

# Sycamore Township NEWS

WINTER 2009

## In this Issue

- 2 EMS/Fire Department  
Chief Jetter  
Home Safety  
Men of Moeller
- 3 Police and Crime Prevention  
Cpl. Kristy Fritz  
Healthy Community
- 4 Planning & Zoning  
Land Use Advisory Board  
Gas Aggregation  
Continuing Progress
- 5 Parks and Recreation  
2009 Plans  
Calendar of Events
- 6 Contacts

Sycamore Township will not be cutting back or eliminating any services in 2009. Money is tight, the economy is in a slump, and governments are struggling to make ends meet, but through good stewardship and wise spending of your tax dollars, the residents of Sycamore Township will continue to enjoy all of the benefits and services that you currently receive. Your roads will be plowed and salted, leaves will be collected, and the park and recreation programs will continue. The Sheriff's patrols and the Fire / EMS will continue to provide top rate service to our residents and businesses. Everyone here at Sycamore Township is working hard to make sure you get the most for your money and that your community will continue to prosper.



Cliff W. Bishop

Sycamore's new firehouse and park area on Deerfield Road will be a fantastic addition to the Township's green space, providing protection, safety, meeting space, and recreation for the residents of Sycamore Township.

Trustees Tom Weidman, Dick Kent, and I, along with Fiscal Officer Rob Porter, will continue to do the best job possible for you. We will persist in using your tax dollars wisely and to keep Sycamore Township a great place to live. Thank you for your trust in us and we wish each and every one of you a blessed 2009.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cliff W. Bishop". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Cliff W. Bishop  
Vice President, Board of Trustees





# EMS/Fire Department



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

While the New Year brings a new outlook, we must remember to take time out to protect our biggest investment-our home. During the cold weather there are several things we need to monitor. Here are a couple of key items that will help you save on utility costs.

- Make sure you change your furnace filter every month.
- Electronic air cleaners should also be regularly cleaned.
- If you haven't already purchased one, a water heater blanket will conserve energy.
- Entry doors and windows can be a source of heat loss. Make sure your door seals are tight and all windows and storm windows are closed and locked.

■ Maintain moisture in your home. The interior of your home can become very dry when the furnace is running. Make sure that you keep plenty of water in your humidifier. Even a pie pan filled with water near a heat vent will add moisture to the air.

■ Your basement floor drains should have water in the trap to prevent sewer gas from entering your home.

More falls occur indoors during the winter months. Make sure

throw rugs are stationary so they don't move when you walk on them. Also keep all hallways and stairs open so you don't have anything in the way that could cause a fall. Make sure that all your sidewalks have been de-iced during inclement weather, and most of all, keep fresh batteries on hand for flashlights in case you lose power. A working flashlight will be very helpful in the event of a power outage.

This winter, safety and prevention should be your number one concern to protect yourself and your loved ones.

Happy New Year,

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



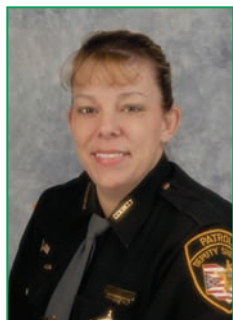
## A Special Thank You....

Sycamore Township would like to thank the "Men of Moeller" for all their help with a Sycamore Township residential property. Their work included exterior painting, weed trimming, leaf raking and yard clean up.

A special thanks goes to Brian Gilronan of Moeller who organized these two groups of young men.



# Police and Crime Prevention



Cpl. Kristy Fritz,  
Sheriff's Liaison

**"Healthy Community – Healthy Youth"** It is the basic principle on which The Northeast Community Challenge Coalition was founded 25 years ago. Founded in 1983 in response to the television documentary "Chemical People", the coalition has become one of the oldest prevention

coalitions in the State of Ohio. By combining varying facets of the community including schools, senior services, parents, social services, law enforcement, government, faith organizations, health organizations and youth, the coalition has helped to implement strategies that reduce the risk of substance abuse in the youth of the community.

One of the strategies the coalition has promoted is the Community Wide Asset Initiative. Infused with 40 developmental assets, this initiative lets the community know what young people need to make choices that positively affect their future. The implementation of these assets also serves to reduce the risky behaviors that can lead our children down the wrong path. These assets can be applied to children from the time they are infants through the age of 18.

Although there are too many assets (or building blocks) to be listed here, they are divided into eight categories which can give you an idea of how they work.

1. **Support** – Children and adolescents need to experience support, care, and love from their families and many others.
2. **Empowerment** – Children and youth need to be valued by their community and have opportunities to contribute to others. For this to occur, they must feel safe and secure.
3. **Boundaries & Expectations** – Children and youth need to know what is expected of them

and whether activities and behaviors are "in bounds" or "out of bounds".

4. **Constructive Use of Time** – Children and youth need constructive, enriching opportunities for growth through creative activities, youth programs, congregational involvement, and quality time at home.
5. **Commitment to Learning** – Children and youth need to develop a lifelong commitment to education and learning.
6. **Positive Values** – Children and youth need to develop strong values that guide their choices: caring, justice, integrity, responsibility, and restraint.
7. **Social Competence** – Children and youth need skills and competencies that equip them to make positive choices, to build relationships, and to succeed in life.
8. **Positive Identity** – Children and youth need a strong sense of their own power, purpose, worth, and optimism about their future.



These eight categories are simply a glimpse into the assets they represent. If you would like to learn how to become involved with this initiative or for more information contact the Northeast Community Challenge Coalition. [www.necchealthycommunity.org](http://www.necchealthycommunity.org) (513)-489-2587 - Email: [neccc@cinci.rr.com](mailto:neccc@cinci.rr.com)



## Planning and Zoning

### Sycamore Township Land Use Advisory Board

The Board of Trustees has recently commissioned a new citizen committee. The Land Use Advisory Board has been created to assist with issues of land use in the Township. This board will be appointed to serve at the pleasure of the Trustees and will meet on a quarterly basis. The aim of the Board will be to serve as a recommending body to the Township Zoning Commission as well as the Board of Trustees.

If you are interested in serving on this Board or have any questions, please contact or forward a resume and cover letter to Greg Bickford either by email or regular mail. The Trustees will select members for this board in February.



Trustee Cliff Bishop and Tom Weidman join Dan Neyer with Neyer Properties at the new Kenwood Professional Building Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Galbraith Road.

### Gas Aggregation

In November of 2008, the voters of Sycamore Township approved gas aggregation and more recently the Board of Trustees approved a consulting agreement with Integrys Energy Services to guide us through the implementation process and obtain PUCO certification. We anticipate public hearings will be scheduled in late winter or early spring. Please look for further information in the newspaper or check [sycamoretownship.org](http://sycamoretownship.org)

### Continuing Progress

The economy across the country has had its ups and downs and, like you, local governments are feeling the pinch as well.

Despite the economic downturn, there are many positive things happening in Sycamore Township that will ensure that our community will continue to stay vital. The Container Store and Crate and Barrel have already opened as has the new Kroger Fresh Fare store. Other shops will open soon including Borders Bookstore, Mitchell's Salon and L A Fitness. Nordstrom Department Store at the Kenwood Towne Centre is scheduled to open in the fall. With the leadership of our Board of Trustees, Sycamore Township will continue to press forward in this economic slump.

In fact, we are in the process of building a new 16 acre park along Deerfield Road, between East Kemper Road and the I-275 overpass in the northern part of the Township. The park will include a lighted Class A baseball diamond, four soccer fields, a walking trail and playground. In the northwest corner of the site we are building a new firehouse to better serve the residents in the north.



Dave Brown Commercial Photography

## Parks and Recreation

### MAKING PLANS FOR 2009...

Winter may be a time of rest for the parks, but the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee is busy making plans for next year. Members are planning for the Festival in Sycamore, Sunday Concerts, 5K Challenge, and possible holiday activities and programs. The committee is looking forward to another great year.

Work on the new park on Deerfield Road will continue as soon as the weather breaks in the spring. The park will feature a lighted regulation baseball diamond and a lighted soccer field. It will also have other soccer fields, a walking track, playground area, concession area, and restrooms. We look forward to opening the new park in 2010, after the grass fields have fully developed.

Rental of the Bechtold Memorial Pavilion at Bechtold Park will be available after April 1. The new shelter will hold up to 180 people and has its own restrooms and fireplace. Call Gloria at the Township Office, 791-8447, for details and reservations.

If you have any comments or suggestions, please call Mike McKeown at 792-7270.



### BRUSH CHIPPING DROP OFF

BEHIND TOWNSHIP ADMIN BLDG  
8540 KENWOOD ROAD

SATURDAY 8 AM – 4PM

MARCH 7

APRIL 4

MAY 2

JUNE 6

JULY 11



### COMPOST/WOODCHIP GIVE-AWAY

HARTZELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
8999 APPLEWOOD DRIVE

SATURDAY, MAY 9

8 AM – 4 PM

### TRASH BASH – SOUTH

BECHTOLD PARK  
4312 SYCAMORE ROAD

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 12 NOON – 4PM

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 8AM – 4PM

SUNDAY, MAY 17, 12 NOON – 4PM

### TRASH BASH – NORTH

NORTH SYCAMORE RECREATION FACILITY  
SCHOOL ROAD ENTRANCE  
7841 SCHOOL ROAD

FRI., SEPTEMBER 18, 12 NOON – 4PM

SAT., SEPTEMBER 19, 8AM – 4PM

SUN., SEPTEMBER 20, 12 NOON – 4PM

### FESTIVAL IN SYCAMORE

BECHTOLD PARK  
4312 SYCAMORE ROAD

FRIDAY, JULY 17, 6PM – MIDNIGHT

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 6PM – MIDNIGHT



# Contacts



## Winter 2009

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

PRSRT 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.