

Sycamore Township

NEWS

Summer 2020

In this Issue

- 1 Letter from Tom James
- 2 Tips From Your Police Department
- 3 Tips From Your Fire Department
- 4 Planning and Zoning
- 5 Maintenance Update
- 6 Contacts

I was humbled and honored that you, my fellow residents, chose me as your newest elected Trustee last fall. Our community is the crown jewel of Greater Cincinnati and I plan to ensure that it continues to thrive and prosper. Many of you have told me your concerns about the township, including the things you love and those you do not, and that you expect its highest priorities to be protecting residents' interests, keeping you informed, and maintaining government transparency.

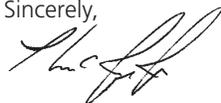
This year's start of summer is an odd time. Most residents have been hunkered down in their homes since March, "social distancing" due to COVID-19 and the health orders Ohio put in place to slow the spread of the disease. Some were fortunate enough to work from home. Others lost their jobs or saw their businesses temporarily closed. Students finished the school year remotely. Restaurants, facing dining room closure orders, switched to take-out service for a time to survive. And our local health care heroes at Jewish Hospital and elsewhere have been testing for the disease and treating victims. Now, as we undergo a gradual, step-by-step return toward normalcy, we look forward to the coming recovery.

Even with our physical distancing, neighbors have pulled closer together than ever. People are walking outside a lot, many with their pets (I've seen a lot of dogs who look worn out from all the walking!), and that has let them get to know their neighbors and neighborhoods a bit better. Residents are gladly helping neighbors in temporary need. Parents are entertaining kids creatively, with photo scavenger hunts and sidewalk chalk art competitions. Neighborhood birthday car parades have become common, often with our Fire Department enthusiastically joining in. At-risk retirement communities have hosted family car parades and outdoor entertainment for their residents to safely watch from their balconies and windows. We have become a closer community, even while standing slightly apart.

Our government has stayed open, but we had to temporarily close some park facilities and we couldn't have our spring Trash Bash (rest assured, it will return). The Trustees and our Zoning boards switched to online meetings for a few months. It was an easy transition since we were already video-recording meetings and preparing to livestream them when the pandemic shut everything down. Our staff transitioned to working from home for a time, ably stepping up to make the best of difficult circumstances. Now they are back in their offices, with protocols in place to ensure a healthy workplace. And in-person public meetings will be the norm again very soon. Please check our website at SycamoreTownship.org for office visitation and appointment details, hours of operation, and upcoming events and meetings.

Along with my fellow Trustees, Jim LaBarbara and Tom Weidman, our Fiscal Officer, Rob Porter, and our outstanding Sycamore Township Staff, I wish you good health, a rapid return to normalcy in our everyday lives, and a fantastic summer. Ours is a dynamic and resilient community in so many ways – for our residents, for our business owners, and for 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."

Sincerely,



Tom James
Vice-Chairman, Board of Trustees



Tom James
Vice-Chairman





Police & Crime Prevention



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

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Several weeks ago, we began to witness how our entire world was being reshaped in relation to the Coronavirus Pandemic. However, while virtually every facet of our existence within our communities was shutting down, our Sheriff's Deputies, Firefighters & Paramedics, and public safety officials were gearing up for what we now know has been a long, arduous ordeal. In civilian law enforcement, we typically deal with two types of issues; those that are basically an annoyance, and those that are life-altering. The COVID-19 outbreak has definitely fallen into the latter category.

Despite the challenges we have faced, things have gone incredibly well from the police perspective. From the very beginning, the Sheriff's Office placed keeping the staff healthy as the top priority. Simply stated, if we are not healthy and fit for duty, we cannot be of any use to anyone else. Our daily cleaning regimens, emergency protocols, and use of PPE gear has paid big dividends. I am pleased to report that during this difficult time, four District 3 Deputies fell ill. However, **none** of those officers tested positive for COVID-19, and all returned to duty as quickly as possible.

There has been a tremendous outpouring of support from the Sycamore Township community. The overwhelming majority of our interactions with the public have been positive and cordial. Most everyone has complied with our simple requests. Representatives from our local schools, faith-based organizations, and our business community have been extremely cooperative, and they have responded incredibly well under intense pressure. Residents and restaurants have dropped off food and beverages for the Deputies. We have received cards, emails, and other messages of support and well-wishes. These gestures have been truly invaluable, and they have helped to keep us going.

As our community systematically re-opens and the restrictions loosen, we will follow suit. We have been operating under the conditions of a limited response plan for several weeks now. On June 1st, 2020, the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office will resume normal operations. We will enter businesses and homes when called upon, respond to life squad runs, and engage in proactive work like traffic stops and business checks, as we have done before.

We at the Sheriff's Office would like to extend our most sincere thanks to the Board of Trustees for their leadership, our Firefighters, nurses, and frontline workers that have lead the charge, and we tip our hats to the entire Sycamore Township community for their cooperation and collective sacrifice during this difficult time. We may be down, but we are by no means out. Together, we will prevail!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Chipping Program

June 6, June 27, August 1
8AM – 4PM
Behind Administration Bldg.
8540 Kenwood Rd.

10th Annual Sycamore Township Car Show

Saturday, August 1, 2020
9AM – 3PM
Schuler Sports Complex
11532 Deerfield Road

Document Shredding

Saturday, June 20
10AM – 2PM
Behind Administration Bldg.
8540 Kenwood Rd.

Fall Compost Giveaway

September 12
8AM – 4PM
Hartzell Methodist Church
8999 Applewood Dr.

Jump 'n Jive Show Band

Saturday, June 27, 2020
5PM – 7PM
Bechtold Park Pavillion
4312 Sycamore Road

* During this time of uncertainty, events are subject to change or cancellation. Please see our website calendar or call (513) 791-8447 for the most up to date information.



EMS/Fire Department



Rob Penny, Fire Chief

The Fire Department would like to thank the community for the outpouring of support we have received throughout the current public health crisis. Residents have shown our first responders much gratitude and local restaurants have generously dropped off meals for the crews to enjoy while on shift. In addition, both Hamilton County Public Health and Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency have helped our department to secure much needed PPE and supplies to protect our employees and the public.

The Sycamore Township Fire Department and Hamilton County Sheriff's Office have been bringing smiles to the faces of young and old alike with their birthday drive by parades! If you know of a child or senior citizen in the Township who would like a birthday celebration, let the Fire Department know. Our fire trucks have also paraded for seniors during isolation in local retirement homes and have been part of events to honor the graduating class of 2020 and to show appreciation to health care workers on the front lines of the pandemic at Jewish Hospital.

The Fire Department's participation in positive community outreach has not only helped our neighbors affected by the stay safe at home order, it has lifted the spirits of our firefighters/paramedics. Thank you all for proving there really is More in Sycamore!





Planning & Zoning



Skylor R. Miller,
Planning & Zoning Administrator

ELECTRONIC PERMITTING NOW AVAILABLE FOR RESIDENTS

Sycamore Township will now accept electronic submittals for select Residential Zoning Permits. The following types of permits are now accepted electronically by email.

Fences: Application, Site Plan (No fences will be permitted in front yards)

Sheds under 200 sq. ft.: Application, Site plan, Building Plan w/ Dimensions

Satellite Dish (larger than one meter in diameter): Application, Site Plan, Building Plan w/ Dimensions

Antenna (over 12 ft. above roof line): Application, Site Plan, Building Plan w/ Dimensions

Any projects requiring Hamilton County Building Permits, including pools, will still require full hardcopy submittals.

For any questions, please contact jdaves@sycamoretownship.org.

TRUSTEES APPROVE “SYCAMORE IS OPEN” SIGNAGE

Sycamore Township is helping to promote local business during the COVID-19 Pandemic by allowing for additional signage that will inform the community of essential information about the business.

Small temporary signs informing the public of hours of operation and service availability (i.e. Carry-Out Available, New Hours) shall be permissible in commercial districts and may be placed at the entrances of businesses to better inform patrons of what services and goods are available.

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.**



DOCUMENT SHREDDING FOR RESIDENTS RESCHEDULED

The Township’s annual Document Shredding event for residents has been rescheduled to Saturday, June 20, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the parking lot behind the Administration Building at 8540 Kenwood Road. This event is for residents only. Be prepared to show proof of residency.





Maintenance Department



Tracy Kellums, Superintendent

ROAD WORK AHEAD

This time of year, there seems to be road work everywhere you turn and it is no different here in Sycamore Township. We are consistently working to improve the infrastructure for you, our residents. There are several major projects going on now in the Township.

Construction on **Sycamore Road** continues and is starting to take shape. The reconstruction of the road and storm sewers and the addition of sidewalks are really going to make a vast improvement to this corridor. It is currently on schedule to be completed at the end of this construction season.



Construction of the **Montgomery Road Sidewalks** from Dearwester Drive to just south of Pinehurst Court is underway and should be completed in early summer. This project connects existing sidewalks to make Montgomery Road walkable for residents from the Silverton city limit to the Montgomery city limit.

In addition, there will be a couple of projects in the neighborhoods going on this year.

The **2020 Curb and Sidewalk Replacement Project** will be on two of our major subdivision roads, Bayberry Drive in the Heitmeier Farms Subdivision and Marlette Drive in the Millwood Subdivision. Both streets will complete the curb replacement in their respective subdivisions. This project will be paid for strictly with local funds. **The 2020 Cape Seal Project**, an asphalt rejuvenation project, will be taking place on the following streets: Longford Dr, Williams Ave, Pleasantwood Ct, Needlewood Ct., Smallwood Ct., Widhoff Lane, Kennedy Ln., Shadetree Dr., Timberknoll Dr., Chetburt Ln., Farwick Ct., and Finley Ln.

Of course, you will also see our maintenance crews out in your neighborhood performing various duties such as road base repairs, crack sealing, and catch basin repairs, along with various other tasks. We ask you for your patience and consideration when driving through any of these work zones. Please SLOW DOWN and DRIVE SAFELY. If you have any questions or concerns about any of these projects or anything else going on in the Township please call me at the office at (513) 792-7257 or reach me via email at tkellums@sycamoretownship.org and I will be happy to answer any question you may have.



SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS RECYCLED AND COMPOSTED 1.839 TONS IN 2019!



Congratulations Sycamore Township residents! In 2019, we recycled 1,080.41 tons of metal, glass, plastic, and paper and composted 758.5 tons of yard trimmings. Through these efforts you have conserved enough energy to power every home in Sycamore Township for six days; reduced more air pollution than if every household in Sycamore Township rode their bicycle to work for 4 weeks; and saved 5,827 trees from being harvested!

On average, **each household in Sycamore Township recycled 261 pounds in 2019.** That is an amazing 25.97% of all the waste we generated. Great job Township residents! Want to start recycling? Call Hamilton County's Recycling Hotline at 946-7766 to request your recycling cart or visit www.HamiltonCountyRecycles.org.

Contacts

Summer 2020

Jim LaBarbara, Chairman

Tom James, Vice-Chairman

Tom Weidman, Trustee

Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer

Deepak K. Desai, Law Director

Ray Warrick, Administrator

792-7277 – Fax 792-8564

Tracy Kellums

Superintendent/Assistant Administrator

792-7257 – Fax 792-8564

Skylor R. Miller, Planning & Zoning Administrator

792-7252 – Fax 792-8564

Rob Penny, Fire Chief

792-8562 – 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**

Non-Emergency Dispatch – **825-2280**

Sycamore Township Administrative Office

791-8447

www.sycamoretownship.org



8540 Kenwood Road
Sycamore Twp., Ohio 45236

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US POSTAGE
PAID
CINCINNATI, OH
PERMIT NO. 1693

“There’s More in Sycamore”



Trustees available to better serve you



Jim LaBarbara
Chairman



Tom James
Vice-Chairman



Tom Weidman
Trustee



Robert C. Porter III
Fiscal Officer

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