

SYCAMORE, ILLINOIS FIRE CHIEF



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WHY SYCAMORE?

Sycamore's strategic location within north central Illinois is not only desirable for residents, but for businesses as well. Being the true heart of the Midwest, Sycamore is located along Illinois Route 64 (State Street in Sycamore) about 35 miles (56 km) southeast of [Rockford](#) and 55 miles (89 km) west-northwest of [Chicago](#). It is along the south bank of the East Branch of the South Branch Kishwaukee River in [DeKalb County](#) with great proximity to major markets, while offering a lifestyle removed from the hustle and bustle of city life. Diversity is the key to Sycamore's business community – industry, manufacturing, healthcare services, tourism, and trade all contribute to our healthy economic climate. The business district is composed of two-story shops, a bank, small movie theater, and former [Midwest Museum of Natural History](#). Sycamore is the county seat of DeKalb County and is home to the historic limestone county courthouse, built in 1904. Sycamore's historic downtown offers quaint sophistication served with true hospitality. There are luxurious accommodations, unique treasures in locally-owned shops, salons and spas, great dining, theater, ballet, and more. Four fun-filled seasons of recreation, coupled with arts and entertainment, make Sycamore a destination for families and great career opportunities. Each Spring kicks off with the annual Taste of Spring event - a perfect culmination of good food, wine, and shopping. The Ribs, Rhythm and Brew Fest celebrates the end of summer with some of the best barbeque and brew Northern Illinois has to offer. Most notable is Sycamore's annual Pumpkin Festival, a city-wide tradition spanning five days of small-town fall magic. Pumpkin Fest features indoor arts and crafts shows, a historic house walk, a carnival, a family-friendly Pumpkin Run (10k), a parade, and courthouse lawn display of hundreds of masterfully carved pumpkins! [Discover Sycamore!](#)



AT A GLANCE

POPULATION IN 2021: **18,913**

Median resident age: **36.6** years

91.2% White

2.71% Hispanic

2.09% Asian

4.0% Black/African American

Female **52.49%**

Male **47.51%**

Median Home Value: **\$218,755**

Median Income: **\$ 71,698**

Households: **7,083**

Area: **10.1** mi²





SYCAMORE FIRE DEPARTMENT

- The Fire Chief is the executive in charge of overseeing the department and providing state-of-the-art fire, emergency medical, rescue, hazardous materials, fire prevention, risk reduction and community support programs and services. The Fire Chief works closely with City staff and regional partners in a very collaborative and professional environment.
- The Fire Department is comprised of a Fire Chief, (2) Deputy Fire Chiefs, one Administrative Assistant, and (27) operations personnel. Operations personnel are divided into three shifts assigned to a 24/48 shift schedule. All line personnel are licensed Paramedics. Each shift is assigned (8) full-time personnel (6 firefighter/paramedics and 2 Lieutenants) and is supplemented by (3) swing-shift personnel. The daily minimum staffing is (6).
- The Department provides emergency and support services through two divisions:
 - The Operations Division is the service delivery section of the organization. The Operations Division is responsible for the provision of fire suppression, rescue, emergency medical services, and hazardous materials first responder services.
 - The Administration Division provides the support for the Operations Division activities, which includes: operation budget preparation and administration, grant application and administration, emergency vehicle and equipment repair and maintenance, fire station facility repairs and maintenance, fire and emergency medical service continuing education training, computer system and related software support, fire prevention program including public fire education, and special event planning.
- The Department covers 62.5 mi² - 9.74 mi² of which is the City. The service area consists of the City proper (approximately 18,577 residents) and the Sycamore Fire Protection District outside of City limits (approximately 2,500 residents).
- The Department covers the City and District service area from (2) fire stations. Fire Station 1 is home to (2) Engines (one ALS), (2) ALS medic units, a brush/grass vehicle, and a utility vehicle. Fire Station 2 is home of (1) ALS Engine, (1) pumper-tender, (2) ALS medic units, a brush/grass vehicle, a heavy rescue squad, and a semirigid inflatable rescue boat.
- The Department receives its E9-1-1 and dispatch services from the DeKalb County Sheriff's Office.
- The Department operates on a budget of \$4,462,581 (FY2022).
- The Department responded to 2,924 calls for fire, EMS, and other services in FY2022.
- The Department is a member of MABAS Division #6 and has members on the Division #6 TRT and Haz Mat teams.
- The shift work force is represented by the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF).
- The City ISO Rating is a 4 and the rural area an 8B.

SYCAMORE GOVERNMENT

The City of Sycamore is a Council-Manager form of government, which was passed by referendum in 2003. Sycamore has eight elected alderpersons — two per each of the City's four wards. Aldermanic elections are held every two years, at which time half of the City Council is elected. The Mayor is elected at large every four years. The City Manager is appointed by the City Council, and the City Manager appoints all other employees. The elected officials determine policy, while professional, appointed officials implement this policy. City departments include: Administration, Community Development, City Clerk, Engineering, Fire, Police, and Public Works.

EDUCATION

Sycamore offers a variety of choices for education, including (7) public and (4) private schools. [Sycamore Community School District 427](#) spans an area of over 80 square miles and serves the community of Sycamore and portions of Maple Park, Cortland, Clare, and Genoa. There are (5) elementary schools: North, North Grove, South Prairie, Southeast, and West Elementary Schools.

There is (1) middle school, Sycamore Middle School and (1) high school, Sycamore High School. The Sycamore Learning Community vision is to provide an ideal learning experience where students and staff are engaged and want to come back the next day.

The Sycamore Education Foundation supports the more than 3,565 students, faculty, and administrators of Sycamore Community School District 427. The Foundation receives and distributes private gifts from generous individuals and businesses to enrich educational opportunities for students in the Sycamore Community School District 427 not otherwise available through regular funding resources.

Private schools consist of Cornerstone Christian Academy, an Elementary private school, St. Mary Catholic school, covering Pre-K through middle school, and Montessori Children's House.

The Sycamore Public Library was erected in 1905 in the former location of Mansion House, Sycamore's oldest structure. Construction began in May of that year and the library officially opened to the public on Thanksgiving Day, 1905. The library joined the National Register of Historic Places in May 1978 with the rest of the Sycamore Historic District. The library still operates, as of 2019, as the Sycamore library. The library was erected with the help of a \$10,000 grant from Andrew Carnegie in 1905. In 2017 the library celebrated 125 years and the addition has been open to the public for 20 years.

SYCAMORE PARKS

The [Park District](#), established in 1923, is in the process of acquiring and developing park sites and open spaces to serve the growing community's recreation and wellness needs. It currently manages 509 acres of land made up of neighborhood parks, community parks, athletic fields, wetlands, woodlands, and high-quality natural areas. The district also maintains 9.8 miles of walking/cycling trails that connect people to parks, businesses, schools, and each other.

Within these park spaces, one can enjoy a Community Center with fitness areas, a gymnasium, and classrooms, an 18-hole golf course, dog park, community pool, and splashpad. Staff provides recreational and wellness programming throughout these parks and facilities.

Through the support of tax dollars, the Sycamore Parks Foundation, local community & government and partners, the Sycamore Park District keeps Sycamore connected to wellness, nature, and each other!



THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

"Innovative, Dynamic and Visionary Leader"

- An experienced and collaborative fire/EMS leader with demonstrated managerial, interpersonal, and customer service skills.
- A strong communicator within all facets of a modern fire/EMS provider.
- An individual committed to the process of continuous improvement through study, data analysis, risk taking, and follow through.
- Steady, approachable, and dependable.
- A commitment to the organization with a genuine confidence and approachability to residents, businesses, and governmental leaders featuring strong communication skills.
- A Fire Chief that is an integral and engaged leader, with a strong background in modern fire, EMS, emergency management, and all hazard's practices.
- A Fire Chief that understands the need to use data for problem solving and community risk reduction efforts.
- The ability to mentor and foster leadership roles within the staff, succession planning, and a global vision of the community's needs are critical. Creativity and the ability to guide and balance change is a must.
- Strong budget skills supported by conservative fiscal management.
- Experience with managing career personnel.
- Experience with working with a collective bargaining group.

Successful candidates should also:

- Possess a Bachelor's Degree in Public Safety Leadership, Public Administration, Fire Science, Business Management, or related field from an accredited college or university is required. A master's degree is highly desired.
- Must have 10 years of senior officer leadership serving a community of similar size or greater with a comparable budget and personnel staffing levels is required.
- Other additional desirable qualifications include: a graduate of the National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer (or enrolled with a specific completion date), Chief Fire Officer Designation (or in process with a specific completion date), or similar certifications.



COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

The annual salary range for this position is \$135,000 - \$145,000 +/- DOQ. The City requires residency within the City corporate limits (there is some flexibility and can be discussed at time of offer). Residency is required within 6 months of appointment (can be negotiated within reason). The Chief is part of a "on-call" rotation every third week along with the Deputy Chiefs for responses and is expected to be available 24/7 during that period. The City offers a competitive benefits package including paid time off, medical, dental and life insurance, and options for retirement programs.

HOW TO APPLY

Candidates should apply by September 30, 2022 with a resume, cover letter, and contact information for five work-related references to www.GovHRjobs.com. Questions may be addressed to the attention of T.E Sashko, Vice President, GovHR USA, 630 Dundee Road, #225, Northbrook, IL 60062. Tel: 847-380-3240x123, or tsashko@govhrusa.com.

The [City of Sycamore](http://www.cityofsycamore.com) is an equal opportunity employer.



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