

# Sycamore Township

# NEWS

FALL 2012

## In this Issue

- 1 Letter from the Trustee
- 2 Fall Safety
- 3 Emergency Scams  
Calendar of Events
- 4 Festival In Sycamore  
Behind the Stone Wall
- 5 Township Events
- 6 Zoning Information  
Sycamore Township  
Welcomes New Businesses
- 7 Tree Removal Responsibilities  
Leaf Collection  
Storm Damage
- 8 Contacts

As autumn slowly descends upon us, it brings more temperate conditions and a welcome relief from this summer's lingering heat. School is back in session and everyone is settling into their typical fall pattern with the promise of football and festive holiday seasons right around the corner.

Our Maintenance Department has been extremely busy this year dealing with all of their normal duties while also handling lots of fallen trees due to the excessive drought and wind/storm damage. It is difficult to judge how intense leaf season will be since many trees have already dropped their canopy prematurely but we are keeping our fingers crossed that they will rebound with the recent rains and survive for years to come. Several road projects came to fruition and include the black mat project throughout Dillonvale. We also completed the repaving project in Dillonvale that was held up by Cincinnati Water Works. In addition, the Glenelbyn Subdivision was paved and had curbs installed plus Silvercrest and Garden were also paved. One of our Park projects currently underway is at Schuler Field where we are upgrading and performing infield modifications. A similar analogy would be to say we are switching from the old Riverfront Stadium look to the current Great American Ball Park style of field. Moeller High School is partnering with us on this transition and it should allow for a more durable field that can accommodate extra ball games.

From the Township's localized viewpoint, the business economy definitely seems to be in recovery mode. One of our corporate Township residents, Phillips Edison, recently announced the purchase of the Kenwood Towne Place property and they have plans to finish out the building and bring in more high profile tenants and retail establishments. The FBI has also settled into their new office space off Hosbrook Road. If you

get a chance, drive up our new Township road – Ronald Reagan Drive – and take a look at the sparkling facilities. And, if you haven't been in Kenwood Towne Centre recently, there is a lot of renovation activity, including the Food Court and both the Apple and Microsoft stores.

And finally, we want to pass on some bittersweet news...our Fire Chief, B. J. Jetter, has announced his retirement effective at the end of this year. B.J. was instrumental in the formation of our fire safety and EMS services and has led it as Chief for over 18 years. He also participates in many other groups and activities, such as Hazmat, USAR and the County Fire Chief Association. We are going to miss his vast experience and expertise but wish him the best as he enjoys retirement and all the other endeavors he plans on pursuing.

It has been a busy and enjoyable summer as we look ahead to a crisp Autumn with the promise and anticipation of good things to come in the future. Along with Trustees Tom Weidman and Denny Connor and Fiscal Officer Rob Porter, we wish you a safe and happy season!

Sincerely,



Cliff Bishop, Trustee



Cliff Bishop,  
Trustee





# EMS/Fire Department



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

## FALL SAFETY

The Fall Season is one of change and preparedness. This year we are in a drought that is causing some concern about the upcoming winter months. Storms have brought down tree limbs and some of them have fallen on rooftops, which can cause structural damage to your home.

Good tree maintenance is important. One way to prevent limb damage and total tree failure during a drought is to

make sure you water your tree around the base. Drought conditions affect our trees as much as the rest of our yard. Many times the root system will come up through the clay based soil in our region and the entire tree base will loosen. The tree can then topple over during a heavy storm with high winds. The best way to protect your tree while the leaves are still on it is to continue to water around the base of the tree. After the leaves fall off the tree, check with your local tree surgeon to find out the right time to trim or top your tree. Remember, the drought conditions have caused a lot of stress on your mature trees. In order to keep them from fracturing during a weather event, keep watering them so they stay healthy.

### Safety Tips for the Fall Season

- Have your furnace cleaned and checked before the upcoming heating season.
- Have your water heater checked for proper operation.
- Make sure that all petroleum products are stored in an approved container in your outdoor storage area.
- Empty the gasoline out of your lawn mower if you don't use a gasoline stabilizer product.
- Clean your downspouts and gutters to make sure they are open.
- Remove any unwanted items to keep down the combustible fire load in your home.
- Clean and check your stove. Winter is the time when cooking fires are on the rise.

- When you change the time on your clocks, be sure to check your smoke alarm batteries too.
- Check your carbon monoxide detectors. Many of the new style detectors have a battery backup and you will need to change the battery out to make sure your CO detector is fully operational.
- Make sure the throw rugs you use during the winter months are properly secured so you don't slip or trip on them.

**Attention Senior Residents:** There are some recent changes to the Medicare laws. Please consult your Medicare provider about how the changes can affect your coverage.

**Special Note:** Many times when our EMS crews arrive on an emergency scene they find the patient and the family are at odds as to whether they should go to the hospital or not. Just a reminder; under the law, the designated hospital and the desire to go or not go remains with the patient unless a family member has a medical power of attorney or the patient is under age. The patient has control over whether they go to the hospital or not. Sometimes we want the best for our loved ones, but the decision to seek medical attention can be a difficult one. While Paramedic/Firefighters want the best for everyone, we also need everyone to understand that the EMS & Fire Department is guided by the Patient Bill of Rights.

Fall is a time when the leaves change colors and we begin to reflect on the different seasons that bring us joy and happiness. Don't forget to watch for our children as they head back to school.

Have a Wonderful Fall Season.

William (BJ) Jetter Ph.D., MIFire EMS & Fire Director/Fire Chief





# Police and Crime Prevention



Thomas E. Butler,  
Lieutenant  
Hamilton County  
Sheriff's Office

## EMERGENCY SCAMS

Emergency scams target grandparents and play upon their emotions to rob them of their money.

### What To Look For

In the typical scenario of an emergency scam, a grandparent receives a phone call from a scammer claiming to be one of his or her grandchildren. Callers go on to say that they are in some kind of trouble and need money immediately. They claim to have been in a car accident, are having trouble returning from a foreign country or they need bail money. You may get a call from two people, one pretending to be your grandchild and the other pretending to be either a police officer or a lawyer. Your 'grandchild' may ask you questions during the call, getting you to volunteer personal information. Callers say that they don't want other family members to find out what has happened. You will be asked to wire some money through a money transfer company. Often, victims don't verify the story until after the money has been sent. In some cases, scammers pretend to be your old neighbor or a friend of the family, but for the most part, the emergency scam is directed at grandparents.

If you think you have spotted a scam or have been targeted by a scam, there are a number of government and law enforcement agencies in Ohio that you can contact for advice or to make a report. This may help you and prevent others from being ripped off by scam operators.

### Report scams to the:

Ohio Attorney General Office: [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov)  
Reporting fraud, theft and other crimes contact local law enforcement  
Hamilton County Sheriff's Office: [www.hcso.org](http://www.hcso.org)

**District Three** (513) 683-3444

**Dispatch (Non-Emergency)** (513) 825-2280

You may also contact Better Business Bureau: [www.cincinnati.bbb.org](http://www.cincinnati.bbb.org)

Credit bureaus can put a fraud alert on your account, which will alert lenders and creditors of potential fraud:

Equifax: 1-800-465-7166

TransUnion: 1-866-525-0262

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Monthly Chipping

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Behind the Sycamore  
Township Adm Bldg  
8540 Kenwood Road  
Sycamore Township, OH 45236  
Nov 3 – Dec 1

### Leaf Collection

7:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Oct 15 – Dec 14

### Presidential Election

6:30 AM – 7:30 PM

Tuesday, Nov 6, 2012

### Dillonvale Luminaria

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Saturday, Dec 8

Bechtold Pavilion

4312 Sycamore Rd  
45236

### Christmas Tree Drop Off

Dec 26 – Jan 25, 2013

Bechtold Park

4312 Sycamore Rd

Or McDaniel Sports Complex  
11797 Old Solzman Rd

# Parks and Recreation



Mike McKeown  
Parks & Recreation  
Director

## 20TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL IN SYCAMORE

The 20th annual Festival in Sycamore was a rousing success. The weather looked a bit "iffy", but it cleared up both days in time for great music, food, and fun. THE GUESS WHO provided a fantastic finish and a record crowd for the Festival. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, thanks to all of the vendors and Festival patrons.



### Thanks also go out to the Festival sponsors.

Without their support, the Festival would not be possible.

**GOLD SPONSORS:** Doubletree Guest Suites, Jewish Hospital, JS Gold and Coin **SILVER SPONSORS:** Green Bay Packaging, Kids First Sports Center, Adleta Construction, 5/3 Bank Securities, Kenwood Towne Center, Integrys Energy Services, Kroger Co., Luckies Pony Keg, Sign Tech, ST Republican Club **SPONSORS:** Rumpke Inc., Prus Construction, The Alleen Co., Midland Atlantic, Besl Transfer, Silverton Hardware. *Special thanks to Green Bay Packaging and Kids First, two businesses that have sponsored every Festival in Sycamore.*

## BEHIND THE STONE WALL

The Sycamore Township Memorial Cemetery (formerly Mount Carmel Cemetery) is located on the west side of Kenwood Road just north of Kugler Mill Road in Sycamore Township, Hamilton County, Ohio. Today, a stone wall faces Kenwood Road at the landmark cemetery.

The cemetery and the Mount Carmel Baptist Church that once stood in the middle of the cemetery were established in 1823 on an acre of land donated to the church by Adam Lee, a church member and trustee. Lee was an early settler of Sycamore Township who purchased the entire section, 640 acres, in 1797 from the original patent holder John Cleves Symmes (Hamilton

County Deed Book B2:35).

The Cemetery was transferred from the Mount Carmel Church to the Sycamore Township Trustees in 1941. The cemetery has the distinction of having three soldiers of the American Revolution buried within the grounds – John Ferris (1757-1800 NY), Gershom Hubble (1766-1833 NY), and William Neves (1756-1838 VA). The old church building in the above picture has long ago been torn down.





## TOWNSHIP EVENTS



The Trustees of Sycamore Township presented a \$6,180 check from the 10th Annual Golf Outing to Amy Wilson with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. The golf outing takes place each August and is coordinated by Rick Wietmarschen of Sycamore Township.



At a recent meeting, Rabbi Pinchas Landis of Congregation Ohav Shalom presented the Trustees of Sycamore Township with a plaque as an expression of gratitude from the congregations of the Jewish Community of Northeast Cincinnati.



On June 5, the 2012 Moeller High School baseball team received a letter of congratulations from the Trustees of Sycamore Township. The letter honored the team, Coach Tim Held and his staff for winning the 2012 Division 1 State Championship. Receiving the award from left to right – front row: Head Coach Tim Held, Jeff Ludwig, Nick Meece, Cameron Whitehead – back row: Zach Williams, Ryan LeFevers, Phillip Diehl and Assistant Coach Ron Roth.



On June 5, the Trustees of Sycamore Township presented the 2012 Moeller High School Volleyball Team with a letter of congratulations to the team, Coach Matt McLaughlin and Gail Dorsey for winning the Division 1 State Championship. Receiving the award from left to right - 2012 graduates Garrett Morrissey and Jacob Schaffer with Head Varsity Coach Matt McLaughlin

**CAR SHOW WINNERS**—Thanks to all who participated in the 2012 Car Show. Congratulations to the winners of the top two categories. The winner of the Trustees' Choice Award was Terry Buob for his beautiful 1955 Chevrolet Bel Air. The Best of Show winner was Darrell Baldwin with his sleek 1937 Ford. The winners are pictured below.



On June 21, the Trustees of Sycamore Township presented a letter of congratulations to Moeller High School student Raymond C. Gaier for completing the requirement for Eagle Scout, Scouting's highest rank. The Sycamore Township Board of Trustees proclaimed July 8 as Raymond C. Gaier Day in Sycamore Township.



On June 21, St. Xavier High School student Peter F. Young also received a letter of congratulations from the Trustees of Sycamore Township for completing the requirement for Eagle Scout. The Sycamore Township Board of Trustees named July 1 as Peter F. Young Day in Sycamore Township.





# Planning and Zoning

## DO I NEED A SURVEY WHEN I APPLY FOR A RESIDENTIAL ZONING CERTIFICATE?

While the Planning and Zoning Office does not require a survey for most residential projects, it is in your best interest to obtain a legal survey of your property before beginning any construction or installing a fence, shed or other accessory use structure. When applying for a Zoning Certificate

for any project, it is the responsibility of the property owner to provide the Township with an accurate site plan. The Township inspection methods use *best practices* in order to find existing property lines. However, there are cases when precise measurement is not possible without mechanical survey means. Even if your project receives final zoning approval, if it is discovered after the fact that the original drawings were inaccurate, the property owner will be held accountable for compliance.

## WELCOME NEW BUSINESSES!

New stores in the Kenwood Towne Centre include The Art of Shaving, a specialty retailer of men’s grooming products and barber services; Victoria’s Secret PINK, selling women’s apparel; and Tumi, retailer of luxury travel, business and lifestyle accessories. Ohio’s first Microsoft store is coming soon to Kenwood Towne Centre! Bartolo’s Café and GG Massage Studio have opened for business on Montgomery Road in Duffy Square. Orvis, a specialty retailer of fly fishing equipment, men’s and women’s clothing, gifts and pet products, has opened at 7737 Kenwood Road in Kenwood Place. Home Again Furniture, now open at 8454 Blue Ash Road, sells antique and contemporary furniture, paintings, glass art and unique gifts.

***Please show your support of business development in Sycamore Township by patronizing these newcomers!***



# Maintenance Department



Tracy Kellums,  
Superintendent

## CONCERNED ABOUT A DEAD OR DYING TREE ON YOUR NEIGHBOR'S PROPERTY?

The Sycamore Township Office of Planning and Zoning and the Maintenance Department review complaints from residents regarding property maintenance issues. At times we receive complaints from our residents regarding dead trees on a neighboring property. While the Township is not responsible for dead trees, unless they are in a Township maintained

right of way, we can send the property owner a courtesy letter informing them of the issue and letting them know that a complaint was received by our office from one of their neighbors regarding this potential hazard. If you are concerned about a dead tree, write a dated letter to your neighbor making them aware of the situation. Keep a copy of the letter for yourself and send a copy to your insurance company. This letter may serve as proof that your neighbor was made aware of the problem in the event that the tree or tree limb(s) fall and cause damage to your property.

## LEAF COLLECTION

Sycamore Township Maintenance Department is happy to provide you with prompt and efficient leaf pick-up service. Leaf collection will begin on Monday, October 15th and will run through Friday, December 14th. 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 am til 4:30 pm, five days a week, rain or shine to collect your leaves in a timely manner. 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 time.

Leaf crews will not pick up leaves from under, between, or around parked cars - if cars are parked in front of your leaf piles we cannot maneuver our collection equipment to reach the leaves. If the vehicle is not moved, the leaves will be left until the next pick-up cycle in your area.

## 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 and give them your name, address and phone number.







# Contacts

## Fall 2012

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**  
Thomas E. Butler, 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.