

Sycamore Township NEWS

Summer 2018

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Welcome to Summer in Sycamore Township! While it's a time of vacations and relaxation for many of our residents, it's a very active period for us as we work to keep Sycamore Township a thriving, successful community for all of us.

Your Trustees believe that providing a safe, walkable community for our residents is very important.

Our sidewalk project along Montgomery Road is a joint project with the State of Ohio and it is progressing nicely. We just completed pouring the head wall at Kugler Mill Road, and we are currently engineering the fourth and final phase that will provide sidewalks from our border with the City of Montgomery at Kennedy Lane, all the way to the southern part of our Township.

You may have noticed that we just completed the two year project of burying utilities underground and adding sidewalks along Galbraith Road. The final paving was just completed and it is really looking great.

The Sycamore Road project is progressing nicely as well. It will be out for bid later this year with construction beginning in 2019. This will also include sidewalks, a newly paved road with curbs, and a roundabout at Plainfield Road.

New business growth continues in the Township as we recently had ribbon cuttings and grand opening celebrations at Skyline Chili at Montgomery Rd. and I-275, The Crossfit Gym on Blue Ash Road, a new Michaels Store in Kenwood Square, and the new and expanded Busken Bakery in Kenwood. In the coming months there will be some additional new businesses opening in our community as well.

Summer in Sycamore wouldn't be complete without the Annual Festival in Sycamore. This year it will be Friday and Saturday nights, July 13th and 14th at Bechtold Park. We are pleased to welcome rock and roll greats DAVE MASON and STEVE CROPPER on Friday night, and the legendary band NIGHT RANGER on Saturday night.

As many of you enjoy vacations with your families this summer, we hope that your travels are safe and your experiences are unforgettable. As always, if there is anything that I can do to be of assistance, please don't hesitate to call me at the Township offices.

On behalf of trustees Denny Connor and Jim LaBarbara, and our Fiscal Officer Rob Porter, I hope you have your best summer ever.

Sincerely,



Tom Weidman
Vice-President, Board of Trustees



Tom Weidman
Vice-President





Police & Crime Prevention

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

With more people walking, running, cycling, or seeking some form of recreation outdoors, summer is the time to remind ourselves about overall pedestrian safety.

Here are some basic tips and suggestions to remember when encountering a pedestrian while driving a motor vehicle:

- Always check for pedestrians or bicyclists when making a turn. The "A" pillar on the sides of your front windshield can cause a blind spot.
- Intersections are crosswalks, whether they are marked/painted or not. The pedestrian has the right-of-way in a marked crosswalk. However, if the crosswalk is governed by a visible and audible signal, the pedestrian must obey the signal.
- Watch for children around schools, parks, and in your neighborhoods where on-street parking is permitted. Be hyper-vigilant!
- Check your mirrors for cyclists before opening your car door after parking on the street.
- Drivers emerging from any private driveway are required to stop before traveling over a sidewalk. A pedestrian utilizing a sidewalk has the right-of-way. Parking on or across a sidewalk is prohibited.
- Give pedestrians and cyclists adequate space. When overtaking a cyclist give the person at least three feet. This is mandated by law. Bicycles are legally defined as

a vehicle in the State of Ohio. They are permitted to use the roadway just like a motor vehicle.

For those of you who enjoy walking or running outside it is imperative you remember and respect the rules of the road and do everything in your power to ensure your own personal safety. Below is a list of reminders for pedestrians:

- Only cross in crosswalks or at established intersections. Avoid the temptation to cross somewhere in the middle of the block or cross diagonally. When crossing at any point in the roadway other than a marked crosswalk or intersection, the pedestrian forfeits the right-of-way.
- Walk or run against (or facing) oncoming traffic.
- Where a sidewalk is provided and its use is practicable, it is unlawful for a pedestrian to walk along or on the roadway.
- Be visible, night or day! Wear high visibility or reflective garments. Carry a flashlight for walking when it's dark. Color and contrast are very important in terms of being seen.



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



OFFICER SPOTLIGHT

Sergeant A.J. Wittich is a 17 year veteran of the Hamilton County Sheriff's office. A.J. was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in March, 2017. After earning this promotion, he was assigned as a nightshift supervisor here in Patrol District 3.

Before becoming a squad supervisor, A.J. worked for five years as a detective in the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office's Criminal Investigation Section. A.J. has worked everything from simple theft cases, to suspicious death investigations and homicide cases. Two specific cases stand out in Sgt. Wittich's service as a detective. In one case, A.J. expertly gained the confession of a murder suspect who had killed a relative. Not only did the killer give A.J. his confession, he also disclosed the location of where he disposed of the victim's body across the state line in Indiana. In the second case, A.J. successfully prosecuted two individuals for elderly abuse. This abuse directly led to the death of the pair's elderly Aunt.

In short, Sergeant A.J. Wittich is a "cop's cop" who enjoys hunting down the bad guys and putting them behind bars. He brings solid work ethic and sharp decision-making ability to the table. His heart lies in providing citizens with the type of quality police service they deserve, and he continues to help develop the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office into a premier law enforcement agency. A.J. lives on the west side of Hamilton County with his wife and four daughters.



EMS/Fire Department



Rob Penny, Fire Chief

VACATIONS — TIPS BEFORE YOU GO

Vacations are a time to get away from the stresses of everyday life. And certainly your vacation can be a carefree, fun-filled time if you prepare carefully before you go. Sure, there's packing the suitcases, getting the bathing suits ready, and securing time off from work, but you also need to make sure you are staying safe before you leave for vacation.

Running appliances while you're away is not only a needless expense, it could also lead to costly problems. To avoid the possibility of an appliance breakdown while you're away:

- Unplug small appliances and electronic devices.
- Turn off water valves to the dishwasher, washing machine and all sinks.
- Set your thermostat to a temperature closer to outside temps (warmer in the summer, cooler in the winter) but which still protects your plants, pets and furniture.
- Notify your credit card company and home security company that you'll be out of town.
- Make sure your smoke detectors are working properly.
- Dispose of any food that could go bad before you return from vacation.
- Take out the kitchen trash – especially anything that might start to stink.
- Run your garbage disposal with a half-cup of vinegar and some water.
- If you have a swimming pool, have someone available who will check on the pool periodically.

If you are comfortable doing so, leave your emergency contact information, a spare key and your alarm code, with a neighbor. The neighbor may then reset the alarm for you if it activates. Remove any spare hidden keys.



This summer, the firefighters will be out painting and doing maintenance on the fire hydrants. You may see them in your area.



Your Township Trustees approved the purchase of a new 2018 E-One Fire Engine to replace our current 1999 Seagrave Engine.



Congratulations to Township Firefighters Ben Haag and Craig Short who were promoted to the rank of Lieutenant by the Board of Trustees! Pictured are Trustee Jim LaBarbara, Lt. Craig Short, Lt. Ben Haag, Trustee Tom Weidman, Fire Chief Rob Penny and Trustee Denny Connor.





Parks & Recreation



Mike McKeown,
Parks & Rec. Director

GREAT MUSIC, FOOD, RIDES AND FUN TO HIGHLIGHT FESTIVAL IN SYCAMORE

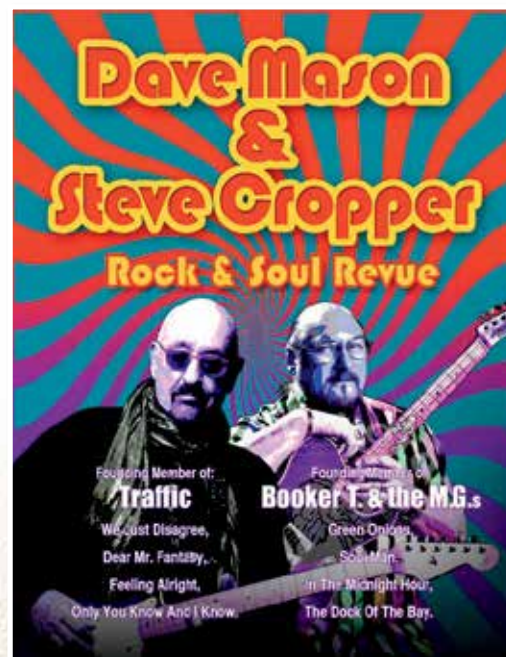
Performances by multi-platinum arena rockers and two legendary Rock and Roll Hall of Famers will highlight the 2018 Festival in Sycamore, to be held July 13 and 14 from 6:00PM–Midnight at Bechtold Park. Besides the great music, the Festival will feature fantastic food from area restaurants, games, and rides for the kids. This year's Festival will again offer the Ride For Five program in which you can purchase a bracelet for \$5.00 each night and ride all night. Free parking will be available around the park and at shuttle lots at Bethel Baptist, St. Saviour Church, behind Deer Park High School, and behind the Township Administration Building.

Friday, July 13 will feature Hall of Famers **DAVE MASON** and **STEVE CROPPER** joining together for the first time on one stage to deliver a night of timeless music and endless hits. Dave Mason, founding member of Traffic and a highly successful

solo artist, has performed and recorded with such artists as Paul McCartney, Jimi Hendrix, Stevie Wonder, Eric Clapton, and many more. Steve Cropper, member of Booker T. and the MGs, the Blues Brothers Band, and guitarist for artists such as Wilson Pickett, Sam and Dave, and many more, was ranked in the top half of Rolling Stone magazine's greatest guitarists of all time. This collaboration will feature some of each artist's greatest hits including *Feelin' Alright*, *All Along the Watchtower*, *We Just Disagree*, *Soul Man*, *Midnight Hour*, and *Sittin' on the Dock of the Bay*. This promises to be a fantastic show. The night will open with the music of the group Empty Garden Unplugged, followed by regional favorite Brent James.

Saturday, July 14 will feature highly acclaimed platinum and gold album band **NIGHT RANGER**. With over 17 million albums sold worldwide and 3000 live shows performed, NIGHT RANGER has left an indelible mark on the rock music scene with a string of best-selling albums that include hits such as *Sister Christian*, *Don't Tell Me You Love Me*, *When You Close Your Eyes*, and *You Can Still Rock in America*. The band was also one of the first big "video" bands, with over ten #1's on MTV. Over the years, NIGHT RANGER'S music has been featured on many TV shows and movies. What a night this promises to be!! Opening the evening's entertainment will be two outstanding local groups, **Buzz Bin** and the ever popular **DV8**.

Bring a blanket or lawn chair. These can be set up anytime during the day. **Remember—No Cans, Bottles, Coolers, or Animals.** Great food and refreshments will be available for purchase at very reasonable prices. **We hope to see you on July 13 and 14!!**

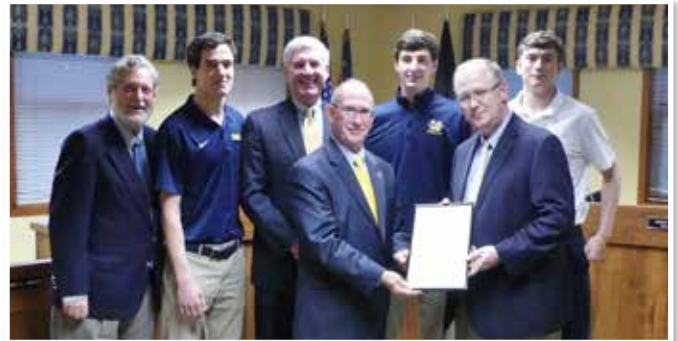


TOWNSHIP TIDBITS



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Sycamore Township Trustees, local clergy and guests came together in prayer for our country, government, military and community during the Annual National Day of Prayer on May 3rd. Pictured are Pastor David Wells, Saint Paul United Methodist Church; Trustee Denny Connor; Pastor Larry Cornett, Bethel Baptist Temple; Trustee Tom Weidman; Pastor David Palmer, Kenwood Baptist Church; and Pastor Cathy Kaminski, Trinity Community Church. A big thank you to Pastor Larry Cornett, Bethel Baptist Church, for his work in organizing this event, Director Paul Kindt and the Moeller High School Band for providing the music, and Chick-fil-A at the Kenwood Towne Centre for donating lunch.



CONGRATULATIONS 2017-18 STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS!

The Sycamore Township Board of Trustees welcomed members of the Deer Park and Moeller 2017-18 State Champion Basketball teams and presented each team with a Resolution honoring them as State Champions in their respective Divisions!

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.



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.



Planning & Zoning



Harry Holbert,
Planning & Zoning Administrator

SUMMER... *FINALLY!*

With the cold months of winter and spring behind us, we may now focus on getting outdoors and enjoying our community. We are fortunate to have over 78 acres of parks, many great residential neighborhoods, and thriving retail, industrial and businesses to support our wants and needs.

While other communities are seeing higher taxes, increased levies for services and little or no development, Sycamore Township has been blessed with several redevelopment opportunities and, at the direction of the Trustees, these redevelopment and new tenants will become part of the Sycamore Township community. It is important to have a mixture of the above in order to provide a well-rounded community, maintain the services for our residents, and continue to be attractive to new residents and businesses while maintaining low taxes.

A perfect example of redevelopment that is good for our community, Heitmeyer Reserve. Over the last several years, this property had become blighted and an eyesore to our community. After years of negotiation, the owner finally sold the property, providing the opportunity for a new development to provide 18 new families the opportunity to live and enjoy the amenities of Sycamore Township. Not only will this development provide the opportunity for 18 single family homes to be built, it will also provide a beautiful streetscape buffer along Kenwood Road and a development plan to help control the watershed, which was nonexistent before.

Others who have located, relocated or expanded their operations in Sycamore Township include: Busken Bakery, Crossfit Cincinnati, March First Brewery, Michaels, Skyline and Americraft Manufacturing. We appreciate these businesses and wish them much success in Sycamore Township.

If you have questions about our requirements for development, redevelopment or any other Planning or Zoning matters, don't hesitate to contact the Township office... ***we can help.***

TOWNSHIP OFFICE:

- 513-791-8447

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE:

- Call 513-792-7250 or 7249 (staff member)
- Call 513-792-7279 (hotline)
- Visit our website (online Services, Property Complaint Form)

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

HARRY HOLBERT JR:

- 513-792-7252



Trustees Denny Connor and Jim LaBarbara cut the ribbon at the grand opening of the new Michaels at Kenwood Square.



Trustee Denny Connor helped owner Rainer Hartmann cut the ribbon for the opening of the new Crossfit Cincinnati at 8980 Blue Ash Road.



Trustee Denny Connor, Dan Busken, Page Busken, Trustees Tom Weidman and Jim LaBarbara and Gregg Pancero at the opening of Busken Bakery's remodeled location at 7565 Kenwood Road.



Maintenance Department



Tracy Kellums, Superintendent

ROAD WORK AHEAD

The Township has several road programs planned for this year. These include:

The 2018 Reclamite Program: Reclamite is an asphalt rejuvenation process, that helps extend the life of the pavement. It is applied to newer roads to tighten the surface and prevent deterioration from weather. This will be performed on the following streets: Donna Ln, Estermarie Dr., Gwilada Dr., Langhorst Dr., Jeffrey Dr., Guam Dr., Donegal Dr., Highton Ct., Whitechapel Dr., Charteroak Dr., Ivybrook Ct., and Hermitage Ln.

The 2018 Onyx Program: Onyx is a Mastic Surface Treatment that is applied to older roads to seal the existing surface course of asphalt to help extend the life of the pavement. The streets

included in this project are: Lyncris Dr., Sandymar Dr., Gideon Ln., Ironwood Ct., Millview Dr., and Pinecove Ct.

The 2018 Curb and Sidewalk Replacement Program: The Township has another extensive curb replacement program scheduled for this year which will take place in late summer and early fall. This project will include the removal and replacement of the rolled curb at the street. The existing pavement will remain, with restoration performed in both the front and behind the curb. This project includes the following streets: Spirea Dr., Duneden Dr., Largo Dr., Styrax Dr., Dartmoor Ct., Alhambra Ct., Applewood Dr., Valerie Ct., Winesap Ct. and Blossom Dr.

Township maintenance crews will also be in neighborhoods all summer working on base repairs to the roads, replacing sidewalks, crack sealing, performing catch basin and storm sewer repairs, and more. We ask for your patience and consideration when driving through any of these work zones. **Please SLOW DOWN and DRIVE SAFELY to help us get through another construction season safely.** If you have any questions about these projects or anything else throughout the Township please call me at the office at 513-792-7257 or e-mail me at tkellums@sycamoretownship.org.

SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS RECYCLED 819.17 TONS IN 2017!

On average each Township household recycled 200 pounds of material in 2017 which was around 12% of all waste generated. That effort conserved enough energy to power each home in Sycamore Township for nearly 6 days. Great job!

As impressive as those numbers are, we can always do better. Sycamore Township has been working with Rumpke, who serves 84% of the households in the Township, to try and improve our curbside recycling numbers. All Township residents should have received a pamphlet from Rumpke offering free recycling service at your curbside along with your trash service. We are excited about this agreement, and feel that this will increase our Township's recycling amounts so we can keep a larger percentage of material out of the landfills.

2018 TRASH BASH NUMBERS

This year's Trash Bash events at our parks were a huge success and extremely busy! This year, not only were 150.19 tons (300,380 pounds) of landfill material collected, but 350 gallons of motor oil, over 18,000 pounds of documents, 10,443 pounds of hazardous household waste, 40 propane tanks, over 400 tires and five skids of electronics were all recycled and kept out of the landfills. Your efforts to help clean up the neighborhoods are appreciated and shows how much Sycamore Township residents care about their community.



Left: Crews paving Galbraith Road in the final stage of the Underground Utility Project

SPRING EVENTS

Brush Chipping Program

July 7, August 4, & Sept. 1
8AM – 4PM
Behind Administration Bldg.
8540 Kenwood Road

Festival in Sycamore

July 13–14, 6PM – Midnight
Bechtold Park
4312 Sycamore Road

8th Annual Sycamore Township Car Show

August 4
Registration: 9AM – Noon
Car Show: Noon – 3PM
Robert L. Schuler Sports Complex
11580 Deerfield Road

Fall Compost Giveaway

September 15, 8AM – 4PM
Hartzell United Methodist Church
8999 Applewood Drive



Contacts

Summer 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.