

Sycamore Township

NEWS

Winter 2014

In this Issue

- 1 Letter from the Vice President
- 2 Winter Holiday Safety Tips
- 3 Letter from the Fire Chief
- 4 Dillonvale Luminaria
- 5 Township Tidbits
- 6 Planning and Zoning at Your Fingertips
- 7 Snow Removal Road Work Update
- 8 Contacts

We're approaching the final weeks of 2014, and preparing to celebrate the holiday season with our friends and families. This is always a good time to reflect on the many positive things that have taken place in Sycamore Township during the past year, and to look forward to more growth and progress in 2015.



Denny Connor
Vice President

The most noticeable activities involved construction projects – both on our roads and in our business districts. While we've all suffered through delays, detours and the aggravations of construction traffic during the summer months, we're getting closer to reaping the benefits – roads that are safer and more attractive, underground utilities that are more dependable, and a cleaner, more efficient business district.

Commercial development is proceeding at a steady pace as well. Work is progressing nicely at the Kenwood Collection, the new Tri-Health headquarters and Jewish Hospital. New businesses opened throughout the Township during the year, and several others are planning to open in the months to come. Sycamore Township is a great location for businesses of all sizes, and we expect continued growth next year.

We had another great season in our parks, too, with a very successful Festival in Sycamore, dozens of picnics and parties at Bechtold Park and the Community Room at Schuler Park, plus a full schedule of softball, baseball and soccer games on all of our Township fields.

The winter months will be busy at the Township; however, much of the activity will be "behind the scenes." You'll see our Maintenance crews on the roads collecting the last of the fall leaves. Then, as winter approaches, we transition to snow removal mode, and will do everything we can to keep our roads safe and clear. Hopefully, Mother Nature will cooperate!!

Overall, it's been a great year for Sycamore Township, and 2015 is shaping up to be a busy period too. We're doing our best to make the Township an attractive place to live, work and play.

On behalf of my fellow Trustees Cliff Bishop and Tom Weidman, Fiscal Officer Rob Porter, and the rest of the Township staff, best wishes for safe and happy holidays, and a terrific New Year in 2015.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Denny Connor".

Denny Connor
Vice President



Police and Crime Prevention

WINTER HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

This holiday season, don't let the spirit of giving lull you into giving burglars, muggers and pickpockets a better chance to do their dirty work. Crooks love the holidays as much as everyone else, especially because it's an opportune time for crime. Here are some tips on how to celebrate safely this holiday season:

If You Are Traveling

- Get an automatic timer for your lights.
- Ask a neighbor to watch your home, shovel snow and park in the driveway from time to time.
- Don't forget to have mail and newspaper delivery stopped. If it piles up, it's a sure sign you're gone.
- Sign up for the Sheriff's vacation check program by calling 825-1500.

If You Are Out for the Evening

- Turn on lights and a radio or TV so it looks like someone's home.
- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave, even if it's just for a few minutes.
- Don't display gifts where they can be seen from outside.

If You Are Shopping

- Stay alert and be aware of what's going on around you.
- Park in a well-lighted space, and be sure to lock the car, close the windows and hide shopping bags and gifts in the trunk.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash; pay with a check or credit card whenever possible.
- Deter pickpockets and purse-snatchers. Don't overburden yourself with packages. Be extra careful with purses and wallets. Carry a purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Put a wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket.
- Shopping with kids? Teach them to go to a store clerk or security guard if you get separated.

After You've Opened the Gifts

Burglars know that many households have new, and oftentimes expensive, items in their homes following the December holidays—especially items such as new computers and peripherals, stereo components, televisions, cameras and other electronic equipment. In too many cases, residents make it easy for burglars to figure out which homes to target by putting boxes that

identify their new gifts in plain view with their other garbage. Avoid becoming an easy target for post-holiday burglars by not leaving boxes for new electronics and other items in the alley or other garbage pick-up locations for several days at a time. Instead, break down any boxes you are throwing out, put them in garbage bags and place them inside a trash can. (In many cases, especially with computer equipment, you might consider keeping the boxes for safe storage, shipping or moving in the future.) Think about keeping broken-down boxes inside—in a garage, for example—until the evening before your regular garbage pick-up. Some burglars actually look inside garbage cans for evidence of holiday gifts. And finally don't wait to report any suspicious activity or a suspicious vehicle in your neighborhood, call our non-emergency dispatch number at (513) 825-2280.

Take a Holiday Inventory

- The holidays are a good time to update—or create—your home inventory. Take photos or make videos of items, and list descriptions and serial numbers. If your home is burglarized, having a detailed inventory can help identify stolen items and make insurance claims easier to file.
- Make sure things like TVs, DVD players, stereo equipment, cameras, camcorders, sports equipment, jewelry, silver, computers, home office equipment and power tools are on the list. Remember to check it twice!

Celebrate Responsibly

The holiday season is a time of celebration and revelry. Drinking and driving is a danger to everyone on the road. Remember that the risk isn't worth it—if you choose to drink alcohol at a party, don't drive. Take a cab, use public transportation or a designated driver. Have fun, but remember to celebrate responsibly.

Enjoy the Season

Last but not least, don't let holiday stress get the best of your holiday spirit. Make time to get together with family, friends and neighbors. And think about reaching out in the spirit of the season and helping someone who's less fortunate or lonely.



Chris M. Kettelman,
Lieutenant
Hamilton County
Sheriff's Office



EMS/Fire Department



Rob Penny
Fire Chief

It's time to think about the safety of our homes during the winter season when we spend so much time indoors. Below are a few tips:

- Check your carbon monoxide detectors, smoke detectors and fire extinguishers to make sure they are working properly.
- If you have a fireplace or wood burning stove, make sure the flues and chimneys have been properly cleaned so there is no creosote buildup before you start using them again. When you are cleaning the ashes from your fireplace, don't put them in a container, such as a paper bag, that can catch fire. Some of the ashes may still be warm enough to start a fire even if they seem cool. Wet the ashes and mix them so everything has been cooled down before you dispose of them.
- If you are using inside holiday decorations, exercise caution when using extension cords. Too many cords linked together can start a fire. If you are using outdoor decorations make sure you use lights that are designed for the outdoors and that they are properly covered and securely fastened.
- Live trees are beautiful and they make your home smell good, but they can be dangerous if not properly cared for. Make sure there is water in your receptacle at all times. A dry tree can be ignited by the heat from a light bulb.

Emergency Vehicles and Divided Intersections

If you are stopped at an intersection that has a median or divider in the middle of the road, and an emergency vehicle approaches from behind you, here's what you can do. If possible move to the right. Do not go to the left. If you are blocked in, stay put and let the emergency vehicle find a way around you. It may have to move into oncoming traffic lanes, so it is equally important that vehicles traveling in the opposite direction move to the right and stop as well. If an emergency vehicle stops behind you with its lights and siren on, and you have no other options, carefully move forward toward the intersection and to the right, but only if it is safe to do so. If it is not safe wait for the light to change so you can move.

Dealing with the Ebola Virus

I'm sure you have all been listening to the reports about the Ebola Virus. Be assured that the Sycamore Township EMS & Fire Department has been working with multiple agencies, including the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Cincinnati Health Council, and area hospitals on how to safely handle an Ebola patient. We have taken the necessary steps to have the proper protective clothing available to keep our first responders from being exposed to the virus. To learn more about the virus please go to <http://www.cdc.gov>.

Please visit us for other informational articles and safety tips on our web site at www.sycamoretownshipfire.org.

Have a happy holiday season and a great winter.

Rob Penny
Fire Chief

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Brush Chipping Program

December 6
8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
Behind Township Administration Building
8540 Kenwood Road

Luminaria

December 6
6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.
Bechtold Pavilion
4312 Sycamore Road

Fall Leaf Collection Ends

December 12

Highpoint Neighborhood Watch Meeting

December 15
7:00 P.M.
Schuler Community Room
11580 Deerfield Road

Christmas Tree Drop Off

December 26 – January 26
Bechtold Park
4312 Sycamore Road
McDaniel Sports Complex
11797 Solzman Road



Parks and Recreation



Mike McKeown
Parks & Recreation
Director

DILLONVALE LUMINARIA

Sycamore Township and Dillonvale IGA are once again sponsoring the annual Dillonvale Luminaria on Saturday, December 6, from 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. at the Bechtold Pavilion in Bechtold Park. Dillonvale IGA will provide donuts, cookies and warm drinks. Santa will be there to greet the kids. Hayrides will take folks through the streets of Dillonvale to see all of the luminaria and Christmas decorations. We urge all the residents of Dillonvale to decorate the sidewalks with luminaria bags. The kits will be available at Ace Hardware in the Dillonvale Shopping Center. Prizes will be awarded to the best three decorated houses and yards.



TOWNSHIP TIDBITS

DID YOU KNOW?

Rip 'n Stitch is a locally owned business that has been operating in Sycamore Township for over 30 years. Rip 'n Stitch tailors everything from wedding dresses and men's suits to your favorite pair of jeans for a perfect fit. They also work wonders with repairs to fine clothing and are available to alter curtains and table cloths or make custom accent pillows. Visit Rip 'n Stitch at 7683 Montgomery Road across from The Shoppes of Kenwood.



HARTZELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PRESENTS GLORY OF THE KING! (GOTK!)

in its third yearly professional production with shows during the first week of December; Thursday through Sunday. Two matinees and three nightly performances of this year's rendition of GLORY OF THE KING! "The Gift." New to the GOTK! staff is Mrs. Betty Freeland Bothwell, as Chorus Director for 'GLORY OF THE KING! 2014.' Mrs. Bothwell has an extensive music background as teacher, soloist and actress having performed in numerous community, theatre and professional productions across the area. GOTK! as a professional production includes community choir, 17 piece orchestra and professional actors, lighting and sound. TICKETS and or ADS are available by calling 513-891-8527 Ext. 1. <https://www.facebook.com/hartzellumcthegloryoftheking>



Trustees Denny Connor, Cliff Bishop and Tom Weidman and Golf Outing organizer Rick Wietmarschen present Kristi McAllister, Development Director of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, with a check from the proceeds of the Sycamore Township Golf Outing.

CONGRATULATIONS

to Tom Lay on 30 years of dedicated Service to Sycamore Township as part of our Maintenance Department!

Email your news, event information and/or photos for "Township Tidbits" to newsletter@sycamoretownship.org for possible inclusion in our quarterly newsletter. We reserve the right to edit submissions for space and clarity. The number of contributions printed per issue is subject to space available.

U.S. Representative Brad Wenstrup, hosted by President of the Board of Trustees, Cliff Bishop, paid a visit to some of the Sycamore Township's small business owners in Dillonvale Shopping Center on October 31st.



Denise Hammon, Managing Member of the Apple Tree Cafe, Representative Wenstrup, and Trustee Cliff Bishop



John Dietrich, General Manager of the Dillonvale IGA, Representative Wenstrup, and Trustee Cliff Bishop



Representative Wenstrup, Ace Hardware Partnership Owner Russ Theuring, and Trustee Cliff Bishop





Planning and Zoning

PLANNING AND ZONING INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

The Sycamore Township website has a wealth of information for residents. From Maintenance Department services to Park and Recreation events, checking the website will keep you informed on what is happening in the Township.

The Planning and Zoning Department continually updates the website with information about upcoming public hearings before the Board of Zoning Appeals, Zoning Commission and the Board of Trustees. The dates and times for the meetings, as well as applications and submittal items for current zoning cases, may be found at http://www.sycamoretownship.org/planning_zoning.cfm. You may also click on the Subscriptions link on the homepage of the website and sign up to have Zoning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals agendas sent directly to your email address.

In addition, the Permitting and Inspections tab gives residents and businesses alike the tools to help guide them through any project. The residential and commercial zoning certificate applications are available for downloading. You will also find detailed instructions and sample drawings to help you apply for permits for common residential projects such as fences, accessory structures (sheds/detached garages), additions and more.

Finally, the homepage of the website includes a link to a Property Complaint Form which residents may use to inform the Planning and Zoning Department of any property maintenance issues or zoning violations in their neighborhoods. We encourage you to explore www.sycamoretownship.org and feel free to call us at 791-8447 for help navigating the website or for more information.

WELCOME NEW BUSINESSES

Cincinnati Hills Animal Clinic is a new small animal veterinary office now open at 8315 Montgomery Road.

There are several great new restaurants in the Township including Cucinova, where you can create your own pizza, at Kenwood City Place, 8060 Montgomery Road; Bangkok St Thai Kitchen, now open for business at 7687 Montgomery Road and the new Bamboo Kitchen at 7340 Kenwood Road.

Collins Inkjet has opened for business at 8911 Rossash Road.

A brand new Great Clips has opened in the Dillonvale Shopping Center at 4068 E. Galbraith Road.

uBREAKiFIX, which offers repair services for smart phones, tablets and computers, has opened a location at 7338 Kenwood Road.

New to the Kenwood Towne Centre is Zumiez, selling clothing and accessories for skateboarders and snowboarders.



Maintenance Department



Tracy Kellums,
Superintendent

SNOW REMOVAL - LESS MEANS MORE

Forecasters are predicting that we are going to have a winter similar to last year's, with greater than average snowfall and lower than average temperatures. The big difference between this year and last is that the salt companies have told us there is a salt shortage, therefore, we may not be able to get the quantities that we require to last through winter. If this problem manifests as predicted, the Township maintenance crew will be throwing less salt this year and

plowing more. Don't worry, your Township streets will always be passable, but they may not be black when you get up in the morning to go to work, as you have become accustomed to. You may have to drive on a thin layer of snow.

In response to this predicted shortage of salt, the Township will institute something new this year. The maintenance crew will be pre-treating streets with liquid that is a combination of brine (salt water) and beet juice. This will help to prevent the snow from adhering to the pavement and make it easier to clean the streets. These pre-treating units were fabricated in-house by the Maintenance Department at a fraction of the cost that they would have been to purchase. We also prepare our own brine at pennies per gallon, making this added tool for fighting snow and ice inexpensive to implement.

With the crews doing more plowing this year, we ask you to please REMOVE YOUR VEHICLES FROM THE STREET when snow is expected so that the streets can be plowed "curb to curb". Also, please DO NOT shovel, plow or snow blow snow from your driveway into the street.

Please be courteous and shovel the sidewalks in front of your residence and apply ice melt as necessary. With all of us working together we can have a safe winter season.



The new road pre-treating system



Mark Saylor, of the Township Maintenance Department, welding the frame for the new pre-treating system.

ROAD WORK UPDATE

For those of you who travel through the Kenwood area, whether it be on Kenwood Road, Montgomery Road or Hosbrook Road, you have had to deal with orange barrels and delays throughout the summer and fall. Your patience and cooperation have been greatly appreciated.

The access road off of Kenwood Road near the I-71 entrance ramp has been under construction this fall and is scheduled to be completed by the time you are reading this article. This project is improving access to the businesses on the west side of Kenwood Road and is the second phase of the Kenwood access management projects that have vastly improved travel along the corridor.

The construction on Hosbrook and Montgomery Roads will be continuing through winter and completed in the spring. However, construction on Montgomery Road will be wrapped up before Thanksgiving, and will not start up again until after the first of the year, to allow for better traffic flow during the Holiday Season.

If you have any questions about these or any other Sycamore Township projects please contact Superintendent Tracy Kellums at 513-792-7257 or by e-mail at tkellums@sycamoretownship.org.



Kenwood Access Road Construction





Contacts

Winter 2014

Cliff Bishop, President
Denny Connor, Vice-President
Tom Weidman, Trustee
Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer
R. Douglas Miller, Law Director
Tracy Kellums, Superintendent
Mike McKeown, Parks & Recreation Director

791-8447 – Fax 792-8564

Greg Bickford, AICP, Administrator

791-8447 – Fax 792-8564

Rob Penny, Fire Chief

792-8565 – 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



8540 Kenwood Road
Sycamore Twp., Ohio 45236

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PERMIT NO. 1693

“There’s More in Sycamore”



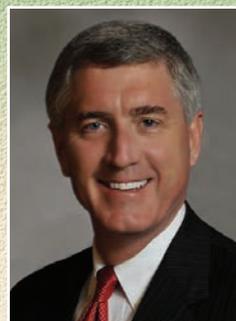
Trustees available to better serve you



Cliff Bishop
President



Denny Connor
Vice President



Tom Weidman
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.