

Sycamore Township

NEWS

Summer 2016

In this Issue

- 1 Letter from Denny Connor
- 2 Heroin Epidemic
- 3 Heat Stroke Information
- 4 Festival in Sycamore 2016
- 5 Township Tidbits
- 6 Planning and Zoning
- 7 Maintenance Update
- 8 Contacts

In my opinion, Summer is the best time of year to live, work and play in Sycamore Township. Everyone is more active, and there is plenty to do—and to see.

Construction projects are bustling, as crews take advantage of the warmer weather. In the Kenwood area, work is being finalized on the Kenwood Collection, where the office tower is nearly full, and the retail section is readied for grand openings in the fall. The project is close to completion, and it looks great!



Denny Connor, Trustee

The new tower at Jewish Hospital is fully enclosed, as work proceeds on the individual rooms and treatment areas that are scheduled to open during the summer months. And our Zoning Department is processing record numbers of permits, as residents work to improve their homes with additions and renovations.

Our parks are in great shape and ready for use. Walking trails offer a great way to enjoy the warm summer weather. New playground equipment has been installed at McDaniel Park, and the baseball, softball and soccer fields are getting lots of use at all of our Township parks. Shelters at Bechtold Park are primed and ready for rentals for family get-togethers, as is the Community Room at the Robert L. Schuler Sports Complex—a great place for a birthday party or other family fun. Visit our Township website at www.sycamoretownship.org for rental information.

And of course, the summer wouldn't be complete without our annual Festival in Sycamore. Details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter, but we're all looking forward to enjoying local favorites the Rusty Griswolds on Friday, July 15 and rock legends Mark Farner (formerly of Grand Funk Railroad) and Randy Bachman (The Guess Who and Bachman Turner Overdrive) on Saturday, July 16. The Festival just keeps getting better and better!

On behalf of my fellow Trustees, Tom Weidman and Cliff Bishop, and our Fiscal Officer Rob Porter, we hope all of you enjoy a healthy, active and fun Summer in Sycamore Township.

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

Denny Connor
Trustee





Police & Crime Prevention



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

Heroin is in our communities, and it's killing our neighbors, our friends, our relatives and our children. The effects of heroin addiction are far reaching and impact us all. When area homes and vehicles are burglarized and valuables stolen, the majority of the time the crimes are to feed drug addiction. More than any other drug users, opioid and heroin users turn to crime for the cash or tradeable items they need to feed their habit.

Heroin and Opiate abuse and addiction is an ever increasing problem around the nation. Here in Hamilton County, we have been referred to as "ground zero" for the heroin/fentanyl combination that results in so many overdoses. The Hamilton County Sheriff's Office sees this problem as a threat to public safety and has teamed up with the Hamilton County Police Chiefs Association, The Ohio Attorney General's Office, The Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office and the U.S. Attorney's Office in an attempt to address the large amount of overdoses and overdose deaths occurring in Hamilton County.

In June of 2015, an investigative team was formed under the leadership of the Hamilton County Police Chiefs Association. The goal of this task force is to work cooperatively with local, state and federal agencies to identify and prosecute the source of supply of heroin / opiates that have caused an overdose. These investigators respond to the scene of fatal overdoses and begin collecting evidence in order to locate the dealer. Shortly after inception, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) also joined the fight by providing financial and technical support to the mission. This task force is also supported by the Ohio Organized Crime Investigative Commission (OOCIC), which provides financial and technical assistance.

Since the inception of this task force, over one hundred cases have been investigated, resulting in numerous prosecutions and convictions for crimes such as drug trafficking, corrupting another with drugs, and involuntary manslaughter. This task force has presented cases and obtained convictions in both state and federal court.

Despite our successes, the problem of addiction and overdoses continues. There is no community in Hamilton County that has not been affected. One of the major dangers that we encounter is when a heroin / fentanyl mixture is ingested or when fentanyl is ingested on its own. Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is much more potent than heroin. There is no way to tell by seeing the product if it contains fentanyl. The appearance of heroin or a heroin/fentanyl mixture varies depending upon how it was manufactured and what additives have been placed in the mixture. Many of the overdose cases that we investigate, particularly the fatal overdoses, are fentanyl related. ***There simply is no safe dosage of heroin or a heroin/fentanyl mixture.***

If you or anyone you know needs help with heroin or opiate addiction, please understand that there are resources available to help deal with this national epidemic. Only when communities and families come together can we effectively deal with this problem and the Hamilton County Heroin Coalition addresses this need. To contact a Coalition Prevention Expert call 513-751-8000 or visit www.injecthope.com.

If you suspect drug activity or drug dealers in the area, please call 513-825-2280 or report it anonymously by calling 513-352-DOPE or Text 513-808-4500.

OFFICER SPOTLIGHT



Hamilton County Sheriff's Officer Jason Schmiege is relatively new to Sycamore Township, having served the residents here since October, 2014. An Elder High School alumnus, Officer Schmiege graduated from Butler Tech Police Academy where he was recognized as Most Outstanding Cadet. Officer Schmiege has served multiple communities in Hamilton

County. When asked what stands out about his work here, he points out that he is "proud to be a Deputy assigned to Sycamore Township, where so many are appreciative to their first responders. Often, I am thanked for what I do. Let me take this opportunity to say thank you to the residents of Sycamore Township." Officer Schmiege is happily married and admired by his co-workers who often refer to him as the "Most Interesting Man on Patrol."



EMS/Fire Department



Rob Penny, Fire Chief

Hope everyone stayed safe and had a pleasant spring time!

Now that another summer is here and it is time to face hot weather, we have the potential for severe storms. The fire department has a "Storm Shelter Checklist" along with valuable information on severe storms on our website. The storm shelter checklist can be downloaded from our website to better

prepare your family if severe weather occurs. **Please visit: www.sycamoretownshipfire.org.**

We need to pay attention to our bodies' warning signs on hot summer days when working or exercising outdoors. Heat is dangerous when it pushes the human body beyond its limits. Under normal conditions, the body's internal thermostat produces perspiration that evaporates and cools the body. However, in extreme heat and high humidity, evaporation is slowed and the body must work extra hard to maintain a normal temperature.

SYMPTOMS OF HEAT EXHAUSTION INCLUDE:

- Vomiting
- Nausea
- Fatigue
- Weakness
- Muscle cramps
- Dizziness
- Excessive sweating

HEAT EXHAUSTION TREATMENT TIPS:

- Rest in cool, shaded area
- Rehydrate the body with plenty of fluids (such as water or sports drinks)
- Drinks containing alcohol or caffeine are not recommended
- Remove or loosen clothing for comfort
- Sponge the body with lukewarm water
- Use a fan to keep fresh air moving across the skin

SYMPTOMS OF HEAT STROKE INCLUDE:

- High body temperature
- Absence of sweating
- Rash
- Confusion
- Strange behavior
- Rapid pulse
- Difficulty breathing
- Hallucinations
- Disorientation
- Agitation
- Seizures
- Loss of consciousness
- Coma



HEAT STROKE TREATMENT TIPS:

- Call 911
- Move to a cool place and remove clothing
- Keep skin wet by applying wet towels
- Fan the patient
- Rapidly cool the body by any means possible
- Cold pack or ice at the neck, armpits, wrist, ankles and groin
- Fan the person to increase heat loss



Please work and play safely. In the event that you need help or feel the above symptoms, call 911.

Hope everyone has a great summer!



BECHTOLD PARK SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP

Parks & Recreation



Mike McKeown,
Parks & Rec. Director

CLASSIC ROCK LEGENDS TO HEADLINE 24TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL IN SYCAMORE

Two of the top name song writers, guitar players, and vocalists in classic rock history will headline this year's Festival in Sycamore, which will be held on Friday, July 15, and Saturday, July 16, from 6:00PM–Midnight at Bechtold Park, 4312 Sycamore Rd.

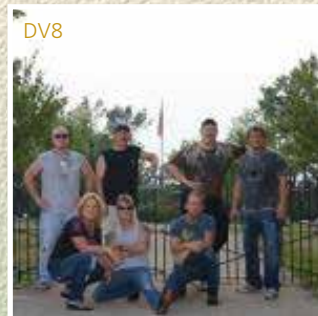
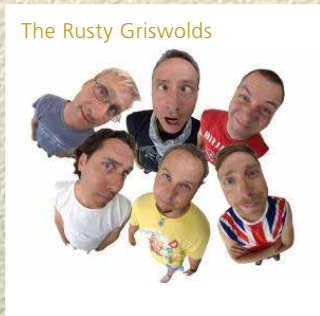
Friday night will feature great local bands, including excellent opening band The Refranes, followed by the Rusty Griswolds. The Griswolds are a very popular fixture on the local and regional music scene. Saturday night will start off with the fantastic sounds of DV8, followed by Mark Farner and closing act Randy Bachman. Mark Farner, formerly of Grand Funk Railroad, was the lead guitar player and singer for Grand Funk. The band had many hits, including I'm Your Captain, We're an American Band, Some Kind of Wonderful, and Locomotion to name a few. We received many requests to bring him back after his appearance last year was cut very short by thunderstorms. Randy Bachman, co-founder of The Guess Who and Bachman Turner Overdrive, will perform his great hits from The Guess Who and BTO, including These Eyes, Undun, NoTime, Let it Ride, Takin' Care of Business, and You Ain't Seen Nothin' Yet, among many others. This promises to be an outstanding night!

Great food and drinks will be available from local restaurants, and we've brought back the popular "Ride for Five" program in which you can purchase a wristband each day for \$5.00 and ride the rides all night! Free shuttle parking will be available at Bethel Baptist Church, St. Saviour Church, behind Deer Park High School, and at the Sycamore Township Administration Building. The entertainment schedule appears to below. **We hope to see you July 15 and 16 at the Festival in Sycamore!**

Friday, July 15
6:00PM THE REFRANES
8:30PM THE RUSTY
GRISWOLDS

Saturday, July 16
6:00PM DV8
7:45PM MARK FARNER
9:45PM RANDY BACHMAN

OUR FESTIVAL HEADLINERS



SUMMER EVENTS

Twilight Concert

June 19, 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Bechtold Pavilion
4312 Sycamore Road

Chipping Program

July 2, August 6, September 3
8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Behind Administration Bldg.
8540 Kenwood Road

Festival in Sycamore

July 15–16, 6:00 PM – Midnight
Bechtold Park
4312 Sycamore Road

6th Annual Sycamore Township Car Show

August 6
Registration: 9:00 AM – Noon
Car Show: Noon – 3:00 PM
Robert L. Schuler Sports Complex
11580 Deerfield Road

Fall Compost Giveaway

September 17, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Hartzell United Methodist Church
8999 Applewood Drive

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

Thank you to the following businesses for sponsoring our summer events. *Their generous contributions help make our summer events possible!*

Gold Sponsor: Kroger Co.
Silver Sponsor: TEC Engineering
Major Sponsors: United Refrigeration, Kenwood Collection, Prus Construction, Neyer Properties, Midland Atlantic, and Walnut Grove Playgrounds.



TOWNSHIP TIDBITS

6TH ANNUAL CAR SHOW: AUGUST 6TH

The 6th annual Sycamore Township Car Show will be held on Saturday, August 6, at the Robert L. Schuler Sports Complex, 11580 Deerfield Rd. Registration will be from 9:00AM–Noon. The car show itself will be from Noon–3:00PM. Registration is \$15.00 per car. **Admission for the public to view the cars is free!** Awards will be given to the 40 best cars, nine specialty awards, Trustees’ choice, and Best in Show. There will be a live DJ on hand, and food and drinks will be available. Thanks to the Super 60s Car Club for their help with this event.



Pictured above is 2015 Trustees Choice Award Winner Walt Yonka, Ford Edsel, with Trustees Cliff Bishop and Denny Connor

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE 2016 BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS!

After a few years off, we are excited to announce we are bringing back the Beautification Awards! This award is designed to recognize exceptional properties whose owners help keep Sycamore Township beautiful. If you or someone you know has a house and yard that makes the whole neighborhood proud, Sycamore Township would like to know. For a nomination form and complete details go to www.sycamoretownship.org or call Beth at 792-7250. Nomination deadline is August 1, 2016.

COYOTES

Coyotes have been reported in several Township neighborhoods. Wildlife experts advise residents that they can live in harmony with these adaptable animals. Generally, coyotes are out at night or dawn/dusk. While coyotes will attack small mammals and mainly wild animals, they may occasionally go after small dogs or cats. Be aware and keep your pets under control during the dusk and dawn hours as a precaution. To deter coyotes on your property, remove all attractants such as garbage and pet food before nightfall. Deputies from the Hamilton County Sheriff’s Office are not authorized to handle the removal of coyotes. This is a service that must be contracted with a licensed nuisance trapper. If a coyote is presenting a problem on your property or neighborhood, call the Ohio Division of Wildlife at 1-800-WILDLIFE (945-3543) or visit wildlife.ohiodnr.gov to find a local trapper.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Sycamore Township Trustees joined together with local clergy and guests for the annual National Day of Prayer on May 5th. The Trustees would like to thank Pastor Larry Cornett, Bethel Baptist Church, for his work in organizing this event, Conductor Bob Browning and the Moeller High School Band for providing the music, and Chick-fil-A at the Kenwood Towne Centre for donating lunch for all those in attendance.



Pastor Larry Cornett, organizer of the event, posed for a photo with Father Tim Bunch, St. Saviour Parish, Trustees Tom Weidman, Cliff Bishop and Denny Connor, Pastor Travis Johnson, Kenwood Bible Methodist Church, and Pastor Lance Cunningham, Mt. Carmel Baptist Church



The brand new playground at McDaniel Park is now finished and ready for play! Come check it out with the kids this summer!





Planning & Zoning



Harry Holbert,
Zoning Administrator

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE INFORMATION

Sycamore Township has a property maintenance code and all property owners are required to meet the minimum standards of that code for the public safety and welfare of the Township. This code applies to both residential and commercial properties and helps keep our community safe. Most Sycamore Township property owners take great pride in keeping their property in pristine condition, but on occasion a property within the Township has been neglected or fallen into disrepair.

Please use one of the following options to report such concerns:

- Go to www.sycamoretownship.org and click on "Property Complaint Form" to enter a complaint online.
- Call the Planning and Zoning Hotline at (513) 792-7279 to leave a message for the Code Enforcement Official.

You may leave your name and contact information or choose to remain anonymous. It is very important to have the correct address of the problem property and be as specific as possible regarding the complaint. The standard time to review complaints is within ten business days.

PLEASE NOTE:

Sycamore Township may not go onto private property to cut grass or clean up debris without following procedures required by the State of Ohio. If you know of a vacant property, please let us know as soon as possible. Do not wait until the grass is two feet tall to report the problem as it does take some time for the Township to send required notices and follow the practices mandated by state law.

The Township does have authority to enforce compliance for the following issues:

- Tall grass/weeds
- Junk vehicles on private property
- Garbage/refuse and debris
- Boats/Trailers parked on residential property
- Dumpsters and material such as mulch, gravel and pavers left in our roadways

The following items are not enforceable by the Township and may be a civil matter between you and your neighbor:

- Dead or dying trees on private property
- Property line disputes
- Drainage issues such as natural drainage areas designed by the subdivision developer
- Vehicles parked in front of your residence on a public street

WELCOME NEW BUSINESSES!

Kit and Ace, featuring wash-and-go clothing that feels light and easy, is now open at the Kenwood Towne Center.

The Dillonvale Shopping Center has had some changes with the opening of a new Dollar Tree store in the former Deals location, and a PetValu where Jack's Pets was previously. **Stop in and see what's new!**





Maintenance Department



Tracy Kellums, Superintendent

SYCAMORE TWP. RESIDENTS RECYCLED 925.83 TONS IN 2015!

Congratulations Sycamore Township residents! In 2015, we recycled 925.83 tons of metal, glass, plastic and paper. 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 air pollution than if every householder in Sycamore Township rode their bicycle to work for 4 weeks.
- Saved 7,514 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 (4.3% of all jobs) just in the State of Ohio.

On average, each household in Sycamore Township recycled 224 pounds in 2015. That's 13.01% of all the waste we generate. Good work, Sycamore Township, our recycling efforts made a big difference! **Want to start recycling? Have a question about recycling? Call Hamilton County's Recycling Hotline at 946-7766.**



ROAD WORK AHEAD

With the arrival of warm weather comes the appearance of orange barrels. This year there are several road projects that will be going on in the Township. The underground utility project on Galbraith Road and the traffic calming project on Hosbrook Road both continue. In addition, there are several projects in the neighborhoods going on this year.

First, there is an asphalt rejuvenation project, which helps extend the life of the pavement. This will be performed on the following streets:

- Emerald Ave.
- Crystal Ave.
- Daffodil Ave.
- Beryl Ave.
- Tudor Ave.
- Buxton Ave.
- Lancaster Ave.
- Harrison Ave.
- Monroe Ave.
- St. Clair Ave.
- Spencer Ave.
- Taylor Ave.
- York Ave.
- Lake Ave.
- Beech Ave.
- Vorhees Ln.
- Myrtle Ave.
- Woodlawn Ave.

Next, there is going to be an Onyx Program, which is a pavement sealing process, on the following streets:

- Richmond Ave.
- Matson Ave.
- Camner Ave.
- Irwin Ave.
- Queens Ave.
- Theodore Ave.
- Frolic Dr.
- Happiness Way
- Merrymaker Ln.
- Festive Ct.
- Stillwind Dr.
- Autumnwind Dr.
- Timberbreak Dr.
- Bearcreek Dr.
- Fawncreek Dr.
- Buckland Dr.
- Owlwoods Ln.
- Concord Hills Circle
- Concord Hills Ln.
- Concord Hills Pl.
- Kennedy Ave.
- Patricks Glen
- Frane Ln.
- Marieview Ct.

Finally, there will be a curb replacement program in the Township on these streets:

- Glenover Dr.
- Appleknoll Ln.
- Paw Paw Ln.
- Stillmeadow Ln.
- Raiders Run Rd.
- Roundhill Rd.
- Morganraiders Ln.
- Briarpatch Ln.
- Myrtlewood Ave.
- Deerway Ave.

Along with all these projects that will be performed by contractors, you will see the Township road crew out working on base repairs to roads, crack sealing, catch basin repairs, and various other tasks. As always, we ask for your patience and consideration when driving through any of these construction areas. Please SLOW DOWN and DRIVE SAFELY to ensure that we get through the construction season safely. **If you have any questions or concerns about any of these projects please call me at the office at (513) 792-7257 or reach me via e-mail at tkellums@sycamoretownship.org.** I will be happy to answer any questions that you might have.





Contacts

Summer 2016

Tom Weidman, President

Cliff Bishop, Vice-President

Denny Connor, Trustee

Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer

R. Douglas Miller, Law Director

Tracy Kellums, Superintendent

792-7257 – Fax 792-8564

Mike McKeown, Parks & Rec. Director

792-7270 – Fax 792-8564

Greg Bickford, AICP, Administrator

791-8447 – Fax 792-8564

Rob Penny, Fire Chief

792-8565 – Fax 792-8564

Harry L. Holbert, Jr., Zoning Administrator

792-7252 – 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

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.