

Sycamore Township NEWS

Summer 2021

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After a cooler than normal Spring, Summer has finally arrived in Sycamore Township. School has ended and many families are planning vacations after being confined by COVID. If you are planning to get away on vacation and would like your home to be watched by one of our great Sheriff Deputies while you are gone, please call 513-825-1500 to sign up for this great service.

For those that will not be traveling on vacation this summer, we are hoping to provide many events in our parks to keep your weekends occupied during the summer months. This summer we will begin showing family movies and having music in the parks. The first scheduled movie is going to be at Bechtold Park on June 19th.

We also have free Yoga in the Park on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. at Bechtold and are looking to expand the yoga program in the future. For more information on these programs, please refer to our website.

You have probably noticed that many of our township roads are currently under construction. We are actually resurfacing 20% of our 50 linear miles of roads, all due to the legislation passed by the State of Ohio to allow us to use up to 25% of our unencumbered TIF funds for road improvements. It would normally take us four years to do the same maintenance to our roads. I would like to thank State Representative Bill Seitz and State Senator Bill Blessing for working closely with me as President of the Hamilton County Township Association to get this legislation passed. This program demonstrates the importance and value of Tax Increment Financing in our Business District to the services we provide to our residents.

As you may have read, when the American Rescue Plan was rolled out by President Biden, townships in Ohio were excluded from relief funding, even though 35% of Ohio residents live in townships. I worked closely with the staff of both Senators Portman and Brown as well as Representatives Wenstrup and Chabot, and the Ohio Township Association to apply pressure on Treasury Secretary Yellen to allow townships to be included in the Federal funding under ARP. When the final allocation of direct local aid guidelines was presented this month, additional funds were allocated to states governments to provide relief funding to townships. We hope to have additional details on this soon.

Many of our residents have already received the COVID 19 vaccine, but if you have not and would like to receive it, you can go to <https://healthcollab.org/vaccine-info/>. This site will show you the location that is offering vaccines in Cincinnati, the address and time that it is being distributed, and which vaccine they are distributing.

Finally, let me thank our staff that has worked tirelessly over the past 12 months in continuing to provide services to our residents during the COVID pandemic. We were forced to reinvent many of our modes of operation to meet state guidelines, and they never skipped a beat through it all. We clearly have the best township staff in Ohio.

On behalf of my fellow Trustees Tom James and Jim LaBarbara, and our Fiscal Officer Rob Porter, I want to wish you a healthy, happy, and safe summer.

Sincerely,



Tom Weidman
Board of Trustees



Tom Weidman
Trustee



**SYCAMORE
TOWNSHIP**
GOVERNMENT COMPLEX



Police & Crime Prevention



Michael Tarr, Lieutenant
Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

With more people than ever working, shopping, and communicating remotely we have unfortunately seen an uptick in reports of identity theft. The effects of identity theft can be devastating, not just financially but emotionally and even physically. A victim of identity theft can spend years undoing the damage caused by its perpetrators.

The Ohio Attorney General has identified some common signs of identity theft and prevention tips. I understand that some of these may seem a bit obvious or just plain common-sense. As a victim of identity theft myself, I can assure you that putting as much of this into practice as possible will save you from a major headache down the road.

Should you become a victim of identity theft, the Attorney General's Office also offers suggestions on how to respond.

Signs of identity theft:

- You find inaccurate personal information or unfamiliar accounts on your credit report.
- You are contacted by collectors about debts you do not owe.
- You no longer receive certain mail, or you receive mail related to unfamiliar accounts.
- You are denied credit for no apparent reason.
- You experience a sudden drop in credit score.
- You receive bills that you do not recognize.

Prevention tips:

- Never share personal information with anyone who contacts you unexpectedly.
- Consider placing an initial fraud alert or a security freeze on your credit report.
- Never carry unnecessary personal information, such as your social security card, in your wallet or purse.

- Shred all outdated documents containing personal information; do not throw them in the trash.
- Regularly update your computer software and mobile apps.
- Use internet passwords that are hard to guess and change them regularly. Passwords should be at least 12 characters and include capital and lowercase letters, numbers, and special characters.
- Set a passcode on your smartphone.
- When entering personal information online, make sure a website is secure by looking for the "s" in "https."
- Do not conduct private business on public Wi-Fi.
- Make copies of your credit cards and store them securely so you can call to cancel them quickly if they go missing.
- If a bill fails to arrive, contact the company as soon as you notice its delay; thieves sometimes steal information from mailboxes or reroute others' bills.

3 ways to respond to identity theft:

- Review your entire credit report.
- File a police report.
- Place an initial fraud alert on your credit file.

An initial fraud alert lets creditors know that they should take extra steps to confirm your identity prior to issuing credit. To place an alert contact Experian, Equifax, or TransUnion who will then share your request with the other two.

Equifax | 800-525-6285 | www.equifax.com

Experian | 888-397-3742 | www.experian.com

TransUnion | 800-680-7289 | www.transunion.com

Should you become a victim of identity theft, the Ohio Attorney General's Office has an Identity Theft Unit that will work with you to rectify its effects. A consumer advocate will work with credit agencies, creditors, collectors, or other organizations on your behalf. To participate, fill out a Notification & Affidavit form (available at www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/Files/Forms) and submit a copy of your police report.



EMS/Fire Department



Rob Penny, Fire Chief

The Fire Department often receives calls from residents with questions about using an outdoor fire pit or open burning. Sycamore Township follows the Ohio Fire Code's regulations for fire pits and open burning.

The Ohio Fire Code allows recreational fires without a permit in your own yard provided safety rules are followed. However, if the smoke becomes an issue for your neighbors and the Fire Department is called, you will be required to extinguish the fire. You are not allowed to burn yard waste such as leaves, green branches, or stumps. The use of burn barrels is not allowed except in certain cases, such as for heat at a construction site, and a permit must be obtained from the Township Fire Department to do so. Again, if the smoke becomes an issue and the Fire Department is called, the fire must be extinguished.

Below is a list of Ohio Fire Code safety rules which must be followed.

Recreational Fires: Shall not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure or combustible materials.

Fire Pits: Recreational fires conducted in a **gas fired** pit shall be 15 feet from a structure or combustibles.

Portable Outdoor Fire Pits (ones you can carry) shall be 15 feet from any structure or combustibles.

Bonfires: Only allowed by permit obtained from the Fire Department.

Attendance: Any outdoor fire must have continuous attendance. You are not allowed to light a fire and leave it unattended. You must have some form of extinguishment available such as dirt, a garden hose, fire extinguisher or water barrel.

If the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) or State Fire Marshall issues a ban due to poor air quality, no type of fire or open burning is allowed.

If you have any questions or for more information on fire pits, please call the Sycamore Township Fire Inspector at 513-792-7246.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Chipping Program

June 5/ July 3/ Aug. 7/Sept. 4
8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
Behind Administration Bldg.
8540 Kenwood Rd.

Movie Night at Bechtold Park

Saturday, June 19 at Dusk
Bechtold Park (Behind Shelter 3)
4312 Sycamore Road

11th Annual Sycamore Township Car Show

Saturday, August 7
Registration
9:00 A.M. – Noon
Car Show
Noon to 3:00 P.M.
Robert L. Schuler Sports
Complex
11580 Deerfield Rd.

Fall Compost Giveaway

Saturday, September 11
8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
Hartzell Methodist Church
8999 Applewood Dr.





Parks & Recreation



MOVIE NIGHT AT BECHTOLD PARK

Sycamore Township will host an outdoor movie night at Bechtold Park on Saturday, June 19th at dusk. Bring lawn chairs or a blanket and some snacks and settle in for a showing of *The Princess Bride*! Meet behind Shelter #3.

Save the dates for more movie nights this summer and fall!

McDaniel Park Movie Nights: July 10th, August 7th, and September 4th

Bechtold Park Movie Nights: July 24th, August 21st, and September 18th

Movie titles to be announced.

*Dates and bands/movie titles are subject to change or cancellation.
Please see our website or Facebook page for the latest information regarding events.

YOGA ^{IN THE} PARK SUNDAY 10AM BECHTOLD f PARK t

What: FREE Yoga in the Park ~ Bring your own yoga mat and water bottle!

Where: Bechtold Park, 4312 Sycamore Road, near the Pavilion (Sycamore Road Entrance)

When: Sundays at 10:00 a.m. through the end of October (No Yoga on the 4th of July)*

Questions: Call or email Parks Supervisor Jason Petty at (513) 792-7269 or jpetty@sycamoretownship.org.

*In the event of inclement weather yoga will be cancelled.

MUSIC IN THE PARK

Join us for Music in the Park this summer at Bechtold and McDaniel Parks!

Bechtold Shelter #2

Friday, June 25th – The Remains

Friday, July 16th – Ricky Nye

Saturday, August 14th – String Theory

Friday, September 10th – Brent James and the Vintage Youth

McDaniel Park

Friday, July 30th – Red Hot Riot

Friday, August 27th – TBA

Friday, September 24th – TBA

The bands will play from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

11TH ANNUAL CAR SHOW

Save the date, August 7th, for the 11th Annual Sycamore Township Summer Car Show at the Robert L. Schuler Sports Complex at 11532 Deerfield Road. Registration takes place from 9 a.m. to Noon and the Car Show from Noon – 3 p.m. Registration is \$15.00. The first 100 entries will receive free dash plaques. Awards will be given to the top 40, nine specialty categories, Trustees Choice, and Best in Show. A live DJ will spin the music and food and drinks from Street Fried Food Truck will be available. For information, call 513-641-6662.





TOWNSHIP TIDBITS

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER EVENT HELD IN SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP

Sycamore Township hosted a National Day of Prayer Event on May 6th with help from Pastor Larry Cornett, Bethel Baptist Temple, who organized. The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people of all faiths to pray for the nation. It was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman. Pastor Cornett and Sycamore Township Trustees Tom James, Jim LaBarbara and Tom Weidman were joined by local clergy who prayed for our National, State and Local leaders, our community, the military and first responders.

Thank you to all the churches who participated and to the members of the public who joined us in prayer. We are also grateful to the Moeller Band, led by Director Paul Kindt, for providing the music and Chick-fil-A Kenwood Towne Center for donating chicken sandwiches for lunch after the service.



Pictured (left to right) Pastor George Staggs of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Associate Pastor Scott Burns of Kenwood Baptist Church, Pastor David Wells of St. Paul Community United Methodist, Pastor Cornett of Bethel Baptist Temple, Sycamore Township Trustees Tom Weidman, Tom James and Jim LaBarbara, Father J. Dennis Jaspers of All Saints Church / St. Vincent Ferrer Church, Pastor Moses Lee of Korean Power Mission Baptist Church and Pastor Mark Cravens of Kenwood Bible Methodist Church.

WELCOME NEW BUSINESS!



Chairman of the Board of Trustees Tom James assisted with the ribbon cutting at the grand opening for the Headache Center of Hope at 4565 E. Galbraith Road, Suite A. Pictured from left to right are Headache Center of Hope Practice Manager LeDawn Thomas, Trustee James, Dr. Thomas O'Brien, Owner/Medical Director Dr. Hope O'Brien, and Pastor Darlene Bishop of Solid Rock Church, Monroe, Ohio.



Trustee Tom James at the grand opening with Headache Center of Hope Practice Manager LeDawn Thomas and Owner/Medical Director Dr. Hope O'Brien. The Headache Center of Hope opens the week of June 15th.



VACATION WATCH

Going on vacation? If so, as a Township resident you are entitled to a Vacation Watch service that is provided by The Hamilton County Sheriff's Office. Each day our uniformed deputies check residences of those who have signed up for this service. To add your residence to the check list, please call the Sheriff's Office Headquarters at (513) 825-1500.





Planning & Zoning



Skylor R. Miller
Planning & Zoning Administrator

ZONING CERTIFICATES REQUIRED

Please keep in mind that a zoning certificate is required for the following residential projects:

- New Single-Family Homes
- Room Additions
- Garages
- Decks
- Pools
- Sheds/Accessory Use Structures
- Fences/Retaining Walls
- Front Porches
- PODs (Movable Storage Units)
- In-Home Occupations

Call the Office of Planning & Zoning at 792-7250 if you need more information.

TIME TO TIDY UP AROUND YOUR HOME

This time of year is a great opportunity to get a head start on property maintenance that will help you avoid big repair bills later and get your home ready for the Summer. Start with these 15 tasks to get your home in good shape.

- ✓ Inspect your roof. Check your shingles and prevent leaks before they start!
- ✓ Clean your gutters. Prevent water damage by unclogging gutters and diverting spouts away from your foundation.
- ✓ Clean or replace HVAC filters. A dirty filter forces your heat, ventilation, and air-conditioning system to work harder, which in turn drains your wallet and could lead to big repairs.
- ✓ Clean your dryer vent. Clogged vents lead to costlier operation and is a fire hazard.
- ✓ Check the washing machine fill hose. A leaky hose under pressure can cause major damage in a short period of time, so you want to look for cracks that could become leaks.
- ✓ Clean and repair your window screens. Bring in some fresh air to your home. Properly installed screens keep the critters out.
- ✓ Clean decks, driveways, fences, and other outside surfaces. Cleaning prolongs the life of your outdoor structures. Check for damage while you are at it.
- ✓ Fix cracks in your walks, driveway, and the outside of your home. Little cracks become big projects down the road. Seal them up while they are small.
- ✓ Repair any cracked or peeling paint. A good paint job makes your home look nice, while providing a protective barrier from the elements. Touch-up painting is easy to do and inexpensive.
- ✓ Vacuum your refrigerator coils. Just like your A/C, the refrigerator has coils that pull and conduct heat. Cleaning them reduces operating costs.
- ✓ Replace the batteries in your smoke detectors. You never know when you will need them. Sometimes it is a matter of life or death, so take the time to change the batteries now.
- ✓ Prepare your lawn mower for summer. Seasonal maintenance will extend the life of your equipment. So, sharpen those blades and change the engine oil.
- ✓ Check seals around windows and doors. This will help reduce your electric bill when running your A/C.
- ✓ Clear vegetation around your AC compressor. To work efficiently, the compressor needs good airflow. To ensure it has breathing room, prune any plant growth that could block it.
- ✓ Drain your water heater. Sediment builds up in your water heater tank. Use the spigot near the bottom of the heater to drain it. By doing so, you will prolong its life and reduce your utility bill.



Maintenance Department



Tracy Kellums, Superintendent

ROAD WORK AHEAD

The Township has been very busy already this year with road improvements. The **2021 Road Improvement Project** is well underway throughout several neighborhoods in the Township. This project is covering over 10 miles of roadway which is an amazing 20% of our road inventory. This was made possible by Covid relief legislation from the State of Ohio which allowed us to use up to 25% of the Township's unencumbered TIF funds, which are generated by commercial development, to maintain local roads. The John R. Jurgensen Company is the contractor on this project and is making great progress. In fact, some of the areas that are in this project will be completed by the time you read this article.

Another project that is underway is the **Kugler Mill Road Reconstruction Project**. Rack and Ballauer Excavating Company is the contractor for this project. The installation of new water main is complete and construction on the road is currently going on between Blue Ash Rd. and Kenwood Rd. This section should be complete by midsummer. The contractor will then move to the east and work on the section of Kugler Mill Rd. between Kenwood Rd. and Montgomery Rd. This project is a joint effort between Sycamore Township and the Hamilton County Engineer's Office. It is being funded partially by a grant that is paying for 50% of the project with the balance being split between the County and Township. The Township is funding our portion with TIF money generated by commercial development.

A third major project, currently in the engineering stage, is the **Larchview Dr. / Plainfield Rd. Improvement Project**. This project includes a total reconstruction of Larchview Dr. as well as a road diet (lane reduction) and paving of Plainfield Rd. A public meeting open house was held at the end of April and the feedback from the community about the project was very positive. Engineering is now in its final stages, utility work is scheduled for this winter, and road construction will commence in the spring of 2022. This project is being funded by a 50% grant from the state with the balance being split between the Township and the County.

The **Dillonvale Subdivision Culvert Improvement Project** is also in its engineering stages and is scheduled to go out for bid in June. This project involves the repair and installation of headwalls at several locations in Dillonvale to correct and prevent erosion in the public right of way. This project is also being funded by the 25% unencumbered TIF Funds made available through COVID relief legislation.

Greater Cincinnati Water Works also has a project in the Township. They are installing new watermain throughout the Kenwood Meadows Subdivision.

As you can see, construction is taking place all over the Township! Please be patient and drive slowly through all the construction zones so everyone gets home safely. For more information on road projects, please see the Maintenance/Road Projects page on the Township website <https://www.sycamoretownship.org/departments/maintenance/road-projects/> or contact me at 513-792-7257 or tkellums@sycamoretownship.org and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.



Contacts

Summer 2021

Tom James, Chairman

Jim LaBarbara, Vice-Chairman

Tom Weidman, Trustee

Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer

Deepak K. Desai, Law Director

Ray Warrick, Administrator

792-7277 – rwarrick@sycamoretownship.org

Tracy Kellums

Superintendent/Assistant Administrator

792-7257 – tkellums@sycamoretownship.org

Skylor R. Miller, Planning & Zoning Administrator

792-7252 – smiller@sycamoretownship.org

Rob Penny, Fire Chief

792-8562 – rpenny@sycamoretownship.org

Michael Tarr, Lieutenant

District Three Commander

Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

683-3444

Fire and Police Emergency – **911**

Non-Emergency Dispatch – **825-2280**

Sycamore Township Administrative Office

791-8447 – Fax 792-8564

www.sycamoretownship.org



8540 Kenwood Road
Sycamore Twp., Ohio 45236

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Tom James
Chairman



Jim LaBarbara
Vice-Chairman



Tom Weidman
Trustee



Robert C. Porter III
Fiscal Officer

You may leave messages for your elected officials by calling the Sycamore Township Administration Office at 791-8447.