



SYCAMORE
TOWNSHIP

The Sycamore Quarterly

SPRING 2023



The Spin Doctors

THE FESTIVAL IN SYCAMORE IS BACK!

Bechtold Park - July 14 & 15, 2023

After a long absence, your current Board of Trustees has brought back one of the biggest and best music festivals in the Tri-State area – The Festival in Sycamore! This two-day family-friendly event includes free live bands, plenty of food and drink options for purchase, plus rides and games to keep the kids entertained!

It is our pleasure to announce that Grammy-nominated national recording artists, the SPIN DOCTORS, will headline the Festival on Saturday night!

Friday Night, July 14th, is Tribute Night!

The acoustic sounds of area favorite JIM KELLY kick things off at 6:00 p.m. Friday. Jim is a veteran of the local music scene in Cincinnati. Covering everything from classic rock to country hits and current material, Jim has something for everyone and makes each song his own.

At 7:15 p.m., DREAMBOAT ANNIE – a Tribute to Heart takes the stage! Paying homage to the sounds and songs of Ann and Nancy Wilson of the historic rock band Heart, this show includes two hours of live music to delight the crowd! From Barracuda and Crazy On You to Even It Up and How Can I Refuse, you do not want to miss these fantastic renditions of Heart’s many hit songs!

Tribute night culminates with an unmatched performance as Nashville-based SOUTHERN ACCENTS – a Tribute to Tom Petty brings the “Petty Experience” to Sycamore Township’s own Bechtold Park! (Continued on page 3)

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Tracy Schwegmann
Chairman



Tom Weidman
Vice-Chairman



Tom James
Trustee



Jonathan T. Deters
Fiscal Officer

Lawrence E. Barbieri, Law Director
Tracy Kellums, Administrator

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Rob Penny, Fire Chief

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Steve Reutelshofer, Superintendent

513-792-7258 – sreutelshofer@sycamoretownship.org

Jeff Uckotter, Planning & Zoning Administrator

513-792-7252 – juckotter@sycamoretownship.org

Lt. Michael Tarr, 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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Brush Chipping Program

April 1/ May 6/ June 3

8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Behind Township Administration Building
8540 Kenwood Rd.

National Day of Prayer

May 4

12:00 P.M.

Administration Bldg.
8540 Kenwood Rd.

Spring Compost Giveaway

May 13

8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Hartzell Methodist Church
8999 Applewood Dr.

Letter from the Fiscal Officer

As your newly appointed Sycamore Township Fiscal Officer, I am grateful to have been asked to write this quarter's elected official letter.

First, I would like to thank the Township Trustees, Tom Weidman, Tracy Schwegmann, and Tom James, for having the confidence and trust in me to serve in this position. This appointment is a true honor, and I am thankful for their vote of confidence in selecting me to serve the residents of Sycamore Township.

I also want to thank former Fiscal Officer Rob Porter, who has made this transition into office as smooth as I could have hoped for, and for his continued assistance as I familiarize myself with the job and its duties. Over the years, Rob has continuously led the Township to experience clean audits and has kept the Township's finances and records in tremendous condition. Financially, thanks largely to Mr. Porter, the Township is on stable ground. The same thanks go to the Township staff, especially Administrator Tracy Kellums, Finance and Accounting Director Debbie Campbell, and our Officer Manager Beth Gunderson. Each has been incredibly helpful and has offered assistance every step of the way so far.

Most importantly, I want to thank the Sycamore Township residents for giving me the opportunity to serve as the Fiscal Officer. I will always put the best interests of the residents first. I am committed to providing our residents with an open and transparent government. I can assure you that I will serve the Township with the highest level of dedication and commitment.

During my career as an attorney, my clients have included individuals, businesses, local governments, and government officials. I previously have represented numerous townships and municipalities in the Greater Cincinnati area. As I have significant experience representing many local governments, I understand the complex issues townships face and the duties that must be upheld by township officials entrusted with those responsibilities.

Sycamore Township has been a wonderful place for my wife and I to raise our children. I look forward to serving each of you and continuing to raise my family in this community for many years to come. As always, your elected and appointed officials are here to serve you. Feel free to contact any of us at the Township offices at 513-791-8447 or via our website <https://sycamoretownship.org>.

On behalf of the Township Trustees and our staff, I want to thank you for continuing to support our Township government. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to serve all of you, and I look forward to seeing you at one of the many Township activities scheduled in the coming months.

Jonathan T. Deters

Fiscal Officer



The Festival in Sycamore is Back!



Southern Accents

(Continued from Page 1)

Southern Accents is the ultimate Tom Petty tribute band, with a Petty doppelganger at the helm and a band filled with musicians who have toured with some of the biggest names in music today. This celebration of Tom Petty's lifetime of classic songs will feature hits such as Don't Come Around Here No More, American Girl, Refugee, and much more!

SATURDAY NIGHT, JULY 15TH, THE SPIN DOCTORS!

We are excited to bring back Festival favorite LOOP MAN DAN to start things off on Saturday at 6:00 p.m.! Loop Man Dan is more than an acoustic act; he conjures up the sound of an entire ensemble right before your eyes with the latest looping technology.



Brent James & The Vintage Youth

Sycamore Township's own Brent James and his band BRENT JAMES & THE VINTAGE YOUTH will warm up the crowd before the Spin Doctors with their authentic, original songwriting sounds. Don't miss your chance to rock out with songs from their latest EP, Modern Cosmic Lust. We know you will become a fan of this talented and energetic band!



Dreamboat Annie

The Festival in Sycamore's grand finale will begin at 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 15th, when Grammy-nominated band the SPIN DOCTORS thrills the crowd with sounds from their 5X platinum debut album Pocket Full of Kryptonite and songs that span a career of over 30 years! Don't miss hearing their multiple Billboard hits live from our stage at Bechtold Park, including Two Princes, Little Miss Can't Be Wrong, You Let Your Heart Go Too Fast, and Jimmy Olsen Blues. The SPIN DOCTORS have over 12 million albums sold and continue to make music with plans in place for a seventh studio album!

The Festival in Sycamore also includes a wide variety of food vendors, including Deer Park Deli, MVP, Italianette, Sweets and Meats BBQ, JC's Taco Truck, Off the Hook Fish and Chips, Granny's Goodies on the Go, Snowie Shaved Ice, funnel cakes and more! We are also bringing back the popular "Ride for Five" – pay just \$5 each for the kids to ride the rides all day long while you sit back and enjoy the music or get up and dance!

Thank You to Our Sponsors!

SILVER SPONSORS



BRONZE SPONSORS



Friends of the Festival in Sycamore -

Ford Development Corporation
and Dennis Ziccardi & Associates



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FIRE SAFETY:

Smoke alarms should be on every level of your home, outside each sleeping area and inside each bedroom. Carbon monoxide (CO) alarms should be on every level of the house, outside sleeping areas. Make sure your family has practiced a fire escape plan with two ways out of each room.

Do not keep flammable products close to an ignition source, such as a furnace or water heater.

Clean the dryer vent regularly. Clogged lint in the vent pipe can overheat the dryer and start a fire. Make sure the vent cap outside the house is clean.

Keep a fire extinguisher within reach, close to the kitchen. Do not place the extinguisher close to the stove, where if there is a fire on the stove, you will not be able to get to it.

9-VOLT BATTERY SAFETY:

9-volt batteries can be found in most homes and are used to power our smoke alarms, household items, and toys. These batteries can be a fire hazard if not stored or disposed of with care. The positive



and negative posts are close together. A metal object touching both posts can cause a short circuit. This can make enough heat to start a fire.

It is unsafe to store 9V batteries in a container with other batteries or close to paper clips, coins, steel wool, aluminum foil, or keys. Store 9-volt batteries in the original packaging until ready to use. If loose, cover the posts with electrical tape and store them standing up; do not store them in a "junk drawer" where they might come in contact with metal. Please do not throw them in the trash; cover the posts with electrical tape and take them to a collection site for hazardous household waste.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISPOSAL:

Your Fire Department has a medication disposal box* in the lobby of Fire Station 92, located at 8540 Kenwood Road. The lobby doors remain unlocked, so the deposit box is open to the public 24 hours a day. The box provides a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing unwanted or expired prescription and over-the-counter drugs. It is much safer to dispose of old medications properly rather than leaving them around the house. Please do not put them in the trash or flush them down the toilet. *Aerosols and liquid medications are not accepted.





Lt. Michael Tarr, District 3 Commander

I was recently speaking with Sgt. Mikal Steers, who is assigned to the Sheriff's Criminal Investigation Section. Sgt. Steers supervises the detectives who investigate all Sycamore Township cases. I asked him if he saw any trends or repeat offenses that could be addressed in this space. Sgt. Steers told me they are seeing a significant increase in gift card scams. He described the two most frequent types of gift card scams:

1) Unpaid fine or back taxes scam: The suspect calls the victim claiming to be from the I.R.S. or a local police agency. The suspect tells the victim that they owe back taxes or a fine. The caller instructs the victim to purchase gift cards or pre-paid credit cards to pay the debt and avoid jail. Sometimes these scammers have even used the names of actual Law Enforcement officers and spoofed numbers to make it appear genuine.

2) Job opportunity scam: The suspect contacts the victim via social media or telephone. The suspect claims to offer a business opportunity. The suspect mails a check to the victim. The victim is instructed to deposit the check and then withdraw half of the amount deposited. The victim is instructed to take the withdrawn money

and purchase gift cards or pre-paid credit cards. The victim provides the numbers on the cards to the suspect. (Purportedly, in order for the suspect to buy supplies for the victim's new business). Once the numbers on the cards are provided to the suspect, the social media and / or telephone numbers go dark. The victim later learns that the check that was deposited was fraudulent.

Sgt. Steers would like to stress that no government agency will ever ask for gift cards, and no legitimate business will ever ask a person to deposit a check and then buy gift cards.

The Ohio Attorney General advises that people need to be aware of the following signs of a scam:

- 1) Being asked to wire money to a stranger or friend in need**
- 2) Being selected for a mystery shopping job, especially if you never applied**
- 3) Pressure to "act now!"**
- 4) Being asked to buy a prepaid money card**
- 5) Sending money in advance to secure or insure a loan**
- 6) Winning a contest you've never heard of or entered**
- 7) Having to pay a fee to receive your "prize"**
- 8) Requests for your personal information**
- 9) Requests for a large down-payment**
- 10) A company that refuses to provide written information**



Introducing Sycamore Township's New Planning & Zoning Administrator

The Township would like to thank Skylor Miller for three years of service to Sycamore Township and its residents. Mr. Miller has left his role as Planning & Zoning Administrator for another opportunity; the Township wishes him well.



Jeff Uckotter
Planning & Zoning
Administrator

The Board of Trustees recently authorized the appointment of Jeff Uckotter (pronounced you – caught – er) as Planning & Zoning Administrator. Jeff has an extensive background in local government, specifically in economic development, project management, and land use planning topics (such as the site arrangement of landscape material). A 2008 graduate of Sycamore High School – Go Aves! – Jeff comes to Sycamore Township with over 14 years of experience in local government. He started his career with the City of Montgomery (2008-2013). Jeff went on to serve as Congressman Brad Wenstrup's Field Representative in the Counties of Clermont and Brown (2014-2016) and as Township Planner for Miami Township (Clermont County) (2016-2020). Before coming home to Sycamore Township, from November 2020 to January 2022, Jeff served as the Administrator for Batavia Township (Clermont County).

Jeff received his Bachelor of Science in Urban Studies from The University of Cincinnati's DAAP and his Master of Public Administration from Eastern Kentucky University.

Residential Projects - Zoning Certificate/Permit Required

While spring showers bring May flowers, spring-time also promises warmer weather and perhaps thoughts of home improvement projects!

If you have any questions or are wondering if a certificate/permit is necessary, please call the Planning & Zoning Department at (513) 792-7250 before starting your project.

Please keep in mind that a Township zoning permit is required for the construction or installation of the following residential projects:

- New Single-Family Homes
 - Room Additions and Covered Porches
 - Garages
 - Rear Decks and Front Porches
 - Pools (and required associated fences)
 - Sheds/Accessory Use Structures
 - Fences/Retaining Walls
 - PODs (Movable Storage Units)
 - In-Home Occupations
- To open a commercial business in a commercially zoned area, please call the Township at (513) 792-7250.

For many projects, a building permit through Hamilton County Building Department will also be required (this is step two). Zoning permit applications, submittal requirements, and fee information are available on our website at

[Sycamoretownship.org/departments/planning-and-zoning/](https://sycamoretownship.org/departments/planning-and-zoning/)

Many residential projects have no or minimal zoning review fees, provided residents apply before beginning any work. A certified boundary survey is required for building additions and other major residential improvement projects.

It is best to avoid assuming about zoning rules. Before you proceed with a project, step one is always to obtain your zoning permit! *If any questions arise – please do not hesitate to call – (513) 792-7250.*

Welcome New Business!

Chairman of the Sycamore Township Board of Trustees Tracy Schwegmann attended the Grand Opening and ribbon cutting ceremony for the new **Heartland Bank Branch** now open at the Redstone at Kenwood building at 7755 Montgomery Rd., Suite 180. This is Heartland Bank's first branch in southwest Ohio.



Sycamore Township Announces 2023 Road Improvement Program

The maintenance department is preparing plans and specifications for a very extensive pavement preservation program throughout the Township this year. This year, the program will include two pavement preservation products, Reclamite and Light Cape Seal.

Reclamite is an asphalt rejuvenation product used on the pavement after the first year of a newly paved road. The rejuvenator is successful in restoring and preserving the durability of asphalt.

Light Cape Seal is a widely used pavement maintenance tool that incorporates Chip Seal covered with Micro Surfacing. Light Cape Seal is typically performed on pavement 15 years after it was initially resurfaced to address fair to moderately cracked asphalt pavements while providing a smooth, dense surface and a long service life. The Township has had remarkable success in preserving our roads by using these products.

These projects will preserve over thirteen (13) miles of roadway, which is about 25% of the Township's total mileage. The complete list of roads will be on our website once finalized and approved. During the construction of these projects, the Township inspector will be assigned to work with the contractor and assist our residents with any questions or concerns that may arise. As with all Township projects, cooperation and patience are crucial to success. These projects are being paid for out of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Funds generated by commercial development within the Township, which allows the Township to keep your taxes low and not come to you, the voters, for a road levy.

2023 Trash Bash

It's spring-cleaning time, and Sycamore Township is here to help! The annual Trash Bash and Document Shredding events for Sycamore Township residents will take place in April. Maintenance staff will be present at the Trash Bash to assist residents with the disposal of trash, junk, debris, old tires, used motor oil, construction materials, furniture, lawnmowers, appliances, and electronics. Mattresses and box springs will also be accepted if they are wrapped

in plastic or a plastic mattress bag. Oil-based paint, household chemicals, and pesticides will be accepted at the SOUTH TRASH BASH ONLY. 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. Yard waste is accepted at the monthly brush chipping (see calendar on Page 2).

NORTH TRASH BASH*

Cletus McDaniel Sports Complex

7841 School Rd.

Friday, April 14, 2023, Noon – 4 p.m.

Saturday, April 15, 2023, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

SOUTH TRASH BASH*

Bechtold Park

4312 Sycamore Rd

Friday, April 28, 2023, Noon – 4 p.m.

Saturday, April 29, 2023, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



DOCUMENT SHREDDING*

Township Administration Building

Rear Parking Lot

8540 Kenwood Rd.

Saturday, April 22, 2023, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



* Be prepared to show proof of residency.



8540 Kenwood Road
Sycamore Twp., Ohio 45236

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

Friendly Reminders

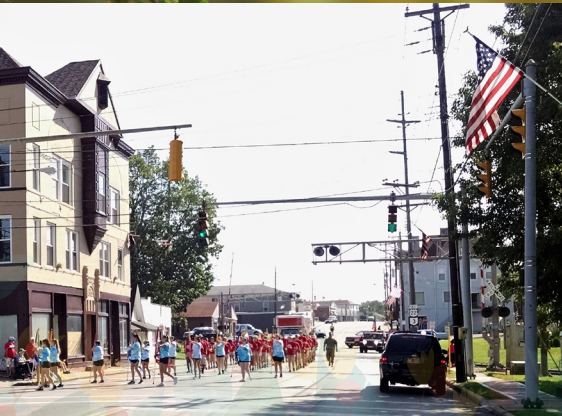


THE FESTIVAL IN SYCAMORE IS BACK
FRIDAY NIGHT IS TRIBUTE NIGHT
SATURDAY NIGHT, THE SPIN DOCTORS!

There's More in Sycamore!



Save the date for the Pollinator Seminar and Plant Sale on Saturday May 6th from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at Bechtold Park! This free seminar will feature Scott Beuerlein of the Cincinnati Zoo as emcee and keynote speaker. Cory Christopher with the Cincinnati Nature Preserve and Marci Lininger of the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative will also be present to share their knowledge. This event will include a plant sale with plants from Cincinnati Nature Preserve and additional vendors to be announced.



V.F.W. Memorial Day Parade Register now to be a part of the Deer Park * Silverton * Sycamore Township 2023 V.F.W. Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 29, 2023! 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 / 513-615-3197, or Captain Jeff Newman, jnewman@sycamoretownship.org / 513-200-0210.