

# BROWN TOWNSHIP

ESTABLISHED 1830

Winter 2015

## “My Yard is Flooded!”

Much of western Franklin County is hydric Kokomo soil that requires subsurface drainage to lower the groundwater table. According to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service website, hydric soils are those “that formed under conditions of saturation, flooding, or ponding long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions” (in which water replaces air in pore spaces).

Agricultural practices manage high groundwater by installing tile systems to lower the groundwater table and allow farming to take place. Kokomo and other hydric soils are some of the most productive soils because of the available moisture capacity but this can pose a problem when saturated conditions occur for extended periods. Without proper drainage or uptake by plants, these soils will pond water.

Homeowners located in urban areas with these hydric soil types generally have little issue with wet foundations or surface ponding because of the vast network of subsurface drainage already installed, including their neighbors’ homes, streets, and sewer systems. Rural and large-lot developments do not benefit from this, but can encounter systematic tile drainage left over from old agricultural practices. Old tile systems encountered during excavation need proper attention or there’s a risk of tying the foundation drain and sump

pump to a much larger drainage system, resulting in sump pump overuse.

The Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District offers drainage assistance to area residents, but it is up to the resident to make the necessary changes based on the recommendations provided. While drainage issues can be caused by a multitude of factors, water still flows downhill and collects in low areas. Often these low areas, like groundwater, are not apparent to the land owner. Proper surface drainage away from structures is needed. Check gutters, downspouts, and grading around a structure to ensure runoff is not collecting near the foundation. Many times downspout extensions are needed to move rooftop runoff a distance away from a structure—particularly if a basement is present. Basements that are excavated in soils known to have high moisture content often need a sump pump. A sump pump can lower the groundwater table around a foundation and maintain dry conditions below grade.

Soils have a natural ability to hold water and even hydric soils can be managed for development purposes. However, as we have seen, extended wet seasons cause saturated soil and more effort is needed to remove that water. This will mean sump pumps will cycle more frequently and for extended periods until the soils have reached the field moisture capacity.

Many of the remaining undeveloped sites in Franklin County are sites with these types of physical limitations, but most of the limitations can be overcome with knowledge beforehand and proper engineering. Soils are the very foundation on which we place one of our largest investments, our homes and livelihoods. Be sure you know the soil types and physical properties before investing. *Caveat emptor!*

*This article was provided by the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District. 614-486-9613*

## Dumpster Protocol

The recycling and solid waste dumpsters provided at the Firehouse are for use by township residents only and are intended to keep unwanted items out of the landfill.

Please leave nothing **OUTSIDE** the dumpsters. Doing so constitutes illegal dumping and requires someone else to pick up and dispose of your items. **Don’t do it!**

# Fire Levy Passes

The third time was a charm! Brown Township's fire and emergency services levy passed by an overwhelming margin in the November 4 election. Other levy attempts had failed in November 2013 and May 2014.

Brown Township has contracted with Norwich Township for such services for a number of years. Contract cancellation was possible if Brown Township voters had not supported Issue 34.

The contract between the two townships requires maintaining a roughly equal effective millage rate. After Norwich Township voters approved a 4.12 mill fire levy in May 2013, their effective millage rate rose and Brown Township's rate lagged behind.

Issue 34 was approved with 765 votes (70 per cent) in favor and 335 against,

with 65 percent of eligible voters turning out.

Trustees credit the mailing campaign and door-to-door canvassing done by members of the Safety First committee in the weeks leading up to the election for the success of the issue. Trustee Joe Martin said at the time, "We feel this is a pretty clear sign that Brown Township residents wanted to maintain the agreement for top-notch fire and EMS services from the Norwich Township Fire Department."

The 5.12-mill levy will generate \$455,016 annually.

Trustees Pam Sayre, Gary Dever, and Joe Martin extend their gratitude to the voters of Brown Township for their overwhelming support for this critical service.



## Electronics Recycling Event Scheduled for April 25

Brown Township will sponsor an e-waste recycling event **at the Firehouse on April 25**. Watch the website for hours and other details.

**Recycle Force Columbus** will be here to recycle unwanted computers, televisions, and almost anything with a cord.

Electronic waste is defined as outdated or obsolete electronic devices found in offices, homes, and pockets. E-waste contains toxic elements such as lead and mercury that must be disposed of safely and kept out of landfills.

Items eligible for recycling at this event will include personal computers, laptops, notebooks, desktops, servers, routers, computer boards, scanners, printers, copiers, fax machines, back-up power supply systems, disks and drives, mice and keyboards, power cords, surge protectors, monitors, televisions, dehumidifiers, telephone systems, cell phones, microphones, VCR/DVD/CD players, game systems, cash registers, microwave ovens, and vacuum cleaners.

Save the date—**April 25**—and get rid of your unwanted electronics.



# Is 4-H for you?

Several 4-H clubs operate in and near Brown Township. Perhaps one of them is right for the young person in your family.

4-H is the youth development program of the nation's Cooperative Extension Service. 4-H Science explores topics such as climate change, water quality and use, alternative energy, robotics, scientific and technology literacy, and sustainable agriculture. 4-H Living addresses healthy eating habits, physical fitness, the capacity to recognize and direct emotions, and the ability to develop and maintain positive social interactions and relationships. 4-H Citizenship concentrates on community action, leadership and personal development, and communication and expressive arts.

More than a million and a half young people in the United States participate in 4-H clubs, about 418,000 in 4-H camps, 307,000 in 4-H after-school programs, and about 4 million in 4-H school enrichment programs.

A sampling of existing 4-H clubs in our area are:

- **Barn Busters** (kindergarten and up) with non-animal projects as well as those in sewing, livestock, dogs, and horses. (Advisor: Mary at tshadefamily@ameritech.net)
- **County Blazers** (grade 3 and up) with non-animal projects as well as those in sewing and livestock. (Advisor: Jane at janemtj@aol.com)
- **Hilliard 4-H'ers** (grade 3 and up) with non-animal projects as well as those in sewing, livestock, dogs, and horses (Advisor: Melinda at 614-851-9446)
- **Hilliard Lucky Live Wires** (kindergarten and up) with non-animal projects as well as those in livestock and horses. (Advisor: Pam at meadowsrp@gmail.com)
- **Ropes & Reins** (kindergarten and up) with non-animal projects as well as those in sewing, livestock, and horses (Advisor: Colleen at cbingaman04@gmail.com)
- **Serendipity** (grade 3 and up) with non-animal projects as well

as those in sewing and livestock (Advisor: Barb at barbrushley@yahoo.com)

- **Shooting Stars** (kindergarten and up) with non-animal projects as well as those in sewing, livestock, and dogs. (Advisor: Tammie at HullaOH@aol.com)
- **Young Riders** (kindergarten and up) with non-animal projects as well as those in livestock and horses. (Advisor: Stephanie at rsbaily@sbcglobal.net)

Other 4-H clubs meet in various locations around Franklin County. For a complete list and to learn how to form your own 4-H club, contact Beth Boomershine at the Franklin County Cooperative Extension Service at boomershine.10@osu.edu or at 614-866-6900.

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*Information for this article was provided by the Franklin County Cooperative Extension Service 614-866-6900*



## FRANKLIN COUNTY 4-H WINTER FAIR

Thinking of joining 4-H? The Winter Fair is the perfect opportunity for you to see what 4-H is all about.

Come in out of the cold and have some fun.

- See the winning projects from last year's county fair.
- Talk to 4-H members about their experiences in 4-H.
- Learn about 4-H camp opportunities.
- Participate in fun activities.

- Get information about joining a local club.

Stay after the fair for a workshop at 12:30 p.m. to learn tips and tricks for presenting a stellar 4-H project.

The fair will be held Saturday, February 14, 2015 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Nationwide Ohio 4-H Center at 2201 Fred Taylor Drive on The Ohio State University campus.

Questions? Call 614-866-6900 or email Beth at boomershine.10@osu.edu.

# SENIORS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT TOGETHER

The Franklin County Sheriff's Office SALT (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together) program is designed to bridge the gap between senior citizens and law enforcement. Seniors and law enforcement officials work together to address issues and concerns involving crime prevention and safety for the growing population of older adults.

The goal is to make seniors more aware of crimes to which they may be susceptible. Common scenarios involve fake check or grandparent scams, investment fraud, and home improvement scams.

SALT is a voice to advocate for action to ensure that seniors live in a healthy, safe, enjoyable, and vibrant community. There are presentations on such topics as legal and financial issues, elder abuse, and fraud prevention.

Deputy Sheriff Alena Griffin is working to get the program running in Brown Township. She is available for group meetings and one-on-one conversations. She can be reached at 614-525-4507 or [amgriffi@franklincountyohio.gov](mailto:amgriffi@franklincountyohio.gov).



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

## **Brown Township Administration Office**

2491 Walker Road, Hilliard, Ohio 43026 ..... 876-2133

### **Website**

[www.BrownTwp.org](http://www.BrownTwp.org)

### **Fiscal Officer**

Greg Ruwe ..... 876-2133

### **Trustees**

Mr. Gary Dever ..... 876-4768

Mrs. Pamela Sayre ..... 878-0199

Mr. Joseph Martin ..... 870-9601

### **Norwich Fire Department**

Jeff Warren, Chief ..... 876-7694

### **Brown Township Board of Trustees Meeting**

**When: 3rd Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m.**

**Where: 2491 Walker Road, Hilliard, Ohio**

**For Police, Fire and Medical Emergencies, Dial 911**