

BROWN TOWNSHIP

ESTABLISHED 1830

Spring 2019

Drainage: Property Owner Do's and Dont's

Historically, townships have been plagued with drainage problems on private property, and to a lesser extent, on township roads. Brown Township is no exception because of the flat topography and the type of soils prevalent in the township.

Private drainage problems have been brought before township boards of trustees by private property owners seeking resolution of the problem by action of the township and expecting the township to bear the cost of correcting the problem. Less frequently, drainage problems on township roads cause flooding and erosion of the road surface.

Drainage problems result from inability of the surface water to be absorbed by the soil, natural and man-made obstructions of natural water courses, excess runoff from paved or covered land areas, damage to existing private drainage systems, and land development without proper drainage facilities.

Over the years, the legal doctrine called the "reasonable use doctrine" has come to prevail as a method of resolving surface water drainage

issues. The "reasonable use doctrine" provides that no landowner shall unreasonably increase or decrease the flow of surface water drainage onto adjoining lands or unreasonably alter the natural water course. Additionally, the Ohio Revised Code provides that, "No person shall wrongfully obstruct any ditch, drain, or water course along, upon, or across a public highway or divert any water from adjacent lands to or upon a public highway."

The roles and responsibilities of property owners in drainage issues include:

- Property owners are responsible, at their own expense, for cleaning and maintaining ditches and natural water courses on their land and for providing for the free flow of drainage across their property.
- A landowner must take private legal action to correct drainage problems when the problem is caused by an adjoining property owner's action. The township is not responsible for correcting private drainage problems. Townships are responsible only for roadside ditching to

—Continued on page 3—

Block Watch News

The Brown Township Block Watch continues to work to make Brown Township a safer place for all residents. A new team has taken over so please be patient as we update and coordinate information.

If you have not registered your email address to receive important news and safety information, please visit <https://www.browntwp.org/#signup> and sign up.

Reporting suspicious activity is an important part of being in an active and effective Block Watch. Please report suspicious activity to the Sheriff's Office. The saying "See something, say something" is relevant. It is the best way to keep our community safe. For emergency situations, call 911. For non-emergency situations, call 614-525-3333. Block Watch coordinators will work with the Sheriff's Office to review the reports and communicate with residents with relevant information so we can all be aware and stay safe.

We want to thank Officer Jessie Hatfield, our community liaison with the Sheriff's Office, for his years of service to our Block Watch. We wish him the very best in his continued service with the Office. We also want to welcome Deputy Cindy Forsythe as our new community liaison. We look forward to working with her.

Information provided by Brown Township Block Watch coordinators.

Waste Reduction Grants

The Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) offers waste reduction grants to local governments and non-profit organizations in Franklin County.

The goal is to maintain and improve Franklin County's recycling rate of 46.5% by funding innovative projects that address unique community waste reduction needs and have the ability to be modeled throughout central Ohio. Eligible applicants include local government entities including, but not limited to, public schools, universities and colleges, and parks as well as non-profit organizations.

Evaluation criteria include project planning, measurable outcomes, financial viability, need, and project sustainability. Grants are competitively awarded and support efforts focused on diverting materials from the landfill through:

- Waste reduction and reuse
- Recycling
- Organic waste and food waste diversion
- Outreach, education, and awareness

The minimum grant award is \$500 and the maximum is \$35,000. Applicants must demonstrate a 25% monetary contribution towards the project.

Allowable costs include recycling and diversion equipment, educational supplies and materials, and personal service contracts.

Examples include :

- Hilliard City Schools received \$31,680.24 to purchase recycling containers for classrooms and common areas in the middle and high schools and central office.
- Food Rescue US received \$5,680 to purchase reusable food containers for donor use, thus reducing the number of non-recyclable containers sent to the landfill.
- Sunbury Urban Farms received \$5,810.03 to offer seven workshops and educational programs centered on composting.

For more information on the 2019 grant cycle, contact SWACO at 614-871-5100.

Information provided by the Solid Waste Authority of Central 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.
Dec. 2018	4	5	2	13
Jan. 2019	2	2	2	15
Feb. 2019	3	3	4	15

Franklin County Sheriff's Department

Calls to addresses in unincorporated Brown Township:

December 2018

Between December 9 and 10 – criminal mischief at an address on Amity Road.

Between December 9 and 10 – theft of currency and coins from a vehicle at an address on Amity Road.

December 10 – theft of a wallet, currency, and driver's license from a vehicle at an address on Amity Road.

December 17 – domestic dispute at an address on Amity Road.

Between December 17 and 18 – criminal damaging of a vehicle at an address on Amity Road.

Reported December 20, occurred between August 1 and 17 – identity fraud at an address on Elliott Road.

January 2019

Reported on January 2, occurred between December 1 and January 2 – identity fraud, victim's address on Carter Road.

Reported January 2, occurred

December 30 – use of fraudulent checks, victim's address on Patterson Road.

January 9 – theft of cash from an unlocked vehicle at an address on Walker Road.

Between January 8 and 9 – criminal damaging and theft of cash from a vehicle at an address on Walker Road.

January 9 – theft of a vehicle with motor running from an address on Walker Road.

January 9 – recovery of an unoccupied stolen vehicle on street in front of an address on Amity Road.

Reported on January 10, occurred between January 8 and 9 – theft of tools from a vehicle at an address on Walker Road.

January 10 – missing juvenile returned to an address on Jones Road.

January 23 – domestic dispute at an address on Cole Road.

February 2019

Between February 22 and 23 – theft of a vehicle from an address on Walker Road.

Between February 22 and 23 – recovery of a stolen vehicle at an address on Amity Road.

February 23 – criminal damaging and theft of a backpack containing clothing from a vehicle at an address on Roberts Road.

February 23 – criminal damaging and theft of credit cards and checks from a vehicle at an address on Walker Road.

Hilliard Division of Police

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

December 2018

No non-routine calls.

January 2019

No non-routine calls.

February 2019

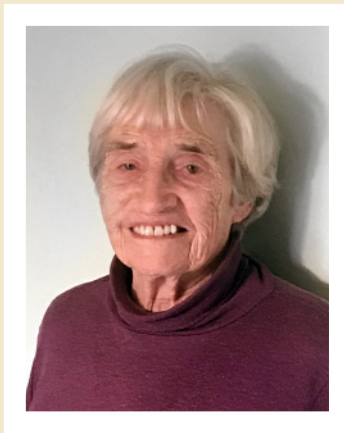
No non-routine calls.

ANNA MAE NORDEN — A PROFILE

Anna Mae Norden has many stories and memories of her 33 years of teaching, most of that time at Brown Elementary, as do her former students. One incident about which she is frequently asked involves a brief absence from the classroom. Anna Mae left her fourth graders with strict instructions for silence while she made a quick trip to the office. Needless to say, quiet did not ensue. Upon returning to a noisy classroom, she decided to feign anger and slammed the door behind her. The slamming of the door caused the clock to fall off the wall and hit her on the head. The cord caught on a nail and the clock was left swinging. One of those former 10-year-olds, now a retired teacher from northwest Ohio, reminded her of the incident just last summer.

Born and raised on a farm outside Bethany, West Virginia, Anna Mae Pyle began her career as a high school teacher in New Athens, in eastern Ohio after receiving a bachelor's degree in education from West Liberty State College (now University). She later earned a master's degree in education from The Ohio State University. After two years at New Athens, Anna Mae and her husband, Charles, whom she met at college, moved to Brown Township in 1959 to allow Charles to take a position as principal and sixth grade teacher at Brown Elementary. At the time, the Nordens lived in an upstairs apartment on what was then the Phillipi Farm.

Anna Mae taught mostly sixth grade at Brown Elementary until her retirement in 1993. During that time, she created the first outdoor education experience program in Hilliard



City Schools. Inspired by a summer workshop at OSU, she enlisted the support of her principal and designed an outdoor curriculum for 12-year-olds which would take place over a week near what is now Clear Creek Metro Park in Hocking County. The popular program lasted for 19 years. With the assistance of a Clear Creek park ranger, Anna Mae and her daughter were able to revisit that experience last spring.

The Nordens raised three children in Brown Township. Kathy, the oldest, is widowed and lives in Maryland, just outside Washington D.C. She spent most of thirty years in Kenya working for the U.S. State Department. Middle child Cindy and her husband Tim live on Patterson Road. Their son, Joey, is in his third year at the University of North Carolina School of Arts studying filmmaking. Tim, the youngest, shares the family home on Walker Road with Anna Mae. He works in the health care industry. The Nordens lost a son to spinal meningitis in infancy. Charles Norden died in 1993.

Anna Mae designed the Walker Road

home, which the Nordens built in 1964.

Her hobbies and interests have included sewing and gardening. Now, instead of a large vegetable garden she maintains a strawberry patch large enough to have fresh berries for eating and making jam for winter. And she enjoys doing yard work.

She was very active in 4-H activities, having grown up in the tradition. She was a 4-H Advisor for 40 years with a particular interest and expertise in sewing. In West Virginia, Anna Mae was a 4-H All-Star, an honor for service since she was a teenager. (Ohio has no similar all-star program.)

She is a member of St. Simon and Jude Catholic Church in Madison County, for which she does volunteer work.

Anna Mae also owns the home farm in West Virginia where she grew up, having bought out her siblings. She visits several times a summer and spends weeks at a time on the farm, fishing in the farm pond and walking the hills. Her niece lives next door and a sister-in-law lives on an adjoining farm. Her surviving brothers live in various areas of West Virginia so the home farm is a perfect spot for the far-flung siblings to gather.

Anna Mae recalls when she and Charles arrived in the township in 1959, Brown Elementary was a two-story building holding six grades, dairy farms were everywhere, and Davis Road had a total of nine houses.

This is one of a series of occasional articles on noteworthy Brown Township residents. If you have a suggestion for a future profile, please let us know.

—Drainage from page 1—

maintain township roads.

- A property owner may petition the county commissioners to build a new township ditch to address drainage problems with the cost to be apportioned between area landowners.
- If flooding of a township road results from a landowner's failure to maintain

the water courses on his or her property, the township is required by law to order the offending landowner to clean the water courses and to remove obstructions. If the landowner fails to do so within five days, the township can enter the property and provide for the cleaning with the cost assessed as a lien on the property. If you have questions about drainage

on your property, an adjoining property, or roadways in the township, contact the Franklin County Drainage Engineer at 614-525-3030.

This article contains excerpts from an article in the July/August 2016 issue of Ohio Township News.



Brown Township
2491 Walker Road
Hilliard, Ohio 43026

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

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

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

The Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) provides free household hazardous waste disposal services for Franklin County residents.

Identifying household hazardous waste is easy. Look for key words on the container such as poison, danger, caution, flammable, corrosive, or use in a well ventilated area. And please consider buying less hazardous alternatives when possible.

SWACO operates a permanent household hazardous waste drop-off center at 645 E. 8th Avenue, Columbus, 43201 at the corner of East Eighth and Essex avenues. Phone number is 614-294-1300. The drop-off location is open Wednesdays noon to 6 p.m., Thursdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Fridays noon to 6 p.m., and is closed on holidays.

SWACO partners with local communities to offer mobile collection events each year. The 2019



schedule is:

- April 20, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Ashland Chemical, 5200 Blazer Parkway, Dublin
- September 7, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Service Complex, 350 Parkmeadow Road, Westerville
- September 28, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Kingston Center, 3226 Kingston Avenue, Grove City

Accepted items include flammables, gasoline mixed with oil, helium tanks, kerosene, lighter fluid, motor oil, oil-based paint, oxygen tanks, polishes, propane cylinders and tanks, smoke detectors, spray paint, stains, thermostats containing mercury, thinners, turpentine, batteries, acids and caustics, bleach and household cleaners, fluorescent light bulbs, pool chemicals, antifreeze, fire extinguishers, insecticides, lawn chemicals and fertilizers, paint strippers, and fats and greases (if delivered in a tightly sealed container).

Not accepted are latex and water based paints (which are water soluble and not considered hazardous), ammunition, appliances, asbestos, needles, pharmaceuticals, medical waste, tires, and trash.

Contact SWACO with questions at 614-871-5100 or visit swaco.org.