

Sycamore Township

NEWS

Summer 2014

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We survived another winter and an unusually chilly spring, but summer is here in Sycamore Township. The parks and ball fields are in great shape and in constant use.

I'd like to share some interesting figures with all of you who, like me, pay property taxes. Every six months we receive a property tax bill for the real estate we own. There are several line items of money amounts that all somehow add up to be thousands of dollars. Included in that list is Sycamore Township Government. Did you know that for every \$100,000 property valuation, Sycamore Township receives \$278.00 per year? We as residents receive several services for that reasonable amount, such as one of the best snow removal programs in the country. Other services include leaf collection, brush chipping, Christmas tree disposal, mulch give away, beautiful parks, and discounted rates on shelter and hall rentals.

We are all very blessed to be living in such a vibrant community, in great neighborhoods, near shopping, restaurants, entertainment and recreation facilities.

Your elected officials work hard to give you the best services for your dollar. We will continue to be fiscally responsible and smart about spending taxpayer dollars.

Along with Trustees Tom Weidman, Denny Connor and Fiscal Officer Rob Porter, I would like to extend to you our thanks for trusting in us.

Have a wonderful summer.

Sincerely,



Cliff W. Bishop
President, Board of Trustees



Cliff W. Bishop,
President



Sycamore Township Trustees joined together with local clergy and guests for the annual National Day of Prayer on May 1st. The Trustees would like to thank Pastor Larry Cornett, Bethel Baptist Church for his work in organizing this event, and the Chick-fil-A at the Kenwood Towne Centre for donating lunch for all who attended.



Rev. George Staggs, Mt. Carmel Baptist Church; Trustee Tom Weidman; Pastor Larry Cornett, Bethel Baptist Church; President Cliff Bishop; Vice-President Denny Connor, Administrator Greg Bickford; Pastor Travis Johnson, Kenwood Bible Methodist Church; David Miller, Chief of Staff, City of Cincinnati Councilwoman Amy Murray; and Lt. Chris Ketteman of the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department





Police and Crime Prevention

ADVICE ON DEALING WITH DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITORS

Like the weeds that sprout up in our lawns, as the weather warms we start seeing an increase of door-to-door solicitors and canvassers.

Every year, Deputies in Sycamore Township respond to numerous calls regarding door-to-door solicitors. All solicitors, excluding non-profit organizations, are required to register with Sycamore Township. There are many legitimate organizations that solicit door-to-door, either to sell products or services or to promote a religious, political, or charitable cause. There are, however, less reputable companies willing to take advantage of unsuspecting individuals who trust people knocking at their door. Sometimes residents forget to practice good personal safety.

If a solicitor knocks at your door, the solicitor/canvasser must

carry appropriate photo identification and shall exhibit it upon the request of any resident contacted within the Township.

Residents may also contact Sycamore Township, 8540 Kenwood Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45236 (513) 791-8447 and request that your name and address be added to the No Solicitation List for Sycamore Township.

No person or organization shall solicit, whether commercial or non-commercial, or canvass within any residential area of Sycamore Township, between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. daily.



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

HELPFUL TIPS

- Place a "No Trespassing" or "No Soliciting" sign at your front door and at the front of your driveway. Make sure that both of these signs are highly visible and can be easily seen by anyone who might be a solicitor, so that there is no mistake that the sign was not seen.
- Use GOOD judgment. You do not have to open your door to a solicitor. Speak with them through your locked door, ask them to identify themselves, and ask them to state their business. If you don't feel comfortable speaking to them, tell them you have no interest in what they are offering, and politely ask them to leave.
- If you do decide to open the door and speak with a solicitor. Don't be afraid to say "NO" if you don't want to purchase their product/participate in their cause.
- At ANY TIME, you can always ask the solicitor to leave. If they refuse to leave, shut your door and call 911.
- If you do choose to speak with a solicitor, always remember that a solicitor is still a STRANGER. Never tell a solicitor that your spouse/parents are not home. Your safety is your biggest priority.
- Always be cautious when providing credit card numbers, checks, and/or cash to door-to-door salesman. Asking a solicitor for the name of his/her company and researching the legitimacy of the company is a good way to help prevent being taken advantage of or having your financial/personal information compromised.

- Use a polite tone and be respectful with solicitors. Solicitors should be using the same tone when speaking to you. If a solicitor becomes agitated and too aggressive or makes threatening statements, close the door and terminate the contact with them. Then call 911 to report the incident.
- Be aware of dishonest sales pitches. Solicitors have been known to pretend to be from your neighborhood or claim to know someone in your neighborhood in order to build rapport with you or gain your trust. Always ask follow up questions and contact the people whom the solicitor claimed to know before giving personal or financial information to them.
- NEVER let a solicitor into your home!

Remember: IF IT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, IT PROBABLY IS! Cities, Townships and Villages are limited in their abilities to restrict or regulate nonprofit organizations, religious groups and canvassers; however they are "encouraged" to notify the police department before going door to door. A canvasser also is "urged" to provide police with information such as his or her name and address, the organization represented and when and where the canvassing will take place.

****While Sycamore Township requires solicitors, peddlers or transient merchants to register with the Township and carry appropriate photo identification, Sycamore Township does not endorse any of these religious, political, or charitable causes or companies or the products they sell or services they promote.*

A copy of Sycamore Township RESOLUTION NO.2004-03 Regulating Door To Door Solicitation may be obtained at www.sycamoretownship.org





EMS/Fire Department



Rob Penny
Fire Chief

After our long, cold winter, summer has finally arrived and I'd be willing to bet that most of us are going to spend as much time as possible outside in the coming months. Below are some tips that might help you stay safe this summer.

SWIMMING POOLS

- Store your pool chemicals safely out of the reach of children.
- Consider closing in your pool so no one can get in without your knowledge. A person can drown in a matter of minutes.
- Have some type of rescue device close by in case someone gets in trouble while in the water.

GRILLS

- Locate your grill in an open area away from the structure of your home.
- If it's a gas grill keep your flame low when cooking and be sure to turn the gas off when you finish.
- If it's a charcoal grill the coals need to be completely cool before removing and discarding them. Do not put them in a bag on your deck or in your garage to cool down.
- With either grill, if you experience a flare up, cover it with the lid so it can extinguish itself.

BICYCLE RIDING

- Adults and children alike should always wear a helmet that fits properly.
- Check your tires to be sure they are properly inflated.
- Test your brakes to be sure they are working properly.
- Make sure you can be seen by wearing neon, fluorescent or other bright colors when riding, day or night.

TREATING BEE STINGS

- People who are allergic to bees should carry medication with them. If you are not allergic you may also take some of these medications to help with swelling and pain. If you are stung, stay calm and move out of the area where the sting took place.
- Locate the stinger but do not remove it with your fingers. Instead locate something with a straight edge such as your driver's license or a credit card. Scrape the stinger out with the object.
- Apply ice at the site to reduce the swelling and aid in the pain.
- Monitor yourself or others for an allergic reaction. Symptoms include abnormal swelling at the sting site, swelling around the mouth, lips, or tongue or difficulty breathing. If these occur call 911 immediately.



Fire Chief Rob Penny is congratulated by Trustees Denny Connor, Tom Weidman and Cliff Bishop after being sworn in as Sycamore Township Fire Chief.



Firefighter/Paramedic Timothy J. Feichtner is sworn in by President of the Board of Trustees Cliff Bishop at the April 17, 2014 Trustee Meeting.

Have a safe summer!
Rob Penny
Fire Chief

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Chipping Program

June 7/ July 5/August 2
8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
Behind Administration Bldg.
8540 Kenwood Rd.

Twilight Concert

June 22
5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.
Bechtold Pavilion
4312 Sycamore Rd.

Festival in Sycamore

July 11-12
6:00 P.M. – Midnight
Bechtold Park
4312 Sycamore Rd

4th Annual Sycamore Township Car Show

August 2
Registration
9:00 A.M. – Noon
Car Show
Noon to 3:00 P.M.
Robert L. Schuler Sports Complex
11532 Deerfield Rd.





Parks and Recreation

“BEST OF THE FEST” TO APPEAR AT 22ND ANNUAL FESTIVAL IN SYCAMORE

Three national bands, including encore performances by two Festival favorites, will headline the 22nd annual Festival in Sycamore on Friday, July 11 and Saturday, July 12 from 6:00 P.M. – Midnight at Bechtold Park, 4312 Sycamore Rd. This year’s lineup features bands whose credits include multiple Grammy nominations, dozens of top ten hits, and many gold and platinum records.

On Friday, July 11, FRAN COSMO, former lead singer for BOSTON, will lead the entertainment. COSMO, along with his guitarist son Anton, were long time members of BOSTON. His band puts on a fantastic show, highlighted by all of BOSTON’S hits. You don’t want to miss this show. Local favorite “After Midnight” will be on hand to open up for COSMO.

On Saturday, July 12, two legendary classic rock bands, who are also Festival veterans, will grace the Bechtold Park stage. AMBROSIA, with hits including *How Much I Feel*, *You’re the Only Woman*, *Nice Nice Very Nice*, and many others, returns for what is sure to be another fantastic performance. Among its achievements, AMBROSIA has multiple gold and platinum records and has earned numerous Grammy nominations. AMBROSIA puts on a fabulous live performance that must be heard to be believed.

THE GUESS WHO returns Saturday as well. With many, many hits including *These Eyes*, *No Time*, *Laughing*, *American Woman*, and *Shakin’ All Over* among others, this legendary band continues to gain new audiences as new people discover their timeless music. THE GUESS WHO’S electrifying show at their last Festival appearance left the record crowd wanting them back, so here they are! Popular local band “Pandora Effect” will open the night’s entertainment. Consult the Entertainment Schedule below for times.

Of course, the outstanding entertainment isn’t the only Festival attraction. A great variety of tasty food and refreshments will be offered at reasonable prices. Lots of rides and games will be available for the kids. The popular “Ride for Five” returns this year. Pay \$5.00 for a bracelet each day and ride the rides all night. Free parking will be available onsite (weather permitting), and at The Bethel Baptist church, St. Saviour Church, Deer Park High School, and the Township Administration Building shuttle lots.

BEST OF THE FEST DAY ONE...



Call 791-8447 or go to www.sycamoretownship.org for more information.

ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE:

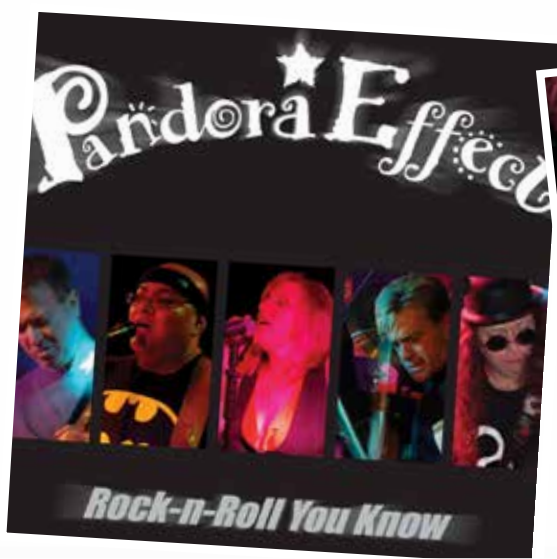
Friday July 11

After Midnight 6:00 P.M.
 FRAN COSMO – former lead singer for BOSTON 9:30 P.M.
 THE GUESS WHO

Saturday, July 12

Pandora Effect 6:00 P.M.
 AMBROSIA 7:30 P.M.
 9:30 P.M.

**BEST OF THE FEST
 DAY TWO...**



TWILIGHT CONCERT SCHEDULED

Circle the date! On Sunday, June 22, the big band/swing sounds of The Jump n' Jive Show Band will fill the air at Bechtold Park, 4312 Sycamore Rd. The concert will go on from 5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M. Admission is free. Bring a blanket or lawn chair, along with a picnic basket and refreshments to enjoy while taking in all the sounds. Food and refreshments will not be sold. If the weather is questionable, call the park hotline at 792-7275. For more information, call 791-8447.





Planning and Zoning

Spring leads to summer which leads to outdoor projects. In Sycamore Township construction is plentiful, from the residential neighborhoods to the commercial developments.



We would like to remind our residents that Zoning permits are required for most residential construction projects including sheds, fences, deck, pools, and new additions. The

Township charges minimal fees for residential reviews, and some residential projects have no review fee at all, provided no work is begun prior to obtaining a permit. If you have any questions, please contact the office and we will help you through the process.

In Sycamore Township, we are fortunate to have strong residential and commercial neighborhoods. The synergy between the two helps each one prosper. As properties improve, their values tend to increase, which leads to an overall increase in the tax base while at the same time reducing your individual tax burden.

On the commercial front, several new developments are underway in the Township. Most notable are the expansion of Jewish Hospital and the upcoming completion of the Kenwood Collection, formerly known as Kenwood Towne Place. The Jewish Hospital expansion will increase the number of private rooms at the hospital and will make it a world class medical facility. In addition, it is part of the Northwest Joint Economic Development Zone, which will have a direct benefit to the Township. After many years of sitting unfinished, The Kenwood Collection will begin its transformation this year. The re-imagined mixed use facility will bring new economic development into the already strong Kenwood area and will bring new retail opportunities. The Kenwood shopping district has distinguished itself as the premier destination for unique retail that can't be found anywhere else in the Cincinnati area, and in some cases the entire Midwest.



TOWNSHIP TIDBITS

DID YOU KNOW?

The Kenwood Swim and Tennis Club is nestled in the heart of Kenwood, just off Hosbrook Road at 7101 Lynnfield Drive. The club offers an expansive tri-zoned pool to allow for lane swimming or open pool play, a 3-foot entry with stairs for the younger swimmers, and a dive well with 2 boards. Also available is a baby pool for our littlest members to splash and play in a safe and guarded gated area. The Club offers a wide variety of healthy and fun snacks in the Snack Shack as well as multiple open grills for member use. There are four tennis courts and a backboard for tennis enthusiasts. The green areas offer playground equipment, a basketball court, and plenty of room for running and play. Family and adult socials are held throughout the summer.

The Kenwood Swim and Tennis Club is proud to be home to the Kenwood Crocodiles - a swim and dive team for the youngest swimmers and divers through 18 years.

SwimSafe will be responsible for daily management and operations of the club.



For more information please visit the website kenwoodswimandtennisclub.com, find the Club on Facebook at Kenwood Swim and Tennis Club, or contact Kenwoodswimandtennisclub@gmail.com



Maintenance Department



Tracy Kellums,
Superintendent

ROAD WORK AHEAD

As we welcome summer and say goodbye to a long, hard winter, it is time for road construction. Instead of driving through snow and ice, we must prepare for the orange barrel season.

Sycamore Township will once again have a microsurfacing (blackmat) program this year, as you may have read in the previous newsletter. This year's program will cover 17 streets for a total of just under ten lane miles.

The following roads will be included in the blackmat program :

- First Avenue
- Second Avenue
- Third Avenue
- Fourth Avenue
- Fifth Avenue
- Sixth Avenue
- Seventh Avenue
- Evans Avenue
- Park Avenue
- Cincinnati Avenue
- Columbia Avenue
- Carroll Avenue
- Kirtley Drive
- Kanawha Avenue
- Trowbridge Drive
- Wesken Lane
- Southwick Lane

There will also be several projects on major arterial roads. The Kenwood Road project from Montgomery Road to Euclid is close to completion and should be finished in the near future. By the time you receive this newsletter, construction will have started on Montgomery Road just east of I-71 and on Hosbrook Road also. This is an underground utility project which includes widening and realigning the Montgomery/Hosbrook Roads intersection.

Galbraith Road between Kenwood Road and Montgomery Road will also be updated this year. The right hand turn lane from eastbound Galbraith Road to southbound Montgomery Road is going to be lengthened to help improve traffic flow. Another Galbraith Road project will place utilities underground, and will include the installation of sidewalks. As with all road construction projects there will be some inconvenience, short delays, detours and road closures, but with your patience, understanding and cooperation, we can keep these to a minimum and keep everyone safe. Please SLOW DOWN and drive SAFELY through all construction zones.

If you have any questions or concerns about any of these projects, please call Tracy Kellums, Road Superintendent, at (513) 792-7257.

SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP WELCOMES NEW BUSINESSES!



The Basement Doctor is open for business at 7825 Redsky Drive and ready to help with your basement waterproofing needs.



Yoga Fit Boutique is now open in Duffy Square at 10776 Montgomery Road.



Tesla Motors has opened a showroom for its premium electric vehicles in the Kenwood Towne Centre and also a vehicle service center at 8460 Blue Ash Road.



The new **See's Candies** store has opened at the Kenwood Towne Centre.





Contacts

Summer 2014

Cliff Bishop, President
Denny Connor, Vice-President
Tom Weidman, Trustee
Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer
R. Douglas Miller, Law Director
Tracy Kellums, Superintendent
Mike McKeown, Parks & Recreation Director

791-8447 – Fax 792-8564

Greg Bickford, AICP, Administrator

791-8447 – Fax 792-8564

Rob Penny, Fire Chief

792-8565 – Fax 792-8564

Chris M. Kettelman, Lieutenant
District Three Commander
Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

774-6351– Fax 774-6350

Fire and Police Emergency – 911

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



Cliff Bishop
President



Denny Connor
Vice President



Tom Weidman
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.