

Sycamore Township

NEWS

Fall 2019

In this Issue

- 1 Letter from Denny Connor
- 2 Tips From Your Police Department
- 3 Tips From Your Fire Department
- 4 Parks & Recreation
- 5 Township Tidbits
- 6 Planning and Zoning
- 7 Maintenance Update
- 8 Contacts

It seems hard to believe, but the summer months are ending, and it's time for the unique sights and sounds of Fall in Sycamore Township. There's still plenty of time to enjoy our 90 acres of park space, so be sure to get out and experience the changing colors and cooler temperatures.

The coming months will be especially busy ones for our outstanding Maintenance Department. After a summer of park maintenance, sidewalk repair and the like, they'll be getting ready to provide prompt, efficient leaf pickup, and preparing to battle the ice and snow of winter when the time comes. Curb repairs and road resurfacing projects will continue through the fall months.

Road construction—in particular the Sycamore Road reconstruction project—will continue as long as the weather cooperates. This complex project will continue into 2020, as crews work to create an improved road surface with curbs, sidewalks, a new water main and better drainage. The project will also include a roundabout at the intersection of Plainfield and Sycamore Roads, which should result in safer, smoother traffic flow. We apologize for the inconveniences, but the end results will be well worth it!

We are pleased to be able to offer these public works services to our residents, while still maintaining the lowest township tax rate of any township in Hamilton County. A thriving business district, and a dedicated staff that manages your tax dollars responsibly, allow us to provide great services and low taxes. It's a successful formula we hope to continue for years to come.

On behalf of my fellow Trustees, Tom Weidman and Jim LaBarbara, our Fiscal Officer Rob Porter, and the Township staff, we hope you experience a pleasant and enjoyable transition to Fall in beautiful Sycamore Township. Best wishes to all of you.

Sincerely,



Denny Connor, Vice Chairman



Denny Connor
Vice Chairman





Police & Crime Prevention

DOOR-TO-DOOR SALES & SOLICITATIONS

One complaint we receive on a fairly consistent basis involves the issue of door-to-door sales and soliciting. This canvassing technique is still widely used by those attempting to sell or advertise a product or service. Other solicitors may be involved in a fundraising campaign, affiliated with a faith-based organization, school program, or may be simply gathering information from the general public for statistical or scientific research purposes. No matter what the purpose, this activity does in fact generate a significant amount of resident complaints for local law enforcement.

There is a widespread misconception about door-to-door sales and soliciting: a significant portion of the public believes that this activity is illegal, especially if the solicitor does not possess a permit. It is not. In 2002, the United States Supreme Court ruled that restricting or prohibiting this activity infringed on an individual's or organization's rights to free speech, free exercise, and freedom of the press. Furthermore, the case law precedent originated from a case in an Ohio village, with similar legal examination occurring in the State of California. The Supreme Court ruling struck down the practice of requiring anyone who wanted to go door-to-door to first obtain a permit from the local government. Villages, townships, and municipalities have argued that solicitor permits were intended to protect citizens from things like potential fraud and undue annoyance.

Despite this ruling from the high court, it doesn't mean a resident or business owner is powerless in fending off unwelcomed visitors.

Consider the following:

- **A resident or business owner can post a sign that reads "No Soliciting" or "No Trespassing" on their property.** Doing so is simple, effective, and perfectly legal. It's understandable that a homeowner may not want a big, unsightly sign pasted to their front door or stuck on their front lawn, but it is an option. Hypothetically, if a solicitor ignored a clearly posted sign and a Sheriff's Deputy were to intervene, the first question(s) posed to that solicitor would be "did you read the sign?" "If so, why did you persist?"
- **Any agent of any property can ask an unwelcome visitor to leave at any time, for any reason.** The agent does not have to be the owner of a residence or the "boss" or manager of a business. It can be anyone who has the lawful right to occupy and have care or custody of the property at that time. Once a solicitor is asked to leave the property, and he or she fails to comply with that request, Criminal Trespassing comes into play.
- **Door-to-door sales or soliciting is not illegal... however, things like menacing, trespassing, littering, or criminal damaging certainly are.** We have investigated cases where the solicitor has taken offense to comments or requests made by the agent of the property, and the face-to-face interaction has deteriorated quickly, leading to verbal or physical altercations. This is exactly what we hope to avoid.

In 2004, in response to the Supreme Court ruling, Sycamore Township updated its door-to-door solicitation resolution to state that those selling goods or services or soliciting donations are required to obtain a transient vendor permit from the Township. In order to protect their First Amendment rights, canvassers traveling door-to-door in support of an organization, cause or person; conducting a survey; or advocating for a religious organization are exempt from this requirement.

In summary, door-to-door sales and solicitation is completely legal and widely used. However, we urge Sycamore Township residents to call the Hamilton County Communications Center and have a Deputy dispatched in cases where things take a negative turn.



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



EMS/Fire Department



Rob Penny, Fire Chief

TIPS FOR FLOODED BASEMENTS

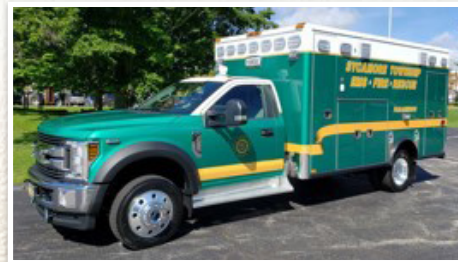
Hope everyone had a fun and safe summer! Unfortunately, there were quite a few heavy rain storms this summer which caused power outages, flooded streets and some very wet basements. Please remember that flooding of basements can occur any time. It can happen to anyone who has a basement, even if it has never flooded before. Flooding can occur by seepage or flow through the walls or foundation floor, from surface water sources, or by a sanitary or storm sewer backup.

Walking through a wet or flooded basement can be dangerous. **Never walk through a flooded basement until the electricity is disconnected.** Even a small amount of water on a basement floor can put you at risk for electrocution. Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box if you must stand in water to do so. Walking in a flooded basement can also be slippery and can cause you to fall. If you experience a flooded basement call 911. The Fire Department will respond to help you.

ABOUT YOUR FIRE AND PARAMEDIC SERVICES

Your Fire and Paramedic Services are at the highest standards ever. You have great Trustees that have been supportive in delivering the highest care to everyone in Sycamore Township. In the past two years, we have had a tremendous drop in the number of Part Time Firefighters that we have relied upon as part of our daily staffing. Your Trustees have been supportive in hiring Full Time Firefighters to keep the staffing levels at a safe number to continue the high level of service our residents deserve.

Over the past year the Trustees have approved the purchase of a new fire truck that replaced a 1999 unit. They also approved a new ambulance that replaced a 2007 unit. Our ambulances make 12–14 runs per day. Your emergency services and your Trustees are committed to delivering the best care and services available.



FIRE HYDRANT MAINTENANCE

The Fire Department has two part time personnel out painting hydrants. Due to the wet start of the summer we are a little behind schedule, but they have been able to get out to paint every day over the last month. If the hydrants on your street have not been painted yet, they will be soon. We have over 1200 hydrants in the Township, therefore, this project will continue the rest of this year and into next. If you have a hydrant in front of your house that is in need of painting, contact Chief Penny using the contact form on our web site at www.sycamoretownshipfire.org/contact-chief-rob-penny.



BECHTOLD PARK SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP

Parks & Recreation



Mike McKeown,
Parks & Rec. Director

FESTIVAL IN SYCAMORE 2019 – A GREAT SUCCESS!!

Thousands of people enjoyed awesome entertainment and a variety of delicious food, not to mention fun rides for the kids, at the 27th Annual Festival in Sycamore! Special appreciation goes to the Maintenance Department crew for their hard work throughout the event, especially with setup and cleanup. Thanks also to the office staff, the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office and our Festival volunteers. The excellent cooperation of all of these folks makes the event run smoothly and safely.



Jefferson Starship

Finally, a huge thank you to our sponsors:

GOLD

Jewish Hospital/Mercy Health and Sycamore Township Republican Club

SILVER

Brandstetter Carroll, Inc., Enzo's Cleaning Solutions, and Kids First Sports Center

MAJOR

A & A Wall Systems, Advantage Signs, The Alleen Company, Barrett Paving, Bradley Payne Advisors, Chick Fil A, Choice One Engineering, Ford Development Corporation, Fred A. Nemann Co., JK Meurer Corp., Myers Y. Cooper Co., Rumpke Waste and Recycling, TEC Engineering, United Refrigeration, and Ziccardi & Associates. The Festival would not be possible without sponsors' generosity.

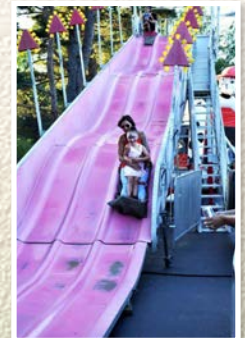


Brent James

Mick Chandler



The Fabulous Thunderbirds



TOWNSHIP TIDBITS



9TH ANNUAL CAR SHOW WINNERS

Congratulations to all who participated in Sycamore Township's 9th Annual Car Show! Pictured above are Best of Show winner Randy Ashley and his 1981 Jeep, and Trustees' Choice winner Mark Ernst and his 1937 Plymouth coupe. Congratulating the winners are Trustees Denny Connor and Tom Weidman, along with Fiscal Officer Rob Porter.



FIREFIGHTER PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to Sycamore Township Firefighters Ben Haag, Kelby Thoreson and Chris Ramsey on their recent promotions! Pictured from left to right are Fire Chief Rob Penny, Trustee Jim LaBarbara, Captain Ben Haag, Trustee Tom Weidman, Lieutenant Kelby Thoreson, Lieutenant Chris Ramsey and Trustee Denny Connor.

REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

Trustee Workshop Meetings: Held at 9:00 a.m. the Tuesday before the first and third Thursday of the month

Trustee Meetings: Held at 7:00 p.m. the first Thursday of the month

Zoning Commission Meetings: Held at 6:00 p.m. the second Monday of the month

Parks & Recreation Meetings: Held at 7:15 p.m. the second Monday of the month

Board of Zoning Appeals Meetings: Held at 6:30 p.m. the third Monday of the month

****Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will take place at the Sycamore Township Administration Building at 8540 Kenwood Road. Meetings may be cancelled due to lack of an agenda or the date/time may be changed due to lack of a quorum or a holiday. Please see our website calendar or call (513) 791-8447 for the most up to date information.***





Planning & Zoning



Harry Holbert,
Planning & Zoning Administrator

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. From the center of the homepage, you may click on "Public Hearing Information" to view plans submitted for zoning public hearings. Hard copies of the plans are also available for the public to view at the Township Administration Building at 8540 Kenwood Road.

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. 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.

If you are thinking of beginning a construction project, zoning certificate applications, submittal requirements and fee information are available on our website at www.sycamoretownship.org/departments/planning-and-zoning/permitting-inspections. Many residential projects have no review fees associated with them, and those that do have minimal fees, provided residents apply prior to beginning any work. If you have any questions or are unsure if a permit is necessary, please call the Planning and Zoning office at 513-792-7250 *before* starting your project. If you are feeling overwhelmed or are unsure where to start in the permitting process, a staff member would be happy to meet with you to guide you through the process.

The Planning and Zoning Department is also responsible for property maintenance in the Township. If you have a concern about a property in your neighborhood, you may inform us about it through our website by clicking the Property Maintenance Complaint Form on the homepage, or if you prefer, you may submit a request by phone to the Township property maintenance hotline at 513-792-7279 or to a staff member at 513-792-7250. We do investigate anonymous complaints if accurate address information is provided for the location of the problem.

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.

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.***

WELCOME NEW BUSINESS!



The new **Taziki's Mediterranean Café** is now open in Kenwood at 7331 Kenwood Road!



Whole Foods Market has opened at the Kenwood Collection at 5901 E. Galbraith Road!



Maintenance Department



Tracy Kellums, Superintendent

ROAD WORK AHEAD

The 2019 Sycamore Township Curb Replacement Project will begin in September. The following streets will have new curbs installed on them:

Autumnwood Drive, Decima Drive, Tulipwood Drive, Elmcrest Drive, Shagbark Drive, Firethorn Drive, Brookbridge Drive and Glenmill Court.

SYCAMORE ROAD PROJECT UPDATE

Construction on the roundabout at Sycamore and Plainfield Roads has started and will continue throughout the fall and into early winter. Please drive carefully through this area as it is very congested and there is quite a bit of construction equipment and there may be workers in the area. The traffic patterns will change several times during the construction so please be aware, slow down and drive with caution. There will be utility work this fall on Sycamore Road to the east of Plainfield Road. Next year road construction will move to the east down Sycamore Road toward Kenwood Road. As with all road construction, this project will be an inconvenience to the travelling public, however, we feel that when it is complete and there is a new road, new storm sewers and a public sidewalk which will greatly increase the walkability of this area, it will all have been worth it! The schedule for completion of the entire project is the end of the construction season of 2020. We thank you for your patience with this project.

CURBSIDE LEAF PICKUP INFORMATION

Sycamore Township is pleased to provide you with prompt and efficient leaf pickup service. Leaf collection will begin on Monday, October 21st and run through Friday, December 16th. Leaves should be raked to the public right of way beside the street. **PLEASE DO NOT PUT LEAVES IN THE STREET.** Leaves become very slippery when wet and, when parked over, dry leaves can start a car on fire when brought into contact with the catalytic converter. Sticks, grass clippings and garden debris will jam our machines and should not be mixed into leaf piles. Consequently, piles with materials other than leaves will not be collected.

Leaf crews will not pick up leaves from under, between or around parked cars. If cars are parked in front of your leaf piles, the collection equipment will be unable to maneuver to reach the leaves and they will be left for the next pickup cycle in your neighborhood.

Maintenance crews will be working from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. five days a week, rain or shine, to collect leaves in a timely manner. Many factors such as the amount of leaves to be collected and the availability of temporary laborers have an effect on collection and make it impossible to predict exact pickup times.



FALL EVENTS

Fall Compost Giveaway

September 14
8AM – 4PM
Hartzell United Methodist Church
8999 Applewood Drive

Brush Chipping Program

Oct. 5, Nov. 2, Dec. 7
8AM – 4PM
Behind Administration Bldg.
8540 Kenwood Rd.

Fall Leaf Collection

October 21–December 16

Halloween Trick-or-Treating

October 31
6PM – 8PM

Election Day

November 5





Contacts

FALL 2019

Tom Weidman, Chairman

Denny Connor, Vice-Chairman

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/Assistant Administrator

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.

Planning & 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**

Non-Emergency Dispatch – **825-2280**

Sycamore Twp. Administrative Office – **791-8447**

www.sycamoretownship.org



8540 Kenwood Road
Sycamore Twp., Ohio 45236

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
CINCINNATI, OH
PERMIT NO. 1693

“There’s More in Sycamore”



Trustees Available to Better Serve You



Tom Weidman
Chairman



Denny Connor
Vice-Chairman



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.