

Sycamore Township

NEWS

WINTER 2013

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As 2013 starts to unfold, the Board of Trustees and Fiscal Officer wish you a joyous, peaceful and prosperous New Year! Our Township continues to be a fantastic place to live and work. Residential home sales continue upward at a steady pace as valuations appear to rebound. Building permits are in line with this resurgence and we see an influx of new businesses while vacancy rates are extremely strong – below the 7% level. Kenwood Towne Centre has plans for a multi-million dollar interior renovation and you may have already seen the recent Apple and Microsoft remodels.

One of our very own Township businesses, Phillips Edison & Company, purchased the defunct Bear Creek Capital's Kenwood Towne Place and has plans to begin enclosing the exterior in June or July. Work has already started on some of the existing mechanicals to get it ready for enclosure. Nearby, on Ronald Reagan Drive, just off Hosbrook Road, the FBI has finished settling into their new headquarters and plans are underway to begin building a hotel/office complex on the adjoining parcel that will be known as "The Greens of Kenwood" by Neyer Properties. Just up the street, at the corner of Hosbrook and Montgomery, a new Cooper's Hawk restaurant will start construction later this year. The Township also received a road grant that will go towards putting utilities underground and repaving the portion of Kenwood Road between Montgomery Road and the I-71 South entrance ramp.

Without a doubt, 2012 was a challenging year. This was due to the fiscal problems thrust upon us by the State of Ohio eliminating the Estate Tax and reducing several other funds. This required severe budget cutting in all of our departments – the most notable being the Fire Department. Through hard work

and sacrifice, the Fire Department has continued to supply our Township with excellent service and protection. We also welcomed a new fire chief in December 2012, with Perry Gerome replacing the retiring B. J. Jetter (see article on page 3).



Tom Weidman

While containing costs across the board, we have also been searching for a new revenue stream that would allow us to provide positive economic growth. We are working on creating a new financial vehicle known as a Joint Economic Development Zone (JEDZ) with neighboring municipalities. This process, which would require a vote of approval in the upcoming May special election, would essentially be revenue neutral to our residents. The Trustees believe the JEDZ concept is a far better solution than asking residents to approve an additional property tax levy. Be sure to read the article on page 6 that explains the JEDZ concept and its benefits in more detail. As we look forward to Spring and warmer weather, please have a safe and happy 2013! If you have any questions or concerns, especially about the JEDZ, please feel free to call, email or refer to our website at www.sycamoretownship.org.



Tom Weidman,
President, Board of Trustees



Police and Crime Prevention



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

KEYS TO SAFE WINTER DRIVING

This season I want to urge motorists to make safety their first priority while driving in inclement weather.

To assist motorists with safe winter driving here are a few tips:

- Allow extra time to get to your destination.
- Maintain a safe distance between your vehicle and traffic ahead.
- Pay attention to the roadways and weather conditions as they can change rapidly.
- Always be aware of bridges and overpasses, as they are often the first to freeze over.
- If you do slide off the side of the road, stay with your vehicle and call your local police agency (Hamilton County Communications Center 825-2280.)
- If you get stuck in snow, make sure that your tail pipe is free of all snow and debris to decrease your chance of carbon monoxide poisoning.

In the event of a vehicle breakdown, turn on hazard warning lights, safely position the vehicle as far off the road as possible with the hood up and stay inside the vehicle until help arrives. If a cell phone is available, call 825-1500 for assistance.

We suggest all motorists have the following items in their vehicle in case of a breakdown:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cell Phone | Road Flares or Reflectors |
| Tow Strap/Chain | First Aid Kit |
| Flashlight & Batteries | Blanket/Sleeping Bag |
| Small Shovel | Road Salt or Sand |
| Bottled Water and Energy Foods | |



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Chipping Program

March 2 / April 6 / May 4
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.

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.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

When purchasing license plates, please mention you are a resident of Sycamore Township. The Township receives \$5 of the cost for plates for each vehicle you own. These dollars are forwarded to us for use in repairing Township roads. If you simply mention Cincinnati as your place of residence, these funds go to the City of Cincinnati to repair 'their' streets.



EMS/Fire Department



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

WELCOME FIRE CHIEF PERRY GEROME

Fire Chief Perry Gerome has spent twenty eight years in the fire service. He began his career in Anderson Township (22 years) as a volunteer firefighter and eventually rose to the rank of Lieutenant. He spent the last six years as an Administrative Captain at Union Township Fire Department in Clermont County. Chief Gerome was responsible for plan review, fire prevention, life safety, public education, and fire investigation during his tenure

there. He also directed operations for the Clermont County Fire Investigation Team. Chief Gerome possesses an Associate's Degree in EMS Management and a Bachelor's Degree in Fire Safety Engineering from the University of Cincinnati, and a Masters Degree in Public Administration from Northern Kentucky University. He also holds the two top certifications in the field of fire investigation – Certified Fire Investigator (CFI), and Certified Fire & Explosion Investigator (CFEI). He is a graduate of the Ohio Fire Executive (OFE) program and is a Certified Fire Marshal (FM) through the Center for Public Safety Excellence and the Center for Professional Credentialing. Chief Gerome and his wife Barb have five teenagers in their blended family. They reside in Symmes Township within close proximity to Station 92 and Station 93.

BASIC FIRE SAFETY TIPS

Eighty percent of all fire deaths occur in the home. Many of these deaths can be avoided if some fire prevention basics are followed. The Sycamore Township Fire Department recommends:

- Install at least one smoke alarm on each level of your home and in or near all sleeping areas.
- Smoke alarms should be tested once a month and batteries replaced once a year or when the alarm beeps (chirps) warning that the battery is low.
- Never borrow a smoke detector battery for another use.
- Vacuum the dust from inside the smoke detector at least once every year.
- Avoid placing smoke detectors in kitchens (smoke from cooking) or outside bathrooms (shower steam).
- The life span of a smoke detector is typically ten years before it should be replaced.
- Install a Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detector in a common hallway. Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that is created as a result of incomplete combustion.

Smoke alarms are the most effective early warning device available. Having a working smoke detector in your home reduces your chance of dying in a fire by nearly 50%. For optimal efficiency a dual action smoke detector, which includes both photoelectric and ionization detection, is recommended. In addition to smoke detectors, every household should develop and practice a home fire escape plan that includes two ways out of every room and a designated outside meeting place to account for the occupants inside the home. Once outside, never go back inside for any reason, especially to try to save a pet or gather personal items. The Sycamore Township Fire Department encourages all of its residents to enact proper fire prevention and life safety strategies in their homes and businesses alike.



Have a Safe and Happy 2013!
Fire Chief Perry Gerome



Parks and Recreation



Mike McKeown
Parks & Recreation
Director

DILLONVALE LUMINARIA

Thanks to all who participated in the Dillonvale Luminaria. Hundreds of residents and neighbors enjoyed the cookies, donuts, and warm drinks provided by Dillonvale IGA while listening to the beautiful Christmas carols sung by the St. Saviour choir. Santa was also there to greet the kids. The weather was fantastic and we had the biggest crowd ever. Three hayrides transported folks through the streets of Dillonvale to see all of the holiday decorations and luminaria. Congratulations to the winners of the Home Decoration contest: 1st Place – 8611 Plainfield Rd.; 2nd Place – 3966 Tramore Dr.; 3rd Place – 4124 Jud.

Thanks again to Dillonvale IGA and the St. Saviour choir for their help in making this such a wonderful event.



BUSY PARK SEASON AHEAD

2013 promises to be a very busy year in Sycamore Township's parks. Whether you are playing in or attending a game, enjoying a stroll on one of our walking tracks or nature trails, watching your kids frolic in one of our play areas, renting a shelter,

or attending one of our summer events, we hope that you have a chance to enjoy our great facilities. Check our website (www.sycamoretownship.org) for a complete list of parks and facilities.



President of the Sycamore Township Board of Trustees Tom Weidman congratulates Matthew Fischer of Troop 674 for completing the requirement for Eagle Scout. For Matthew's Eagle Scout project, he built four new benches to replace the old ones along the nature trail at Bechtold Park.



TOWNSHIP TIDBITS

TOWNSHIP BIDS FAREWELL TO LONG TIME EMPLOYEES

Two familiar names in Sycamore Township have recently retired. Fire Chief B.J. Jetter and Administrative Assistant Gloria D'Andrea entered the world of retirement at the end of 2012.

B.J. was the first and only Sycamore Township Fire Chief since the Fire Department's inception in 1995. He oversaw the growth and development of the department into one of the finest in the region. He was also very active in the Hamilton County Fire Chief Association, HAZMAT, and USAR. B.J. will pursue other interests during his retirement, not the least of which is his love of music. An accomplished drummer, B.J. will continue to provide the beat for various local big bands.

Gloria answered phone calls to the Township and was the first to greet any visitor to the administration building for 25 years. Her friendly disposition and helpful manner made everyone feel welcome! Gloria plans to pursue her love of travel during her retirement.

Good luck to B.J. and Gloria. Thank you for many years of wonderful and loyal service.



The Sycamore Township Trustees and Fiscal Officer thank Chief Jetter for his years of service and wish him a very happy retirement!



The Maintenance Team gives Gloria a warm sendoff!



On January 17, 2013, the Moeller High School State Champion football team received a letter of congratulations from the Trustees of Sycamore Township. Receiving the award from left to right are players Keith Watkins, Alex Gall, Jimmy Rodenberg, Ethan Frericks, Shane Jones and Coach John Rodenberg.



Sycamore Township Trustees Weidman, Bishop, and Connor were on hand to congratulate the St. Vincent Ferrer 5th grade class and at their DARE graduation, with Principal Doug Alpiger and Cpl. J. Schmitt.

HOXWORTH BLOOD DRIVE

Sycamore Township residents are invited to participate in a blood drive to be held on Sunday, March 17th in the parking lot of B'Nai Tzedek Congregation at 6280 Kugler Mill Road. A team from the Hoxworth Blood Center is bringing their Bloodmobile and will be collecting blood between the hours of 10 AM and 4 PM. Refreshments will be available.

Advanced appointments are preferred—you may sign up by contacting Bob Mermelstein at 729-2849, or by going to the Hoxworth website and following the instructions. Also, look for information about some health-related seminars/exhibits to run simultaneously with the blood drive.

Other sponsoring organizations for the Blood Drive are the Kenwood Baptist Church and the Sycamore Township Administration.

THE SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER NEEDS YOU!

Does your school, church or neighborhood civic association have an event coming up? Are you looking for volunteers to help with a service project in the Sycamore Township Community? Do you know of a resident whom you think should be recognized for a recent achievement? The Sycamore Township Newsletter will debut a new "Township Tidbits" section beginning with our next edition in the spring and we need your help! 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 next issue is March 11, 2013 by 4:30pm.

We reserve the right to edit submissions for space and clarity. The number of contributions printed per issue is subject to space available.



Planning and Zoning

WHAT IS A JEDZ?

You may have heard the term "JEDZ" (Joint Economic Development Zone) come up recently in the news or conversations about government finances. As everyone is aware, local governments are in the midst of dealing with reduced budgets and funding cuts but still looking for ways to promote economic development. One way of addressing these problems is through the use of a JEDZ. This is not a new idea, just one that has not been utilized as much until recent years. Instead of asking the residents of Sycamore Township to vote for new levies that would increase local property tax rates on their individual homes, the Trustees are asking them to vote "yes" in May on a JEDZ that puts a low 0.75% earnings tax rate on the business districts. The proceeds of the JEDZ will be used to enhance the economic vitality of the zones from which they are collected. As a result, the Board of Trustees believes that the enhanced commercial zones will allow them to continue to provide better core services to the rest of the Township. The following bullet points summarize the essential components of the JEDZ concept.

- JEDZ is an earnings tax placed on the business district - not the residential district.
- Residents would vote on the issue in the May election.

- The tax rate is 0.75% - one of the lowest rates in the county.
- Sycamore Township residents who work in the JEDZ may have their tax reimbursed to them at the end of the year, so their net loss is zero.
- Reciprocity between the Township and most municipalities means that many workers will not be charged an additional amount above the current rate they may be paying in their home community.
- An adjacent municipality will collect the tax for the Township, as required by State law since townships cannot legally perform this option themselves. In return, the municipality will receive 10% of the proceeds, and agrees not to annex any portion of the Township.
- Without the JEDZ, it would take 9 mills of additional levy income to generate the same economic impact necessary to provide these enhanced services.

The Trustees believe passing the JEDZ will provide the best revenue source for funding the needed/enhanced safety services delivery and infrastructure, as well as allowing the Township to continue its strong economic development – all without raising your residential taxes.

SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP WELCOMES NEW BUSINESSES!

The first **Microsoft** store in Ohio is now open for business at Kenwood Towne Centre. Also new to Kenwood Towne Centre are **Tempur-Pedic**—selling mattresses, pillows, slippers, sleep systems, and accessories, and **PB Teen**—a Pottery Barn just for teens! **The Center for Medical Weight Loss**, is now open at 7342 Kenwood Road. Next to Willie's at 6475 Galbraith Road is the new **Dodd Camera** store. **Martial Arts America Kenwood**, offering instruction and training in karate, has opened at 8740 Montgomery Road. **Alterations of Springdale**, offering professional clothing alterations and garment repairs, is open for

business in Duffy Square. **All American Tire & Service** is under new ownership. Visit them at 8440 Blue Ash Road.

Please show your support of business development in Sycamore Township by patronizing these newcomers!



Maintenance Department



Tracy Kellums,
Superintendent

OBSTRUCTION OF ROADWAYS AND SIDEWALKS PROHIBITED

In August of 2011, the Sycamore Township Board of Trustees voted to approve Resolution 2011-59, making it possible for the Township to issue a civil fine to a homeowner for the dumping of materials on Township roads or sidewalks. This resolution came as a response to a noticeable increase in the dumping of gravel, building materials and landscape materials on our roads and sidewalks. This kind of dumping is not only a safety hazard; it can also cause damage to the public surfaces

the Township is charged with keeping in good repair. When having work done on your house or when doing it yourself, please keep in mind it is ultimately the property owner's responsibility to make sure that all necessary permits have been obtained and that public roads and sidewalks remain unobstructed. To read the full resolution, please visit our website at www.sycamoretownship.org or call the Office of Planning and Zoning at 792-7250 for more information.

SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS RECYCLED 873.73 TONS IN 2012!



Congratulations Sycamore Township residents! In 2012 you recycled 873.73 tons of metal, glass, plastic and paper. That is an amazing increase of 159.19 tons or 22.5% in just 2 years.

Recycling not only reduces pollution, conserves natural resources and saves space in our landfills, it also boosts the economy by creating 169,000 jobs and \$6 billion in annual wages just in the state of Ohio.

On average, in 2012 each household in Sycamore Township recycled 211 pounds, which is 12.18% of all the waste you generate. That still leaves over 87% of your waste that could be added to the recycling stream.

Sycamore Township received \$17,229 in Residential Recycling Incentive Dollars from the Hamilton County Recycling and Solid Waste District based on the amount of

materials recycled by our residents. and we would like to thank you for doing a fantastic job.

Let's work together to increase our recycling numbers even more. If you are recycling curbside with your waste hauler that is fantastic. If you are not, call them and see how they can assist you in your recycling efforts. Some companies are offering the large rolling totes for recycling at the same rate as the small bins.

For those of you who choose not to recycle at the curbside, Sycamore Township has two community drop off locations with recycling bins for your use. One is behind the Township Administration Building at 8540 Kenwood Road and the other is at 11745 Solzman Road near the entrance to McDaniel Park. These locations are used quite extensively and are emptied twice a week. If you visit one of these locations and they are full or somebody has dumped something that shouldn't be there, please call us at the Township office (791-8447) so that we can take care of it.

Check out the list below to make sure that you are including all these materials in your recycling.

RECYCLABLE MATERIALS

Plastic bottles and jugs (remove lids)
Glass bottles and jars (remove lids)
Empty aerosol cans (remove lids and tips)
Aluminum and steel cans

Paperboard (cereal boxes etc.)
Junk mail
Magazines, catalogs and phone books
Newspapers

Cardboard
Office paper





Contacts

Winter 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
Fire Chief
Perry Gerome
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



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



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.