



FEBRUARY 2024

NORWICH

T O W N S H I P

Norwich Township Fire Department Fire Levy



On March 19, 2024, voters will be asked to decide on a 4.9 mill permanent levy to meet the needs of the Norwich Township Fire Department and our growing community.

The demand for services, paired with rising costs, are contributing factors driving this levy decision. In 2023, the Norwich Township Fire Department responded to 7,001 calls for service, compared to eight years ago when the Department responded to 5,070 calls for service. Even with a 28% increase in calls for service, our staffing levels have remained virtually the same, going from 87 firefighters in 2015 to 89 today.

Several programs were also initiated during that timeframe. Those programs include a community risk reduction program known as Focus Hilliard, a Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events program known as CRASE, Stop the Bleed and CPR trainings for Hilliard City Schools, mental health and peer support programs for our first responders, and specialized rescue team programs.

In addition, operating costs have increased dramatically over the past 10 years. A fire engine in 2013, cost taxpayers \$469,446. A new fire engine can take up to four years to build and cost approximately \$1,200,000. An ambulance in 2013, cost \$211,000. Today an ambulance is approximately \$324,124. A cardiac heart monitor/defibrillator in 2020, cost roughly \$25,000. The most up to date version of our cardiac heart monitor/defibrillator models are nearly \$70,000 and our department has nine of these monitors in service.

Our firefighters are a vital asset, exemplifying dedication and expertise in emergency response. However, the inherent costs associated with maintaining their proficiencies, including ongoing training and equipment, present a significant financial challenge. The proposed levy allows the Department to sustain current staffing levels and prepare for future needs, ensuring the community continues to benefit from the unwavering commitment of Norwich Township Firefighters in safeguarding lives and property.

Even with increased demands, the Norwich Township Fire Department achieved the highest available Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating of a Class 1 in 2022. This ISO rating is used by insurance companies to set home and business owner's insurance rates. Our Fire Department is one of only five departments in Ohio to

2024 TRUSTEE MEETINGS

MARCH 5 11:00 AM

Records Commission Annual Meeting

MARCH 5 6:00 PM

APRIL 9 6:00 PM

MAY 7 6:00 PM

JUNE 4 6:00 PM

JULY 2 6:00 PM

AUGUST 6 6:00 PM

SEPTEMBER 3 6:00 PM

OCTOBER 1 6:00 PM

NOVEMBER 5 11:00 AM

Records Commission Annual Meeting

NOVEMBER 5 6:00 PM

DECEMBER 3 6:00 PM

The public is always
welcome to attend.

For meeting information
visit our website at:
www.norwichtownship.org.

achieve a Class 1 rating. Achieving an ISO Class 1 rating is a testament to the excellence of Norwich Township's fire suppression program, marking it as one of the top-performing departments nationwide.

This levy will allow the Fire Department to:

- Increase staffing levels
- Improve response times by adding a fourth ambulance and a second ladder truck
- Continue to maintain current and future equipment and buildings
- Pay employee wages and benefits
- Construct a fourth fire station
- Expand and develop new community programs
- Maintain our ISO Class 1 rating

The 4.9 mill levy, if passed, would generate an estimated \$9,199,000 per year and would cost homeowners \$172 per year per \$100,000 property valuation, according to the Franklin County Auditor's Office. In Norwich Township, the average Auditor's Total Market Value for a single-family home is approximately \$350,000. If the levy passes, a home with a market value of \$350,000 will have an added weekly cost of \$11.54. Qualified senior residents and disabled homeowners can reduce their property tax by applying for a Homestead Exemption. The exemption takes the form of a credit on property tax bills. Visit the Franklin County Auditor website at <https://www.franklincountyauditor.com/real-estate/homestead> for additional information on the Homestead Exemption.

Norwich Township has a tremendous history of fiscal responsibility while remaining a leader in the fire service. Our last levy, passed in 2013, was projected to provide funding for seven years. We are now entering year 11 and have far exceeded that projection due to the mindfulness of elected officials and staff members remaining fiscally responsible with taxpayer money. Recognizing the need for additional resources, the Department has actively pursued and secured grants at the local, state, and federal levels. These grants have been instrumental in extending the budget and enhancing the Department's capabilities. Since 1989, Norwich Township has asked voters for three fire levies, further evidence of our commitment to managing resources efficiently and ensuring that taxpayer funds are used judiciously.

If voted down, residents and leaders will be faced with the reality of reduced services and staffing. Programs like Focus Hilliard, fire safety education in schools, and community CPR classes would be cut or reduced. In addition, the fire levy plays a pivotal role in maintaining optimal staffing levels to ensure that the community receives swift and effective response times.

If you have any questions regarding the levy, contact us at 614-876-7694 or by email at levyinfo@norwichtownship.org. In addition, informational levy meetings will be held at the Safety Services Building, at 5181 Northwest Parkway, Hilliard, Ohio 43026. For a list of dates and times, visit https://www.norwichtownship.org/_T7_R320.php.

Respectfully,



David Baird, Fire Chief





Community Backyards

Community Backyards is an annual educational conservation rebate program through the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District. This rebate program promotes water quality education for residents in Franklin County. Residents can earn \$50 towards backyard water conservation by participating in either an online course and quiz or by attending an in-person workshop. *Due to the amount of participation, funding is offered on a first-come, first-served basis and limited to one rebate per household per year. Visit <https://www.communitybackyards.org/> for online course details, in-person workshops, and available 2024 rebates.

Take the online course or attend an in-person workshop to receive a rebate towards one of the following:



RAIN BARRELS

Your plants love soft, mineral-free rainwater that you'll capture and store for when you need it.



COMPOST BINS

Layer your nitrogen-rich greens and carbon-rich browns for free fertilizer for home gardens.



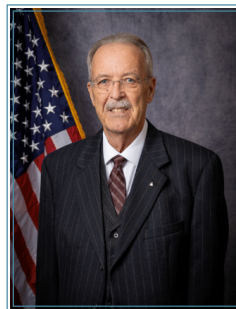
NATIVE PLANTS & TREES

Support your heritage and the animals that depend on hardy, attractive native plants, shrubs, and trees.

New Faces & Retirements Township Officials

New Trustees:

Sworn into office in December of 2023, we welcome both Rick Tidd and Greg Young to the Norwich Township Board of Trustees. They both bring great levels of experience to the position and we look forward to their leadership and guidance.



Rick Tidd



Greg Young

Retirement:

Trustee Tim Roberts retired on December 31, 2023, after serving 12 years as a Norwich Township Trustee. Trustee Roberts advocated for funding initiatives and supported the needs of each department to provide excellent services to residents. We wish Tim all the best in his retirement.



Tim Roberts

Transforming Bystanders into Lifesavers – CPR

The Norwich Township Fire Department collaborates with Hilliard City Schools during summer months to provide CPR training to school staff members who then train and certify all sophomores in the school district. This annual training gives students the tools needed to save lives and adds 1,200 CPR trained residents to our community each year. NTFD offers monthly CPR classes held at the Safety Services Building, located at 5181 Northwest Parkway, Hilliard, Ohio 43026. To register for a CPR class, visit https://www.norwichtownship.org/departments/fire/cpr_classes.php.





NORWICH TOWNSHIP
5181 NORTHWEST PARKWAY
HILLIARD, OHIO 43026
(614) 876-7694

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Rick Tidd
Greg Young

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FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Jake Wells, *Assistant Fire Chief*

ROAD/CEMETERY DEPARTMENT

Robbie Thomas, *Road Superintendent/Cemetery Sexton*
3225 Dublin Road
Hilliard, Ohio 43026
(614) 876-2236

ORC 9.03 Allows for Public Funds to be used for newsletters

Reflection Garden – Memorial Pavers



Located at the Safety Services Building, at 5181 Northwest Parkway, Hilliard, Ohio 43026, is an area known as the Reflection Garden. This peaceful and reflective garden contains a salvaged flag pole from the ruins of the World Trade Center, water fountains, benches, and engraved memorial pavers. Residents can purchase these custom engraved memorial pavers through the Norwich Township website at https://www.norwichtownship.org/i_want_to/purchase_a_paver.php.

Questions, Concerns, Compliments

Do you have questions, concerns, or compliments that you want to bring to the attention of Norwich Township? Visit our website at www.norwichtownship.org and select I Want To...Send a Question, Concern, or Compliment.

Online Option:

If you prefer to receive our newsletters electronically, visit our website at www.norwichtownship.org and select I Want To...Read The Newsletter.

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