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It looks like Winter has come a little early this year, with forecasters saying this could be the coldest winter in the last 20 years. While it may be cold outside, that doesn't keep our great staff from working hard to keep Sycamore Township a great place to live.

Our Road Crew and Maintenance Department are the finest in Ohio. With the early arrival of snow in November, our crew was able to treat the roads without upsetting their leaf pick up schedule. Weather permitting, we are shooting for our final leaf pickup on December 16th. If significant snowfall occurs before then, that date may change so it is important to try to get your leaves out as early as possible.

Demand for Safety Services in the Township continue to remain high. Since October, 2018, we have added an additional six full time Fire/EMS personnel to staff due to the increasing number of calls we are receiving. This was in response to the drastic reduction in available part time firefighters to supplement our full time staff. The trend of a shortage of part time firefighters continues to be a challenge in staffing. Chief Penny will continue to monitor the situation, but it might require additional full time personnel in 2020.

Sycamore Township was awarded the "Best Township Waste Diversion Rate Award" by the Hamilton County Recycling and Solid Waste District this month. Thanks to all of our residents for your commitment to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.

Just a cautionary word about the energy aggregation program in Sycamore Township. We continue to receive calls from residents regarding both phone and door to door solicitation from less than ethical energy companies that are offering a supposed "better deal" than what you are currently paying. These deals are not better and can mean significant amounts of added cost to your energy bill. If you are solicited by anyone, tell them that you are in an aggregation program. And most importantly, do not give them your Duke Energy account number. If you do, they will automatically switch you to their higher cost program, and if you want to get out of the program there will be a charge to do so.

The new roundabout at Plainfield Road and Sycamore Road is scheduled to open soon. Please remember to always yield to the driver already in the circle. Continuous right turns will remain the same as they were prior to the installation of the roundabout, but will no longer require a stop at the intersection. While it will take a little time getting used to the change, this addition is engineered to maximize traffic flow and improve safety.

With the election early in November, we had a change to the Board of Trustees. I want to thank Denny Connor for his eight years of dedicated service to the Township. He will be greatly missed by the residents and staff. I also want to welcome Tom James to the Board of Trustees and congratulate Rob Porter for his re-election as Fiscal Officer. We are looking forward to continuing to be of service to our residents with this new team.

On behalf of Denny Connor, Jim LaBarbara, and Rob Porter, and our entire Sycamore Township staff, I want to wish you and your family a safe and happy Holiday Season, and a prosperous New Year in 2020

Sincerely,



Tom Weidman



Tom Weidman  
Chairman





# Police & Crime Prevention

## **SPEEDING THROUGH NEIGHBORHOODS AND RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Over the summer and into the early fall of this year we experienced an uptick in complaints from residents regarding the issue of speeding in residential areas. This widespread traffic problem may seem insignificant to some, but it clearly presents a serious quality-of-life issue for many more. Any reasonable person can understand why vehicles speeding through a neighborhood are a cause for frustration, anger, and most importantly, fear. Simply put, speeding vehicles have an impact on the concerned citizen’s feeling of safety.

Enforcement action is certainly a useful tool. Arguably, there is no more swift and certain way to remind a driver to slow down and observe the posted speed limit. However, enforcement efforts alone can be problematic. Local law enforcement cannot be everywhere, all of the time. Depending on the daily workload with incidents and calls for service coming from all areas of the Township, police presence and traffic enforcement may be sporadic. In addition, more often than not, it’s our neighbors (and even ourselves) that are contributing to the problem. The bottom line is it’s incumbent upon each and every motorist to modify their own driving behavior and pay close attention to the rules of the road.

### **CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING HYPOTHETICAL SCENARIO:**

***A vehicle is traveling through a local subdivision on a street with a posted speed limit of 25 miles per hour. However, the driver is speeding... traveling at 40 miles per hour. Obviously, vehicle speed is measured in “miles per hour”, but let’s convert “speed” to “velocity”, which is measured in feet per second. At 40 miles per hour, our scenario vehicle is moving at 58.64 feet per second. Now, let’s imagine that a child runs into the street or perhaps another vehicle backs out of a driveway into the path of the speeding vehicle. Typical reaction time for an unimpaired driver is approximately 1.5 seconds. Our scenario vehicle would travel 88 feet before it would begin to decelerate due to a braking application. This distance is greater than the front width of most residential properties.***

This hypothetical scenario answers a question we often receive from traffic violators, which is “why do cops write speeding tickets?” The obvious purpose is to encourage drivers to slow down. By reducing their speed, the driver affords him or herself more TIME to react to hazards in the roadway in front of them.







## EMS/Fire Department

### EMS/FIRE DEPARTMENT



I hope all of our residents enjoyed the warmth of summer and the beauty of the fall foliage in Sycamore Township. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you information about our department and the services that Fire and Emergency personnel provide to the residents of the Township.

We have hired two part-time employees, one a student from Moeller High School, to clean and paint fire hydrants. They had a rough start to this project with all the wet weather at the beginning of the summer, but once the rain stopped, they made great strides getting out there. As of this writing, we have close to 800 of the hydrants in the Township painted. In addition, our firefighters have been out this fall checking all the hydrants and pumping the barrels dry so they don't freeze during the winter months.

Fire & EMS Services make an average of 12 calls per day. Most of them are medical emergencies. The demographics of our community consist of a large business district, medical buildings, interstate highways, residential areas and seven nursing homes. This keeps us very busy every day. When not on runs, our firefighters/paramedics take part in extensive fire training exercises, including active shooter scenarios with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office.

For more information on these services and how you as a resident may take advantage of them, please visit our website at [www.sycamoretownshipfire.org](http://www.sycamoretownshipfire.org). We try to keep everyone informed of our performance by posting the number of calls for service on our website and posting photos of training exercises and recent incidents on our website and Facebook page.

### OTHER SERVICES WE OFFER INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- Infant Car Seat Installations
- CPR Classes
- Blood Pressure Checks
- Vial of Life Program
- Emergency Contacts Program
- Address Signs



*Follow the Sycamore Township Fire Department on Facebook.*





# BECHTOLD PARK SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP

## Parks & Recreation

### DILLONVALE LUMINARIA 2019

The annual Dillonvale Luminaria will be held on Saturday, December 7, 2019, from 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. at the pavilion in Bechtold Park. This event, which has become a holiday tradition, is co-sponsored by Sycamore Township and Dillonvale IGA. Enjoy donuts, cookies, and warm drinks provided by Dillonvale IGA, and a chorus of Christmas music provided by Community Lighthouse Church and Bridge of Hope Church. Santa Claus will be there to greet the children. Hayrides will transport 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!



### 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 has carried on this tradition in memory of longtime golf outing organizer Rick Wietmarschen, who passed away suddenly last year. The Golf Outing raised a record \$16,052.48 for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Thank you to everyone who supported this event!

### BECHTOLD PARK SHELTER #2 RECONSTRUCTION AND BECHTOLD PARK PAVILION RENOVATION



The shelter #2 project involved tearing down the old shelter and constructing a new shelter, similar to shelter #3. The pavilion project involved removing deteriorating beams and columns. The reconstruction of the pavilion included new beams, columns, roof, lighting and landscaping.

The pavilion and shelters at Bechtold Park are beautiful facilities which are available to rent for your events from April through October.







# TOWNSHIP TIDBITS

## OFFICER SPOTLIGHT

Corporal John Haynes is a twenty-one year veteran of the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office. After beginning his career with the Corrections Division in early 1998, Cpl. Haynes was promoted to the Patrol Division in the fall of 2001. He later earned a promotion to Corporal in early 2015.

Over the course of his career, Cpl. Haynes has worked in nearly every Patrol District on every shift, and he continues to serve in a wide variety of roles that go over-and-above his primary assignment in uniformed patrol. These duties have involved highly specific skill sets, mostly centered on critical incident response. John serves as a member of the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office Hazardous Devices Unit (bomb squad) as well as the Patrol Rifle Unit and the Military Liaison Group. He also has extensive experience as a police instructor in the areas of physical fitness, active shooter training, CPR, and the use and deployment of the police Taser.



Given today's climate where workplace violence, school shootings, active shooter situations, and domestic terrorism have sadly become the "new normal", John brings an invaluable skill set to the table. John is a sturdy, duty-bound Deputy whose situational awareness is superb. There have been several incidents over John's career where his quick thinking and attention to detail helped bring positive outcomes to critical situations. In one such incident in Anderson Township, John revived a nine-month-old child who had stopped breathing as the result of an acute illness.

Cpl. Haynes currently runs the north Sycamore Township beat on night shift. He is a veteran of the United States Marine Corp, and he resides in Warren County with his wife Mary. We're proud to have John as part of our Sycamore Township team.



## COOPER CREEK COLLABORATIVE

The Cooper Creek Collaborative is a partnership of organizations and community members who have come together to restore our creek. We are working to rebuild a healthy natural stream system to be enjoyed by our community and local wildlife. Our efforts will protect private and public property from excessive streambank erosion and reduce local flooding. The Collaborative is harnessing resources from national, regional, and local partner organizations to invest in our community and our creek.

To learn more about our creek and the work that the Collaborative has planned in the community, please access the information on the website, <https://www.coopercreek.org/>.

The Collaborative is in the process of pursuing funding to purchase hundreds of trees to give away to private property owners in the Cooper Creek watershed. To help us provide the trees and related services that the community wants, we

are asking for your feedback. If you live in the Cooper Creek watershed, and are interested in receiving free trees, please visit <https://www.coopercreek.org/survey.html> and take our survey. If you include your address and email we will be sure to notify you when you are eligible to receive free trees.

## SNOW REMOVAL

With trucks, salt machines, plows and plenty of salt on hand in our two salt domes, the Maintenance Department is ready to go in the event of snow or icy conditions in the Township. As a reminder, residents should remove their vehicles from the streets when it snows so that our crews can effectively and safely clear the roads. Let's work together to have a safe winter season!

## WINTER EVENTS

**Brush Chipping Program**  
December 7  
8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.  
Behind Township Administration Building  
8540 Kenwood Road

**Luminaria**  
December 7  
6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.  
Bechtold Pavilion  
4312 Sycamore Road

**Curbside Leaf Collection Ends  
December 16**

**Christmas Tree Drop Off Sites**  
December 26 – January 17  
Bechtold Park  
4312 Sycamore Road  
McDaniel Sports Complex  
11797 Solzman Road







# Planning & Zoning



Skylor R. Miller  
Planning & Zoning Administrator

## INTRODUCING SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP'S NEW PLANNING & ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

We would like to thank Harry Holbert for 11 years of service to Sycamore Township and its residents. Mr. Holbert has left his role as Planning & Zoning Administrator for another opportunity and we wish him well.

The Board of Trustees recently authorized the appointment of Skylor Miller as Planning & Zoning Administrator. Skylor comes to Sycamore Township with over 13 years of experience in local government and non-profit economic development. He served Fairfield Township as Assistant Township Administrator and oversaw all development activities. Skylor went on to serve as Town Manager in Quartzsite, Arizona and then City Manager in Williams, Arizona. He received his B.A. in Urban & Regional Planning from Miami University and his Master of Public Administration from the University of Dayton.

## LAND USE STEERING COMMITTEE

We would also like to extend our appreciation to Sycamore Township residents Tracy Hughes, Peter Mallow, John O'Shea, Tracy Schwegmann and George Ten Eyck for volunteering their time to serve our community on the Land Use Steering Committee. This ad hoc committee will be responsible for reviewing the Township's current Land Use Plan and making recommendations to the Board of Trustees on how this plan should best be updated to guide Sycamore Township into the future.

## WELCOME NEW ZONING COMMISSION MEMBER

The vacant alternate position on the Zoning Commission has been filled. Congratulations to Sycamore Township resident Bill Swanson, the newest member of this important board. Thank you for your willingness to serve our community! The Sycamore Township Zoning Commission is a committee of Township residents, five members and one alternate, appointed by the Board of Trustees. The Zoning Commission meets the second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. to review proposed changes to the Township's zoning and make recommendations to the Trustees.

## WELCOME NEW BUSINESS!

The new Ethan Allen furniture store is now open at the Kenwood Collection, 5901 E. Galbraith Road



### 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.*





# Maintenance Department



Tracy Kellums, Superintendent

## SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS UPDATE

### 2019 CAPE SEAL AND ONYX PROGRAM

The 2019 program of treating pavements with Cape Seal and/or Onyx road repair material to enhance and prolong the life of roads in the Township was completed this summer. The following streets were treated; Tiki Ave., Lynnfield Ct., Ginnala Ct., Quail Hollow Dr., Michael Dr., Bobby Ln., Glenover Dr., Appleknoll Dr., Malabar Ct., Haverhill Ln., Highgate Ln., Foxboro Ln., Briarpatch Ln., Morgansriders Run, Roundhill Road, Raidersrun Road, Pawpaw Ln., Stillmeadow Ln., Autumnwood Dr., Miami Hills Dr., Vinnedge Ct., Dunleith Ct., Lisa Ln., Nodding Way, Carroll Ave., Kirtley Dr., Sandymar Dr., Lyncris Dr. and Gideon Ln..

### 2019 CURB AND CURB RAMP/SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

The 2019 program of repairing curbs and sidewalks in order to prolong the life of streets and sidewalks began this fall to the following streets: Autumnwood Dr., Decima Dr., Tulipwood Ct., Elmcrest Dr., Shagbark Dr., Firethorn Ct., Brookbridge Dr. from the north cul-de-sac to approximately 11173 and Glenmill Ct. from the west cul-de-sac to approximately 8168.

## MONTGOMERY ROAD SIDEWALK PROJECT PHASE IV

This project will begin in late 2019 and will be completed in the spring of 2020. The project consists of constructing a sidewalk along Montgomery Road starting at Dearwester Dr., continuing north and tying into the existing sidewalk at the Wellington Glen Condominium. Once completed, sidewalks will extend along the Montgomery Road corridor from the City of Montgomery Corporation Line, south to the Kenwood Area.

## KENNEDY LANE SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS

This project was a joint project between the City of Montgomery and Sycamore Township and was completed this summer. The project consisted of constructing a sidewalk on the north side of Kennedy Ln. from Shadetree Dr. to Montgomery Road.

## SYCAMORE ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

The first phase of this project, construction of the roundabout at the intersection of Sycamore Rd. and Plainfield Rd. will be completed this year. Utility construction and relocations will continue eastwardly along Sycamore Rd. to Kenwood Rd. throughout the winter months, with the major roadway construction beginning in the spring of 2020.



## KUGLER MILL ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

The Township, in conjunction with the Hamilton County Engineer's Office, has been working for over three years on engineering and design of the improvements to Kugler Mill Road from Blue Ash Road to Montgomery Road. These improvements will consist of the reconstruction of the roadway, construction of curb, storm sewers, storm water detention, sidewalks on the north side, the addition of a turn lane on Kugler Mill at Montgomery Road and utility updates. The acquisition of easements for the project will commence this winter, followed by utility relocations in 2020 and the construction of the improvements to commence in late 2020 and/or early 2021.

## HAM-SYCAMORE TWP. INTERCONNECT IMPROVEMENTS

This project consists of the construction of a fiber optic interconnect through existing conduit to Clete McDaniel Sports Complex, Robert L. Schuler Sports Complex and Bob Meyer Park, including the installation of WIFI and security cameras at these locations. The project also finalizes the fiber optic work on the traffic signals along Montgomery Road, Galbraith Road and Kenwood Road. This will help facilitate traffic through the Kenwood area more efficiently.

As with all construction projects, please slow down and drive cautiously through the construction areas to ensure the safety of both you and the construction workers. While there will be inconveniences and some detours during construction, the end results 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.





# Contacts

## WINTER 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**

Skylor R. Miller

Planning and Zoning Administrator

**792-7252 - Fax 792-8564**

Mike McKeown, Parks & Rec. Director

**792-7270 – Fax 792-8564**

Rob Penny, Fire Chief

**792-8565 – 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](http://www.sycamoretownship.org)



8540 Kenwood Road  
Sycamore Twp., Ohio 45236

PRSR 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.