

Sycamore Township

NEWS

Winter 2018

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The end of the calendar year, with its traditional holiday celebrations, is always a good time to take stock of the good things that all of us are grateful for. In Sycamore Township, the list is long and varied.

We're thankful for the devoted first responders who help keep us safe. Our Fire Department, under the direction of Chief Rob Penny, has been strengthened with the additions of more fulltime members and the upgrading of key pieces of equipment. A new pumper truck has arrived, we've repaired an existing ambulance that was damaged in an accident, and another new ambulance is on order. So we'll be ready when emergencies occur.

Our Sheriff's Deputies, led by Lt. Tory Smith, are well trained and committed to keeping our Sycamore Township neighborhoods safe, and we are grateful for their diligence. We've replaced aging patrol cars with new vehicles to meet the demands of the job.

We've completed another successful year of road maintenance and repair, led by Superintendent Tracy Kellums and his dedicated staff. Our curb and sidewalk repair, leaf pickup, and snow removal continue to be the standard that other communities try to emulate. And our parks are busier than ever, with shelter rentals, field rentals and the annual Festival in Sycamore and Luminaria events under the leadership of Parks Director Mike McKeown. Thank you to all of our team members for their dedication.

Planning & Zoning activity, under the supervision of Zoning Administrator Harry Holbert, again processed a record number of permits in 2018, as you and your neighbors continue to improve and beautify our residential neighborhoods. We're thankful for the commitment of all of our inspectors and supervisors. And all behind-the-scenes Township activities continue to be handled smoothly and efficiently, thanks to the great work of Administrator Greg Bickford and a dedicated staff.

Most importantly, our Township meets its obligations in a fiscally responsible manner, helped significantly by the revenues from our four Joint Economic Development Zones, which you residents approved with more than 80% majorities. We thank you for your confidence in our vision, which has helped us overcome the loss of state funding that could have crippled our Township and reduced the services we provide.

So we have much to be thankful for, and much to celebrate. On behalf of my fellow Trustees Tom Weidman and Jim LaBarbara, our Fiscal Officer Rob Porter and the rest of the Township staff, thank you for your continued support in 2018. Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season, and we look forward to a prosperous New Year in 2019.

Sincerely,



Denny Connor,
President



Denny Connor,
President





Police & Crime Prevention



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

WINTER DRIVING SAFETY

With the winter months rapidly approaching it's important for all of us to remember to reprogram ourselves in terms of driving in inclement weather. Last winter, southwest Ohio saw below-average snowfall totals during the months of December, January, and February. In February, the Cincinnati area experienced 13 days of temperatures in the 60's! However, we all know these conditions can change in the blink of an eye and our interstates, county roads, and township streets can become treacherous very quickly, sometimes without warning. Reminding ourselves to make adjustments in our driving behavior now, in addition to performing some early preparations & maintenance to our vehicles, will ensure our safety later. The preventative measures a motorist can take are simple, quick, and easy... and worth it.

Here are some things to consider when preparing your vehicle:

- Check your tires. Inspect your tires for any damage and make sure they are properly inflated. Traction is the key.
- Confirm that your rear window defroster is in good working order prior to the first round of snow or ice.
- Be sure that your washer fluid is full and install new windshield wipers if necessary.
- Check your vehicle's battery. Cold weather greatly reduces the battery's cranking power.
- Create and keep a winter safety kit. This kit can be as simple or complex as you'd like, depending on your needs. Some items to consider are extra clothing, especially gloves, hats & boots, a flashlight with extra batteries, blanket, cellphone charger, jumper cables, tow straps, emergency flares, sand or cat litter, shovel, and a sturdy ice scraper.



Here are some things to remember when driving in inclement weather:

- Pay attention to weather reports before you ever leave your home. It's incumbent upon any motorist sharing the roadway to keep abreast of conditions, traffic delays, etc. Modify your personal schedule and allow yourself enough time to safely reach your destination.
- Remove, clear, or scrape any snow or ice off of ALL of your windows. Clear off your headlights and taillights too.
- It's imperative to leave additional stopping distance and time between you and the vehicle traveling in front of you. Some experts suggest doubling the distance for rainy, wet roads and increasing the distance by as much as ten times on snow or icy road surfaces.
- Use caution when traveling over bridges and overpasses. These surfaces can be several degrees colder than normal road surfaces, therefore freezing faster.
- If you are forced to take corrective or evasive action, such as steering or braking, do so gradually. Avoid sudden or forceful braking and sharp, drastic steering applications if possible.



EMS/Fire Department



Rob Penny, Fire Chief

SMART 911: PLAN AHEAD FOR ANY EMERGENCY

Hope everyone had a great fall season. I would like to provide Sycamore Township residents with the following important information about the launch of an emergency communications tool called Smart 911.

Residents can create a secure "Safety Profile" that will automatically display to emergency call takers immediately upon placing a 911 call. Call takers will see your Safety Profile as well as a Facility Profile about your current location.

You may customize your profile and share as much or as little information as you like with emergency responders. In addition to basic items such as your address(es) and home details, you may also add a description of any pets in the house and medical information such as medical conditions, blood type, allergies and prescriptions. You will also have the option to include details on any vehicles you own as well as add emergency contacts.



Smart 911 is a national service. This means your Smart 911 Profile travels with you and is visible to any participating 911 center nationwide.

Any information in your Safety Profile is private and secure. It is only seen when a participating user dials 9-1-1.

I urge everyone to look into the Smart 911 website for additional information on this life saving system that will provide the 911 operators and first responders with everything they need to know about you and your family in case of an emergency. The Smart 911 website, www.smart911.com, may be accessed from your home computer and is also available on the App Store and Google Store as a phone App.



BECHTOLD PARK SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP

Parks & Recreation



Mike McKeown,
Parks & Rec. Director

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 8, 2018, from 6:00PM–8:00PM 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. 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 luminaria kits are 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!



Enjoy a hayride through the streets of Dillonvale to view holiday decorations!



Meet Santa himself!



Sing along to Christmas Carols!



Pick up a luminaria kit and decorate your property!



Township Tidbits

SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES HIRE EIGHT NEW FULL TIME FIREFIGHTERS



Trustees Denny Connor, Tom Weidman and Jim LaBarbara, and Fire Chief Rob Penny with: Joe Lowry, Noah Sidley, Greg Lang, Brian Schmidlapp, Justin Brehm, Ben Fudala, Sean Mesley and Brandon Manor who were sworn in as full-time firefighters/paramedics at the October 4th Board of Trustees Meeting.

SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP GOLF OUTING PROCEEDS DONATED TO CYSTIC FIBROSIS FOUNDATION



Trustees Denny Connor, Tom Weidman and Jim LaBarbara present Kathy Wietmarschen and members of the Wietmarschen family with a check for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation from the proceeds of the Sycamore Township Golf Outing. The Wietmarschen family carried on this tradition in memory of long time golf outing organizer Rick Wietmarschen, who passed away suddenly earlier this year. The Golf Outing raised a record \$10,674.55 for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Thank you to everyone who supported this event!

WINTER EVENTS

Brush Chipping Program
December 1
8AM – 4PM
Behind Administration Bldg.
8540 Kenwood Road

Luminaria
December 8
6PM – 8PM
Bechtold Pavilion
4312 Sycamore Road

Curbside Leaf Collection Ends
December 17

Christmas Tree Drop Off
December 26 – January 18
Bechtold Park
4312 Sycamore Road
McDaniel Sports Complex
11797 Solzman Road





Planning & Zoning



Harry Holbert,
Planning & Zoning Administrator

As winter approaches, the Planning and Zoning Department continues to be busy keeping up with development and redevelopment in the Township, as well as a steady flow of zoning certificate applications. The department also endeavors to respond to property maintenance complaints in a timely manner to maintain the beauty of our neighborhoods and commercial areas. To this end, Kevin Clark has joined our team in code enforcement. While Kevin is new to Planning and Zoning, he is not a new face in the Township, coming from over 12 years of service in the Maintenance Department. Kevin brings a familiarity to his new position and is a welcome addition to the staff. Keep in mind, all Township inspectors will have a Township photo ID badge with them at all times while working out in the community.



Kevin Clark,
Planning & Zoning Inspector

There are several ways you as residents may stay informed of what's going on in Planning and Zoning. First, check our website at www.sycamoretownship.org. Current plans for public review are posted under Departments/ Planning and Zoning. The website calendar includes dates for Zoning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals meetings as well as submittal deadlines to be added to those agendas. The agendas themselves and meeting minutes are posted under Our Community/ Documents, and there are often updates regarding zoning cases under the News section on the homepage. In addition, residents have the option to add their email address to distribution lists for Zoning Board and Trustee Meeting agendas and more under Our Community/Subscriptions. Finally, if you ever have a question or concern, please call the main Township phone number at 513-791-8447 or the Zoning Department directly at 513-792-7250. We also accept property maintenance complaints online, and by phone to the Township complaint hotline at 513-792-7279.

WELCOME NEW BUSINESSES!



Skyline Chili, Pro SNS Nails, Firehouse Subs and Sherwin Williams are now open at the new Skyline Chili Pointe at 10869 Montgomery Road.



5.11 Tactical, a retailer selling head-to-toe gear for public safety professionals as well as outdoor and fitness apparel, has opened at 7322 Kenwood Road.



Maintenance Department



Tracy Kellums, Superintendent

CHRISTMAS TREE CHIPPING

The Sycamore Township Maintenance Department will offer Christmas Tree chipping again this year. Beginning December 26, trees may be dropped off at designated areas at either Bechtold Park, 4312 Sycamore Road, or Clete McDaniel Sports Complex, 11797 Old Solzman Road. This service will run through Friday, January 18, 2019.



SNOW REMOVAL

While we hope to have a mild winter without the need to salt or plow, it is time to think about the possibility of inclement weather. Township residents can be confident in knowing 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 in our two salt domes, one at the administration complex on Kenwood Road and one at Schuler Park on Deerfield Rd. In the event of a snow or ice event, we would like to remind residents to remove their vehicles from the streets so that the crews can effectively and safely clear the roads. Let's work together to have a safe winter season!



ROAD WORK AHEAD

The Township has been working for over three years on engineering, right of way acquisition and utility relocation for the reconstruction of Sycamore Road. This project includes reconstruction of the roadway, installation of new storm sewers, storm water detention, installation of new sidewalks and utility updates. We are happy to say that we will be going out to bid for this project soon. Water main replacement should start sometime this winter, followed by road construction during the construction season of 2019.

As with all construction projects, please slow down and drive cautiously through the construction areas to ensure the safety of both you and the workers. While there will be inconvenience and some detours during construction, the end result will be a tremendous improvement to the area for our residents. We thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation. If you have any questions please call me at the office at 513-792-7257. Thank you.





Winter 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.