

Chickens Raising Some Objections

The practice of raising chickens at home caught the attention of Sylvania Township trustees when one of them, Kevin Haddad, said he had received "numerous complaints," from residents objecting to poultry in the neighborhood.

Daryl Graus, planning and zoning manager, said he has been responding to similar complaints and has been aware of the growth in popularity for at least the last two years.

Although it may be increasing, the issue has long been covered both by township regulations and by state law, according to Mr. Graus.

He said that under the Ohio Revised Code, townships are prohibited from doing anything to control any form of livestock on properties of five acres or more.

Township regulations prohibit raising farm animals on any property less than one acre. Properties between one and five acres are allowed one such animal for each acre. That is to say if your home is on a three acre lot, the township zoning resolution allows you to have up to three chickens.

Mr. Graus said there have been an increasing number of complaints about chickens being kept in residential areas.

He said he has gone to the houses to determine that the complaint is valid and then sent letters to homeowners notifying them that they are in violation of township zoning regulations. On some visits he has been unable to detect any evidence that a chicken is or was recently on the property.

Up until now, he added, there have been no complaints of anyone ignoring the township's warning.

He noted that neighboring townships also have reported an increase in complaints and that they handle the issue in the same way Sylvania Township has been addressing it.

Posted: 5/28/2013