



The Sycamore Quarterly

WINTER 2023

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Fire Department Services

The mission of the Sycamore Township Fire Department is to meet and exceed our community's needs and expectations by providing quality responsive services to fire suppression, rescue, fire prevention, education, life safety, and emergency medical services while promoting strong community values in an organized team approach. As part of that mission, the Fire Department offers many services to help ensure the safety and security of our residents.

Blood Pressure Screening

Residents are welcome to stop by either Fire Station 92, at 8540 Kenwood Road, or Fire Station 93, at 11580 Deerfield Road, to request a blood pressure check. High blood pressure is sometimes called a silent killer as it often has no symptoms. For more information about blood pressure and why blood pressure readings are important, visit <https://www.heart.org/en>.

Vial-of-Life Program

The FREE Vial-of-Life is a plastic container that holds vital medical information about the occupants of a residence. The vial is placed on the top shelf of the refrigerator and a Vial-of-Life magnet is posted on the refrigerator door to alert paramedics that medical information may be found inside. In an emergency situation, it is often difficult for people to think of everything that emergency personnel need to know. The information contained in the vial includes doctors' names and phone numbers, emergency contact person, lists of medications, medical history, and hospital preference. This saves valuable time when first responders are caring for a patient and is especially useful if the patient is unable to communicate. (Article continues on Page 4)





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

Calendar of Events:

Brush Chipping Program

December 2

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Behind Township Administration Building

8540 Kenwood Road

Dillonvale Luminaria

December 9

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Bechtold Pavilion

4312 Sycamore Road

Curbside Leaf Collection Ends

December 18

Christmas Tree Drop Off Sites

December 26 – January 16

Bechtold Park

4312 Sycamore Road

McDaniel Sports Complex

11797 Solzman Road

Letter from Trustee Tom James

Beautiful, colorful leaves are on display throughout Sycamore Township as we move through fall. Winter's start is now right around the corner. Our always-busy roads and maintenance crew members are at your service, and they are ready for it all. Leaf pickup already began in October, and it will continue through the week of December 18. After that, or earlier if the weather requires, our crew will switch over the trucks into winter mode, and they will stand ready to keep our roads clear of snow over the months that follow.



There are always great things going on in our dynamic and resilient community among our residents, our business owners, and those who come through our borders each day to work, shop, eat, and be entertained. We all know and appreciate that "There's More in Sycamore." For information about Township-related happenings, see our website at SycamoreTownship.org, where you will find parks and event information, Township office hours, zoning and permitting requirements, and upcoming events and public meetings.

As always, I invite and encourage you to keep an eye on your local government, including by attending our Board meetings in person or by watching them online live or later. We work for you. When you let us know what you think and how we can better serve you and your neighbors, that helps us help you. Reach out and tell us what needs attention in our community, and what you believe is working well and what isn't. And if you have an interest in serving on a Township Board or Committee or in helping or volunteering in some other capacity, we'd love to hear from you about that, too.

The approach of the winter season means that holidays will also soon be upon us, bringing with them colorful lights and decorations along with family gatherings, excitement, and joy. Along with my fellow Trustees, Tracy Schwegmann and Tom Weidman, our Fiscal Officer, Jon Deters, and our outstanding Sycamore Township Staff, I wish you and your families a safe, healthy, and joyous holiday season, whatever your faith or your reason for holiday celebration might be. We also wish our Township businesses a successful and prosperous winter season.

One more thing: At the time I am writing this in late October, the November election is approaching, but by the time you read this, the voters will have spoken. You can breathe a hearty sigh of relief as Thanksgiving approaches knowing that the seemingly never-ending deluge of candidate and issue ads and election mailers has finally stopped. From this vantage point, I can offer only one firm prediction: Given that Township Fiscal Officer Jon Deters is unopposed for re-election, I think I'm relatively safe now in congratulating him on the voters having kept him around (Way to go, Jon!). Beyond that little bit of certainty, there's not much I do or can say except offer my thanks to the voters for letting me have the privilege of serving as Trustee for the last four years. It is an honor to work for you.

Sincerely,

Tom James

Trustee



Please join us for this holiday tradition on **Saturday, December 9, 2023, 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 a local business 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!

Park Shelter and Community Room Rentals

Is your child graduating from high school in 2024? Maybe it is your turn to organize the family reunion, or you volunteered to be in charge of the church picnic. Consider reserving the Schuler Community Room or a picnic shelter at Bechtold Park. Weekend rentals for these reasonably-priced facilities book up quickly and winter is a perfect time to think ahead and secure your preferred event date! You may check availability and make a reservation online through our website at sycamoretownship.org.





Fire Chief Rob Penny
513-792-8562
rpenny@sycamoretownship.org

(Article continued from Page 1)

Reflective Address Signs

A visible house number that is easy to find and easy to read is one of the best safety features that your home or business can have. Valuable property and lives may be saved simply by posting adequate house numbers where emergency personnel can find them without wasting time. Numbers must be visible from the street, three inches high and contrasting in color from the house. The Sycamore Township Fire Department sells these green reflective signs for \$9.00 (sign only) and \$14.00 (sign & post) each. Order online: <http://www.sycamoretownshipfire.org/reflective-address-signs.html>



Knox Box Program

A Knox Box is a rapid entry system offered to residents and businesses for emergency use only. Keys and vital information are securely locked in these boxes with the Township having the only access key to open your Knox Box. Residents with health concerns may purchase a residential Knox Box to allow the Fire Department to access their home in the event of an emergency.

Car Seat Safety

Sycamore Township Fire Department staff members who are trained in car seat safety are available to check car seats to make sure they are installed properly. Appointments for a car seat check may be scheduled by emailing mkramer@sycamoretownship.org.



Smoke Detectors

Free smoke detectors for Sycamore Township residents are available for pickup at both Fire Station 92, at 8540 Kenwood Road, and Fire Station 93, at 11580 Deerfield Road. Limit one per household.



Prescription Drug Disposal

The 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 of 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. *Aerosols and liquid medications are not accepted.



**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



Deputy Charles 'Wayne' Reese

Deputy Charles 'Wayne' Reese is an 18-year veteran of the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office. He started his career with the Sheriff's Office in November of 2007. Originally assigned to the Bureau of Records as an Identification Technician, Deputy Reese was responsible for analyzing fingerprints. In July of 2013, he was promoted to the Court Services Division. The Court Services Division is comprised mainly of uniformed deputies who provide security at the Hamilton County Court House.

In January of 2019, Deputy Reese was transferred to the Patrol Division and, after completing training, he was assigned to District 3. He has worked primarily in Sycamore Township since coming to District 3. Deputy Reese is currently assigned to the day shift and runs the 4-beat which consists primarily of the northern Kenwood area. It is one of the busiest beats in the entire county.

In addition to his regular duties, Deputy Reese is a member of the Patrol Rifle Unit and the Motorcycle Unit. He was recently selected to become a drone operator and is currently working on obtaining his FAA certification.

Deputy Reese is a resident of Lawrenceburg, Indiana. In his free time, he enjoys boating, helping with his stepdaughter's soccer team, and traveling. What he most likes about working in Sycamore Township is the support he receives from the residents and the Township's administration.





Jeff Uckotter
Planning & Zoning
Administrator

513-792-7252

juckotter@sycamoretownship.org

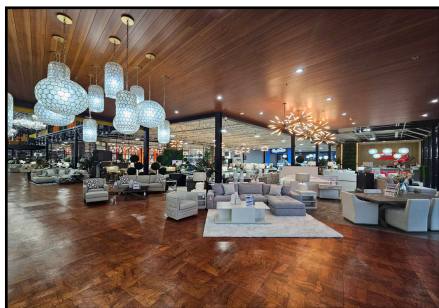
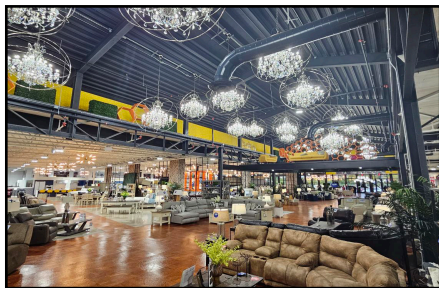


A new home furnishings store has opened in Sycamore Township!

Having recently opened on October 20, 2023, Big Sandy Superstore Home Furnishings is operating in full swing in the former Toys R Us site in Kenwood Square at 7800 Montgomery Rd, just around the corner from TJ Maxx, HomeGoods, and Marshalls and next to Staples.

Big Sandy sells quality home furnishing items, including furniture, household appliances, electronics, mattresses, and bed frames. The home furnishings retailer invested approximately 1.1 million dollars to improve the 48,000-square-foot tenant space. Originally founded in Ashland, Kentucky, Big Sandy operates approximately 30 stores in the Midwest.

Big Sandy is open Monday – Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. and Sunday 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.



Kenwood Tire Discounters

Temporarily Moving to Montgomery Road

Tire Discounters has moved right around the corner to a temporary location at 7783 Montgomery Road. This move is to make way for a new, bigger, and better Tire Discounters to be built on the old Graeter's and Tire Discounters' sites on Kenwood Road.



Planning & Zoning Department Accepting Resumes for Land Use Boards

Sycamore Township maintains two important land use boards, the Board of Zoning Appeals, and the Zoning Commission. Each board is made up of six appointed Sycamore Township residents. At this time, to develop a pool of residents who may be interested in such a future volunteer opportunity, the Township is accepting resumes. If there is future interest, please send your resume to Jeff Uckotter, Planning & Zoning Administrator, 8540 Kenwood Rd, Cincinnati, Ohio 45236, or to zoning@sycamoretownship.org



Steve Reutelshofer,
Superintendent

513-792-7258

sreutelshofer@sycamoretownship.org



Sycamore Township Awarded \$4.4 Million in Grant Funding for Infrastructure Improvements



In May 2020, the residents of Hamilton County voted to replace Cincinnati Metro's existing funding model, which relied primarily on the city's earnings tax, with a new funding structure. In January 2021, a 0.8-percent county sales tax started funding what is now called SORTA (Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority). Seventy-five percent of the sales tax levy (or 0.6 percent) funds Metro's bus service operations and capital costs. The remaining 25 percent (0.2 percent) goes toward the Transit Infrastructure Fund for improvements such as roads, bridges and sidewalks that fall within Metro's service area.

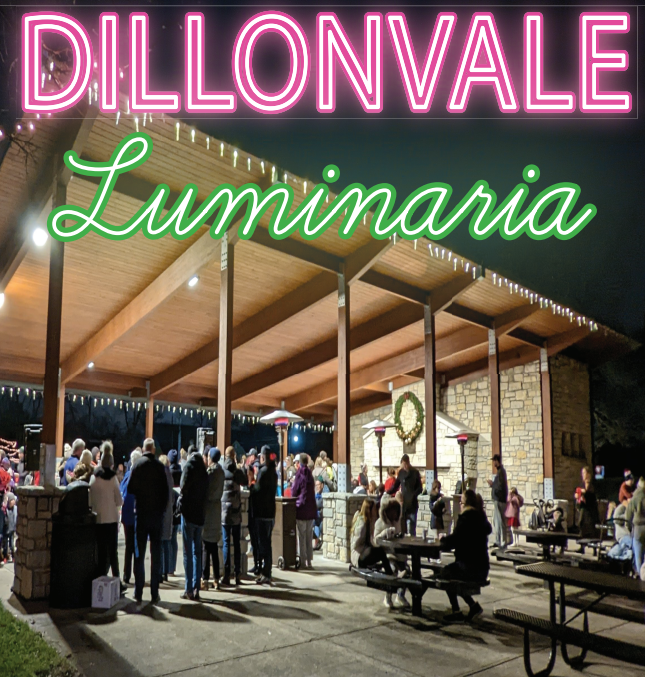
Sycamore Township has several Metro Bus Routes that serve our community. Since the adoption of the program, the Township has been successful in obtaining grant funding for the Montgomery Road Sidewalk Project & the Euclid Road Sidewalk Project. Sycamore Township Administrator Tracy Kellums and staff aggressively pursued the largest grant award (through the Transit Infrastructure Fund) for our community to date.

We are happy to share that the Kenwood Road Project and the Finley Lane Sidewalk Project were awarded grant funding for 90% of the construction costs. The estimated cost for the Kenwood Road Project is \$4.7 million dollars and the Township will receive \$4.2 million in grant funding. The estimated cost of the Finley Lane Project is \$262K and the Township will receive \$236K in grant funding.

The scope for the Kenwood Road Project consists of curb replacement, new decorative sidewalk (from Montgomery Rd. to Galbraith Road Rd.) sidewalk replacement (from Galbraith to Blue Ash Corp Line), new curb ramps, resurfacing of the road, decorative pavement marking, and illuminated street signs at Orchard. On Finley Lane we will be constructing a sidewalk on the north side of the road from the Indian Hill/Township Corp Line to Montgomery Rd. It is anticipated that construction for both projects will be performed in the summer of 2024.

The pursuit of grant funding and implementation of these projects are part of the Sycamore Township Trustees Strategic Planning to make our community safer, more walkable and to preserve our infrastructure.

If you have questions about either of the projects slated for next year, the Transit Infrastructure Fund, or future funding applications that the Township is considering, please contact Mike Gould at 513 792-7251 or mgould@sycamoretownship.org.



8540 Kenwood Road
Sycamore Twp., Ohio 45236

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

**BECHTOLD PARK PAVILION,
4312 SYCAMORE ROAD
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2023
6:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.**

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSOR!



There's More in Sycamore!



Curbside Leaf Collection End Date

Curbside leaf collection ends the week of December 18th. All leaves must be raked to the curb by 8:00 a.m. on Monday, December 18th for guaranteed pickup.

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!

