

# Sycamore Township

# NEWS

Spring 2010

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With Spring finally arriving, most residents are happy to get outside after being couped up inside for the entire Winter. And as we transition into the dog days of summer, I wanted to let you know about a very exciting program we are instituting for Sycamore Township residents and small business owners, that will save you a significant amount of money on your electric bills.



Tom Weidman

As you know, the residents voted in favor of aggregating natural gas purchases for all of the Sycamore Township residents with an "opt out" program. We have been working with many electric providers around the state for over a year to find a means of reducing electric costs for all of our residents, and I am happy to report that we have endorsed Duke Energy Retail Sales as a Non-Regulated provider for electricity in Sycamore Township. This decision only increases your options for electric and does not preclude any resident from doing business with the electric company they choose. It also will allow you to be signed up in the program before your electricity usage increases in the high demand summer months from air conditioning.

In the near future, you will be receiving a letter from Duke Energy Retail Sales, a subsidiary of Duke Energy, explaining this cost savings option. This company represents the "Non-Regulated" side of Duke's electric business, and is not bound by the same pricing structure that Duke Energy is, as regulated by the Public Utility Commission of Ohio. One of the attractive parts of the Duke offer is that you, the customer, can choose to either take an 18% reduction of the Duke Energy price at the time or, choose a fixed price of .065/kWh, whichever you prefer. They also offer a "peace of mind" guarantee that states if the price of electricity decreases in the marketplace, and Duke offers another community a lower price, you will also receive the lower price on your next bill.

Unlike the gas aggregation program, your savings on electric will be substantial and you will notice the savings on your bill as soon as you are switched into the program. Your bill and service will all come from Duke, and the entire process will be 100% seamless.

We are proud to say that after over a year of discussions with Duke about this product, Sycamore Township is the first community to sign up with Duke Energy Retail Sales, LLC for this service. This is another example of how your Trustees continue to reduce the cost of services to all of the residents and small business owners in the township.

We believe that this is a favorable option for all of our residents, but as I said, the final decision is up to you. Keep an eye on your mailbox for all of the details, which will be following shortly. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Sycamore Township at 791-8447.

On behalf of my fellow trustees Cliff Bishop and Dick Kent, and our Fiscal Officer Rob Porter, I want to thank you for allowing us to serve you as your elected officials.

Sincerely,

Tom Weidman, Trustee

## Festival in Sycamore

Bechtold Park  
4312 Sycamore Road  
Friday, July 16 &  
Saturday, July 17  
6pm to Midnight





# EMS/Fire Department



William A. Jetter, Ph.D. MIFireE EMS & Fire Director/Fire Chief

The heavy snowfall this year may have created yard and home maintenance concerns for many. Here are a few tips for inspecting your home

when you are cleaning up in the spring.

This is the time to check for gutters that may have pulled loose because of the heavy snow build-up. Check your shingles to make sure that the seals in the valley and chimney areas are tight. During heavy snow and sub zero weather, ice tends to build up and break the seal around these areas. Once they become loose, water can seep back under the decking of your roof and cause damage to your ceilings.

Concrete and asphalt driveways can also sustain damage because of the cold weather. This includes stairs and walkways around your house. Cracked or broken steps are dangerous and can lead to someone falling. A little preventative maintenance in early spring can keep conditions from deteriorating.

The fire department has community programs available to residents which include home safety programs, CPR classes, address signs, neighborhood meeting presentations and smoke detector awareness. If you have a need or would like more information please contact us at 792-8565 or call me direct at 792-7249.

Sycamore Township is a wonderful community. In many of our neighborhoods we have seniors who may need some assistance from time to time. Often the question is asked, "What can we do when we see that someone may need help?". One good resource is the Council on Aging of Southwest Ohio. Here are some informational contact numbers: 513-721-1025, 1-800-252-0155 or [www.help4seniors.org](http://www.help4seniors.org).

As daylight hours increase, so do outdoor activities. When driving, please be alert.

Remember to change the batteries in your smoke detectors. Have a safe spring.

William A. Jetter, Ph.D. MIFireE EMS & Fire Director/Fire Chief

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Brush Chipping Drop Off

Behind Township Admin Bldg  
8540 Kenwood Road  
Saturday 8 AM-4 PM  
May 1, June 5, July 3

### Compost/Woodchip Give-Away

Hartzell United Methodist Church  
8999 Applewood Drive  
Saturday, May 8  
8 AM-4 PM

### Trash Bash – South

Bechtold Park  
4312 Sycamore Road  
Friday, May 14, 12 Noon-4 PM  
Saturday, May 15, 8 AM-4 PM  
Sunday, May 16, 12 Noon-4 PM

### Trash Bash – North

Clete McDaniel Sports Complex  
School Road Entrance  
7841 School Road  
Friday, Sept 17, 12 Noon-4 PM  
Saturday, Sept 18, 8 AM-4 PM  
Sunday, Sept 19, Noon-4 PM

### Festival in Sycamore Bechtold Park

Bechtold Park  
4312 Sycamore Road  
Friday, July 16  
Saturday, July 17  
6PM-Midnight

# Police and Crime Prevention



Lt. Dan Reid,  
Liaison to the Hamilton  
County Sheriff's  
Department

## LOOKING OUT FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

Recently in Kenwood, a burglary was thwarted by an alert neighbor across the street from where the crime was occurring. This helpful neighbor called police when she noticed two very suspicious subjects who were going up and down her street knocking on doors to see if anyone was home. She noticed them lurking around the house directly across

the street, walking back and forth from the rear of the house to the front several times. She knew the owners worked during the day and would not be home. We then received the call. The responding officer was there in a minute and caught the two suspects coming out of the back door of the house. The result was that two "bad guys" were arrested and the homeowner lost no property.

To reduce crime in our community, we need more people like this—neighbors looking out for each other. If something looks strange to you, then it probably is. I have heard many times after similar circumstances, "Well I thought it looked strange but I didn't want to bother you." The residents of Sycamore Township are our eyes and ears on the street. We need you to be alert to strange happenings in your neighborhood because quite frankly we cannot be everywhere at once. If you have a "gut feeling" about something or someone that is not right then it probably isn't, and you need to call. For emergencies, please call 911. For non-emergencies, call (513) 825-1500 or (513) 825-2280.

We are heading into the warm months now and a lot more people are going to be out and about. This includes the criminals. If you see someone or a vehicle that doesn't belong in your neighborhood call the police. It is always better to be safe than sorry. We like to be able to stop crime before it happens. Even if you don't get involved in an organized "Block Watch" program you can practice the philosophy every day by being alert.

Lt. Dan Reid  
Hamilton County Sheriff's Department

## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM CHANGES IN 2010

The popular Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program will continue in 2010. Hamilton County residents can drop off hazardous products, such as automotive fluids, pesticides, and fertilizers that could be dangerous to dispose of in the regular trash. Using the free HHW Drop-off:

- protects waste haulers
- avoids accidental poisonings
- prevents hazardous waste from being poured down the drain

The new contractor, Clean Harbors, will operate the drop-off at a new location:

### Clean Harbors (New Location)

4879 Spring Grove Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45232

April 10 - October 16 Tuesdays 2-6

Saturdays 9-1

Closed for holidays on May 29, July 3, and September 4.

In order to reduce costs, the HHW program will no longer accept latex paint for drop-off. Latex paint is not hazardous and can be thrown away with the regular trash once solid. Dry the paint out with sand, sawdust, or kitty litter and leave the lid off so waste haulers can see that paint is dry. See below for a complete list of acceptable items:

- Pesticides/Fertilizers
- Solvents/Thinners
- Lawn/Pool Chemicals
- Cleaners
- Household/Auto Batteries
- Fire Extinguishers
- Propane Tanks
- Oil-based Paint
- Mercury
- Fluorescent Bulbs
- Driveway Sealer
- Gasoline/ Motor Oil
- Antifreeze
- Thermostats

For more information visit the 2010 HHW Program website ([www.hcdoes.org/sw/HHW/hhw\\_collection\\_program.html](http://www.hcdoes.org/sw/HHW/hhw_collection_program.html)) or call the Hamilton County Household Hazardous Waste Hotline at 946-7700.

If you have reusable building materials from a home remodeling project, Building Value at 4040 Spring Grove Avenue, 45223, a materials reuse store, will accept certain items. Check their website at [www.buildingvalue-cincy.org](http://www.buildingvalue-cincy.org) or call 513-475-6783.

# Parks and Recreation

## TWILIGHT CONCERT DATES SET

Grab some lawn chairs or blankets and head to one of Sycamore Township's 2010 Twilight Concerts. Some of the best bands in the area will perform a variety of music at these free events. The concerts will be held at different parks throughout the Township. Bring your own food and beverages or purchase food at the concerts.

Listed are the dates, times, locations, and performers of each Twilight Concert.

**Sunday, May 16 – 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.**

### THE MODULATORS

Behind Administration Building, 8540 Kenwood Rd.  
*(Barbecue sandwiches for sale)*

**Saturday, June 12 – 8:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M.**

### SIGNS OF LIFE (A Tribute to Pink Floyd)

McDaniel Sports Complex - 11797 Solzman Rd.  
*(Hamburgers, hot dogs, etc. for sale)*

**Saturday, June 19 – 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.**

### JUMP n JIVE SHOW BAND

Bechtold Park - 4312 Sycamore Rd.  
*(Barbecue sandwiches for sale)*

**Sunday, September 19 – 5 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.**

### BLUESTONE IVORY

McDaniel Sports Complex - 11797 Solzman Rd.  
*(Hamburgers, hot dogs, etc. for sale)*

Call Park Director Mike McKeown at 791-8447 for more information.

## FESTIVAL IN SYCAMORE

Before you know it, summer will be here. That means the Festival in Sycamore will be here again on July 16 and 17 from 6:00 – Midnight at Bechtold Park. We're very pleased to announce that two great national bands will perform. Million selling groups **Survivor** and **Starship** starring Mickey Thomas will put on fantastic shows. Watch the Township website, newspaper, and the summer newsletter for more information.



Survivor

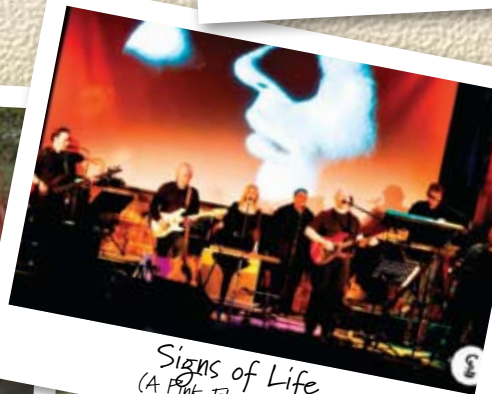
## Jump 'n' Jive Show Band



Starship



The Modulators



Signs of Life  
(A Pink Floyd Tribute)



Blue Stone Ivory

## SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS RECYCLED 680 TONS IN 2009!

Congratulations Sycamore Township residents! In 2009, you recycled 680 tons of metal, glass, plastic, and paper. Sycamore Township recycled 34 more tons in 2009 than in 2008! Residents saved resources, conserved energy, and reduced pollution by recycling.

The recycling efforts in Sycamore Township:

- Conserved enough energy to power every home in Sycamore Township for 6 days.
- Reduced more greenhouse gas pollution than if every household in Sycamore Township did not drive a car for 19 days (almost three weeks!).
- Saved 5,581 trees from being harvested.

Recycling reduces pollution so the air we breathe is cleaner, conserves natural resources so we will have them to use in the future, and decreases the energy needed to make new products. Recycling also boosts our local economy by creating 169,000 jobs and \$6 billion in annual wages just in the State of Ohio.

On average, each household in Sycamore Township recycled 164 pounds in 2009. That's 9.76% of all the waste you generate. If you would like to see even more material recycled in 2010, check out the list below to make sure you include all these materials in your recycling bin. Don't have a bin? Rumpke customers call 242-4600 and CSI customers call 771-4200 to request a bin. Residents can also drop-off recyclables behind the Sycamore Township Administrative Complex at no charge!

### Good Work, Sycamore Township, your recycling efforts made a big difference!

#### 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 and envelopes

Magazines, Catalogs

Phone Books

Newspapers

Cardboard

Office Paper

Brown grocery bags

Have a question about recycling? Call Hamilton County's Recycling Hotline at 946-7766 or visit

[www.hamiltoncountyclecyls.org](http://www.hamiltoncountyclecyls.org)

## TOWNSHIP EVENTS



At the January 7th meeting of Sycamore Township, Hamilton County Commissioner Greg Hartman swears in President Tom Weidman for his second term as Sycamore Township Trustee.



The Sycamore Township Board of Trustees presented Sycamore Senior Center director Joshua Howard, second from right, with the \$25,000 annual donation at the February 4th Regular Meeting.



Alan Pittman, an EMT/Firefighter for Sycamore Township, was presented with a life saving award by the Board of Trustees at the March 4th meeting of the Board. Alan and his wife Kim were behind the scene of an accident in January. They stopped to help and found the driver was not breathing. Alan performed CPR until an ambulance arrived.





# Planning and Zoning



Greg Bickford,  
Zoning Director,  
Assistant Township  
Administrator

## RESIDENTS HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES TOO!

Sycamore Township is proud of its quality of residential life and has adopted ordinances requiring all residents to be responsible for maintaining that quality of life. The following are general summaries of common ordinances:

### Lawn Mowing

1. Grass and weeds must be cut before reaching a height of 10".

8. Permitted fences in the rear yard may be six-foot in height and be of a solid variety. In the side yard they may be four-feet in height and must have a 75% open face.

### Swimming Pools & Hot Tubs

9. Swimming pools must be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition.
10. Swimming pools, hot tubs and spas containing water more than 24 inches in depth shall be completely surrounded by a fence or barrier at least 48" in height and have a self latching gate.

### Building Exterior

2. All exterior surfaces shall be maintained in good repair, structurally sound and sanitary.
3. House numbers must be mounted on the house and clearly visible from the street.
4. Painted surfaces which are peeling, flaking or weathered must be scrapped and covered with the appropriate protective covering.
5. Roofs and flashing shall be sound, tight, and not have any defects to admit rain.

### Fences & Landscape

6. No fences are permitted in the front yard.
7. All landscape material must be properly maintained necessary to keep plantings healthy and in orderly appearance.

### House-Garage-Yard Sales

11. House, garage and yard sales are permitted, and are limited to the personal possessions of the owner-occupant of the dwelling at which the sale is being conducted. Such sales are limited to three consecutive days and no more than three such sales shall be conducted from the same residence in any twelve-month period.

*Winter 2010 Newsletter Edition Correction Page 6:*

### Cars, Trucks and Motor Vehicles

7. Boats, RV's, and trailers are permitted to be parked in the rear yard only and must be setback from the rear property line a minimum of 30 or 35 feet depending on your Zoning District. They are not permitted to be parked or stored in the front or side yards, which includes most driveways. In addition, no one may reside in the boat, RV, or trailer and its wheels must be maintained and remain affixed.

## CAGIS ONLINE

Sycamore Township is a proud, longstanding member of the CAGIS (Cincinnati Area Geographic Information System) Consortium. CAGIS is a tool that combines spatial data with physical maps. Through CAGIS, information is available on all parcels in the Township. Recently, the system has been expanded to include convenient web access

where residents can view aerial photographs and find out information about their property.

To access CAGIS Online, please visit - [www.cagis.org](http://www.cagis.org) and click on the "CAGIS Internet Map Server" link.



# Maintenance Department



Tracy Kellums,  
Superintendent

## TRASH BASH

To better serve the residents of Sycamore Township, the schedule of the 2010 Trash Bash will be one event in the spring and one event in the fall, as last year. Sycamore Township residents are welcome to take advantage of both events. The dates for the south Trash Bash at Bechtold Park, 4312 Sycamore Road, 45236, are scheduled for Friday, May 14th through Sunday, May 16th. The dates for the north Trash Bash at the Clete McDaniel Sports Complex, School Road Entrance, 7841 School Road, 45241, are scheduled for Friday, September 17th through Sunday, September 19th. The Trash Bash hours of operation shall be from noon to 4 PM on Friday and Sunday and 8 AM to 4 PM on Saturday. The Sycamore Township maintenance staff will be on hand to offer assistance at both locations. Trash, junk, debris, tires, old construction materials, furniture, lawn mowers and appliances of all sorts will be accepted. *Please note that paint, chemicals, pesticides and yard waste including leaves, limbs and brush will not be accepted. Be prepared to show proof of residency. A valid driver's license or utility bill with your Sycamore Township address will be accepted.*

## COMPOST GIVE-AWAY

The Township will once again make available compost and wood chips on Saturday, May 8, from 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM. The material may be picked up at the Township's compost site adjacent to Hartzell United Methodist Church at 8999 Applewood Drive.

Maintenance personnel will be on hand to assist you in loading the material. There is an abundant supply of both compost and wood chips so come early and come often. Due to scheduling conflicts, no rain date has been set.

## STORM DAMAGE COLLECTION

When storms pass through Sycamore Township, you can rest assured that we are looking out for you! Storm damage collection is a service Sycamore Township has provided for many years through the maintenance department. The storm damage policy of the Township begins with the safety services department. Sycamore Township Fire Chief Jetter declares whether a **"storm damage condition"** has occurred. When a **"storm damage condition"** has been declared, residents must call 791-8447 within two working days after the storm to have the branches picked up at no charge. **Branches must be stacked at the street, butt end out, within two (2) weeks of the storm.** When you call, tell the office staff that you have storm damage, give them your name, address and phone number. It is not the policy of Sycamore Township to cover the whole Township street by street after a storm, but rather collecting from only the addresses reported to the office. The maintenance department will only pick up limbs and branches from the recent storm. Leaves, which are picked up during our annual fall **"leaf season"**, will not be collected. Foundation plantings, old firewood, and tree and bush pruning will not be collected as storm damage. They can be disposed of through your trash collection or at our monthly brush chipping program held behind the Sycamore Township Maintenance Building, 8540 Kenwood Road, from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month.



# Contacts

## Spring 2010

Tom Weidman, President

Cliff Bishop, Vice President

Dick Kent, Trustee

Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer

R. Douglas Miller, Law Director

Rob Molloy, Administrator

Tracy Kellums, Superintendent

Mike McKeown, Parks & Recreation Director

**791-8447 – Fax 792-8564**

Greg Bickford, AICP, Planning Zoning Director

Assistant Township Administrator

**792-7250 – Fax 792-8571**

EMS & Fire Department/Fire Chief

William "BJ" Jetter, PH.D., MIFireE, CHSIII

**792-8565 – Fax 792-8564**

Sheriff's Liaison, Lt. Daniel P. Reid

**791-8447 – Fax 792-8564**

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

To serve you better, the Trustees have designated areas of Sycamore Township to service. If you have a question about your neighborhood, please contact the appropriate Trustee.



**Tom Weidman**  
President  
Northern Area



**Cliff Bishop**  
Vice President  
Dillonvale/Rossmoyne



**Dick Kent**  
Trustee  
Kenwood



**Robert C. Porter III**  
Fiscal  
Officer

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