

Sycamore Township

NEWS

Fall 2015

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As we transition from summer to fall, we find ourselves moving from one active season to another. That's certainly true in our family lives, and especially true in Sycamore Township.



Denny Connor, Trustee

On our sports fields, the activity has moved from baseball to soccer, and we're about to experience the spectacular beauty of the changing foliage. Our Township parks offer more than 90 acres of undisturbed land where you can see and enjoy the beauty of the fall season.

Once those leaves begin to fall, our Maintenance Department will be ready, as usual, to serve our neighborhoods with prompt, efficient leaf pickup (and snow removal as the seasonal change continues). Superintendent Tracy Kellums and his dedicated crew are ready for the challenges of the fall and winter seasons.

The summer season has seen a host of road construction and repair activity, and those efforts will continue as long as the weather cooperates. Some of the projects were completed, but a few will still remain active into the winter months, with completion scheduled for next year. We appreciate your patience as we work to make our roads safe and attractive for motorists and pedestrians.

The major construction projects, including the Kenwood Collection, TriHealth headquarters building, Jewish Hospital and Hampton Inn, are closer to completion, and we all look forward to Grand Opening ceremonies that will take place in the months and years to come. We appreciate the confidence that major organizations have shown in Sycamore Township as a great place to locate their businesses.

My fellow Trustees, Tom Weidman and Cliff Bishop, our Fiscal Officer Rob Porter, and the Township staff are constantly searching for ways to use your tax dollars wisely, while preparing the Township for future growth and prosperity. As always, we welcome your thoughts and ideas.

It's been a great summer, and we look forward to a pleasant and enjoyable transition to fall in beautiful Sycamore Township. Best wishes to all of you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Denny Connor".

Denny Connor, Trustee





Police & Crime Prevention



Chris M. Kettelman, Lieutenant
Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

It's that time of year again; time to put away the air conditioners, open up the windows and welcome the beautiful fall weather! With open windows, however, our homes become more accessible to burglars if we're not careful. Like most crimes, burglary is a crime of opportunity. If we eliminate the opportunity, we can eliminate some of the crime. Here are a few helpful tips for a safe and enjoyable fall:

- Never leave a door or window open while you are not home.
- Keep windows and doors that are not in use locked.
- While out in the yard cleaning up leaves, or doing yard work, identify those areas of your home that are accessible by standing on any object, the top of a fence or lower roof. Be creative and imagine where someone may climb to gain entry to your home, block off all points of access by keeping everything locked.
- Consider purchasing surveillance equipment, or installing additional lighting with timers for when you are not home, and when it gets dark.
- Take notice of overgrown shrubbery, and trim bushes as needed in areas around your home that provide cover for would-be burglars, such as those shrubs blocking front windows.

With the fall season comes shorter days, and longer nights. Remember these few tips when it comes to preventing other crimes of opportunity:

- Avoid walking alone at night. If you have to walk alone, plan out a route that you're comfortable with, even if it may be out of the way. Stay on well-lit streets, use routes

that you know are widely traveled, and avoid shortcuts.

- When you walk, keep your head up, and pay attention to your surroundings.
- We recommend that you do not wear headphones while walking home from work or out exercising.
- Take note of where you park, and have your keys out and readily available prior to arriving at your vehicle.
- When exiting your vehicle, be sure to put the windows up and lock the doors.
- Do not leave valuables in your vehicle. If you must store items in your vehicle for any reason, place them out of view or in the trunk.
- Keep your electronics out of sight in your vehicle; remove car chargers and GPS mounts from view, and clean suction cup marks from your windows and dashboards.

OFFICER SPOTLIGHT

Enforcement Officer Eric Kidd grew up in Colerain Township and graduated from Colerain High School. Eric has worked for the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office since January, 1995.

During Eric's career he has served the Sheriff's Department in a variety of assignments including the Over the Rhine Task Force, Explorer Post Advisor, DARE Officer, Bike Patrol Officer and Field Training Officer. He has been assigned to southern Sycamore Township since 2007.





EMS/Fire Department



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME... CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS; CHANGE YOUR BATTERIES IN YOUR SMOKE ALARM!

In the last newsletter, the Fire & EMS Department shared with residents the importance of having a working smoke alarm in your home. Many of you have taken advantage of our smoke alarm program for residents and stopped by the fire station to pick up a free smoke alarm. Our goal is to keep our residents safe. We still have smoke alarms and we don't want anyone in the Township to be without one. Please stop by the fire station anytime to receive your free smoke alarm. Firefighters are on staff 24 hours; if you work during the day, feel free to stop by in the evening.

Once you have installed your smoke alarm, it is important that you have an Escape Plan for your family. Once a smoke alarm sounds, it is vital that you have a plan in place to gather the family together and safely leave the house.

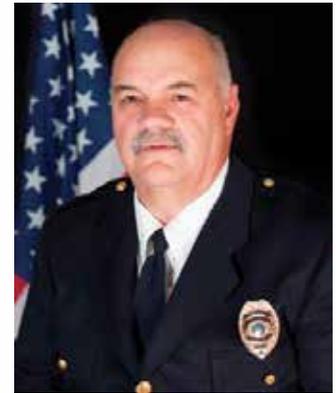
DO NOT go back inside the house for any valuables once everyone is out safely! Tests conducted by the National Fire Protection Association show a house on fire can reach up to 1200 degrees in less than four minutes. By the time you get out and try to go back in the house conditions have changed dramatically. There will be no oxygen in the house to breathe!

ESCAPE PLANNING

According to an NFPA survey, only one-third of Americans have both developed and practiced a home fire escape plan.

- Almost three-quarters of Americans do have an escape plan; however, less than half actually practiced it.
- One-third of American households who made an escape

plan estimate they thought they would have at least six minutes before a fire in their home would become life threatening. The time available is often much less! In addition, only 8% said their first thought on hearing a smoke alarm would be to get out.

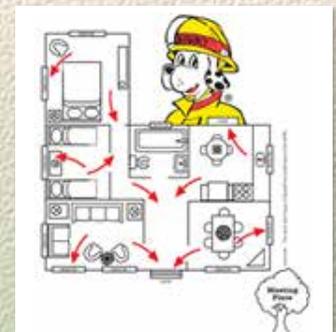


Rob Penny, Fire Chief

- Almost two-thirds (62%) of reported home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

HOW TO MAKE A HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN

- Draw a map of your home. Show all doors and windows.
- Visit each room. Find two ways out.
- All windows and doors should open easily. You should be able to use them to get outside.
- Make sure your home has smoke alarms. Push the test button to make sure each alarm is working.
- Pick a meeting place outside. It should be in front of your home.
- Everyone will meet at the meeting place.
- Make sure your house or building number can be seen from the street.
- Talk about your plan with everyone in your home.
- Learn the emergency phone number for your fire department; call 9-1-1.
- Practice your home fire escape drill!



BECHTOLD PARK SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP

Parks & Recreation



Mike McKeown,
Parks & Rec. Director

THOUSANDS ATTEND 23RD ANNUAL FESTIVAL IN SYCAMORE!

Thousands of people braved the rain and heat to enjoy fantastic music, food, and fun at this year's Festival in Sycamore. The music of MARK FARNER and the legendary band KANSAS was outstanding, as was the food from all the vendors.

Friday's festivities were cut short because of Mother Nature. During MARK FARNER'S outstanding show, what had started out as a rain shower turned into a storm complete with quite a bit of lightning. After consulting with the Fire Department, police, and the National Weather Service, the decision was made to stop the music and shut down the Festival early. Everyone was disappointed; however, the safety of the crowd had to be our top priority.

The 100 degree heat Saturday night didn't stop over 10,000 people from hearing the music of KANSAS. The band didn't disappoint as it put on a fantastic show. Thankfully, the rain held off until after their performance.

A huge thank you to all of our sponsors! Thanks also to the Sheriff and Fire Departments for their help and participation. Special thanks to the Sycamore Township Maintenance Department, Township staff, and the Park Committee for all of their hard work. The Festival could not go on without them.





TOWNSHIP TIDBITS

The 5th Annual Sycamore Township Car Show was a great success thanks to the nearly 100 registered cars!



Congratulations to Melvin Steigleden, pictured with Trustees Cliff Bishop and Denny Connor, on winning Best of Show for his Chevy Corvair.



Congratulations to Walt Yonka, pictured with Trustees Cliff Bishop and Denny Connor, on winning the Trustees' Choice award for his Ford Edsel station wagon.



Brookdale Kenwood celebrated their Grand Re-Opening with a ribbon cutting. Pictured from left to right are Stephen Casper, Robin Bush, Rhonda Carpenter, Sherry Wise, Kevin Colligan, Holly Henderson, (Front) Resident Patricia Richards, Township Trustees Tom Weidman and Denny Connor, Christine Colligan, Gail James and Kim Ceccoli.



The Moeller High School Baseball team was presented with a Resolution signed by the Trustees honoring them for winning the State Championship. Pictured from left to right are Kyle Butz, Eric Conner, Trustee Denny Connor, Coach Tim Held, Trustees Tom Weidman and Cliff Bishop, Daniel Kopcha, Hayden Bianchini, and Alec Graves.

FALL EVENTS

Fall Compost Give-Away

September 19
8:00 A.M. – 4 P.M.
Hartzell United Methodist Church
8999 Applewood Drive

Chipping Program

Oct 3 / Nov 7 / Dec 5
8:00 A.M. – 4 P.M.
Behind Administration Bldg.
8540 Kenwood Rd.

Fall Leaf Collection

Oct 19 – Dec 11

Halloween

October 31
Trick-or-Treating
6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Election Day

November 3





Planning & Zoning



Harry Holbert,
Zoning Administrator

As another hot summer comes to an end, the Planning and Zoning Department is working vigorously to keep up with development and property maintenance complaints. Zoning permit applications are on the rise in all categories and new businesses continue to open within the Township. With the enclosing of the Kenwood Collection building (5901 E. Galbraith), new tenants are being approved and plans for occupancy by the end of this year are underway.

tower sometime in late 2015 or early 2016. This tower, with the addition of more private rooms, improved patient care and a one-of-a-kind gamma knife machine that provides minimally invasive brain surgery, will allow Jewish Hospital to provide better and more advanced care than ever before.



The Buffalo Wild Wings in the Shoppes of Kenwood has recently finished their new façade and interior renovation which includes new seating, wall covering, more TVs and my favorite... great tasting wings. Don't forget about the new Texas Roadhouse going in next to IHOP; it will be opening before the end of this year.

Special Note! The Township passed a resolution several years ago prohibiting obstructions in the right-of-way and dumping of materials in roadways. These items include: mulch, gravel, top soil and dumpsters. If you hire a contractor, please make sure they are aware of this resolution. Should you or your contractor be cited for obstructing the roadway, there will be no warning, only fines up to \$1000 per day of the violation which will be issued to the property owner and the contractor.



If you were upset about the El Rancho Grande next to IHOP closing, don't fret. It will re-open soon at its new location next to Dodd's Camera. The new location, 6475 East Galbraith Road, will continue to have great Mexican food, adult beverages and outdoor seating.

Property Maintenance—Don't wait until your neighbor's grass is three to four feet tall; call us at the first sign of a property maintenance issue. Although the economy seems to be on the uptick, we are still dealing with abandoned properties and working with the owners of abandoned properties can be a challenge. There are several ways to file property maintenance complaints with the Township:

- Call 513-792-7250 or 7252 (staff member)
- Call 513-792-7279 (hotline)
- Visit our website (Online Services/Property Complaint Form)

We do take anonymous complaints.

In closing, property maintenance affects everyone's property, so let's work together to get these problem properties abated as quickly as possible.

Other big projects inside the Township are the new TriHealth building at North Creek and the Jewish Hospital patient tower addition. TriHealth will be relocating to its new 113,000 square foot North Creek office building with public garage access. Once relocated, the old building will be razed in preparation for a new multi-story building.

Planning, Zoning or Property Maintenance questions can be directed to Harry Holbert Jr., Zoning Administrator, at 513-792-7252.

As you may have noticed, Jewish Hospital has been working on enclosing its new addition with plans to occupy the new patient



Maintenance Department

ROAD WORK AHEAD

The 2015 Sycamore Township Curb and Sidewalk Project is going to be getting underway this fall and should start in late September.

The following streets will have new concrete curb and gutter installed on them:

- Brittany Drive
- Hemesath Drive
- Caralee Drive
- Hermitage Lane
- Whitechapel Drive
- Ivybrook Court
- Miami Hills Drive (Quail Hollow to cul-de-sac)

There will be additional curb repair on these roads:

- Glenover Drive
- Appleknoll Lane
- Malabar Terrace
- Raidersrun Road
- Roundhill Road
- Pawpaw Lane
- Haverhill Lane
- Highgate Place
- Stillmeadow Lane
- Foxboro Court
- Morganraiders Lane
- Briarpatch Lane
- Quail Hollow Drive
- Michael Drive (Bobby – Quailhollow)
- Tiki Avenue (Lynnfield – Miami Hills)

FALL LEAF PICK UP INFORMATION

Sycamore Township is pleased to provide you with prompt and efficient leaf pick up service. Leaf collection will begin on Monday, October 19th and run through Friday, December 11th. Leaves should be raked to the public right of way beside the street. **PLEASE DO NOT PUT LEAVES IN THE STREET.** Leaves become very slippery when wet and, when parked over, dry leaves can start a car on fire when brought into contact with the catalytic converter. Sticks, grass clippings

and garden debris will jam our machines and should not be mixed into leaf piles. Consequently, piles with materials other than leaves will not be collected.

Leaf crews will not pick up leaves from under, between or around parked cars. If cars are parked in front of your leaf piles, the collection



Tracy Kellums, Superintendent

equipment will be unable to maneuver to reach the leaves and they will be left for the next pick up cycle in your neighborhood.

Maintenance crews will be working from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. five days a week, rain or shine, to collect leaves in a timely manner. Many factors such as the amount of leaves to be collected and the availability of temporary laborers have an effect on collection and make it impossible to predict exact pick up times.

HOSBROOK ROAD TRAFFIC CALMING

Construction has begun on the Hosbrook Road Traffic Calming Project. Ford Development is the contractor. This project extends from Euclid to just south of Ronald Reagan Drive. This will be a lengthy project continuing into winter and spring.

Please be cautious driving through construction areas for your safety and the safety of the workers. We appreciate your patience.



If you have any questions about these or other road projects in Sycamore Township please call me at 513-792-7257 or send me an e-mail at tkellums@sycamoretownship.org.

Thank you,
Tracy Kellums, Superintendent

BRUSH PICK UP REMINDER

Please remember when calling in for a storm damage or brush pick up, that the branches should be stacked neatly at the edge of the roadway, cut sides facing the street. Unfortunately, the maintenance staff does not have the resources to pick up brush that is not stacked properly. We appreciate your cooperation.





Contacts

Fall 2015

Denny Connor, President

Cliff Bishop, Vice-President

Tom Weidman, Trustee

Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer

R. Douglas Miller, Law Director

Tracy Kellums, Superintendent

792-7257 – Fax 792-8564

Mike McKeown, Parks & Rec. Director

792-7270 – Fax 792-8564

Greg Bickford, AICP, Administrator

791-8447 – Fax 792-8564

Rob Penny, Fire Chief

792-8565 – Fax 792-8564

Chris M. Kettelman, 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

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Trustees Available to Better Serve You



Denny Connor
President



Cliff Bishop
Vice President



Tom Weidman
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.