

Sycamore Township

NEWS

Winter 2010

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Having just completed two decades of service to Sycamore Township, I am going to use this opportunity to reflect on the changes and accomplishments I have seen over that time. I have had the opportunity to work with dynamic leaders such as Clete McDaniel and Bob Schuler and our current Trustees, Dick Kent, Tom Weidman and Cliff Bishop.



Robert C. Porter III

Using innovative tax increment financing (TIF's) the Trustees have been able to dramatically improve the appearance and efficiency of our central business district. Utilities have been placed underground along Kenwood and Montgomery Roads. Sidewalks and curbs have been placed in many areas of the township to create a more pedestrian friendly environment. Traffic flows have been improved around one of the most successful shopping districts in the region. All this was done while protecting and maintaining the character of our residential areas.

During this time, the township established its own fire department which provides outstanding service to our residents.

Our parks and recreational opportunities have been increased, cumulating with the opening of the new Robert L. Schuler Sports Complex. This complex includes state of the art baseball and soccer facilities as well as a new fire station. The complex was built using the new 'green' technology. Much of the energy for the property is supplied by solar panels and new geothermal technology.

The Trustees have been able to provide these improvements and maintain our outstanding leaf collection and snow removal programs with one of the lowest property tax rates in Hamilton County and no income tax.

Trustees Tom Weidman, Dick Kent, Cliff Bishop, and I join in wishing you a healthy, safe, and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert C. Porter III".

Robert C. Porter III
Fiscal Officer





EMS/Fire Department



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

DON'T LET WINTER WEATHER BRING YOU DOWN, PREVENT FALLS

The winter months are here and so is winter weather. Winter weather brings an increased risk for falls, especially among older adults. A fall can have negative health effects on a senior adult, ranging from a temporary loss of independence to a move to an assisted living facility, or even death. Fortunately, falls and fall-related injuries can be prevented.

Slippery surfaces are especially hazardous for senior adults due to an increased risk of balance problems and muscle weakness. By the time a person reaches 80 years of age, muscle strength can decrease by half if it is not maintained. The good news is that muscle strength can be restored at any age by being physically active on a regular basis. There are multiple types of physical activity that can help reduce the risk of falling

- Tai Chi is an ancient Asian form of physical activity that focuses on building and maintaining balance and flexibility. It has been heavily studied and found to be helpful in preventing seniors from falling. Many senior centers and health clubs in Hamilton County offer Tai Chi classes at very low cost.
- Building muscle strength can help prevent falling. Hamilton County Public Health has partnered with many senior centers, retirement communities and churches to offer *A Matter of Balance* classes to the public. *A Matter of Balance* is an evidence-based program designed to increase activity levels and reduce fear of falling among older adults. During the class, participants learn to view falls and fear of falling as controllable and set realistic goals for increasing activity. They also find ways to challenge the environment

to reduce fall risk factors and learn simple exercises to increase strength and balance. For a listing of *A Matter of Balance* or other strength training classes in your area, call 946-7807 or visit www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org.

- Water aerobics is another form of physical activity that senior adults with arthritis or other joint conditions enjoy because of its therapeutic effects.

There are other preventive measures you can take to avoid falling or slipping on a slippery surface.

- Make sure that the path to your door, garage and mailbox are shoveled and free of debris.
- If walkways are icy, melt the ice by sprinkling salt over the slippery area or cover the ice with something gritty or non-slippery. Remember, the thicker the ice, the longer it takes to melt. Ideally, you should sprinkle salt before or immediately after a storm, especially in areas of the driveway or sidewalk you know are prone to being icy.
- Allow yourself plenty of time to get where you need to go in winter weather. Taking your time will reduce your risk of falling, especially if you use an assistive walking device.
- Dress for the weather! If you do happen to fall, it is important to stay as warm as possible while you wait for help to arrive.

For more information about fall prevention, visit www.fallpreventiontaskforce.org or call 946-7807. The web site offers fall prevention information for seniors, families, caregivers and healthcare providers, as well as useful literature and tools designed to identify those who may be at risk for falling.

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

Police and Crime Prevention



Lt. Dan Reid,
Liaison to the Hamilton
County Sheriff's
Department

D.A.R.E. - DOES IT WORK?

There have been many articles written recently about the D.A.R.E. program and its usefulness in the schools and to the community at large. Many police departments and communities have cut the D.A.R.E program due to tight budgets and often state that there is no way to measure its effectiveness. Some articles have gone as far as saying it isn't effective at all. Let's look at this from the perspective of the police officers and children involved.

As a recent D.A.R.E. training graduate and long time skeptic I can see both sides of the coin. I was never a big fan of the program as an administrator because it took one of my men "off the streets". I felt that I could use that officer more effectively fighting crime in a patrol car. That being said, when I would see D.A.R.E Officers on the streets, they always seem to know which kids were causing our problems. They were an invaluable resource to our detectives because they had spent time in the schools and got to know who was committing crimes from the kids.

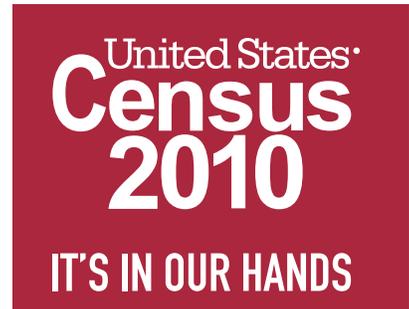
As a D.A.R.E. trainee I was able to spend time with a wonderful fifth grade class in London, Ohio. To see the faces of those children, the thirst for knowledge, the wonder, and the absolute interest in what I did changed how I felt about what effect

D.A.R.E. Officers had on our youth. It gave an old veteran like me renewed interest in my job and what I could still accomplish. It was nice to have contact with the public and their children in a positive light rather than the negative contacts that are the norm in this business. It gave me a positive outlook on the future of our society.

From the children's perspective, I have had three girls that have been through the program. My oldest daughter, who is 24 years old and is starting a family of her own, still talks about the D.A.R.E. officer that taught her in the fifth grade. She looks upon that time very fondly and remembers him like it was yesterday. All of my girls fortunately have not abused drugs or alcohol. I believe the re-enforcement of the D.A.R.E. officer and the message my wife and I were teaching at home had a part in their life choice to stay off drugs and alcohol.

I started teaching D.A.R.E. in the schools in Sycamore Township on January 15th. I have the strong support of your Township Trustees in re-enforcing the message you pass on to your children about making positive life choices. With the help and support of parents, I believe I can help make an impact on the lives of our youth. Do I believe that D.A.R.E. is effective? That is a resounding YES! Not only for the children but for the officers that have the privilege to teach them.

Sincerely,
Lt. Dan Reid
Hamilton County Sheriff's Department



CENSUS 2010 "EVERYBODY COUNTS"

Starting with the first census in 1790, the U S Census is held every 10 years to obtain an accurate count of all people living in the United States. An accurate population count is critical to Sycamore Township, Hamilton County and you.

The Census population totals determine representation in Congress as well as the amount of State and Federal funding communities receive over the next decade.

The Census 2010 form is easy to fill out and all responses are confidential. For more information, visit the 2010 Census website at <http://www.census.gov>.



IT'S IN OUR HANDS

Parks and Recreation



SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP PARKS

Bechtold Park

21 acres
4312 Sycamore Rd.

Facilities: 5 shelters, nature trail, 2 baseball fields, 2 sand volleyball courts, 3 children's play areas, restroom facilities, basketball hoop, .3 mile walking track

Clete McDaniel Sports Complex

22 acres
11797 Old Solzman Rd.

Facilities: 5 baseball fields, 2 game soccer fields, 3 practice soccer fields, batting cage, concession stand, restrooms, children's play area, .9 mile walking track

Bob Meyer Park

7 acres
8511 Sturbridge Drive

Facilities: 4 baseball fields, batting cage, children's play area

Nature Preserve

16 acres
N.E. corner of Fields Ertel and School Rds.
Facilities: Natural wooded area featuring a wide variety of plant and animal life

Robert L. Schuler Sports Complex

18 acres
11532 Deerfield Rd.
Facilities: Deluxe lighted baseball field, deluxe lighted soccer field, 2 additional game soccer fields, instructional soccer field, .6 mile walking track, restrooms, vending area, children's play area, community room

Kenwood Gardens

1 acre
S.W. corner of Montgomery and Galbraith Rds.
Facilities: Botanical Gardens

High Point Park

1 acre
First Avenue
Facilities: 1 shelter, 1 full basketball court

ROBERT L. SCHULER SPORTS COMPLEX SET FOR ACTION THIS SPRING

The Schuler Sports Complex will be open for business in the spring. The 18 acre park features a deluxe lighted baseball field, complete with dugouts, bullpens, and scoreboard. The complex also features a deluxe lighted soccer field, two more game soccer fields, and an instructional field, restrooms, a vending area, large play area, and a .6 mile walking trail. Also located at the facility are the Schuler Community Room, a small maintenance garage, and salt bin to handle the northern part of the Township. **Call Park Director Mike McKeown (791-8447) for reservation information.**



Robert L. Schuler Sports Complex Meeting Room

SPREADING HOLIDAY CHEER

Many Township residents and neighbors got into the Christmas spirit at the Dillonvale Luminaria on December 13 at Bechtold Park. The Deer Park High School band and the Trinity Church choir provided holiday sounds for the event. Santa and Mrs. Claus were on hand, as were magicians and a caricature artist. Dillonvale IGA provided all of the hot chocolate, cookies, cider, and eggnog. Hayrides toured the streets of Dillonvale to see the holiday decorations. Thanks to all of the Parks Committee members for their help.





Planning and Zoning



Greg Bickford,
Zoning Director,
Assistant Township
Administrator

RESIDENTS HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES TOO!

Sycamore Township is proud of its quality of residential life and has adopted ordinances requiring all residents to be responsible for maintaining that quality of life. The following are general summaries of common ordinances:

Trash Removal

1. All exterior property and premises shall be maintained in a clean, safe and sanitary condition.
2. All structures and exterior property must be kept free from rodent harborages and infestation.
3. All exterior property and premises and the interior of every structure shall be free from any accumulation of rubbish or garbage.
4. Every occupant of a structure shall dispose of all rubbish and garbage in a clean and sanitary manner by placing such rubbish in approved containers.

Cars, Trucks and Motor Vehicles

5. Inoperable, junk, or unlicensed vehicles shall not be kept or stored on any premises and no vehicle shall at any time be in the state of disassembly, disrepair or in the process of being stripped or dismantled. They must be removed from the property or parked inside a garage.
6. Unlicensed vehicles may not be parked on the street.
7. Recreational vehicles, boats, and campers are required to be parked in the rear yard or in an enclosed garage.
8. All vehicles may only be parked on a paved surface. No vehicle may be parked on grass, dirt or gravel.

In-Home Occupations

9. An in-home occupation shall be permitted provided it meets the requirements and standards of Section 10-4.1 of the ST Zoning Resolution.

POD's

10. One portable storage container is permitted per property not to exceed 14 consecutive days. The container must be situated on a paved surface.
11. POD's are not permitted to be placed in the street.

Signs

12. Signs of any kind are prohibited from being posted in the right-of-way, which is generally the area of the street between the sidewalks, including planting strips.
13. Signs placed in the Township right-of-way may be removed daily by Township personnel.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Brush Chipping Drop Off

Behind Township Admin Bldg
8540 Kenwood Road
Saturday 8 AM-4 PM
March 6, April 3, May 1
June 5, July 3

Document Shredding Program

8540 Kenwood Road
Behind The Township
Admin Bldg
Saturday, April 17
10 AM-2 PM

Compost/Woodchip Give-Away

Hartzell United Methodist
Church
8999 Applewood Drive
Saturday, May 8
8 AM-4 PM

Trash Bash – South

Bechtold Park
4312 Sycamore Road
Friday, May 14, 12 Noon-4 PM
Saturday, May 15, 8 AM-4 PM
Sunday, May 16, 12 Noon-4 PM

Trash Bash – North

Clete McDaniel Sports Complex
School Road Entrance
7841 School Road
Friday, Sept 17, 12 Noon-4 PM
Saturday, Sept 18, 8 AM-4 PM
Sunday, Sept 19, Noon-4 PM



Maintenance Department



Tracy Kellums,
Superintendent

SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP ADDS DE-ICING WEAPON

Sycamore Township recognizes the importance of safe roads especially in the winter months and takes pride in the job that the Maintenance Department does in clearing the roads of snow and ice for safe travel. For this reason the Township is starting a chemical de-

icing program this winter season.

The Trustees have authorized the purchase of calcium chloride and a brine making machine. Two 5000 gallon tanks, one for brine and the other for calcium chloride, along with 55 gallon tanks mount onto our existing salt trucks with a pump system that applies the de-icing agent to the salt as it comes off of the spinner. This process will help the Maintenance Department in their battle against the elements in several ways. First, the wetting of the salt as it comes off the spinner activates it for faster results so in turn the crews will be able to throw less salt which is going to save both time and money. Also, the calcium chloride will allow the salt to work at lower temperatures. Untreated salt will only work down to a temperature of 20 degrees Fahrenheit, the addition of the calcium chloride will allow the salt to work down to approximately 0 degrees Fahrenheit which will help during the cold overnight temperatures along with giving the crews a weapon to fight the ice storms that we have been victim to the past few winters.



The cost of the equipment is \$21,995.00 and the Trustees feel that it will pay for itself in time by saving salt, which is at a cost of over \$60.00 a ton, cutting down on the time to clear the roads and the added safety of clear roads.

Along with the purchase of the chemical de-icing equipment the Township has also built an additional salt storage building in the northern end of the Township at the Robert L. Schuler Sports Complex to help cut down on travel time to reload with salt for the crews working in the northern portion of the Township.

All of these added measures will allow Sycamore Township to better serve its residents and make travel through the Township safe.

For additional information, call Superintendent Tracy Kellums at 791-8447.

DOCUMENT SHREDDING PROGRAM

The Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the implementation of a document shredding program for Sycamore Township residents. A mobile shredding truck will be available for you to get rid of information you don't want to fall into the wrong hands. Proof of residency is required.

Saturday, April 17th, 2010 • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. • 8540 Kenwood Road • Behind the Township Administration Building



Contacts

Winter 2010

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, Lt. Daniel P. Reid

791-8447 – Fax 792-8564

Fire and Police Emergency – 911

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.