

Sycamore Township NEWS

SPRING 2013

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Spring 2013 promises to be a very busy and very important season for Sycamore Township. Busy with major development and road improvement projects approved and beginning. Important because there are ballot issues to be decided by Township residents in the May primary election.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you can learn more about the active projects that are designed to improve the Kenwood business district, making it safer and more attractive as a commercial and retail destination. The continued improvement and redevelopment of the Kenwood business area is vital to our goal of keeping Sycamore Township a vibrant community that is attractive to businesses and a great place to live.

As we always do with major construction like this, we ask for your patience as you navigate through the construction zones, and we apologize for any delays or disruptions to your daily life. The safety of the workers, motorists and pedestrians is important to us, and we're confident that the finished products will be well worth the temporary inconveniences.

As most of you are aware by now, local governments across the state have seen their revenues decrease, sometimes dramatically. In Sycamore Township, the reduction of revenues from the State's local government funding and elimination of the estate tax are projected to reduce the Township's

revenue by \$6.4 million, which is a 72% reduction in general fund revenues based on 2011 budgets.

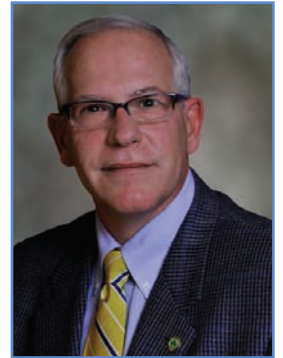
The Trustees have proposed the creation of three Joint Economic Development Zones (JEDZ) for the Kenwood area. Township voters will decide whether or not the JEDZ will be implemented by casting their votes on the JEDZ proposals in the May primary election. You can read more about how JEDZ operate, and how they would affect the Township and its residents, on page 5 of this newsletter.

On behalf of my fellow Trustees, Tom Weidman and Denny Connor, our Fiscal Officer Rob Porter, and the Township staff, we thank you for your continued support. Best wishes for an enjoyable spring and summer.

Sincerely,



Cliff Bishop, Trustee



Cliff Bishop, Trustee

Trustee Denny Connor joined other civic leaders who gathered on Wednesday, March 20, to deliver meals on wheels to homebound seniors as part of **National Mayors for Meals Day**.



Police and Crime Prevention



Thomas E. Butler,
Lieutenant
Hamilton County
Sheriff's Office

AUTO THEFT PREVENTION

Many auto thefts are crimes of opportunity. Leaving the keys in your car or your vehicle unoccupied with the engine running, even for a minute, greatly increases the chance that your car will be stolen. It is truly a helpless feeling to watch your car being driven away by a total stranger as you stand feet away. Take your keys with you even for quick trips.

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR CAR

- Don't leave your keys, valuables or packages in your car.
- Close your windows and lock your doors whenever you leave your car, regardless of how long you plan to be gone.
- Park in well-lit areas.
- Keep your car in a garage if you have one.
- Park in lots that have attendants.
- Use an anti-theft device whenever you leave your car.
- When parking your car, turn your wheels toward the curb to make it more difficult for a thief to "tow" your car.
- Use your emergency brake when you park.
- Immediately report any suspicious activity to the Sheriff's Office

WHEN YOU ARE IN YOUR CAR

- Keep your doors and windows locked, no matter how short the distance or how "safe" the neighborhood.
- When you're coming to a stop, leave enough space to maneuver around other cars. This will allow you the room needed to get away if you sense trouble.
- If a suspicious-looking person approaches your car, drive away carefully.
- Drive in the inside (center) lane to make it more difficult for would-be carjackers to approach your car.
- Don't stop to assist a stranger whose car has broken down. Instead, help by using your cell phone to call the sheriff's office for help.

DON'T TEXT AND DRIVE!

The six month grace period ended and Ohio's texting and driving law took full effect March 1, 2013. Under the new law, police officers can pull over drivers under the age of 18 suspected of texting or talking on a cell phone while driving. Teens face a \$150 fine and 60-day license suspension for the first offense. There is secondary enforcement

for drivers over 18, meaning drivers must first be stopped for another traffic violation, such as speeding or weaving, before being cited for texting while driving. Adult drivers caught using a handheld electronic wireless communication device to write, send or read a text will face a misdemeanor fine of up to \$150 dollars.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Chipping Program

May 4/ June 1
8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
Behind Administration Bldg.
8540 Kenwood Rd.

Document Shredding

April 20
10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.
Behind Administration Bldg.
8540 Kenwood Rd.

National Day of Prayer

May 2
12:00 P.M.
Administration Bldg.
8540 Kenwood Rd.

Primary Election

May 7

Compost Giveaway

May 11
8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
Hartzell Methodist Church
8999 Applewood Dr.

Trash Bash

May 17
Noon – 4:00 P.M.
May 18
8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
Bechtold Park
4312 Sycamore Rd.

Twilight Concert

June 29
5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.
Bechtold Pavilion
4312 Sycamore Rd.

Festival in Sycamore

July 12-13
6:00 P.M. – Midnight
Bechtold Park
4312 Sycamore Rd.

Summer Car Show

August 3
9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.
Schuler Sports Complex
11580 Deerfield Rd.

Don't miss the
Spring 2013 Trash Bash
at Bechtold Park

Friday & Saturday Only
May 17th Noon-4:00 P.M.
May 18th 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.



EMS/Fire Department

Spring is the time for new beginnings and with that a new battery in your smoke detector. The Sycamore Township Fire Department (STFD) in conjunction with the Ohio State Fire Marshal's office promotes the "Change Your Clocks, Change Your Batteries" initiative and encourages citizens to make it a habit to change the batteries in their smoke detectors at least twice a year- at the beginning and end of daylight savings time. The facts speak clearly, only a working smoke detector can save your life. The STFD encourages all residents to ensure that their smoke detectors are properly placed and regularly tested and maintained.

Smoke detectors, when properly installed and maintained, provide early warning when fire occurs. For the greatest protection, install a smoke detector in every sleeping area and on every level of your home. Also, develop an escape plan that every member of the family, as well as overnight guests, are familiar with in the event a smoke detector is activated. Remember that one smoke detector in a home can double a person's chance of escape in the event of a fire.

Test smoke detectors at least once a month to ensure that they are working properly. Vacuum the dust from inside the detector at least once a year. Batteries in battery-operated detectors should be changed twice a year or whenever a detector "chirps" to signal low battery power. Never borrow a smoke detector's battery for another use. A disabled detector cannot save your life. In addition, smoke detectors should be replaced every 10 years or according to the manufacturer's specifications.



Perry Gerome,
CFI, CFEI, OFE, FM
Fire Chief

Should you have any questions regarding smoke detectors or are in need of a smoke detector for your residence, please contact the Sycamore Township Fire Department at 513-792-8565 for assistance.

FIRE DEPARTMENT GRANT FUNDS

Your Sycamore Township Fire Department received the following Grant funds in 2012/2013:

The AFG Grant (Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program) funded through FEMA: The Fire Department received \$259,203 to be used for Defibrillators/Monitors for the life squads and a Compressor/Cascade System used for the SCBA's (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) firefighters use during a fire.

EMS Training and Equipment Grant from the State of Ohio: The Department received \$3,000 to pay for Intubation Training Kits and Continuing Education Courses for EMT's and Paramedics.

Factory Mutual Insurance Company Grant for Fire Prevention: The Department acquired \$3,000 for the purchase of smoke detectors.



WATCH OUT!

With the advent of more sunshine and warmer temperatures, more and more people will be out and about. This is especially true for two wheeled vehicles, including bicycles, scooters, and motorcycles, as well as pedestrians. Make sure to look twice when entering or leaving intersections, and watch out for children and adult bicyclists.



Parks and Recreation



Mike McKeown
Parks & Recreation
Director

SHELTERS, COMMUNITY ROOM AVAILABLE FOR RENT

Having a picnic, birthday party, family reunion, meeting, or any kind of friendly get together? Consider renting a shelter at Bechtold Park or the Community Room at Schuler Sports Complex. They are available at very reasonable prices. Call 792-7259 for shelter rental information. Call 792-7270 for Community Room rental information.

CONGRATULATIONS, TOM!

Tom McKee, veteran WCPO-TV news reporter and Sycamore Township resident, is the recipient of a prestigious 2013 Walter Cronkite Award for Excellence in Television Political Journalism, and received a Special Commendation for Citizen Engagement. Congratulations!



TWILIGHT CONCERT DATE ANNOUNCED

We're pleased to announce that this year's Twilight Concert will be held on Saturday, June 29, from 5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M. at Bechtold Park. Admission is free. The big band sounds of the Jump 'n' Jive Show Band will fill the air. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and relax to the great music of the

big band and swing era. Fill a cooler with your favorite refreshments and snacks to enjoy while you're taking a stroll down memory lane. Drinks and food will not be sold at the concert. Call the park hotline (792-7275) if the weather is questionable. We hope to see you there.

21ST ANNUAL FESTIVAL IN SYCAMORE

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! July 12 and 13 are the dates. Bechtold Park is the place. The 21st annual Festival in Sycamore will feature great national and local entertainment led by classic rockers the IDES OF MARCH, featuring Jim Peteryk, and rock legends AMERICA. The IDES are most famous for the platinum hit "Vehicle." IDES lead singer Jim Peteryk was not only a founding member of the popular band Survivor, he also wrote many of 38 Special's big hits. AMERICA provided the sound track for the 70s and 80s with hits including "Horse With No Name", "Ventura Highway", "I Need You", "Sister Golden Hair", "Tin Man", "Daisy Jane", "Sandman", and many others. These two acts, along with some great local and regional bands, promise to make this year's Festival a memorable one.

Of course, the Festival will also feature fantastic food and drinks – all at a reasonable price. The Festival will again offer the popular "RIDE FOR FIVE" program, where an individual can buy a bracelet each day for only \$5.00 to ride every ride all night long!

We hope to see you on Friday, July 12 with the IDES OF MARCH and Saturday, July 13 with AMERICA. A full schedule of bands and times will appear in the summer newsletter.



REGISTRATION FOR DEER PARK GRADUATING CLASS OF 2025



Parents and guardians of students who will be 5 years old on or before September 30th may register their child for the 2013-2014 school year from 9 A.M. to 11 A.M. and from noon to 2 P.M. Thursday, May 9th at Holmes Primary, 8688 Donna Lane. Ohio law makes kindergarten mandatory. Children must successfully complete kindergarten before entering first grade.

PICK UP AFTER YOUR PUP!

Did you know the Sycamore Township Trustees passed a resolution way back in 1993 providing for a penalty of \$100 for failing to remove dog and cat excrement in the Township? It is also a park rule that our four-legged friends must be kept under control and on a leash at all times in any Township park. Help keep our community clean and our residents and pets safe by picking up after your pets and keeping them tethered.



THE SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER NEEDS YOU!

Email your news, event information and/or photos to newsletter@sycamoretownship.org. Be sure to include your name and contact information. The deadline for our summer issue is May 13, 2013 by 4:30 P.M. We reserve the right to edit submissions for space and clarity. The number of contributions printed per issue is subject to space available.

WHAT IS A JEDZ?

Q. What is a Joint Economic Development Zone (JEDZ)?

A. In 1996, the Ohio General Assembly passed legislation to allow local communities to designate certain areas as joint economic development zones. The zones are established for the purpose of facilitating new or expanded growth for commercial or economic development in the local communities and in the State.

Q. How is a JEDZ formed?

A. There are various ways to form a JEDZ, but, when one of the local communities is a township, a JEDZ is formed by contracting with other local communities to establish the zone. The contract includes what each party will contribute to the zone and can set forth other matters such as how the zone will be governed and how receipts and disbursements of the zone will be processed. Once a contract has been approved by the local communities, it must be approved by the voters in the township. A majority of the voters in the township must approve the contract before it can take effect.

Q. How does a JEDZ promote economic development?

A. Generally, increased development places additional demands on local communities. Infrastructure such as roads and sewers must be built, maintained and upgraded. Additional safety services personnel must be provided to protect the new and expanded workforce and visitors coming into the area. The Ohio legislature provided for the creation of a JEDZ as a potential source of funding for these expenses.

Q. What is this funding source?

A. In the JEDZ legislation, the Ohio General Assembly approved the collection of an earnings tax on individuals living and working within the zone and businesses operating within the zone. The taxes collected from the zone can be used for expenses incurred by the township.

Q. How does all of this apply to Sycamore Township?

A. On January 30, 2013, the Board of Township Trustees voted to approve three JEDZ contracts in the Kenwood business area. There are no residences in any of these JEDZ. The three areas are the Kenwood-East zone (generally, south of Montgomery Road and east of I-71), Kenwood-Central zone (east of Kenwood Road, south of Galbraith Road and bordered by I-71), and Kenwood-Southwest zone (west of Kenwood Road and south of Orchard Lane). A full description and map of the three areas are available for viewing at the Township offices. The contracts are with the City of Madeira (Kenwood-East and Kenwood-Central) and Amberley Village (Kenwood-Southwest). The question of approving the contracts will be on the ballot at the Primary Election to be held on May 7, 2013.

If approved by the voters, the JEDZ contracts provide for the collection of an income tax at the rate of 0.75% from businesses operating and employees working in a JEDZ. The tax would be collected by the municipality (Madeira or Amberley Village) in accordance with each municipality's income tax ordinance. The tax on employees would be withheld by employers and treated as any other municipal income tax collected in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code. Therefore, if an individual's city or village of residence gives a credit for taxes paid for working in another municipality, taxes paid to the JEDZ would be available for the same credit. The Township Trustees have recently passed a resolution enabling residents who work in any of the JEDZ to receive full credit on income taxes paid in the form of a grant through the Sycamore Township Community Improvement Corporation.

The Sycamore Township Trustees have placed the three JEDZ districts on the ballot for the May 7, 2013 Primary Election to allow the Township residents the opportunity to vote on the formation of each JEDZ. As always, it is important that your vote be counted.





Planning and Zoning

As the economy slowly turns around, there are new developments starting to come to life in Sycamore Township. Most notable is the former Bear Creek Kenwood Towne Place project. Phillips Edison, a local Sycamore Township company, has purchased the property out of foreclosure and hopes to improve the design and offerings with a new vision and approach to the development. If all goes well, the project should be completed sometime in 2014. They are currently removing all old and dilapidated materials with notable construction beginning later this summer.

Other recent approvals by the Board of Township Trustees include a new suites hotel next to the FBI site along Montgomery Road and I-71. The hotel will feature 110 rooms with suites and meeting spaces. Rolling Hills Hospitality will break ground later this year. The site, known as the Greens of Kenwood, will also feature a new office development by Neyer Properties, who hopes to break ground in 2014. To accommodate the growth, Hosbrook Road will be widened from Ronald Reagan Drive to Montgomery Road. The Ohio Department of Transportation will also be adding an additional lane to north bound I-71 to improve

traffic flow. Look for those improvements to take place in 2014.

Finally, Kenwood is getting a new specialty restaurant. Cooper's Hawk Winery has received approval to construct an 11,000 square foot winery and restaurant that will be the first of its kind in the Greater Cincinnati Area. Construction is slated to begin in May.

Along with the commercial developments, Jewish Hospital is in the process of improving their service to our community. The hospital is preparing to break ground on a 140,000 square foot expansion that will take their medical treatment capabilities beyond the most advanced hospitals today. Private rooms and improved patient care are part of the tower and overall campus improvements. In addition, the hospital has recently added a one of a kind gamma knife machine that provides minimally invasive brain surgery.

Development questions can be directed to Greg Bickford, Planning and Zoning Administrator, 791-8447.

PERMITS REQUIRED

Spring brings the promise of warmer weather and with it thoughts of home improvement projects!

Please keep in mind that a zoning permit is required for the following residential projects:

New Single Family Homes
Room Additions
Garages
Decks
Pools
Sheds/Accessory Use

Structures
Fences/Retaining Walls
Front Porches
PODs (Movable Storage Units)
In-Home Occupations

Call the Office of Planning and Zoning at **792-7250** if you need more information.

SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP WELCOMES NEW BUSINESSES!

Horizons Landscaping & Irrigation, offering commercial and residential landscape and lawn care services with free estimates, is now open at 7645 School Road.



New to the Kenwood Corner Building at 7796 Montgomery Road is **Thrivent Financial**, a provider of insurance and financial planning.

St. Gregory Development, a sales and development group, has opened at 7720 Montgomery Road, Suite 200.

At the Kenwood Towne Centre, **Call It Spring**, a footwear and accesories retailer, and **Flip Flop Shops** are open - just in time for sandal wearing weather!



Maintenance Department



Tracy Kellums,
Superintendent

KENWOOD ROAD RECONSTRUCTION FINALLY BEGINS!

After three years of planning, the reconstruction of Kenwood Road will continue through November from Euclid Avenue to Montgomery Road. The roadway is being completely rebuilt and will have new, wider sidewalks and a

landscaped safety median down the middle. In addition, the existing utilities will be relocated underground. The project will improve safety and traffic flow on Kenwood Road. Funding is provided by various grants and Sycamore Township Tax Increment Financing. Questions on the project can be directed to Tracy Kellums, Maintenance Superintendent at 791-8447.

NEW LIGHTING

In an ongoing effort to save on both natural resources and money, Sycamore Township took advantage of an Ohio Lighting Incentive Program through Duke Energy to change all of the light fixtures in the Maintenance Department building. The new fixtures are not only more efficient than the original fixtures that were installed when the building was built in 1989, they also emit more light. This has eliminated the need

for supplemental lighting in the building, improved working conditions and, as a result, increased safety.

The Ohio Lighting Incentive Program paid for approximately fifty percent of the cost of the fixtures and bulbs. This, along with the fact that all of the labor was completed in house by the Maintenance Department, made the project very affordable.

MAINTENANCE TRAINING



This winter all Sycamore Township Maintenance personnel received certification for operation of a skid steer loader through training sponsored by Bobcat Enterprises. The training was performed at the Maintenance

facility at Robert Schuler Memorial Park. Sycamore Township hosted three different sessions at this location that were available to public works employees throughout the area. Over sixty people took advantage of the opportunity. All costs were paid for out of training money supplied by PWOSO (Public Works Officials of Southwest Ohio) and SMSO (Street Maintenance and Sanitation Officials). This was a great opportunity for all who attended and everyone agreed that it was one of the best training seminars that they had experienced. Our thanks to Bobcat and SMSO/PWOSO for making this happen.

ROAD WORK AHEAD

With warm weather approaching, our maintenance crew will be out working on your streets. The Maintenance Department performs blacktop work, crack sealing, storm sewer and catch basin repair, street sign repair and various other maintenance services. We ask that you please slow down in work zones for the safety of our crews and yourself.

If you have any questions about this year's projects please call Superintendent Tracy Kellums at 792-7257 or email at tkellums@sycamoretownship.org.

The Township is also doing a road resurfacing project this year which will include the following streets:

Eldora Drive (Larchview to Belfast)

Lyndon Center Court

Glenbar Court

Northlake Drive

Baen Road

Kemperknoll Road

Kemperridge Court

Lyndhurst Court



Contacts



Spring 2013

Tom Weidman, President

Cliff Bishop, Vice President

Denny Connor, Trustee

Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer

R. Douglas Miller, Law Director

Bruce Raabe, Administrator

Tracy Kellums, Superintendent

Mike McKeown, Parks & Recreation Director

791-8447 – Fax 792-8564

Greg Bickford, AICP, Planning/Zoning Director

Assistant Administrator

792-7250 – Fax 792-8571

Perry Gerome, Fire Chief

792-8565 – Fax 792-8564

Thomas E. Butler, Lieutenant

District Three Commander

Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

774-6351– Fax 774-6350

Fire and Police Emergency – 911

www.sycamoretownship.org



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Sycamore Twp., Ohio 45236

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Tom Weidman
President



Cliff Bishop
Vice President



Denny Connor
Trustee



Robert C. Porter III
Fiscal
Officer

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