, river or lake; or into a storm sewer or ditch. Factors that can cause a system to fail include:

- Age of the system
- Improper design or installation
- Inadequate maintenance practices

If you see or smell sewage, contact Franklin County Public Health by calling (614) 525-4787 or by completing an online form available on myfcph.org. Staff will investigate the complaint and work with property owners to correct the problem.



Have you heard gunshots?



Some residents have expressed concern about shooting in Brown Township.

It is not illegal to discharge a firearm on private property in Brown Township under certain conditions, including:

- Shooting must be confined to one's own property or property where the shooter has permission from the property owner.

- Ammunition rounds must not leave that property and not pass over a roadway.
- Shooting may not take place on a public road.
- Rounds must not pass within 100 yards of a house, park, school, church, inhabited dwelling, or property of another.
- Shooter must not be intoxicated.
- Shooters may be criminally

prosecuted for injury or property damage caused by their rounds.

If you see or hear shooting that you consider unsafe, please immediately call the Franklin County Sheriff's non-emergency number at 614-525-3333. A deputy will investigate the situation and provide the shooter with information about appropriate shooting practices if they find unsafe circumstances.

Open Burning in Brown Township



No permit is required for recreational fires, campfires, or outdoor fireplaces. The standards for these types of fires are the fire must be fueled by clean seasoned firewood, natural gas, or equivalent. Total fuel areas must be no larger than three feet in diameter and two feet in height. Such fires must be no closer than 25 feet from structures. Provision must be made to keep the fire from spreading. Fires in approved containers (chimenea, fire bowl, metal fire pit) must be no closer than 15 feet to anything combustible.

An open burning permit must be obtained for a bonfire. Bonfires must be no greater than five feet in diameter and five feet in height. Such fires must be no closer than 50 feet to any structure and provisions must be made to keep the fire from spreading. A completed open burning permit application should be submitted to the Norwich Township Fire Department Safety Services Building at least five days before the open burn is scheduled. Permits are processed during normal business hours—8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. An application received fewer than five days before the scheduled burn will be assessed a \$10 fee. The Safety Services Building is located

at 5181 Northwest Parkway, Hilliard, and can be reached by phone at 614-876-7694.

Open burning is prohibited when it is offensive or objectionable due to smoke or odor emissions because of atmospheric conditions or local circumstances. In such situations, the permit holder or the fire department may be directed to extinguish the fire.

Under Ohio law, certain materials may be not burned anywhere in the state at any time:

- Residential waste (tree trimmings, stumps, brush, weeds, leaves, grass, shrubbery, and material from crop or livestock production) within city limits.
- Any waste created in the handling, preparation, cooking, or consumption of food.
- Materials containing rubber, grease, or asphalt or made from petroleum such as tires, cars, and auto parts.
- Dead animals.

Open burning is not allowed when air pollution warnings or restrictions by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) are in effect.

Fires cannot obscure visibility for roadways, railroad tracks, or airways.

No waste generated off the premises may be burned.

It is necessary to notify OEPA in advance to burn agricultural wastes and plant matter such as tree trimmings, stumps, brush, weeds, leaves, grass, shrubbery, and material from crop or livestock production. This includes fence posts and scrap lumber, but does not include buildings, land clearing waste, dead animals, or animal waste. Such fires must be more than 1,000 feet from any inhabited building. Advance notice to OEPA is also required for ceremonial fires composed of a wood stack no larger than five feet high and five feet wide with a duration of three hours or less. Seasoned firewood or an equivalent fuel must be used.

OEPA has statutory authority to enforce open burning laws. Illegal open burning can result in substantial penalties. With questions, contact OEPA at 1-800-686-2330 or 614-728-3778 or visit the website at www.epa.ohio.gov/dapc/general/openburning.

Information provided by Norwich Township Fire Department

Smart911 Now Available

Brown Township residents now have the opportunity to sign up for a new emergency communications tool—Smart911.

This tool will provide communications technicians at the Northwest Regional Emergency Communications Center with vital information about participating residents to share with first responders. Residents can create their secure safety profiles at www.smart911.com.

The safety profile will automatically display to emergency communications technicians when a 9-1-1 call is placed from a phone number associated with a Smart911 profile. The technology



provides first responders with vital information that can help improve incident outcomes.

With this tool, police can have a photograph of a missing person in seconds rather than minutes or hours. Fire crews can arrive at the scene

of a fire knowing how many people live in a residence and the location of bedrooms. EMS teams can have detailed information about a person's allergies or prescriptions.

You can sign up at www.smart911.com or download the Smart911 app from the Apple Store or Google Play and create a safety profile for your household to give 9-1-1 valuable information about you, your family members, your home, pets, and even vehicles. Your profile is private and secure and you control what information you share with emergency responders.

For more information, go to www.smart911.com to learn more.



Brown Township
2491 Walker Road
Hilliard, Ohio 43026

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Brown Township Administration Office

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

Website

www.BrownTwp.org

Fiscal Officer

Greg Ruwe • (614) 876-2133

Trustees

Mr. Gary Dever • (614) 876-4768
Mrs. Pamela Sayre • (614) 878-0199
Mr. Joseph Martin • (614) 870-9601

Norwich Fire Department

Jeff Warren, Chief • (614) 876-7694

Franklin County Sheriff's Department

Emergency • 911

Non-Emergency • (614) 525-3333

Meetings are held the third Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at 2491 Walker Road, Hilliard, Ohio.



L-R: Fiscal Officer Greg Ruwe and Trustees Gary Dever, Pam Sayre and Joe Martin

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.
June 2019	0	3	3	13
July 2019	1	3	2	19
Aug. 2019	2	7	1	18

Franklin County Sheriff's Department

Calls to addresses in unincorporated Brown Township:

June 2019

Reported June 28, occurred June 26 – domestic dispute involving an individual at an address on Walker Road.

July 2019

July 24 – criminal trespass at an address on Roberts Road.

July 25 – domestic violence at an address on Patterson Road.

August 2019

Reported August 1, occurred between April 17 and 24 – theft of a credit card from an address on Feder Road.

August 7 – criminal damaging of a vehicle mirror at an address on Walker Road.

August 12 – felony theft of an item of jewelry from an address on Patterson Road.

Reported August 15, occurred between December 5, 2019 and August 15 – identity fraud at an address on Morris Road.

Reported August 22, occurred between August 21 and 22 – breaking and entering and theft of tools at an address on Jones Road.

Reported August 28, occurred between February 1 and August 28 – theft by deception of a check at an address on Abbey Chase Road.

Hilliard Division of Police

Non-routine calls to Brown Township addresses within the City of Hilliard:

June 2019

No non-routine calls.

July 2019

July 27 – possession of drug abuse instruments in a vehicle at the intersection of Alton Darby Creek and Scioto Darby roads.

July 28 – operating a vehicle under the influence of alcohol on Scioto Darby Road.

August 2019

No non-routine calls.