

# Sycamore Township NEWS

Fall 2020

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As the warm weather winds down and some cool fall temperatures roll in, I hope that you are all staying healthy and safe during these very unusual and challenging times.

Although COVID-19 has changed the normal days for many of us, at the Township we have continued to carry on with day to day operations. We continue to clean all working areas of the office on a regular basis with precautions and protocols instituted to insure a safe working environment for all of our employees. The office continues to be open by appointment only. You may contact the Township office at 513-791-8447 if you need to make an appointment, but most issues can be addressed by phone.

The Board of Trustees has continued to maintain normally scheduled meetings. Some of them have been conducted over the internet utilizing ZOOM, and the remainder have been conducted in person with COVID-19 prevention protocol. We continue to practice safe social distancing and all in person participants have their temperature taken upon arrival. Masks are required to enter the building. For the benefit of our residents and their safety, you have the option to participate in our meetings remotely, and live stream broadcasts of our meetings are available through our website at [www.sycamoretownship.org](http://www.sycamoretownship.org). Please contact our office with any questions.

The parks have been opened and the playgrounds and restrooms are disinfected daily to ensure the safety for our residents. Signs have been posted in the parks to remind visitors to wash hands frequently, social distance and wear masks when in close proximity to others. Hand sanitizing stations have been installed at shelters and playgrounds.

We have continued to stay extremely busy with our infrastructure improvements through many parts of the Township. The Sycamore Road project is moving right along and looks great. The last construction phase of the project is underway, and the final coat of asphalt is scheduled for the end of October. We are also advancing our curb replacement program on Bayberry Drive in the southern part of the Township, and on Marlette Drive in the north.

If you have been behind the Administration Building on Kenwood Road recently, you have seen the great progress we are making on our new maintenance storage building and the new salt dome. This project has been progressing better than we had anticipated, and we hope to have the project completed by October 31st. This will allow us to remove the pole barn from Bechtold Park and utilize that space for recreation.

I have always been a big proponent of expanding pedestrian access in our community, and I am happy to report that our Montgomery Road Sidewalk Project is now completed. Pedestrians can now walk from the Township border at Kennedy Lane, all the way to Kenwood Towne Center.

All of these projects would not be successfully advancing as they are today without the exceptional project management of our Assistant Administrator and Superintendent, Tracy Kellums, and his team. Having this many major projects going on at the same time is a significant challenge, but we are blessed to have Tracy to keep things moving.

The Trash Bash which was postponed in the Spring is now back on the schedule. It is scheduled for September 18th and 19th at McDaniel Park and September 25th and 26th at Bechtold Park. We will have our staff available to remove all of the articles from your vehicles, and all residents will be required to stay in their car this year in an effort to practice safe social distancing.


Fall is the time for changing colors and raking leaves. Our great maintenance team is gearing up for our Fall Leaf Pickup Program. Please remember that when you rake your leaves to the curb; you should keep them on the edge of the grass and not rake them into the street.

Finally, I want to bring to your attention to a great opportunity to help others if you have unfortunately tested positive for COVID-19 and have the antibodies. Hoxworth Blood Center is actively seeking convalescent plasma from those who possess the antibodies. They are harvesting that plasma to treat patients who are experiencing difficulties in fighting the virus. If you have tested positive and would like to participate in this program, please call 513-451-0910 or go to [www.hoxworth.org](http://www.hoxworth.org) and search **convalescent plasma**.

We are always committed to keeping Sycamore Township a great place to live, work and play. If there is anything that I can do to help you, please feel free to contact me at 513-791-8447.

On behalf of Trustees Tom James and Jim LaBarbara, and our Fiscal Officer Rob Porter, I want to wish you good health during these challenging times.

Sincerely



Tom Weidman  
Trustee



Tom Weidman  
Trustee







## Police & Crime Prevention



Michael Tarr, Lieutenant  
Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

I was asked to replace the previous District 3 Commander and Sycamore Township Liaison, Lt. Tory Smith, following his promotion to Captain in late June. I spent the month of July transitioning out of my old assignment, Traffic Safety Unit Commander, and into my new role. On August 3, 2020 I officially took over for Captain Smith. Over the coming months, I'm sure I will be meeting many of Sycamore Township's residents, so I wanted to take this opportunity to tell you all a little about myself.

I started my career with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office in the Corrections Division in 2001. After completing the Corrections Academy, I was assigned to the now-closed Queensgate Correctional Facility. I graduated from the Sheriff's Patrol Academy in May, 2003 and was promoted to the Patrol Division in November of that year. As a Patrol Officer I was assigned to District 5 (Anderson Township) and District 1 (Colerain, Whitewater, Crosby, Harrison, and Miami Townships). In November 2005, I was selected for assignment to the Traffic Safety Unit. The Traffic Unit's primary function is to investigate serious injury and fatal motor vehicle crashes. Officers in the unit also investigate hit/skip crashes, conduct traffic safety programs in many local schools, conduct targeted traffic enforcement and respond to routine crashes in order to free up officers assigned to the townships. I remained in Traffic until February, 2013 when I was promoted to Sergeant and reassigned back to District 5.

In December, 2013 I returned to Traffic as the Unit Commander and remained there until now. I am

certified as a Crash Reconstructionist and, in 2011, I was among the first group of law enforcement officers in Ohio to be certified as a Drug Recognition Expert. In 2017, I completed the 138th Administrative Officers Course at the University of Louisville's Southern Police Institute. Although I was never assigned to patrol in Sycamore Township, due to its high volume of traffic, I've spent quite a bit of time here. I was also assigned all hit/skips in the Township from 2006 to 2012 so I'm pretty familiar with the area.

On a personal note, I'm a military brat whose parents settled down in suburban Dayton after my father retired from the Air Force. I graduated from Centerville High School and the University of Dayton (Go Flyers!). I'm an avid sports fan: Reds, Bengals, F.C. Cincinnati, and Dayton Flyers basketball. I live in Pleasant Ridge and I also enjoy golf, skiing, and cooking in my free time.

I'm very excited about my new assignment and I can't wait to get out, meet people, and learn more about the community. Captain Smith had nothing but positive things to say about the relationship between the Sheriff's Office, Sycamore Township and its residents and businesses and I hope to continue to build on that.

### OFFICER SPOTLIGHT

#### PATROL OFFICER CASEY LYLE, HAMILTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Patrol Officer Casey Lyle is a twelve-year veteran of the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office. After beginning his career in the Jail Services Division in 2008, Casey was promoted to the rank of Corrections Sergeant in the spring of 2015. He then came to Patrol approximately one year later. Casey currently runs the south Sycamore beat on night shift.

On the evening of Saturday, March 7th, 2020, while patrolling the Kenwood retail and business district, Deputy Lyle initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle that had committed a red-light violation. After stopping the car on Montgomery Road at Kenwood Road, Deputy Lyle engaged in routine face-to-face contact with the driver. During this interaction, Deputy Lyle quickly detected a strong odor of raw marijuana emitting from the interior of the vehicle. A probable cause search was then conducted. The search revealed 300 grams of marijuana packaged and prepared in separate containers. Empty plastic baggies and scales were also discovered. It was readily apparent that the contraband was prepared for sale and distribution, not for medical or personal use. In addition, a loaded Springfield Armory 9mm handgun was located inside the vehicle.

The suspect was indicted on several felony drug and weapons charges approximately two weeks later.

Interestingly, Sheriff's detectives from the Criminal Investigation Section are investigating the possibility of the confiscated firearm being used in prior criminal activity in the greater Cincinnati area. While this information is not yet confirmed, it illustrates the solid, proactive work performed by Patrol Officer Lyle and the importance of taking weapons off of our streets.

Because of hard working Deputies like Patrol Officer Lyle and his District 3 partners, residents of Sycamore Township can take comfort in knowing our officers are doing their best to disrupt this sort of criminal activity. Excellent work, Deputy Lyle!



Patrol Officer Casey Lyle  
Hamilton County Sheriff's Office





# EMS/Fire Department



Rob Penny, Fire Chief

## COVID-19

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have all had to make a lot of changes in our daily lives. Over the last several months there has been an overload of information shared about how to cope with this virus. The most pressing question is: how can we protect ourselves and others and limit our risk of getting COVID-19?

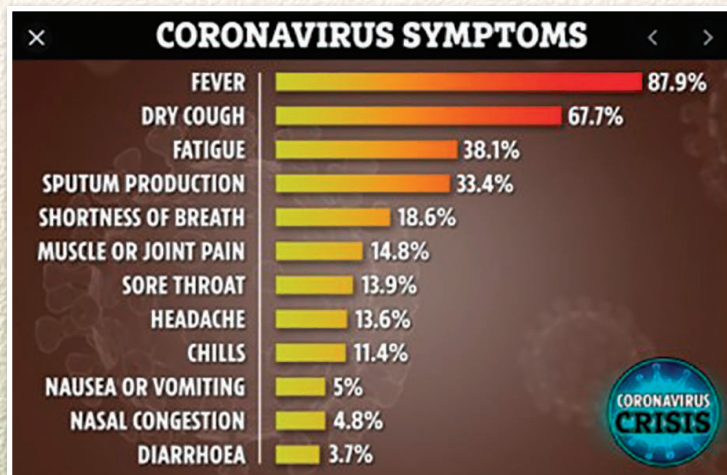
The best way to protect yourself and to reduce the spread of the virus is to limit your interaction with other people as much as possible. If you are around other people, take precautions such as maintaining a six (6) feet distance (about two arms' length) from others. Remember, the more people you interact with at a gathering and the longer the interaction lasts, the greater the risk.

COVID-19 affects different people in different ways. While it may seem obvious to keep your distance from anyone with a cough or fever, it is important to remember that some people who do not show symptoms at all may be infected and others may have very mild symptoms. Wash your hands often, especially before you eat or prepare food, before touching your face, after using the restroom, after leaving a public place, and after blowing your nose or touching someone's pet.

Face masks work very well to protect others. Always wear a face mask when leaving your house if you're going to be around others not in your household. Do not touch your face or rub it after taking off your face mask. Wash or sanitize your hands before touching your face.

With winter approaching, many of us will be spending more time indoors. It is important to keep everything disinfected. Disinfect high touch surfaces such as tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, faucets, and sinks. Disinfect your hands after getting gas or touching deliveries and mail.

Normal seasonal flu symptoms and COVID-19 symptoms are similar. If you feel different at all, take your temperature. It should be lower than 100.4. If you have a fever or feel sick get tested. There are numerous testing stations around the area. Jewish Hospital will test with no doctor referral or appointment from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. CareFirst Urgent Care in Deer Park will also provide testing without a doctor's referral or appointment seven days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.







## Parks & Recreation

### PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Congratulations and thank you to the six residents of Sycamore Township who volunteered and were selected to serve as members of the newly established Parks Advisory Committee. This committee, led by Sycamore Township Parks and Public Spaces Supervisor Jason Petty, serves in an advisory capacity, and will make recommendations to the Board of Trustees regarding parks, playgrounds, facilities, and recreation in the Township. The Sycamore Township Parks Advisory Committee meets monthly on the 4th Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the meeting room of the Sycamore Township Administration Building at 8540 Kenwood Road.

### PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

**Chairman:** Jason Petty, Parks and Public Spaces Supervisor, (513) 792-7269, [jpetty@sycamoretownship.org](mailto:jpetty@sycamoretownship.org)

**Vice Chairman:** James T. Riley

**Board Members:** Christine Early, Lisa Bass Hodge, J. Janus, Jr., Kathy Kugler, James C. Stanley

### 10TH ANNUAL CAR SHOW WINNERS



*Trustee Jim LaBarbara congratulates Best of Show winner Roger Reader, shown here with his winning 1966 Ford Mustang*



*Trustees' Choice winner Mike Orth and his 1967 Corvette with Trustees Jim LaBarbara and Tom James.*





# TOWNSHIP TIDBITS

## MAKE SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP COUNT! RESPOND TO THE 2020 CENSUS TODAY!

Shape  
your future  
START HERE >

United States®  
Census  
2020

Have you completed the 2020 Census? Did you know it only takes five minutes to fill out the census online? Census workers have begun in-person outreach in the Cincinnati area to households who have not completed the 2020 Census. If you don't want a knock on your door, complete the census today! The Census is important to our community for local funding and planning for the future. Respond today at [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov).

### CITIZEN FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Board of Trustees recently established a Citizen Finance Committee charged with analyzing the Township's revenue and expenses to make recommendations to the Board of Trustees regarding the current and predicted financial status of the Township. The committee may be assigned special projects from time to time. This committee meets on an as needed basis. The meeting dates and times are posted on the website calendar.

The Citizen Finance Committee includes six members; the Township Administrator, Ray Warrick, and five Township residents. We extend congratulations and appreciation to the following residents who offered to volunteer their time and were appointed to this committee:

**Chairman:** Christopher Virgulak

**Vice Chairman:** Joel Donahoe

**Board Members:**

Thomas Brockman

Charles Gall

Stephen Ginn

### POLL WORKERS NEEDED FOR NOVEMBER ELECTION

Hamilton County Board of Elections needs poll workers for the November election. If you are interested in training to be a poll worker, please see the Board of Elections website for information and to apply. <https://votehamiltoncountyohio.gov/become-poll-worker/register/>

The Board of Elections also has a "Youth at the Booth" poll worker program is an opportunity for high school seniors to get hands on experience working the polls. Applications may be found on the Board of Elections website under Recruitment Programs and are due September 25th.

<https://votehamiltoncountyohio.gov/become-poll-worker/>



### LIVE STREAM TOWNSHIP PUBLIC MEETINGS

Sycamore Township public meetings are now live streamed to the public and recorded. Live stream links are posted on Township's social media platforms and on the homepage of the website under "NEWS" prior to the meeting. The recorded videos are then posted on YouTube. You may access the Township's YouTube channel from the YouTube icon in the upper right-hand corner of the website homepage, or by scanning this QR code image with the camera lens of your smartphone.







# Planning & Zoning



Skylor R. Miller  
Planning & Zoning Administrator

As another summer comes to an end, the Planning & Zoning Department is working diligently to keep up with new development and property maintenance complaints. Zoning Certificate applications have been impacted in all categories due to the pandemic, but new businesses continue to open within the Township. Many residents are also taking this time to invest in their property and the Township has seen a rise in applications for residential improvements.

## PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Property maintenance issues arise in every neighborhood. When problem properties present themselves, it is sometimes necessary to enforce the Township’s Zoning Resolution and Property Maintenance Code for the benefit of the community at-large. The Planning & Zoning Department make every effort to work with property owners in violation as respectfully as possible. Our department always strives for voluntary compliance to ensure that every opportunity has been made to achieve timely and cooperative improvements.

If you have concerns regarding property maintenance issues in your neighborhood, there are several ways to file property maintenance complaints with the Township:

- Call 513-792-7250 or 7252 (staff member)
- Call 513-792-7279 (hotline)
- Visit our website (Online Services/Property Complaint Form)

We do take anonymous complaints. In closing, property maintenance affects everyone’s property, so let’s work together to get these problem properties abated as quickly as possible.

Planning, Zoning or Property Maintenance questions can be directed to Skylor R. Miller, Planning & Zoning Administrator, at 513-792-7252.

## ZONING APPROVAL REQUIRED

Please keep in mind that a Zoning Certificate is required for the following residential projects:

- |                                  |                  |                    |
|----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| • New Single-Family Homes        | • Room Additions | • Detached Garages |
| • Sheds/Accessory Use Structures | • Decks          | • Retaining Walls  |
| • In-Home Occupations            | • Pools          | • Front Porches    |
| • PODs (Movable Storage Units)   | • Fences         |                    |

A zoning certificate ensures that the project is compliant with the current Zoning Resolution. For most residential projects, with the exception of fences and sheds under 200 sq. ft. in area, the Zoning Certificate is the first step in the process, and a building permit through Hamilton County Building Department will also be required.

Zoning Certificate applications, submittal requirements and fee information are available on our website at [www.sycamoretownship.org/departments/planning-and-zoning/permitting-inspections/](http://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 certificate is necessary, please call the Planning & Zoning office at 513-792-7250 before starting your project. The department staff are available and happy to assist you with any questions you may have.

### 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

## 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 19th and run through Monday, December 14th. Leaves should be raked to the public right of way beside the street. **PLEASE DO NOT PUT LEAVES IN THE STREET.** 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, however, every effort will be made to service each street weekly.

## 2020 TRASH BASH RESCHEDULED TO SEPTEMBER

### North Trash Bash –

McDaniel Park, School Road Entrance, 7841 School Road, 45249  
Friday, September 18, 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Saturday, September 19, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

### South Trash Bash –

Bechtold Park, 4312 Sycamore Road, 45236  
Friday, September 25, 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Saturday, September 26, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Due to the pandemic all those who come to the trash bash events must stay in their vehicles. Sycamore Township Maintenance staff will be present at both Trash Bash events to aid residents. 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. 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. (This service is for RESIDENTS ONLY. Be prepared to show proof of residency.)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Fall Compost Giveaway

September 12  
8AM – 4PM  
Hartzell United Methodist Church  
8999 Applewood Drive

### North Trash Bash

(Rescheduled from April)  
Friday, September 18  
Noon – 4PM  
Saturday, September 19  
8AM – 4PM  
McDaniel Park  
7841 School Rd.

### South Trash Bash

(Rescheduled from April)  
Friday, September 25  
Noon – 4PM  
Saturday, September 26  
8AM – 4PM  
Bechtold Park  
4312 Sycamore Rd.

### Chipping Program

October 3, November 7, December 5  
8AM – 4PM  
Behind Administration Bldg.  
8540 Kenwood Rd.

### Fall Leaf Collection

October 19 – December 14

### Halloween Trick-or-Treating

October 31  
6PM – 8PM

### Election Day

November 3

*\* During this time of uncertainty, events are subject to change or cancellation. Please see our website calendar or call (513) 791-8447 for the most up to date information.*







# Contacts

## Fall 2020

Jim LaBarbara, Chairman

Tom James, Vice-Chairman

Tom Weidman, Trustee

Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer

Deepak K. Desai, Law Director

Ray Warrick, Administrator

**792-7277 – Fax 792-8564**

Tracy Kellums

Superintendent/Assistant Administrator

**792-7257 – Fax 792-8564**

Skylor R. Miller, Planning & Zoning Administrator

**792-7252 – Fax 792-8564**

Rob Penny, Fire Chief

**792-8562 – Fax 792-8564**

Michael Tarr, 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 Township Administrative Office

**791-8447**

[www.sycamoretownship.org](http://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



**Jim LaBarbara**  
Chairman



**Tom James**  
Vice-Chairman



**Tom Weidman**  
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.