

# Sycamore Township

# NEWS

Winter 2016

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With the Election of 2016 behind us, and whether or not your candidate of choice won, rest assured your elected officials at Sycamore Township are hard at work making sure our Township is a great place to live, work, and play.

It was another successful year for the Township. Commercial development is proceeding at a comfortable pace with the Kenwood Collection being nearly complete, the Jewish Hospital expansion completed and the new Tri Health medical complex open. Each one of these businesses helps drive the economic engine of Sycamore Township and goes a long way in helping to fund the services provided by the Township.



Cliff Bishop, Vice President

Safety services are always a top priority for your elected officials, and this year we were proud to hire four new full time firefighters and add one additional 24/7 police officer. We believe that having the proper number of first responders is important to the quality of life for all residents and those who work here.

Did you know that it has been over 10 years since the last property tax levy? There are no other communities in Hamilton County that can say that. In addition, your local property tax millage is the lowest of all thirteen Townships in Hamilton County, and lower than all but two other local governments. With sound financial stewardship, we hope to continue that trend.

In 2016, your parks enjoyed their most popular year in history, with every athletic field being used almost every day. 2017 is shaping up to be an exceptional year as well, with field requests already outpacing 2016. A new playground was installed at McDaniel Park and all of the walking trails received needed maintenance.

Despite the colder weather, the winter months will be busy at the Township, with much of the activity being done behind the scenes. The last of the fall leaves will be collected by mid-December and then the crews will shift into snow removal. The addition of a new salt dome at Schuler Park will ensure there will be plenty of road salt for whatever winter weather Mother Nature throws at us.

On behalf of my fellow Trustees Denny Connor and Tom Weidman, Fiscal Officer Rob Porter and the rest of the Township staff, best wishes for safe and happy holidays and a terrific new year in 2017.

Sincerely,

Cliff Bishop  
Vice President





# Police & Crime Prevention



Sgt. Michael Tarr, Hamilton County Sheriff's Office Traffic Safety Unit

In my role as the Traffic Safety Unit supervisor, I'm frequently called on to speak before public groups on the topic of traffic safety. People always want to know what we as a community can do to reduce traffic crashes. Obviously, there are many factors that contribute to any crash: weather, time of day, road conditions, volume of traffic, etc. The one constant in any traffic crash, though, is the human element—the

driver. In virtually every crash, there is some causative factor on the part of a driver. In the vast majority of crashes that causative factor is some form of inattention on the part of the driver. No matter what ultimately led to the crash (changing the radio, taking a phone call, eating, dealing with screaming kids) the driver has failed the task at hand, which is to focus all of his or her attention on operating a motor vehicle in a safe manner.

When I took a look at crash statistics over the past few years in Sycamore Township, I was not surprised at what I found. In every year from 2013 to 2015 December has been the busiest month for crashes in the Township. If you want to know why, go back and take a look at that one constant in any crash—the driver.

December is a busy time of the year for most of us. Preparation for the holidays puts all sorts of demands on our time. As we prepare to move into December, I would ask everyone to please do their best to limit distractions when operating a vehicle. No matter what time of year it is, I believe that everyone has the same goal every time they get in a vehicle: to arrive at their destination safely.

| YEAR | CRASHES | AVG/MONTH | DECEMBER |
|------|---------|-----------|----------|
| 2013 | 1118    | 93.6      | 111      |
| 2014 | 1102    | 91.8      | 129      |
| 2015 | 1226    | 102.1     | 118      |
| 2016 | 845*    | 93.8      | ???      |

\*Through September of 2016

## OFFICER SPOTLIGHT



Deputy Robert Jim is a 24 year veteran of the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, starting his career in December of 1991. He has been on patrol for 20 years and has worked at District Three for 16 years, the last three assigned to night shift in South Sycamore.

Deputy Jim was born and raised in Cincinnati and graduated from Elder High School in 1986. Deputy Jim is married to a 17 year veteran of the Hamilton County Communications Center and has two children, ages 13 and 10. In his spare time Deputy Jim is very involved in his community and has been a youth baseball and football coach for more than 30 years. He is also the President of the Gloria Jim Foundation, a non-profit charitable foundation started in 2015 after the death of his Mother from pancreatic cancer.

Deputy Jim enjoys mentoring the younger Enforcement Officers in the Sheriff's Office to ensure the highest quality of service, dedication, and professionalism to the residents of Hamilton County and Sycamore Township. Deputy Jim would like to thank the Township Trustees and the residents of Sycamore Township for the opportunity to protect and serve the community in a positive way.



# EMS/Fire Department



Rob Penny, Fire Chief

As we head into the winter months it is a great time of year to enjoy the holidays and spend time with our families. The winter can also bring harsh weather, leading to potential hazards that can be avoided by taking precautionary measures.

The men and women of Sycamore Township Fire Department and Life Safety Section are working to remind everyone that home fires and certain medical emergencies are more prevalent in winter than in any other season.

### Here are some tips to help keep you safe throughout the winter months:

- **Never discard hot ashes inside or near the home.** Your fire department makes runs every year in the winter for ashes that were burned in the fireplace the night before and appear to be out and cold. They are placed in a cardboard box or paper bag and set out on the rear deck or in a garbage can near the house. These ashes may have just enough of a hot ember deep inside a piece of ash or unburned wood that when placed in a closed container will heat up and start a fire. Always place burned ashes in a metal container and wet down with water until they float.
- **If you use an electric heater, be sure not to overload the circuit.** We run into fire situations all the time where electrical outlets are overloaded, extension cords and gang plugs are used along with an electric heater. Extension cords and gang plugs can catch fire. Home breakers and fuses will continually trip, causing an interruption in your electrical service. Breaker boxes can heat up and catch fire from overload.
- **Never thaw frozen pipes in your home with a blow torch.** The fire department has made several house fire runs over the years where a blow torch being used to thaw a pipe catches wood or insulation on fire. Even thick dust and spider webs can ignite. Use hot water or a UL-labeled devise such as a handheld dryer for thawing.



### HELP THE ELDERLY

It's very hard for elderly people to get around in the winter when snow is on the ground. If you see an elderly person out in the snow, try to give them a hand getting into their home. If they are out trying to shovel the drive or sidewalk, help them out. Elderly residents need the snow removed from their walks and drive more than any of us; however, the cold air and stress from shoveling snow is very hard on an elderly person. Let's help each other out to keep our neighbors safe and healthy.



# BECHTOLD PARK SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP

## Parks & Recreation



Mike McKeown,  
Parks & Rec. Director

### JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL DILLONVALE LUMINARIA

Sycamore Township and Dillonvale IGA are teaming up again to sponsor the annual Dillonvale Luminaria. The event will be held on Saturday, December 10, from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM at the Pavilion in Bechtold Park. Dillonvale IGA will provide donuts, cookies, and warm drinks. Bethel Baptist Temple will be presenting a live Nativity scene and Christmas carolers. Santa will be there to greet the kids. Christmas music will fill the air. Hayrides will take people through the streets of Dillonvale to view all the holiday decorations. We encourage all Dillonvale residents to decorate the sidewalks in front of their homes with luminaria bags. The kits will be available at Ace Hardware in the Dillonvale Shopping Center. Prizes will be awarded to the three best decorated properties! Come join the fun and get in the spirit of the season at the annual Dillonvale Luminaria!



### WINTER EVENTS

**Brush Chipping Program**  
December 3, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM  
Behind Twp. Administration Bldg.  
8540 Kenwood Road

**Fall Leaf Collection Ends**  
December 9

**Luminaria**  
December 10, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM  
Bechtold Pavilion  
4312 Sycamore Road

**Christmas Tree Drop Off**  
December 26 – January 20  
Bechtold Park  
4312 Sycamore Road  
McDaniel Sports Complex  
11797 Solzman Road



## TOWNSHIP TIDBITS

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2016 BEAUTIFICATION AWARD WINNERS!



*David and Pamela Sloan, David Clark and Ewell and Laura Brock were presented the 2016 Beautification Awards by Sycamore Township Trustees Denny Connor and Cliff Bishop at the September 15, 2016 Trustees Meeting. The winners also received gift certificates donated by Kenwood Towne Centre and Denny McKeown's Bloomin Garden Centre.*

### GOLF OUTING PROCEEDS BENEFIT CYSTIC FIBROSIS FOUNDATION



*Trustees Denny Connor, Tom Weidman and Cliff Bishop, with golf outing organizer Rick Wietmarschen, present Laura Morgan, representative of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, with a check from the proceeds of the Sycamore Township Golf Outing.*

### DICK'S SPORTING GOODS GRAND RE-OPENING



*Trustees Denny Connor and Tom Weidman and Township Administrator Greg Bickford were on hand to celebrate the Grand Opening of the new, much larger Dick's Sporting Goods store at a Ribbon Cutting in October. This newly renovated location is now open at 7800 Montgomery Road just in time for holiday shopping!*





# Planning & Zoning



Harry Holbert,  
Zoning Administrator

As winter approaches, the Township’s Planning and Zoning staff is working vigorously to keep up with new development, redevelopments and property maintenance demands. In the fall and winter months, we normally see a decline in property maintenance complaints; however, the same is not true regarding abandoned properties. If you see a home and are concerned it may be abandoned, don’t wait, notify the Township immediately. It is important to our communities that we work to minimize these types of properties and the unwanted guests that often come with them. They are usually unmaintained and may bring down surrounding property values, having a negative effect our community.

You may contact our office by:

- Calling a staff member, 513-792-7250 or 513-792-7252 (8 AM – 4:30 PM Monday – Friday)
- Calling our hotline, 513-792-7279 (available 24 hours a day)
- Or visiting our website, [www.sycamoretownship.org](http://www.sycamoretownship.org), to complete a property complaint form online (also available 24 hours a day)

With a steady flow of permit applications, Sycamore Township continues to show positive growth. Some of our most recent tenants at the now-completed Kenwood Collection at 5901 E. Galbraith Road are LL Bean, Old Navy, Crunch Fitness and Cycle Bar. These have all been approved and are either opened or will be opening soon. On the other side of Montgomery Road, there is a new Five Below retail store and an expanded, two-story Dick’s Sporting Goods.

In addition, the Trader Joe’s center has undergone dramatic changes to improve their traffic and parking lot flow. There is now an additional turn lane into the shopping center, creating a wider and safer entrance. This also provides easier accessibility from Montgomery Road and additional clearance distance from the traffic light when exiting the center. A crew is also restructuring the area beside David’s Bridal, creating nine new employee parking spaces which in turn will allow for more customer parking. Trader Joe’s is constantly focused on creating a wonderful shopping experience for their customers, and is very excited to make these parking lot improvements.

**Planning and Zoning questions can be directed to Harry Holbert Jr., Zoning Administrator at 513-792-7252.**





# Maintenance Department



Tracy Kellums, Superintendent

## SNOW REMOVAL

With the winter season upon us, it is time to think about inclement weather. Township residents can be confident that our Maintenance Department is prepared for snow and ice removal. The trucks, salt machines and plows are ready to go. The Township has plenty of salt on hand at our two salt domes, one at the administration complex on Kenwood Road and the other at Schuler Park on Deerfield Road. The Maintenance Department has also added an additional dump truck this year to service our residents.



Hopefully, we won't need any of these this winter, but in case we do, we ask you to remove your cars from the street during snow events. This allows the crews to clean your streets in a safe and efficient manner. Let's work together to have a safe winter season!



## SNOW PLOW ROAD-EO

Each year, the Township maintenance crews in Hamilton County get together and compete in a Snow Plow Road-EO. In the Snow Plow Road-EO, each driver must first demonstrate his mechanical knowledge with a pre-trip inspection of his vehicle. Then, the driver's maneuverability skills are tested by driving a plow truck through an obstacle course. This year, Sycamore Township's very own Ernie McFarlin demonstrated exceptional technique and took first place in the Road-EO! Ernie is a twenty-year veteran of the Maintenance Department who has been flirting with the top spot for a number of years and accomplished it this year with a terrific run.

**CONGRATULATIONS ERNIE!**

## TOWNSHIP RECYCLING

Sycamore Township residents recycled 432.94 tons in the first half of 2016, which is a recycling rate of 13.56% of all waste collected. This level was achieved through curbside recycling, drop-off recycling behind the Township Administration Building at 8540 Kenwood Road, and items dropped off for recycling at the Township's annual Trash Bash. This year at two Trash Bash events we collected 694 tires, 2,034 pounds of electronics, over 4,500 pounds of hazardous household chemicals and 8,850 pounds of paper through document shredding at the Bechtold Park event. This is a considerable amount of waste to keep out of the landfills, saving space as well as the environment. Great job everyone. Keep up the good work!

Have a question about recycling? Call Hamilton County's Recycling hotline at 946-7766 or visit [www.hamiltoncountyclecyles.org](http://www.hamiltoncountyclecyles.org).





# Contacts

## Winter 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

**683-3444 – Fax 774-6350**

Fire and Police Emergency – **911**

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



8540 Kenwood Road  
Sycamore Twp., Ohio 45236

PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE  
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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.