

Amberley Village NEWS

SPRING 2010

Arbor Day 2010 – May 2, 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.

By Leslie McIntosh, Council Member

Photo courtesy of Tracy McMullen



Sign up today for Arbor Day in Amberley! It's a great way to meet neighbors as you contribute to the community. All ages and abilities are welcome.

Volunteers are needed for tree care projects, planting flower beds in the newly refurbished Village Hall front garden, as well as tending the rain garden and flower beds around the walking trail and at the corner of Ridge and Section Roads.

Contact Nicole Browder at Village Hall (531-8675 or NBrowder@AmberleyVillage.org) to volunteer. You'll be rewarded with the 2010 Arbor Day/Green-Up Day tee shirt, a reusable water bottle and refreshments. Sun hats, sunscreen and gardening gloves are recommended.

Information related to pruning, proper mulching

technique, hardiness zones and composting will be available. The Amberley History Room will be open for visitors and has new updated displays. A plant swap table will be open - please mark each plant with plant name and sun/shade preference.

Founded in 1872, Arbor Day is a national observance that encourages tree planting and care. Amberley's event is hosted annually by the Environmental Stewardship Committee, Cincinnati Park Board, and Green-Up Cincinnati. Last year, more than 80 volunteers from youth groups, Scout troops, University of Cincinnati and Adath Israel joined local officials and residents in the day's activities. ☑



Photo courtesy of Tracy McMullen

"Green" Disposal Opportunities

Besides beautifying our Village, Arbor Day also promotes sound "green" practices. This year, Amberley residents will have two such opportunities during the Arbor Day celebration:



- Shred Safe, a company that shreds and recycles paper for post-consumer uses, will be on hand to collect and shred your unneeded paper documents in an ecological manner with complete confidentiality.
- Old tires will be collected for recycling through a program offered by Keep Cincinnati Beautiful. ☑

Committee Name Change

To more accurately reflect the scope of its work, the Beautification Committee has renamed itself the **Environmental Stewardship Committee**. While improving the appearance of Amberley's public spaces is a priority, the Committee also focuses on sustainability and biodiversity in its programs. The community calendar at AmberleyVillage.org lists the ESC's meetings and activities. ☑

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THE MAYOR'S DESK

Improving First Impressions

By Mayor Merrie Stillpass



Over the winter holidays many residents asked about the earth movement between the two driveways at Village Hall. I hope that project is the start of several such efforts to enhance and add overall value to Amberley, and I invite your involvement!

The prominence of the concrete slab with the upright pipes in front of Village Hall made for an unattractive focal point and has been a concern of the Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC) for some time. A plan was prepared and budget approved but later postponed until after the new water main and repaving work on Ridge Road. In 2008, the ESC sought help to reevaluate the plan and adjust the plant materials to be deer resistant and drought tolerant. Due to budgetary considerations, the plan also was revised to be implemented in several phases.

The first phase, which residents observed in December, was funded with previously budgeted funds. It prepared the site, planted four *Parrotia persica* trees and installed sod with immediately noticeable results. The re-sculpted hill and earth berm basically hide the slab and pipes as well as soften the view of the concrete curb and driveway. Definitely more pleasing curb appeal for our Village offices! At Arbor Day on May 2, volunteers working under the direction of designer Sharon

Floro will plant additional shrubs, grasses and perennials.

This project took its design cues from the North Gateway envisioned for the main entry into the Village at Ronald Reagan and Ridge Road. A plan was prepared by Meisner + Associates with input from the ESC and the Long-Range Planning Committee. Native plants, a signature tree, a wall and new entry signage are all elements of the plan which can be viewed in the ESC section of the Village website (AmberleyVillage.org). More detailed design work and planning is underway for this area which will require easements from the adjoining property owners.

It is anticipated that funding for this project will be obtained through grants and private donations. Council appropriated \$30,000 for the southeast quadrant of the gateway project with the provision that these funds would be matched prior to project commencement.

You can help improve our community! Sign up to help at Arbor Day (see front page article). Or, if you would prefer to make a financial contribution, a series of parties to raise funds to help complete these projects are being planned for the fall of 2010. If you'd like to learn more about the events and/or serve on a committee, please contact Councilmember Leslie McIntosh, ESC Chair, via the Village website.

Together, we'll create indelible impressions of Amberley Village for visitors from both near and far. 🌱

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).

Women of the Year

Two Amberley residents have been chosen as Women of the Year by the Cincinnati Enquirer and will be honored at a luncheon on April 28.

Suzette Fisher, a founding member of the Women's Leadership Council for the United Way, serves on the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati's allocation committee and visits recipients of the organization's family services. In addition, she helped reshape the scope and structure of education at Rockwern Academy, a Jewish school serving preschool-grade 8.



Ronna Willis' commitment to philanthropy has been demonstrated through her participation as chair of major fundraising

events for Playhouse in the Park, Cincinnati Opera and the Cincinnati Ballet, as well as three galas for the Jewish Hospital. She also serves on committees for the ballet, supporting

dancers' needs for housing and education. ☑

JCC Honorees

The Mayerson JCC will honor **Nancy and David Wolf** at their



annual golf outing on June 10, recognizing their significant input in planning the new JCC, David's continued involvement with JCC operations and facility, and Nancy's participation on the JCC building arts committee. The Wolfs donated the sculpture by Albert Paley at the entrance of the Mayerson JCC, entitled "The Light." Additionally, they were active in the development of the Contemporary Arts Center and helped establish a contemporary art exhibit at the Cincinnati Art Museum. For information about the golf outing, contact LMoore @mayersonjcc.org by May 28. ☑

New Chair

Marc Fisher, a former president of the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati, has been named chair of the consulting committee of the Jewish Federations of North America. In this capacity, Fisher will serve on the executive committee as well as coordinating council. ☑

All-Star

Cincinnati Country Day senior **Matt Lesser** has been selected to compete in the 2010 East West All-Star Game, to be played on June 10. In addition to garnering team honors as Lineman of the Year and Iron Man, Matt was selected as a Miami Valley Conference First Team All-Conference offensive lineman, an All-District Second Team offensive lineman and received an Honorable Mention among the Enquirer All-Stars for Southwestern Ohio. His parents are Richard and Mary Lesser of Meadowbrook Drive. ☑



Up and Coming Leader

Seven Hills fifth grader **Charlie Goldsmith** of Amberley has been accepted into the People to People World Leadership



Forum and will travel to Washington, DC to study leadership and explore DC monuments and institutions. He was chosen based on outstanding scholastic merit, civic involvement, and leadership potential. ☑

Second Lieutenant

Wesley Tyler Sloat was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Air Force after graduating from Xavier University in December. He has been chosen for pilot training and is based at Columbus Air Force Based in Mississippi. Wesley, son of France and Bill Sloat on South Farmcrest, grew up in Amberley and already holds a private pilot's license. ☑



Lt. Wesley Tyler Sloat

Attention, Class of 2010

Please submit your name for inclusion in our 2010 Grad Listing in the Summer issue of the newsletter. Email to nbrowder@AmberleyVillage.org. ☑

Professional Honors

Congratulations to the following employees and residents who continue to develop their skills for the benefit of Amberley!

Amberley's Executive Assistant and Clerk of Council **Nicole Browder** has earned the designation of Certified Municipal Clerk, which is awarded by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC). Founded in 1947, IIMC is the leading professional nonprofit association of Municipal Clerks and officials from cities and towns around the world.

Lt. Richard Wallace

recently completed the Certified Law Enforcement (CLEE) Program and was honored at their graduation luncheon in February. Involving a significant commitment of time for the course work, the CLEE Program is designed to elevate the standards of excellence for law enforcement executives, benefiting not only the individual but also the agencies in which they work and practice, and their communities.

Tom Karr of the Village Maintenance Department and resident **Albert Tomasi** of the Environmental Stewardship Committee recently received Associate Certificates from the Tree Commission Academy for tree study with the Urban Foresters Institute of the Ohio Division of Forestry. Tom and Albert have been attending classes over the past 4 months and anticipate graduation in early 2011. 🌱



Why Trees Need Pruning

By Dave Stang

In the last newsletter I explained how you pick a reputable tree company. The next question one would ask is "Why do I need to have my trees examined or pruned? After all, trees grow quite well in the woods without the need of an arborist."

Trees do die in the forest, but you never miss the few that die because there are so many. If one tree goes there are many to replace it. If a tree falls, it only hits other trees. Does a tree make a sound when it falls and no one is around?

A tree in your yard would be missed if one dies or falls. Losing a major tree can decrease property value, not to mention the quality of your outdoor life.

You remove dead branches from a tree for three reasons.

1. Safety considerations are significant. A large dead

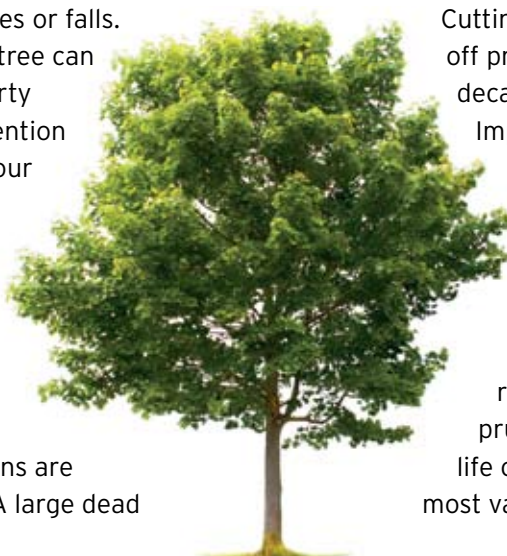
branch that falls 50' to 60' represents quite a bit of force. Hopefully someone will not be under it.

2. Removal of dead branches improves the looks. It is amazing how a large oak tree can be improved aesthetically with the dead branches removed.
3. Removing dead branches from the tree improves the tree's health. If a large branch is allowed to stay on the tree, decay sets up and eventually will spread into the trunk or next major branch.

Cutting the dead branch off properly will keep the decay from spreading.

Improper pruning will allow the decay to spread faster.

Inspection and proper pruning can prevent future costly removals. Proper pruning can extend the life of your property's most valuable asset. 🌳



Nancy Moran, Chair of the 2009 Ice Cream Social, and her son, Michael, set up the scooping area.

Save the Date!

Annual Ice Cream Social

Sunday, Aug. 15

7:00 to 9:00 p.m.





Nominations Sought for 2010 Amberley Village Beautification Awards

By Jim Kelly, Environmental Stewardship Committee

The Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC) is pleased to announce the commencement of the 6th annual Amberley Village Beautification Awards. These awards recognize key elements of gardening and landscaping undertaken by residents to maintain and enhance the natural beauty that surrounds their homes and our Village.

The Green Landscape award category returns this year, with nominees featuring elements such as a sustainable garden or functional features such as a rain garden, native plants, drought-resistant plants and vegetable gardens. Judging will be done by Sharon Floro, landscape architect principal of GroundWork Design Collaborative, LLC, and another judge yet to be named.

Each of the four award categories listed below will each be divided into "Professional" and "By Owner" classifications for judging:

- Best Curb Appeal
- Best Overall Landscape
- Best Backyard Haven
- Best Green Landscape

A 2010 nomination form is below. They are also available at Village Hall and at AmberleyVillage.org. Completed forms should be submitted to Nicole Browder in the

administration office by Friday June 18. All nominees will then be asked to complete a brief questionnaire to assist in the judging.

Judging will conclude by July 19, typically the peak landscape and flower display month for Cincinnati. Winners will be announced at the Ice Cream Social on August 15. ☑



AMBERLEY VILLAGE BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS BALLOT FOR GARDEN NOMINATIONS

Garden being nominated: *please print*

Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Please select one of the following award categories for this nomination:

Additional comments: *(if desired):*

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Best Curb Appeal | AND |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Best Overall Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> By Owner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Best Green Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Best Backyard Haven | |

Nominated by: _____

Phone: _____



Judging will occur by
July 19, 2010

Awards will be presented
in August at the Ice Cream Social

**Return Nomination Form
no later than June 18 to:**

Nicole Browder
Village Hall
7149 Ridge Road
Cincinnati, OH 45237



Winter Photo Contest Winner



Congratulations to Debbie Wallander of East Galbraith Road, whose photo was selected as the winning entry in the Winter Wonderland contest. Entries by Valencia Brown and Ronald Meyer were named Honorable Mention. Thanks to all who participated! Check the back page for information on the spring contest. 📷

Community Dinner Invitation

All Saints Church of Pleasant Ridge invites residents of surrounding communities for an evening of good food and friendship free of charge. Please join us on the last Wednesday of each month, beginning on Wednesday, April 28. For more information, visit allsaintscincinnati.org. 📷

Amberley on the Road

Barbados is a great getaway during the winter months. Barbadian native Donald Tull and Amberley resident Errol Stern are in front of the Morgan Lewis Mill on the west coast of Barbados in the eastern Caribbean. Stern's Amberley bag was used as a beach bag and picnic bag on a picture perfect day. 📷



Photo courtesy of Leslie McIntosh

Spring Storms, Tornadoes and Lightning Strikes

By Chief Jack Monahan

Spring is in the air, and that means thunderstorms, lightning strikes, the possibility of tornadoes and flooding. Amberley Village has not been immune to tornadoes in past years as they have travelled up Ridge Road, up Elbrook and even into the north end of the Village. Follow these safety precautions to deal with weather situations.

In the event of a tornado watch, warning, or severe thunderstorm, the best location in your house is either in the basement or in the bathroom if you do not have a basement. The bathroom is protected by all the piping that surrounds it, and the basement is protected due to being located below the grade of the surface. It is a good idea to turn TV's and computers off during storms and is highly recommended that they have a battery backup or a circuit protector. Please stay away from windows during these storms as lightning can penetrate the windows.

Safe shelter from lightning is a house or other substantial building that contains a mechanism for conducting the electrical current to the ground. Small shelters such as sheds offer little or no protection from lightning. However, shelter is possible within an enclosure of conductive material such as an automobile. A typical lightning flash lasts about a quarter of a second and is approximately 6 miles long. Most lightning strikes occur either at the beginning or end of a storm.

Many basements are flooded during these spring storms due to driveway drains being clogged and poor landscaping around the base of your home. Make sure there is a gentle slope of dirt leading away from your home to keep water from pooling around your foundation, and clear off drains regularly. 📷



Dance and Diversity

"Cultures of Dance" will be presented at the Mayerson JCC on May 23 at 3:00 p.m. A new collaborative effort by ballet tech cincinnati and the Cincinnati Ballet, it showcases a broad range of cultures and styles, with dancers representing contemporary ballet, Hip Hop,

musical theater, Chinese and Indian dance. The performance includes a short history of dance and an interactive component that engages audience members onstage.



For more information or to purchase tickets (\$5 each), visit JointheJ.org or call 761-7500. 



Photo courtesy of Leslie McIntosh

Have You Seen Me? Where in Amberley Am I?


By Leslie McIntosh

When Bill and Kelly Baker of Ridge Road started to remove the holiday lights from the small tree at the edge of their property, their young daughter, Katie, begged them to keep the lights on all the time. Thanks to Katie, now nine years old and a student at Nativity School, passersby can enjoy the seasonal lighting display: Valentine's Day (pink), St. Patrick's Day (green), Easter (pink, yellow, and purple mix), Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day (red, white and blue) and Halloween (orange). They also light the tree to celebrate Nativity School (blue) and Kennedy Heights Montessori (purple). 

Self-Assessment for Reaccreditation

By Chief Jack Monahan

The Amberley Village Police Department has been undergoing self-assessment for reaccreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The accreditation program is a voluntary process in which police departments must comply with state of the art standards covering four basic areas: policy and procedure, administration, operations and support services. There are over four hundred standards.

Amberley Village Police Department was originally accredited in 1993. This reaccreditation will be the sixth one. The on-site inspection was conducted March 27- 30 by two inspectors, one from Georgia and one from Illinois. As part of the assessment, members of the community were invited to offer comments at a public session on March 29. 

Council Actions

January

- Resolution authorizing and directing the Village Manager to prepare specifications and advertise for bids for the 2009 Phase II Stormwater Projects
- Resolution establishing suburban deer management/reduction measure
- Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 2008-25 passed December 8, 2008, to provide for supplemental appropriations
- Ordinance appropriating funds for the fiscal year 2009 and declaring an emergency


- Ordinance replacing section 72.73 of the village code of ordinances, pertaining to child restraint systems, and declaring an emergency
- Ordinance appointing attorney Robert P. Malloy, Esq., as Solicitor for the Village and declaring an emergency

February:

- A resolution adopting final legislation in connection with obtaining financing from the Ohio Department of Transportation for the Galbraith Road project

- Resolution authorizing the Village Manager to approve change orders by Sunesis Construction for a storm sewer replacement project on Aracoma Forest Drive
- Ordinance amending appropriations for the fiscal year 2010 and declaring an emergency

March:

- Resolution authorizing the Center for Local Government to act as agent for Amberley Village related to the CLG electric joint purchasing collaborative 

Village Hall Contact Info

Administration - 531-8675 Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Police/Fire Non-emergency - 531-2040 24 hours a day/7 days a week

EMERGENCY - 911

Website: AmberleyVillage.org,
 click on the Contact link

7149 RIDGE ROAD
 AMBERLEY VILLAGE, OH 45237
 PH 513-531-8675 • FX 513-531-8154
 AMBERLEYVILLAGE.ORG

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Calendar

The Community Calendar at AmberleyVillage.org is regularly updated with information about events, meetings and programs in the Village.

May

2	Arbor Day Celebration	12:00-4:00 p.m.
3	Planning Commission/ Board of Zoning Appeals	7:00 p.m.
10	Council Meeting	7:30 p.m.
24	Environmental Stewardship Committee Meeting	7:30 p.m.
31	Memorial Day - Administration Offices	Closed

June

7	Planning Commission/ Board of Zoning Appeals	7:00 p.m.
14	Council Meeting	7:30 p.m.
28	Environmental Stewardship Committee Meeting	7:30 p.m.

July

5	Independence Day Observed	Administration Offices Closed
TBA	Planning Commission/ Board of Zoning Appeals	7:00 p.m.
12	Council Meeting	7:30 p.m.
26	Environmental Stewardship Committee Meeting	7:30 p.m.

Spring Photo Contest

The Amberley Spring Beauty photo contest is underway until June 20, so grab your camera! 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 stated above. Entries will be judged by the Village Manager Bernie Boraten and members of the Public Outreach Committee of the 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 and unrestricted license to use the photos in the newsletter, on our 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. 📺

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