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As we transition from warm weather to the crisp air of fall, I hope you are staying safe and healthy during these challenging times.

First, I want to assure you that Sycamore Township is very sound financially. Our property taxes are the lowest of any township in Hamilton County and we are the only township in the county that hasn't had a township tax levy on the ballot in 15 years. With the assistance of our Administrator Ray Warrick and our Citizens Finance Committee we are looking at ways to lower them further.

Fall is the time for raking leaves and our Maintenance Crew is ready, as usual. You can count on prompt leaf pickup and snow removal as the seasonal change continues.

It has been a very busy year for road construction within the township. Our contractors have paved over 10 miles of roadway and have constructed over three miles of concrete curb. The project represents approximately 20 percent of our township streets being repaved this year. We continue to place a high priority on our infrastructure, and we've invested over \$3,000,000 in this year's roadway program with the funding coming from our TIF funds.

We've partnered with the Hamilton County Engineer's office to make improvements to the Kugler Mill Road corridor. They are now working on Phase 2, Kenwood to Montgomery Road. It will continue until late November but your patience during construction will be rewarded with a smoother, wider road and a walking route connecting several major neighborhoods.

According to Skylor Miller, Zoning Administrator, the new Sycamore Township Vision 2030 Land Use Plan and new amended Zoning Resolution should be approved this fall.

To keep township residents busy coming out of COVID, we provided a number of events in Bechtold and McDaniel Parks. Family movie nights featured free popcorn and children enjoyed a visit from our wonderful first responders on a Sycamore fire truck. The Music in the Parks series showcased some of the best bands in the tristate and Yoga in the Park was well received. My wish list includes tennis, pickle ball courts and more music.

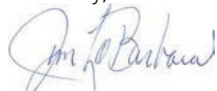
Sycamore Township's 11th Annual Car Show, featuring 87 classic cars, was the most successful in recent years. We presented more than 50 trophies to winners.

Good news: Natalie Fields, Branch Manager with the Cincinnati Library, said the new 25,000 sq. ft. Deer Park Library in the Dillonvale Shopping Center is expected to open in late October.

I want to thank our staff for the work in continuing services to our residents during the recent COVID pandemic and the aftermath. We say it often because it is important. We have the best staff in Ohio.

If there is anything I can do to be of assistance, please call me on my cell phone 513-477-9725. On behalf of my fellow Trustees Tom James and Tom Weidman, our Fiscal Officer Rob Porter, and the entire township staff, I wish you a happy, healthy, and safe fall season.

Sincerely,



Jim LaBarbara  
Vice-Chairman, Board of Trustees



Jim LaBarbara  
Vice-Chairman  
Board of Trustees





## Police & Crime Prevention



Michael Tarr, Lieutenant  
Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

According to the Sheriff's Intelligence Unit, there has been a regional uptick in vehicle thefts and thefts from vehicles in 2021. While Sycamore Township has not seen as dramatic an increase in these types of offenses as some other locations, it is something we continue to monitor. One thing that is very clear to the deputies that respond when these offenses are reported throughout the township is that the vast majority of them have involved unlocked vehicles. Most vehicle thefts and thefts from vehicles are crimes of opportunity and can be easily prevented. Here are a few tips to make sure that you don't become a victim:

- No matter what the reason... a quick trip into the gas station, running into a restaurant to pick up a carry out order, dropping off at the cleaners...never leave your vehicle unattended with the engine running. Thieves monitor areas or locations where this tends to occur and can enter your vehicle and be gone in seconds.
- Lock your vehicle whenever it is parked or unattended and make sure all windows, including the sunroof, are closed.
- Remove all valuables, cell phones, purses, bags, laptops etc. from your vehicle. If you cannot remove them, make sure they are locked in the trunk or another secure area of the vehicle or hidden from view.
- Whenever possible, park in well-lit areas and/or areas with lots of pedestrian traffic.
- Activate your vehicle's security system or consider an after-market system if your vehicle is not equipped with one.
- Finally, no matter what the location, if you see suspicious activity, report it. The deputies assigned to Sycamore Township are as just as concerned about the increase in vehicle thefts as its residents and they are happy to investigate any situation.

### Sycamore Township Theft Counts 2021:

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL
Auto Theft	1	1	1	6	5	8	3
Theft from Auto	3	1	7	5	6	8	7

### IMPORTANT HAMILTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT PHONE NUMBERS:

- District Three Headquarters: 513-683-3444
- Vacation Watch: 513-825-1500
- Non-Emergency Dispatch: 513-825-2280
- Emergency: 911



# EMS/Fire Department



Rob Penny, Fire Chief

Hope everyone had a safe and healthy summer! Fall is upon us, and it's time to check our homes for safe living. First, change the batteries in all your smoke detectors. You should have a smoke detector in the hallway close to the bedrooms, at the bottom of your basement steps and in storage areas. DO NOT climb a ladder to check your batteries if you are not comfortable doing so. We can help you! Call the fire station at 513-792-8565 and we will send a firefighter to your home to assist you in changing the batteries in your smoke detector.



Carbon monoxide, or CO, is an odorless, colorless gas that can kill you. It is important that you install a Carbon monoxide detector in your home to monitor gas appliances that may leak carbon monoxide. If your furnace, hot water heater or stove is gas, there is always the chance of a leak. Furnaces and hot water flues can fail or crack; sometimes birds will build a nest on your flue pipe on the roof. This will cause carbon monoxide to back up in your home. You should have your furnace, water heater and any other gas, oil, or coal burning appliance serviced and cleaned by a qualified technician every year. During this process, the technician person will check your heat exchanger for cracks or other issues which could lead to a buildup of carbon monoxide in your home.



## COVID-19 UPDATE:

Hamilton County's COVID-19 case numbers have been increasing and the County has been identified as an area of "substantial spread" by the CDC. The CDC is recommending everyone, including those fully vaccinated, wear a mask in public indoor settings. Vaccination is the best tool to prevent serious illness from COVID-19. Find no-cost vaccine and testing locations, as well as COVID-19 financial relief options like rental assistance at 513Relief.org. #513Relief #StopTheSpread  
Hope everyone has a great fall season. Remember to wash your hands and use hand sanitizer.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Music in the Park Brent James and the Vintage Youth

Friday, September 10  
7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.  
Bechtold Park  
4312 Sycamore Road

### Fall Compost Giveaway

Saturday, September 11  
8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.  
Hartzell Methodist Church  
8999 Applewood Dr.

### Movie Night at Bechtold Park

Saturday, September 18  
Dusk  
Bechtold Park  
4312 Sycamore Road

### Chipping Program

October 2/ November 6/  
December 4  
8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.  
Behind Administration Bldg.  
8540 Kenwood Rd.

### Fall Curbside Leaf Collection

October 18 – December 13

### Halloween Trick-or- Treating

Sunday, October 31  
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

### Election Day

Tuesday, November 2





# Parks & Recreation

## 11TH ANNUAL SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP CAR SHOW WINNERS

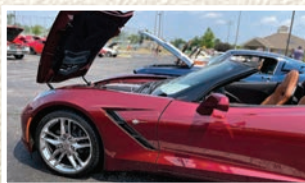
Thank you to everyone who came out to the Sycamore Township Car Show and congratulations to all the winners!



*Trustees Jim LaBarbara, Tom Weidman and Tom James congratulate **Best of Show** winner Frank Pitrik, shown here with his winning 1948 Pontiac Torpedo Convertible.*



*Trustees' **Choice** winner David Baker and his 1937 Dodge Coupe with Trustees Jim LaBarbara, Tom James, and Tom Weidman.*



## SAVE THE DATE! 2021 DILLONVALE LUMINARIA

The Dillonvale Luminaria will take place Saturday, December 11th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Pavilion in Bechtold Park. More information to come!





# TOWNSHIP TIDBITS

## MANDATORY 10-DIGIT DIALING

Mandatory 10-digit dialing begins in our region on October 24, 2021. This means all those with area codes 513 or 859 must dial the area code for all local calls. For more information, please go to <https://www.cincinnatiatbell.com/special-pages/10-digit-dialing> or call Cincinnati Bell at 513-565-2210.

## HAMILTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES RECEIVE AWARD

Hamilton County Sheriff's Deputies Rylan Babbs and Wayne Reese, who are assigned to Sycamore Township, are the recipients of the Jerry Beitman Award given by the Blue Ash Protective Association for their bravery in freeing a woman who was trapped in a burning vehicle off Fields Ertel Road on January 9, 2021. City of Montgomery Police Officer Richard Riley assisted in the rescue effort. The Deputies also received a Commendation from Hamilton County Sheriff Charmaine McGuffey for their "dedication, courageousness, and eagerness to rescue a citizen in time of crisis" while putting themselves at "great risk of injury." Congratulation Deputies Babbs and Reese! Thank you for your service to Sycamore Township!



*Hamilton County Sheriff's Deputy Rylan Babbs*



*Hamilton County Sheriff's Deputy Wayne Reese*

## NEW SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP FIREFIGHTER



*Sycamore Township's newest Firefighter/Paramedic Craig Wiederhold was sworn in by Chairman of the Board of Trustees Tom James at the August 3, 2021 Trustees meeting. Congratulations Craig!*



*(L to R) Trustee Tom Weidman, Fire Chief Rob Penny, Trustee Tom James, Firefighter/Paramedic Craig Wiederhold and Trustee Jim LaBarbara*

## POLL WORKERS NEEDED FOR NOVEMBER ELECTION

Interested in becoming a poll worker? The Hamilton County Board of Elections is seeking poll workers for the November 2, 2021 election. For more information, visit <https://votehamiltoncountyohio.gov/become-poll-worker/>





# Planning & Zoning



Skylor R. Miller  
Planning & Zoning Administrator

## SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP VISION 2030 LAND USE PLAN AND ZONING TEXT AMENDMENTS

Sycamore Township is in the process of updating the Township-wide Land Use Plan. Sycamore Township has a long history of planning. Land use planning efforts were undertaken in 1990, 1996, 2002 and 2008. The benefits of these land use planning efforts have helped Sycamore Township become one of the most noted and livable areas in the Greater Cincinnati area. This latest process continues the planning tradition for Sycamore Township. This Land Use Plan documents the long-term vision for the Township’s future and is the result of a multi-month planning process grounded in research, community input and documentation.



The long-term vision for Sycamore Township continues to be a thriving, high quality community that preserves what makes it great – including its neighborhoods, accessibility, and business environment. Sycamore Township continues to be strategically positioned for preservation, redevelopment, and development that fosters a vibrant economy and high quality of life for its people.

The Sycamore Township Vision 2030 Land Use Plan is a guide for future development in the Township. Working with the community is one example to assure implementation of public policy and to create a safe and well-planned place to live, work and play.

In addition to the Vision 2030 Land Use Plan, text amendments to the Zoning Resolution have been developed through input of the Land Use Steering Committee to address changes in allowed fence placements as well as address area calculations for accessory structures in rear yards. Both of these changes will give residents more flexibility to make improvements in their yards.

The land use plan and text amendments are currently under review by the Township’s Zoning Commission and open for public comment. The draft plan is available on the Township website.

To learn more about the plan, the public hearings, or if you have specific questions, please contact Skylor Miller at 513-792-7250 or [smiller@sycamoretownship.org](mailto:smiller@sycamoretownship.org).



# Maintenance Department



Tracy Kellums, Superintendent

## Coming Soon! Larchview Drive and Plainfield Road Improvements!

Sycamore Township and the Hamilton County Engineer’s Office have partnered to make improvements to the Plainfield Road Corridor and Larchview Drive. The estimated cost of the improvements is approximately \$3,000,000. The township and county received an Ohio Public Works Commission grant for fifty (50) percent of the project cost.

The improvements to **Larchview Drive (Eldora Drive to Plainfield Road)** include: the construction of a new water main, storm sewer, roof drain collector lines, concrete rolled curbs, curb ramps, reconstruction of the sidewalk on the north side and the complete removal and reconstruction of the roadway pavement.

The improvements to **Plainfield Road (Deer Park Corporation Line (Donna Lane) to the Blue Ash Corporation Line (Larchview Drive))** include: the construction of a water main, curb repairs, new curb ramps, milling and resurfacing of the asphalt pavement, new mast arm traffic signal poles and traffic signal heads at the intersections of Donna/Myrtle and at the intersection of Larchview Drive, and new pavement markings, as per the road diet plans.

The proposed schedule for the project is as follows: Utility Construction is to begin in September, Water Main Construction is to begin in the Fall of 2021 and the Roadway Reconstruction will begin in Spring of 2022. The project is scheduled to be completed in **late 2022**.

## CURBSIDE LEAF COLLECTION INFORMATION

Sycamore Township is pleased to provide you with prompt and efficient leaf pickup service. Leaf collection will begin on Monday, October 18th and run through Monday, December 13th. 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 4:00 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.





# Contacts

## Fall 2021

Tom James, Chairman

Jim LaBarbara, Vice-Chairman

Tom Weidman, Trustee

Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer

Deepak K. Desai, Law Director

Ray Warrick, Administrator

**513-792-7277 – rwarrick@sycamoretownship.org**

Tracy Kellums

Superintendent/Assistant Administrator

**513-792-7257 – tkellums@sycamoretownship.org**

Skylor R. Miller, Planning & Zoning Administrator

**513-792-7252 – smiller@sycamoretownship.org**

Rob Penny, Fire Chief

**513-792-8562 – rpenny@sycamoretownship.org**

Michael Tarr, Lieutenant

District Three Commander

Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

**513-683-3444**

Fire and Police Emergency – **911**

Non-Emergency Dispatch – **513-825-2280**

Sycamore Township Administrative Office

**513-791-8447 – Fax 513-792-8564**

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



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Sycamore Twp., Ohio 45236

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## Trustees Available to Better Serve You



**Tom James**  
Chairman



**Jim LaBarbara**  
Vice-Chairman



**Tom Weidman**  
Trustee



**Robert C. Porter III**  
Fiscal Officer

You may leave messages for your elected officials by calling the Sycamore Township Administration Office at 513-791-8447.