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## Making Sycamore Township a Walkable Community

During the warmer months, it seems there is always a road improvement project somewhere in the Township. What you may not have noticed is that Sycamore Township, as part of its Master Plan, has made it a priority to make our community more walkable. The plan established a vision for the Township to make walking a safe, convenient, and accessible transportation option for everyone.

Why is the Township making this a priority? Studies have shown there are many benefits to having a walkable community. Walkability promotes a healthy lifestyle by encouraging people to be more active. Connecting residents to schools, parks, retail centers, restaurants, health centers and mass transportation through walkways makes for a vibrant and lively community and allows pedestrians to arrive safely at their destinations. It also increases the sense of community as more residents out walking in the Township will have increased interaction with their neighbors.

Now let's talk about what the Township has already accomplished to implement this plan. Many residential subdivisions within the Township have existing sidewalks that were constructed by the developers. In order to maximize use of these existing sidewalks, connectivity between them is necessary.

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**Tom Weidman**  
Chairman



**Tracy Schwegmann**  
Vice-Chairman



**Tom James**  
Trustee



**Robert C. Porter III**  
Fiscal Officer

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Tracy Kellums Administrator

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District Three Commander

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Sycamore Township Administrative Office

**513-791-8447 – FAX 513-792-8564**

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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Brush Chipping Program

**December 3**

**8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.**

Behind Township Administration Building  
8540 Kenwood Road

### Dillonvale Luminaria

**December 10**

**6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.**

Bechtold Pavilion  
4312 Sycamore Road

### Curbside Leaf Collection Ends

**December 19**

### Christmas Tree Drop Off Sites

**December 26 – January 16**

Bechtold Park  
4312 Sycamore Road

McDaniel Sports Complex  
11797 Solzman Road

## Letter from the Fiscal Officer

At the October 4, 2022 Trustee's Meeting, I announced my retirement as Fiscal Officer of Sycamore Township. I have had the honor and privilege to serve Sycamore Township for over 32 years. The Trustees will appoint a successor to serve out my term. I will work with whoever the Trustees choose to assure a smooth transition in the Township's financial office.

My retirement affords me the opportunity to reflect upon the accomplishments I have seen over the past three decades. When I started, the Township was served by three different volunteer fire departments. The Township established its own professional fire department. The residents are now served by a single professionally trained fire department.

The Township used to be served by the County Zoning Department. Township zoning decisions were made by a five-member board consisting of residents from all over the County. Now zoning decisions are made by the Township assisted by a board composed of only Sycamore Township residents.

During my entire career, the Township has enjoyed the lowest property tax rate in the County. The Township used to support its budget with the local share of the estate tax. When the estate tax was eliminated, the Trustees enacted TIF and JEDZ financing. These financing sources allowed the Township to keep residents' taxes low while retaining the high level of services the residents expect.

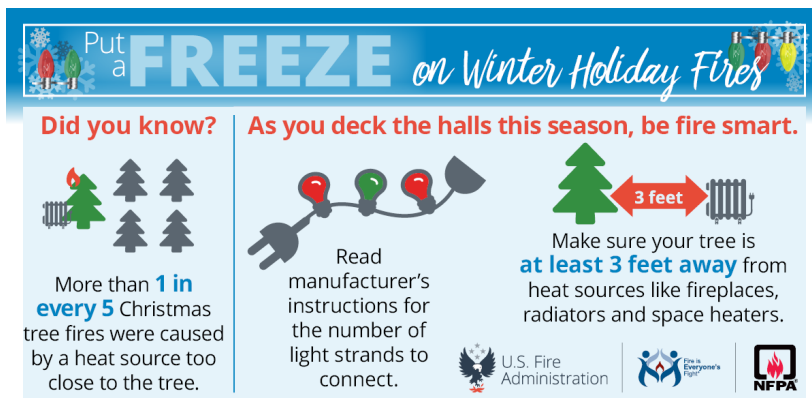
While I will no longer be serving the Township as Fiscal Officer, I will remain interested in Township Government. I look forward to seeing the many grants that the Township has received put to work enhancing the walkability of the Township through the installation of new sidewalks in the North and the Kenwood areas of the Township.

**The Trustees, Tom Weidman, Tracy Schwegmann, and Tom James, join me in wishing everyone a joyous Holiday Season and a Happy and Healthy New Year.**

**Robert C. Porter III**

Fiscal Officer





With winter months coming upon us, many of us will be decorating our homes and yard for the holidays. While Christmas decorations are festive, we want to make sure they are also safe. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission there were 14,800 people treated in emergency rooms in 2019 due to injuries related to holiday decorations. Mishaps send people to the ER daily, with falls, cuts, electrical shock, and back strains. Here are some tips to keep in mind as you deck out your home.

- 1) Keep live trees away from heat sources.** Place your tree away from fireplaces and heaters and keep a fire extinguisher in the room next to where your tree is located. Live trees are highly flammable, due to needles and sap.
- 2) Hydrate your tree.** A dried-out tree will catch fire faster than one that is properly watered. Check the water level every other day. Make sure you start with a healthy green tree.
- 3) Do not burn wrapping paper in the fireplace.** Paper can catch fire quickly and can cause flash fires. It is better to recycle or reuse your wrapping paper.
- 4) If you use or buy an artificial tree, make sure it is labeled fire resistant.** Fire resistant trees are less susceptible to catching fire.
- 5) Work as a team.** When stringing lights and decorations above normal reach, make sure you use a proper ladder with someone supporting the base. Do not stand on the top step of a step ladder.
- 6) Double-check your lights for safety.** Replace any lights with frayed wires, broken sockets, and loose connections. Do not use indoor extension cords outside.
- 7) Power down before you turn in.** Turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave the house to avoid a short that will go unnoticed and could start an electrical fire.
- 8) Prevent electrical cord damage.** Do not mount lights in a way that will damage the cord and avoid using nails and tacks. Use hooks or insulated staples instead.
- 9) Secure Candles.** Keep candles on a sturdy base to prevent tipping. Never leave a lit candle unattended. Keep them away from combustible materials.
- 10) Use unbreakable ornaments.** If you have fragile ornaments, place them out of reach of kids and pets.
- 11) Skip the fake food.** Avoid decorations that look like candy or food if you have young children or pets in the house.
- 12) Beware of poisonous plants.** Poinsettias are poisonous when eaten, so keep them out of reach of kids and pets.



And lastly, we may have a colder winter than usual. When temperatures are frigid, it is a great idea to check on elderly family, friends, and neighbors to make sure they are faring well in the cold. If you do not have your elderly neighbor's phone number, now is the time to get it before the winter weather arrives. Keep an eye out for your neighbor's wellbeing. If you do not see any activity at their home, give them a call.



Please join us for this holiday tradition on **Saturday, December 10, 2022, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Bechtold Park Pavilion, 4312 Sycamore Road.** We encourage all Dillonvale residents to decorate the sidewalks in front of their homes with luminaria bags. The luminaria kits are available at Ace Hardware in the Dillonvale Shopping Center. Three holiday decorations winners will receive a prize from Texas Roadhouse, Honey Baked Ham or Red Robin and be featured on the Township's website! Bring the kids to see Santa and Mrs. Claus, take a hayride through the streets of Dillonvale to view holiday lights, and enjoy refreshments courtesy of Dillonvale IGA. The Dillonvale Luminaria is sure to get you and your family into the holiday spirit!



**SUBSCRIBED**



**Subscribe to the Sycamore Township YouTube Channel**

Did you know Sycamore Township has a YouTube Channel on which recordings of public hearings and meetings of the Board of Trustees, Zoning Commission, and Board of Zoning Appeals are posted? A link to the YouTube channel is available at [www.sycamoretownship.org](http://www.sycamoretownship.org) or simply scan the QR code above with your smart phone and subscribe.





In late 2021, the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office purchased two drones and began exploring their possible uses. Five more drones were purchased in 2022. In the fall of 2022, the decision was made to disband the Sheriff's Aviation Unit, which operated two helicopters, and expand the drone program. The drone program offers many advantages to the agency when compared to helicopters.



The Sheriff's Office currently has 10 Deputies certified to operate drones and they are currently being utilized by the Criminal Investigation Section, the Patrol Division, Organized Crime, the Intelligence Unit, Court Services, and the Corrections Division. The Sheriff's Office plans to add an additional eight drones beginning in 2023 with the hope to have one drone available at all times in each patrol district. Five additional deputies are scheduled to be certified as operators in the coming months.

## ADVANTAGES

**1) Drones can be operated at a fraction of the cost of helicopters. It costs approximately \$3 million per year to operate the Aviation Unit's two helicopters. The seven drones currently in operation were purchased for \$90,000 with virtually no maintenance costs.**

**2) Drones are easily deployed. They can be carried in the trunk of a vehicle and be operational within minutes.**

**3) It is far easier and cheaper to train a Deputy to operate a drone than a helicopter. Each drone operator takes a 16-hour self-paced course offered by the FAA. The cost of the final exam is \$160.**

**4) Drones can be deployed in a wide range of situations: missing persons, fleeing suspects, covert surveillance, to monitor large crowds or gatherings, and to document and reconstruct crime crash scenes.**



# Planning & Zoning

## Economic Development Means More for Sycamore: Gallery at Kenwood Development Underway, Aspire Now Leasing

Aspire Kenwood, located at 4751 Aspire Blvd., is a luxury apartment building that has leased over 200 of its apartments since April. It is part of the larger Gallery at Kenwood, a \$150 million project owned and managed by CIG Communities, that is planned to include a hotel, parking garage and a mixed-use office/retail tower upon completion. Corporex, one of the area's largest commercial developers, is currently building a 134-room, five-story Residence Inn by Marriott hotel at the front of the development along Kenwood Road.



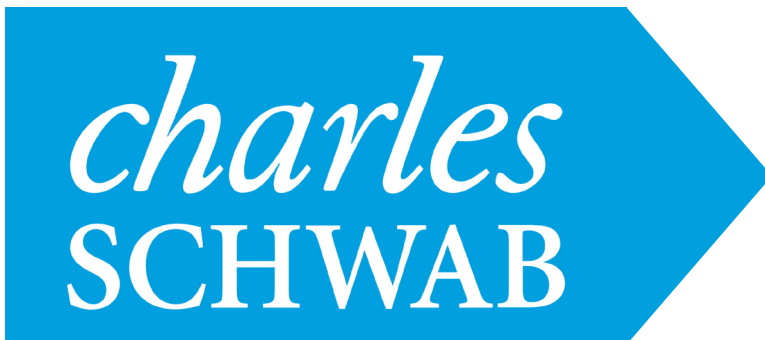
As the region's newest luxury apartments, Aspire Kenwood is currently leasing units for new tenants who would have the benefit of residing in one of the most desired locations in Cincinnati: the Kenwood business district of Sycamore Township. The development offers a variety of studio, one, and two-bedroom floorplans among its 248 units.

Projects like the Gallery of Kenwood promote the Township's economic development vision for our community. New businesses not only broaden the local tax base, but

the Township's strategic implementation of special economic districts (JEDD's / TIF's) commensurate with new development has provided a major boost to local revenues and is used to directly provide services to our residents, all while keeping the Township tax burden one of the lowest in Hamilton County for Sycamore residents. TIF revenues have been used on numerous infrastructure projects, such as Kugler Mill Road, Kenwood Road, Montgomery Road Sidewalks, and Sycamore Road to name the most recent. JEDD revenues from the Kenwood business area go directly to the Township's general fund and provide for law enforcement and fire services. Thriving business development benefits everyone in Sycamore Township, as it significantly reduces the tax burden on residents while still providing funding for superior public services.



## Charles Schwab Expanding Kenwood Presence



Charles Schwab, currently operating as TD Ameritrade at Sycamore Place, is doubling its office space and rebranding as part of the major renovations at the development. Charles Schwab is the first new office tenant to be named for Sycamore Plaza's planned 25,000 sq. ft of Class A Office Space. Charles Schwab is a globally recognized financial services business. It is expected there will be 26-30 employees at this location. Operating hours are expected to be 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. We look forward to their opening early next year.





## Making Sycamore Township a Walkable Community (Continued)

The Township identified the links which are most needed as those along the older roads controlled by Hamilton County or the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) which are main thoroughfares of the roadway network for Township residents and businesses.

The result is the completion of more than ten projects in the last 10 years along those roadway corridors, which has prompted much positive feedback from Township residents. The comments received express a strong and positive support for the opportunity to safely enjoy leisure walking along the new walkways that have improved access to our parks, schools, health centers, retail centers and neighborhoods.

To date, sidewalk has been constructed along the following corridors: Hosbrook Road, Ronald Reagan Drive, East Galbraith Road, Montgomery Road, Garden Road, Silver Crest Drive, Marview Avenue, Sycamore Road, Kugler Mill Road, and Reading Road/ U.S. 42. As a result, it is now possible to walk to the Kenwood business district to shop at the Kenwood Towne Centre or to buy an ice cream cone at Graeter's and enjoy it at lovely Kenwood Gardens Park. These sidewalks also offer the opportunity for residents in the south to walk to neighboring communities such as the City of Deer Park or Madeira. In fact, you could safely walk on a sidewalk on Montgomery Road all the way from the City of Silverton to the City of Montgomery.

Sycamore Township is not finished yet with the goal to be pedestrian friendly throughout! In addition to the completed projects, the Township

is currently engaged in design phases for sidewalk projects throughout the community, including segments along Montgomery Road, Euclid Avenue, East Kemper Road, Baen Road, Deerfield Road, Solzman Road, and School Road. Pedestrian accommodation along these corridors, is vital to the connectivity of our parks, schools, businesses, and residential neighborhoods. These projects are scheduled for construction beginning in 2023 and continuing through 2027. They will connect residents in the northern portion of



the Township to Robert L. Schuler Park and Clete McDaniel Sports Complex as well as to CHCA High School and to Symmes Township to shop or dine near Harper's Point.

The cost of improving the walkability of the

Township is an obstacle your elected officials have tackled head on by continuing to investigate outside sources of funding to keep taxpayer expense to a minimum. The numerous sidewalk projects described have and will be funded partially by grants secured through the Southwest Ohio Regional Transportation - Transit Infrastructure funds and Federal funds as well as TIF (Tax Increment Financing) funds which are generated by commercial developments in the Township.



**For more information on upcoming sidewalk projects,** please visit our website. If you have any questions or comments, please reach out to the Township Administrator, Tracy Kellums, at (513) 792-7257 or [tkellums@sycamoretownship.org](mailto:tkellums@sycamoretownship.org).



8540 Kenwood Road  
Sycamore Twp., Ohio 45236

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

## Friendly Reminders

### DILLONVALE Luminaria

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2022 6-8 P.M.  
BECHTOLD PARK PAVILION

COOKIES, DONUTS & WARM DRINKS  
COURTESY OF DILLONVALE IGA

GET YOUR PICTURE TAKEN  
WITH SANTA AND MRS. CLAUS

HAYRIDES THROUGH THE STREETS OF  
DILLONVALE TO VIEW HOLIDAY LIGHTS

PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED FOR THE  
THREE BEST DECORATED HOMES

*There's More in Sycamore!*



### Snow Removal

With trucks, salt machines, plows, and plenty of salt on hand in our two salt domes, the Maintenance Department is ready to go in the event of snow or icy conditions in the Township. As a reminder, residents should remove their vehicles from the streets when it snows so that our crews can effectively and safely clear the roads. Let us work together to have a safe winter season!



### Curbside Leaf Collection End Date

Curbside leaf collection ends the week of December 19th. All leaves must be raked to the curb by 8:00 a.m. on Monday, December 19th for guaranteed pickup.

# WE WISH YOU A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!

