

# Sycamore Township

# NEWS

Summer 2008

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Thank you for being a part of Sycamore Township. We are delighted to have beautiful residential neighborhoods and parks and thriving business and retail districts. A safe community is a priority to the Trustees. Our residents' safety is secure with a first class fire and EMS department as well as the Hamilton County Sheriff's Patrol. The Township's maintenance department keeps our roads and property looking great.



Cliff Bishop

The super shelter at Bechtold Park is a new addition featuring a fireplace as well as restroom facilities. For rental information on this and other park shelters, please call our office at 791-8447 and one of our Township employees will assist you with reservations.

The only thing we're missing for the 2008 festival at Bechtold Park is you. This year the festival will take place on Friday and Saturday evenings. In the past, the festival was held on Saturday and Sunday evenings. This year the festival will include three headline bands, great food and drinks as well as games and rides for children. Mark your calendars for Friday, July 11th and Saturday July 12th for the 2008 Sycamore Township Festival.

For all of you that have a neighbor who goes the extra mile when it comes to yard work and flowers, show him or her that you appreciate all of the hard work to make your neighborhoods beautiful. We will again be having the Township's Beautification Award. Take a moment to show your appreciation and nominate your neighbor.

Trustees Tom Weidman, Dick Kent and Fiscal Officer Rob Porter and I hope you have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Sincerely,

Cliff W. Bishop, Trustee

## Festival in Sycamore

**Bechtold Park**  
**4312 Sycamore Road**  
**Friday, July 11 &**  
**Saturday, July 12**



# EMS/Fire Department



EMS & Fire Director/  
Fire Chief  
William "BJ" Jetter,  
Ph.D. MIFireE, CHSIII

Most of us use both our kitchen and our outdoor grill for preparing evening meals during the summer months. The National Fire Protection Agency recently released statistics that show home cooking fires are still the number one cause of residential fires. Following is information reprinted from the NFPA for your use.

## Facts & Figures

- Did you know most cooking fires occur between the hours of 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm.
- Cooking fires are the #1 cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Nearly all cooking equipment fires start with the ignition of food, other cooking materials (grease, cooking oil), or other items normally found or installed in a kitchen (cabinets, wall coverings, paper or plastic bags, curtains).
- In 2005, U.S. fire departments responded to 146,400 home structure fires that involved cooking equipment. These fires caused 480 civilian fire deaths, 4,690 civilian fire injuries and \$876 million in direct property damage.
- Cooking equipment fires are the leading cause of home structure fires and associated civilian injuries. These fires accounted for 40% of all reported home structure fires in 2005 and 36% of home civilian injuries.
- Twelve percent of the fires occurred when something that could catch fire

was too close to the equipment.

- Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires.
- Three-fifths (59%) of reported home cooking fire injuries occurred when victims tried to fight the fire themselves.
- A CPSC study found that 83% of frying fires began in the first 15 minutes of cooking.

Source: NFPA's "Home" Fires

## Here are some published safety tips for home cooking.

- Always use cooking equipment tested and approved by a recognized testing facility.
- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen, even for a short time, turn off the stove.
- Keep anything that can catch fire – pot holders, towels or curtains – away from your stovetop.
- Have a "kid-free zone" of at least three feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.
- Wear short, close fitting or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking. Loose clothing can dangle onto stove burners and catch fire.
- Never use a wet oven mitt, as it presents a scalding danger if the moisture in the mitt is heated.
- Always keep an oven mitt and lid near by when you're cooking. If a small grease fire starts in a pan, put on an oven mitt and smother the flames by carefully sliding the lid over the pan. Turn off the burner. Don't remove the lid until it is completely cool.
- If there is an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed to prevent flames from burning you and your clothing. Have the oven serviced

before you use it again.

There is nothing better than a cookout during the summer. Following these simple outdoor cooking tips can ensure a safe operation.

- Make sure that all combustible materials are kept at least five feet from the grilling surface. If a flare up or flame occurs simply lower the lid or place the grill lid back on top of the grilling surface. The by-products of food will eventually reduce and the flames will reduce in size.
- Always keep your flame low for cooking and food preparation. High flames will increase the chances of rapid heat buildup and a sudden increase in flame height. If this occurs when you are using a gas grill, simply turn off the gas and let the grill cool down before you start cooking again.
- A charcoal grill flame-up can be reduced by covering the cooking surface to reduce exposure to the rapid build up of heat and flames. Keep a pitcher of water or a garden hose near by to extinguish flames should covering up with the lid not work. Don't just throw the water on the fire. Splash small amounts of water onto the surface from a safe distance. Throwing or dumping a large amount may cause the flames to be pushed out and away from the grill. Standing back and splashing or applying a light water spray from a pitcher or garden hose will allow the fire to cool more effectively and keep things in check.

Yours in fire safety,

William A. Jetter Ph D, MIFire,  
EMS & Fire Director/Fire Chief

## Thank You Sycamore Township Residents

Thursday, April 17th, was Firefighter Appreciation Day. We would like to thank the residents of Sycamore Township who stopped in at the firehouse that day to show their appreciation and support by talking to us and bringing us cookies, brownies, ice cream, bagels and other food items. Your kind words of support and appreciation made our day. We know that when you call 911 for a fire, medical emergency or other problem there is no time to just talk to you.

We would also like to thank the schools who invited us over to show their appreciation. We enjoyed meeting all the teachers and students.

**Thank you all for your support.**

The Sycamore Township Firefighters

# Police and Crime Prevention



Cpl. Kristy Fritz,  
Sheriff's Liaison

As anyone who is a parent or grandparent knows, keeping children safe is a full time job. We make sure they have the appropriate clothes on for the weather. We make sure they wear their helmets while they are riding their bikes. We teach them to look both ways before they cross the street. We even teach them to never accept rides from strangers. This goes a long way in keeping our children safe. What about the stuff we don't teach them? What about the things that scare us to the point where we don't want to talk about them with our kids?

In today's world, it takes a lot to keep our children safe. As uncomfortable as a subject as it may be, it is something that needs to be addressed. It is up to us as parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles or any other guardian to ensure our children have the knowledge that will help protect them when they step outside the door.

Knowledge equals power, even for our kids. If the subject matter is presented in the right way, our kids can help themselves to be their own protectors. These tips come from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

- Teach your kids that they have the right to say "No" to an adult if they do something that makes your child feel uncomfortable.
- Teach your kids that an adult should NEVER ask a child for help. It doesn't matter if it is directions to the mall, help unloading a car, or even help finding a lost puppy. Adults should ALWAYS ask other adults for help.
- If an adult should approach your child and ask for help, teach your child to refuse the help. If need be, your child can turn and run.
- As your children grow, know where they are at all times and who they are with.
- Be involved in your children's activities. If you aren't there, someone else will be.
- Don't put your child's name on anything. It gives someone a chance to call them by their name creating a false sense of familiarity.
- When hiring a babysitter, check around for references and be sure to ask questions. If they are no longer working for someone, find out why.
- Find out information about a prospective child care center. Are they properly licensed? What about their background check policy?
- Feel free to drop in unannounced at your child care center or on your babysitter to see what is going on.
- Make sure to talk to your children on a regular basis. In today's hectic world, sometimes it seems as though kids' needs get lost in the shuffle. By communicating on a regular basis, your kids will be more likely to let you know when something is wrong.

As most anyone will tell you, there is nothing more precious than a child. Don't we owe it to them to do what we can to protect them? From making sure they are wearing the right clothes, to empowering them with knowledge, it only takes a few minutes of your time to ensure their safety. Aren't they worth those few minutes?

Sincerely,

Cpl. Kristy Fritz  
Sheriff's Liaison



# Parks and Recreation

## THREE NATIONAL ACTS TO HEADLINE 16th ANNUAL FESTIVAL IN SYCAMORE



**Dave Mason**

Three national bands, with over 40 hit albums and many more hit singles to their credit, will be featured at the 16th annual Festival in Sycamore, which will be held on Friday, July 11th and Saturday, July 12th, from 6 pm - midnight, at Bechtold Park, 4312 Sycamore Rd. The ATLANTA RHYTHM SECTION, AMBROSIA, and Rock & Roll Hall of Famer DAVE MASON will lead the fabulous entertainment.

A great variety of tasty food and beverages from area restaurants will be available at reasonable prices. Games will be available for everyone's enjoyment. Also, new this year, festival goers will be able to pay a small price to receive a bracelet each day and be able to ride the rides as often as they want. A new bracelet must be purchased each day. Free parking will be available onsite (weather permitting) and in marked shuttle lots at St. Saviour, Sycamore Township Administration Building, Bethel Baptist Church, Deer Park High School, and European Auto Care. And, best of all, admission is FREE!

Local acoustic duo Firelight will open the musical action on July 11th. AMBROSIA, with hits including You're the Biggest Part of Me, You're the Only Woman, How Much I Feel, Nice, Nice, Very Nice, and Holdin Onto Yesterday, will follow. Multiple Grammy nominees, Ambrosia's rock/jazz sound continues to entertain their many fans at their live shows. Closing out July 11th will be the ever popular ATLANTA RHYTHM SECTION. With over 15 albums to their credit, and many hits including Imaginary Lover, Spooky, So Into You, and Champagne Jam, ARS remains a very popular touring band. We're glad they are able to stop in Sycamore Township this year.



**Ambrosia**



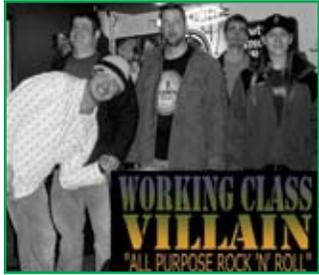
**Atlanta Rhythm Section**

Working Class Villain, a very up and coming band in the Cincinnati area, will open the festivities on July 12th. Local favorites The Vibe will continue the great musical action. Rock and Roll Hall of Famer DAVE MASON, a founding member of the British super group TRAFFIC, will close the show. A true rock legend, DAVE MASON, has had many hits, including We Just Disagree, Feelin Alright, and many TRAFFIC and solo albums. He has also been a featured performer on albums by some of rock's biggest names, including Paul McCartney, George Harrison, The Rolling Stones, Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton, and many, many more. It is a privilege to have this member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as a performer at this year's Festival.

We are thrilled with the musical lineup for 2008. Check for the times elsewhere in the Newsletter. We hope that you'll be able to join all your neighbors and friends at this great event. Remember, admission is free. No bottles, cans, coolers, or animals are allowed. You may bring your own blanket or lawn chair.

If you have any questions or comments, please call Mike McKeown at 791-8447, or email [mmckeown@sycamoretownship.org](mailto:mmckeown@sycamoretownship.org).

## PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE



### FRIDAY July 11

6:00 - Firelight

7:30 - Ambrosia

9:30 - Atlanta Rhythm Section



Firelight



The Vibe

### SATURDAY JULY 12

6:15 - Working Class Villain

7:45 - The Vibe

9:30 - DAVE MASON



### THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:

CINCINNATI UNITED  
CONTRACTORS  
FIFTH THIRD BANK  
BROOKWOOD RETIREMENT  
CENTER  
JEWISH HOSPITAL  
BLOOMIN GARDEN CENTRE  
GREEN BAY PACKAGING  
KIDS FIRST SPORTS CENTRE  
REDSTONE OF KENWOOD  
KENWOOD TOWNE CENTRE  
CORPORATE HEALTH  
OF OHIO  
OSWALD COMPANY INC.

CAMDEN HOMES  
NEYER PROPERTIES  
BEARCREEK CAPITAL  
TRIO RESTAURANT  
BRANDSTETTER CARROLL  
HAUSER GROUP  
HYLANT GROUP  
RUMPKE  
CONTRACT SWEEPERS  
HORAN ASSOCIATES  
SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP  
REPUBLICAN CLUB  
MEDICAL MUTUAL

## Sunday Evening Concerts

Sycamore Township is continuing the great tradition of bringing the best of Cincinnati area bands to the Sunday Evening Concert Series. Two concerts remain for this summer. Both will be held at the North Sycamore Recreational Facility, 11797 Solzman Rd. Admission is free. Buy food and refreshments at the concession stand or bring your own picnic. Please note that alcohol will not be sold, but you are permitted to bring your own coolers to the Sunday Concerts.

**JUNE 22: 6 pm - 8 pm**

**Location:**  
11797 Solzman Rd.

### BLUESTONE IVORY



**SEPTEMBER 14: 5 pm - 7 pm**

**Location:**  
11797 Solzman Rd.

**AJA -**  
**STEELY DAN TRIBUTE BAND**



### 6th Annual Golf Outing

The 6th Annual Golf Outing will be held at **Cedar Trace Golf Club**, 5466 Newtonsville Hutchinson Road, Batavia, Ohio 45103 - phone (513) 625-4400 - on Saturday, August 23, 2008. Cedar Trace Golf Club is an enjoyable eighteen hole course founded in 1999 and located in Batavia, Ohio. The natural hills and valleys make Cedar Trace Golf Club a must for golfers waiting to be challenged. \$80 includes golf, food, prizes, and dinner at Healy Memorial Lodge, 7640 Plainfield Road at Chamberlain Park in Deer Park. A portion of the proceeds will benefit cystic fibrosis. **9:00 am shot gun start, up to 144 golfers – SELLS OUT FAST!!** For more details, contact **Rick Wietmarschen at 509-6690** or visit our website, **www.sycamoretownship.org**.





# Planning and Zoning

## FOURTH ANNUAL SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP BEAUTIFICATION CONTEST

### CONTEST OVERVIEW

Do you live near someone who takes extra special care of their property? If so, you are fortunate to have neighbors who have made an investment in your neighborhood. When people beautify their property the whole neighborhood wins! Property values are enhanced and the neighborhood becomes more attractive and desirable. The Sycamore Township Beautification Award is a challenge designed to recognize exceptional properties, which have contributed to keeping Sycamore Township beautiful. Our goal is to applaud the owners of properties who have taken extra measures to achieve noticeable improvements that have impacted our community and to develop better and stronger relationships with local government and its residents. Awards will be presented annually for Township properties based on the following:

### CRITERIA

- ✓ exhibits pride in their home
- ✓ shows excellence in exterior home upkeep and maintenance
- ✓ shows creativeness in the exterior of the home in relation to the surrounding neighborhood

### CATEGORIES

The Sycamore Township Beautification Awards will be given to 10 residential properties which beautify the Township.

### JUDGING

All properties will be reviewed and judged by Township Department head staff.

### NOMINATIONS

Nominations to be judged may be submitted by property owners, friends, neighbors, etc. Applications may be found below, on our web site [www.sycamoretownship.org](http://www.sycamoretownship.org) or at the Township Administration office.

### RULES

Winners are not eligible to win more than once in a three year period.

### DEADLINE

All nominations must be postmarked by Friday, July 25, 2008. Judging will be held in the month of August. Winners will be announced in September.

### AWARD WINNERS

Award winners will be welcomed by the Township Board of Trustees at a special awards ceremony where beautification award certificates will be presented. Award winners will receive special recognition on the Township web site and in the newsletter and several gracious gift certificates from local businesses.




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## SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP APPLICATION FOR BEAUTIFICATION CONTEST

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please complete the application and fax to (513) 792-8571 or mail to the Township Administration Offices, 8540 Kenwood Road, Sycamore Township, OH 45236. Thank you!**

Address of Property Nominated: \_\_\_\_\_ Property Owners Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any information on the above-mentioned property based on overall look, maintenance of overall property, improvement to the neighborhood, inspiration to others and any unique characteristics of the property.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: (513) \_\_\_\_\_



# Maintenance Department

## Brush Chipping Drop Off

Behind Township Admin Bldg  
8540 Kenwood Rd  
Saturday 8 am – 4 pm  
July 5, August 2, September 6, October 4

## Fall Trash Bash – North

The Sycamore Township maintenance staff will be on hand to offer assistance at the Fall Trash Bash North Sycamore Recreation Facility - School Road Entrance, 7841 School Road.

**Friday, Sept 26, Noon - 4 pm**  
**Saturday, Sept 27, 8 am-4 pm**  
**Sunday, Sept 28, Noon-4pm.**

Trash, junk, debris, tires, old construction materials, furniture, lawn mowers and appliances of all sorts will be accepted.

**Please note that paint, chemicals, pesticides and yard waste including leaves, limbs and brush will not be accepted.**

**Be prepared to show proof of residency.**

**A valid Driver's License or utility bill with your Sycamore Township address will be accepted. Residents of the southern part of the Township are also welcome to take advantage of the Trash Bash in the north.**



## Fall Compost Give-Away

The Township will once again make available compost and wood chips on **Saturday, September 20 from 8 am until 4 pm.** The material may be picked up at the Township's compost site adjacent to Hartzell United Methodist Church Parking Lot at 8999 Applewood Drive.

Maintenance personnel will be on hand to assist you in loading the material. There is an abundant supply of both compost and wood chips so come early and come often. No rain date has been set at this time.

## Road Work

With warm weather here, our crews will be out working on your streets. Typically the Maintenance Department performs blacktop work, storm sewer repair, road sign repairs and various maintenance projects. We ask that you please slow down in work zones for the safety of our crews.

The Township is also doing a large road re-surfacing project this year. If you would like to know if your street is in this year's project, you can check the website at [www.sycamoretownship.org](http://www.sycamoretownship.org) or call the Township Office at 791-8447 and ask for Tracy Kellums.

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## SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS RECYCLED 604.22 TONS IN 2007!

Congratulations Sycamore Township residents! In 2007, you recycled 604.22 tons of metal, glass, plastic, and paper. Your recycling efforts benefited the environment and the local economy in a big way.

The recycling efforts in Sycamore Township saved the equivalent of:

- 4,823 trees
- 36,578 gallons of gasoline
- Enough energy to power 108 average homes for an entire year
- 502 tons of greenhouse gases - equivalent to removing 399 cars from the road

Recycling reduces pollution so the air we breathe is cleaner, conserves natural resources so we will have them to use in the future, and decreases the amount of waste going to the

landfill. Recycling also boosts our local economy by creating 169,000 jobs and \$6 billion in annual wages just in the State of Ohio.

On average, each household in Sycamore Township recycled 146 pounds in 2007. That's a lot of pop cans and newspapers! If you would like to see even more material recycled in 2008, check out the list below to make sure you include all these materials in your recycling bin. Don't have a bin? Sycamore Township makes it easy! Call 242-4600 to request your bin today!

Good Work, Sycamore Township, your recycling efforts made a big difference!

Have a question about recycling?  
Call Hamilton County's Recycling Hotline at 946-7766 or visit [www.hamiltoncountyrecycles.org](http://www.hamiltoncountyrecycles.org).





# Contacts

## Summer 2008

Tom Weidman, President

Cliff Bishop, Vice President

Dick Kent, Trustee

Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer

R. Douglas Miller, Law Director

Rob Molloy, Administrator

Tracy Kellums, Superintendent

Mike McKeown, Parks & Recreation Director

**791-8447 – Fax 792-8564**

Greg Bickford, AICP, Planning Zoning Director

Assistant Township Administrator

**792-7250 – Fax 792-8571**

EMS & Fire Department/Fire Chief

William "BJ" Jetter, PH.D., MIFireE, CHSIII

**792-8565 – Fax 792-8564**

Sheriff's Liaison, Corporal Kristy Fritz

**791-8447 – Fax 792-8564**

Fire and Police Emergency – 911

[www.sycamoretownship.org](http://www.sycamoretownship.org)



8540 Kenwood Road  
Sycamore Twp., Ohio 45236

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

*"There's More in Sycamore"*



## Trustees available to better serve you

To serve you better, the Trustees have designated areas of Sycamore Township to service. If you have a question about your neighborhood, please contact the appropriate Trustee.



**Tom Weidman**  
President  
Northern Area



**Cliff Bishop**  
Vice President  
Dillonvale/Rossmoyne



**Dick Kent**  
Trustee  
Kenwood



**Robert C. Porter III**  
Fiscal  
Officer

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