

# Sycamore Township

# NEWS

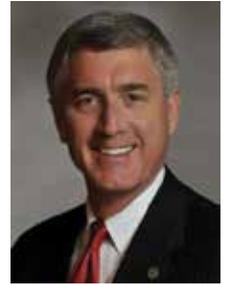
Spring 2017

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After an unusually warm Winter, the flowers and trees are blooming and Spring has arrived. And as always, the Township is offering a couple of services that will help you with your "Spring Cleaning."

On April 7th and 8th we will be holding our North Trash Bash at McDaniel Park. On April 28th and 29th we will be holding our South Trash Bash at Bechtold Park where hazardous materials disposal will also be included. Also at the South Trash Bash, we will once again provide a document shredding service which will allow you to safely and confidentially shred all the documents that you no longer need to retain. The document shredding service is free to all residents and will be available on Saturday, April 29th only between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.



Tom Weidman  
President

Safety Services in the Township is something that your Board of Trustees takes very seriously. Our EMS/Fire Department has been running with both full time and part time employees, and recently the number of part time EMS personnel has diminished to a very low level county wide. Chief Penny brought this to the Board's attention and the Trustees agreed to hire an additional three full time EMS/Fire personnel to insure that when you make a call for emergency services, we will have the necessary personnel to meet all your needs.

You may be seeing more Sheriff's patrol cars in your neighborhood throughout the day as well. With the rash of break-ins we have been experiencing, we decided to add an additional 24/7 patrol car, which is manned by four additional Sheriff's Patrol officers. Lt. Kettelman would like to remind you to remove all valuables from your cars and keep all car doors locked. Also, please make sure that your garage doors are closed before you retire for the evening. Our night patrol personnel have been leaving reminder notes for people who forget to close their garage doors at night.

Your Trustees are following the proposed Duke pipeline project very closely and have begun the process to legally intervene in opposition to the route they have chosen. Duke's application was accepted by the PUCO, and there will be upcoming public hearings as part of the ongoing process. Please refer to the Township website for more detailed information.

Finally, we will be celebrating our 25th Annual Sycamore Township Festival at Bechtold Park on July 14th and 15th with the Greg Kihn Band and The Marshall Tucker Band as the national acts on Saturday night. We will continue to have rides for the children on both nights of the festival. One single price of only \$5.00 allows your children to access the rides the entire night. Check the Township website for a complete list of all the festival events during this fun filled weekend.

On behalf of fellow Trustees Cliff Bishop and Denny Connor, and our Fiscal Officer Rob Porter, I want to thank you for continuing to support Township government, and I look forward to seeing you at one of the many Township activities scheduled in the upcoming months.

Sincerely,

Tom Weidman  
President





## Police & Crime Prevention



Lt. Chris Kettelman

Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

Sycamore Township contracts with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office for police services. This includes four 24-hour cars a day, plus one additional car during peak times. These officers are specifically dedicated to Sycamore Township and its residents to protect the community 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

In 2016, officers assigned to Sycamore Township responded to 12,415 calls for service/dispatches and drove over 216,951 miles. A total of 527 original arrests, which included felony, misdemeanor, minor misdemeanor offenses, and 1,424 warrant arrests were made in Sycamore Township last year.

**The following are statistics for offenses occurring in Sycamore Township in 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016:**

OFFENSE	2013	2014	2015	2016
Homicide	0	0	0	0
Rape	4	3	7	10
Robbery	7	7	8	11
Assault	7	6	12	17
Domestic Violence	66	42	58	61
Burglary	79	64	84	80
Theft	671	577	611	603
Auto Theft	22	30	31	21
Criminal Damage/Vandalism	84	60	71	77
Arson	4	1	3	0
Sex Offenses	4	5	5	4
Narcotics	124	144	126	160
Forgery	11	8	9	17
Check Fraud	38	41	70	58
Rec. Stolen Goods	11	9	10	2
CCW	4	11	8	6
Liquor Laws	18	29	21	14
OVI	25	46	31	51
Missing Juvenile	32	25	14	12
Missing Adult	3	9	3	9
Disorderly Conduct	100	91	46	60

OFFENSE	2013	2014	2015	2016
Others	174	129	182	185
Auto Accidents	1125	1092	1114	1168
Traffic Tickets/Citations	1638	2293	2062	2028
Self-Activity/Traffic Stops	-	5916	6164	5256
Dispatched Details	12738	12799	12756	12415

What can you do to help prevent crime in Sycamore Township? The most important thing you can do is call the police to report a crime or any suspicious activity when it is occurring. **Don't wait to report suspicious activity or vehicles! Call the non-emergency dispatch number at (513) 825-2280.**

### OFFICER SPOTLIGHT



Enforcement Officer Amy Jones has been working for the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office for twenty years. After completing the Ohio Peace Officer Training through the Hamilton County Sheriff's Patrol Academy, she began her career in Recruiting and Training for the Corrections Division of the Sheriff's Department. She was then promoted to the Patrol Division and joined the Bike Patrol. Enforcement Officer Jones frequently worked in the Community Outreach Center in Anderson Township. She was chosen by the American Legion Post 318 in Anderson Township as the recipient of the 2009 Police Officer of the Year Award for her outstanding work within the community. For the past 12 years, she has been working in the clerk's office for Sycamore Township, located at District Three, handling walk in reports and citizen concerns.

Enforcement Officer Jones is married and has two children. She would like to thank the citizens of Sycamore Township for the kindness and generosity that has poured in from the community during her years of service working in the Township. She looks forward to another decade of building trust and friendships within Sycamore Township.



# EMS/Fire Department

*Itching to get the yard into shape for the summer? Here are ways to help ensure your spring spruce-up is disaster-free.*

**Always wear protective clothing when you handle pesticides and fertilizers.**

**More than 60,000 people are treated in emergency rooms each year for lawn-mower injuries:**

- Rake before you mow to prevent any stones and loose debris from launching into the air.
- Never operate a mower in your bare feet and avoid wearing loose clothing.
- Never start a mower indoors.
- When refueling your mower, make sure the engine is off and cool. Don't spill gasoline on a hot engine—and **DON'T SMOKE** while pouring gasoline.
- Never leave your mower unattended.
- Don't use electrical mowers on wet grass.

**At least 55,000 people each year sustain injuries from trimmers, lawn edgers, pruners and power saws:**

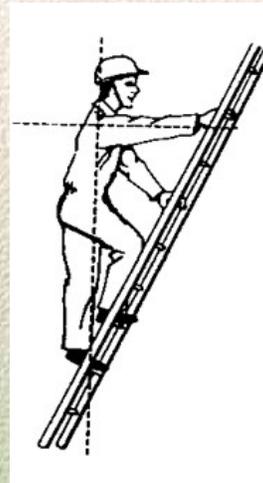
- Read the manufacturer's instructions carefully before using the tools.
- Inspect the product for damage and don't use it if there are problems.
- Use proper eye protection.
- Make sure blade guards are in place on all cutting equipment.
- Don't let tools get wet unless they are labeled "immersible."
- Unplug all tools when not in use.
- Make sure the tool is in the "off" position before you plug it in.
- Store gasoline-powered equipment away from anything that uses a pilot light.
- Make sure you use the right saw for the task, and always wait for the saw blade to stop before pulling away from a cut to avoid kickback.
- When pruning trees, be careful not to let metal ladders or trimmers contact overhead wires.
- Before you do any "hands on" weed removal, be sure you know how to identify poison ivy, sumac, oak and similar toxic plants. Find out ahead of time how to treat the rashes they cause to reduce the irritation.

## Ladder Safety:

- Read the manufacturer's instructions that come with your ladder. They contain guidelines for weight and height limits as well as for the proper use of their product.
- Inspect the ladder before using it to make sure there are no loose or broken rungs.
- Make sure the ladder is the right height for the job. Many accidents happen when people overextend their reach because their ladders are too short.
- Never stand on a ladder's bucket shelf.
- Make sure the ladder is completely open, and that all of its feet are planted on a firm, level surface. Extension ladders should not be placed at an angle that is too extreme.
- Avoid using a metal ladder near electrical sources.
- Face the ladder when climbing down and make sure your weight is centered between the two sides.
- Proper Angle for Climbing a Ladder: Once the ladder is set up, place both feet on the bottom rung and stand straight. Reach both arms straight out and grab the rung at shoulder level. If you are still standing straight, the ladder angle is correct. If you are leaning inward or outward the angle is not correct. This illustration shows the proper method for the correct angle:



Rob Penny, Fire Chief



# BECHTOLD PARK SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP

## Parks & Recreation



Mike McKeown,  
Parks & Rec. Director

### 25<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL FESTIVAL IN SYCAMORE NATIONAL ACTS ANNOUNCED!

Sycamore Township will celebrate the 25th annual Festival in Sycamore by bringing three national acts to the Kids First Sports Center stage at Bechtold Park. Friday, July 14th will feature the return of four time Grammy nominees **AMBROSIA**, a Festival favorite! Saturday, July 15th will feature the **GREG KIHN BAND**, best known for hits including "The Breakup Song" and "Jeopardy," and southern/country rock favorites **THE MARSHALL TUCKER BAND**, famous for hit songs including "Can't You See" and "Heard It in a Love Song." This will be the first Festival in Sycamore appearance for both bands.

Of course, the Festival will feature a variety of delicious food and the "Ride for Five," where the kids can buy a bracelet each day for \$5.00 and ride as much as they want.

**SAVE THE DATES**—July 14th & 15th from 6:00pm–Midnight at Bechtold Park (4312 Sycamore Road). Local bands and times of performances will be announced in the next newsletter.



Ambrosia



### SHELTERS, COMMUNITY ROOM AVAILABLE FOR RENT

Planning 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 the Schuler Sports Complex. They are available at very reasonable prices. Visit our website at [www.sycamoretownship.org](http://www.sycamoretownship.org) to check availability. For Bechtold Park Shelters, you can make a reservation and pay online, or call 513-791-8447. Call Mike McKeown at 513-792-7270 for Community Room rental information.

# TOWNSHIP TIDBITS



Sycamore Township resident Chase Coyle, shown here with Trustees Denny Connor, Tom Weidman and Cliff Bishop, was presented with a resolution at the Board of Trustees Meeting on February 16, 2017 congratulating him on his achievement in earning the Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout Award.



New Firefighter Matt LeBhar, shown here with Fire Chief Rob Penny and Trustees Denny Connor, Tom Weidman and Cliff Bishop, was sworn in at the Board of Trustees Meeting on February 16, 2017.



The kindergartners at All Saints School wrote letters of appreciation to both the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office and the Sycamore Township Fire Department. Deputies Joshua Hawthorne and Eric Kidd had the pleasure of visiting with the kindergarten students to pick up the letters, pass out coloring books and talk to the children about what to do when they encounter a stranger and the importance of listening to their parents.



Congratulations to the 5th grade class at St. Vincent Ferrer School in Kenwood for participating in the D.A.R.E. program. The 5th graders who participated are pictured with Sycamore Township Trustee Denny Connor, Sgt. Jay Schmitt of the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office and Ms. Amy Luebbering, St. Vincent Ferrer 4th grade teacher and D.A.R.E. Program faculty representative.



On a recent Saturday Morning, Officers Nick Rauhen (pictured) and Scott Prickett came across several children playing football on Limerick Ave. in Dillonvale. The Officers played a few downs with the kids and then handed out badges to make them all junior deputies.



On December 9, 2016, LyondellBasell made a surprise donation to the Sycamore Township Fire Department. Pictured from left to right are Sycamore Township Firefighters Jared Karrasch and Craig Short, Wes Chambers, HSE Manager at LyondellBasell, Captain Jeff Newman, Lieutenant Mike Beiting, James Wertz, Senior Lab Associate at LyondellBasell, Chuck Holland, Site Manager at LyondellBasell, and Firefighter Eric Hardesty. The Sycamore Township Fire Department has been working and training with LyondellBasell to assist them in preparing for possible hazmat and medical incidents which could occur at their location.



# Planning & Zoning



Harry Holbert,  
Zoning Administrator

## PERMITS REQUIRED!

Spring brings the promise of warmer weather and with it thoughts of home improvement projects! Please keep in mind that a zoning certificate is required for the following residential projects:

- |                         |                                |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| New Single Family Homes | Sheds/Accessory Use Structures |
| Room Additions          | Fences/Retaining Walls         |
| Garages                 | Front Porches                  |
| Decks                   | PODs (Movable Storage Units)   |
| Pools                   | In-Home Occupations            |

A zoning certificate ensures that the project is compliant with the current zoning resolution. For most residential projects, with the exception of fences and sheds under 200 sq. ft. in area, the zoning certificate is the first step in the process, and a building permit through Hamilton County Building Department will also be required.

Zoning certificate applications, submittal requirements and fee information are available on our website at [www.sycamoretownship.org](http://www.sycamoretownship.org). Many residential projects have no review fees associated with them, and those that do have minimal fees, provided residents apply prior to beginning any work. If you have any questions or are unsure if a permit is necessary, please call the Planning and Zoning office at 513-792-7250 *before* starting your project.

## PLACEMENT OF GARBAGE/RECYCLING CONTAINERS

Last year, the Board of Trustees passed Resolution 2016-33 which requires all residential garbage/recycling containers to be placed at the curb or authorized location (not in the street) for pick-up no more than 24 hours preceding the scheduled pick-up day. In addition, all containers must be removed within 24 hours after the pickup unless prior arrangements have been made with the Township regarding a special pickup time or location. All garbage/recycling containers shall either be in an enclosed building or placed behind the front building line when not placed for pickup.

## WELCOME NEW BUSINESSES!

The H&R Block at 8041 Hosbrook Road Suite 400 is now Block Advisors and has expanded its focus to include business services as well as individuals for tax purposes.

Lady Jane’s Haircuts for Men and Palm Beach Tan have recently moved into Kenwood Place near the Kenwood Theatre at 7731 and 7727 Kenwood Road respectively.



Crunch Fitness, Cycle Bar and Mitchell Gold & Bob Williams Home Furnishings are now open for business at the Kenwood Collection at 5901 E. Galbraith Road.





# Maintenance Department



Tracy Kellums, Superintendent

## ROAD WORK AHEAD

Sycamore Township will initiate several road improvement projects in 2017 to serve the residents of our community.

First, there will be a reconstruction project on Donna Ln. from Plainfield Rd. to Estermarie Dr. and on Estermarie Dr. from Donna Ln. to Mantell Ave. This project includes new pavement, curbs and driveway aprons. Residents who drive these roads know this is a much needed project! The road has been patched quite extensively and is quite rough. During rains one can see that there is mud pumping up from the base through the pavement.

The Township contacted all the utility companies inquiring if there was any work that needed to be performed in this area. It turns out that the water main on these streets is in need of replacement,

therefore, Cincinnati Water Works is working with the Township to replace the water main in conjunction with this project. The project will begin with water main work in the spring, so that the bulk of the reconstruction may be done during the summer, when the two schools on the street will not be in session.

Second, there will be repaving projects in the Charter Oak Subdivision in Kenwood, which includes Charter Oak Dr., White Chapel Dr., Ivybrook Ct. and Hermitage Ln., and in the Gwilada area of Dillonvale, including Gwilada Dr., Donegal Dr. (Wicklow Ave. to the west terminus), Highton Ct., Langhorst Ct., Jeffrey Ct., and Guam Ct. The water main is currently being replaced on these Dillonvale streets, with the exception of Gwilada Dr. where a new water main was installed previously.

Finally, new sidewalk will be constructed this year on Montgomery Rd. extending from Galbraith Rd. to Dearwester Dr. This is another project initiated by the Trustees to connect our neighborhoods and make the Township a more walkable community. Expect to see more of these types of projects in the future. In addition, the underground utility project continues on Montgomery and Galbraith Rds. This project is a huge improvement to the area and is scheduled for completion this summer. Our Township Maintenance crews will also be in the neighborhoods repairing sidewalks, storm sewers, curb, pavement and more throughout the spring and summer.

As always with all road construction projects, please slow down and drive cautiously through the construction areas to ensure the safety of both you and the workers. While there will be some inconveniences, the end result of these endeavors will be a tremendous improvement to these areas for our residents and property owners. We thank you for your patience and cooperation.

## 2017 TRASH BASH & DOCUMENT SHREDDING (DATES TO RIGHT)

Trash, junk, debris, old tires, used motor oil, construction materials, furniture, lawnmowers, appliances of all kinds, and electronics will be accepted. Mattresses and box springs will also be accepted provided they are wrapped in plastic or in a plastic mattress bag. **Be prepared to show proof of residency.** Sycamore Township Maintenance staff will be on hand to offer assistance to residents at these events.

**This year, the annual document shredding event for residents will take place at Bechtold Park in conjunction with the South Trash Bash on Saturday, April 29, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Oil based paint, household chemicals and pesticides will be accepted at the SOUTH TRASH BASH ONLY.**

**Please note that latex paint and yard waste, including brush and leaves, will not be accepted.** Latex paint may be taken to Matthew 25 Ministries at 11060 Kenwood Road.

## SPRING EVENTS

### Chipping Program

April 1, May 6, & June 3  
8AM – 4PM  
Behind Administration Bldg.  
8540 Kenwood Road

### National Day of Prayer

May 4, 12:00 PM  
Administration Bldg.  
8540 Kenwood Road

### North Trash Bash

Friday, April 7, 12 – 4PM  
Saturday, April 8, 8AM – 4PM  
McDaniel Park  
7841 School Road



### South Trash Bash

Friday, April 28, 12 – 4PM  
Saturday, April 29, 8AM – 4PM  
Bechtold Park  
4312 Sycamore Road

### Document Shredding

Saturday, April 29, 10AM – 2PM  
Bechtold Park  
4312 Sycamore Road

### Compost Giveaway

May 13, 8AM – 4PM  
Hartzell Methodist Church  
8999 Applewood Drive

### Festival in Sycamore

July 14–15  
6PM – Midnight  
Bechtold Park  
4312 Sycamore Road



# Contacts



## Spring 2017

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. Kettelman, Lieutenant

District Three Commander

Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

**774-6351 – Fax 774-6350**

Fire and Police Emergency – **911**

[www.sycamoretownship.org](http://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



**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.