



SYCAMORE
TOWNSHIP

The Sycamore Quarterly

FALL 2024



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Sycamore Township Veterans Memorial Project

We are delighted to announce a landmark project to honor the brave men and women serving our nation. The Sycamore Township Veterans Memorial, to be located at Bechtold Park, will become a place of reflection, gratitude, and remembrance for our community.

A Tribute to Our Heroes

The vision for the Sycamore Township Veterans Memorial is to create a lasting tribute to the valor and dedication of our veterans. This memorial will commemorate those who have served in the past and recognize present and future veterans. It's a space dedicated to selflessness, patriotism, and the unwavering bravery of our service members.

Design and Features

The design of the memorial is thoughtful and intricate and will include timeline benches in recognition of the wars in which our veterans have fought, flagpoles honoring each branch of service, POWs, and MIAs, and commemorative bricks and pavers laid out prominently in decorative fashion. The memorial will be surrounded by lush greenery and striking monuments dedicated to each branch of service, providing a serene environment for contemplation and remembrance.

You can view the memorial's detailed layout and color renderings at www.sycamoretownshipvets.org.

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Tom Weidman
Chairman



Tracy Schwegmann
Vice-Chairman



Tracy Kellums
Trustee



Jonathan T. Deters
Fiscal Officer

ADMINISTRATION

Greg Bickford, Administrator
513-792-7254 gbickford@sycamoretownship.org

Beth Gunderson, HR Manager/Assistant Administrator
513-792-7248 – bgunderson@sycamoretownship.org

Mary Tenorio, Finance Director
513-792-7256 – mtenorio@sycamoretownship.org

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Fall Compost Give-Away
September 14
8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
Hartzell United Methodist Church
8999 Applewood Dr.

Touch a Truck
September 28
10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.
Behind Administration Bldg.
8540 Kenwood Rd.

Brush Chipping Program
October 5/ November 2/ December 7
8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
Behind Administration Bldg.
8540 Kenwood Rd.

Fall Curbside Leaf Collection
October 15 – December 16

Halloween Trick-or-Treating
October 31
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Election Day
November 5th
Polls Open 6:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Letter from the Chairman

As the warmer weather winds down and we head into the cooler temperatures of fall, I hope you enjoyed a relaxing summer. The Township has been alive with great projects and activities over the last few months.

In July, we had our 29th annual Festival in Sycamore, and attendance may have been a record. The festival included two days of family fun with live music, food, and unlimited rides for the kids. While this event allows us to showcase our great Township, I don't recall ever seeing as many of our residents, both adults and children, as I did this year. Thank you to all our sponsors and especially our Diamond Sponsor, Tire Discounters, for helping to make this year's festival another great success.

I want to thank our Sherrif Liaison, Lt. Mike Tarr, for his years of service to our community. Mike was promoted to take on new responsibilities in the Sheriff's Office, and we wish him all the best. Our new Liaison, Lt. Paul Naber, is now in place so when you see him in your neighborhood, reach out and welcome him to Sycamore Township.

As you drive through our community, you may see a lot of construction taking place. We work hard to improve pedestrian connectivity in the township, and some of our recent projects have enhanced that connectivity. Our team continues to secure grants to fund these improvements.

In 2022, we were awarded a SORTA grant in the amount of \$697,221 for the Euclid Avenue Sidewalk Project, which is currently being constructed. In 2023, we were awarded SORTA grants in the amount of \$236,475 for the Finley Lane Sidewalk and Resurfacing Project and \$4,195,528 for our Kenwood Road Improvement Project, which includes sidewalk, walls, and resurfacing from Montgomery Road to the Blue Ash Corporation line. We have applied for additional SORTA grants this year for our sidewalk program in the North on Kemper Road, Snider Road (Kemper Road to Bridlemaker), and both Baen and Deerfield Roads to Schuler Park. All of these grants help to continue to keep your Township taxes low.

Fall is a time for changing colors and raking leaves. Our hard-working maintenance crew, led by Superintendent Steve Reutelshofer, is gearing up for our Leaf Pickup Program. Please remember as you rake or blow your leaves to the curb to keep them on the edge of your lawn and out of the street.

At our Trustee meeting on August 20th, the Trustees issued a Proclamation declaring September Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month in Sycamore Township. Ovarian Cancer is called the "Silent Killer" and takes far too many lives each year. Know the subtle signs of Ovarian Cancer by going to the Ovarian Cancer Alliance of Greater Cincinnati website at www.cincyovariancancer.org.

Your Trustees are committed to keeping Sycamore Township a great place to live, work and enjoy life. If there is anything that we can do to help you, please contact us at 513-791-8447 or through our website at www.sycamoretownship.org.

On behalf of Trustees Tracy Schwegmann and Tracy Kellums, our Fiscal Officer Jon Deters, and our Administrator Greg Bickford and his entire staff, we encourage you to take some time to get outdoors and enjoy the changing fall colors.

Tom Weidman

Chairman of the Board of Trustees



Parks and Recreation

Thank you to all who made the Tire Discounters Festival in Sycamore 2024 a great success!



Sycamore Township Car Show winners!

Thank you to everyone who came out to the Sycamore Township Car Show and congratulations to all the winners!



Trustees Tracy Kellums, Tom Weidman, and Tracy Schwegmann congratulate Best of Show winner Don Budke, shown here with his winning 1963 Studebaker.



Trustees Tom Weidman, Tracy Schwegmann and Tracy Kellums congratulate Trustees' Choice winner Terry Boub, shown here with his winning 1955 Chevy Belair.

Sycamore Township Veterans Memorial Project (Continued from page 1)

Get Involved

We invite all residents to become a part of this meaningful project. Here are several ways you can contribute:

• Make a Donation

Every contribution, large and small, helps bring this vision to life.

• **Purchase a Personalized Commemorative Brick, Paver, or Monument Plaque** - Leave a lasting legacy for a veteran you wish to honor.

• **Sponsor a Bench, Flagpole, or Branch of Service Monument** - This is an opportunity for community members and businesses to show support for our veterans while enhancing the beauty of the memorial.



A Community Effort

The Sycamore Township Veterans Memorial is a testament to our community's collective respect and gratitude for those who have served. It's a project spearheaded by the Sycamore Township Veterans Memorial Commission, with support from local organizations, businesses, and residents like you. This memorial will be a permanent reminder of the sacrifices made for our freedom and a beacon of community unity.

The Sycamore Township Veterans Memorial Commission, Inc.

- Beth Gunderson, *President*
- Mike Gould, *Secretary*
- Robert O'Brien, *Treasurer, Air Force*
- Patricia Buschmann, *Member, Army*
- Thomas Crowthers, *Member, Marine Corps*
- Steve Reutelshofer, *Member*

Contact Us

For more information, questions, or to get involved, please contact:

- Beth Gunderson at bgunderson@sycamoretownship.org
- Mike Gould at mgould@sycamoretownship.org

You can also reach us at 513-792-7248 or visit our website at sycamoretownshipvets.org.

Thank you for your support and dedication to honoring our veterans. Together, we will create a memorial to symbolize our respect and gratitude.

To learn more about getting involved, please visit our donation page via the QR code





Fire Chief Rob Penny

513-792-8562

rpenny@sycamoretownship.org



The first priority to ensure that any home is safe is to make sure you have working smoke detectors. Be sure to check the batteries regularly. If you have pets in your home, there are other dangers to think about. The most dangerous area in the home of a pet owner, especially for owners of larger dogs, is the kitchen. Be very careful when placing items on the stovetop. You may not think it's dangerous to leave leftovers or place an empty pizza box on top of the stove. However, leftover food or even an empty pizza box is an invitation for your dog to attempt to get to that wonderful smell. Dogs will place their front paws on the front of the stove in an attempt to reach that smell and push, turning the stove knob. This may turn on the burner of your electric or gas stove. If pizza boxes or other items are sitting on the stovetop, they will ignite and catch fire. Fire will travel up the wall and ignite cabinetry, curtains, wallpaper, and anything in its way. The Sycamore Township Fire Department has fought a few fires in kitchens recently caused by pets jumping or climbing on stoves and turning on the burners.



What can you do to prevent this from happening to you?

- Keep the stovetop totally clear of anything combustible.
- Install stove knob guards.
- Use a baby gate to block off the kitchen when not at home.
- Keep pets in an isolated area away from hazards when not at home.



When pets are left roaming the house while you are gone, they may snoop around and play with things they aren't supposed to, such as loose wires hanging out of the wall, lamp cords, charger cords, etc. Make sure such items are out of your pet's reach. Remove any containers of liquids that could be knocked over to prevent your pet from ingesting something harmful. Larger dogs may think an aerosol can is fun to play with or chew. This can be extremely harmful if the can is punctured.

Lastly, purchase a pet window cling or sticker to alert firefighters that there is a pet inside the home. Firefighters look for pet crates. A crate is easier to spot in a smoke-filled room, so a firefighter will be able to rescue your pet much faster from a crate than trying to find them wherever they may hide during a fire. Firefighters can grab a crate and drag it outside with the pet inside in much less time than it would take to chase them down when they are frightened and running loose in your home.

Police and Crime Prevention



Lt. Paul Naber,
District Three Commander
Hamilton County Sheriff's Office - 513-683-3444
Fire and Police Emergency - 911
Non-Emergency Dispatch - 513-825-2280

Greetings!

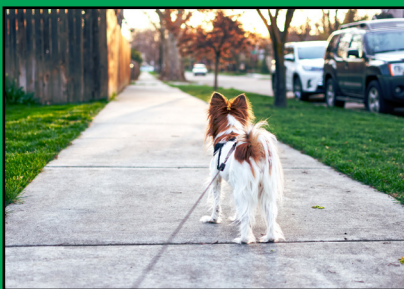
I would like to take the time to introduce myself if you have not met me yet. I am Lieutenant Paul Naber, the new District Three Commander serving you, the residents of Sycamore Township. Lt. Mike Tarr, your previous District Commander, was reassigned to our Organized Crime Section (OCS). Lt. Tarr will be overseeing the operations of RENU, (the Regional Enforcement Narcotics Unit) and RECI, (the Regional Electronics and Computer Investigations.) I am a lifelong resident of Green Township and a graduate of St. Xavier High School and Xavier University (1991). My wife Carrie and I have two adult daughters who are currently pursuing their own dreams.

I began my career with the Sheriff's Office in October of 1995 in our Corrections/Jail Services Division. In April of 1999, I was promoted to the Enforcement Division. As a patrolman, I worked in Anderson Township, was reassigned to Green Township, and remained there until I was promoted to the rank of Corporal in 2006. As a

Corporal, I supervised the areas of the Village of North Bend and the Townships of Crosby, Harrison, and Whitewater until 2012. Throughout corrections until this period, I was a member of TF-1, (Task Force One), (the underwater search and rescue team), and for two of those years was the Dive Team Commander for Hamilton County.

In May of 2012, I was reassigned to RENU as an investigator/agent. While there, I was a member of the Strategic Response Team, (SRT or SWAT as you may understand it), as a tactical team member and a hostage negotiator team leader. I performed a variety of other tasks, including but not limited to; large-scale drug investigations, undercover activities, and VICE operations, and trained in dismantling chemical laboratories (i.e., meth labs). In 2016, I was promoted to Sergeant and created a new sub-unit of OCS, which I called the Electronic Surveillance Team (EST). Within EST we supported local, state, and federal agencies with narcotics investigations, performed wiretaps, utilized covert electronic surveillance equipment, conducted investigations on child pornographers, conducted digital and cyber forensic investigations, and a plethora of other investigations. In 2018, I received an award from the HCPA (Hamilton County Police Association) for Investigator of the Year, and in 2020 I was selected as the HCSO Supervisor of the Year.

In September of 2021, I was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, and in December, I assumed the District Commander position in District Four, which serves The Village of Silverton and Columbia Township. In the spring of 2023, I was nominated and selected by the Federal Bureau of Investigations to attend the FBINA, (National Academy) in Quantico, Virginia which is a ten-week executive leadership program. The intense academic, physical, and leadership program includes courses and studies that apply toward my master's degree. Less than one percent of all law enforcement officers around the world are selected to attend this prestigious program. Currently, there are over 50,000 graduates from FBINA who can provide me with a vast network of resources should I encounter a complex problem. I am eager to learn more about all of you, the area, and the residents within the townships. I want to assure all of you that I am always available and will provide you with the best service that the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office has to offer.



Keep Your Pet & Others Safe! Use a Leash! Whether you are at the park or in your neighborhood, 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



New to Kenwood: The Residence Inn by Marriott and Condado Tacos

Located at 7951 Kenwood Road, across from the Kenwood Towne Centre, and opening in August 2024, Sycamore Township is excited to welcome The Residence Inn and Condado Tacos! A 134-room hotel, the new Residence Inn features amenities such as an indoor pool, guest laundry, and an outdoor fire pit and grill patio. On the first floor of the hotel is Condado Tacos, which features indoor and outdoor patio seating along Kenwood Road.



Considering a Fall Improvement Project For Your House?

Home improvements such as a deck, fence, addition, shed, pool, or other exterior home improvements require a zoning certificate. Most residential zoning certificates are free. Township staff are at-the-ready to assist with a speedy permitting process. Please call (513) 792-7250 with questions or visit <https://sycamoretownship.org/departments/planning-and-zoning/>

Property Maintenance Concerns?

Do you have a neighbor who will not cut their grass, or perhaps their gutters are falling off due to a storm? Sycamore Township maintains a property maintenance code. Anonymous complaints are accepted; the Township Zoning Inspector will investigate each complaint. Please call (513) 792-7249 or visit cagismaps.hamilton-co.org/csr/sycamore/.

Maintenance Department



Steve Reutelshofer,
Superintendent

513-792-7258

sreutelshofer@sycamoretownship.org



The Finley Lane Sidewalk Project is completed. Many Township residents are already using the new sidewalk on the north side of Finley Ln. to access the sidewalk system along Montgomery Rd. We are happy to report that the project was completed ahead of schedule and under the project budget of \$237,013.15.

The Euclid Ave Sidewalk Project, from Hosbrook Rd. to Kenwood Rd., will begin in August and be completed this fall. The project consists of the construction of a sidewalk on the north side of Euclid Ave. The estimated construction cost of the improvements is \$996,030.00.

The initial phases of construction for the **Kenwood Road Improvements Project** began in August and will continue through the Spring of 2025. This project is located on Kenwood Rd, between Montgomery Rd. and the Blue Ash Corp. Line, and includes sidewalk, ramp, and curb repairs, painting of traffic poles, traffic island repairs, stone wall repairs, milling and resurfacing of the roadway, and new pavement markings. The estimated construction cost of the improvements is \$4,256,485.59.

The Finley Ln., Euclid Ave, and Kenwood Rd. projects will be partially funded through grants from the Transit Infrastructure Fund (SORTA), with Sycamore Township paying the remaining cost.

2024 Township Road Maintenance Projects:

Construction for the **Sycamore Township Curb Program** is scheduled to start in September and be completed this fall. The roads that will receive curb improvements are Northlake Dr., Edington Dr., Ellington Ct., and Gideon Ln. The estimated construction cost of the improvements is \$389,257.00.

The **Sycamore Township Pavement Repair Program** in the High Point Subdivision is scheduled to start in August and be completed this fall. The estimated construction cost of the improvements is \$259,465.25.

Sycamore Township Pavement Preservation Program (Reclamite) was completed in June. The improvements' construction cost was \$43,302.00.

Two subdivisions are included in the **Sycamore Township Sidewalk Repair Program** this year. The first, Windfield Subdivision off Field Ertel Road, was completed in May with a final construction cost of \$70,664.50 funded by the Township. The second sidewalk repair project is scheduled to begin later this fall in the Sturbridge Subdivision and will be completed by the end of the year. The estimated construction cost of the second project is \$72,500.00.

Continuous Maintenance Ahead! You will also see our dedicated maintenance staff out in our parks and neighborhoods performing various duties all year long. Our staff takes immense pride in performing these tasks to ensure that our parks, roads, and infrastructure are first-in-class!

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

No Dumping on Public Roadways! If you are performing yard maintenance tasks or home remodeling, please note it is illegal to place obstructions within the roadway, so **please do not dump** mulch, gravel, or other materials on the public roadway. You will be cited. Also, dumpster rentals **are not permitted** on public roadways and should be placed on a paved surface on private property.

If you have any questions or concerns about any of these projects, please contact the Township Road Superintendent, Steve Reutelshofer at 513-792-7258 or via email at sreutelshofer@sycamoretownship.org. Have a safe and fun Fall Season!



FRIENDLY REMINDERS

Save the Date!

Dillonvale Luminaria
Bechtold Park
December 14, 2024



8540 Kenwood Road
Sycamore Twp., Ohio 45236

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 1693
CINCINNATI, OHIO

There's More in Sycamore!

Curbside Leaf Collection Information

Sycamore Township is pleased to provide you with prompt and efficient leaf pickup service from October 15th to December 16th. Leaves should be raked to the public right of way beside the street. PLEASE DO NOT PUT LEAVES IN THE STREET. Sticks, grass clippings, and garden debris will jam our machines and should not be mixed into leaf piles. Consequently, piles with materials other than leaves will not be collected.

Maintenance crews will be working from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. five days a week, rain, or shine, to collect leaves in a timely manner. Many factors, such as the number of leaves to be collected and the availability of temporary laborers, have an effect on collection and make it impossible to predict exact pickup times; however, every effort will be made to service each street weekly.

Touch a Truck Event!

Bring the whole family to the Touch a Truck event behind the Township Administration building on Saturday, September 28th, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.! The kids will love seeing the fire trucks, dump trucks, Sheriff's S.W.A.T. vehicles, motorcycles, and more! There will also be an inflatable corn maze and games to play, music provided by On The Air Entertainment, plus food trucks Cool Guys Dogs and Fries, Granny's Goodies on the Go, and Blondie Brews Coffee Truck!

