

Sycamore Township

NEWS

Spring 2018

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Welcome to Spring 2018!! It's always great to make the transition from the cold and snow of winter to the flowers and bright green grass of springtime.

Our Maintenance crew, as always, was ready to face the challenges of winter weather. The decision to invest in a second salt storage facility at Schuler Park continues to pay dividends, as we are able to store plenty of salt to keep our roads clear. And our use of brine and beet juice as a pretreatment helps to stretch our salt supplies even further.

Now we turn to parks and road maintenance, and it will be a busy season as always. The lengthy task of burying utilities on Kenwood, Galbraith and Montgomery Roads will be completed this year, with Galbraith Road paving set to begin soon. In addition to better aesthetics, we're helping to provide backup circuits on our electrical grid, and preventing power outages that might be caused by downed utility lines.

Sycamore Township parks are great resources for our residents, and our fields are almost completely booked for the coming baseball, softball and soccer seasons. We're also planning to begin some needed maintenance that will keep our parks beautiful for years to come. The highlight of the park season, of course, will be the Festival in Sycamore on July 13 and 14. Check out the Parks and Recreation article in this newsletter for the announcement of a great band lineup for this year's event.

As a way to help Township residents with their Spring Cleaning chores, we'll again host Trash Bash events on April 13-14 at McDaniel Park and on April 20-21 at Bechtold Park. Hazardous materials disposal will also be included at the Bechtold Trash Bash, and document shredding service will be free to all residents during the Bechtold event on April 21 between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. only. More information is available elsewhere in this newsletter.

We are continuing our efforts to keep Safety Services at their highest possible levels. A new pumper truck is being readied for service to replace an aging piece of fire equipment, and we're making plans to have three up-to-date Life Squad vehicles to support the needs of our Township residents and businesses. It's also time to replace two of our older Sheriff's Department patrol vehicles, and those replacements should be ready for Township patrols in the coming months. Your safety is something that your Board of Trustees takes very seriously.

The new Township website is constantly being improved, with easy-to-use tabs for some of the most-requested forms and services, and updates on everything from upcoming events to Duke Energy pipeline plans. Visit www.sycamoretownship.org for the latest information.

On behalf of Vice President Tom Weidman and Trustee Jim LaBarbara, and our Fiscal Officer Rob Porter, thanks for your continued support. We look forward to seeing you during these enjoyable spring months.

Sincerely,



Denny Connor
President



Denny Connor
President





Police & Crime Prevention



Tory L. Smith, Lieutenant
Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

COYOTES

It seems that over the past year or so we have received more and more calls regarding a wily, elusive, and sometimes startling character that roams our back yards and neighborhoods freely without abandon. I am speaking of the Coyote. Although coyotes are not native to Ohio, they are common throughout the entire State, in urban communities and rural territories alike.

Coyotes are most active in the early morning hours, at dusk, and throughout the night. During 2017, Sycamore Township Deputies were dispatched eight times to investigate a complaint involving a coyote. This number seems fairly low. However, I can attest that the Sycamore Township Administration offices, our Patrol District 3, and the Sheriff's Office Patrol Headquarters facility receive calls regarding coyotes on a very regular basis.

Technically speaking, the coyote is categorized as a nuisance animal. Nuisance animals can be highly destructive to property, and in extreme cases, they can present a viable threat to pets or even people. Due to this classification, a coyote can be destroyed by a property owner without a hunting or trapping license. (See Ohio Administrative Code section 1501:31-15-03 for detailed information) However, this is the question law enforcement is most frequently asked: **"Can I shoot a coyote in my back yard or on my property?"** The simple, legal answer is, yes. **However, this practice is strongly discouraged by Deputies of the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office.** If you as a citizen are contemplating this option there are several questions we would urge you to consider before taking action:

- Do you really want to discharge a firearm in a densely-populated, suburban area? A gun shot (or shots) will almost certainly summon the police. Although your actions might be legal, you can expect a visit from a Patrol Deputy who is answering a call for service from a concerned neighbor.
- Are you an expert marksman? Do you have hunting experience? What if you miss? Where will that round go? Are you prepared to accept all of this risk and liability if you

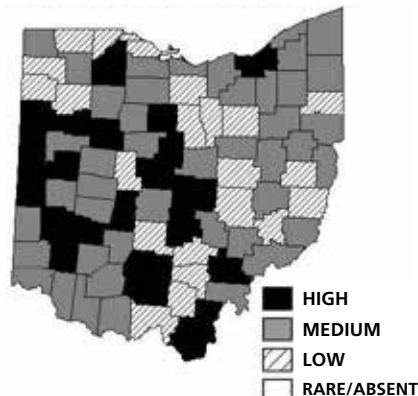
hit something (or more importantly, someone) you didn't intend to shoot?

- If you've answered "yes" to the questions above, do you have the right caliber and configuration of firearm? A large caliber weapon can obliterate a defenseless animal, which will be rather unpleasant. On the other hand, a small caliber firearm might not kill the animal. Do you want to maim an already wild animal and cause unnecessary suffering?
- If you destroy a coyote, what will you do with it afterward? The Sheriff's Office or the Sycamore Township Fire Department will not take deceased animals. I am quite sure Rumpke and other trash removal services do not dispose of animals in cases like this. The Township maintenance department will not dispose of the animal either.
- Think of the message you'll be sending your neighbors, their children, and others in the community. This sort of thing can be very upsetting to some.

Even though it may be "legal" to shoot the animal, there are many conditions and stipulations one must abide by when discharging a firearm. I would encourage any resident who owns or shoots firearms to carefully read section 2923.162 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Like many other situations, the best practice we can adopt is prevention. Bring your pet's food indoors. Tidy up around the grill after a cookout. Remove any garbage that might be sitting around the exterior of your home and make sure the garbage can lids are tightly sealed. If you let your cats or small dogs out at night, accompany them. You should have ample lighting in your backyard and around the exterior of your home. Coyotes are typically curious, but they're afraid of people. More often than not, your mere presence will be enough to scare them away. However, if you have a coyote that still frequents your property after taking these precautions, and the animal doesn't appear to be afraid of human beings, you can contact a nuisance animal trapper. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources – Division of Wildlife (1-800-WILDLIFE) is a great resource when seeking information about nuisance animals and how to bring them under control safely. You can also find information at www.wildohio.com.

COYOTE RELATIVE DISTRIBUTION





EMS/Fire Department



Rob Penny, Fire Chief

Keeping Sycamore Township Residents Safe

STOP THE BLEED PROGRAM

Your fire and medical services are involved with University Hospital learning a lifesaving technique that can be used for a victim involved in a shooting. A victim that has been shot in a limb has a very good chance for survival providing extreme measures are taken to control blood loss. This technique has been around for years, it's called a tourniquet. Previously, tourniquets have been applied by a belt or strap of some type which are not always effective or easy to apply. There is a new type of tourniquet which can be easily applied and very effective. That is why our paramedics are involved with UC Hospital Trauma Department in a "train the trainer" program in which we will learn the technique and then go out this spring and summer to the schools, churches and shopping malls to teach a non-medical person how to apply this tourniquet and pack open wounds. Our goal is to have a kit called "Stop the Bleed" which we will locate in the same area as a heart defibrillator or in other areas that would be effective.



MEDICATION DISPOSAL

Please do not leave medication that has expired or is no longer needed lying around the house. Disposing of old medication helps to reduce the risk of someone taking the wrong medication or of children or pets getting into something that can be harmful. Throwing medications in the trash is not a good idea either. The Fire Department will be more than happy to dispose of your old medications. We have access to a secured medication drop box where they are destroyed properly. Please note liquid medication is not accepted. You may drop off your medicines during weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the fire station located on Kenwood Road.

SELLING IN A SAFE PLACE

If you are going to sell something to an unknown buyer, rather than having them come to your home, the Township Administration Complex is always open for use as a safe meeting place to make the sale. The fire station and administration buildings both have lobbies where you can meet or you can use the parking lot outside the doors. Don't give a complete stranger the opportunity to scope out your home.





Parks & Recreation



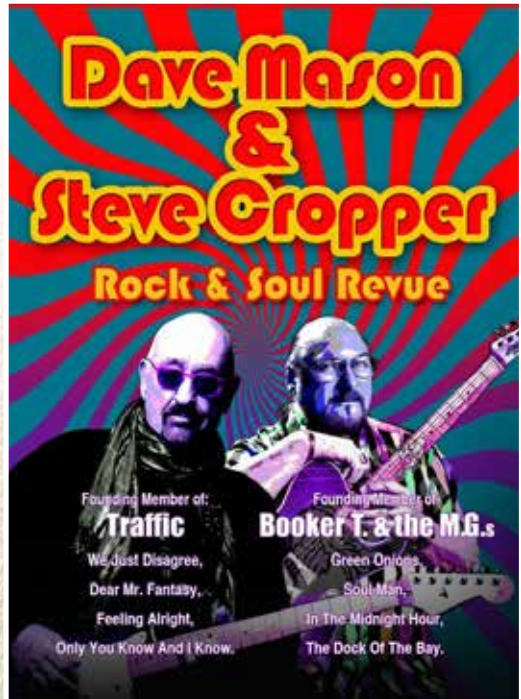
Mike McKeown,
Parks & Rec. Director

TWO NATIONAL ACTS TO PERFORM AT FESTIVAL IN SYCAMORE

We're pleased to announce that two top name bands will appear at the 26th annual Festival in Sycamore, which will be held on July 13 and 14 from 6PM to Midnight at Bechtold Park. Headlining Friday, July 13 will be **DAVE MASON** and **STEVE CROPPER – Feelin Alright Rock and Soul Revue**. Rock and Roll Hall of Famers Dave Mason and Steve Cropper will join together for the first time onstage to deliver their timeless hits, including "We Just Disagree", "Feelin Alright", "All Along the Watchtower", "Knock on Wood", "Soul Man", "Green Onions", and "In the Midnight Hour" and many more.

Saturday, July 14 will be headlined by multi-platinum and gold album-selling band **NIGHT RANGER**. The band has recorded such hits as "Sister Christian", "Don't Tell Me You Love Me", "When You Close Your Eyes" and "(You Can Still) Rock in America" among others. The band had over 10 number one videos on MTV and its music has been featured in multiple TV shows and movies.

The Festival will once again feature fabulous food from area restaurants, along with great goodies and refreshments. Rides will be available for the kids. Watch Facebook and our website www.sycamoretownship.org for more details about local bands performing and other features. The summer newsletter will contain full information about the Festival.



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE TWILIGHT CONCERT

Join us for our Twilight Concert on Sunday, June 10, from 4–6PM at the Bechtold Pavilion in Bechtold Park. Bring blankets or lawn chairs and enjoy the big band sounds of the Jump n Jive Show Band. You may bring your own food and refreshments. Admission is free. We hope to see you there!

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Want to get involved in community activities? The Parks and Recreation Department is looking for adult volunteers to help at Township events such as the Festival in Sycamore, Twilight Concert, Summer Car Show and Luminaria. This is a great way to meet fellow residents and get involved at the same time. **If you're interested, please email Mike McKeown at mmckeown@sycamoretownship.org.** Be sure to include your address and phone number.



TOWNSHIP TIDBITS

OFFICER SPOTLIGHT



Patrol Officer Alexander "Alex" Berlin has been employed by the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office for just over two years. Alex is currently assigned to night shift and he patrols Sycamore Township exclusively. Although many would be quick to place him into the "rookie" category, Alex brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the table. Alex served as a police officer for two other local departments for a period of three years before joining the Sheriff's Office. Before beginning his career in law enforcement, Alex served in the United States Army for four and one-half years. Alex is a combat veteran who served two tours in Iraq as a Specialist between 2009 and 2011.

Statistically, Deputy Berlin ranked in the top three of all Hamilton County Sheriff's Deputies assigned to Patrol District 3 during 2017. Alex recorded 15 felony arrests, 29 misdemeanor arrests, and 23 minor misdemeanor arrests and/or citations. In addition, Alex recorded an astounding 209 warrant arrests. He also issued 151 traffic citations during this time frame. In short, Alex likes to stay busy!

Alex finds his career in law enforcement appealing because of the variety of work involved. Each day, each shift brings a new task or exciting challenge. Alex never shies away from hunting down the bad guy and he has shown tremendous aptitude in taking guns and drugs off of the streets of Sycamore Township, as evidenced by his high number of felony arrests. One of Alex's primary career aspirations is to become a K9 handler. Considering Alex's knowledge, skill, and ability, we're confident that someday Alex will achieve that goal.

TRUSTEES BEGIN FOUR YEAR TERMS



Left: New Sycamore Township Trustee Jim LaBarbara was sworn in by Hamilton County Auditor Dusty Rhodes. **Middle:** Trustee Tom Weidman was sworn in by Ohio Supreme Court Justice Patrick F. Fischer. **Right:** Fire Chief Rob Penny and President of the Board of Trustees Denny Connor with Ross McClellan after he was sworn in as Sycamore Township's newest full time Firefighter Medic.

GET EFFICIENT AND SOLARIZE PROGRAMS FOR TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

Sycamore Township has partnered with the Greater Cincinnati Energy Alliance (GCEA) in an effort to save homeowners money on their utility bills by investing in energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. The Get Efficient and Solarize programs are available to Sycamore Township residents at no cost! These programs are offered through GCEA, a nonprofit which helps homeowners identify ways to make their home more energy efficient or install solar power systems, connect with qualified, program-approved contractors, and thoughtfully evaluate the financial feasibility of those options with the assistance of an energy professional. In addition, for those who choose to implement efficiency improvements and/or solar power, GCEA can provide long-term, unsecured, fixed rate financing that makes the investment affordable.

For more information please visit the Township website or contact the office at 513-791-8447.





Planning & Zoning



Harry Holbert,
Zoning Administrator

What an exciting time to be in Planning and Zoning! Several proposed redevelopments and new developments are on their way. The open house schedule for proposed zone changes is on our website. Residents are invited to attend the open houses and contribute to the conversation.

With spring being right around the corner, the Township is happy to announce the hiring of a new Property Maintenance Inspector. Please help us in welcoming Mr. Ernie McFarlin to the Department of Planning and Zoning. Ernie comes to us from our Maintenance Department where he has over 20 years of service to the Township. As a reminder, all Township inspectors will have a Township ID badge which will have their name and photograph. You may also go to our website for photos of all staff members. When you see Ernie out helping our community, make sure to say hello.



Ernie McFarlin,
Property Maintenance Inspector

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE NUMBERS:

- Call 513-792-7250 or 7249 (staff member)
- Call 513-792-7279 (hotline)
- Visit our website (Our Community/Property Maintenance Complaints)

****We do take anonymous complaints.***



SPECIAL NOTE! The Sycamore Township Board of Trustees passed Resolution 2015-112 several years ago prohibiting obstructions in the public right of way and dumping of materials in public roadways. Such items include mulch, gravel, topsoil and dumpsters. If you hire a contractor, please make sure they are aware of this resolution. There is no initial warning given and fines, which will be issued to the property owner and/or contractor, can be up to \$1000 per day.

RESIDENT INPUT REQUESTED

The long-awaited updated Sycamore Township Zoning Resolution is now available for public review on our website. This is a great opportunity for residents to voice their opinions regarding zoning maps, accessory structures, parking requirements, signage, landscaping and many other items regulated by the Zoning Resolution. Be part of the shaping of your community and take a little time to review this document. Your input is important!

Thanks to all who have taken care of their property year after year. We understand that property ownership comes with a lot of responsibility, and you are the reason Sycamore Township is a great place to live, work and play.

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



Maintenance Department



Tracy Kellums, Superintendent

TRASH BASH & DOCUMENT SHREDDING

NORTH TRASH BASH

McDaniel Park, School Rd. Entrance, 7841 School Rd. 45249
Friday, April 13, 12 – 4PM and Saturday, April 14, 8AM – 4PM

SOUTH TRASH BASH

Bechtold Park, 4312 Sycamore Road, 45236
Friday, April 20, 12 – 4PM and Saturday, April 21, 8AM – 4PM

The annual document shredding event for residents will take place at Bechtold Park in conjunction with the South Trash Bash on Saturday, April 21, 10AM – 2PM.

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, appliances of all kinds and electronics will be accepted. Mattresses and box springs will also be accepted provided they are wrapped in plastic or in a plastic mattress bag. **Oil based paint, household chemicals and pesticides will be accepted at the SOUTH TRASH BASH ONLY.** Be prepared to show proof of residency.

Please note that latex 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.

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 pickup 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.**



The 2018 Maintenance Crew (L to R) Jamie Gooch, Dan Lehane, Kevin Clark, Brian Weinel, Jason Petty, Mark Saylor, Nik Chachoff, A.J. Beach, Mark Homan and Jason Seiler

SPRING EVENTS

Chipping Program

April 7, May 5, & June 2
8AM – 4PM

Behind Administration Bldg.
8540 Kenwood Road

North Trash Bash

Friday, April 13, 12 – 4PM
Saturday, April 14, 8AM – 4PM
McDaniel Park
7841 School Road

South Trash Bash

Friday, April 20, 12 – 4PM
Saturday, April 21, 8AM – 4PM
Bechtold Park
4312 Sycamore Road

Document Shredding

Saturday, April 21, 10AM – 2PM
Bechtold Park
4312 Sycamore Road

National Day of Prayer

May 3, 12:00 PM
Administration Bldg.
8540 Kenwood Road

Compost Giveaway

May 12, 8AM – 4PM
Hartzell Methodist Church
8999 Applewood Drive

Twilight Concert

June 10
4PM – 6PM
Bechtold Park
4312 Sycamore Road





Contacts

Spring 2018

Denny Connor, President

Tom Weidman, Vice-President

Jim LaBarbara, Trustee

Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer

R. Douglas Miller, Law Director

Greg Bickford, AICP, Administrator

791-8447 – Fax 792-8564

Tracy Kellums, Superintendent

792-7257 – Fax 792-8564

Mike McKeown, Parks & Rec. Director

792-7270 – Fax 792-8564

Rob Penny, Fire Chief

792-8565 – Fax 792-8564

Harry L. Holbert, Jr., Zoning Administrator

792-7252 – Fax 792-8564

Tory L. Smith, Lieutenant

District Three Commander

Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

774-6351 – Fax 774-6350

Fire and Police Emergency – **911**

Sycamore Township Administrative Office

791-8447

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



Denny Connor
President



Tom Weidman
Vice President



Jim LaBarbara
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.