

Sycamore Township

NEWS

Fall 2011

In this Issue

- 2 Fall Safety
- 3 School's Back In Session
Calendar of Events
Summer Bash & Car Show
Trophy Presentation
9/11 Thank You
- 4 Festival in Sycamore
- 5 Summer Bash & Car Show
- 6 2011 Beautification
Contest Winners
Fall Time Change
- 7 Leaf Collection
Tree & Shrub Trimming
Street Obstruction Fines
- 8 Contacts

Fall is a season of transition, and activity in Sycamore Township is a perfect illustration of that transition in action.

In our neighborhoods and parks, the transition is obvious. On our sports fields, the activity has moved from baseball to soccer. And we're about to experience the spectacular beauty of the foliage as the calendar changes from Summer to Fall.

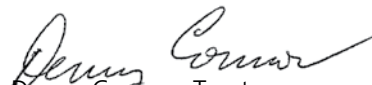
The change of seasons will keep our Maintenance Department busy, as we deal first with the falling leaves, and later with the falling snow. Superintendent Tracy Kellums and his dedicated crew are ready for the challenges of the Fall and Winter seasons.

It's still a terrific time to be outdoors, though, and we invite everyone to witness the beauty of the Fall transition in Sycamore Township. All too soon, temperatures will begin to fall and residents will begin to spend more time indoors. Lt. Dan Reid, our Liaison to the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department, and Chief B.J. Jetter, our Fire Chief, have excellent ideas in this issue of the Newsletter to help all of us negotiate the transition to colder weather.

Thanks to our gas and electric aggregation agreements with Integrys and Duke Retail, significant cost savings will hopefully help to take some of the sting out of Fall and Winter utility bills. That's just one example of the ways that I, as a member of the Board of Trustees, want to make the quality of life in Sycamore Township the best it can be. Working with my fellow Trustees, Tom Weidman and Cliff Bishop, our Fiscal Officer Rob Porter, and the Township staff, we 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,


Denny Connor, Trustee



**Sycamore Township 5K
Run and Fitness Walk
Kids Fun Run**

Bechtold Park
4312 Sycamore Road
Saturday, October 29 – 9 AM



Denny Connor





EMS/Fire Department



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

FALL SAFETY

As we enter into the fall season, the EMS & Fire Department will be checking hydrants, completing fourth quarter fire inspections and providing CPR certification programs for many of the Township businesses and residents.

The EMS & Fire Department provides car seat checks, blood pressure monitoring, home safety surveys, a street address sign program, well-being service checks, fire extinguisher training and school safety programs. The fire department members will also provide daily tours for anyone. Firefighters are always willing to provide service to their community.

After coming off a very hot summer, the following are some homeowner safety tips:

- Check around your foundation for earth movement away from your house. The key here is to keep dirt close to the foundation so that no cracks can weep water into your home.
- Gutters need to be checked. Remove all leaves and debris that may have collected from summer storms.
- With the lawn cutting season coming to an end, you should make sure all gasoline powered equipment is properly stored for the winter.
- Windows are important in preparation for the heating season. Many times the weather-stripping around window frames and door seals becomes loose or brittle due to extreme weather conditions.

- Check your smoke detectors when the time changes. This is the perfect time to change your battery. If you need help, call 513-792-8565 - ask for the Duty Officer and a firefighter will come to your home to help you with your smoke detector.
- Fall is also the time many people like to sit outside around a fire pit or approved outdoor fire stove. It is advisable to make sure a clear distance of four feet exists around the fire pit or stove so that leaves and other combustibles won't be ignited by embers.
- Drive safely. With school back in service, the children will be crossing - sometimes outside the crosswalk. Many times we are on the go and lose track of when students are leaving school. If your child walks to school, have them wear something reflective to illuminate their presence.

The EMS & Fire department is always at your service. If you have questions or need an answer, please contact me, Chief BJ Jetter, directly at 513-792-7249 so I can be of service to you.

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



Police and Crime Prevention



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

SCHOOL'S BACK IN SESSION

Now that school is back in session, I can hear the parents cheering and the kids groaning outside my window. There are a few safety tips that I want to pass on to you to keep your kids safe during the school year.

First, please make sure that you observe and obey the 20 mile per hour speed limit in all school zones. We will be watching closely and if you are caught going more than 10 over you are mandated to appear in court. This could lead to a hefty fine and license suspension.

Second, be sure to stop for the school buses as they pick-up students. Remember that young children can be unpredictable and may

dart out into traffic and your observation skills can avert a tragedy.

Third, make sure your children know who can and cannot pick them up from school. If you have to rely on someone other than yourself, be sure that your child is familiar and comfortable with that person. Also, with young children it is always good to have a "secret" password that you can use for anyone who may have to pick them up. This will avoid any confusion if someone has to pick them up that is not normal transportation.

Last, be sure to look out at bus stops for any unusual activity that may occur there. Be vigilant to assure that strangers are not hanging around or regularly driving by the stop. Please report any unusual activity to police right away and make every attempt to get license numbers and good descriptions of anyone you think may be suspicious.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Leaf Collection

Leaf collection begins on Monday, October 17 and will continue until Friday, December 9
7:30 AM – Dark

Sycamore Township 5K Run And Fitness Walk – Kids Fun Run

Bechtold Park
4312 Sycamore Road
Sycamore Township OH 45236
Saturday, October 29 – 9 AM

Fall Back Standard Time

Sunday, November 6, 2011

Hamilton County General Election

Tuesday, November 8
6:30 AM – 7:30 PM

Brush Chip Drop Off

Sycamore Township
Administration Office
8540 Kenwood Road
8 AM – 4 PM
Saturday, October 1
Saturday, November 5
Saturday, December 3



SUMMER BASH AND CAR SHOW

Richard A. Ward received the 'Trustee' Award from Trustees Cliff Bishop, Tom Weidman and Denny Connor for his 1957 red Ford Thunderbird at the August 20th Summer Bash and Car Show.

9/11 THANK YOU

Kenwood Towne Centre patrons were invited to share their thanks on a giant 'thank you' card displayed in center mall one week prior to 9/11. The card was then presented to the Sycamore Township Fire Department and the Hamilton County Deputies.



L to R: Lt. Dan Reid,
Assistant Chief Doug
Morath and Rodney
Maggard, Senior
Operations Manager
at Kenwood Towne
Centre.

Parks and Recreation



Mike McKeown
Parks & Recreation
Director

FESTIVAL IN SYCAMORE

Near record crowds enjoyed the great music, food, rides and fun at the **19th Annual Festival in Sycamore. Ambrosia and Grand Funk Railroad**, along with some great local bands, put on fantastic performances. The food was outstanding, and many families took advantage of the "Ride for Five" program.

Many thanks to the members of the Park Committee who worked to make the Festival such a great success. A special thanks goes to the members of the Maintenance Department, who worked so hard

before, during and after the event. We also appreciate the work of the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department, the Hamilton County Sheriff's Explorers and the many volunteers who helped make the Festival a success. Without all of these people, the Festival would not be such a great event. We're anxiously looking forward to the 20th anniversary of the Festival in 2012. Please call Parks and Recreation Director Mike McKeown at 791-8447 if you have any questions or comments.



SUMMER BASH AND CAR SHOW

Great cars, great music, great food, and great weather all contributed to the success of this event. 128 cars were on display at the Car Show. Congratulations to the winners in all of the different categories. The show was followed by great music from local and national bands along with wonderful food provided by local restaurants.

Thanks to the Park Committee members and the hard working Maintenance Dept. for all of their help. Thanks also to all of the "Summer in Sycamore Events" sponsors. Without them, the Township would not be able to put on all of our events. Our Gold Sponsors include **Jewish Hospital, Kenwood Towne Center, Doubletree Guest Suites, and Cincinnati Sports Medicine and Orthopaedics Center.** Silver Sponsors include **Kids First Sports Center, Green Bay Packaging, 5/3 Bank Securities, Sycamore Township Republican Club, Brookwood Retirement Center, Luckies Pony Keg, Adleta Construction, Integrys Energy Services, and Kroger's.** Sponsors include **Bloomin Garden Centre, Rumpke, Camp Safety, Print Management, Prus Construction, Walnut Grove Playgrounds, Camden Homes, Neyer Properties, and Mobilcomm.**



Weldon Haynes, winner of the 'Best in Show' Award, for his 1952 orange 2-Door Mercury.



The 'Trustee' Award was presented to Richard Ward for his 1957 red Thunderbird.



Mitch Ryder



Ooh La La and the Greasers



Eight Days A Week





Planning and Zoning

2011 BEAUTIFICATION AWARD WINNERS

Sycamore Township is pleased to announce the winners of our annual Beautification contest. The Beautification Award is designed to recognize exceptional properties whose owners help keep Sycamore Township beautiful. Thank you to all of our residents who took the time to complete and send in nomination forms.

The 2011 Beautification Award winners are:

Jane Stieringer Welling and Dan Campbell
8661 Lancaster Avenue

Frank and Jane Green
7800 Concord Hills Place

Tom and Eileen Tyler
3901 Tramore Drive

The owners of these properties will be recognized at the Sycamore Township Trustees Meeting on October 6, 2011. We applaud them for the time and effort they have put in to the beautification of their homes and yards to enhance the attractiveness and desirability of the township.



Lancaster Avenue



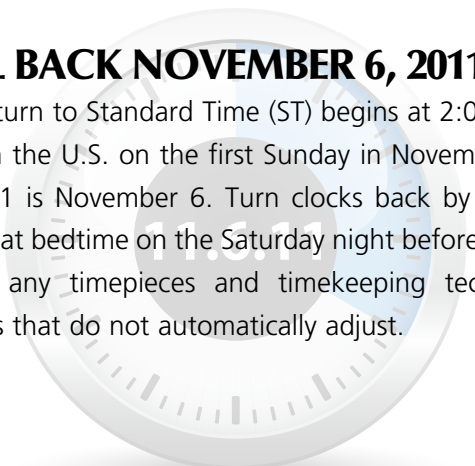
Concord Hills Place



Tramore Drive

FALL BACK NOVEMBER 6, 2011

The return to Standard Time (ST) begins at 2:00 am local time in the U.S. on the first Sunday in November, which in 2011 is November 6. Turn clocks back by one hour, ideally at bedtime on the Saturday night before. Manually adjust any timepieces and timekeeping technological devices that do not automatically adjust.



Maintenance Department



Tracy Kellums,
Superintendent

LEAF COLLECTION

Leaf collection will begin on Monday, October 17 and will run through Friday, December 9. 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 or 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. Maintenance crews will be working from **7:30 a.m. til dark, six days a week, rain or shine** to collect your leaves in a timely method. Many factors such as the amount of leaves to be collected on a given round and availability of temporary laborers have an effect on collection and make it impossible to know exact pick-up times.

TREE AND SHRUB TRIMMING

Please trim branches that may overhang the public sidewalk in your area. Many people are out walking and these branches are not only a nuisance but, can be dangerous. Please show your consideration and trim back trees, shrubs and bushes to make sure the sidewalk is clear of all obstacles.



FINES TO PROPERTY OWNERS FOR OBSTRUCTIONS IN THE ROADWAY

Sycamore Township Maintenance Department has encountered a new problem this year with maintaining the condition of the public road. Property owners and private contractors working for property owners have been illegally dumping construction materials (gravel, mulch, dirt, etc.) in the road. Also, contractors and property owners are placing dumpsters on the road or in the road right-of-way.

Not only is this a safety issue – it is a traffic violation causing immense inconvenience to the motorists. Obstruction in the roadway carries a \$124.00 citation. Illegally dumping loads of construction materials on the road or placing a dumpster in the road or road right-of-way will damage the road. Contractors and property owners are using the roadways as their private 'construction zone' because they

do not want the mess on their own driveways or in their yards. This situation has forced the Sycamore Township Trustees to pass a resolution that sets fines for the violation - in addition to the traffic citation. The fine for a first offense is \$350.00, second offense is \$700.00 and a third offense or more is \$1000.00. The \$124.00 citation will be written to the property owner.

Sycamore Township takes pride in the integrity of their roads, however; it takes a lot of taxpayer's dollars to keep them in good shape. It is unfair to all the Township taxpayers to pay for repair to a road damaged by illegal dumping or damage caused by dumpsters placed in the right of way. Hopefully this will end this unnecessary problem.





Contacts

Fall 2011

Tom Weidman, President

Cliff Bishop, Vice President

Denny Connor, 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



8540 Kenwood Road
Sycamore Twp., Ohio 45236

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