

# Sycamore Township

# NEWS

Spring 2021

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Springtime is when we enjoy renewal and new growth, as we move on from colder, bleaker times into a much more pleasant and sunnier time of year.

Moving on is something I am certain we are all looking forward to as the COVID-19 pandemic begins its second year. Many of us have spent a lot of time avoiding close contact with loved ones and friends since last March. In that time, a sizeable number of our residents have had the disease and recovered, as have several members of our Township's staff and safety services team. And many of us have mourned friends and loved ones lost to the disease and have watched it impact family members and livelihoods in unpleasant ways. It is still out there, and we all must continue to take precautions to protect ourselves and others. But with vaccinations now becoming widely available and with their pace of distribution increasing each day, we can all look forward to a gradual return to normalcy and the hope of better health and prosperity for all in our community. We're almost there. Stay strong.

During the winter, your Sycamore Township government has been busy – especially our outstanding road and maintenance team. February brought us extreme cold and a lot of snow, often at very inconvenient times. But our snow removal team was ready for it, and they put in long hours keeping our roads clear and safe on several occasions. Our residents and businesses appreciate that team's hard work each winter season, and several of you took the time to praise their efforts online and in calls to the Township offices.

The Township has a very ambitious 2021 road program underway which was made possible by temporary state legislation which frees up money normally reserved for other purposes to use for roadwork, but only if we complete those projects this year. The program will cover about 10 miles of our roadways in neighborhoods throughout the Township. Work on the Kugler Mill Road reconstruction, sidewalk, and sewer project is also underway, in conjunction with the county engineer's office, and it should be complete this year.

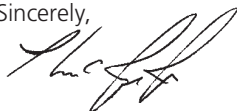
The new maintenance facility and salt dome behind the Administration Building is now substantially finished, and we hope to host a community open house for it this year so that you can see it close-up. With the work completed, our recycling bins next to it have reopened. And on a related note, in mid-April we will also have our spring Trash Bash events in the northern and southern areas of the Township, plus a Document Shredding event.

Coming up this spring and summer, we plan to proceed with the annual Memorial Day Parade in conjunction with our neighbors in Deer Park and Silverton. Activities in our parks will also resume in coming weeks, including weekly Yoga-in-the-Park and some other events our Parks Supervisor and the Parks Advisory Committee have in the works.

Please check our website at [SycamoreTownship.org](http://SycamoreTownship.org) for parks and event information, and also for Township office hours and visitation protocols, zoning and permitting requirements, and upcoming events and public meetings.

Along with my fellow Trustees, Jim LaBarbara and Tom Weidman, our Fiscal Officer, Rob Porter, and our outstanding Sycamore Township Staff, I wish you good health and a joyous spring. Ours is a dynamic and resilient community in so many ways – for our residents, for our business owners, and for those who come through our borders each day to work, shop, eat, and be entertained. We all know and appreciate that "There's More in Sycamore."

Sincerely,



Tom James  
Chairman, Board of Trustees



Tom James  
Chairman  
Board of Trustees







## Police & Crime Prevention

On January 12, 2020, deputies were dispatched to Green Blade Lawn Care located at 7841 Palace Drive, in Sycamore Township for a vehicle fire. Upon arrival to work, the business owner found his Chevrolet pickup moved away from the building and smoldering in the parking lot. In addition to being set on fire, the attached trailer had the locks cut off and two landscaping lawn mowers had been removed. Deputy Bittermann, Deputy Oyler and Corporal Fox responded to investigate. External video from the business was reviewed and a suspect's vehicle was observed entering and exiting the business lot.

By investigating the scene and collecting evidence, sets of tire tracks presumed to be from the stolen lawn mowers were observed in the ground going to the rear of an adjacent building. Corporal Fox followed the tracks and located a second crime scene and a vehicle. The muddy tracks and ruts led to Clete McDaniel Sports Center's greenspace where the trail ended.

Deputy Bittermann suggested checking two residences where subjects with history of vehicle theft are known to reside. Deputy Oyler responded to one residence and found two lawn mowers in plain view on the property covered by a tarp in the driveway. Deputies secured the third crime scene and additional Criminal Investigations Section resources were requested to respond to the scene. Deputy Bittermann, with his knowledge of Sycamore Township, was able to identify the primary as well as additional suspects. Deputy Bittermann also identified an additional person of interest living at the residence and after the execution of a warrant, a third subject and a stolen car were discovered at that residence.

As a result of this investigation, two stolen ATVs were also recovered at different locations. Two suspects have each been charged with three felonies and four misdemeanors related to thefts of the lawn mowers, vehicles, and ATVs by the Sheriff's Office. Additional felony cases for ATVs stolen in the City of Sharonville are pending. There is an ongoing investigation of stolen ATVs and vehicles from outside of Hamilton County and possible thefts of credit cards.

By using investigation skills and taking the initiative, the officers uncovered a large case with links to multiple jurisdictions resulting in the recovery of multiple stolen vehicles.

Thank you to Corporal Fox, Deputy Oyler and Deputy Bittermann for their actions which have aided in the closure of multiple cases.



Corporal Matthew Fox  
Hamilton County Sheriff's Office



Deputy Oyler  
Hamilton County Sheriff's Office



Deputy Bitterman  
Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

### 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

I hope everyone got through the winter months safely despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our community has been through some rough times with COVID-19 still out there. Whether ourselves, friends, loved ones, neighbors or fellow workers, we have all been affected, or know someone who has been affected, by this pandemic. We are all ready for the new hope of spring and the good news is there is a light at the end of the tunnel. COVID-19 vaccines are here, and more are being delivered to our area every day.

All three COVID-19 vaccines, Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson, will protect you against severe illness, hospitalization, and death. The Ohio Emergency Medical Services stresses the COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective, and rigorously tested. Citizens are urged to contact pharmacies for vaccine availability and take the first vaccine available to them.

The vaccines come in vials containing 10 doses each; once a vial has been opened, there is a six-hour window in which to use it. If extra doses are left in a vial, they must be used, or they will be wasted. If you have trouble securing an appointment, check with different pharmacies about getting on a waiting list as it is possible a vaccine administration location will call you when a vaccine is available, so it is not wasted. You could also try the State of Ohio's new central scheduling tool for vaccine appointments at [gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov). We feel fortunate that our Sycamore Township Firefighters and staff have been vaccinated with the Moderna vaccine. It is our hope that everyone gets the vaccine soon so we may get back to a sense of normalcy.

There have been questions about whether or not it is necessary to continue wearing a mask and practicing social distance after you been vaccinated. It seems like every week the CDC makes changes to their guidelines, so please keep checking the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/> for updates.







# Parks & Recreation

## COMPLETE THE SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP PARKS SURVEY TODAY!



The Sycamore Township Parks Advisory Committee wants to hear from you about what programs and amenities you would like to see the Township invest in for the future of our parks! It will only take a few minutes of your time to take the 2021 Parks Survey. You may hold your smart phone camera over the QR code below to access the survey now or go to <http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07ehj6fh1jkk6z5ivv/start>

Paper copies of the survey are available in the lobby of Fire Station 92 at 8540 Kenwood Road or will be mailed to you by request. Questions? Contact Parks Supervisor Jason Petty at (513) 792-7269 or [jpetty@sycamoretownship.org](mailto:jpetty@sycamoretownship.org)



## YOGA <sup>IN THE</sup> PARK SUNDAY 10AM BECHTOLD PARK



**What:** FREE Yoga in the Park ~ Bring your own yoga mat and water bottle!

**Where:** Bechtold Park, 4312 Sycamore Road, near the Pavilion (Sycamore Road Entrance)

**When:** Sundays at 10:00 a.m. beginning April 11th through the end of October (No Yoga April 25th due to Trash Bash or on the 4th of July)\*

**Questions:** Call or email Parks Supervisor Jason Petty at (513) 792-7269 or [jpetty@sycamoretownship.org](mailto:jpetty@sycamoretownship.org).

\*In the event of inclement weather yoga will be cancelled.

## PICNIC SHELTERS, COMMUNITY ROOM AVAILABLE FOR RENT

Planning a picnic, graduation party, family reunion, meeting, or any kind of friendly get together? Consider renting an outdoor picnic shelter at beautiful Bechtold Park. To check availability or make a reservation for Bechtold Park Shelters, go to our website at [www.sycamoretownship.org](http://www.sycamoretownship.org). Please call (513) 791-8447 with any questions or for more information.







# TOWNSHIP TIDBITS

## RECYCLING NOW OPEN

The recycling facility behind the Township Administration Building at 8540 Kenwood Road has reopened as of March 1st. Thank you for your patience while this area was closed due to construction.



## V.F.W. MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

The 2021 Memorial Day Parade will take place on Monday, May 31, 2021, and is a joint event with Deer Park, Silverton, and Sycamore Township. Line up starts at 9:15 a.m. at Silverton Veterans Memorial Park. The tentative parade route will travel north on Ohio Avenue, East on Webster Avenue, North on Blue Ash Road, stopping at Chamberlin Park, then on to Sycamore Road and ending at Bechtold Park. The parade registration form is available on the Township’s website for any business, sports, community, church, or family group who would like to participate. For more information, contact Parade Co-Coordinator Tom Camp, THC8902@aol.com or 513-615-3197 or Jerry Cooper, jcooper@sycamoretownship.org or 513-792-7265.



## ALERT HAMILTON COUNTY

Be sure you are always aware, prepared and notified, so that you will not be caught off guard by severe weather. Sign up for Alert Hamilton County to receive weather updates and emergency information via text, call and email. By signing up for Alert Hamilton County, you will also be signed up for Smart911, a life-saving technology that allows you to give vital information to 9-1-1 call takers BEFORE an emergency. Sign up today: WWW.ALERTHC.ORG



**CARES ACT RENT & UTILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**  
Need help with rent or utilities due to the pandemic? Hamilton County has a program which might help, and Sycamore Township residents are eligible to apply. For more information, go to <https://www.hcjfs.org/services/workforce-development/apply-for-cares/> or call Hamilton County Job & Family Services at (513) 946-1000.

## 2021 DOCUMENT SHREDDING



The annual Document Shredding for Sycamore Township residents will take place on Saturday, April 17th, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the rear parking lot of the Township Administration Building at 8540 Kenwood Road.







# Planning & Zoning



Skylor R. Miller  
Planning & Zoning Administrator

## MONTGOMERY ROAD PROPERTIES PLANNING BEGINS WITH COMMUNITY INPUT

Sycamore Township owns a 7.74-acre site in a strategic and critical location within the Kenwood business district. The Township plans to facilitate redevelopment of this critical site as a vibrant and walkable mixed-use development that adds to the overall vibrancy of the Township. To facilitate this process, the Township desires to prepare a market-based master plan for the site to serve as the basis for proposals from qualified developers to serve as the master developer.



The Township is committed to creating a vibrant destination along Montgomery Road. The Township's vision is of a mixed-use destination with sustainable uses that are compatible with the surrounding area. The Township, through careful planning, has made strategic investments to assemble a portfolio of parcels defined as the Development Area. The site provides a unique opportunity for catalytic infill development that could further the economic engine of the Kenwood Business District as envisioned by the community and have a positive influence on the success of the total corridor through Sycamore Township.

As the Township has direct control of the way this property is developed, The Board of Trustees has approved a planning process to determine the most appropriate use and design of the future project. At this stage, there are no specific plans for this site. The Township staff will receive input from residents, the business community, and potential developers in order to help create a plan.

Focus group meetings are ongoing and will be available for review on the Sycamore Township website.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### Chipping Program

April 3, May 1, June 5  
8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.  
Behind Administration Bldg.  
8540 Kenwood Rd.

#### North Trash Bash

Friday, April 9  
Noon – 4:00 P.M.  
Saturday, April 10  
8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.  
McDaniel Park  
7841 School Rd.

#### Document Shredding

Saturday, April 17  
10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.  
Behind Administration Bldg.  
8540 Kenwood Rd.

#### South Trash Bash

Friday, April 23  
Noon – 4:00 P.M.  
Saturday, April 24  
8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.  
Bechtold Park  
4312 Sycamore Rd.

#### National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 6  
12:00 P.M.  
Administration Bldg.  
8540 Kenwood Rd.

#### Spring Compost Giveaway

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

#### V.F.W. Memorial Day Parade

Monday, May 31  
9:15 A.M. Lineup at  
Silverton Park  
10:00 A.M. Parade Begins





# Maintenance Department

## 2021 ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM



Tracy Kellums, Superintendent

The Township is going to have a very extensive repaving program in the subdivisions this year, with paving being done in Kenwood, Dillonvale, and in the northern part of the Township. This program includes the following streets: Bayberry Dr., Firethorn Ct., Decima St., Tulipwood Ct., Elmcrest Dr., Shagbark Dr., Autumnwood Dr., Duneden Ave., Largo Dr., Styra Dr., Spirea Dr., Frolic Dr., Happiness Way, Merrymaker Ct., Alhambra Ct., Dartmoor Ct., Wilton Ct., Concord Hills Pl., Concord Hills Ln., and Concord Hills Circle in the Kenwood area; Donna Ln., Wexford Ave., Applewood Dr., Valerie Ct., Belfast Ave., Limerick Ave., Darnell Ave., Dublin Ct., Wicklow Ave., Mantell Ave., Donegal Dr., Eldora Dr., Cresthaven Ln., Sedgewick Dr., Rolling Ln., Estermarie Dr., Jud Dr., and Huddleston Dr. in the Dillonvale area; Trowbridge Dr., Southwick Ln., Wesken Ln., Pinecove Ct., McCauly Rd., Lewisclark Tr., Bearvalley Ct., and Coyote Ct. in the northern area.

This project will cover approximately 10.25 miles of roadway, which is about 20% of the Township's total mileage. The John R. Jurgensen Company was awarded the contract for an amount of \$3,130,375.60. This is another project being paid for out of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds that are generated by commercial development in the Township, which allows the Township to keep your taxes low and not come to you, the voters, for a road levy.

## KUGLER MILL ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

The Kugler Mill Road Reconstruction Project is underway. This is a joint project among Sycamore Township, Hamilton County and Greater Cincinnati Water Works which includes the total reconstruction of Kugler Mill Rd. from Blue Ash Rd. to Montgomery Rd. The installation of new watermain started in February and will run through April. Storm sewer work will then commence followed by new curbs and roadway. Rack and Ballauer Excavating Co. Inc was the successful bidder for this project in an amount of \$3,721,987.40. Greater Cincinnati Waterworks is paying for the watermain portion of this project in the approximate amount of \$845,000.00. A state grant is paying for 50% of the rest of the project, with Hamilton County paying for the other 50% of the roadway work portion, and the Township paying 50% of the storm sewer, curb, and sidewalk work portion. The Township is using TIF funds for this project also which are generated by commercial development.

## 2021 TRASH BASH

Sycamore Township will hold the North and South Trash Bash events in April (See the Calendar of Events on page 6 for dates, times, and locations) with Maintenance staff present to assist 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.

**Be prepared to show proof of residency.**







# Contacts

## Spring 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

**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

**683-3444**

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

PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
CINCINNATI, OH  
PERMIT NO. 1693

*“There’s More in Sycamore”*



## 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 791-8447.