

Sycamore Township

NEWS

Summer 2022

In this Issue

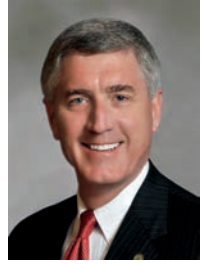
- 1 Letter from Tom Weidman
- 2 Police and Crime Prevention
- 3 EMS/Fire Department
- 4 Parks & Recreation
- 5 Township Tidbits
- 6 Planning and Zoning
- 7 Maintenance Update
- 8 Contacts

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

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

After a cooler than normal spring, summer has finally arrived in Sycamore Township. If you are planning a summer vacation and would like one of our Sheriff Deputies to check on your home while you are gone, please call 513-825-1500 to sign up for this great service.



Tom Weidman
Trustee

For those who will not be traveling, we have plenty of exciting things in store for you in our parks this summer. We will continue to provide free Yoga in the Park at both McDaniel Park in the North and Bechtold Park in the South. Our family friendly movie nights and concerts in the parks are back this summer as well! Please check the website for dates and times.

New this year, we are going to be rounding out Food Truck Week in Cincinnati by hosting a Food Truck Competition at Bechtold Park on Saturday, June 25th from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. There will be 40 food trucks serving every kind of food you could imagine, with live music the entire day, and a Family Fun Zone section for the children. You won't want to miss this great event.

Our 2022 Summer Road Program is underway and includes Kenwood Meadows and the completion of Larchview Drive and Plainfield Road in Dillonvale.

We have continued to work hard to make Sycamore Township a walkable community. We have received a grant to help install sidewalks on Montgomery Road from the Silverton Corp line to Ken Arbore Road. This completes sidewalk connectivity from the City of Montgomery to the City of Silverton. We have also recently received a grant to help us add sidewalks along Kemper Road from Baen Road to Snider Road, this will provide walking connectivity to all our parks in the North.

If you have not been to the Kenwood Towne Center lately, you might want to plan a trip there soon. There are a whole group of new stores that have moved in, and some are exclusive locations in the Cincinnati market. We also had a ribbon cutting for the Grand opening of Boosalis Bakery at 7565 Kenwood Road. This is their first location in Cincinnati and is well worth a visit.

As many of you enjoy vacations with your families this summer, we hope that your travels are safe, and your experiences are unforgettable. As always, if there is anything that I can do to be of assistance, please don't hesitate to call me at the Township offices.

On behalf of my fellow trustees Tracy Schwegmann and Tom James, and our Fiscal Officer Rob Porter, I want to wish you a healthy, happy, and safe summer, and I look forward to seeing you at one of the many Township events we have planned.

Sincerely,

Tom Weidman
Board of Trustees



Police & Crime Prevention



Michael Tarr, Lieutenant
Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

With the warm summer weather comes more people walking, running, cycling, or seeking some form of recreation outdoors. It's an important time to remind ourselves about overall pedestrian safety. Just as we sometimes forget the traffic laws and safe driving techniques we learned in basic driver's education, we also forget the rules and considerations for pedestrians.

Here are some basic tips and suggestions to remember when encountering a pedestrian while driving a motor vehicle:



- Always check for pedestrians or bicyclists when making a turn. The "A" pillar on the sides of your front windshield can cause a blind spot.
- Intersections are crosswalks, whether they are marked/painted or not. The pedestrian has the right-of-way in a marked crosswalk. However, if the crosswalk is governed by a visible and audible signal, the pedestrian must obey the signal.
- Watch for children around schools, parks, and in your neighborhoods where on-street parking is permitted. Be hyper-vigilant!
- Check your mirrors for cyclists before opening your car door after parking on the street.
- Drivers emerging from any private driveway are required to stop before traveling over a sidewalk. A pedestrian utilizing a sidewalk has the right-of-way. Parking on or across a sidewalk is prohibited.
- Give pedestrians and cyclists adequate space. When overtaking a cyclist give the person at least three (3) feet. This is mandated by law. Bicycles are legally defined as a vehicle in the State of Ohio. They are permitted to use the roadway just like a motor vehicle.

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

For those of you who enjoy walking or running outside, it is imperative you remember and respect the rules of the road and do everything in your power to ensure your own personal safety. Below is a list of reminders for pedestrians:

- Only cross in crosswalks or at established intersections. Avoid the temptation to cross somewhere in the middle of the block or cross diagonally. When crossing at any point in the roadway other than a marked crosswalk or intersection, the pedestrian forfeits the right-of-way.
- Walk or run against (or facing) oncoming traffic.
- Where a sidewalk is provided and its use is practicable, it is unlawful for a pedestrian to walk along or on the roadway.
- Be visible, night or day! Wear high visibility or reflective garments. Carry a flashlight for walking when it's dark. Color and contrast are very important in terms of being seen.



EMS/Fire Department



Rob Penny, Fire Chief

Sycamore Township Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services would like to welcome all newcomers to the Township. For residents who are new, and for those who have lived in the area for years, I would like to introduce the Fire and EMS services. The Fire Department has two fire stations, one in the southern area of the Township at 8540 Kenwood Road and one in the northern area at 11580 Deerfield Road.

All staff members are paramedics and have firefighter certifications. We are a full-time department that is on duty 24 hours a day. Our yearly run volume is around 4,300 runs per year with an average of 11 to 14 runs per day. Your Trustees have equipped the Fire and EMS with the latest firefighting and medical equipment to make our jobs as safe as possible and with every medical emergency lifesaving technique possible. The Trustees support multiple public services offered to you such as Car Seat Checks/Installation, Address Signs, Vial of Life Program, Fire Station Tours, Smoke Detector Installation for the Elderly, Blood Pressure Checks at the station, a Business and Residential Knox Box Program, CPR Classes and more.

We have a certified Fire Safety Inspector who inspects businesses in the Township and reviews plans for every business that comes into Sycamore Township. Inspections consist of safe storage; life safety and ensuring that the business' everyday operations are safe and hazard free.

The firefighters are continually training to be at their best when an emergency arrives. We train at the station and attend outside trainings held by certified training schools.

Our firefighters enjoy helping the community by participating in food drives and Christmas gift collections for people in need during the holidays. They also hold fundraisers for people in health crises.



If you have a medical emergency and need to go to the hospital, our medics will take you to the hospital of your choice. Keep in mind if your medical needs are an extreme emergency, the medics may take you to the closest hospital in order to get you hospital level care as soon as possible.



For non-emergency information, call the fire station: 513-792-8565. For Emergency call: 911

Visit our website to learn more about the fire department and view photos. www.sycamoretownshipfire.org



COMMUNITY CAR SEAT CHECK

The Fire Department will hold a Community Car Seat Check event for Township residents on Saturday, June 18th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the South Fire Station 92 at 8540 Kenwood Road. Fire Department personnel trained in car seat safety will be available to check car seats to make sure they are installed properly. Questions? Call 513-792-8565.





Parks & Recreation

2022 STREET FOOD XPO

We cannot wait to see you all at the Midwest's largest **Street Food XPO** 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 from noon to 10:00 p.m. with **Dat Band, Dunby Four, Final Order** & the **Naked Karate Girls**; 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



MOVIES IN THE PARK AT MCDANIEL PARK

Save the dates for Movies in the Park on select Saturdays this summer and fall! All movies will be shown at McDaniel Park, 11797 Old Solzman Road.

July 23rd August 27th September 24th

Movie titles to be announced. Movies will begin at dusk.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Brush Chipping Program

June 4/July 9/Aug 6/Sept 10
8AM – 4PM
Behind Administration Bldg.
8540 Kenwood Rd.

Community Car Seat Check

Saturday, June 18
10AM – 2PM
Fire Station 92
8540 Kenwood Rd.

12th Annual Sycamore Township Car Show

Saturday, August 6
Registration 9AM – NOON
Car Show NOON – 4PM
Robert L. Schuler Sports Complex
11580 Deerfield Rd.

Fall Compost Giveaway

Saturday, September 10
8AM – 4PM
Hartzell Methodist Church
8999 Applewood Dr.

MUSIC IN THE PARK AT BECHTOLD PARK

Join us for Music in the Park on select Saturdays this summer at Bechtold Park!

The bands will play from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

July 9th
The Remains



August 13th
Soul Pocket



September 17th
Model Behavior



12TH ANNUAL CAR SHOW

Save the date, Saturday, August 6th, for the 12th Annual Sycamore Township Summer Car Show at the Robert L. Schuler Sports Complex at 11532 Deerfield Road. Registration takes place from 9 a.m. to Noon and the Car Show from Noon – 3 p.m. Registration is \$15.00. The first 100 entries will receive free dash plaques. Awards will be given to the top 40, nine specialty categories, Trustees Choice, and Best in Show. A live DJ will spin the music and food and drinks from Street Fried Food Truck will be available. For information, call 513-641-6662.





TOWNSHIP TIDBITS

IMPORTANT GAS AGGREGATION INFORMATION

Since 2009, Sycamore Township has provided a natural gas aggregation program to eligible residents and small businesses as a competitive fixed price alternative to Duke Energy Ohio’s variable Gas Cost Recovery (GCR) rate. The current aggregation expires in June 2022.

The community worked closely with their energy consultant Energy Alliances to evaluate options for renewing the program beyond June 2022. Due to a significant increase in energy prices since summer 2021 and particularly this past winter, Energy Alliances has recommended to the Board of Trustees not to lock into any prices at this time and to have all accounts on the program go back to Duke’s GCR rate starting with their July 2022 bill.

Why did Energy Alliances make this recommendation?

- A combination of a cold winter and geopolitical tensions in Europe have driven natural gas prices to their highest levels in several years.
- Locking in a price now to keep the program going through the summer of 2022 would force participants to lock into historically high prices for 2022 and beyond.
- Sending accounts back to Duke’s default rates for the summer gives Energy Alliances and community leaders time to evaluate the market to see if prices come down before next winter.
- The average resident consumes only 7% of their annual natural gas usage during the months of July – October. Finding a favorable rate for the Winter of 2023 is most important.

What do accounts on the program need to do and what should they expect?

- Nothing must be done. The change will occur automatically.
- Constellation NewEnergy, the supplier of the aggregation program, will start sending accounts back to Duke in mid-May, effective for June. This process will continue until all accounts are returned to Duke by mid-June.
- Accounts will receive a letter from Duke notifying them of the change after Duke receives the drop notification from Constellation NewEnergy.

Will the aggregation program return in the future?

- Energy Alliances will continue to monitor the market and work closely with the community to lock in a price before Winter 2023.
- A tentative timeline is for opt-out letters to be mailed to eligible accounts in August 2022.

If you have any questions regarding the community’s aggregation program, you can reach out to Energy Alliances by Phone: 513-794-5555 or Email: ops@energyalliances.com

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER EVENT HELD IN SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP

Sycamore Township hosted a National Day of Prayer Event on May 5th with help from Pastor David Wells, who organized. The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people of all faiths to pray for the nation. Thank you to all the churches who participated and to the members of the public who joined us in prayer. We are also grateful to the Moeller High School / Mount Notre Dame Band, led by Director Paul Kindt, for providing the music and Chick-fil-A Kenwood Towne Center for donating chicken sandwiches for lunch after the service.



Pictured (left to right) Pastor Justin Fuhrmann of Hartzell United Methodist Church, Pastor Sean Kirklin of Cincinnati Church of Christ, Father J. Dennis Jaspers of All Saints Church / St. Vincent Ferrer Church, Pastor Brian Gath of St. Paul Community United Methodist, Pastor George Staggs of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Pastor David Wells of St. Paul Community United Methodist, and Chairman of the Sycamore Township Trustees Tom Weidman.



WLW 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Fire Chief Rob Penny and Trustee Tracy Schwegmann presented Bill Cunningham and Lance McAllister with a cake in honor of the 100th birthday of 700WLW. 700 WLW’s studio is located in Sycamore Township. Congratulations on 100 years!





Planning & Zoning

SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP WELCOMES NEW BUSINESSES AND DEVELOPMENTS!

- Aspire Kenwood Luxury Apartments
- Boosalis Baking
- Il Gusto Pizza and Pasta
- Inkazteka Peruvian & Mexican Restaurant
- Lovisa
- Travis Matthew
- Whiskers & Paws Animal Hospital
- CincySkin Medical & Cosmetic Dermatology
- Watches of Switzerland

Two new restaurants have opened for business in the Dillonvale Shopping Center! Il Gusto Pizza and Pasta, and Inkazteka serving Peruvian and Mexican dishes.

Sycamore Township Trustees Tom Weidman, Tom James and Tracy Schwegmann, joined by owners Matt Boosalis and XiaXing Lin, celebrated the opening of the new Boosalis Baking with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Boosalis Baking, located across from the Kenwood Towne Center at 7565 Kenwood Road, uses the highest quality ingredients to create beautiful and delicious pastries baked fresh on site.



PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE

Sycamore Township has a property maintenance code, and all property owners are required to meet the minimum standards of that code for the public safety and welfare of the Township. If you see a property within the Township that has been neglected or fallen into disrepair.

Please use one of the following options to report such concerns:

- Go to www.sycamoretownship.org and click on "Report Property Maintenance Issue" to enter a complaint online.
- Call the Planning and Zoning Office at (513) 792-7249 to leave a message for the Code Enforcement Official.

You may leave your name and contact information or choose to remain anonymous. It is very important to have the correct address of the problem property and be as specific as possible regarding the complaint. The standard time to review complaints is within 3-5 business days.



Maintenance Department



Tracy Kellums, Superintendent

This time of year, there seems to be road work everywhere you turn, and it is no different here in Sycamore Township. We are consistently working to improve the infrastructure for you, our residents. There are several major projects going on now in the Township.

The construction on Larchview Drive and Plainfield Road continues with our roadway contractor making timely progress towards the completion date. The proposed improvements to Larchview Drive and Plainfield Road could not have come at a better time as this year's winter weather has really taken a toll on the pavement condition of both roadways. The project is scheduled to be completed this fall. The project cost is estimated at \$4,650,831.00. The Township and County were awarded an Ohio Public Works Commission grant for 50% of the project cost.

The 2022 Road Improvement Program is in the southern half of the Kenwood Meadows Subdivision. The improvements will include curb replacement and resurfacing of the asphalt pavement. The project is scheduled to be completed this fall. The cost of the project is estimated at \$1,232,175.00.

In addition to the existing projects the Township has ongoing, there are a couple of other projects slated for later this year.

The Donegal Drive Culvert Improvements Project: This project is located at the intersection of Gwilada and Donegal. The improvements will take place on the north side of the culvert and will consist of removal of the existing headwalls and construction of new headwalls and grading work. The project is scheduled to begin this summer and completed by this fall. The project is estimated at \$192,500.00. The Township was awarded an Ohio Public Works Commission grant for 50% of the project cost.

The Gideon Lane Culvert Improvements Project: This project includes replacing the existing culvert on Gideon Lane located approximately 250 feet west of Kemperknoll Road. The project requires the entire length (120 feet) of the existing 84-inch steel culvert to be removed and replaced with an 84-inch reinforced concrete pipe, along with new headwalls at the inlet and outlet ends. Minor creek grading and rock channel protection is required to help control erosion around the new culvert. All disturbed areas will be replaced in kind. Utilities will be adjusted or relocated as determined by the respective utility company. The project is scheduled to begin this summer and completed by this fall. The project is estimated at \$250,000.00. The Township was awarded an Ohio Public Works Commission grant for 50% of the project cost.

All summer long, you will also see our maintenance crews out in your neighborhood performing various maintenance duties such as road repairs, crack sealing, sidewalk and catch basin repairs, along with various other tasks. We ask you for your patience and consideration when driving through any of these work zones. Please SLOW DOWN and DRIVE SAFELY.

If you have any questions or concerns about any of these projects or anything else going on in the Township, please call Tracy Kellums at (513) 792- 7257 or Steve Reutelshofer at (513) 792-7258 or via email at tkellums@sycamoretownship.org or sreutelshofer@sycamoretownship.org and we will be happy to answer any question you may have. Have a safe and fun Summer!

*As a friendly reminder, if you are performing yard maintenance tasks or home remodeling, **it is illegal to place obstructions within the roadway**, so please do not dump mulch, gravel, or other materials on the public roadway. Also, dumpsters are not permitted on public roadways and should be placed on private property.*



Contacts

Summer 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.