## Sycamore IEV/S Township IEV/S Fall 2016

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As we wind down the warm weather and head into the cooler temperatures of Fall, we hope you had a great and relaxing summer.

As many of you are aware, Duke Energy is proposing to construct a 30" high pressure transmission pipeline through Sycamore Township and other surrounding communities. Sycamore Township was the only community that took the time to notify all residents of the proposed pipeline and provide information for you to make your voice heard. Your Board of Trustees is firmly against the proposed transmission line and has gone on record against the project. In addition, the Trustees voted to intervene in the formal process to make sure our voice is heard. If you have any questions about the proposed pipeline, please contact the Township Offices.



Tom Weidman, Trustee

Infrastructure improvement continues in Kenwood, both on Hosbrook and Galbraith Roads. The Hosbrook traffic calming road improvements are now complete and the road has been completely repaved. We have received a great deal of positive feedback from residents who are thrilled with the new sidewalk installation along Hosbrook Road. Our Galbraith Road Improvement Project is still in full swing, and we anticipate completion of that project sometime in mid-2017.

At the Kenwood Collection, the office space is basically all completed and the retail space continues to progress. The first set of new retail tenants will be opening this Fall, including LL Bean, Old Navy and the Cycle Bar. Whole Foods 365 is running ahead of schedule and could open soon, along with furniture store Mitchell Gold and Bob Williams as early as February. Matt the Miller and Pies and Pints restaurants are scheduled for opening sometime in the Spring.

Jewish Hospital held the dedication for its new tower on July 21st along with a walk-through open house, and the new facility looks outstanding. Included in the addition are multiple floors of private patient rooms, a completely new Emergency Room and a new Bone Marrow Treatment Center. We are grateful to Mercy Health for their significant investment in Sycamore Township.

At the Trustee meeting on August 18th, the Trustees unanimously passed a Resolution declaring September Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month in Sycamore Township. Ovarian Cancer takes far too many lives each year. Know the signs of Ovarian Cancer by going to the Ovarian Cancer Alliance of Greater Cincinnati website at www.cincyovariancancer.org to find out more.

Fall is the time for changing colors and raking leaves. Our great Maintenance crew, led by Superintendent Tracy Kellums, is gearing up for the Fall Leaf Pickup program. Please remember that as you rake or blow your leaves to the curb, to keep them on the edge of your lawn and out of the street.

Your elected officials are committed to keeping Sycamore Township a great place to live, work and play. If there is anything that we can do to help you, please contact us at 513-791-8447 or on our website at www.sycamoretownship.org.

On behalf of Trustees Cliff Bishop and Denny Connor, and our Fiscal Officer Rob Porter, we encourage you take in a local high football or soccer game and enjoy the changing colors of fall.

Sincerely,

Tom Weidman Trustee



## **Police & Crime Prevention**



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

Hamilton The County Sheriff's Office will now offer background checks and fingerprinting services at the Tracy Winkler Clerk of Courts Auto Title Division located at 12139 Royal Pointe Drive in Symmes Township. These services were previously only available at the Hamilton County Justice Center downtown. In addition to BCI/FBI Web Checks and local background checks, this location will also offer parents

the opportunity to have their children fingerprinted free of charge for identification purposes. The hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 9A.M. until 12P.M. and from 1P.M. until 5P.M. Only cash or business checks will be accepted; no personnel checks.

#### Fee Schedule:

BCI Web Check	\$32
FBI Web Check	\$34
Local Background Check (Hamilton County Only)	\$5
FBI Fingerprint Card for out of state CCW license	\$10/card



Hamilton County Sheriff Jim Neil collaborated with Clerk of Courts Tracy Winkler to bring background checks to the suburbs.

#### **OFFICER SPOTLIGHT**

Deputy Jeffrey Copelin has worked for the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office since 2008. He has been working in Sycamore Township for three years and was recently assigned to day shift in North Sycamore.

Deputy Copelin was born and raised in Cincinnati and graduated from Purcell Marian High School. He then attended Great Oaks Police Academy and the Hamilton County Corrections Academy where he received the award for Best All-Around Male Recruit. Deputy Copelin has worked in law enforcement for over 10 years and is happily married.

What matters most to Deputy Copelin is forging strong partnerships with other first responders to ensure the highest quality service is provided to the community. He offered his appreciation to "the residents of Sycamore Township for the opportunity to serve and work with you to keep this community safe." Deputy Copelin would also like to thank his co-workers, supervisors and the Township Trustees for all their hard work and dedication to making Sycamore Township a great place to live and work.



Deputy Jeffrey Copelin, shown here with Sycamore Township Firefighter Jason Koeninger, works with other first responders to provide quality service to Township residents.



## **EMS/Fire Department**



Rob Penny, Fire Chief

As the hot summer comes to a close and we enter into the fall season, the elements of the change of season bring some potential hazards.

#### **FALLING LEAVES**

The fall foliage, while beautiful, can pose hazards for motorists. Fallen leaves can gather on roadways and, when wet, create very slick conditions. Add freezing temperatures to

the mix, and your vehicle will have zero tracking, similar to driving on an icy road.

In addition, leaves can cover up important road markings or deep pot holes. Therefore, it is important to slow down when driving on a leaf covered roadway. Always leave plenty of room between you and the car ahead of you in case they stop short.

Children often play in leaf piles, so be alert! Never drive through a pile of leaves.

If dried leaves collect at the bottom of your windshield, take the time to clean them out, as they can obstruct the ventilation to your car and overheat the fan motor in your car's heater.

#### **FIREPLACES**

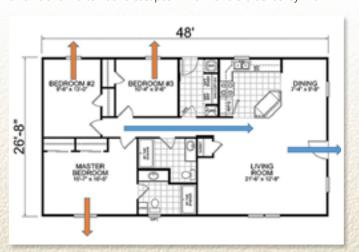
It is important that you have your chimney inspected every fall. Hire a chimney sweep to clean out your chimney of debris, nests, etc. before you light your first fire. Use the fireplace screens to protect from flying sparks and embers. Never pour lighter fluid, kerosene or gasoline on a fireplace and never leave a fireplace unattended.

#### **OCTOBER IS FIRE PREVENTION MONTH**

When we "fall back" this season that means it's time to replace the batteries in smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. It's also a good idea to have a working fire extinguisher in the house, and everyone who lives there should be familiar with how it works.



Hold your annual Fire Safety Meeting with family members and go over the steps on exiting the home if there is a fire. Review your floor plan on paper and confirm that everyone knows a safe meeting place outside the home. Once outside the home **NEVER** re-enter the home until fire personnel determine your home is safe. See sample plan: Blue Arrows show the preferred way out, orange arrows show alternative escapes if main exit is blocked by fire.



Never leave candles unattended, especially in Jack-O-Lanterns or on table centerpieces.

As always, have a great fall season.





### **Parks & Recreation**



Mike McKeown, Parks & Rec. Director





#### FINALLY, A HUGE THANK YOU GOES OUT TO OUR SPONSORS:

GOLD SPONSOR: Kroger Co.
SILVER SPONSOR: TEC Engineering

**MAJOR SPONSORS:** United Refrigeration, Kenwood Collection, Prus Construction, Neyer

Properties, Midland Atlantic, The Alleen Co. and Walnut Grove Playgrounds.

Without their help, the Festival would not be possible.

### ANOTHER GREAT FESTIVAL IN THE BOOKS

The 24th annual Festival in Sycamore was once again a rousing success! We enjoyed perfect weather this year and thousands of people gathered for the great food, rides, and of course the fantastic music from all the local bands as well as classic rock legends Mark Farner and Randy Bachman. Thanks to our Maintenance Department staff along with the Administrative staff for their GREAT help in setting up and running the event. Special thanks also to the members of the Park Advisory Committee for their help in making the Festival a success. It takes a lot of hard work by all of these Township workers and committee members to make the Festival run smoothly.







#### **FALL EVENTS**

#### **Fall Compost Give-Away**

September 17, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM Hartzell United Methodist Church 8999 Applewood Drive

#### **Chipping Program**

Oct. 1, Nov. 5, and Dec. 3 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM Behind Administration Bldg. 8540 Kenwood Road

#### **Fall Leaf Collection**

October 17 – December 9

#### **Halloween Trick-or-Treating**

October 31 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

#### **Election Day**

November 8



## **TOWNSHIP TIDBITS**

#### FIREFIGHTERS SWORN IN

Sycamore Township's newest full time firefighters were sworn in by President of the Board of Trustees Tom Weidman at a recent Trustees meeting.



#### new firefighters Cody Saffell, Jeff Schaefer, Eric Corcoran and Steve Wiederhold, Fire Chief Rob Penny, and Trustees Tom Weidman and Cliff Bishop.

Pictured left to right are Trustee Denny Connor, the Township's

### **NEW JEWISH HOSPITAL PATIENT TOWER**

The Jewish Hospital recently had a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new patient tower addition.



Pictured from left to right are Dr. Don Wayne, Vice President of Medical Affairs, The Jewish Hospital; Tom Weidman, President of the Sycamore Township Board of Trustees; Dr. Jeff Zipkin, Trustee of The Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati; Pat Davis-Hagens, CEO of The Jewish Hospital; Michael Connelly, Mercy Health CEO Emeritus; Michael Garfield, Mercy Health Regional CEO; Dr. Michelle Andrews, President of The Jewish Hospital Medical Staff; and Rabbi Elena Stein, Chaplain, The Jewish Hospital.

## CONGRATULATIONS WINNERS OF THE 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SYCAMORE TWP. CAR SHOW!



Best in Show Winner Dan Vanderpool, shown with his 1957 Ford Fairlane 500, is congratulated by Trustees Denny Connor and Tom Weidman.



Trustees Denny Connor and Tom Weidman with Trustees' Choice Winner Robert Westerman and his 1939 Packard.





## **Planning & Zoning**



Harry Holbert, Zoning Administrator

It has been a great and busy year for Sycamore Township's Planning and Zoning Department. Not only are permits up, but also the number of complaints regarding abandoned properties, abandoned vehicles and property maintenance related violations. We are constantly working to improve our response and abatement times. At the beginning of this year, we hired a part-time inspector to help with the increasing violations and are making good progress on abatement, but your help is still needed.

Most people's homes are their greatest investment, so if you notice a property that looks abandoned, has building maintenance issues, abandoned vehicle(s), tall grass and weeds, don't hesitate to file a complaint with our office ... we are glad to hear from you!

You may reach us by phone, online or by US mail:

Office phone: 513-791-8447

Fax: 513-792-8564

**Property Maintenance Hotline:** 513-792-7279

**Online:** www.sycamoretownship.org under "Property Complaint Form" **Mailing Address:** 8540 Kenwood Road, Sycamore Township, Ohio 45236

Our Township is very fortunate to have construction projects going on all year long. If you are a property owner thinking about a construction project, make sure you and your contractor contact our office so you know when a permit is required. If your construction project does not comply with the codes adopted by your community, the value of your investment could be reduced. Property insurers may not cover work done without permits and inspections. If you decide to sell a home that has had modifications without a permit, you may be required to tear down the addition, leave it unoccupied or make costly repairs.

A property owner who can show that code requirements were strictly and consistently met—as demonstrated by a code official's records—has a strong ally if something happens to trigger a potentially destructive lawsuit. By following zoning guidelines, the completed project will meet minimum standards of safety, and will be less likely to cause injury to your family, your friends or future owners.

It takes everyone in a community to keep our homes safe, and your knowledge of local zoning codes help protects you, your family, your neighbors and your investment. It is important and necessary to get your local zoning office involved with your project, because the Zoning and Building departments are important allies from start to finish.



## FINES TO PROPERTY OWNERS FOR OBSTRUCTION OF ROADWAYS

Did you know it is illegal to dump construction materials or place dumpsters on the road or in the public right-of-way? Placing a dumpster or dumping construction materials such as gravel, mulch and dirt causes damage to Sycamore Township roads and sidewalks, which are very expensive to repair, and may create safety and traffic issues. In 2015, Sycamore Township Trustees passed resolution 2015-112, setting a civil fine for obstructing roads and sidewalks in Sycamore Township. The property owner and/or contractor who illegally obstructs the road or right-of-way is subject to civil fines of \$350.00 for the first offense, \$700.00 for the second offense and \$1000.00 for the third offense. Please do your part to help keep our roads in good shape, reduce repairs and save taxpayer money by keeping Sycamore Township roads clear.



## **Maintenance Department**



Tracy Kellums, Superintendent

#### **ROAD WORK AHEAD**

The 2016 Sycamore Township Curb Replacement Project will begin in mid to late September. The following streets will have new curbs and gutters installed on them:

- Glenover Drive
- Appleknoll Lane
- Raidersrun Road
- Roundhill Road
- Paw Paw Lane
- Stillmeadow Lane
- ALL Roadside Workers
- Morganraiders Lane
- Briarpatch Lane

#### HOSBROOK ROAD TRAFFIC CALMING

Construction continues on the Hosbrook Road Traffic Calming Project but that doesn't stop the many residents from enjoying the use of the sidewalks that were installed as part of this project. The fall and Hosbrook is school and to be payed in late Contember or early October.

MOVE

contractor will be winding up this fall and Hosbrook is scheduled to be paved in late September or early October.

#### GALBRAITH AND MONTGOMERY ROADS UNDERGROUND UTILITY PROJECT

The underground utility project is well underway and the contractor is making good progress. This is a lengthy project and will not be completed until summer of 2017. The project will be closed down and buttoned up during the holidays so that it doesn't create a traffic problem. The contractor will be back after the first of the year to start again.

As always with all road construction projects, please slow down and drive with caution through the construction area to ensure the safety of yourself as well as the workers. We thank you for your patience.



#### **CURBSIDE LEAF AND BRUSH PICKUP INFORMATION**

Sycamore Township is pleased to provide you with prompt and efficient leaf pick up service. Leaf collection will begin on Monday, October 17th and run through Friday, December 9th. 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 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.

Sycamore Township also offers curbside brush pickup for residents for a fee of \$50 per truckload. All brush must be placed at the curb with all trimmed ends facing the same direction (towards the street) for quicker handling by the road crew.

Residents must call 791-8447 or complete an Action Line request on our website to schedule a brush pickup. Fees will be billed to the property owner after the brush is cleared. You may pay with a check or by credit card on our website at **www.sycamoretownship.org**. The Township also offers **FREE** brush chipping for residents behind the Township Administration Building on the first Saturday of each month (excluding holidays) from April through December.



Fall 2016

Tom Weidman, President Cliff Bishop, Vice-President Denny Connor, 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 Harry L. Holbert, Jr., Zoning Administrator 792-7252 - Fax 792-8564 Chris M. Ketteman, Lieutenant District Three Commander Hamilton County Sheriff's Office 774-6351 - Fax 774-6350 Fire and Police Emergency - 911



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www.sycamoretownship.org

# 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.