

# Sycamore Township

# NEWS

Winter 2011

## In this Issue

- 2 Happy New Year!  
Seasonal Safety
- 3 Snow Emergency Information  
Calendar of Events
- 4 Sycamore Townships Parks  
Community Room Available
- 5 Luminaria  
Welcome New Businesses  
Birth Certificates Available
- 6 Residents Have  
Responsibilities Too!  
Welcome Aboard –  
Beth Gunderson
- 7 Maintenance  
Snow Removal  
Roadwork Ahead  
Township Events
- 8 Contacts

This weekend, as I write this column, I have just finished clearing my driveway of another season's significant snowfall. I am grateful to the Township's Maintenance Department for their dedicated service, including fall leaf collection and winter snow removal.



Rob Porter

Rob Molloy has retired after many years of loyal service to the Township. Bruce Raabe has been hired by the Township to succeed Rob Molloy as Township Administrator. Bruce and the Trustees are working with me to identify and implement cost controls so that Sycamore Township can continue to supply excellent services with one of the lowest property tax rates in Hamilton County and no earnings tax.

Despite tough economic times, several new projects show that Sycamore Township remains a dynamic area to live and work. The new Kenwood Theater has opened with good attendance. Work has started on the new FBI headquarters – the former site of the old Harley Hotel. The Township is working with the developers of these projects to improve traffic signaling and access throughout our Kenwood Central Business District.

I would like to welcome Beth Gunderson to the Sycamore Township zoning team! We are delighted you are joining us as Planning and Zoning Assistant. Your position is critical in fulfilling the mission of our Zoning Department. We will help you make a smooth transition into your new role.

Trustees Tom Weidman, Cliff Bishop, Dick Kent and I look forward to continued progress and wish all Sycamore Township residents a healthy, safe, and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Robert C. Porter III".

Robert C. Porter III  
Fiscal Officer



Winter View of Bechtold Creek





# EMS/Fire Department



## HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE EMS & FIRE DEPARTMENT!

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

A lot of changes have occurred recently about the information received from a patient during transport to the hospital. Medicare & Medicaid have mandated that all health records be collected in an electronic format. If you are a Medicare/Medicaid patient please make sure your medical cards are in order so that paperwork can be filed properly in the emergency room. Another important note is that HIPPA (Health Information Patient Portability Act) has imposed strict violations on patient confidentiality. It's important to note that if you are requesting a copy of an EMS report the proper paperwork must be provided by the patient before any report can be released. This is the law, and all health professionals are held accountable to it. Many times folks see the Life Squad at a neighbor's house or on the street and want to ask questions because they are concerned about their neighbor. Under the privacy act the EMS crew cannot share any information regarding a patient. I know this may be difficult, but please try not to ask crews about the patient they are treating.

The EMS & Fire Department provides several community programs for our residents. If you would like a tour of the firehouse for your neighborhood association meeting, give us a call so we can prepare a program that will accommodate your special needs. Call Assistant Chief Morath at 513-792-7246.

During the winter months it is time to double check a few key safety items in your home such as smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers. If you are using a fireplace make sure when you clean it out all the ashes are placed in a metal container outside your home. Every year the department is called to house fires because ashes are placed in plastic containers or in cardboard boxes. Remember, ashes from a fireplace can still be active up to a week after a fire is put out. Please use extra caution when discarding your fireplace ashes.

The winter months can be joyful and present some of the most beautiful scenery, but it's also the time of year when we are inside more than outside. Keep your home safe by taking a few extra minutes to check all your alerting devices. Make sure doorways to the outside are kept clear and all gas appliances are checked for safe operations.

Yours in Life Safety,

William (BJ) Jetter Ph.D. MIFireE, CFO, CHSIII, OFE  
Ems & Fire Director/Fire Chief





# Police and Crime Prevention



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

## SNOW EMERGENCY INFORMATION

In light of the recent snow storms here and elsewhere in the country, I want to take this opportunity to explain the various

snow emergency levels that may be declared by the Sheriff of Hamilton County. This will help you to avoid any confusion in the future should we have the misfortune to have another big storm this winter.

Pursuant to Attorney General Opinion 86-023 the Sheriff of a County may declare a snow emergency and temporarily close County and Township roads within his jurisdiction for the preservation of the public peace.

Attorney General Opinion 97-015 also allows the Sheriff to close State and Municipal roads.

In order to clarify the definition of the snow emergency, Ohio Sheriffs adopted guidelines to be followed when closing highways due to severe weather. The policy is as follows:

### Level I SNOW ALERT

Roadways are hazardous with blowing and drifting snow



### Level II SNOW ADVISORY

Roadways are hazardous with blowing and drifting snow. Only those who feel it is necessary to drive should be out on the roadways. Contact your employer to see if you should report to work.

### Level III SNOW EMERGENCY

All Municipal, Township, County, and State roadways are closed to non-emergency personnel. No one should be out during these conditions unless travel is absolutely necessary. Those traveling on the roadways in violation of a Level III Snow Emergency are subject to arrest.

These are the legal definitions set forth by the State of Ohio. As always, you should use your best common sense before driving in hazardous winter conditions.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Monthly Brush Chipping Drop Off

Behind Township Admin Bldg  
8540 Kenwood Road  
Saturday - 8AM-4PM  
March 5, April 2, May 7  
June 4, July 2

### Document Shredding Program

Behind Township Admin Bldg  
8540 Kenwood Road  
Saturday - 10AM-2PM  
April 23

### Compost/Woodchip Give-Away

Hartzell United Methodist Church  
8999 Applewood Drive  
Saturday - 8AM-4PM  
May 7

### Trash Bash – South

Bechtold Park  
4312 Sycamore Road  
Friday, May 13, Noon-4PM  
Saturday, May 14, 8AM-4PM  
Sunday, May 15, Noon-4PM

### Trash Bash – North

Clete McDaniel Sports Complex  
School Road Entrance  
7841 School Road  
Friday, Sept 16, Noon-4PM  
Saturday, Sept 17, 8AM-4PM  
Sunday, Sept 18, Noon-4PM

### Festival in Sycamore

Bechtold Park  
4312 Sycamore Road  
Friday, July 15  
Saturday, July 16  
6PM-MIDNIGHT

# Parks and Recreation



Mike McKeown  
Parks & Recreation  
Director

## SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP PARKS OFFERING MANY AMENITIES

Did you know that Sycamore Township has seven parks that cover nearly 90 acres of land? We hope that all of our residents avail themselves of the benefits of our facilities. Here is a list of Sycamore Township parks and features:

### Bechtold Park

4312 Sycamore Road, 21 acres  
Facilities: 5 shelters, nature trail, 2 baseball fields, 2 sand volleyball courts, 3 play areas, restroom facilities, basketball hoop, .3 mile walking track

### Clete McDaniel Sports Complex

11797 Old Solzman Road, 22 acres  
Facilities: 5 baseball fields, 2 game soccer fields, 3 practice soccer fields, batting cage, concession stand, restroom facilities, children's play area, .9 mile walking track

### Bob Meyer Park

8511 Sturbridge Drive, 7 acres  
Facilities: 4 baseball fields, batting cage, children's play area

### Nature Preserve

N.E. corner of Fields Ertel and School Roads  
Facilities: Natural wooded area featuring a wide variety of plant and animal life

### Robert L. Schuler Sports Complex

11532 Deerfield Road, 18 acres  
Facilities: Deluxe lighted baseball field, deluxe lighted soccer field, 2 additional game soccer fields, instructional soccer field, .6 mile walking track, restroom facilities, vending area, children's play area, community room

### Kenwood Gardens

S.W. corner of Montgomery and Galbraith Roads  
1 acre  
Facilities: Botanical Gardens

### High Point Park

First Avenue, 1 acre  
Facilities: 1 shelter, 1 full basketball court

## COMMUNITY ROOM AVAILABLE

Having a birthday party or family reunion? Is your company putting on a presentation? Don't forget that the Schuler Community Room at Schuler Sports Complex is available for rental. The room is equipped with the latest sound and a/v technology. The room will seat up to 120 at tables, or 175 theater style. Call Mike McKeown at 792-7270 for more information or if you would like to see the room.





## LUMINARIA

Many Township residents and neighbors braved the rain to spread Christmas cheer at the Dillonvale Luminaria on December 11 at Bechtold Park. Santa was on hand to pass out candy and visit with all the youngsters. Beautiful holiday music was provided by the Deer Park High School jazz band and the Trinity United Church of Christ choir. Hot chocolate, coffee, doughnuts, and cookies were provided compliments of Dillonvale IGA. The weather caused the hayrides to be cut back, although some were still able to tour through Dillonvale to see all of the Christmas decorations. Thanks to all of the Park Committee members who helped, and to Dillonvale IGA, for all of their work.

Congratulations to the following homes which were judged the best decorated properties during Luminaria:  
**1st Place – 3824 Mantell Avenue**  
**2nd Place – 8773 Killarney Court**  
**3rd Place – 3866 Larchview Drive**  
Congratulations also to the residents of Tramore Drive, which was judged to be the best decorated street in Dillonvale.



## SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP WELCOMES NEW BUSINESSES

Despite the downturn in the economy, Sycamore Township would also like to extend a warm welcome to the following new businesses. Local businesses play a vital role in the overall economic health of the community. The next time you are out, take a moment to patronize these businesses should the need arise.

**Kenwood Towne Centre:** Chipotle, Anthropologie  
**Sycamore Plaza:** Sleep Outfitters, AT&T

Sycamore Township is also proud to have the new Kenwood Theater which is located in the Kenwood

Place Development located on Kenwood Road. In addition to first run movies, the theater features movies that you will not find in other theaters.

[www.kenwoodtheatre.com](http://www.kenwoodtheatre.com)

Finally, Sycamore Township is proud to welcome the Apple Tree Café to the Dillonvale Shopping Center. They pride themselves on their home-made cakes, pies, soups, deli salads, dinner specials, and baked goods.

[www.appletreecafe.biz](http://www.appletreecafe.biz)

## BIRTH CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE FOR BIRTHS ANYWHERE IN OHIO

Hamilton County Public Health is now able to issue birth certificates for persons born at any hospital in Ohio. The Ohio Department of Health adopted a central issuance policy, simplifying the process of birth certificate requests across Ohio.

Previously, customers seeking birth certificates had to work with the local health department in which the birth took place. With multiple health departments in southwest Ohio, this causes customers much confusion and frustration.

"This is a significant improvement in customer service

and it's the right thing to do for customers seeking birth certificates," said Tim Ingram, Health Commissioner. "We no longer have to turn customers away and force them to drive all over town to the jurisdiction where the birth took place."

Certified copies of birth records are \$24 and may be obtained in person, by mail or online. Hamilton County Public Health's Office of Vital Records also offers genealogical research by appointment.

For more information about vital records, visit [www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org](http://www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org) for more details.



# Planning and Zoning

## 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:

### Trash Removal

1. All exterior property and premises shall be maintained in a clean, safe and sanitary condition.
2. All structures and exterior property must be kept free from rodent harborages and infestation.
3. All exterior property and premises and the interior of every structure shall be free from any accumulation of rubbish or garbage.
4. Every occupant of a structure shall dispose of all rubbish and garbage in a clean and sanitary manner by placing such rubbish in approved containers.

### Cars, Trucks and Motor Vehicles

5. Inoperable, junk, or unlicensed vehicles shall not be kept or stored on any premises and no vehicle shall at any time be in a state of disassembly, disrepair or in the process of being stripped or dismantled. They must be removed from the property or parked inside a garage.
6. Unlicensed vehicles may not be parked in the street.
7. Recreational vehicles, boats, and campers are required to be parked in the rear yard or in an enclosed garage.
8. All vehicles may only be parked on a paved surface. No vehicle may be parked on grass, dirt or gravel.

### In-Home Occupations

9. An in-home occupation shall be permitted provided it meets the requirements and standards of Section 10-4.1 of the ST Zoning Resolution.

### POD's

10. One portable storage container is permitted per property not to exceed 14 consecutive days. The container must be situated on a paved surface.
11. POD's are not permitted to be placed in the street.

### Signs

12. Signs of any kind are prohibited from being posted in the right-of-way, which is generally the area of the street between the sidewalks, including planting strips.
13. Signs placed in the Township right-of-way may be removed daily by Township personnel.



Beth Gunderson,  
Planning and Zoning  
Assistant

## WELCOME ABOARD!

**Sycamore Township Department of Planning and Zoning welcomes Beth Gunderson to the Township Team.**

I am excited to join the Planning and Zoning team to serve the residents of Sycamore Township.

After many years as a stay-at-home mom busy with my four sons, I re-entered the workforce two and a half years ago as an event planner and administrator in print media. After learning about a job opening with Sycamore Township, I jumped at the opportunity to be a part of a staff dedicated to the service of its citizens.

I look forward to working with the Township staff and residents to promote the continued prosperity of Sycamore Township. I am available to help residents find the answers to any of their zoning questions. If I don't know the answer, I will direct your inquiry to our Zoning Director or Inspector who will be happy to assist.

It is the goal of the Planning and Zoning Department to promote high standards for residential, commercial and recreational development in Sycamore Township for the benefit of our community and citizens. I am eager to do my part to help us achieve that goal.

Beth Gunderson  
Planning and Zoning Assistant  
(513) 792-7250  
bgunderson@sycamoretownship.org



# Maintenance Department



Tracy Kellums,  
Superintendent

## SNOW REMOVAL

### Be Prepared!

Forecasters are calling for an above average amount of snowfall this year. Whether they are right or wrong, you can be sure that when the snow begins to fall, the Township Maintenance Department will be ready. The salt dome is full and salt spreaders and snowplows have been serviced. During times of snow removal operations, we

ask that you **MOVE YOUR CAR FROM THE STREET**. This will allow crews to plow 'curb to curb'. Please be courteous and shovel your sidewalks, applying ice melt as necessary. With your cooperation, we will have a safe winter season.



## ROAD WORK AHEAD

There are several construction projects by utility companies that are scheduled to start this winter in Sycamore Township. As with all of our construction projects, we ask that drivers please be courteous and drive with caution to protect the workers on the road. Also, please be patient if traffic delays occur.

### Glenellyn Drive, Yakima Drive, Silvercrest Drive, Marview Avenue Sewer Project

The Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (513-352-4900) is tentatively scheduled to start their sewer project in February, 2011 on Glenellyn Drive and Yakima Drive and will move to Silvercrest Drive and Marview Avenue in early spring. When Silvercrest Drive is under construction, the road will be closed and traffic will be detoured to Garden Road. Residents will have access to their homes at all times throughout this project.

### Dillonvale Water Main Project

The Greater Cincinnati Water Works (513-591-7700) is scheduled to start the Dillonvale Water Main Project this winter. The project includes the following streets:

- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Belfast Avenue from Mantell Avenue to the western terminus | Antrim Court    |
| Glenburney Court   | Killarney Court |
| Eldora Drive from Belfast Avenue to the southern terminus  | Trebor Drive    |
|  | Dundalk Court   |
|  | Tralee Court    |

All roads will be open to traffic during construction however, delays may be possible.

If you have any questions about these projects, please contact Superintendent Tracy Kellums at Sycamore Township's office at 513-792-7257 or by e-mail at [tkellums@sycamoretownship.org](mailto:tkellums@sycamoretownship.org).

## TOWNSHIP EVENTS



Congratulations to the winners of the 2010 5K Challenge held at Bechtold Park on Saturday, October 30, 2010-Ricky Lupp and Kerry Lee with Park Director Mike McKeown.





# Contacts

## Winter 2011

Tom Weidman, President

Cliff Bishop, Vice President

Dick Kent, 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 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



**Cliff Bishop**  
Vice President



**Dick Kent**  
Trustee



**Robert C. Porter III**  
Fiscal  
Officer

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