

# Sycamore Township

# NEWS

FALL 2013

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As the last blast of summer slowly fades away and the cooler nights of fall descend upon us, we hope that everyone is enjoying a relaxing autumn. Before you know it the holiday season will be upon us.

As we enter fall, keep in mind that Sycamore Township offers over 90 acres of undisturbed park land for you to explore and take in the wonderful colors of southern Ohio. In addition to the natural surroundings, the athletic fields and shelters are available for residents. Contact Park Director Mike McKeown at (513) 792-7270 for more information. This summer saw many residents take advantage of these Sycamore Township gems.

Fall also means leaves! Tracy Kellums, Road Superintendent, and our outstanding maintenance crew are ready for the fall leaf pickup program. It also wouldn't be fall in Cincinnati without the threat of an early season snowfall, but rest assured our crews are ready to handle whatever Mother Nature throws at us.

We are also close to the completion of several construction projects. Most notably, the Kenwood Road corridor project will be completed by mid November. This project continues the tradition of infrastructure investments in Sycamore Township that do not raise your taxes. When completed, the utilities on Kenwood Road will be placed underground and the road will be reconstructed with new sidewalks and a landscaped median. This project, in conjunction with various street repairs and storm water improvements, marks the end of a busy construction season.

In addition to the road projects, development in the Kenwood commercial core has remained strong and two high profile projects are nearing completion. Cooper's Hawk, an upscale wine restaurant that features a unique dining experience, is slated to open in November and the Kenwood Towne Centre is finishing up

a \$10 million interior renovation. On those colder fall days, we encourage you to see the improvements that have been made there.

We have once again selected Integrys Energy for our natural gas aggregation program, a program which has saved Township residents almost 15% on their Duke Energy bills.

Finally, this fall will also see an important issue on the November ballot, the fourth Joint Economic Development Zone (JEDZ). The first three JEDZ were passed by over 80% of Township residents in the May 2, 2013 Primary Election. For more information on the JEDZ, please contact the Township office.

As always, your elected and appointed officials are here to serve you. Feel free to contact any of us at the Township offices at 513-791-8447 or via our website [www.sycamoretownship.org](http://www.sycamoretownship.org).

It has been a busy and enjoyable summer and we look forward to a pleasant fall in beautiful Sycamore Township. Along with Trustees Denny Connor and Tom Weidman and Fiscal Officer Rob Porter, we wish you a safe and happy fall season.

Sincerely,

Cliff W. Bishop  
Vice President, Board of Trustees



Cliff W. Bishop  
Vice President



# Police and Crime Prevention



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

## HALLOWEEN SAFETY

**THE HAMILTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE WANTS EVERYONE TO HAVE A HAPPY, FUN, AND SAFE HALLOWEEN BY FOLLOWING THESE TIPS:**

### HOMEOWNERS . . .

- Turn on your porch lights so children know it is all right to visit your home.
- If using candles, keep them away from the path of children.
- Keep pets away from children.
- Hand out only commercially wrapped candy.
- Maintain clear walkways that are free from obstructions.
- Immediately notify law enforcement of any suspicious activity.

### MOTORISTS . . .

- Drive slowly and cautiously.
- Look for children walking on the street, running and darting in between parked vehicles.
- Avoid using your cell phone while driving because it will cause a distraction.
- Be extra careful when entering and exiting driveways.
- Play your music at a reasonable volume so you can listen for children crossing your path.
- Never drink and drive.

### PARENTS...

- Always escort your children and carry a flashlight.
- Be familiar with the neighborhood where your children will be trick-or-treating.
- Set a specific time for your child/children to be out.
- Always know who is trick-or-treating with your children.
- Instruct your children NEVER to enter any homes.
- Choose fireproof, comfortable costumes made of light colored material so they can be seen in the dark.
- Consider placing reflective tape on your children's costumes.
- Have children avoid wearing eye makeup or masks, which will restrict their vision.

### TRICK-OR-TREATERS...

- Avoid having children carry replica firearms, swords or toys which can be mistaken for the real thing.
- Teach children their home and/or parent's cellular phone number in case they get lost.
- Do not trick-or-treat by yourself.
- Do not take short cuts.
- Obey all traffic signals and look in all directions when crossing the street.
- Walk on the sidewalk and not in the roadway.
- Don't run! Walk to your destination and don't dart in and out between cars or driveways.
- Walk in the direction facing traffic.
- Stay in well lighted areas.
- Only trick-or-treat at homes with their porch lights on.
- Never approach a car offering candy.
- Wait until you get home before eating any treats.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Chipping Program

Oct. 5/Nov. 2/Dec. 7  
8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.  
Behind Administration Bldg.  
8540 Kenwood Rd.

### Leaf Pickup

October 21 – December 13

### Election Day

November 5

### Halloween

October 31  
Trick-or-Treating  
6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

### Thanksgiving Day

November 28

### Luminaria

December 7  
6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.  
Bechtold Pavilion  
4312 Sycamore Rd.

### Christmas Tree Dropoff

December 26 – January 31  
Bechtold Park  
4312 Sycamore Rd.  
McDaniel Sports Complex  
11797 Solzman Rd.



Don't miss the family fun  
at **Luminaria!**



# EMS/ Fire Department

## FALL FIRE SAFETY TIPS

As the weather starts to change and we prepare for the arrival of winter, there are several things to bear in mind in regard to fire safety in your home.



Perry Gerome, CFI, CFEI, OFE, FM Fire Chief

Please conduct a fire inspection of your home so that you can ensure that your home is fire safety ready.

Check your smoke detector regularly. Remember to "Change Your Clock, Change Your Batteries."

Install smoke detectors on each level of your home and outside each sleeping area.

Install a carbon monoxide detector in your home near sleeping areas. A second detector is recommended near the home's heat source to provide for more protection.

Develop an escape plan with two ways out of each room and practice it. A decisive response is often what makes the difference between life and death in a fire.

Consider home escape ladders in each upper level sleeping area. This provides for a second escape route in the event the primary route is blocked by fire or impassable.



Have fireplace flues inspected and cleaned regularly to prevent the buildup of creosote. Always use a fireplace screen to prevent any sparks from igniting nearby objects. Burn dry seasoned wood and never leave a fire burning unattended.

Always place discarded fireplace ashes in a metal container outside and away from any structure. Remember that ashes can regenerate up to seven days after the fire is out.

Keep candlewicks trimmed to one-quarter inch and three feet from flammable and combustible materials.

Don't abuse extension cords; instead utilize a multi-outlet strip whenever possible.

Be careful when using turkey fryers this Thanksgiving. The fryers may tip over or overflow when the turkey is placed into the cooking pot. This will cause the oil to spill over onto the burner/ flames, causing fire to engulf the entire unit. Keep in mind that the sides of the cooking pot, lid, and handles get dangerously hot, posing severe burn hazards.

These are just a few safety tips to help protect you and your family from fire this fall/winter. Should you desire a home fire safety inspection, or have any questions regarding fire safety, please direct them to the Sycamore Township Fire Department at 792-8565.



# Parks and Recreation



Mike McKeown  
Parks & Recreation  
Director

## 2013 FESTIVAL IN SYCAMORE ATTRACTS RECORD CROWD

This year's Festival in Sycamore was a tremendous success. Fantastic music, combined with wonderful food and weather, attracted many thousands of people to Bechtold Park. Led by outstanding performances by The IDES OF MARCH and AMERICA, the Festival provided what may be the best overall musical lineup in Festival history. Opening bands Pandora Effect, Blair Carman and the Belleview Boys, The Refranes, and DV8 also put on fantastic shows.

Attendance at the Festival continues to grow. In fact, the Saturday appearance of AMERICA drew the largest single night crowd in Festival history, even outdrawing last year's record setting appearance of The GUESS WHO. Thanks to all who attended.

Thank you also to our sponsors. The Festival would not be possible without them.

**GOLD SPONSORS:** Double Tree by Hilton, Time Warner Cable, Kerry Mitsubishi and Fox 19

**SILVER SPONSORS:** Kroger, 5/3 Securities, Kids First Sports Center, Neyer Properties, Sycamore Township Republican Club, Integrys Services

**BRONZE SPONSORS:** Strawser Construction, Terry Asphalt, Rumpke, Alleen Co., Brookwood Retirement Center, Midland Atlantic, Besl Transfer, United Refrigeration, Dillonvale Shopping Center, Camp Safety Equipment



IDES of March



America

## 2013 CAR SHOW WINNERS



*Best in Show* winner Jack Schwein with his 1962 Corvette is congratulated by Trustees Denny Connor, Tom Weidman, and Cliff Bishop.



*Trustees' Choice* winner Rick Reichley with his 1954 Nash Metropolitan is congratulated by Trustees Tom Weidman, Denny Connor, and Cliff Bishop.

## LUMINARIA TRADITION CONTINUES

The annual Luminaria night will be held on Saturday, December 7, from 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. at the Bechtold Park Pavilion. Santa will be on hand for the kids. Holiday music will fill the air. Dillonvale IGA will provide warm drinks and yummy donuts and cookies. Hayrides will tour through the streets of Dillonvale to view all of the Christmas lights and decorations. Dillonvale IGA will provide prizes to the top three homes. We hope to see you there!



# TOWNSHIP TIDBITS

**SYCAMORE SENIOR CENTER**, 4455 Carver Woods Drive in Blue Ash, will host a Sweetest Day Mix & Mingle Dance on Friday October 18th. Doors will open at 6:00 P.M. and dancing and entertainment with Angela Combs from the One Mississippi Band will be provided from 6:30 – 10:00 P.M. Center Member tickets are \$6.00 and guests and prospective new center members' tickets are only \$8.00. Tickets are available at the Welcome Desk. For more information, call 984-1234.

On October 17th the Hearing Services at the Cincinnati Eye Institute will be providing Free Hearing Screenings at the Sycamore Senior Center by appointment only from 9:00 A.M. to 3:45 P.M. Please call the Welcome Desk at 984-1234 to schedule your appointment or for more information.

The Sycamore Senior Center is always looking for volunteer drivers to deliver meals to homebound seniors. If you have one or several weekdays on which you might be available for a couple of hours to assist in this valuable program, please call 984-1234 for more information.



*Hamilton County Sheriff's Department Officer Kevin Singleton is presented with a certificate by Trustees Denny Connor, Cliff Bishop and Tom Weidman and for being named the Queen City Club Officer of the Month for April, 2013.*



*Trustees Tom Weidman, Denny Connor and Cliff Bishop present a check in the amount of \$7,856.17 to Rick Wietmarschen, Chairman of the Sycamore Township Golf Outing, accepting on behalf of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Proceeds from the Golf Outing help fund Cystic Fibrosis research.*

**HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH** will hold a Drive-Thru Blessing of the Animals Event to benefit Interparish Ministry Food Pantries & Cincinnati Pet Food Pantry on Saturday, October 12, 2013 from 12:00-3:00 P.M. Pets and human companions of ALL denominations are invited and do not need to exit their vehicle to receive the blessing. During the event, Holy Trinity, located at 7190 Euclid Avenue at the corner of Hosbrook, will be accepting donations of food and personal care items for the InterParish Ministry Food Pantry and dog and cat food for the Cincinnati Pet Food Pantry.

**THE KENWOOD WOMEN'S CLUB** welcomes new members. The main focus of the club is awarding scholarships to local students. A Style Show/Luncheon and a Lecture Series provide funds for the scholarships. Meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from September through May. We meet at 12:30 P.M. at St. Paul Methodist Church, Miami Road. The Club is open to all women regardless of residence. If you would like more information, or if you would like to attend a meeting as a guest, please call our Membership Chairman, JoAnne Cash at 984-1766.



The Paw Joggers Animal Community Fund invites serious and casual runners and walkers, with or without a well-behaved dog, to the inaugural **Paw Joggers Rescue Run**. This event benefits registered

local shelters, rescues, and animal advocacy groups. The Rescue Run will be held on Sunday October 20th at Sharon Woods, 11450 Lebanon Road, Sharonville OH 45241. Parking is included in the registration. Festivities and same-day registration start at 7:30 A.M. Register through the Paw Joggers Rescue Run website <http://pawjoggersrescuerun.com>.



*Trustees Denny Connor and Cliff Bishop present a resolution honoring the Moeller Varsity Baseball Team for winning its second straight Division One Ohio State Baseball Championship to Head Coach Tim Held, Assistant Coach Ken Robinson and members of the Moeller Baseball Team.*





# Planning and Zoning

## NEW BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: KENWOOD HIBACHI & SUSHI BUFFET

Owner Jerry Cheung celebrated the grand opening of the Kenwood Hibachi & Sushi Buffet with a ribbon cutting in August. The newly remodeled restaurant located across from the Kenwood Towne Centre in Sycamore Plaza is open seven days a week for lunch and dinner and features a buffet with an unbelievable variety of Japanese, Chinese and American dishes.



*Min Qin Zheng, Fiscal Officer Rob Porter, Owner Jerry Cheung and Planning and Zoning Administrator Greg Bickford at the Grand Opening of the Kenwood Hibachi & Sushi Buffet*



*On Monday, September 9, 2013, Sycamore Township Trustees Tom Weidman, Denny Connor and Cliff Bishop joined State Senator Bill Seitz, Patrick Kelly, Branch Manager, John Fickle, Regional Manager, and Chris Venhoff, District Manager for the Grand Opening of the new US Bank Kenwood branch at 7739 Montgomery Road in front of the Redstone Office building.*

## LEASH LAW INFO:

On July 18, 2013 the Sycamore Township Trustees passed Resolution 2013-112 prohibiting dogs roaming at large in the Township. If your dog is found to be off leash in the Township, you could be fined up to \$100 for the first offense. For the safety of your pet and our residents, please keep your dog tethered.

## PARKING OF JUNK VEHICLES:

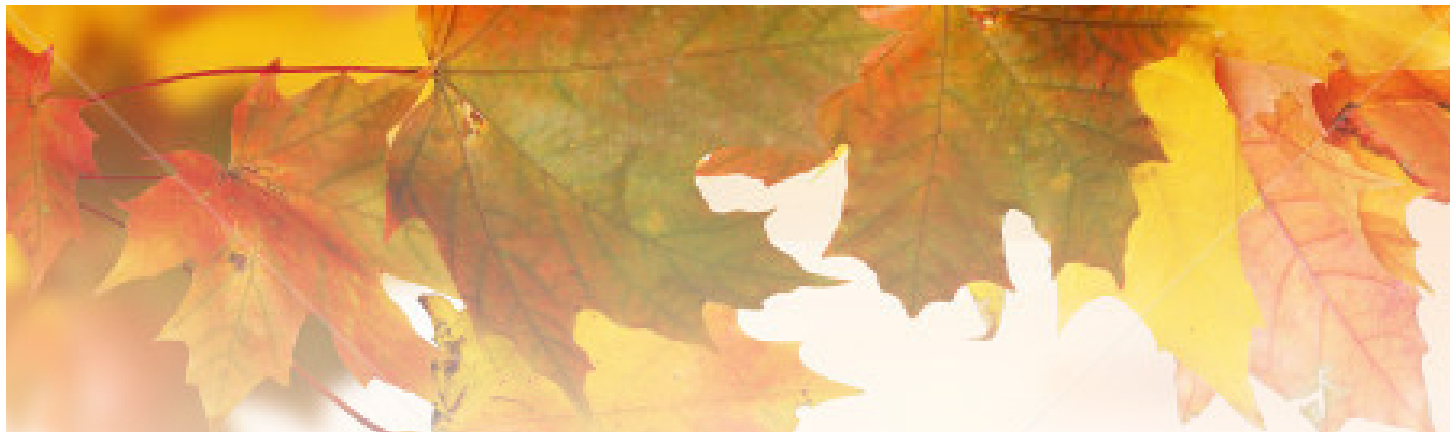
The parking of inoperable or junk vehicles is prohibited outdoors in all districts of Sycamore Township. There are three criteria

used by the Township to determine if a vehicle qualifies as a junk vehicle:

1. Three (3) model years old or older;
2. Apparently inoperable (including unlicensed or expired plates);
3. Extensively damaged, including, but not limited to, any of the following: missing wheel(s), tires, engine, or transmission, or other mechanical parts which result in the motor vehicle being not usable for transportation on a public highway.

All vehicles in the township must be parked on a paved surface. No parking in yards or grassy areas is permitted.

# Maintenance Department



Tracy Kellums,  
Superintendent

## LEAF COLLECTION

Sycamore Township is pleased to provide you with prompt and efficient leaf pick up service. Leaf collection will begin on Monday, October 21st and run through Friday, December 13th. 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 and 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.

Leaf crews will not pick up leaves from under, between or around parked cars. If cars are parked in front of your leaf piles, the collection equipment will be unable to maneuver to reach the leaves and they will be left for the next pick up cycle in your neighborhood.



Maintenance crews will be working from 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM five days a week, rain or shine, to collect leaves in a timely manner. Many factors such as the amount of leaves to be collected and the availability of temporary laborers have an effect on collection and make it impossible to predict exact pick up times.

## DO YOU WORK IN ONE OF THE JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ZONES?

The Sycamore Township JEDZ began income tax collection on October 1 for those who work within one of the three approved Zones. If you, as a resident of Sycamore Township, work in one of the zones and had local income tax withheld for the JEDZ, you may be eligible for a grant not to exceed the amount that was paid.

Beginning in late January, a grant application from the Sycamore Township Community Improvement Corpo-

ration will be available. You will be able to submit a completed form along with your W2 (or other legal tax document that shows the amount of local tax withheld) and proof of residence. Once your withholding amount and residency are verified, a grant will be issued to you for the amount of tax withheld, usually within 30 days.

For more information visit [www.sycamoretownship.com/CIC.cfm](http://www.sycamoretownship.com/CIC.cfm)



# Contacts



## Fall 2013

Tom Weidman, President  
 Cliff Bishop, Vice President  
 Denny Connor, Trustee  
 Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer  
 R. Douglas Miller, Law Director  
 Tracy Kellums, Superintendent  
 Mike McKeown, Parks & Recreation Director  
**792-7270 – Fax 792-8564**  
 Greg Bickford, AICP, Planning/Zoning Director  
 Assistant Administrator  
**792-7250 – Fax 792-8571**  
 Perry Gerome, Fire Chief  
**792-8565 – Fax 792-8564**  
 Chris M. Ketteman, Lieutenant  
 District Three Commander  
 Hamilton County Sheriff's Office  
**774-6351– Fax 774-6350**  
 Fire and Police Emergency – 911  
[www.sycamoretownship.org](http://www.sycamoretownship.org)



8540 Kenwood Road  
 Sycamore Twp., Ohio 45236

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*“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.