

Sycamore Township

NEWS

Spring 2022

In this Issue

- 1 Letter from Tracy Schwegmann
- 2 Police and Crime Prevention
- 3 EMS/Fire Department
- 4 Parks & Recreation
- 5 Township Tidbits
- 6 Planning and Zoning
- 7 Maintenance Update
- 8 Contacts

Greetings! As your newly elected Trustee, I am honored to have been asked to author this quarter's Township Newsletter cover letter.

First, I would like to thank the Township residents for the confidence and support in the November 2021 election. I am honored and humbled to be able to serve you in the coming years. It is my goal to work in a transparent fashion and bring a sensible, business-minded approach to the decisions before us as a community.

I also want to thank the Township staff, Mr. James, and Mr. Weidman for their warm welcome since taking the Oath of Office on January 2nd. Everyone has been incredibly helpful, and I could not be more impressed with the staff and the effort they put into making Sycamore Township a great place to live, work and play.

As a community, we watched the winter months pass quickly as we immersed ourselves in the incredible Bengals Super Bowl run. But all the Who Dey excitement did not stop the momentum of several important Township roadway improvements including the Larchview Drive and Plainfield Road projects, as well as the planning for the Kenwood Meadows roadway improvements slated for summer of 2022.

Bengal-fever did not hinder the efficiency of our maintenance crews in managing the snow and ice events in January & February either! These were tough storms with long hours, so thank you to the many residents who took the time to reach out to let our team members know what a great job they did in managing these events.

In January, the Board was pleased to approve the Sycamore Township 2030 Vision Plan. This updated land use plan was crafted with a great deal of community input including several Public Hearings, the Land Use Steering Committee, Planning & Zoning Committee, and a positive review by Hamilton County. I was honored to serve on this committee prior to becoming a Trustee, and I appreciate the dedication and contributions of my fellow committee members and Township staff in helping bring this initiative to fruition. I know the Township looks forward to having this plan serve as a useful guide for future development and growth.

With an eye toward growth, in early March, the Township was pleased to approve and commence with a long-awaited Traffic Study for the Montgomery Rd./Kenwood Road Corridor. This study will take several months to complete and will be a comprehensive evaluation of both current and anticipated traffic conditions in this key area of our Kenwood commercial district.

As we enter spring, the Township looks forward to welcoming folks back to our parks, and I encourage you to check out the newly completed playgrounds in Bechtold Park. Also, mark your calendars as April brings the return of some of the Township's most popular programs – the North & South Trash Bash, Document Shredding Day, and the Monthly Brush Chipping Program. Finally, watch for additional activity in our parks this summer with various events including a Food Truck Rally, Music in the Park & Movies in the Park.

Finally, I firmly believe that resident involvement is an important component to a well-functioning Township government. A terrific way to assist the Township is to serve on one of its committees. These committees typically have a specific focus and abide by public body rules of governing. We currently have openings on the Land Use Steering Committee, Special Events Committee, and the Resident Finance Committee. Details are available on the Township website. If you are interested in the Committees' work and are interested serving, I encourage you to consider getting involved!

I look forward to seeing everyone back out in the Township this Spring, and on behalf of my fellow trustees Tom Weidman, Tom James, and our Fiscal Officer Rob Porter, I wish you a healthy, happy, and safe season!

All the best–



Tracy Schwegmann
Vice Chairman, Board of Trustees



Tracy Schwegmann
Vice Chairman
Board of Trustees



**SYCAMORE
TOWNSHIP**
GOVERNMENT COMPLEX





Police & Crime Prevention



Michael Tarr, Lieutenant
Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

In 2017 the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office began the process of moving away from the traditional (reactive) method of policing. The first part of this process was determining a new framework or model for our operations. The result was what we came to refer to as Intelligence-Led Operations (ILO for short) which is derived from intelligence-led policing, an evidence-based strategy that uses enforcement data to inform deployment of patrol officers and other resources. ILO extends this reach and draws on intelligence and data from all components of the criminal justice system, something uniquely available to sheriff's offices. Data sources include patrol, jail and court operations, and investigations and organized crime sections. Key aspects of this strategy include problem-oriented policing, community-oriented policing, crime analysis, and intelligence analysis.

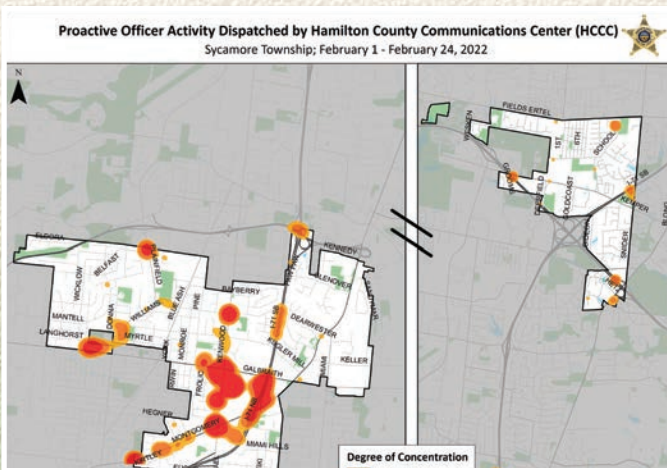
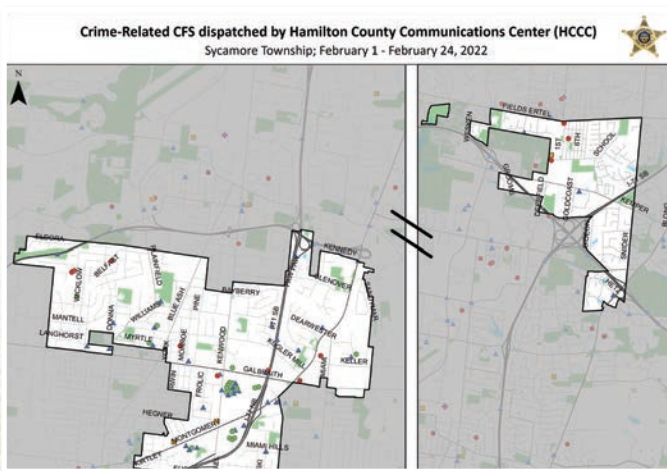
One major component of the move to Intelligence-Led Operations was the formation of the Intelligence Unit. This began in early 2020 and the unit became fully 'operational' in the spring of 2021. The HCSO's Intelligence Unit is currently staffed with a Unit Commander, an Intelligence Operations Manager, three Criminal Intelligence Analysts, and one Criminal Intelligence Investigator. The mission of the Intelligence Unit is to deliver timely, dependable and actionable solutions based on tactical and strategic intelligence/

crime analysis; to formulate innovative strategies for crime prevention and reduction and ensure public safety while evolving through continuous improvement in service, outreach and effectiveness.

Analysts prepare monthly reports for each township that document and map calls for service as well as officer-initiated activity. They compare current criminal activity and calls for service to historical data in order to identify new patterns or trends. This information is then used to help the deputies on the street focus their patrol activity where it is most needed. Additionally, direct lines of communication have been established between the crime analysts and the deputies patrolling the streets.

In early 2021 the Intelligence Unit and the University of Cincinnati were awarded a three-year grant to conduct a study (Strategies for Policing Innovation) aimed at reducing calls for service at locations which have historically had a high number of repeat calls. The objective of the study is to develop insight into why repeat locations exist, conduct directed patrols at each repeat location and then implement tailored responses for prevention, investigation, and enforcement. Two of the locations picked for the study are within Sycamore Township. Directed patrols began in the third quarter of 2021 and we have already seen a significant reduction in CFS at both locations.

The Intelligence Unit is proving to be an invaluable tool not only for the deputies patrolling Sycamore Township but across Hamilton County. While residents won't see them much, if any, we look forward to working with them in the future.





EMS/Fire Department



Rob Penny, Fire Chief

Hope everyone had a safe winter season. We had a few nasty storms with ice and freezing rain this past winter. One of the most hazardous situations for all of us during those storms was attempting to drive or walk on slick surfaces. Our Fire and EMS vehicles are vulnerable to icy roads as well. When we receive a call for someone in need of our services, we face the same dangers as everyone else as we drive to the scene on slick roads and walk on icy, hard surfaces wearing EMS gear and carrying a cot. We try to be careful just like everyone else.

With spring comes severe weather including wind and heavy rain as well as the possibility of tornados. Below are some tips to help keep you and your family safe in the event you encounter a tornado close enough to cause damage in your area:

- If you do not have one, pick up a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) battery powered weather radio. This weather radio broadcasts continuous weather information 24/7 and will be helpful in keeping you updated on the tornado's activity and its path.
- Get everyone to the basement. Store supplies there such as bottled water and even some energy bars.
- If you do not have a basement, go to the middle of the home or in a bathroom. Lying in the bathtub will protect you from debris falling directly on top of you.
- If indoors cover up with a heavy blanket.
- Stay away from outside walls and windows.
- Always have a solid object that you can bang on something so you can be found.
- If you are outside, find shelter immediately by going to the lowest level of a nearby sturdy building. If you are not able to get inside a building, find a low area such as a ditch and lay face down with your hands over your face.
- Flying debris from tornados causes most fatalities and injuries. You are not safe getting in your car.



DRUG DISPOSAL MONTH

April is Drug Disposal Month. If you have any medications that need to be disposed of, you may drop them in our drop box in the fire station lobby located at 8540 Kenwood Road. The lobby doors remain unlocked, so the prescription drug deposit box is open to the public 24 hours a day.



HYDRANT PAINT AND MAINTENANCE

Fire Department staff will be out again this summer finishing hydrant painting and general hydrant maintenance.





Parks & Recreation

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Chipping Program

April 2/ May 7/ June 4
8AM – 4PM
Behind Administration Bldg.
8540 Kenwood Rd.

North Trash Bash

Friday, April 8
NOON – 4PM
Saturday, April 9
8AM – 4PM
McDaniel Park
7841 School Rd.

Document Shredding

Saturday, April 16
10AM – 2PM
Behind Administration Bldg.
8540 Kenwood Rd.

South Trash Bash

Friday, April 22
NOON – 4PM
Saturday, April 23
8AM – 4PM
Bechtold Park
4312 Sycamore Rd.

National Day of Prayer

May 5 @ 12PM
Administration Bldg.
8540 Kenwood Rd.

Spring Compost Giveaway

May 7
8AM – 4PM
Hartzell Methodist Church
8999 Applewood Dr.

V.F.W. Memorial Day Parade

May 30
9:15AM Lineup at Silverton Park
10AM Parade Begins

PICNIC SHELTERS, COMMUNITY ROOM AVAILABLE FOR RENT



Planning a picnic, graduation party or family reunion this spring or summer? It is easy to check availability and make reservations for an outdoor picnic shelter at beautiful Bechtold Park through our website at www.sycamoretownship.org. Bechtold Park has several shelters from which to choose and also features two brand new playgrounds, ball fields, a nature trail and sand volleyball court. Please call (513) 791-8447 with any questions or for more information.

YOGA IN THE PARK

Yoga in the Park will be back this spring beginning the first weekend in April. Bring your own yoga mat and join us on Saturday mornings at 9:00 a.m. at McDaniel Park, 11797 Old Solzman Road, and Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. at Bechtold Park, 4312 Sycamore Road. There will be some weekends in which yoga will be canceled due to holidays or other events. See our website calendar or Facebook page, or call 513-791-8447, for the most up to date information.



2022 STREET FOOD XPO

We are excited to announce the Midwest's largest Street Food XPO will take place at Bechtold Park in Sycamore Township on Saturday, June 25, 2022. This family friendly event will feature a wide variety of food trucks, live music, a family fun zone and more! A portion of the proceeds from the event will go towards the beautification of Sycamore Township Parks. www.streetfoodxpo.com

STREETFOOD
RALLY • COMPETITION • EXPO

SATURDAY, JUNE 25TH, 2022
11AM to 10PM

SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP
BECHTOLD PARK - SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP
4312 SYCAMORE ROAD • CINCINNATI, OHIO 45236

FOOD TRUCK COMPETITION
LIVE MUSIC • FAMILY FUN ZONE • STREET FOOD INDUSTRY EXPO

db dot band
NOON-2PM

THE DUNBY FOUR
DUNBY FOUR
2PM-4PM

FINAL ORDER
5PM - 7PM

NAKED KARATE GIRLS
8PM-10PM

More Details, Food Truck & Vendor Applications Available Online | www.StreetFoodXPO.com



TOWNSHIP TIDBITS

MT. CARMEL BAPTIST CHURCH 1822-2022 SHARING GOD’S LOVE FOR 200 YEARS



Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, located at 8645 Kenwood Road, will celebrate its 200th anniversary on July 16 and 17, 2022. The church was organized on July 20, 1822 with twenty-five members. The original

building was located at the corner of Kugler Mill and Kenwood Roads. The Sycamore Township Cemetery is the old Mt. Carmel Baptist Church cemetery that sat next to the original church. Mt. Carmel Baptist Church would like to invite members of our community to their Anniversary Service on Sunday, July 17, 2022 at 10:45 a.m. and also to join them in their weekly Sunday services at 10:45 a.m.

V.F.W. MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

The 2022 V.F.W. Memorial Day Parade taking place on Monday, May 30, 2022 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 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 where the parade will end 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 Tom Camp, THC8902@aol.com or 513-615-3197.



SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP WINS RECYCLING AWARD

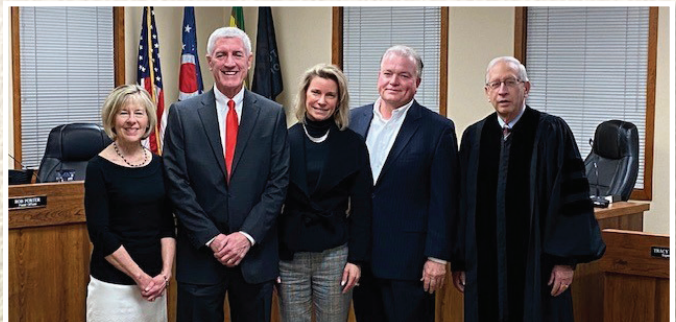
Sycamore Township Design Technician Steve Reutelshofer, Accounting Director Debbie Campbell and Interim Administrator Tracy Kellums accepted an award on behalf of the Township from Hamilton County R3Source for the



2021 Best Township Waste Diversion Rate. This is the third year in a row Sycamore Township has won this award. Thank you to our residents for making this possible with your recycling efforts!

TRUSTEES TAKE OATH OF OFFICE FOR NEW TERMS

Newly elected Sycamore Township Trustee Tracy Schwegmann and Trustee Tom Weidman took their Oaths of Office at the first regular Trustees Meeting of the year on January 4, 2022. Ohio Supreme Court Justice Patrick Fischer presided over the swearing in of the Trustees who began a four-year term. Mr. Weidman will serve as Chairman of the Board and Ms. Schwegmann as Vice Chairman. The Board also includes Mr. Tom James, who begins his third year as Trustee, and Fiscal Officer Rob Porter. Ms. Schwegmann is the first woman to be elected Trustee in Sycamore Township. Congratulations to Mr. Weidman and Ms. Schwegmann!



Trustee Tom Weidman, with his wife Diane, and Trustee Tracy Schwegmann, with her husband Phillip, and Ohio Supreme Court Justice Patrick Fischer



2022 DOCUMENT SHREDDING

The annual Document Shredding for Sycamore Township residents will take place on Saturday, April 16th, 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

Sycamore Township is proud of its quality of residential life and has adopted regulations requiring all residents to be responsible for maintaining that quality of life. The following are general summaries of common regulations:

LAWN MOWING

- Grass and weeds must be cut before reaching a height of 8".

BUILDING EXTERIOR

- All exterior surfaces shall be maintained in good repair, structurally sound and sanitary.
- House numbers must be mounted on the house and clearly visible from the street.
- Painted surfaces which are peeling, flaking, or weathered must be scrapped and covered with the appropriate protective covering.
- Roofs and flashing shall be sound, tight, and not have any defects to admit rain.

FENCES & LANDSCAPE

- No fences are permitted in the front yard.
- All landscape material must be properly maintained necessary to keep plantings healthy and in orderly appearance.
- Permitted fences in the rear yard may be six-foot in height and be of a solid variety. In the side yard fences greater than four-feet in height shall be no closer to the front face of the house than one-quarter the depth of the house.

SWIMMING POOLS & HOT TUBS

- Swimming pools must be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition.
- Swimming pools, hot tubs and spas containing water more than 24 inches in depth shall be completely surrounded by a fence or barrier at least 48" in height and have a self-latching gate.

HOUSE-GARAGE-YARD SALES

- House, garage and yard sales are permitted, and are limited to the personal possessions of the owner occupant of the dwelling at which the sale is being conducted. Such sales are limited to three consecutive days and no more than three such sales shall be conducted from the same residence in any twelve-month period.

ZONING CERTIFICATES REQUIRED

Spring brings the promise of warmer weather and with it thoughts of home improvement projects! Please keep in mind that a zoning permit is required for the following residential projects:

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

Call the Office of Planning & Zoning at 792-7250 if you need more information.

NEW LAND USE PLAN APPROVED BY TRUSTEES

At their January 18, 2022 Regular Meeting, The Board of Trustees adopted the Sycamore Township Land Use Plan 2030. The new land use plan is a complete replacement of prior land use plans and is designed to promote growth in Sycamore while ensuring proper land use protection strategies are available for residential areas. The new Land Use Plan is available for review at www.sycamoretownship.org.

NEW VOLUNTEER MEMBERS NEEDED FOR LAND USE STEERING COMMITTEE

The Land Use Steering Committee is a volunteer board tasked with assisting planning staff in developing needed policy for future planning projects. From 2019 through 2021, the committee helped to draft the new Sycamore Township Land Use Plan 2030. More updates and policy areas are being planned. Currently, the Committee has two vacancies. Interested community members should contact our planning and zoning staff at zoning@sycamoretownship.org or 513-792-7250.



Maintenance Department

2022 ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The township is going to have a very extensive curb replacement and paving program in the southern section of the Kenwood Meadows Subdivision this year. This year the program will include the following streets: Michael Drive, Lisa Lane, Vinnedge Court, Dunleith Court, Nodding Way, Bobby Lane, Quailhollow Drive (South Cul-De-Sac to Miami Hills Drive) and Tiki Avenue (Euclid Ave to Miami Hills Drive).

This project will cover approximately 1.7 miles of roadway paving and 3.4 miles of new curb. The Prus Construction Company was awarded the contract for an amount of \$1,232,174.35. 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 water main project that was completed in November.

LARCHVIEW DRIVE / PLAINFIELD ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

Our Contractor, Ford Development Corp., is completing the first phase of construction, which entails installing a new watermain and water service laterals.

The Contractor will begin the second phase of the project this Spring. On Larchview Drive, this will entail the removal of the old storm sewer system and the installation of storm sewer pipes, manholes and catch basins from Eldora Drive to Plainfield Road. On Plainfield Road, the Contractor will be working on reconstructing catch basins and concrete curb repairs. The second phase of construction is expected to be completed in late Spring.

Various phases of construction will continue along Larchview Drive and Plainfield Road until the Fall of 2022.

We appreciate everyone's cooperation and patience during this time. If you have any questions, please call our project inspector, Tony Perkins at (513) 570-2213.

2022 TRASH BASH

Sycamore Township will hold the North and South Trash Bash events in April (See the Calendar of Events on pg. 4) 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.



SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP WELCOMES NEW PROJECT INSPECTOR

The Sycamore Township Board of Trustees recently hired Tony Perkins as the new Project Inspector for the Township. The Project Inspector is responsible for completing inspections for road construction projects taking place in the Township. Tony will be working with contractors to ensure quality of work and will act as a liaison to assist residents affected by construction in their neighborhood. Tony worked as a construction inspector for the City of Cincinnati for 31 years and for three years in the private sector with WSP, a consulting engineering firm, as a project inspector. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in project management and inspection to the Township.



Contacts

Spring 2022

Tom Weidman, Chairman

Tracy Schwegmann, Vice-Chairman

Tom James, Trustee

Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer

Lawrence E. Barbieri, Interim 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



8540 Kenwood Road
Sycamore Twp., Ohio 45236

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“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.