

Amberley Village NEWS

FALL 2010

Budget Overview: Addressing Deficits

Like many municipalities, Amberley Village faces new fiscal challenges in the present economic downturn. While deficit budgets have occurred in Amberley during the past decade, cash reserves and occasional large inheritance tax payments along with ongoing efforts to minimize expenses, have offset the deficits to a great extent. Responsible stewardship requires that the Village take action to ensure a reliable revenue stream, address

budget deficits and maintain a healthy cash reserve.

The 2011 budget approved in July includes estimated revenue of just more than \$4.6 million and projected expenses of nearly \$6.3 million, for a potential deficit of almost \$1.7 million. Typically, actual deficits have been less than projected, but it is important for the Village's future financial health to address the situation now. ☐

Budget Solutions

Village Council and the administration are proactively trying to find budget solutions. Operational efficiency is a high priority. Amberley participates in two different purchasing pools to keep costs down for a variety of expenses, including employee benefits, gasoline, salt and office supplies. Our combined police/fire department is a model envied by many other small communities for its cost savings.

Efforts to identify new efficiencies will continue. However, the Village will need additional savings and revenue. As a first step, an ordinance that would reduce the reciprocity credit on local income taxes to one percent has been introduced. Council will vote on this measure at its Nov. 8 meeting. This change is projected to result in \$900,000 in additional revenue.

However, changing the income tax credit alone is not sufficient. Council will examine a broad array of other strategies, which could include reducing or eliminating some municipal services, implementing fees, and/or the addition of new property taxes to pay for specific services.

High-quality services are a hallmark of living in Amberley and a reason that many choose to locate here. It is important for the future economic health of the Village that actions are taken today to preserve our identity while increasing revenues and balancing costs to create a financial solution that will work for Amberley Village for many years. ☐

Deficit Causes

A number of factors contribute to budget deficits in Amberley. As annual expenses have increased, revenue to the Village has either remained flat or decreased. Issues affecting the budget include:

- Lower income tax revenues since the departure of Gibson Greetings - While the Village had taken steps to lessen its reliance on Gibson for revenue, the company provided about 24 percent of the Village's tax revenue. That revenue has yet to be fully replaced.
- The residential nature of our Village
 - Property taxes on homes combined with income taxes paid by residents
 - and workers in the Village are not sufficient to fund all expenses. The Village only receives about 10 percent of total property taxes paid by residents.
- Effects of the housing crisis - Many property values in the Village have either remained flat, or have decreased. And in areas affected by distressed sales and foreclosures, property values decreased significantly, as much as 30%, which translates to lower revenue to the Village.
- Rising costs - Expenses have risen by an average of 3-4% over the past decade. ☐



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Mayor's Column

By Mayor Merrie Stillpass



In addition to our regular review of activities and events, this newsletter contains important information concerning the economic health of the Village. During the last few years, the daily

news has been full of stories of how the current economy is affecting businesses and governments of all sizes. Hamilton County and nearby cities have had drastic budget problems. As our cover stories describe, Amberley has not been immune. We have been facing budget deficits for several years. Village Council is working diligently to address this ongoing concern.

Continuous deficits can hurt the Village. We always have run a pretty lean operation here in terms of our size and expenditures. Council is working with the administration to continue to find opportunities to streamline operations and contain expenses while also finding new revenue streams.

However, efficiencies and cost savings likely will not be enough to eliminate future deficits. As noted below, Village Council is considering a change to the reciprocity of local income taxes. The current proposal, which would lower the reciprocity from two percent to

one percent, is expected to bring about \$900,000 in new revenue to the Village.

This issue also begins a series highlighting the businesses in Amberley. They are weathering the economic downturn and have managed to find market opportunities. E-Z Pack and Saturday Knight Ltd., two of our local businesses, are profiled on the following pages.

Also on the economic development front, the Long Range Planning Committee is exploring new business opportunities for the North Site and Amberley Green guided by the Economy Pillar in the Vision Plan for 2018, which states "Amberley's efficiently managed government provides residents with superior services while maintaining a significant reserve fund. The Village enhances its economic base by attracting a mix of businesses to appropriately zoned areas."

Council is working hard with administration to continue to examine all opportunities and ways to increase revenue and lower costs for the Village, keeping in mind what people value about living in Amberley Village. Your input is important. Please contact Council online at AmberleyVillage.org to offer your thoughts. The website also will list notices of upcoming meetings if you'd like to learn more. □

Income Tax Reciprocity Proposal

Amberley Village has faced budget deficits for several years. Additional, reliable revenues are needed to combat the situation. An ordinance that would reduce the reciprocity credit on local income taxes was introduced at the Sept. 13 Council meeting and will be voted on at the Nov. 8 meeting. This change is projected to result in \$900,000 in additional revenue.

Residents currently receive credit for any local income tax paid to a different municipality up to two percent, so an Amberley resident pays the difference

between two percent and what they are taxed where they work.

As an example, an Amberley resident working in a municipality that has a 1.5 percent tax currently pays the Village just 0.5 percent. The proposed ordinance would change the maximum income tax credit to one percent, so someone who works in a municipality with a 1.5 percent tax rate would now owe one percent in income tax to the Village. Someone who earns \$50,000 would pay \$750 to the municipality where they work and \$500 to Amberley under the new proposal. □

IN THE NEWS

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

Awards and Promotions



Adam Wolf

Adam Wolf, a senior at Walnut Hills High School, was named a semifinalist in the annual National Merit Scholarship Program on the basis of his score on the qualifying

Preliminary SAT last fall.

Julie Shifman and **Cynthia Booth** were recipients of a 2010 Athena Award, which recognizes women who have achieved professional excellence, given back to their communities and created leadership opportunities. Shifman owns Act Three, a career coaching firm for women, and Booth is the president and CEO of COBCO Enterprises, a McDonald's franchise.

Kim and Gary Heiman received the Community Service Award of the American Jewish Committee Cincinnati for outstanding service as volunteers, leaders and philanthropists. They are owners of Standard Textile. Kim is past president of the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati and a Cincinnati Enquirer Woman of the Year. Gary serves on the Board of Trustees at the University of Cincinnati and is president of the Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati.

A dedicated volunteer at CET since 1971, **Fran Cohen** received their Charles W. Vaughan Award. She was recognized for her leadership in raising funds as chair



Fran Cohen



Officer Tim Schmidtgoessling (center) is accompanied by his wife (left) as he is sworn in by Mayor Merrie Stillpass.

of the Action Auction, a member of the Board of Trustees, and as chair of the Premier Circle Committee.

Wendy Lieberman, a teacher at a Blue Ash KinderCare Learning Center, was honored with an Early Childhood Educator Award from Knowledge Universe, a provider of early childhood education and care. Lieberman was surprised with the award and \$10,000 prize in front of students, parents and colleagues. She didn't know that her colleagues had nominated her.

Congratulations to **Tim Schmidtgoessling** of the Amberley Police/Fire Department who was promoted to Sergeant at the Sept. 14 Council meeting, after finishing first out of six in a promotional process that included a written test, oral testing and interviews, a writing project and a psychological review. A member of the department since June 2005, his duties now will also include supervision on second and third shifts. ☑

PRM News

Pleasant Ridge Montessori School's 2nd annual spaghetti dinner was a huge success. Italianette Restaurant sponsored the dinner, providing spaghetti, salad, and garlic bread. More than 500 people of all ages went through the food line! There



Tate Vernon, Jake Tucker-Sullivan, Max Kinyalocets, and Sam Goering enjoy their carnival prizes.

were clowns, carnival games and prizes, face painters, as well as a special appearance from the Bengals' own Who Dey! The money raised will be used to purchase extra Montessori supplies and materials to help enrich the curriculum for all PRM students. ☑

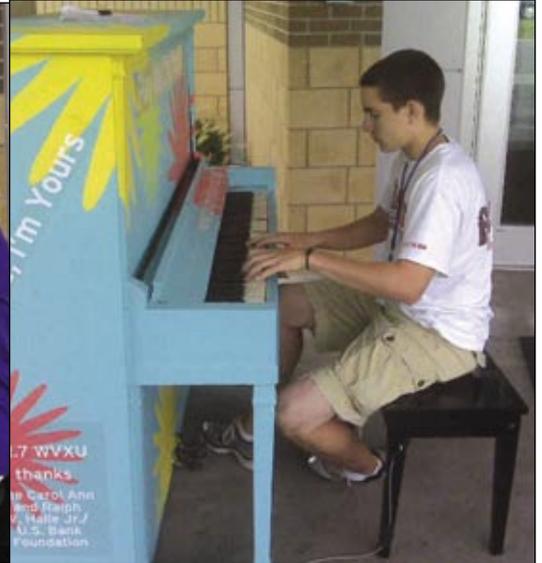


Play Me, I'm Yours

At the encouragement of their teacher, **Terry Granick**, Amberley pianists **Kevin Boyle** and **Anastacia Taylor** try their skills on the piano placed at the entrance to the Mayerson JCC this Aug. 5 to Sept. 16 as part of the city-wide "Play Me I'm Yours" exhibit. International artist Luke Jerram conceived the exhibit as a way to invite the public to interact with the urban environment. He has installed more than 300 pianos in 16 cities so far. Local arts groups did the painting, and the Cincinnati event marked significant anniversaries for WGUC, WVXU and WMUB. ☑



Anastacia Taylor



Kevin Boyle

"Frog Days" of Summer

Congratulations to Tom Nader who submitted the winning entry in the Summer Photo Contest! ☑



Amberley Interns

Three students from the University of Cincinnati are serving as interns in Amberley, furthering their education and providing volunteer assistance to Council and Village staff.

Tim Roy, a senior criminal justice major, is interning with the Police/Fire Department. As part of his Capstone Project, Tim must complete 72 hours of unpaid, supervised, practical experience at a police agency. Tim worked over the summer at the Jewish Community Center. He is a graduate of Reading High School and lives in Reading. ☑



Tim Roy

and website. A graduate of Walnut Hills High School, she is a former varsity soccer player in high school and college. She grew up in Columbia Township and currently resides in Columbia-Tusculum.

Beth Muething is a graduate student in environmental planning in the College of Design, Art, Architecture and Planning who is assisting the Long-Range Planning Committee and other Council committees as needed. She earned her bachelor's degree in economics and math from Miami University and previously worked in banking. She lives in Pleasant Ridge with her husband and four children. ☑



Andrea Bouldin

Andrea Bouldin, a senior communication studies major, is interning in the Administration Department, primarily writing articles for the newsletter



A “Green Clearing” Continues

By Andrea Bouldin

The effort to clear out the overgrowth at Amberley Green continues Nov. 4, from 6:00 to 7:00 pm, concentrating on the northwest corner of Galbraith and Ridge Roads. Summer volunteers, led by the Environmental Stewardship Committee, removed vines and weeds surrounding magnolia trees near the parking lot. The Village budget only includes mowing the property, so assistance from volunteers is needed to help preserve trees and other features. No sign-up is required, and all are welcome to participate. ☐

History – Live!

On November 7 at 5:30 pm, a debate between Thomas Jefferson and Patrick Henry on the role of government in establishing religion (or not) will be reenacted at the Mayerson JCC. Thomas Jefferson will be played by Bill Barker, who performs this role at Colonial Williamsburg. Along with Tony Steer as Patrick Henry, they will reprise their lively exchange



Tony Steer

in period costume on stage. There will be a scholarly panel discussion with audience Q&A afterwards, and a coffee reception will follow.

The public is invited to attend at no charge. Reservations are recommended and may be made by contacting: phenpatriot@yahoo.com. This program celebrates the first anniversary of the joint acquisition of Liberty Tree Memorials by Amberley Village, the City of Cincinnati, and the Village of Golf Manor. ☐



Bill Barker

Protect Yourself – Safety Lecture

On Nov. 9 at 7:00 pm, join Amberley’s Det. Jeff Norton for an informative presentation on how to protect yourself against identity theft, fraud and burglary/assault. The talk will take place in the Community Room on the lower level of Village Hall (entrance in rear). There is no charge, though donations will be accepted at the door. ☐

Authors Out Loud Series

Everyone is invited to the JCC’s annual week-long speaker series, “Authors Out Loud.” To purchase tickets, call 761-7500. Advance registration is recommended by Nov. 7.

Tues., Nov 9 at 7 pm: Diane Falanga, “P.S. I Hate It Here: Kids’ Letters From Camp” (free)

Wed., Nov. 10 at 7 pm: Tina Wasserman, “Entrée to Judaism” A Culinary Exploration of Jewish flavors and styles (food samples available) J Member \$5; public \$8

Thurs., Nov. 11 at 7 pm: Lisa Gitlin, “I Came Out for THIS?” J Member \$5; public \$8

Fri., Nov. 12 at 12:30 pm: Deborah Lakritz, “Say Hello, Lily” Includes an intergenerational birthday party celebration (free) ☐



Economic Development Efforts

While Amberley Village is battling the same fiscal challenges facing many municipalities, the Village has an opportunity that many similar communities do not have. Amberley has one of the largest developable tracts of land in Hamilton County. Village Council, working with the administration and several residents are exploring ways to bring economic development that makes sense to Amberley Village.

Both the North Site (former swim club property) and Amberley Green represent opportunities for the Village. The Long-

Range Planning Committee, made up of members of Council and residents, is exploring development options for these properties. The committee plans to unveil its initial ideas for development in the coming months.

With regard to Amberley Green, the focus is on creating and maintaining amenities for residents while also generating revenue. Because the economic downturn has slowed such projects, we have more time to plan this development. This gives us the opportunity to examine different options

so that the right plan for Amberley can be put in place.

The Amberley Green property is currently financed with a short-term, interest-only loan. Principal payments for Amberley Green are not part of the current budget picture. In order to secure long-term financing, a definitive plan for the property along with sufficient revenues must be in place. If the property is to be financed long-term, it will be added to the budget. ☐

New Zoning Code Addresses Alternate Energy Systems

By Andrea Bouldin

Council will vote on new legislation concerning alternative energy systems at the Nov. 8 meeting. The first of three readings took place in September. Due to increasing popularity of these systems, at the request of Council the Planning Commission researched, discussed and created a draft of legislation regulating alternative energy systems in the Village.

The Planning Commission created a

code pertaining to solar, geothermal and wind energy systems. The draft code specifically limits the installation of wind turbines to commercial property, as these seem to be the most intrusive alternative energy structures. Council hopes the new legislation will continue to give residents alternate energy options, while preserving Village ambiance. ☐

Village Baby Boom?

By Andrea Bouldin

The 2010 Community Health Review on Amberley Village, published by the Hamilton County Public Health, showed a birth rate increase of 20 as compared to the data published in the 2009 review. The number of births reported in the Village was 46, including 27 girls and 19 boys, which is a notable difference to the 26 total reported in the 2009 review.

Also noted was a decrease in low birth weight and pre-term births by 7.2% and 8.9% respectively. Low birth weight is considered less than 2500 grams, or about 5.5 pounds, and a pre-term birth is less than 37 weeks. Hamilton County Public Health reports that monitoring birth rates is a valuable tool in identifying the health status of a community. ☐

Heritage Tree Designated

By Andrea Bouldin

A Ginkgo biloba tree located at the north end of the Village Hall property has been selected for the Amberley Village Heritage Tree Program by the Environmental Stewardship Committee and will be recognized at Arbor Day 2011.

Visiting the Village last year, Ruth Fishman of Toronto, Ontario, located the Ginkgo tree, which grew in what was once her grandparents' front yard. In a letter describing her trip to Amberley Village, Fishman writes, "I jumped out of the car, spotted the Ginkgo tree and walked right up to hug it!" For her and her family, it represents many memories of summers spent at her grandparents' home. Fishman believes the tree was planted around 1935, making it approximately 75 years old.

The Heritage Tree program supports the identification and preservation of trees with significance of age, species,



Photo courtesy of Andrea Bouldin

quality, historic association or landmark of importance. A full description of the program can be found at AmberleyVillage.org, along with the nomination form. All are welcome to nominate a tree or stand of trees for consideration. ☐

Wright Stuff

Several Amberley homes were tour stops during the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy's annual conference held in Cincinnati in late September. The home of Gerald and Betty Tonken was designed by Wright. The architect's grandson Eric Lloyd Wright, who oversaw the construction, paid a visit during the conference. Also featured was the Schneider House, which was started by Richard Neutra and finished by Woodie Garber, architects of Wright's era. ☐

Garden Project at Adath Israel

By Andrea Bouldin



Fifth graders of Adath Israel's Religious School worked hard to help an organic vegetable garden flourish over the summer. The garden can be found behind the Synagogue on Galbraith Road at Ridge, near the loading dock and enclosed by a fence to help keep out deer.

The students and their families, led by Kevin Besnoy and Howard Goldwasser, successfully harvested vegetables, including tomatoes, peppers, beans and cucumbers in six raised beds constructed by TLC Landscaping. The students donated much of the produce to the Intercommunity Collaborative, Su Casa, the Interfaith Hospitality Network guests in July, and, the Jewish Family Service's Food Pantry.

Inspired by former president Dr. Gary Smith, the project is funded by the Adath Israel Brotherhood and a grant from the Federation of Jewish Men's Club's Foundation for Jewish Life.

This process of learning to be stewards of the land, "Shomrei Ha'aretz," is important to the community and will continue with the 5th graders this year. ☐



Ice Cream Social Recap

By Peg Conway, Council member

Despite the rain shower that immediately preceded it, the Ice Cream Social went off without a hitch. Added this year was an amazing array of art works created by residents from preschoolers to senior citizens, while the safety displays, SWAT team and underwater rescue teams and fire engine water fun were continuing favorites. Musician Jim Gillum and the Connie Ferguson Dancers provided entertainment.

The Village is very grateful to the Lindner family for substantially underwriting the cost of the ice cream from United Dairy Farmers. Former residents of Amberley, they retain a fondness for the Village. ☑



Co-chairs Amy Rubenstein and Deanna Woods



Special thanks also to:

- Co-chairs Amy Rubenstein and Deanna Woods
- All members of the Police/Fire and Maintenance departments, especially Police Officer Chris Fritsch.
- Village Manager Bernie Boraten, Chief Jack Monahan, and members of the Administration staff.
- All the scoopers, parking helpers and face painters



Amberley on the Road

The Amberley tote bag that belongs to Chuck Kamine, former mayor, continues its travel adventures! This summer, it found its way to the Blueberry Festival in South Haven, MI. Here it is featured with the prince and princess of the festival's parade. ☑



Photo courtesy of Chuck Kamine



SEASONAL REMINDERS FROM THE VILLAGE SERVICE DEPARTMENT



Leaf Collection

The Village began leaf collection on October 15 and will continue this service until December 31. Please note the following procedures:

1. Pile leaves on your property just behind the curb, extending no more than 10 feet into your yard.
2. Keep grass, brush clippings and other debris (rocks, gravel, trash, metal, etc.) separate from leaves.
3. Provide clear access to leaf piles
4. Do not place leaves for collection

around fire hydrants, mailboxes, sign posts, utility poles, and wires.

Every effort is made to collect leaves in each area of the Village weekly, but many factors, including weather, make it impossible to guarantee weekly pick-up or have a firm schedule for collection. Residents may call the Administration office at 531-8675 to find out approximately when they may expect to have their leaves picked up. ☑

Snow Removal

Here are some things you can do to help the crews' work most efficiently during snowy weather:

- Park in your driveway, not in the street, especially not in cul-de-sacs or near intersections.
- When you plow or shovel your driveway, keep it on your property. Don't plow it into the road.
- Avoid unnecessary travel. ☑



2010 Garden Award Winners

The Environmental Stewardship Committee is pleased to announce the 2010 Garden Award Winners which have been recognized by their friends and neighbors for their outstanding efforts to maintain and enhance their properties. Honorary 2010 judge Sharon Floro, Professional Licensed Landscape Architect with The Groundwork Design Collaborative, judged nominated residents in by-owner and by-professional categories. The Environmental Stewardship Committee thanks all who participated and applauds your collective efforts to preserve the natural beauty of the Village.

FIRST PLACE: Curb Appeal by Professional & Owner — Ella Moskovich



Extensive use of planting for areas requiring sunny, semi-shade, and deep shaded niches. Good choice of ornamental grasses that accent the entry points of the driveway. Rich contrasts in texture and colors.



SPECIAL RECOGNITION: Planters by Owner — Melinda Shelton

Effective selection of plants draping over the hanging window boxes.



SECOND PLACE: Curb Appeal by Professional — Murray & Elaine Guttman

Stunning contrast of flowering bed colors at main entry drive. Various hues of green shown on various types of groundcover and evergreen hedges. Appropriate selection of horizontal plant shapes to complement the architecture; Sensual and whimsical sculptures adorn the main entry. Simplicity is beauty.

HONORABLE MENTION: Curb Appeal by Professional — Irene & Melvyn Frieman

Appropriate scale and attractive use of boulders, plant bed edging, retaining wall, plant accents, and containers. Well-crafted masonry work. I look forward to watching the newly installed plants.



FIRST PLACE: Overall Landscape by Professional — Mary Sutton

Graceful layout of curvilinear drive leading up to the entry courtyard. Foundation planting beds sweep generously. Formal outdoor rooms are framed by a year-round color-palette. I would recommend replacing the hawthorn, planted closely to the west patio, with a thornless specimen.



FIRST PLACE: Backyard Haven by Owner & Professional — Dave & Dawn Stang

Excellent overall master plan design, integrating a major water feature, aquatic planting, paving, ornamental and native plants. The backyard is teeming with pleasant sights and sounds: water and wildlife. Exquisite!





FIRST PLACE: Sustainable Garden by Owner — Irvin & Kathy Wise

Luscious vegetable and herb garden plot. Ingenious construction of deer-fencing material to blend in with overall cottage-garden theme. Playful elements at the entry that unify this welcoming

HONORABLE MENTION: Garden Ornaments by Owner — Marvin Barsman

Nice mature dogwood in front, accenting the front bed. Excellent choice of planters at front door, as the orange-beige colors complement the brick façade of the building. The statues, fountain, bird bath, and jars add life to the living spaces.



HONORABLE MENTION: Rooftop Garden by Owner — Jerry & Ellen Lorentz

Private rooftop veranda with a tropical-feel of lush exotics, tropical plants, annuals and ferns. Comfortable furnishing completes this private garden. I would recommend replacing the existing taxus hedges with blooming shrubs that perform well in shady conditions.



SECOND PLACE: Backyard Haven by Owner — Ron & Diane Regula

Well-executed and meticulous maintenance work on both the front and backyard spaces. The backyard garden is so exciting to visit—whimsical ornaments that are well integrated with plants and the furniture. Numerous shaded and comfortable niches for a sunny-facing location. ☑



Trees Need Water!

By Dave Stang

We have certainly been in a very dry weather pattern over the last few years with the exception of the 2009 season. Unfortunately, one wet year does not make up for the rest of the dry years. Drought is cumulative, and this year more trees are showing the drought stress than normal.

River birches, dogwoods and maples are losing leaves and are showing leaf scorch. Leaf scorch occurs when the leaf loses more water through transpiration than the roots can replace, which turns the leaf brown starting with the edges.

The timing of the dryness is exceptionally critical. It is not unusual for the months of July, August and September to be dry. Most healthy trees can overcome this. As the dry period extends into fall, it becomes more critical. Fall is when the trees will put on the majority of their root system to prepare for the new growth next spring. Reduced root growth will weaken the tree, making it more susceptible to insect and disease problems.

The evergreens (spruce, pines, yews, and junipers) are very susceptible to a dry fall season if the following winter is severely cold or windy. It will be even more important to water these well before winter. Pine and spruce that thin due to this drought stress may never thicken up again.

Here is the bottom line folks: WATER! WATER! WATER! Pick your most important trees, and concentrate on these.

Placement of water is most important. You must water where the roots are. Laying a hose at the base of an old established tree does not work! Put a sprinkler under the drip line and let it go for several hours or even overnight. ☑





A Look at Amberley Businesses

By Tracy McMullen

In this issue, we begin a series of profiles of the businesses in the Village. They're our neighbors too! Longer versions of these articles along with a map showing business locations can be found at AmberleyVillage.org.

Saturday Knight Ltd.

If you've purchased coordinated bathroom accessories from a major retailer in the past several years, there's a very good chance that they were designed in—and shipped from—Amberley Village. Saturday Knight Ltd., which has occupied the former Gibson Greeting Card building for the past eight years, currently employs about 100 people engaged in the development, import and distribution of numerous home textile and bathroom fixture lines.

Franklin S. Kling, Chairman of the Board and member of the family that began the company in 1975, said Saturday Knight Ltd. product lines are sold by retailers including Kohl's, Target, Bed Bath and Beyond and Wal-Mart. He noted that goods not purchased by retailers are offered for sale to the public every six weeks at the Gibson Building site.

The company's graphic design artists work with product managers to update product lines and create new offerings. Textile products include coordinated shower curtains, bath mats, rugs and window treatments. Soap dishes and dispensers, toothbrush holders, wastebaskets and shower curtain hooks made of resin, ceramic, plastic or porcelain complete the themed ensembles.

Kling explained that the company's name recalls a time when family members took baths on Saturday night; the 'K' was added to denote his family's ownership. The company has recently been re-created as an employee stock ownership plan, but the distinctive name remains the same. □



Kim Schulz, Product Compliance Manager, displays merchandise.



Signer Enterprises

After 30 years in the insurance business, Amberley resident Wayne Signer wanted an enterprise he could run with his daughter and son-in-law. He purchased E-Z Pack--a firm specializing in packaging for the optical industry--from a bank in 1991, and in his daughter's words, "turned it around." His son-in-law Barry Schwartz of Blue Ash became president of the company and his daughter Teri Junker, also an Amberley resident, became Vice President for Marketing.

Over the next 17 years, Signer acquired three more packaging and printing concerns, all now located on a 3-acre





campus on Wiehe Rd. The four companies are all thriving despite the current economic downturn. E-Z Pack, Premier Box, Anderson Printing and B2B Specialty Envelopes share a 50-thousand sq. ft. complex comprising offices, a plant and a newly-expanded warehouse. The site has always been in the Signer family, originally belonging to Signer's uncles.

All the businesses produce specialized products. E-Z Pack has won numerous awards for packaging excellence from the optical industry. Skagen Watch Co. selected Premier to

create a gift box for its wristwatches given to Grammy Award presenters.

In addition to a recycling program that includes all scrap materials, the company works closely with the Village on safety protocols. Firefighters practice extinguishing fires lit for that purpose on the work site.

"We have an excellent working relationship with the police and firefighters, and they do a tremendous amount for us," Teri said. "We once had a sprinkler malfunction at night and they stayed until it was all cleaned up." ☑



E-Z Pack Customer Services Manager Abe Merdinger



Teri Junker, Vice-President of Marketing, in the warehouse



Materials for recycling

Council Actions:

July

- ▶ Ordinance amending Ordinance C-817, relating to employee vacations, and declaring an emergency
- ▶ Ordinance defining classifications of Village employees, and declaring an emergency
- ▶ Ordinances fixing compensation to be paid to the Police/Fire Chief; members of the Police Department; Police Department Dispatchers; Administrative Personnel; Financial Administrator; Public Works Supervisor; Maintenance Supervisor, Foreman, and Crew Leader; Maintenance I and II employees and declaring an emergency
- ▶ Resolution to provide for Village employees a renewed and updated health insurance plan, a contribution of funds to employees' health savings accounts, contribution of funds for health reimbursement, and renewing the dental plan for employees
- ▶ Resolution authorizing the Village Manager to enter into a contract with the City of Cincinnati for furnishing salt for snow and ice control purposes
- ▶ Resolution approving budget of estimated available funds and estimated required expenditures for the general and non-general funds for the calendar year 2011 and authorizing the Village Manager to submit the tentative budget to the county auditor with recommendations for continuation of the present tax levy

September

- ▶ First reading: Ordinance enacting regulations for alternative energy systems
- ▶ First reading: Ordinance adopting the rules and regulations for the Hamilton County Storm Water District
- ▶ An ordinance providing for the issuance of not to exceed \$6,220,000 of renewal notes, by the Village of Amberley Ohio, in anticipation of the issuance of bonds, for the purpose of paying a final judgment and declaring an emergency.
- ▶ First reading: Ordinance amending Section 93.14 reducing the income tax credit for tax paid to another municipality ☑

CALENDAR

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

November

| | | |
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| 1 | Planning Commission/ Board of Zoning Appeals | 7:00 p.m. |
| 8 | Council Meeting | 7:30 p.m. |
| 9 | Safety Lecture | 7:00 p.m. |
| 22 | Environmental Stewardship Committee Meeting | 7:30 p.m. |
| 25 | Thanksgiving Day Administration Offices | Closed |

December

| | | |
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| 6 | Planning Commission/ Board of Zoning Appeals | 7:00 p.m. |
| 13 | Council Meeting | 7:30 p.m. |
| 23 | Christmas Eve Holiday Observed Administration Offices | Closed |
| 24 | Christmas Day Holiday Observed Administration Offices | Closed |
| 27 | Environmental Stewardship Committee Meeting | 7:30 p.m. |

January

| | | |
|-----|--|-----------|
| TBD | Planning Commission/ Board of Zoning Appeals | |
| 10 | Council Meeting | 7:30 p.m. |
| 17 | Martin Luther King Day Administration Offices | Closed |
| 24 | Environmental Stewardship Committee Meeting | 7:30 p.m. |

Fall Photo Contests

Keep in mind the fall contest theme, "At Play in Nature," as you continue to enjoy the fall colors and cooler temperatures. It will take place until December 20, with the winner notified by January 20, 2011.

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 icrcvt.com. ☒

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