

# Sycamore Township

# NEWS

Fall 2022

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Summer in Sycamore Township has been a wonderful time so far and it isn't quite over yet. We've already enjoyed a few Music in the Park and Movies in the Park events, and those free series, plus more Yoga in the Park, will continue into September. The Midwest Street Food XPO food and music festival which the Township hosted in Bechtold Park was also a success, and one whose costs I'm happy to report were almost entirely covered by private sponsors at little expense to the taxpayer. Those things, along with this year's Sycamore Township Car Show, have been some of the many enjoyable highlights of the summer season.



Tom James  
Trustee

Now school is resuming in the many districts which serve our residents, and fall is approaching. That means beautiful, colorful leaves will soon be on display throughout Sycamore Township. You may rest assured that our roads and maintenance crew members will be at your service once those leaves start to fall, with our very popular and much-appreciated curbside leaf pickup runs beginning in October.

As I write about the change in season, I'm mindful that fall is also a time to focus and be thankful, and that locally, there's a lot to appreciate. We can be thankful for the marvelous resources we have in the Township. Our finances are solid and income tax revenues in our commercial area Joint Economic Development Zones (JEDZ) have continued to rise, even during the pandemic. Our outstanding administrative staff and our maintenance and fire and public safety crews are second to none, allowing our local government to provide great services for our residents, businesses, and community stakeholders – and sometimes outside our borders too. I'm proud to say that Sycamore Township crews also stepped in recently to assist with tornado damage relief efforts in Goshen Township, bringing sorely needed cleanup help to nearby neighbors in need. And I'm thankful for those who live and work in the Township who have volunteered their considerable time and skills toward serving the community as unpaid finance and parks committee members, providing valuable input, advice, and effort behind the scenes benefitting all of us in Sycamore Township, sometimes thanklessly but still appreciated. Personally, I'll add that I'm thankful for my family and that we are able to enjoy living in the best place in southwest Ohio, and that I have the opportunity and privilege to serve as one of your three elected Trustees.

As always, I invite you, our residents, to participate in and keep an eye on your local government, including by attending or watching our Board meetings. We elected officials and the Township staff work for you. And when you let us know what you think and how we can better serve you and your neighbors, that helps us help you. We'd love to hear from you if you have an idea for bettering the Township and its operations, or if you have an interest in serving on a Township committee or in helping or volunteering in some other capacity. Email or call us.

There are always great things going on in our dynamic and resilient community among our residents, our business owners, and those who come into the Township each day to work, shop, eat, and be entertained. We can proudly say "There's More in Sycamore." For information about Township-related happenings, see our website at [SycamoreTownship.org](http://SycamoreTownship.org), where you will find parks and event information, Township office hours and visitation protocols, zoning and permitting requirements, and upcoming events and public meetings.

On behalf of my fellow Trustees, Tracy Schwegmann and Tom Weidman, our Fiscal Officer, Rob Porter, and our outstanding staff and crew, I wish you and your families a safe, healthy, and prosperous fall season.

Sincerely,  
Tom James



**SYCAMORE  
TOWNSHIP**  
GOVERNMENT COMPLEX



## Police & Crime Prevention

### Introducing K9 Falco and his handler Deputy Dayne Friedhoff



Falco  
K9 UNit

K9 Falco and his handler, Deputy Dayne Friedhoff, were recently assigned to Sheriff’s District 3 (Sycamore Township and Symmes Township). Falco is a 16-month-old Belgian Malinois who has been trained in tracking, apprehension, article searches and narcotics detection. He was acquired by the Sheriff’s Office on April 1, 2022. Falco was selected by the K9 Unit from 40 dogs that were brought to the United States from Holland specifically for work in law enforcement and public safety. Falco and Deputy Friedhoff spent nine weeks training in Houston, TX and Falco was certified by the State of Ohio on June 22, 2022. Falco has responded very well to his training and Deputy Friedhoff describes him as a “phenomenal dog who is very easy to work with.” The Matt Haverkamp Foundation provided the funds for Falco and his training. Falco spends his off time with Deputy Friedhoff and his family and enjoys long walks and any Kong toys.



Deputy Dwayne Friedhoff & K9Falco  
Sheriff’s District 3 (Sycamore Township and Symmes Township)

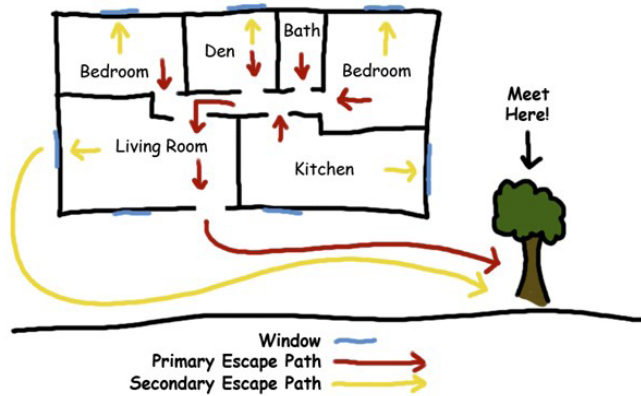
Deputy Friedhoff has been with the Sheriff’s Enforcement Division since 2018. He has previously been assigned to District 5 (Anderson Township) and District 1 (Western Hamilton County). He has been recognized by MADD for his proficiency in OVI enforcement. Deputy Friedhoff was selected to be a K9 handler in the Spring of 2022 and Falco is his first dog. When asked what interested him in the K9 Handler position he immediately replied, “Who wouldn’t want a dog as a partner?”



## EMS/Fire Department

# Fall is a great time to think about fire safety.

We encourage you to take the time to prepare a home escape plan, complete with an outside meeting place, and conduct fire alarm and smoke detector checks.



In less than 30 seconds, a small flame can get completely out of control and turn into a major fire. It only takes minutes for thick black smoke to fill a house and for the house to be engulfed in flames. Most fires occur in the home when people are asleep. If you wake up to a fire, you will not have time to grab valuables because fire spreads too quickly and the smoke is too thick. There is only time to escape.

Fire starts bright, but quickly produces black smoke and complete darkness. If you wake up to a fire you may be blinded, disoriented, and unable to find your way around the home you have lived in for years. Escape first, then call for help. Develop a home fire escape plan and designate a meeting place outside.

Make sure everyone in the family knows two ways to escape from every room. Practice feeling your way out with your eyes closed. Never stand up in a fire, always crawl low under the smoke and try to keep your mouth covered. Never return to a burning building for any reason; it may cost you your life.

Finally, having a working smoke detector dramatically increases your chances of surviving a fire. Remember to practice a home escape plan frequently with your family.

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that is produced by incomplete combustion of a hydrocarbon fuel. This could be caused by an improperly operating gas stove, gas water heater, oil or gas furnace, fireplace, or kerosene heater. Even a motor vehicle operating in an enclosed space such as a garage could cause carbon monoxide to build up inside your home. If you do not have one already, purchase one or more carbon monoxide detectors for your home. A carbon monoxide detector will alert you and your family when its sensor detects a buildup of carbon monoxide in your home. If the carbon monoxide detector goes off, you and your family should move to fresh air immediately and call 911.

- **When you need emergency police or fire department assistance, or need an ambulance, call 911.**
- **Non-emergency assistance from the fire department may be obtained by calling 513-792-8565, for non-emergency police dispatch, call 513-825-2280. When in doubt, call 911.**
- **If you call 911 in error, do not hang up. Just let the operator know it was an error. If you hang up, we will send the police to investigate.**
- **If you need after hours emergency assistance from the city's Public Utilities Department, for water main breaks call 513-591-7700, and for sewer emergencies call 513-591-7836.**
- **For a gas problem, call Duke Energy at 800-544-6900**
- **For an electrical problem, call Duke Energy at 800-543-5599.**





# Parks & Recreation

## 12TH 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!

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### Fall Compost Giveaway

September 10  
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Hartzell United Methodist Church  
8999 Applewood Dr.

#### Music in the Park Model Behavior

September 17  
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
Bechtold Park  
4312 Sycamore Road

#### Movie in the Park Alvin and The Chipmunks The Road Chip

September 24  
Dusk  
McDaniel Park  
11797 Old Solzman Road

#### Brush Chipping Program

October 1/ November 5/  
December 3  
8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.  
Behind Administration Bldg.  
8540 Kenwood Rd.

#### Fall Curbside Leaf Collection

October 17 – December 19

#### Halloween Trick-or-Treating

October 31  
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

#### Election Day

November 8th  
Polls Open  
6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.



Best of Show winner Ron Shope, shown here with his winning Cadillac CTS.



Trustees' Choice winner Randy Patrick, and his 1951 Chevy, with Trustees Tom James, Tom Weidman, and Tracy Schwegmann.

## SAVE THE DATE! 2022 DILLONVALE LUMINARIA

The Dillonvale Luminaria will take place Saturday, December 10th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Pavilion in Bechtold Park.

More information to come!





# TOWNSHIP TIDBITS



Sycamore Township is seeking volunteers to serve on a Resident Finance Committee. Finance Committee members will assist the Board of Trustees by making advisory recommendations regarding financial matters. Residents from all areas of the Township are encouraged to apply as the Board values the forming of a committee that allows for equal representation from all areas of Sycamore Township. Please submit letters of interest and resumes to Interim Administrator Tracy Kellums at [tkellums@sycamoretownship.org](mailto:tkellums@sycamoretownship.org).

Questions may be directed to Mr. Kellums at 513-792-7257.



## SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS DIVERTED 1,455 TONS IN 2021

Congratulations Sycamore Township residents! In 2021, we diverted 1,455 tons of metal, glass, plastic, paper, and yard trimmings. Residents saved resources, conserved energy, and reduced pollution by recycling. The recycling efforts in Sycamore Township:

- **Conserved enough energy to power every home in Sycamore Township for 6 days.**
- **Reduced more air pollution than if every household in Sycamore Township rode their bicycle to work for 4 weeks.**
- **Saved 6,115 trees from being harvested.**

On average, each household in Sycamore Township diverted 373 pounds in 2021. That is 19.19% of all the waste we generate. Want to start recycling? Call 513-946-7766 to request your recycling cart today.

## 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 8, 2022 election. For more information, visit

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



## STORM DAMAGE COLLECTION

In the event of a large storm with widespread damage in Sycamore Township, the Maintenance Supervisor may determine that a "Storm Damage Condition" has occurred. When a "Storm Damage Condition" has been declared, residents must call 513-791-8447 or fill out an online Service Request within two (2) working days after the storm to have the branches picked up at no charge. The storm damage should be placed at the curb within two (2) weeks of the storm. Those who call after two working days may either schedule a curbside brush pickup for \$50 or bring the brush to the monthly brush chipping event for complimentary chipping.





# Planning & Zoning

## STORM WATER POLLUTION

### Did you know that every single person in Sycamore Township contributes to the quality of county waterways?

That’s right; the actions we take as individual citizens contribute to the health of the streams, rivers, and ponds that cross our county’s landscape.

If this is news to you, then you probably do not know that there are things you can look for in your community, and steps you can take in your own back yard, that will help protect our waterways for years to come.

For example, everyday activities such as working on your lawn, washing your car, and sprucing up the exterior of your home can cause storm water pollution and can negatively impact the quality of our waterways – if we do not take proper precautions.

The average homeowner applies seven times more chemicals to their lawn than a farmer does per acre. Excessive application of fertilizers and pesticides on our lawns can be washed away by sprinklers and rain, ending up in storm drains that empty into the nearest stream or waterway.

There are many things we should and should not do as residents to protect the health of our waterways. Simple things like removing pet waste and grass clippings from our yard and making sure our septic systems are functioning properly can all have a big impact on our streams and rivers.

## ACTIONS YOU SHOULD TAKE:

- Dispose of pool and hot tub water and backwash properly.
- Cover and seed all bare soil and preserve stream side vegetation – sediment is the #1 water pollutant by volume!
- Compost yard waste, sweep up grass clippings and tree trimmings from pavement.
- Clean up pet waste from your yard and when you walk your dog. Flush it or send it with your household garbage to the landfill.
- Store oil and other automobile supplies properly – containers should be tightly sealed.
- Take old paint, pesticides, automotive fluids, and batteries to a hazardous waste handling facility. Sycamore Township residents can drop these items off at Annual Cleanup Days.
- Wash your car at a commercial car wash or on a non-paved surface to avoid draining into the storm sewer.
- Keep storm water on your property through use of rain gardens and rain barrels.
- Pick up litter whenever and wherever you see it.

## ACTIONS YOU SHOULD AVOID:

- Dumping excess soil, lawn clippings, leaves, or tree trimmings along stream banks, over hillsides or into the street.
- Dumping anything into storm drains.
- Overuse of fertilizers and pesticides.

## NEW BUSINESSES OPENED OR COMING SOON!

- Mad Raven Tattoo
- ICI Studio of Art
- Psycho Bunny
- CDM Smith
- Blue Alliance IT
- Swimville USA
- Club Pilates





## Maintenance Department

### SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP'S 2022 ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Township's curb replacement and paving program in the south section of Kenwood Meadows Subdivision is scheduled to be completed this fall. The project includes the construction of 3.4 miles of new curb and 1.7 miles of roadway paving. The contract amount for the project was \$1,232,174. The project is being paid for by Sycamore Township, along with the Greater Cincinnati Water Works contributing for their responsibility of the pavement restoration associated with their watermain project that was completed in November of 2021.

### LARCHVIEW DRIVE (ELDORA DRIVE TO PLAINFIELD ROAD) AND PLAINFIELD ROAD (DEER PARK CORP LINE TO BLUE ASH CORP LINE) IMPROVEMENTS

The Township project on Larchview Drive and the Hamilton County project on Plainfield Road is scheduled to be completed this fall. The project on Larchview Drive includes new watermain, storm sewer system, curb inlets, manholes, sidewalk on the north side, curb ramps, driveway aprons and roadway pavement. As a part of the improvements, Glenbar Court will be resurfaced, and the dead-end section of Applewood Drive will be reconstructed. The project on Plainfield Road includes sections of watermain replacement, spot sidewalk and curb repairs, curb ramps, new traffic signals and poles, resurfacing of the pavement and new pavement markings. The contract amount for the project was \$4,650,831. The Township and County were awarded an Ohio Public Works Commission grant for 50% of the project cost.



### 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 17th and run through Monday, December 19th. 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 number 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 2022

Tom Weidman, Chairman

Tracy Schwegmann, Vice-Chairman

Tom James, Trustee

Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer

Lawrence E. Barbieri, Law Director

Tracy Kellums

Interim Administrator / Superintendent

**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)



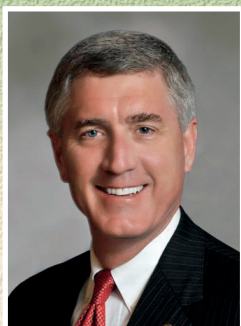
8540 Kenwood Road  
Sycamore Twp., Ohio 45236

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

*“There’s More in Sycamore”*



## Trustees available to better serve you



Tom Weidman  
Chairman



Tracy Schwegmann  
Vice-Chairman



Tom James  
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.