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Issue:
Autumn
2021

Your Friends of Sycamore Trails Quarterly Newsletter

Sycamore Scoop

Updates >>>

You Have a Set of New Co-Directors for Friends of Sycamore Trails

Steve & Jamie Taylor
Meet them on page 2.

We Have a Website now
FriendsOfSycamoreTrails.com

Donations

We have added many new ways that
you can donate! See how on page 4.

Fundraisers

We have some upcoming fundraisers!
Check them out on page 4.

Nextdoor App/Website

This is still a reliable way to receive
some valuable information about
Sycamore Trails. Please keep politics
to your personal page on Facebook.



Trick-Or-Treat!

**Do not forget to add yourself
to the treat map on Nextdoor!*

Community Safety Tips for Everyone

With witches, goblins, princesses, and super-heroes soon descending on the Sycamore Trails, the American Red Cross offers parents some safety tips to help prepare their children for a safe and enjoyable trick-or-treat holiday. Halloween should be filled with surprise and delight and following some commonsense practices can keep events safer and more fun.

- Keep away from open fires and candles (costumes can be extremely flammable).
- Visit homes that have a porch light on.
- Accept treats at the door & never go into a stranger's house.
- Walk, slither, and sneak on sidewalks, not the street.
- Look both ways before crossing the street to check for cars, bikes, and low flying brooms.
- Cross the street only at corners. Do not hide or cross the street between parked cars.
- Wear a piece of light-colored or reflective tape on the front and back of costumes or clothing so you are more visible when it gets dark (remember to also put reflective tape on bikes, skateboards, wagons, and brooms too!).
- Wear face paint rather than masks or things that will cover up your eyes when it gets dark.
- Be cautious of animals and strangers.
- Have a grown up inspect your treats before eating.
- Don't eat the candy if the package is already open!
- Small, hard pieces of candy are a choking hazard for young children.
- Keep all animals on a leash if they are joining your family on the trails.
- Carry a flashlight to help light your way.
- Kids going alone; plan a route to share with your family.
- Test your smoke detectors before leaving your home unattended.

Happy
Halloween!



Spotlight >>>

Special Thanks!

Our beloved Director of "Friends of Sycamore Trails" nonprofit has retired! We wanted to take a moment to spotlight her and all her challenging



Diane Zimmaro

Diane graciously stepped up to help in 2015 to take over as the entrance and financial caretaker for our neighborhood.

Contributions

For seven years now she has organized the front entry way mowing, mulching, trimming, edging, fertilizing, planting, and tree root feeding. She has balanced books and paid invoices. Gathered marvelous volunteers and with the help of these amazing neighbors, has typed, printed, stuffed, labeled, and mailed newsletters to each of you. She even formed a group of *Watering Warriors* to help keep plants



Thank You

So, here is to you, Diane! Your years of service and arduous work deserve to be recognized. We appreciate all your efforts, but mostly the love and care that you put back into your neighborhood. Thank you so much. We wish you the best of luck on your next venture.

Do you know someone who deserves to be spotlighted? Let us know! We will put the spotlight on them here! Please include "Spotlight" in the subject field.



Hello Neighbor! >>>

Meet the Taylors!

Meet your new Co-Directors of "Friends of Sycamore Trails" nonprofit, Steve & Jamie Taylor!

Mr. & Ms. Taylor & their six "Taylor Tots" moved to Sycamore Trails in January of 2021. When searching for a new home, they fell in love with this neighborhood and could not imagine a different place to raise their children. They are heavily involved in the community and enjoy assisting many nonprofits right here in the Miami Valley. As animal lovers, they have 4 dogs (Daisy, Drax, Idris, & the infamous Groot), 3 fish, 2 Russian tortoises, 2 geckos, and a bearded dragon. Steve & Jamie are looking forward to Co-Directing our nonprofit "Friends of Sycamore Trails" and welcome anyone else who would like to be involved! If you are a past volunteer and still want to help, let them know. Feel free to reach out and extend a welcome or swing by to say hi.

The Infamous Groot

Groot is partially deaf, partially blind, and has a tumor on his spine that causes him to walk funny. He is all things lovable and lazy. He basks in the sun and sleeps 18 hours a day, however, sometimes... he breaks out the front door and takes off running! Being new to the area, Groot is still learning the boundaries of his yard. He has a GPS (whistle) on his collar to help us track him. Groot is approachable & our phone numbers are on his ID tag. He is neutered, chipped, licensed, and up to date on his shots. Groot is amazing with other dogs and all humans. If you happen to see Groot out and about, or sleeping in your opened garage, just give his owners a call, I am sure they are looking for him too! If you want to meet him, swing on by! I'm sure he'd love to say hello!

Want to feature your pet?

Email a picture and brief bio to:

FriendsOfSycamoreTrails@gmail.com

Please include "Featured Pet" on the subject line.



Money Talks

Every year, you are asked for a donation. Due to lack of funds, it is primarily used to maintain the entry way off Lytle 5 Points Drive. This year is no different, but we are going to dig a little deeper into this process in hopes we can do more for our neighborhood as residents.

We are so very thankful to those who are willing to give every year! So far, in 2021, we have calculated that 18% of Sycamore Trails contributed. 3% of those who donated, gave more than what was asked. We know we can do better!

So, we are revamping our system to not only encourage donations, but also thank those that give!

We would first like for you to know, that because of your financial contributions, we are able to maintain our nonprofit status and your donations are 100% tax deductible! If you donate this year, you will receive a letter confirming your donation that you may use for tax purposes.

Second, for your convenience, we have created multiple secure ways for you to contribute! You can drop off cash, mail in a check, Zelle, Cash App, PayPal, or hop on our website and donate through there.

We are also starting something new this year. For every \$10 you donate, we will enter your name into a drawing for a “Donor of the Year” award! Please be sure to leave your name & address on a memo line when you donate. We will also have a special award for our top donor of 2021 and a gift for those who continue to give consecutively every five years. *If you have already achieved a consecutive giver status in the past, we will be in touch with you soon.

Aside from our funds being used for maintaining the entryway, we would like to create a reserve fund. This could be used for our neighbors when they are in a time of need, purchase pet waste stations, etc. We welcome all suggestions.

Lastly, did you know we also have nine acres of “open space” that we could be utilizing? Some funds could be used here to secure a zoning consultant and begin a community project such as starting a community garden, create a nature hiking trail, or possibly clear a portion of the area and have a common space field for gathering. We will have a meeting soon to discuss what you would like to see happen.

Money Talks. In the end your donations will tell us what kind of community you want to live in. We are only as good as our resident’s participation.



FALL PLANTING TIPS

Fall is a wonderful time to plant perennials, bulbs, trees, and shrubs. Container plants and balled-and-burlapped specimens usually have well-developed root systems.

Because roots do not have to supply nutrients and water to growing stems and new leaves, they can concentrate on getting established. Roots grow- although slowly- even when soil temperatures go as low as forty degrees.

Seasonal Ideas: Fall Lawn Care

Fall is the time to pay attention to turf, because what you do this fall will pay off big in the next year.

For starters, give your lawn some breathing room. You can rent an aerating machine by the hour at most rental centers, or you can hire someone to do it for you. This will remove soil plugs, leaving holes that provide a direct path for air, water, and nutrients to reach grass roots.

Research has proven that fall is the best time to fertilize your lawn. If you do it twice in the fall, you don't have to do it in the spring. You will need two elements to get this job done. First, a spreader, and then a good fall fertilizer specifically intended for the lawn. Once you have applied the fertilizer, make sure to water it thoroughly for the best results.

Finally, as temperatures become colder, it is important to cut your grass shorter, leaving about 2 – 2 ½ inches by the end of the season. This is considered the “sweet spot” because it is not too tall to invite the snow mold, but not too short to be stressed out by the wintry weather.

Sycamore Trails Neighborhood Directory

For our first neighborhood Fundraiser, we are looking to create a Sycamore Trails Neighborhood Directory and we need your help updating our system! You can fill out our form on our website or take the time to email Jamie at Friendsofsycamoretrails@gmail.com to have your home included. In your email, please include "Directory" on the subject line and provide your name(s), address, phone number(s), email(s), preferred method of contact, best time of day to contact, and type of contact you're ok with (Emergencies ONLY [this will include lost pets], safety updates & newsletters, volunteering, or all of the above), pictures are optional. In addition, please let us know if there are any allergies or food preferences (i.e., vegan) so we can let our volunteers know when needed. This information will not be in the directory. **Our deadline is December 1st, 2021.** You may choose to remain unlisted if you would like, just let us know, but we still need to update our system with all our neighbor's information. Directories will be available for any size donation. These funds help to maintain lawn care & gardening, care for neighbors in need, provide you with insight to the community, and so much more!



Have a Business You Want to Advertise?

We have options! Plan for our next newsletter. Don't have ad but want to place one? No worries, we can help you with that too! Contact Jamie to get started. Pssst... this can also be used for congratulatory ads, birthday ads, etc.

Your ad will also be placed on our website & Facebook Public Page!

\$15- 1/4 page

\$25- 1/2 page

\$40- Full page

Please include "Ad" on the subject line.

Find Us on Facebook

We have a private community group called "Friends of Sycamore Trails" that is a safe place for our neighbors to ask question and discuss topics.

We also have a public page with the same name, "Friends of Sycamore Trails" that you can find our public events on. This is where we will post our garage sales and other events.

Contact us

There are many ways you can contact us:

Email:

FriendsofSycamoreTrails@gmail.com

Call:

Landline: 937.886.8400

Cell: 937.825.9991

Mailing Address

639 Birchcreek Way
Springboro, Ohio 45066

Donations:

There are many ways you can donate

- Through our Website:
FriendsOfSycamoreTrails.com
- Zelle @
FriendsofSycamoreTrails@gmail.com
- PayPal@
FriendsofSycamoreTrails@gmail.com
- CashApp@ \$SycamoreTrails
- Check: make payable to **Friends of Sycamore Trails**

Community Needs

Want to Volunteer?

We are just getting our volunteer list started. If you have a unique hobby, talent, or willing to help us or someone else out please email us to let us know! You will be contacted when a need pops up with which you can help! This can be anything from knitting, cooking, mowing/yard work, painting, chores, grocery shopping, pickup/delivery, having a quality conversation with someone, etc.

*We are also looking to create an official volunteer staff to assist with responsibilities. Perhaps you'd like to help make the newsletter, oversee a fundraiser, or organize an event? Let us know!

Please include "Volunteer" on the subject line if you want to be added to our volunteer list.

Have a need?

Let your neighbors show how much they care! Please feel free to reach out and email us if you or a neighbor you know need a little extra help. A frozen meal to help get through a rough time, or someone to pick up groceries and deliver them to the house. It can be anything. You will be notified when we have found someone to help out.

Please include "Community Needs" on the subject line if you have a need.



Your Opinion Counts!

Have a suggestion? Your opinion counts! Do you want a neighborhood watch? Community garage sale? Neighborhood beautification award? Food trucks, block party, monthly meeting, etc.??? Let us know! Feel free to email your ideas to:

friendsofsycamoretrails@gmail.com

Please include "My Opinion Counts" on the subject line.

Fundraising Opportunity! >>>

Fun Family Fall Photo Session!

Fall is here and what better time to gather the family for a beautiful fall photo right at home?

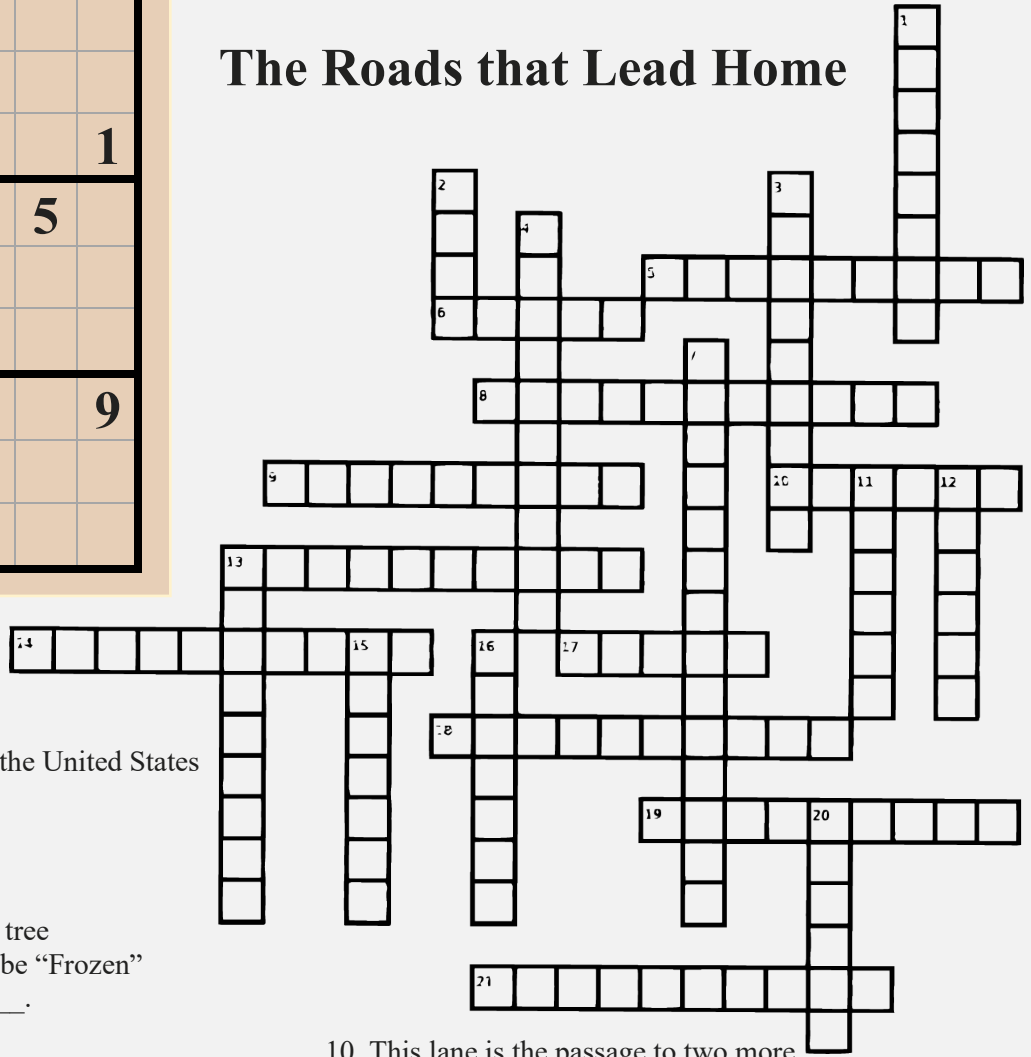
For our second fundraiser, we are offering 15-minute mini family sessions right in front of your home! For any size donation to our community nonprofit, you will receive a link to your photos and rights to download and print them from anywhere you would like! Email to book your session today!

Please include "Photo" on the subject line.



		5	1	9		3		
7								
				4	6			1
2	7					8	5	
		4						
	3			5		4		
			7					9
3		9				2		
						1		

The Roads that Lead Home



DOWN:

1. Untamed Forest
2. A Baldwin brother
3. Elevated climb
4. The only "way" like this in the United States
7. Not an Oak Trail
11. Wedding Setting
12. Big Ben, majesty
13. Lies in the wind
15. A rounded hill with a single tree
16. Actress. A "Good Place" to be "Frozen"
20. General George _____.

ACROSS:

5. Nine letter word beginning with "R", ending with "d"
6. Famous singer _____ Simon, Court.
8. Known as Diane Chambers, in "Cheers"
9. American novelist, Nathaniel _____.

10. This lane is the passage to two more
13. Breezy Woods
14. Fact-growing tree of North America.
17. Beetles' album, with royalty
18. Hill stream justice
19. Pinnacle
21. English writer John

Halloween Word Search:

V S W C O S T U M E V D P C S
W P I B C F U J L G A E U A K
E I T O G A W D Q H M C M R U
R D C O B O N E S O P O P V L
E E H A Y R I D E S I R K I L
W R G O B L I N Y T R A I N S
O H A Y S T A C K N E T N G P
L B F R A N K E N S T E I N O
F Q A T R E A T S C A R Y H O
X O C T O B E R Z O M B I E K
M U M M Y O K M O N S T E R Y
T R I C K S C A R E C R O W Y
W I Z A R D T S K E L E T O N
E C H I D R A C U L A K I H N
M O O N T O M B S T O N E E F

Riddle Me This...

What English word has three consecutive double letters?

FRANKENSTEIN
TOMBSTONE
SKELETON
HAYSTACK
CARVING
BAT
GHOST
WITCH
SCARECROW
HAYRIDES
DRACULA

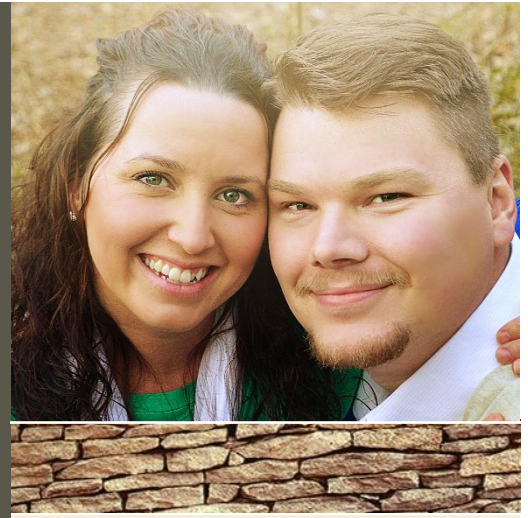
PUMPKIN
CANDY
SPIDER
SCARY
BONES
DECORATE
VAMPIRE
OCTOBER
GOBLIN
ZOMBIE
WIZARD

TREAT
MOON
WEREWOLF
MONSTER
COSTUME
SPOOKY
MUMMY
SKULL
TRICK
BOO

final thoughts...

*As the saying goes, "it takes a community."
We believe, with your help, we will have one of
the best communities Springboro has to offer.
We would love for you to get involved and help.
Please reach out and give your opinion on what
changes you would like to see happen. The more
we work together, donate, and help others, the
stronger our community will be.*

www.friendsofsycamoretrails.com



*We look forward to
not only hearing from
you but meeting you.*



639 Birchcreek Way
Springboro, Ohio 45066