

# Sycamore Township

# NEWS

Summer 2017

## In this Issue

- 1 Letter from Cliff Bishop
- 2 Police & Crime Prevention
- 3 EMS/Fire Department
- 4 Parks & Recreation
- 5 Township Tidbits
- 6 Planning and Zoning
- 7 Maintenance Update
- 8 Contacts

After a mild winter and relatively wet spring, let's hope summer is just the way you like it!

I hope everyone had a wonderful Memorial Day Holiday. The Trustees were honored to participate in the annual Memorial Day Parade put on by the VFW that begins in Silverton and includes ceremonies in Deer Park and at our own Bechtold Park. Thank you to all Sycamore Township residents who have served their country, and especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice.



Cliff Bishop  
Vice President

The winter and spring weather have resulted in several reports of flooded basements. If you are connected into the sanitary sewer system and your floor drain causes a flood, one of your first calls should be to the Metropolitan Sewer District. They have resources available that can help you.

Your Trustees continue to try and find ways to stretch your valuable tax dollars and provide the most cost-effective services for you. Sycamore Township residents continue to enjoy one of the lowest local property tax rates in Hamilton County; in fact, we have been able to manage the budget so that you have not been asked for a tax increase in over 11 years. No other community in Hamilton County can make that claim. We will continue to strive for new and innovative ways to provide the best services possible. For example, this year the Trustees have added an additional 24/7 Sheriff's patrol car, and have increased patrols in the neighborhoods in response to the recent car damaging that has taken place.

This year the annual "Trash Bashes" were both tremendous successes. Keep that in mind for next year when you have hard to dispose of household items. In addition, the annual document shredding program produced a record amount of shredded documents. For your yard waste items, don't forget about the monthly brush chipping program that takes place the first Saturday of every month at the Township building.

The Kenwood retail shopping district has several new businesses that have opened recently. In addition, the Kenwood Collection is nearing completion with a great mix of one-of-a-kind restaurants and shops.

We hope to see you at the 25th Festival in Sycamore which will take place on July 14-15 in Bechtold Park. More information can be found later in the newsletter or on the Township website. Speaking of the parks, the shelters at Bechtold Park are perfect venues for family get-togethers, as is the Community Room at the Robert L. Schuler Sports Complex—a great place for a birthday party or other family fun. Visit our Township website at [www.sycamoretownship.org](http://www.sycamoretownship.org) for rental information.

On behalf of my fellow Trustees, Tom Weidman and Denny Connor, and our Fiscal Officer Rob Porter, we hope all of you enjoy a healthy, active and fun summer in Sycamore Township.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cliff W. Bishop".

Cliff W. Bishop  
Vice-President, Board of Trustees





# Police & Crime Prevention



Chris M. Ketteman, Lieutenant  
Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

Sycamore Township Trustees are committed to fighting the opioid/heroin epidemic. The Trustees have partnered with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office Regional Narcotics Unit in their efforts to get drugs off the streets. Since late 2014, Sycamore Township has paid for a Regional Narcotics Unit (RENU) officer who works with a team from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office focused on investigation of criminal organizations and individuals responsible for trafficking of controlled substances.

## REGIONAL NARCOTICS UNIT (RENU)

The Regional Narcotics Unit is a multi-jurisdictional drug task force that is comprised of Narcotics Agents from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, Cincinnati Police Department, Sycamore Township and Anderson Township. This unit is designed to investigate criminal organizations and individuals primarily responsible for the illegal trafficking of controlled substances in the Greater Cincinnati area through the operation of investigative programs, including but not limited to, drug intelligence, drug interdiction and undercover operatives. The Regional Narcotics Unit also assists local, state and federal law enforcement agencies when requested. Listed below are just a few of the stats from the Regional Narcotics Unit:

**If you suspect drug activity or drug dealers in the area, call 513-825-2280, email [RENU@sheriff.hamilton-co.org](mailto:RENU@sheriff.hamilton-co.org), or you can report it anonymously by calling 513-352-DOPE or texting 513-808-4500.**

	2016	2017
<b>ARRESTS</b>	143	37
<b>MARIJUANA</b>	678,043 grams	86,363 grams
<b>COCAINE</b>	5680.13 grams	34,849 grams
<b>CRACK COCAINE</b>	345.21 grams	59.2 grams
<b>HEROIN</b>	5402.19 grams	3304.36 grams
<b>FENTANYL</b>	329.1 grams	36.5 grams
<b>METHAMPHETAMINE</b>	7294.6 grams	663 grams

## OFFICER SPOTLIGHT



K-9 Enforcement Officer Matthew Alexander is a 12 year veteran with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office. Enforcement Officer Alexander has served the citizens of Sycamore Township the last four years on night shift and recently became a K-9 Officer. His K-9 partner is Brutus, a one-and-a-half-year-old Belgian Malinois. Brutus is a dual purpose K-9

who is trained in Narcotics detection, tracking and apprehension, as well as building and article searches. In just the short time that Enforcement Officer Alexander and K-9 Brutus have been partners, they have successfully tracked a missing suicidal subject, located a gun that was tossed away by a bad guy during a chase and located numerous amounts of narcotics leading to arrest. K-9 Enforcement Officer Alexander and Brutus are a valuable asset for the citizens of Hamilton County and Sycamore Township. Enforcement Officer Alexander is a 2003 Oak Hills High School graduate and is married with four children ages 11, 10, 9, and 4.





# EMS/Fire Department



Rob Penny, Fire Chief

Hope everyone had a safe and healthy spring.

Sycamore Township paramedic services responds to a large number of elderly residents that live alone or with a spouse or companion of the same age. We have treated patients for a wide variety of issues from falls to drug overdoses.

- Leave a light on in your bathroom at night.
- Review your medications with your doctor or pharmacist frequently. Make sure you understand any new medications.
- Make sure medications are clearly labeled, and, if needed, ask your pharmacist to print your medications in bold or larger print labels.
- Dispose of any old and unused medications so you don't take the wrong medication by mistake.

You may see the firefighters out and about soon as the Fire Hydrant Painting Program continues. Crews were out last summer doing maintenance and painting the hydrants in the Township and they will be out this summer as well.

**Please review these safety tips which we hope will help prevent a lot of incidents and allow for safer and healthier living conditions for our residents:**

- If you live alone, consider a Medical Alert System. If you fall and can't get up you will be able to call for help. If you cannot afford one, carry a cordless phone with you around the house so you can call for help if you fall down.
- Wear proper fitting shoes with low heels. Too large of a shoe or sloppy fitting shoes can cause you to stumble and fall.
- If you need assistance with walking, use a cane or walker to help keep your balance. Do not rely on walls or furniture for balance. Make sure the cane or walker is fitted to your height so you are not bending over when walking.
- Avoid using any throw rugs that can move or slide. If you have loose rugs in your home, tape them down securely so they don't move when walking on them. Do not place an area rug over carpet where the corners of the rug can roll up, causing a tripping hazard.
- Do not run extension cords across the floor where you might trip over them. Do not run extension cords under carpet, which can be not only a tripping hazard, but a fire hazard as well.
- Install sturdy hand rails in your bathroom to help you off the toilet and out of the bathtub or shower. Use hand rails when going down or up steps inside and outside your home. Avoid loose gravel on your sidewalk and driveway that can cause you to slip and fall.



If you are grandparents, please feel free to bring your grandchildren to the fire stations for a tour and let them sit on the fire trucks. Don't forget to bring your camera to capture the experience which your grandchild will talk about for weeks.



# BECHTOLD PARK SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP

## Parks & Recreation



Mike McKeown,  
Parks & Rec. Director

### FESTIVAL CELEBRATES 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

This year marks the 25th Annual Sycamore Township / Kids First Sports Center Festival in Sycamore, which will be held on July 14th and 15th, from 6:00PM–Midnight each day, at Bechtold Park, 4312 Sycamore Rd. The Festival, which started out as a three hour picnic, has become one of the area's most anticipated summer events. **Thank you to everyone over the years who has helped make the Festival in Sycamore one of the most-enjoyed events of the summer!**



This year the Festival will feature three national acts. Headlining on Friday, July 14th will be one of the most popular bands with Festival goers over the years: four-time Grammy nominated **AMBROSIA**, with many hits including "Nice, Nice", "You're the Only Woman", and "That's How Much I Feel" among others. The night will begin with a very unique performance by **LoopManDan**, followed by a popular local group, **The GenX Band**.

### OPENING ACTS



Saturday, July 15th, will feature performances by two outstanding national groups. The **GREG KIHN BAND**, best known for hits "The Breakup Song" and "Jeopardy", will make their first ever appearance at the Festival. Anchoring the evening will be another Festival first timer, **THE MARSHALL TUCKER BAND**. This energetic country/southern rock band, with hits including "Heard It in a Love Song" and "Can't You See" promises to wow the crowd with a fantastic performance. Local acoustic group Box of Chocolates will open the Saturday festivities.

Along with this crowd-pleasing line-up of musicians, the Festival will feature a variety of tasty food at reasonable prices from area restaurants. Strolling magicians and clowns will entertain the crowd. The very popular **RIDE FOR 5** offer will be back. For \$5.00 each night, you can purchase a bracelet and enjoy unlimited rides. Shuttles will provide free transportation to Bechtold Park from the Township Administration Building, St. Saviour Church, Deer Park High School and Bethel Baptist Church.

A huge thank you to the Festival's 25th Anniversary Platinum Sponsor Kids First Sports Center, who has been a Festival supporter for years! Thank you to Gold Sponsor Kroger, also a long time supporter, T.E.C. Engineering and all the other companies who are sponsoring this year's Festival. **We hope to see you all at Bechtold Park on July 14th and 15th!**

### FESTIVAL HEADLINERS





## TOWNSHIP TIDBITS

### 7TH ANNUAL CAR SHOW: AUGUST 5TH

The 7th annual Sycamore Township Summer Car Show will be held on August 5th at the Robert L. Schuler Sports Complex. Registration will be from 9:00AM–noon. The Car Show takes place from noon–3:00PM. Awards will be presented at 3:30PM. Awards include 40 Best, Best in Show, Trustees’ Choice, and nine Specialty Awards. Entry cost is \$15.00. A live DJ will entertain. Food and drinks will be available. **For information, call 659-8462.** The first 100 participants will receive a free dash plaque.



### KENWOOD WOMEN’S CLUB SCHOLARSHIPS



*Sycamore Township Trustees Tom Weidman, Cliff Bishop and Denny Connor shown here with the 2017 winners of the Kenwood Women’s Club Scholarships. The awards were presented at the Club’s annual Luncheon at St. Paul Community United Methodist Church in Madeira on May 9.*

### NOMINATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE 2017 BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS!

The Sycamore Township Beautification Award is designed to recognize exceptional properties whose owners help keep Sycamore Township beautiful. If you or someone you know has a house and yard that makes the whole neighborhood proud, Sycamore Township would like to know! **For a nomination form and complete details go to [www.sycamoretownship.org](http://www.sycamoretownship.org) or call Beth at 792-7250.** Nomination deadline is June 30, 2017. Beautification Award winners will be announced at the Festival in Sycamore on Saturday July 15th!

### NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Sycamore Township Trustees joined together with local clergy and guests for the annual National Day of Prayer on May 4th. The event was moved into the fire house bays this year due to rain, but that did not keep people away! The Trustees would like to thank all those who attended, especially Pastor Larry Cornett, Bethel Baptist Church, for his work in organizing this event, Pastor Travis Johnson, Rev. Cathy Kaminski, Dr. Lance Cunningham and Fr. Dennis Jaspers for leading us in prayer, Director Paul Kindt and the Moeller High School Band for providing the music, and Chick-fil-A at the Kenwood Towne Centre for donating lunch.



*Pastor Larry Cornett of Bethel Baptist Temple*

### DEER PARK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT GOVERNMENT NIGHT

At the May 18th Trustees Meeting, the Sycamore Township Board of Trustees welcomed students from Deer Park High School to participate in the meeting and present reports as part of their student government night. The students from Mrs. Wilkerson’s class who participated were Jayla Phillips, Alex Conover, Andrew Deaton, Lexy Giordullo, Austin Bishop, Will Maley, Jacob Frisch, Jake Blackburn, Matthew Rosario, Summer Harris and Alex Colyer.



*Students from Deer Park High School sit in front of their counterparts, Sycamore Township Trustees and Board Members, as they prepared to give reports on their behalf during a recent meeting as part of Deer Park High School Government Night.*





# Planning & Zoning



Harry Holbert,  
Zoning Administrator

Summer is here and construction projects in the Township are coming in at full speed. Residential, commercial and industrial - our office is getting new projects in almost every day. With new projects, especially in or near residential areas, there also come concerns about effects on the existing neighborhood and possible damage to our roads and adjoining properties. If you see vehicles dumping materials such as mulch, soil, or gravel, or damaging our roads or your neighbor's property, don't hesitate to call our office or the non-emergency dispatch at 825-2280. Sycamore Township does not permit dumping of any material on our roadways, nor do we permit PODS to be left on our streets. PODS, with prior approval from the Township, are to be parked on a paved surface and on private property only.

Sycamore Township has a lot of unique attributes that attract builders from all over the region. With many vibrant communities, low tax rates, great schools and large parcels, we are a prime target for "tear downs" to construct new larger homes. Help us to protect our communities and our roadways by notifying the Township offices if you see a problem.

- Call 513-791-8447 (Township's main number); 513-792-7250 or 7246 (staff member); or 513-792-7279 (hotline)
- Visit our website to complete a Property Complaint Form.

In closing, thanks to all of those who take care of their property year after year. We do understand that property ownership comes with a lot of responsibility and you are the reason Sycamore Township is a wonderful community in which to live, work and play.

## 2017 TRASH BASH NUMBERS

This spring's Township Trash Bash events at the parks were very successful in helping to clean up Township neighborhoods. Not only did we collect 120.48 tons (240,960 pounds) of material that went to the landfill, we were also able to collect quite a bit of recycling that did not go to the landfills. Residents brought in 739 tires, 38 propane tanks, 275 gallons of oil, 5,270 pounds of electronics along with 15,839 pounds of household hazardous waste and 14,511 pounds of paper documents that were shredded. Your efforts are appreciated and show pride in your community. Thank you!



## SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS RECYCLED 863.7 TONS IN 2016!

Congratulations, residents! Your recycling efforts in 2016 conserved enough energy to power every home in Sycamore Township for six days. On average, each household recycled 209 pounds in 2016. That's 12.57% of all the waste we generate. Good job, your efforts make a big difference!

## WELCOME NEW BUSINESSES!



Trustee Denny Connor prepares to cut the ribbon for the Grand Opening of the new Wild Eggs at 7679 Montgomery Road.



Trustees Denny Connor, Tom Weidman and Cliff Bishop joined March First Brewing Founders Kevin Kluener and Mark Stuhlreyer at the ribbon cutting for the new March First Brewing at 7885 E. Kemper Road.



The new Vans store is now open in the Kenwood Towne Centre.



# Maintenance Department



Tracy Kellums, Superintendent

## ROAD WORK AHEAD

Construction season is here again, which means you will be seeing a lot of orange barrels and cones throughout the Township due to construction zones as we strive to keep your roads among the best in the county. The underground utility project on Galbraith Road continues, and you will see sidewalk being installed on Montgomery Road in Kenwood. In addition, you will also come across a few projects in the neighborhoods. These include:

**Donna Lane and Estermarie Drive Reconstruction Project** in Dillonvale, this project includes water main replacement and a total removal of all curb and base and surface courses of pavement with installation of new curbs, storm sewers and asphalt.

**The 2017 Road Rehabilitation Program**, which includes Donegal Dr., Highton Ct., Guam Ct., Jeffrey Ct., Langhorst Ct., and Gwilada Dr. in Dillonvale along with White Chapel Dr., Charter Oak Dr., Ivybrook Ct. and Hermitage Ln. in Kenwood. This will include the removal of the surface course of asphalt and the installation of an interlayer and new surface course of pavement.

**The 2017 Reclamite Program** — Reclamite is an asphalt rejuvenation process, that helps extend the life of the pavement. This will be performed on the following streets: Eldora Dr., Glenburny Dr., Glengary Ave., Antrim Ct., Killarney Ct., Trebor Dr., Tralee Ct., Darnell Ave., Mantell Ave., Tramore Dr., Donegal Dr., Wexford Ave., Beech Ave., Lake Ave., Myrtle Ave., Woodlawn Ave., Glenellyn Dr., Grinell Dr., Yakima Dr., Kalama Ct., Silvercrest Dr., Garden Rd., Marview Ave., and Belfast Ave.

**The 2017 Onyx Program** — Onyx is a Mastic Surface Treatment that seals the existing surface course of asphalt to help extend the life of the pavement. The streets included in this project are: Tiki Ave., Lynnfield Ct., Ginnala Dr., Quailhollow Dr., Michael Dr., Bobby Ln., Myrtlewood Ave., Deerway Ave., Glenover Dr., Appleknoll Ln., Malabar Terrace, Haverhill Ln., Highgate Pl., Foxboro Ct., Briarpatch Ln., Morganraiders Ln., Roundhill Ln., Raidersrun Rd., PawPaw Ln., Stillmeadow Ln., Brittany Dr., Caralee Dr., Hemesath Dr., Autumnwood Dr., Miami Hills Dr., Lisa Ln., Dunlieth Ct., Vinnedge Ct. and Nodding Way.

**The 2017 Curb Replacement Program** — This will include the removal and replacement of the rolled curb at the street, the existing pavement will remain. This project includes the following streets: Lyncris Dr., Sandymar Dr., Ironwood Ct., Millview Dr. and Pinecove Ct.

In addition to all of these projects you will see the Township Maintenance Crew out on the roads working on base repairs, catch basin repairs, storm sewer installation, crack sealing and all the other tasks that they perform to keep your Township looking good. As always, we ask for your patience and consideration when driving through work zones. Please SLOW DOWN and DRIVE SAFELY to ensure that we get through another construction season safely. ***If you have any questions about these projects or anything else throughout the Township, please call me at the office at 513-792-7257 or e-mail me at tkellums@sycamoretownship.org*** I will be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

## STORM DAMAGE COLLECTION

When storms pass through Sycamore Township, you can rest assured that we are looking out for our residents. Storm damage collection is a service that Sycamore Township has provided for many years through the Maintenance Department. Due to the size of the Township, it is not feasible for the Maintenance Department to cover the whole Township every time there is a storm. Therefore, our storm policy requires that residents call the Township to check if a storm has been declared. Superintendent/Assistant Administrator Tracy Kellums declares whether a **“storm damage condition”** has occurred. If a storm has been declared, residents must call the Sycamore Township Administration Building at 791-8447 to request a pick up or request a storm damage pickup on the action line at ***www.sycamoretownship.org*** *within two business days* in order to have the branches picked up at no charge. **Branches must be ready for pick up within two (2) weeks of the storm, stacked at the side of the street, cut ends out.**

**UPCOMING MAINTENANCE SERVICES**

**Brush Chipping Program**  
July 1, August 5, September 9  
8:00AM – 4:00PM  
Behind Administration Bldg.  
8540 Kenwood Road

**Fall Compost Giveaway**  
September 16, 8:00AM – 4:00PM  
Hartzell United Methodist Church  
8999 Applewood Drive



# Contacts

## Summer 2017

Tom Weidman, President

Cliff Bishop, Vice-President

Denny Connor, Trustee

Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer

R. Douglas Miller, Law Director

Tracy Kellums, Superintendent

**792-7257 – Fax 792-8564**

Mike McKeown, Parks & Rec. Director

**792-7270 – Fax 792-8564**

Greg Bickford, AICP, Administrator

**791-8447 – Fax 792-8564**

Rob Penny, Fire Chief

**792-8565 – Fax 792-8564**

Harry L. Holbert, Jr., Zoning Administrator

**792-7252 – Fax 792-8564**

Chris M. Ketteyman, Lieutenant

District Three Commander

Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

**774-6351 – Fax 774-6350**

Fire and Police Emergency – **911**

Sycamore Township Administrative Office

**791-8447**

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



8540 Kenwood Road  
Sycamore Twp., Ohio 45236

PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
CINCINNATI, OH  
PERMIT NO. 1693

*“There’s More in Sycamore”*



## Trustees available to better serve you



**Tom Weidman**  
President



**Cliff Bishop**  
Vice President



**Denny Connor**  
Trustee



**Robert C. Porter III**  
Fiscal Officer

You can leave messages for your elected officials by calling the Sycamore Township Administration Office at 791-8447.