

Sycamore Township

NEWS

Summer 2019

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Summer is my favorite time of the year in Sycamore Township but somehow it never seems to last long enough. Before it slips away I urge you to enjoy our parks, playfields and walk our many trails. We have over 80 acres of green space for your enjoyment.

Chief Penny has a new 2019 ambulance and has launched our summer fire hydrant program. He's hired workers to paint and inspect every hydrant in the Township. Expect to see them in your neighborhood.

If you've tried to navigate Sycamore Road recently you know it has been a challenge. The Sycamore Road construction project is in full swing. All phases of construction will be starting on the west end at Plainfield Road and moving east toward Kenwood Road. This project won't be completed until the end of 2020. We appreciate your patience. Speaking of roads, Sycamore Township has been awarded a grant for Kugler Mill Road which will include rebuilding the road, adding sidewalks and making storm water improvements. This construction should start shortly after the Sycamore Road project is completed.

Good news. An agreement was reached between the City of Cincinnati, Hamilton County and Hamilton County townships to keep your water bills at the current rate for the next 50 years for anyone who lives in Hamilton County Townships and uses Cincinnati Water Works.

Your trustees have opposed and provided testimony on the proposed Duke high pressure natural gas line. Now we are awaiting a decision from the Ohio Power Siting Board, which is part of the State's Public Utilities Commission.

Sycamore Township received a grant from the PreventionFIRST! Group and we will have a community forum in August to help address the opioid crisis. Check our website www.SycamoreTownship.org for more information.

Our main Summer event is the 27th Annual Festival in Sycamore at Bechtold Park on July 12th and 13th featuring the Fabulous Thunderbirds on Friday night and the legendary Jefferson Starship on Saturday night. This is a free admission family event.

We'll say goodbye to summer with rock 'n roll music and classic cars at our 9th Annual Sycamore Township Car Show Saturday August 3rd at the Robert L Schuler Sports Complex.

On behalf of my fellow trustees, Tom Weidman and Denny Connor and our Fiscal Officer Rob Porter, we hope you enjoy a healthy, active and fun summer in Sycamore Township.

Sincerely,



Jim LaBarbara, Trustee



Jim LaBarbara
Trustee





Police & Crime Prevention

THANK YOU

For my segment of this quarter's Sycamore Township Newsletter I decided to take a slightly different approach. In this article I will not be discussing legal issues or regurgitating crime statistics. Hot-button issues like active shooter training or the heroin epidemic will not be addressed. My message this quarter will serve one sole, single purpose as I wish to say something to the Sycamore Township community. *Thank you.*

June 1st, 2019, marks the two year anniversary for my assignment as the Patrol District 3 Commander and the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office liaison to Sycamore Township. Words cannot describe how gratifying this duty assignment has been for me, and I have undergone what I feel has been tremendous personal and professional growth as a result of this fantastic opportunity. The leadership and the residents of Sycamore Township have welcomed me with open arms, and given me and the duty-bound men and women of District 3 the support we need to successfully achieve our mission. It goes without saying that public safety cannot succeed without community involvement and support. I thank you all for that support.

It's impossible to recognize or highlight everyone I've had the good fortune to interact with over the past two years. Whether it's private citizens who greet me with an unconditional smile & handshake each time I see them, or a professional educator like Mr. Carl Kremer of Moeller High School, who makes the safety and well-being of his young men his first priority, my interactions with members of the community are always positive and meaningful. People like Ms. Bonnie Miles and Ms. Wanda Wagner who oversee operations at the Kenwood Towne Centre have been fantastic partners in our commitment to public safety. Fire Chief Rob Penny has been there to offer sage advice whenever I need it. And, I want to personally thank Sycamore Township Administrator Mr. Greg Bickford. Greg began "showing me the ropes" from the very beginning and he has had an indelible impact on my career growth. The body of knowledge and the work ethic possessed by Greg are truly unmatched, and he serves as an excellent example for all of us to follow, whether we work in public service or the private sector.

Lastly, I want to say thank you to the 42 men and women at Sheriff's Patrol District 3, with whom I have the distinct honor and privilege of working. I've watched these people sacrifice daily for the good of the community and I cannot be more proud of their individual and collective accomplishments. I consider myself very fortunate to have such a highly trained and competent staff. Any success or achievement I personally have enjoyed has largely been due to them.

Thank you to everyone for your cooperation, guidance, and fellowship. I pledge to continue to hone and strengthen our working relationship as your Sheriff's Office liaison. The opportunity to serve the Sycamore Township community has thus far been a highlight of my career, but more importantly it's made me a better human being. Thank you for everything.



Tory L. Smith, Lieutenant
Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

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



EMS/Fire Department



Rob Penny, Fire Chief

FIRE HYDRANT FLOW TESTING

In addition to the Fire Hydrant Painting Program that will be going on this summer, I am happy to announce we will also be out flow-testing hydrants. A flow test involves allowing water to flow from the hydrant in order to calculate how much water will flow out and at what rate. This is a necessary test which occurs every five years and helps with your insurance rating. To ensure that residents are aware when hydrants in their area will be tested, we will place signs in the area three days before testing day. During the testing time period, we will also post a list of streets on which flow testing will take place on our Fire Department website at www.sycamoretownshipfire.org.



TOWNSHIP TO ADDRESS OPIOID CRISIS AT COMMUNITY FORUM

As all of us struggle to deal with the current opioid crisis, Sycamore Township is offering a chance to learn about and discuss this important issue. On August 28 at 6:00 p.m., the Township will host a Community Forum in Crawford Auditorium at Deer Park High School, 8351 Plainfield Road. The event is co-sponsored by Prevention FIRST! and the Hamilton County Heroin Coalition, along with our partner organizations the Deer Park Board of Education and Bridge of Hope Church. You'll be able to see presentations, and discuss topics, regarding the Prevention, Treatment, Harm Reduction and Supply Reduction of dangerous drugs. Deer Park High School's C.A.T.S. Youth Coalition will also participate in the program. This event is open to Township residents and non-residents of all ages—anyone who is interested in fighting the drug epidemic that is plaguing our communities.



New fulltime firefighter Joseph Homan was sworn in by President of the Board of Trustees Tom Weidman at the May 2nd Trustees Meeting.



Fire Chief Rob Penny and Trustees Jim LaBarbara, Tom Weidman and Denny Connor with new fulltime firefighter Joseph Homan.



BECHTOLD PARK SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP

Parks & Recreation



Mike McKeown,
Parks & Rec. Director

FESTIVAL IN SYCAMORE BACK FOR ITS 27TH YEAR

The 27th annual Festival in Sycamore will be held on Friday, July 12th and Saturday July 13th, from 6:00–Midnight, at Bechtold Park, 4312 Sycamore Road. Two classic, top-selling bands will headline this year's event.



The Fabulous Thunderbirds

THE FABULOUS THUNDERBIRDS, with top twenty hits including *Tuff Enuff* and *Wrap It Up*, will take the stage at 9:30PM on Friday, July 12th. The band put on a fantastic show when it last appeared at the Festival nearly 10 years ago. The band still tours across the country regularly. The night's entertainment will begin with a great local musician, **Loopman Dan**. He'll be followed by popular recording artist **Brent James and the Vintage Youth**.



Brent James and the Vintage Youth



Jefferson Starship

Saturday, July 13th will feature a legendary classic rock band. **JEFFERSON STARSHIP** will take the stage at 9:30PM. With many top hits including *Miracles*, *Count On Me*, *We Built This City*, as well as numerous hits from the *Jefferson Airplane* days, the band's performance promises to be outstanding. Saturday's music will begin with the sounds of local musician **Jim Kelly**, followed by Festival in Sycamore favorites **DV8**.



DV8

Great food and refreshments served by local restaurants will again be available at reasonable prices. The popular "Ride For Five" program will be back this year: buy a bracelet each day for \$5.00 and ride the rides all night! **Admission is free**. Free parking will be available in lots around the park and at shuttle bus lots at Bethel Baptist Church, St. Saviour Church, behind Deer Park



Loopman Dan



Jim Kelly

High School, and at the Sycamore Township Administration Building. Shuttles will run from 6:00PM–Midnight. Bottles, cans, coolers, and pets are prohibited. Mark your calendars now for July 12 and 13 for the 27th annual Festival in Sycamore. *We hope to see you there!*

9TH ANNUAL CAR SHOW

Mark the date, August 3rd, for the 9th annual Sycamore Township Summer Car Show at Schuler Sports Complex on Deerfield Rd. Registration runs from 9AM to Noon; the Car Show from Noon–3PM. 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 will be available. For information, call 513-641-6662.



TOWNSHIP TIDBITS



OFFICER SPOTLIGHT

Patrol Officer Gene Nobles is a 16-year veteran of the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office. After coming to the Sheriff's Office in the fall of 2002, Gene's career took an interesting path: Gene is one of our few Patrol Officers who can claim they've worked in all three of the major uniformed Divisions of the Sheriff's Office. Patrol Officer Nobles began his career as a Corrections Officer. After working in our jail facilities for nearly 10 years, Gene was promoted to the Court Services Division. He worked downtown in the Hamilton County Courthouse as a Court Services Deputy for just over three years. Then, in the spring of 2016, Gene was promoted to Patrol. Gene currently runs the northern Sycamore Township beat on dayshift.

There is one aspect of Gene's service that is especially noteworthy. Last fall, Gene created, implemented, and now leads the Sheriff's Office's Military Liaison Group. The purpose of this program is to offer early, street-level mediation and guidance to troubled United States military veterans who come in contact with law enforcement. Whether it is a domestic violence situation, psychiatric emergency, or simple traffic stop, police officers frequently encounter servicemen and women who are experiencing personal difficulties. These interactions have the potential to turn volatile or extremely sensitive, to say the least. Hypothetically, the veteran may be suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder or may have developed a drug or alcohol addiction. He or she might be battling depression or may simply be having a tough time re-adjusting to normal civilian life after a deployment. These situations can be very tense, and the veteran might feel threatened, unstable, or uncomfortable. They may shut down on first-responding officers who are attempting to interact with them. They may refuse to comply with lawful orders. This is where Gene and his colleagues intervene. Gene, drawing on his own military experience, will respond to the scene of an incident and establish communication with the veteran, which, at times, can be a primary stumbling block. He has found that often times, a troubled veteran, once realizing that Gene has "been there," will be more likely to talk, cooperate, and at times, surrender if necessary.

Make no mistake ... this is not a "get out of jail free card." This is not a convenient way for one veteran to help another avoid criminal arrest. The primary purposes of the program are to establish solid communication, defuse and stabilize potentially critical situations, and get the troubled veteran the treatment and resources he or she needs. The ultimate goal is to get the veteran back on track.

Gene is a 20-year military veteran himself. He spent four years on active duty in the United States Marine Corps. He then served as a member of the Army National Guard for 16 years, which included a combat deployment in 2009-2010. Patrol Officer Gene Nobles is leading the charge in aiding a segment of our population that is certainly most deserving of our help. Our veterans, past, present, and future, serve us. Gene is doing his best to ensure that the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office is serving them in return.



Sycamore Township honored the Moeller High School Basketball team at the April 4th Trustees Meeting for their undefeated season and victory in the Ohio High School State Athletic Association basketball tournament. Congratulations to the coaches and players on their 5th state championship!

Left to Right: Trustee Jim LaBarbara, sophomore Logan Duncomb, senior Miles McBride, assistant coach Doug Horst, head coach Carl Kremer, Trustee Denny Connor and Trustee Tom Weidman.



Sycamore Township Trustees Jim LaBarbara, Tom Weidman and Denny Connor participated in the 1999 Tornado Remembrance Event at Sycamore High School on April 9th. The event was held in memory of those who so tragically lost their lives 20 years ago, and in honor of the first responders and communities of Montgomery, Symmes Township and Sycamore Township who worked tirelessly to help those effected by the tornado.





Planning & Zoning



Harry Holbert,
Planning & Zoning Administrator

We are happy to announce the groundbreaking for Kids First Sports Center Phase II. This new 51,000 square foot building will house eight multi-purpose courts which may be used for numerous activities. There will also be offices, a conference room, concession stand and a mezzanine for viewing all activities. When completed, the campus will total 13.8 acres, and will continue to provide programs of all types for children of all ages. Visit their website at: www.kidsfirstsports.com for more information.



Jeff Metzger, of Kids First Sports Center, along with Chuck Kubicki of Cincinnati United Contractors, Ronnie Grandison and others, at the groundbreaking for the new Ronnie Grandison Basketball Academy building.

TOWNSHIP OFFICE:

- 513-791-8447

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE:

- Call 513-792-7250 or 7249 (staff member)
- Call 513-792-7279 (hotline)
- Visit our website (online Services, Property Complaint Form)

****We do take anonymous complaints.***

WE ARE STILL IN NEED OF YOUR HELP!

We are looking for dynamic and positive people who are interested in helping shape our community. Currently, the Township is in need of candidates to fill several positions on our Land Use Steering Committee, and a single alternate member to fill a vacated position on our Zoning Commission. Please refer to our website: www.sycamoretownship.org for information about what to submit to be considered for either position.

EMAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Signing up to receive emails is an easy way to be updated on what is happening at the Township. On the Township's website homepage, click on "Our Community" and then "Subscriptions" from the top navigation. There, you may enter your email address and choose to be included on our email distribution lists for Breaking News, Trustee Meeting and Workshop agendas, Board of Zoning Appeals and Zoning Commission agendas and Newsletters. You may also choose to attend a Zoning or Board of Trustees meeting. For the most part, Board of Zoning Appeals and Zoning Commission meetings are geared toward appeals, development, redevelopment and those application items not permitted as of right. Trustee meetings include time for resident comments and input, updates from heads of Township departments, and usually a zoning case or two. If you have the opportunity, please attend and contribute to your community.

Have a great summer!

Harry L. Holbert Jr.,
Planning and Zoning Administrator
513-792-7252
hholbert@sycamoretownship.org



Maintenance Department



Tracy Kellums, Superintendent

ROAD WORK AHEAD!

Though sometimes it seems like it never ends, construction season is here again. This means that you will be seeing orange barrels and cones throughout the Township in construction zones. Please be alert, watch for construction workers, and drive slowly and carefully through the work zones so that everyone gets home safely to their family at the end of each day. Here are details about a couple of the projects that you will come across this summer:

SYCAMORE ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

If you have driven Sycamore Road anytime in the past few months you have seen the utility companies working to move poles and lines throughout the corridor. Their work will continue throughout the year as they move from Plainfield Road toward Kenwood Road.

In the next month, the installation of a new water main will start, along with the commencement of the construction of the roundabout at the Plainfield Road intersection. This project is scheduled to take two years to be completed, so please be patient.

THE 2019 CURB REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

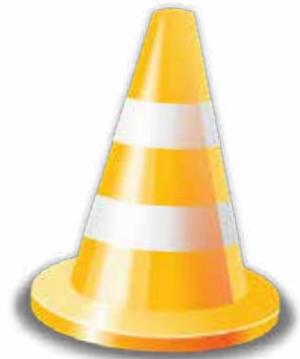
This year's curb replacement program will include the full removal and replacement of the curbline; the existing asphalt will remain. This project includes the following streets: Autumnwood Drive, Decima Drive, Tulipwood Court, Elmcrest Drive, Shagbark Drive, Firethorn Court, Brookbridge Drive, and Glenmill Court.

In addition to these projects, you will see our Township maintenance crews throughout the community working on catch basins, storm sewers, base repairs of roadway, crack sealing, sidewalk repair and any other task that needs to be done on the roads or in the parks.

If you have any questions about these projects or anything else throughout the Township please call me at 513-792-7257 or shoot me an email at tkellums@sycamoretownship.org.

2019 SPRING TRASH BASH NUMBERS

Once again the Township's spring Trash Bash events were a huge success in helping to clean up Sycamore Township neighborhoods. There were 146.66 tons (293,320 pounds) of material collected for disposal in the landfill. We were also able to collect quite a bit of material to be recycled, including over 700 tires, 500 gallons of oil, 18,880 pounds of household hazardous waste, 33 propane tanks, 80 appliances (which included 54 units with Freon), six skids of electronics, and 20,511 pounds of paper documents that were shredded. Your efforts are greatly appreciated and the Township is very happy to be able to offer this service to its residents.



SUMMER EVENTS

Chipping Program

July 6, August 3, September 7
8AM – 4PM
Behind Administration Bldg.
8540 Kenwood Rd.

Festival in Sycamore

July 12 & 13
6PM – Midnight
Bechtold Park
4312 Sycamore Rd.

9th Annual Sycamore Township Car Show

August 3
Registration
9AM – Noon
Car Show
Noon – 3PM
Robert L. Schuler
Sports Complex
11580 Deerfield Rd.

Fall Compost Giveaway

September 14
8AM – 4PM
Hartzell Methodist Church
8999 Applewood Dr.





Contacts

Summer 2019

Tom Weidman, Chairman

Denny Connor, Vice-Chairman

Jim LaBarbara, Trustee

Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer

R. Douglas Miller, Law Director

Greg Bickford, AICP, Administrator

791-8447 – Fax 792-8564

Tracy Kellums, Superintendent

792-7257 – Fax 792-8564

Mike McKeown, Parks & Rec. Director

792-7270 – Fax 792-8564

Rob Penny, Fire Chief

792-8565 – Fax 792-8564

Harry L. Holbert, Jr., Zoning Administrator

792-7252 – Fax 792-8564

Tory L. Smith, Lieutenant

District Three Commander

Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

774-6351 – Fax 774-6350

Fire and Police Emergency – **911**

Sycamore Township Administrative Office

791-8447

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



Denny Connor
Vice-Chairman



Jim LaBarbara
Trustee



Robert C. Porter III
Fiscal Officer

You can leave messages for your elected officials by calling the Sycamore Township Administration Office at 791-8447.