



The Sycamore Quarterly

SUMMER 2023

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Electric Aggregation FAQ

Sycamore Township has operated a Gas Aggregation Program since 2010 and an Electric Aggregation Program since 2014. These successful programs have consistently saved and stabilized residents' energy costs. Sycamore Township Administration receives calls daily from residents with questions about the Township's aggregation programs. Your Duke Energy bill may be difficult to understand, and solicitations from a wide range of energy companies add to the confusion. Please read through the FAQ below to help provide some clarity about these programs in general and

the Township's recent two-year Electric Aggregation contract with Energy Harbor.

What is Energy Choice, and why does Sycamore Township offer aggregation programs for its residents?

Before competition was introduced, homes and businesses purchased their energy supply from the local utility company (Duke Energy). In 1999, the Ohio General Assembly passed Senate Bill 3, which began the process of energy deregulation in Ohio. This deregulated system gave consumers in many areas of Ohio the freedom to choose their own energy supply and energy provider and pursue pricing options and plans that may be lower and more strategic than your utility company currently offers. Sycamore Township voters twice passed ballot issues to allow the Township to take advantage of this opportunity.

What company does the Township contract with currently for Electric Aggregation?

Sycamore Township Trustees recently voted to sign a contract with Energy Harbor at a rate of \$.0643 per kwh and \$.0686 for a renewable energy product. This rate will be in effect starting with your June 2023 bill and will run for the next two years. Duke Energy would continue to carry, service, and bill for the service. If you have any outages or issues, you will still call Duke Energy. **(Continued on Page 4)**



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Tracy Schwegmann
Chairman



Tom Weidman
Vice-Chairman



Tom James
Trustee



Jonathan T. Deters
Fiscal Officer

ADMINISTRATION



Tracy Kellums
Administrator

513-792-7257 tkellums@sycamoretownship.org

Debbie Campbell, Finance Director
513-792-7259 – dcampbell@sycamoretownship.org

Beth Gunderson, Office & Human Resource Manager
513-792-7248 – bgunderson@sycamoretownship.org

Sycamore Township Administrative Offices
513-791-8447 – info@sycamoretownship.org
www.sycamoretownship.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Music in the Park
June 10 – Hi-Fi Honey
August 12 – Cincinnati Transit Authority
7:00 p.m.
Bechtold Park

Brush Chipping Program
July 1/ Aug 5/ Sept 9
8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
Behind Township Administration Building
8540 Kenwood Rd.

Festival in Sycamore
July 14 & 15
6:00 P.M. to Midnight
Bechtold Park
4312 Sycamore Rd.

Sycamore Township Car Show
August 5
12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Schuler Sports Complex
11532 Deerfield Road

Letter from the Chairman

Following a busy spring, summer in Sycamore Township is in full swing!

Every year at this time, the Township turns its focus to roadway maintenance. The 2023 Summer Road Program means crews will be working hard throughout the Township on a pavement preservation program to extend the life of our Township roadways. Please be patient and be mindful of workers in these neighborhoods this summer. Additionally, we encourage residents to review the recently completed Kenwood Traffic Study, which was presented by TEC Engineering at a public meeting in March. We encourage your feedback, and ask that you submit any comments by June 30th, 2023 on the form available via the link provided on our website.



We also continue to expand the walkability of the Township. We are excited to advance the work necessary to bring residents new sidewalks on Kemper Rd. between Baen and Snider Rds., Montgomery Rd. between Stewart Rd. and Ken Arbore Dr. and Euclid Ave. between Michael Dr. and Hosbrook Rd. These projects all received significant grant funding and are in various stages of design, engineering and project bidding. We look forward to starting construction on these initiatives in the coming months.

The Special Events Committee has been busy planning for the return of the popular Festival in Sycamore which will be held July 14 & 15 at Bechtold Park. From 6pm-12midnight each night, the event will offer live music, food and beverage booths and carnival rides for the kids. We are pleased to showcase a variety of local and regional tribute bands and solo artists as well as the Saturday headliner – The Spin Doctors. Additionally, we want to thank the Event Sponsors who have stepped forward to help make it possible to bring this event to the community.

Township parks will be busy throughout the summer with free Yoga in the Park available weekly (weather permitting) at both McDaniel Park and Bechtold Park. And we encourage residents to check out the free concerts at Bechtold Park in June and August and the Annual Car Show in August at Schuler Park.

Finally, if you are planning a summer vacation and would like for one of our Sheriff Deputies to keep an eye on your home while you are travelling, please call 513-825-1500 to sign up for this terrific service.

I hope to see you out and about in the Township in the coming months. On behalf of my fellow Trustees Tom Weidman and Tom James, and our Fiscal Officer Jon Deters, I wish you a safe, happy and healthy summer.

All the best,

Tracy Schwegmann

Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Parks and Recreation

We hope you will enjoy the many beautiful parks in Sycamore Township this summer. From nature trails and playgrounds to yoga and concerts, there is always something fun to do!

Festival in Sycamore 2023



Friday, July 14th - Tribute Night!

Jim Kelly

Dreamboat Annie A Tribute to Heart

Southern Accents A Tribute to Tom Petty

Saturday, July 15th - The Spin Doctors!

LoopManDan

Brent James & The Vintage Youth

The Spin Doctors

Thank you to our Festival in Sycamore Sponsors!

Gold Sponsor



Silver Sponsors



Music in the Park at Bechtold Park

June 10th - Hi-Fi Honey

Bring your dancing shoes and be ready to rock as Hi-Fi Honey covers all your favorite songs from the 80's and beyond!



August 12th - Cincinnati Transit Authority

Grab some folding chairs and enjoy a performance from one of the top Chicago tribute bands – Cincinnati Transit Authority!



Yoga in the Park

Don't miss FREE Yoga in the Park with NKO Yoga ~ Bring your own yoga mat! Yoga will be offered on Saturdays at 9:00 a.m. from May 6th through September 2nd at Cleve McDaniel Park, 11797 Old Solzman Road (near the playground) and on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. from May 7th through September 3rd at Bechtold Park, 4312 Sycamore Road.



13th Annual Sycamore Township Car Show

Save the date, Saturday, August 5th, for the 13th Annual Sycamore Township Summer Car Show at the Schuler Sports Complex at 11532 Deerfield Road. Registration costs \$15 and takes place from 9 a.m. to Noon. 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. The Car Show is open to the public from Noon – 3 p.m. A live DJ will spin the music, and food and drinks will be available for purchase. For information, call 513-792-7269 or email jjpetty@sycamoretownship.org.



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Fire Chief Rob Penny

513-792-8562

rpenny@sycamoretownship.org

The Sycamore Township Fire Department is pleased to announce that we have added a part-time Fire Inspector to our fire inspection program. The fire department inspects commercial-use buildings including retail, offices, educational facilities, restaurants, hotels, and medical facilities. Our inspections consist of checking all emergency lighting, ensuring fire exits are clear of debris, testing the performance of sprinkler systems, making sure fire extinguishers are up to date, and that fire alarm systems are in working order. The inspector will also confirm the maximum occupancy allowed in a room and record any fire hazards that must be corrected.



Along with annual fire inspections, our Fire Marshall also reviews all building plans for new construction and remodel construction to make sure construction is performed to meet building and fire codes. All safety factors are carefully reviewed through inspections during the construction phase.

(Continued from Page 1 - Electric Aggregation FAQ)

Is the Energy Harbor rate really going to save me money on my energy bill?

Duke Energy has announced that there will be a 59% increase in the price to compare starting with your June bill. The Sycamore Township rate will save the average resident nearly \$30 per month.

How do residents enroll in the Electric Aggregation Program? What if I don't want to enroll?

Residents are automatically enrolled in the program but may opt-out at any time. If you want to opt-out but don't have the mailed opt-out notice, please call 513-794-5555. If you did opt out and later change your mind, you would also be allowed to join the program at any time at the original price.

If the Township is contracting with Energy Harbor, why does my bill still come from Duke Energy?

Duke Energy will ensure that your energy supply is safely delivered to your home, track your energy usage, maintain the infrastructure, and service all equipment, such as meters, wires, and pipelines. If you face a power outage or other problems, Duke Energy will still be your first point of contact. The contact number for Duke Energy is provided on your electricity bill. Of course, you are not required to switch to a new energy supplier.

I have gotten calls from energy companies wanting me to switch to another supplier; some have even knocked on my door and asked to see my Duke Energy bill. Are these companies legitimate?

Door-to-door solicitors are everywhere, and the phone calls and mailers trying to get us to switch energy suppliers seem endless. Don't be fooled by these offers. Some salespeople may display a solicitor's permit or official-looking badge. THE PERMIT IS NOT AN ENDORSEMENT, and the badge may be misleading. They may claim they work with Duke Energy or XYZ Energy Company and offer prices far below your current rates. Please do not show them your Duke Energy bill; they could sign you up without your permission. Also, beware of robocalls and phone solicitors claiming that "your Duke account has been flagged for review." This is also a SCAM by an unethical broker or supplier designed to mislead you. If you have questions, don't hesitate to close the door on the scammers and call 513-794-5555.

What should I do if I still have questions about Township Aggregation Programs?

If you have any questions, please call our energy consultant: Energy Alliances Inc. at 513-794-5555. Energy Alliances Inc. is a Sycamore Township-based company providing energy consulting to Ohio cities, villages, and townships.



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

Noise Violations

During the summer months, with many of us spending more time outdoors, the Sheriff's Office frequently receives questions and complaints about excessive noise. I would like to use this space to discuss the topic.

First of all, yes, Sycamore Township does have a resolution prohibiting excessive noise. This prohibition is in effect from 11:00 pm until 7:00 am, and it defines excessive noise as, "Noise of such a character, intensity and duration as to unreasonably disturb the peace and quiet of the community or to be detrimental to the life or health of any individual." It also prohibits construction work in residential areas during those same hours and any noise emanating from a vehicle, "Which is plainly audible at a distance of fifty feet." Violations of the resolution can result in a fine of \$100 per occurrence.

If you feel that noise in your neighborhood is excessive or in violation of the Township's resolution, please don't hesitate to call our non-emergency dispatch number (513.825.2280) and ask for a deputy to respond. A deputy will be dispatched to the area, investigate, and attempt to resolve the situation if there is a violation. The issuance of a citation will be viewed by the deputy as a last resort. Virtually all of these

complaints can be resolved once the violator is made aware of the Township's resolution. If you wish to speak to the deputy, please let the dispatcher know while they have you on the phone. The deputy will contact you in person or by phone and let you know the result of his or her investigation. Calling for a deputy to respond at the time you believe a violation is occurring is the most effective way for the Sheriff's Office to take action. We frequently receive complaints after the fact....such as on a Monday morning after a neighbor has had a party over the weekend. There is very little we can do about these types of complaints.

Finally, please understand that not all noise is prohibited by the Township's resolution. While we're happy to respond and investigate any complaint, the resolution only prohibits unreasonable noise. Social gatherings, speakers, or any vehicles or equipment that generate a reasonable amount of noise are permissible. Deputies will take a number of factors into account when determining whether a particular noise is a violation.

Keep Your Pet & Others Safe! Use a Leash!

Warmer weather is here and more and more people will be out and about walking the sidewalks and parks of Sycamore Township. Please do your part to keep your pet and others safe by walking your dog on a leash! Sycamore Township law prohibits dogs roaming at large and requires pet owners to pick up after their pets. All of our parks have "Mutt Mitt" dispensers for your convenience!





Jeff Uckotter
Planning & Zoning
Administrator

513-792-7252

juckotter@sycamoretownship.org

Commercial Development Update

Kenwood Place

The Sycamore Township Board of Trustees recently approved significant renovations to the prime retail buildings at Kenwood Place, across from the Kenwood Towne Centre. The property owner, Midland Atlantic Properties, is renovating the first floor of the two-story building (which used to house the former cinema) for about 26,500 square



feet of restaurant and retail space, and the building's second floor into about 26,500 square feet of offices. Located in the same development, at the single-story retail building at 7727 Kenwood Road, cosmetic upgrades are under construction for 17,474 square feet of restaurant and retail space. Construction is planned to be completed in the second quarter of 2023.

Northlake Commons

At the corner of East Kemper Road and Northlake Drive (across the street from Kid's First), the Sycamore Township Board of Trustees recently approved plans for a single-story office complex with offices, a boutique, and a future restaurant. Robert Lucke Group, Inc., the contractor for the project, will construct four, single-story buildings on 4.7 acres of currently, vacant property.

In total, approximately 35,400 square feet of office space and 4,400 square feet of restaurant space are proposed. Construction is planned to be ongoing into 2024.



How to get in touch:

Residential and Commercial Zoning Permits:
(513) 792-7250

Land Use/ Property Maintenance Complaints:
(513) 792-7249

sycamoretownship.org/departments/planning-and-zoning/



Sycamore Township welcomes Jon Ragan in the role of Planning & Zoning Assistant.

Jon is available and ready to help with residents' questions related to zoning permits and land use.



Steve Reutelshofer,
Superintendent

513-792-7258

sreutelshofer@sycamoretownship.org

This time of year, there seems to be roadwork everywhere you turn, and it is no different here in Sycamore Township. We consistently work to improve the infrastructure for you, our residents. Here are the projects planned within the Township:

The 2023 Sycamore Township Road Improvement Program

The 2023 Road Program will include two pavement preservation products: Reclamite and Light Cape Seal. The Township has had remarkable success in preserving our roads by using these products.

The Road Program will preserve over thirteen (13) miles of roadway, which is about 25% of the Township's total mileage!

2023 Cape Seal Project Road List: Sturbridge, Wetherfield, Branford, Westover, Pepperell, Stoneham, Frane, Marieview, Owlwood (omit the cul-de-sac), Carroll, Kirtley, Lyncris, Sandymar, Deerway, Myrtlewood, Brittany, Caralee, Hemesath, Plainfield Ln, Matson, Irwin, Brookbridge, Millview, Ironwood, Marlette, Glenmill, Kuertzmill, Kemperknoll, Kemperridge, Lyndhurst, Brittany Woods, Stillwind, Autumnwind, Timberbreak, Buckland, Bearcreek, Fawncreek, Cedarbreaks, Fieldsted, Tenderfoot, Eagle Scout, Scoutmaster and Camp Superior

The 2023 Reclamite Project Road List: Michael, Lisa, Vinnedge, Dunleith, Nodding Way, Quailhollow (south cul-de-sac to Miami Hills), Tiki (Euclid to Miami Hills), Bobby, Larchview, Glenbar and Applewood (Larchview to church driveway).

Strawser Construction is the contractor for the Cape Seal Program and Pavement Technology is the contractor for the Reclamite Program. Construction is scheduled to begin in June and be completed by the end of summer with an estimated cost of \$903,337.20.

Montgomery Road Sidewalk Improvements

This project involves the removal and reconstruction of sidewalks on Montgomery Rd. between Ken Arbore Dr. and Stewart Rd. The contractor is Adleta Construction. Work is scheduled to begin in mid-May and be completed by the end of summer. The estimated cost of the project is \$713,611.57. The Township received a SORTA grant for 50% of the project cost.

The Gideon Lane Culvert Improvements

This project is located on Gideon Ln., approximately 250 feet west of Kemperknoll Rd. The project requires the removal of the entire length (120 feet) of the existing 84-inch steel culvert and the replacement of it with a concrete box culvert, along with new headwalls at the inlet and outlet ends. The contractor is Ford Development, and construction is scheduled to begin in June and be completed by the end of summer. The estimated cost of the project is \$431,580.16. The Township received an Ohio Public Works Commission grant for 50% of the project cost.

During the construction of these projects, the Township's project inspector will be responsible for overseeing all aspects of the work and assisting our residents with any questions or concerns. These projects are being paid for out of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Funds that are generated by commercial development within the Township, which allows for the continuation of the low tax rates Township residents enjoy and no need to come to you, the voters, for a road levy.

We ask for your patience and consideration when driving through work zones this summer. Please **SLOW DOWN** and **DRIVE SAFELY**.

Obstructions in Roadway Prohibited



It is illegal to place obstructions within the roadway. If you are performing yard maintenance tasks or home remodeling, please do not dump mulch, gravel, or other materials on the public roadway. Dumpsters are also prohibited on public roadways and should be placed on private property.



SYCAMORE
TOWNSHIP

8540 Kenwood Road
Sycamore Twp., Ohio 45236

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 4717
CINCINNATI, OHIO

Friendly Reminders



The Spin Doctors

THE FESTIVAL IN SYCAMORE IS BACK
JULY 14 & 15 AT BECHTOLD PARK
FRIDAY NIGHT IS TRIBUTE NIGHT

There's More in Sycamore!

FRIDAY, JULY 14TH IS TRIBUTE NIGHT! The acoustic sounds of area favorite **JIM KELLY** kick things off at 6:00 p.m. Friday followed by **DREAMBOAT ANNIE – a Tribute to Heart!** 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! 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!



Southern Accents

SATURDAY, JULY 15TH THE SPIN DOCTORS! Festival favorite **LoopManDan** will start things off on Saturday at 6:00 p.m., followed by Sycamore Township’s own Brent James and his band **BRENT JAMES & THE VINTAGE YOUTH!** The Festival in Sycamore’s grand finale will begin at 9:30 p.m. when Grammy-nominated band the **SPIN DOCTORS** thrills the crowd with 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.