

Sycamore Township

NEWS

Spring 2016

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Welcome to Spring 2016!

Fortunately, this was a relatively mild winter with only a few days of snow and ice. As always, your Maintenance crew did an outstanding job of keeping our roadways clear. The new salt dome, located at Schuler Park, has been put to good use and allows us to maintain an adequate supply of salt no matter what Mother Nature throws at us.

As we look forward to warmer weather, your Township parks will be ready for you! Parks Director Mike McKeown is working with our Maintenance Department to make sure the parks and ball fields are in excellent condition for the spring. Remember, shelters are available to rent all year long. Visit the Township website for more information.

As warmer weather sets in, so do construction projects. Just a friendly reminder to check with the Township Zoning Department for permit requirements before you begin your project. Most residential Zoning Permits have no fee attached to them.

Development and infrastructure initiatives are continuing, with some of the major projects finally seeing completion. The improvements to the Montgomery Road / I-71 interchange have improved traffic flow in the area, especially during the holiday season. The Hosbrook Road widening and traffic calming project will be complete soon and the Galbraith Road utility project continues. Each of these improvements helps maintain the economic viability of Kenwood, which in turn benefits all property owners.

The Township has also begun the process of updating our Zoning Code and Comprehensive Plan. The Zoning Code dates back to 1997 and the Land Use plan was last updated in 2008. These two important documents guide development and protect the welfare of the Township. Public drafts of the documents should be available later in the summer for your review and comment.

Financially, the Township is on stable ground. The Joint Economic Development Zones continue to do well, and all of the Township levies are generating revenue at their expected levels. Did you know that local tax rates for Sycamore Township property owners are among the lowest in Hamilton County? For every \$100,000 of property valuation, Sycamore Township property owners pay \$173 in local taxes.

It has been over 10 years since the last property tax levy was requested. There are no other local communities that can boast of that accomplishment, and with sound fiscal planning and financial management, we hope to continue providing quality services without raising your taxes for as long as possible.

On behalf of my fellow Trustees, Tom Weidman and Denny Connor, our Fiscal Officer Rob Porter, Township Administrator Greg Bickford and the rest of the Township staff, we thank you for your continued support and look forward to serving you. If you have any questions or comments, please contact us. Best wishes for an enjoyable spring.



Cliff Bishop
Vice President



Cliff Bishop
Vice President





Police & Crime Prevention



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

Sycamore Township contracts with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office for police service. This includes three 24 hour cars a day, plus one additional car during peak times. These officers are specifically dedicated to Sycamore Township and its residents to protect the community 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In 2015, officers assigned to Sycamore Township responded to 12,756 calls for service/dispatches and drove over 207,243 miles. A total of 581 original arrests, including felony, misdemeanor, and minor misdemeanor offenses, and 1,445 warrant arrests were made in Sycamore Township last year.

The following are statistics for offenses occurring in Sycamore Township in 2013, 2014, 2015:

OFFENSE	2013	2014	2015
Homicide	0	0	0
Rape	4	3	7
Robbery	7	7	8
Assault	7	6	12
Domestic Violence	66	42	58
Burglary	79	64	84
Theft	671	577	611
Auto Theft	22	30	31
Criminal Damage/Vandalism	84	60	71
Arson	4	1	3
Sex Offenses	4	5	5
Narcotics	124	144	126
Forgery	11	8	9
Check Fraud	38	41	70
Rec. Stolen Goods	11	9	10
CCW	4	11	8
Liquor Laws	18	29	21
OVI	25	46	31
Missing Juvenile	32	25	14
Missing Adult	3	9	3

OFFENSE	2013	2014	2015
Disorderly Conduct	100	91	46
Others	174	129	182
Auto Accidents	1125	1092	1114
Traffic Tickets/Citations	1638	2293	2062
Self-Activity/Traffic Stops	-	5916	6164
Dispatched Details	12738	12799	12756

What can you do to help prevent crime in Sycamore Township? The most important thing you can do is call the police to report a crime or any suspicious activity when it is occurring. **Don't wait to report suspicious activity or vehicles! Call the non-emergency dispatch number at (513) 825-2280.**

OFFICER SPOTLIGHT



Sergeant Tim Nash is the 2016
Recipient of the Hamilton County
Sheriff's Office Supervisor of the
Year Award

Sergeant Tim Nash is a Cincinnati native who grew up in Colerain Township and graduated from LaSalle High School and the University of Cincinnati. Sergeant Nash enlisted in the Army Reserve after high school and was commissioned a second Lieutenant in the Army Corps of Engineers. He served our country in Iraq in 2003 and was later promoted to Captain in the Army. Sergeant Nash joined the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office in 1997 in the Corrections Division. He became a firearms instructor in 2006 and, in 2012, became a member of the Department Training Staff. Sergeant Nash has been instrumental in the development of school safety plans in Symmes and Sycamore Townships and also assists with building searches and active shooter response drills. In addition, Sergeant Nash was just announced as the recipient of the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office Supervisor of the Year Award! He also teaches or assists with the Concealed Carry Classes put on by the Sheriff's Office. When not serving the citizens of Sycamore Township, Sergeant Nash enjoys spending time with his family.



EMS/Fire Department



Rob Penny, Fire Chief

On behalf of the Fire Department, I would like to wish everyone a safe and wonderful spring. We are all waiting patiently for the snow to clear, green grass to grow and spring flowers to bloom.

NEW: EMERGENCY CONTACT FORM

The Sycamore Township Fire Department makes a high number of emergency calls each year. One of the many challenges we face occurs when responding to a home where a patient, often an elderly patient, lives alone or is left alone on a daily basis and is unable to speak to the paramedics. In this case we have no way of contacting loved ones to let them know that there is a problem and they need to go to the hospital.

The fire department has created an **“Emergency Contact Form”** on our website that can be completed online and sent to us. The contact form will include your name, address and space to list up to two people you would like to be contacted in the case of a medical emergency in which you must be transported by ambulance to the hospital. The information you send will be placed in our data base and will not be shared with anyone. We will either notify your emergency contact person ourselves, or give it to the hospital to do so if you are transported there.



The form may be found on our web site at: www.sycamoretownshipfire.org. Click on “Resident Medical Emergency Contact Form” on the upper left hand side of the home page. Forms will also be available at the fire stations. It is our hope that having an emergency contact form on file will give our residents peace of mind knowing that the proper people will be contacted as soon as possible in the event of an emergency.



HELPFUL INFORMATION ABOUT USING 911

If you are in need of medical help and must call 911, it is best to use your home phone, if you have one, rather than a cell phone. The advantage to calling 911 from your home phone is that it allows the dispatcher to trace your call back to your address. In the event you cannot speak or are hard to understand you will be assured that help is on its way to your home. When using a cell phone there is no signal that identifies you to the dispatcher. Your call would only be traced to the cell phone tower closest to you, therefore, your home address cannot be determined.



The Sycamore Township Fire Department offers free car seat checks. If you need assistance installing a car seat, or want to check to make sure yours has been installed correctly, please call 792-7248 or email mkramer@sycamoretownship.org for an appointment.



BECHTOLD PARK SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP

Parks & Recreation



Mike McKeown,
Parks & Rec. Director

DATES & ENTERTAINMENT FOR ANNUAL FESTIVAL ANNOUNCED!

We're happy to announce that the 24th annual Festival in Sycamore will be held on Friday and Saturday, July 15th and 16th from 6:00 P.M. until midnight. We're thrilled to have two of the true legends of the classic rock era performing! On Saturday, July 16th, the great Mark Farner, formerly of Grand Funk, will appear again. Last year, his show was cut short after just a few songs because of the storms. Following him on the stage will be the one and only Randy Bachman, a founder of Bachman Turner Overdrive and The Guess Who, who will be performing the greatest hits of both bands. Popular locals DV8 will open for these two gold and platinum artists.

We're also very pleased to be bringing back The Rusty Griswolds on Friday, July 15th. This great regional band is a very popular mainstay of the local music scene. We're very happy to have them back at the Festival.

Of course, the usual great food, rides, and games will be featured also. The music schedule will appear in the summer newsletter. We hope to see you this summer at Bechtold Park for the Festival in Sycamore!

Randy Bachman



Mark Farner



The Rusty Griswolds



DV8



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE TWILIGHT CONCERT

Mark your calendar now for Sunday, June 19, 2016 and look forward to enjoying some of the great sounds of the big band and swing eras. The Jump 'n' Jive Show Band will be performing familiar standards and fabulous contemporary big band and swing music. The concert will be held from 5:00 - 7:00 P.M. at Bechtold Pavilion, 4312 Sycamore Road. Admission is free. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and a picnic basket and enjoy the great outdoors while listening to this great band. Food and refreshments will not be available at the concert. Call 792-7275 if the weather is questionable. Call 791-8447 for more information.

EMAIL US YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS!

Email your news, event information and/or photos for "Township Tidbits" to newsletter@sycamoretownship.org for possible inclusion in our quarterly newsletter. We reserve the right to edit submissions for space and clarity. The number of contributions printed per issue is subject to space available.



TOWNSHIP TIDBITS

FINES TO PROPERTY OWNERS FOR OBSTRUCTING ROADWAYS

Did you know it is illegal to dump construction materials or place dumpsters on the road or in the public right-of-way? Placing a dumpster or dumping construction materials such as gravel, mulch and dirt causes damage to Sycamore Township roads and sidewalks, which are very expensive to repair, and may create safety and traffic issues. In 2015, Sycamore Township Trustees passed Resolution 2015-112, setting a civil fine for obstructing roads and sidewalks in Sycamore Township. The property owner and/or contractor who illegally obstructs the road or right-of-way is subject to civil fines of \$350 for the first offense, \$700 for the second offense and \$1,000 for the third offense. Please do your part to help keep our roads in good shape, reduce repairs and save taxpayer money by keeping Sycamore Township roads clear.



BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR!

Warm weather is here and Sycamore Township residents and their four-legged friends are out enjoying it! Keep in mind there are Township resolutions in place prohibiting dogs roaming at large and requiring pet owners to pick up after their pets. Always walk your dog on a leash and remember to be respectful of your neighbors' properties by cleaning up after your pet. It is also a park rule that dogs must be kept under control and on a leash at all times in any Township park. For your convenience, there are "mutt mitts" available at most of the parks. Do your part to keep our community clean, and our residents and pets safe, by picking up after your pets and keeping them tethered!

BEST SELLING AUTHOR TO SPEAK AT KENWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

New York Times #1 bestselling author Eric Metaxas will be speaking at Kenwood Baptist Church on Wednesday, March 16 at 7:00 p.m. His books include *Bonhoeffer*, *Miracles*, *Seven Women*, *Seven Men*, and *Amazing Grace*, as well as more than thirty children's books. He hosts the *Eric Metaxas Show*, a nationally syndicated radio program. He was the keynote speaker at the 2012 National Prayer Breakfast in Washington DC, an event attended by the President and First Lady, the Vice President, members of Congress, and other U.S. and world leaders.

Metaxas will be speaking about the compelling life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a Lutheran pastor in Germany when the Nazis came into power. Opposing the Nazi regime meant significant personal risk, and while most chose the 'safety' of silence, Dietrich Bonhoeffer boldly lived with God as his Fuhrer and the Bible as his standard of truth. Until he was arrested for aiding the escape of seven Jews, Bonhoeffer spent his energy writing, speaking and doing all that he could to live in a way that pleased God, not Hitler. Organizers expect this event to sell out; tickets are free, but limited. You may reserve them online at: kenwoodbaptist.org > events > Eric Metaxas > Reserve Tickets, or call 513.791.0355.



Hamilton County Sheriff Enforcement Officer Eric Kidd, who has served Southern Sycamore Township since 2007, was recently promoted to the rank of Corporal. Here Corporal Kidd (right) is congratulated by Hamilton County Sheriff Jim Neil (center) and Chief Deputy Mark Schoonover.





Planning & Zoning



Harry Holbert,
Zoning Administrator

Even with the cold temperature outside, Sycamore Township has been Red-Hot with new projects.

The Hampton Inn & Suites in Kenwood is now open! It is located across from Kenwood Towne Center, and features 150 rooms, with meeting and business spaces, and a heated indoor pool and fitness center.

Texas Roadhouse, known for Hand-Cut Steaks, Fall-Off-The-Bone Ribs, Made-From-Scratch Sides, and Fresh-Baked Bread, is now open next to IHOP!

Texas Roadhouse is a casual-dine family restaurant which can accommodate up to 288 guests.

Nadeau Furniture has opened at 7400 Kenwood Road across from Tire Discounters. Nadeau carries "Furniture with a Soul" featuring a wide variety of unique and handmade items for the home.

Pizzeria Locale, featuring quick serve pizzas cooked to perfection, is now open at Sycamore Plaza in the former Johnny Rockets space.



Trustees Tom Weidman and Denny Connor joined Texas Roadhouse Managing Partner Todd Jermont for the official ribbon cutting for the new Texas Roadhouse Restaurant in Sycamore Plaza.

New to the Office Tower at the Kenwood Collection at 5905 E. Galbraith Road are Oppenheimer & Co., Inc., a leading investment bank and full service investment firm, and Bellwether Enterprise Real Estate, a commercial and multifamily banking company.

RIGHT OF WAY OBSTRUCTIONS

It has come to our attention that basketball goals, both permanent and portable, have been erected in the public right of way throughout the Township. Sycamore Township has been notified by our insurance company that these right of way obstructions create a liability for the Township. Unfortunately, because of this, the Township must enforce Section 210 of the Hamilton County Subdivision Rules and Regulations which prohibits right of way obstructions. If you currently have a basketball goal in the right of way, please remove it and place it on your private property where the children can play safely.



PLACEMENT OF GARBAGE/RECYCLING CONTAINERS

The Board of Trustees has passed a resolution that will require all residential garbage/recycling containers to be placed at the curb or authorized location for pick-up no more than 24 hours preceding the scheduled pick-up day, and all containers to be removed within 24 hours after the pickup unless prior arrangements have been made with the Township regarding a special pickup time or location. All garbage/recycling containers shall either be in an enclosed building or placed behind the front building line when not placed for pickup.



Maintenance Department



Tracy Kellums, Superintendent

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 damage pick up policy is as follows: Superintendent/Assistant Administrator Tracy Kellums declares whether a **"storm damage condition"** has occurred. If a storm has been declared, in order to have the branches picked up at no charge, residents are required to contact the Township to request a storm damage pickup **within two business days** of the storm either by calling 791-8447 or by using the Action Line on our website at www.sycamoretownship.org.

Branches must be ready for pickup within two (2) weeks of the storm, stacked at the side of the street, butt ends out.

TRASH BASH INFORMATION (SEE DATES TO THE RIGHT)

This year, the annual document shredding event for residents will take place at Bechtold Park in conjunction with the South Trash Bash on Saturday, May 14, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Household chemicals and pesticides will be accepted at the SOUTH TRASH BASH ONLY.

Sycamore Township Maintenance staff will be on hand to offer assistance to residents at these events. Trash, junk, debris, old tires, used motor oil, construction materials, furniture, lawnmowers, and appliances of all kinds will be accepted. Mattresses and box springs will also be accepted provided they are wrapped in plastic or in a plastic mattress bag. **Please note that paint and yard waste including brush and leaves will not be accepted.** Latex paint may be taken to Matthew 25 Ministries at 11060 Kenwood Road. Be prepared to show proof of residency.



Sycamore Township Maintenance crew members were thrilled to receive handmade thank you cards from 8th grade students at All Saints School. Teachers Mrs. Guye and Mrs. Gardner organized the project in honor of Community Appreciation Day. The students made the cards to show their appreciation of the Maintenance crew's hard work plowing snow and taking care of Township roads and parks.

SPRING EVENTS

Chipping Program

April 2, May 7, & June 4
8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Behind Administration Bldg.
8540 Kenwood Rd.

National Day of Prayer

May 5, 12:00 PM
Administration Bldg.
8540 Kenwood Road

Compost Giveaway

May 7, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Hartzell Methodist Church
8999 Applewood Dr.

North Trash Bash

April 29, 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM
April 30, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
McDaniel Park, Enter @ School Rd.
7841 School Rd.

South Trash Bash

May 13, 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM
May 14, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Bechtold Park
4312 Sycamore Road

Document Shredding

May 14, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Bechtold Park
4312 Sycamore Road

Twilight Concert

June 19, 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Bechtold Pavilion
4312 Sycamore Road

Festival in Sycamore

July 15–16, 6:00 PM – Midnight
Bechtold Park
4312 Sycamore Road





Contacts

Spring 2016

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. Ketteman, 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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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.