

Amberley Village NEWS

New Term Brings New Leadership

By Peg Conway, Council member

Photo courtesy of Rich Sofranko



From left: Ed Hattenbach, Peg Conway, Merrie Stillpass, Louis Katz, Leslie McIntosh, Fran Cohen, and Jon Chaiken

Although six incumbents returned along with just a single newcomer, it's still a whole new Council for the 2009 to 2011 term as a result of former Mayor Chuck Kamine's decision not to seek re-election. Council was sworn in by Judge Norbert Nadel on Dec. 3 at Village Hall. At the regular meeting on Dec. 14, Merrie Stillpass, previously Vice Mayor, was chosen as Mayor by the rest of Council, and Jon Chaiken was selected as Vice Mayor.

Ed Hattenbach of S. Whitetree Circle replaces Kamine as the District

A representative. Active for several years with the Beautification and Finance Committees, Hattenbach is a certified public accountant practicing in Anderson Township, where he has also served in community organizations. He and his wife, Shelly, moved to the Village in 1994. Along with Stillpass and Chaiken, Hattenbach joins continuing members Fran Cohen, Peg Conway, Louis Katz and Leslie McIntosh.

The founding chair of the Beautification Committee, Mayor

Stillpass was first elected to Council in 2005. She also served on the Planning Commission for 15 years. Her professional background is in urban planning, and she is committed to improving the built environment and quality of life through planning and design. Stillpass is a lifelong resident of Amberley and currently lives on Willowbrook Lane.

Vice Mayor Chaiken, also an Amberley native, was first elected to Council in 2007 after serving a year on the Planning Commission. Chaiken is President of the Brookwood Group in Oakley, which manufactures and distributes battery chargers, transformers and power supplies under the branded name Shauer. A resident of Brookwood Lane, he and his wife, Randi, are the parents of three daughters.

Council committee assignments as well as bios for all Council members can be found at AmberleyVillage.org, under Government and Administration/Council and Committees. ☐

Larger Recycling Carts Now Available

By Matthew Heldman

A very easy thing we all should do is follow the 3 **R**'s: **R**ecycle, **R**educe, and **R**euse, and the first of these can now be a lot easier for Amberley residents.

Recycle - You can upgrade to a 65-gallon, wheeled recycling cart for \$65. It holds nearly four times more material than

the 18-gallon bin, and the lid keeps contents from blowing or spilling. It is not available with rear line pickup, but the wheels make for easy handling. The cart is a new option; red bins remain available for free. To obtain the 65-gallon cart or a red bin, call 1-800-582-3107 or

continued on page 4



IN THIS ISSUE

The Mayor’s Desk 2

In The News 3

Village News 4

Stormwater Management
Progress Report 4

Power Outage
Protocols 4

Stay Up-to-Date at
AmberleyVillage.org 4

Fall Photo Contest
Winner 4

Amberley On the Road ... 5

Preschool Information
and Enrollment 5

Backyard Diversity 5

Canceled Carry Class ... 5

Change to Income
Tax Ordinance 6

Ice Cream Social
Coordinator Needed 6

Choosing Tree Care 6

New Solicitor
Appointments 6

Summer Camp at the J... 7

FREE “Family
Fit-Fun Day 7

Winter Wonderland
Photo Contest 8

Community Calendar 8

THE MAYOR’S DESK

Vision for the Future

By Mayor Merrie Stillpass



As the new Mayor I look forward to working with the Council, Village administration and citizens over the next term.

Most certainly the Village will face challenges over the next couple of years; some with short term solutions and others requiring big picture, long term resolution. Amberley has always been rated in the top tier of communities in the metropolitan Cincinnati area, and I will work hard with Council to continue that reputation.

I am committed to moving toward the vision for Amberley developed in 2008 by the Long-Range Planning Committee, which I chaired. Adopted by Council last year, the plan calls for Amberley to be *“identified as a place of diversity and tolerance for its vibrant mix of ages, nationalities, races and family styles residing within its peaceful, park-like setting. Hallmarks include the strong economic base, efficient local services and governance that maximize the central location in the Cincinnati region.”*

The plan includes goals and strategies in each of three sustainable pillars:

- Environment
- Economy
- Community

These pillars are mutually supporting and braid together to guide future decision-making. All decision-making should consider

both the positive and negative impacts of each pillar and its goals and objectives to enhance and add overall value to Amberley Village.

A desirable community has assets and features such as location, housing value, services, and natural environment that must be balanced financially and aesthetically. Council must look at how a decision in one arena affects all other aspects of our community’s quality of life, financial health and environment over the long term. This thought process will be used to consider recommendations from the Amberley Green Citizen Advisory Committee, development proposals for the North Site and other solutions to enhance the budget situation, and the impact of future construction plans and storm water projects.

Responsible government involves tough decisions, made only after due diligence and careful consideration as to what is best for the Village. As Mayor, my goal is to lead your Council in decisions that maintain and enhance property values through protection of quality of life, Village character, Village amenities, and provision of outstanding services.

I encourage you to read the long-range planning document, “Vision Pillars for Amberley Village in 2018.” It is available under the Forms and Documents section (in the Committees folder) of the website (AmberleyVillage.org). Council members as well as staff may be contacted via the website if you would like to offer input at any time. 📧

IN THE NEWS

If you have news to share about Amberley residents, please send it to Nicole Browder at nbrowder@AmberleyVillage.org (with a photo if possible).

Kamine Kudos

Photo courtesy of Rich Sofranko



Chuck Kamine

Merrie Stillpass offered a tribute to outgoing Mayor **Chuck Kamine** at the special Council meeting on Dec. 3, for his combined 25 years of service to the Village as a member of the Planning Commission, Council member and as Mayor. She noted the many positive developments under Chuck's leadership, such as the opening of a new neighborhood school, Pleasant Ridge Montessori, acquisition of the Amberley Green property, establishment of the Beautification Committee, and initiation of the annual Arbor Day celebration and Ice Cream Social. In addition to presenting

a commendation plaque from the Village, Stillpass also read congratulatory letters from Gov. Strickland, Rep. Steve Driehaus and Sen. Sherrod Brown. At his final Council meeting on Nov. 9, Kamine expressed thanks to members of the Village staff and past and current Council colleagues, and a standing ovation followed his speech. ☑

President and CEO

After five years of being on the board, Winding Way resident

Michael Fisher was elected as the president and CEO of the Cincinnati Children's Board of Trustees effective



Michael Fisher

January 1, 2010. Fisher graduated from Walnut Hills, obtained a degree in economics from Stanford University, and spent three years in administration at Northwestern University before returning to his home town. He has been a principal in his family's business, Fisher Investment Group, and president and CEO of Premier Manufacturing Support Services, which was a global enterprise when it was sold to The ServiceMaster Company in 1996. He led the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber of Commerce for five years starting in 2001. ☑

Team Captain

Photo courtesy of Rich Sofranko



Michael Conway

Senior **Michael Conway** of Springvalley Drive was elected co-captain of the 91-member St. Xavier swim team for the 2009-10 season. He is a three-

year varsity swimmer and has been a district-level qualifier the past two years in the statewide competition. He specializes in the freestyle and the butterfly. ☑

continued from page 1

email cincinnati.market@rumpke.com.

Are you recycling everything that you can? Rumpke now accepts ALL plastic bottles and jugs (no lids) and most types of paper. Check out the list at AmberleyVillage.org to see if there's anything you are missing. And you don't have to sort anything. Just throw all your items into your bin or cart.

Reduce - Try to reduce the amount of paper and plastic products you use by purchasing silverware instead of plastic ware and ceramic plates instead of paper ones. That way, we can reuse them.

Reuse - Instead of trashing disposable items, when you are finished with them, be creative and make it an art project and your kids can be involved. Teach them and yourself how to be green. Everyone will definitely have a blast!

A 7th grader at Walnut Hills and volunteer with Keep Cincinnati Beautiful, **Matthew Heldman** is passionate about keeping Amberley as green as possible. ☑

Board Member



Michael Oestreicher

Michael Oestreicher of Glen Acres Drive was appointed to the Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati's board of trustees. A partner with Thompson Hine, he also serves as chair of the board of trustees of Cincinnati State Technical and Community College; on the executive committee of the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce/Cincinnati USA Partnership for Economic Development; is past president of Isaac M. Wise Temple; and on the board of trustees, the executive committee and the finance and investment committee for Jewish Cemeteries of Greater Cincinnati, Inc. ☑



Stormwater Management Progress Report

By Vice Mayor Jon Chaiken

Though not readily visible most of the time, the role of Amberley's Stormwater Management Advisory Committee (SWMAC) is an important one. In 2003, Amberley Council created a stormwater utility to collect funds specifically to address these issues, and our quarterly payments to the utility via our Water Works bill contribute to the ongoing upgrade and maintenance of a system that logically, efficiently and safely moves stormwater through the community.

Under the guidance of the SWMAC, these funds are used to assist in the design, construction, repair, and maintenance of various stormwater systems and projects throughout our community. As of the end of 2009, projects have been completed on Lynnhaven, Lamarque, E. Aracoma, Aracoma Forest, Ridge Road, Springvalley, Elbrook, Fernwood, Beechlands, Longmeadow and at Village Hall. For 2010 there are already recommendations to do projects on Fair Oak, Elbrook, Galbraith, Arborcrest, Winding Way, Section, Fair Acres and Beechlands. The SWMAC has also requested studies to determine long range planning issues for the Willowbrook Creek corridor.

The SWMAC consists of four people from the community: two residents, one business owner and a Council representative. The Committee meets with staff to review projects, set goals, and address right-of-way issues that are related to run-off created from stormwater and development. These recommendations are typically then forwarded to Council for approval. ☑

Power Outage Protocols

By Chief Jack Monahan

During power outages, please call Duke Energy at 651-4182 to report the situation. Please do not contact the Amberley Public Safety Department about the outage unless you see live wires on the ground or sparks. Rest assured the Department knows when the power is out and makes the initial call to Duke. The Village cannot restore power. When residents call the Village to report an outage, it ties up all the phone lines and persons with emergencies cannot get through.

Also, officers on the road depend on the dispatcher, the person who answers the phone, to perform many essential

tasks. For example, a December power outage resulted from a transformer blowing up on Ridge Road. There were live arcing wires on the ground and a fire. Amberley officers at the scene depended on the dispatcher to call Duke Energy, dispatch firefighters, request additional emergency vehicles from neighboring communities and coordinate via the police and fire radio with those road officers.

While we pride ourselves in delivering the best public safety service to our community, we need your help during power outages. ☑

Stay Up-to-Date at AmberleyVillage.org

By Peg Conway, Council member

The Amberley website has become even easier to use with a re-formatted homepage that clearly shows what's new and recent in several areas: calendar, news, and documents (such as minutes or ordinances). It's a great way to stay informed in between newsletters. The Ask Village Hall section allows you to submit questions to Council and staff. RSS feeds are available, and you can post items of interest to social media like Facebook or Twitter. Navigation bars on the left and top continue to provide explanatory information about the Village. Check it out!! ☑



Fall Photo Contest Winner



Congratulations to the Kirwan family of Ridge Road! They are the winners of the "At Play in Nature"

Fall Photo Contest. Katie Kirwan submitted this photo she took of her daughters, Caitlin and Abby, pretending to be leaf monsters by jumping out of the leaf pile to surprise their dad, Ronan Kirwan. Look out!

Valencia Brown and Cotton Cobb received

Honorable Mention. Thanks to all who submitted entries. Check out the back page for the next contest. ☑



Amberley on the Road

Though he has departed from Village government, Chuck Kamine holds Amberley close! Over the holidays, he enjoyed respite in New York City and is shown here across the Hudson from the Empire State building.

All residents are invited to share photos of their travels with Amberley! Submit to Nicole Browder at NBrowder@AmberleyVillage.org. 📷

Photo courtesy of Darlene Kamine



Preschool Information and Enrollment



Amberley resident Christopher Mansfield, age 3, engages in work at PRM.

On Thurs., Feb. 11, Pleasant Ridge Montessori will host a Preschool Information and Enrollment Night at the school from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Teachers and current parents will be present in the preschool classrooms to answer questions and

talk about the Montessori program. A representative from Cincinnati Public Schools will be available to enroll interested families. No need to make a special trip to the district building! If you have preschool age children, consider joining this vibrant educational community. 📷



UPCOMING EVENTS



Backyard Diversity Lecture

By Leslie McIntosh, Council member

Wildlife specialists from Ohio State University will address the topic of coyotes and geese in the residential environment on Sat., April 17, 10 a.m. at Village Hall.

Stanley D. Gehrt, an associate

professor at Ohio State and adjunct senior scientist at the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation, is the principal investigator of the largest urban coyote study conducted to date, with over 400 coyotes captured and monitored.

Topic: Coyotes and Geese
April 17, 10:00 a.m.

Marne Titchenell received bachelor's and master's degrees from Ohio State University where she developed a passion for environmental education. She provides education workshops on wildlife ecology and biology, habitat management for

Concealed Carry Class

By Chief Jack Monahan

Responding to resident requests, the Public Safety Department will once again offer a class on the Ohio Concealed Carry Law for interested residents. It will be held on a Friday and Saturday in March or April pending instructor availability. Specifics will be posted at AmberleyVillage.org in the calendar section. Please let the Department know of your interest by calling 531-2040.

Class size will be limited to 10-15

people. Sessions will be conducted in the Amberley Village Police Training room and firing range; 10 hours of classroom and 2 hours on the range. Cost is \$150. A valid

Held on Friday & Saturday
in March or April - TBD

Ohio Driver's License is required to enroll. Successful completion of the class will provide eligibility for a Concealed Carry Permit. 📷



Mark Your Calendar!

ARBOR DAY May 2
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Plan to attend this annual fun community event.



Change to Income Tax Ordinance Don't File Late!

By Kathleen Harcourt, Tax Administrator

An ordinance instituting a penalty for LATE filing and NON-FILING of all tax returns, including those with no tax due, was passed by Village Council in November 2009. The penalty will be the greater of the penalty and interest due on unpaid tax or \$25 for the first violation, \$50 for the second violation and \$100 for the third and any subsequent violations.

There are two facts that are important to remember regarding this change. First, filing a tax return is mandatory in Amberley Village for all full and part time residents. You will be fined if you don't file or file late. Second, if you file a federal extension, you must file a timely extension (before April 15) with Amberley Village to avoid this fine. Extension forms are available at AmberleyVillage.org, or submit a copy of your federal extension form. A phone call or a copy of an extension after the fact will not be sufficient. ☑

For Tax Tips on filing in Amberley, refer to AmberleyVillage.org.



Ice Cream Social Coordinator Needed!!

If you enjoy organizing events and would like to be more involved in the Village, please consider volunteering to coordinate the Ice Cream Social in 2010. Support and guidance are provided by the Public Outreach Committee and Village staff. Contact Councilmember Peg Conway at ConwayOnCouncil@aol.com if interested. ☑

Choosing Tree Care

By Dave Stang

Lately it seems that a lot of tree companies are knocking on my door. They say they are "working in the area" and it will be a savings for me to have them work on my trees. Be selective about who cares for your trees. Here are some suggestions on how to pick a qualified tree company:

1. Unless there is an immediate danger to your house, there is no reason to hurry and make a decision. Do a little research, and call the Better Business Bureau. This takes only one phone call and only a few minutes. If a friend has worked with a company a number of times, use their referral if they are happy with the work.
2. You should always get a written estimate explaining the work to be performed. A simple pruning of a tree can mean many things and you are entitled to know exactly how your tree is to be pruned. And NEVER pay for the service up front.
3. Before you let anyone work on your trees, ask a few questions. Are they fully insured? Often they

can show you proof of Workers Compensation Insurance, but are all their personnel covered?

Many low-bid companies only cover a core group and the rest are "sub contractors" and are not covered.

4. The work should be done by a Certified Arborist or at least supervised by a Certified Arborist. Improper pruning can lead to future decay problems that can not be corrected and can reduce the vigor and safety of the tree.

Most of us enjoy living in the Village because of the large trees. They are a huge asset to the property value. Improper pruning can reduce the life of the tree and the value of your property. Be careful of the "drive by" tree companies. A qualified tree company does not need to go door to door drumming up business. ☑



New Solicitor Appointments

By Peg Conway, Council member

Council appointed Robert Molloy of the law firm Wood & Lamping as solicitor for the Village at its January 11 meeting. Molloy has been practicing in public sector law for more than 30 years and also serves Madeira, Terrace Park, Greenhills and Waynesville. The appointment constitutes a continuing relationship for Amberley as Molloy and others from the firm have periodically provided special counsel to the Village.

Additionally, Stacy Lefton was appointed to prosecute cases on

behalf of the Village in Mayor's Court. Since 2005, Lefton has been with the Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office, handling cases in municipal court.

The solicitor serves for the two-year term of the Council that appoints him or her. Council conducted interviews with five candidates before selecting Molloy and Lefton.

"Steve Cohen, our previous solicitor, served Amberley for more than 30 years, and we are grateful for his long-standing dedication to the Village," said Mayor Merrie Stillpass. ☑



Summer Camp at the J

By Lauryn Moore

Summer may feel far away, but priority sign-up for camp at the J will happen soon. All camps are open to the public; J Members who enroll their child(ren) before March 3 receive a discount. On June 14, Camp at the J will start its third summer at the Mayerson JCC, with a broad range of camps for ages 18 months to kids entering eighth grade. There are 6-week, 3-week, and 1-week sessions to accommodate varying schedules. All JCC camps offer extended day options, and programs are available through August 20. At the end of the summer, campers can enjoy several different 1-week specialty camps offered July 26 through Aug. 20. Advance registration is required for all Camp at the J sessions, and many camps fill early. For more information, call 513.761.7500, e-mail daycamp@mayersonjcc.org, or visit jointhej.org. 📱



Important Dates to Remember:

JCC Summer Job Fair, Wednesday, Feb. 24; 7pm

Camp at the J Parent Information Night, Wednesday, March 3; 7pm

Camp at the J Open House, Sunday, June 13; 10 am - noon

FREE “Family Fit-Fun Day”

By Lauryn Moore



The entire community is invited to attend the FREE “Family Fit-Fun Day” at the Mayerson JCC (8485 Ridge Road) on Sun., Mar. 21, from noon - 4 pm. This event features fun activities for all ages. Families with children

will enjoy inflatable moonbounces and a broad array of fun games in the gym. Children’s Hospital is sponsoring a free bike helmet give-away for kids (while supplies last), and the Amberley Village Police Department will offer bike helmet fittings and safety-themed crafts for kids. Young children

can learn the ins and outs of fire engines with interactive fire truck tours conducted by the Amberley Village Fire Department.

Adults (ages 16+) can participate in a Triathlon, a dance marathon, and/

or a 2-hour indoor cycling session. Attendees can also try out Pilates Reformers and race virtual ATVs with the JCC Cateye GameBikes™. The J Spa will offer free chair massages, mini facials, and mini manicures throughout the day. People who attend on March 21 can enter a raffle to win several high-value prizes, including mountain bikes (for adults and children).

Local health and fitness-related businesses like Bishops Bicycles, GNC, and The Running Spot will host informational booths in the spacious Amberley Room. Representatives from Children’s Hospital, Jewish Hospital, and the Alliance for Integrative Medicine will offer specialty health seminars as well. For more information, call 513.761.7500, e-mail therrmann@mayersonjcc.org, or visit jointhej.org. 📱

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Community Calendar

February

1	Planning Commission/ Board of Zoning Appeals	7:00 p.m.
8	Council Meeting	7:30 p.m.
11	Preschool Info and Enrollment at Pleasant Ridge Montessori	5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
15	Presidents Day	<i>Administration Offices Closed</i>
16	Health, Education & Welfare Committee Meeting	7:00 p.m.
22	AVBC Meeting Community Room	7:30 p.m.

March

1	Planning Commission/ Board of Zoning Appeals	7:00 p.m.
8	Council Meeting	7:30 p.m.
20	Winter Wonderland Photo Contest entries due	anytime
21	Family "Fit-Fun" Day at Mayerson JCC	Noon to 4:00 p.m.
22	AVBC Meeting Community Room	7:30 p.m.

April

2	Good Friday	<i>Administration Offices Closed</i>
5	Planning Commission/ Board of Zoning Appeals	7:00 p.m.
12	Council Meeting	7:30 p.m.
26	AVBC Meeting Community Room	7:30 p.m.

Winter Wonderland Photo Contest

The Winter Wonderland photo contest takes place until March 20, so plan to submit your shots of this season's beauty. The winner will be notified by April 20.

Submitted photos should be color, no smaller than 3" x 5" and no larger than 8" x 10". They must be taken somewhere in Amberley Village during the contest period. Submit your digital photo (preferred) to the Village Clerk, Nicole Browder, at NBrowder@AmberleyVillage.org. Or you can bring a print copy to Village Hall, 7149 Ridge Road, by the deadline. Entries will be judged by the Village Manager, Bernie Boraten, and members of the Public Outreach Committee of Council. Winning photos are framed and displayed in Village Hall.

All photos submitted for consideration will not be returned, and the contributor grants to Amberley Village an unrestricted license to use the photos in the newsletter, on the website, or in other promotional materials for the Village. One entry per resident, please.

Members of Council, employees of Amberley Village and their immediate family members are not eligible to participate. ☑

ICRC Council Meeting Schedule

Monthly Amberley Village Council meetings can be watched on Time Warner Cable channel 4 on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. and Fridays at 10:00 a.m. You can also view them online at icrcvtv.com. ☑

The Amberley Village News is the official publication of the Village Council. It comes out quarterly, approximately Feb. 1, May 1, Aug. 1 and Nov. 1. **Editor:** Peg Conway, Chair of Public Outreach Committee; **Production Assistant:** Nicole Browder; **Design and Printing:** Cox Ohio Media