

Sycamore Township

NEWS

Fall 2010

In this Issue

- 2 Getting Ready for Fall
- 3 'Cyber' BlockWatch
Calendar of Events
- 4 Festival in Sycamore
- 5 Want to Promote Your Business
Community Room Available
Welcome Aboard –
Bruce Raabe
- 6 Planning and Zoning
Township Events
- 7 Maintenance
Leaf Collection
Tree and Shrub Trimming
Township Adds Second
Recycling Location
- 8 Contacts

While cities and municipalities scramble to increase revenue to fix roads and supplement their failing budgets, your Trustees are busy implementing ways to save the residents money in this struggling economy. Sycamore Township services are still among the best in the county. Police, Fire and EMS serve the township very effectively. Roads and Parks continue to be well maintained and 'yes', we are still going to pick up leaves.



Cliff Bishop

More savings to you include the gas and electric aggregation agreements with Integrys and Duke Retail that have substantially reduced our energy bills. We now have in place recycling centers in the south and north areas of the township, if you choose to recycle material yourself and not pay the trash company. We are also saving a large amount in utilities at the new Bob Schuler Sports Complex because of the solar panels, geothermal HVAC and energy efficient construction. The Trustees will never stop looking for ways to save you money.

In addition, I hope you'll join us in a big welcome to our new Township Administrator, Bruce Raabe. We welcome Bruce as a very important part of our team. The Township Administrator is responsible for the day-to-day administration of affairs, supervision of department heads and implementation of policies. Administrator Raabe is available by phone (791-8447), e-mail (braabe@sycamoretownship.org) or appointment.

Your local government and elected officials are committed to providing the best services possible to the residents of Sycamore Township. Trustees Tom Weidman, Dick Kent and I, along with Fiscal Officer Rob Porter, wish you all a very prosperous end of 2010.

Sincerely,

Cliff W. Bishop
Vice President, Board of Trustees



**Sycamore Township 5K
Run and Fitness Walk
Kid's Fun Run**

**Bechtold Park
4312 Sycamore Road
Sycamore Township, OH 45236
Saturday, October 30, 2010 | 9 AM**



EMS/Fire Department



William A. Jetter, Ph.D. MIFireE EMS & Fire Director/Fire Chief

GETTING READY FOR FALL

Fall is a good time to check or replace your smoke detectors. Over the years we all have acquired ionization detectors for monitoring our homes. Like other technologies in our lives these days, the technology for smoke detectors has improved. Many new homes are now using photo-electric smoke detectors so detection occurs during

the early stages of a fire. Many homeowners now have both photo-electric and ionization detectors. While both detectors provide good coverage, each detector works entirely different because they each measure smoke particles in a different manner. Paired together they provide the optimum protection in the home.

Our homes are still our biggest investment and one small fire can cause thousands of dollars in damages. It's hard to believe, but smoke damage can be more costly than the actual fire itself. Here are a few things to do to prepare your home for winter.

1. Check your smoke detector. If it's over 10 years old, replace it.
2. Check the batteries in your smoke detectors.
3. If you don't have a CO detector try to acquire one during the heating season.
4. Clean all chimneys and flues.
5. Make sure all trip hazards to the outside entrances of your home are secured or removed.
6. Empty the fuel in your lawn equipment before you store it for the winter.
7. Recheck your home safety plan to make sure everyone knows the rallying point in case of a fire.
8. Double check your hand rails on exterior steps so when winter weather starts you have a strong handrail to hold on to.

To our seniors – falls continue to be the leading cause of injury in the elderly. The Falls Task Force and the Visiting Nurse Association have teamed up to provide in-home consults to help prevent falls. These two organizations are non-profit and are excellent resources. The Visiting Nurse Association can provide an in-home assessment for no charge. If you or a loved one has fallen or is at risk of falling call the VNA today. The VNA will work with you and your family so you can remain safe in your home. Home Physical Therapy is covered 100% by Medicare and can help you prevent a major injury related to a fall. Call 345-8000 and ask for an in-home assessment!

Web Sites are: www.vna.org or www.fallpreventiontaskforce.org



Fall season brings a lot of changes to our lives. School starts. Fall sporting events occur. We begin to prepare our homes for the upcoming holiday seasons. Remember through all of this, safety is the most important factor. Take the time to check your home for hazards.

If you want a home safety inspection call me at 513-792-7249 and I will be glad to help you with any questions relating to home safety or falls.

Have a great fall season.

William A. Jetter, Ph.D. MIFireE
EMS & Fire Director/Fire Chief

Police and Crime Prevention



Lt. Dan Reid,
Liaison to the Hamilton
County Sheriff's
Department

“CYBER” BLOCK WATCH

In this fast paced world we live in, many of us don't have time for another meeting. We are running our kids to soccer, football, and every other school function—not to mention going to our “second jobs” in the evening. Who has time to go to a neighborhood block watch meeting?

I have heard this many times from township residents and I certainly understand. If you don't have the time to attend a formal block watch meeting, there is still something simple you can do to help us keep your neighborhood safe. I call it “cyber” block watch.

“Cyber” block watch is an email chain that you can set up with your neighbors and police. Many homeowners associations already have them to keep you up to date on news and special dates in your area. When a crime happens in your neighborhood or one close to you I will send out an “alert” to your email chain. It tells you important information such as what crime or crimes have been occurring, suspect descriptions, and tips on what you can do, so you are not the next victim.

If you have interest in setting this simple, easy tool in your neighborhood, please contact me at dreid@sycamoretownship.org. “Cyber” block watch is one way you can stay safe and crime free in our busy world without having to put another meeting on the refrigerator

Lt. Dan Reid
Hamilton County Sheriff's Department

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Leaf Collection

Leaf collection began on Monday, October 18 and will continue until December 10.
7:30 AM – Dark

Sycamore Township 5K Run and Fitness Walk

Kids Fun Run

Saturday, October 30 – 9 AM

BlockWatch

Every Third Tuesday 7PM
Oct 19
Nov 16
Dec 21

Hamilton County General Election

Tuesday, November 2
6:30 AM – 7:30 PM

Brush Chip Drop Off

Sycamore Township
Administration Office
8540 Kenwood Road
8 AM – 4 PM
Saturday, November 6
Saturday, December 4

Parks and Recreation

FESTIVAL IN SYCAMORE

Thousands of residents and neighbors braved heat and humidity to enjoy the great food and music at the Festival in Sycamore. 'Survivor' and 'Starship featuring Mickey Thomas', as well as great local bands, put on outstanding shows. The food was fantastic, and many families took advantage of the 'Ride for \$5' program.

Many thanks to the members of the Park Committee who helped with planning and running the Festival. A special thanks to the members of the Sycamore Township Maintenance Department for their usual great job. Also, we wish to acknowledge our appreciation to the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department, the Hamilton County Sheriff's Explorers and the many other volunteers who donated their time. Without the help of these people, the Festival in Sycamore would not be the wonderful event that it has become. We're already looking forward to 2011. Call Parks and Recreation Director Mike McKeown at 792-7270 if you have any questions or comments.



WANT TO PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS?

Sycamore Township is offering companies a way to promote their businesses and services effectively to thousands of potential customers. Advertising space is available on the 28' scoreboard at the Robert L. Schuler Sports Complex at 11532 Deerfield Road. The park was home during this past baseball season to Moeller High School, Milford High School, UC Clermont, the Cincinnati Flames Organization, the Cincinnati Mustangs Organization, Cincinnati Roy Hobbs Wooden Bat Organization, Cincinnati Sharks, North Sycamore Civic Association, and other select teams throughout the area.

The complex also serves as home field for all Mt. Notre Dame High School varsity, junior varsity, and freshmen soccer games, as well as selected Moeller High School reserve and varsity soccer games, Cincinnati United Cup games, and other select teams from the area. The scoreboard is also easily visible from heavily traveled Deerfield Road and I-275. If you are interested in this opportunity, please call Parks and Recreation Director Mike McKeown at 792-7270.

COMMUNITY ROOM AVAILABLE

Having a birthday party or family reunion? Is your company putting on a presentation? Don't forget that the Schuler Community Room at Schuler Sports Complex is available for rental. The room is equipped with the latest sound and a/v technology. The room will seat up to 125 at tables, or 175 theater style. Call Mike McKeown at 792-7270 for more information or if you would like to see the room.



Bruce Raabe,
Township
Administrator

WELCOME ABOARD!

Sycamore Township recently had a new addition to its staff after hiring Bruce A. Raabe as the Township Administrator. Bruce received a Bachelor's Degree in Geology from the University of Cincinnati and spent the next year in their Civil and Environmental Engineering Master's program before heading to the University of Texas at Arlington and completing a Master's Degree in Geology. While attending school, he began his public service career by working part time for five years with the Delhi Township Public Works Department. After graduation, he spent the next 15 years working in the petroleum industry as an exploration geologist drilling for oil and gas in Texas, Oklahoma and Alabama.

Subsequent transitions led to working in the environmental, health and safety fields at various military bases throughout the southeastern United States. For the past 15 years he has been back in the government sector employed with Delhi Township. His duties in the Public Works Department there included various positions such as the Safety, Construction and Facilities Directorships, as well as assisting in all facets of road maintenance, parks development, zoning and new construction. Additionally, he has been successful at grantsmanship, most recently winning several multi-million dollar awards from FEMA to assist residents with persistent flooding problems.

Bruce is married to Tricia and they have five children who keep them very busy running to sporting events, attending school functions and working on home improvement projects. He is looking forward to working with the vibrant Sycamore Township community and will strive to continue the existing spirit of commitment, teamwork and service that make Sycamore Township such a great place in which to work and live.





Planning and Zoning

PERMITS REQUIRED

The Planning & Zoning Department works with residents, business owners and developers to ensure that all new construction, exterior renovations, and additions meet the guidelines specified in the Zoning Resolution. A zoning permit is required for the following residential items: New Single Family Homes, POD's (movable storage units), Room additions, Garages, Decks, Accessory Use Structures/ Sheds, Fences, Front porches, Pools, Retaining walls, and In-home occupations. A zoning permit insures that the project is compliant with the zoning resolution.

In some instances, the zoning permit is the first step in obtaining a building permit. With the exception of fences and sheds under 200 sq ft in area, a building permit is also required. The Planning and Zoning Staff is available to assist you in obtaining the necessary permits. If you have any questions, please contact the Planning and Zoning Office at 513-792-7250.

PROPERTY COMPLAINTS

Most residents take pride in their property and maintain it to high standards. Unfortunately, on occasion, properties can fall into disrepair and become an eyesore to the community. If you find that a property in your neighborhood is becoming an eyesore, the Township may be able to help get the property cleaned. Complaints can be filed with the Township during normal business hours. Please contact the Planning and Zoning Department for more information. You may also file complaints 24 hours a day on the Township website via the Township Action Line.

Complaints are investigated as they are received and if a violation is found, corrective action is taken. That action can be anything from a letter notifying the owner of a problem all the way to court action. The process can take anywhere from 2 weeks to several months depending on the severity. If you have any questions, please contact the Planning and Zoning Office.

TOWNSHIP EVENTS



Groundbreaking for Galbraith Professional Building on Aug 30th. From left to right, Dick Kent (Trustee), Greg Hopkins (PPS owner), Dutch Cambruzzi (Camden Homes) and Cliff Bishop (Trustee).



Grand opening of the Apple Tree Café in the Dillonvale Shopping Center at 3920 E. Galbraith Road on Friday, October 1 in Sycamore Township. Denise Hammon, Proprietor



The Trustees of Sycamore Township presented a \$2,784.83 check from the 8th Annual Golf Outing at Cedar Trace Golf Club to Alison Bethel with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. The event takes place each August and is coordinated by Rick Wietmarschen.

Maintenance Department



Tracy Kellums,
Superintendent

LEAF COLLECTION

Leaf collection began on Monday, October 18 and will run through Friday, December 10. Leaves should be raked to the public right-of-way beside the street. **PLEASE DO NOT PUT LEAVES IN THE STREET.** Leaves become very slippery when wet and, when parked over, dry leaves can start a car on fire when brought into contact with the catalytic converter.

Sticks, grass clippings or garden debris will jam our machines and should not be mixed into leaf piles. Consequently, piles with materials other than leaves will not be collected. Maintenance crews will be working from 7:30 a.m. til dark, six days a week, rain or shine to collect your leaves in a timely method. Many factors such as the amount of leaves to be collected on a given round and availability of temporary laborers have an effect on collection and make it impossible to know exact pick-up times.

TREE AND SHRUB TRIMMING

Please trim branches that may overhang the public sidewalk in your area. Many people are out walking and these branches are not only a nuisance but, can be dangerous. Please show your consideration and trim back trees, shrubs and bushes to make sure the sidewalk is clear of all obstacles.

TOWNSHIP ADDS SECOND RECYCLING LOCATION



Sycamore Township has added a second Recycling Center location. The new facility is located at the corner of Solzman Rd. and Old Solzman Rd. on the property that used to be the Station 93 firehouse. The other location is behind the Administration Building at 8540 Kenwood Rd. Place your recycling material in the dumpsters at these centers.

Please note that the dumpsters at McDaniel Sports Complex, Schuler Sports Complex, and Bechtold Park are **NOT FOR RECYCLING OR OLD FURNITURE, TOYS, YARD WASTE, BRUSH, ETC.** They are for park trash only.

The following items may be recycled at the two recycling centers: newspapers, junk mail, plastic bottles, magazines, catalogues, box board, white and colored paper, computer paper, brown paper bags, cardboard boxes, steel food cans, aluminum cans, and glass bottles and jars.

The following items are not permitted: plastic bags, paint cans, wood, light bulbs, egg cartons, trash, tires, oil containers, chemical containers, window glass, plastic toys, styrofoam, flower pots, and batteries.

Thanks to everyone who helps make Sycamore Township green.

SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS



Lou Ann Anderson, Kathleen Hall, and Beverly and Robert Elson were presented the 2010 Sycamore Township Beautification Awards by the Township Trustees at the October 7th Trustee meeting.





Contacts

Fall 2010

Tom Weidman, President

Cliff Bishop, Vice President

Dick Kent, Trustee

Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer

R. Douglas Miller, Law Director

Bruce Raabe, Administrator

Tracy Kellums, Superintendent

Mike McKeown, Parks & Recreation Director

791-8447 – Fax 792-8564

Greg Bickford, AICP, Planning Zoning Director

Assistant Township Administrator

792-7250 – Fax 792-8571

EMS & Fire Department/Fire Chief

William "BJ" Jetter, PH.D., MIFireE, CHSIII

792-8565 – Fax 792-8564

Sheriff's Liaison, Lt. Daniel P. Reid

791-8447 – Fax 792-8564

Fire and Police Emergency – 911

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

To serve you better, the Trustees have designated areas of Sycamore Township to service. If you have a question about your neighborhood, please contact the appropriate Trustee.



Tom Weidman
President



Cliff Bishop
Vice President



Dick Kent
Trustee



Robert C. Porter III
Fiscal
Officer

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