

## Last Step Completed in Staffing Plan

The Amberley Village Police Department has been in the process of implementing a multi-year plan to restructure its command staffing which began in 2011. A recent retirement prompted the final step in this process wherein detective duties were decentralized into the patrol rank and approved by Council in February. The on-going reorganization has replaced three lieutenant shift positions with sergeant positions and eliminated one position. The ordinance passed by Council allows the Village to staff a total of 18 positions of various classifications.



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## Does the Village Have Your Number?

Current information is critical during an emergency. The Amberley Village Police and Fire Department maintains emergency contact information for each resident. It is important that telephone numbers, names of persons living in the household and emergency contacts are all up-to-date. Knowing the right person can be reached during an emergency is vital when seconds count.



In the event of an emergency or unexpected event, the Village uses the Community Safe call system to alert residents and provide important information. You can submit as many phone numbers as you wish to this system (i.e. cell numbers for several family members).

Additionally, if your residence is utilizing a burglar or fire alarm system, it must be registered as required by Village Ordinance 91.05. Please contact the department to complete an alarm permit and arrange to submit a current key for the residence to the Police and Fire Department where it will be properly secured.

The Amberley Village Police and Fire Department asks you to update your numbers and information if anything has changed by calling 531-2040 or email [pearls@amberleyvillage.org](mailto:pearls@amberleyvillage.org).

Amberley Village Municipal Building  
7149 Ridge Road  
Cincinnati, OH 45237  
(513) 531-8675  
[www.amberleyvillage.org](http://www.amberleyvillage.org)



## Power Outage Protocols



During power outages, residents should call Duke Energy at 1-800-543-5599 to report the situation. Please only contact the Amberley Village Police-Fire Department to report 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 the phone lines and persons with emergencies cannot get through to dispatch.

Additionally, officers on the road depend upon dispatchers, who are the persons answering the phone, to perform many essential duties. For example, an outage event where a transformer blew resulted in live wires on the ground and a fire. Amberley officers at the scene relied upon the dispatchers to call Duke Energy, dispatch firefighters, request additional emergency vehicles from neighboring communities and coordinate radio communications with those officers throughout the incident.

While the Department prides itself in delivering the best public safety service to the community, assistance from residents is needed during power outages to refrain from reporting electric outages to the department. That will help keep the dispatchers and officers focused on emergency circumstances during an outage.

## Community Calendar

### One Stop Drop Recycle Day – April 10

WHEN: April 10, 2016 from 12-4 p.m.

WHERE: Amberley Green, 7801 Ridge Road

Drive through to drop off electronics, paper for confidential shredding, and non-greasy textiles and creative materials. For additional details, visit [www.amberleyvillage.org](http://www.amberleyvillage.org) and check out the News section for the event flyer.

### Council Meeting

WHEN: April 11 at 6:30 p.m.

WHERE: Council Chambers, Amberley Village Municipal Building

### Arbor Day & Earth Day Celebration

WHEN: April 25 at 6 p.m.

WHERE: Starts at brick plaza in front of Amberley Village Municipal Building

Residents are invited to attend tree planting, proclamation presentation & more!

### Town Hall Meeting – TBA

A public information meeting will be scheduled during May or June for residents to attend and hear the latest on Village business. Watch for details at [www.amberleyvillage.org](http://www.amberleyvillage.org) or Like Us on Facebook today!



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# Amberley Village NEWS

SPRING 2016

## First Police K-9 Unit

Amberley Village announced in February that it will soon welcome its first ever K-9 unit in the police operations made possible through The Matt Haverkamp Foundation. Since its inception, The Matt Haverkamp Foundation has funded 31 K-9s locally and raised more than \$177,000.

The specialized skills this K-9 unit will bring to Amberley will include service as a dual purpose unit which means the K-9 will be trained for narcotic detection and patrol operations. Combining skill sets provides additional expertise consolidated into a single canine and is cost-efficient for smaller police departments. In addition to the daily patrol function, the K-9 unit will have the ability to perform building searches, assist in the location of missing persons, apprehend criminals, detect narcotics and will become a partner with the community and local schools to provide educational programs like drug safety awareness.

Officer Andrea Alt will be the handler for the new canine which will arrive in the coming months. The breed requested for this canine will be either a German Shepard or Belgian Malinois. Officer Alt has been with the Department since 2009 and has 11 total years of experience in law enforcement. Officer Alt will participate in 12 weeks of training with the canine at the Cincinnati Police Department where other K-9 units from multiple jurisdictions will also attend and train together.

Thanks to generous donations received from Jack's Pets, Topicz, the Jewish Community Center and several residents the costs related to the initial training of the canine and its equipment will be paid and the food and medical care will be cost neutral to the Village for the life of the canine.

The Village is excited for this advancement in the level of service it can provide as part of its cornerstone service to protect the lives and property of Amberley residents.



## One Stop Drop Recycle Day

Sunday, April 10, 2016 from 12-4 p.m.

Amberley Green, 7801 Ridge Road

Visit [www.amberleyvillage.org](http://www.amberleyvillage.org) for a full listing of acceptable items including electronics, paper shredding, creative re-use and fabric items.

Download the Mobile App Today!



## 2015 Year-End Financial Summary

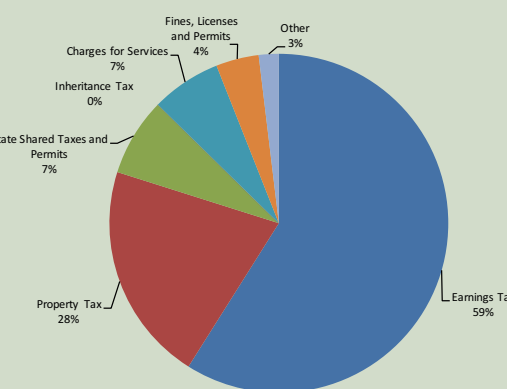
The Village's finances have been a focal point, especially the last few years, as the environment of municipal finance has shifted. The Village has prudently managed its finances, been resourceful, aggressively pursued grants and other new revenue opportunities and communicated our financial position at every opportunity. 2015 was no different with spending being \$200,000 less than the approved 2015 General Fund Budget, revenues being slightly down and staff finding creative ways to obtain needed items while minimizing the financial impact on the Village.

### General Fund Revenue 2015

**Total = \$4,592,354**

2015 revenues for the Village were lower than anticipated and lower than last year's collections primarily related to the earnings tax. Overall for the General Fund, the Village collected \$4.5 million of which \$2.7 million was from earnings tax. The pie chart below shows the distribution of revenues collected in 2015 for our General Fund.

Despite this revenue decline, the Village continued cost cutting measures and was able to find other ways to pay for items like license plate readers. The Village had budgeted \$35,000 in 2015 for additional license plate readers but was able to secure the readers through Safe Cincinnati and the City of Cincinnati. In addition, \$189,000 was budgeted for self-contained breathing apparatus and a compressor for our Fire Department but staff successfully secured a grant from the Federal government enabling the Village to keep its funds. Through our Joint Economic Development Zone with Sycamore Township, the Village was able to realize \$119,000. These efforts have greatly



Revenue Source	Amount
Earnings Tax	\$2,707,305
Property Tax	\$961,147
State Shared Taxes and Permits	\$342,573
Inheritance Tax	\$0
Charges for Services	\$305,888
Fines, Licenses and Permits	\$187,909
Miscellaneous	\$87,532
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$4,592,354</b>

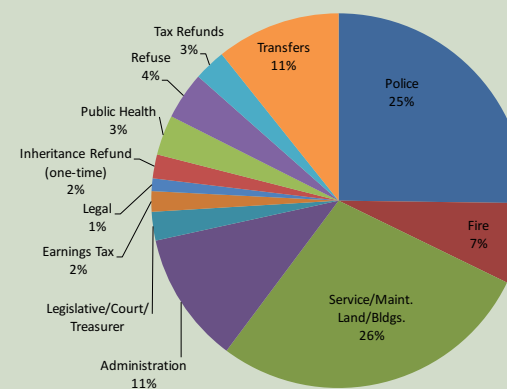
assisted the Village in navigating the sometimes turbulent waters of municipal finance.

### General Fund Expenses 2015

**Total = \$4,212,662**

Expenses in 2015 for the General Fund totaled \$4.2 million which included funding of basic Village services like fire protection, snow and ice control, emergency medical services, brush and leaf collection. It also included \$1 million toward our Police Department, which receives the bulk of its funding through the police levy. Council approved a \$4.4 million Village budget for 2015 but only \$4.2 million was spent. The pie chart below shows the distribution of expenses in 2015 for our General Fund, where most services without a funding source are funded.

Expense Type	Amount
Police	\$1,062,078
Fire	294,796
Service/Maint./Land/Bldgs.	1,179,580
Administration	478,714
Legislative/Court/Treasurer	104,220
Earnings Tax	74,347
Legal	46,034
Inheritance Refund (one-time)	86,931
Public Health	145,636
Refuse	172,547
Tax Refunds	116,085
Transfers	451,694
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$4,212,662</b>



## 2016 Budget

As in recent years, much thought and discussion throughout the budget process has gone into priorities and allocation of resources as General Fund revenues remain essentially flat while expectations and demands for Village services continue to grow. Amberley Village's highly regarded quality of life is known throughout the region and cherished by its residents. It is the product of years of active citizen involvement, sound land use planning, a respect for the natural environment, high standards for the built environment, and prudent fiscal management by the Village.

The Village continues to move forward funding priority services in 2016 like Police, Fire and Maintenance yet being mindful of our capital needs like equipment replacement and repaving streets. In approving a balanced budget at its December meeting, Village Council ensured the ongoing revenues support the ongoing

expenditures. The 2016 budget relies on our existing revenue streams, like the earnings and property taxes as well as other sources of revenue that assist the Village in providing municipal services. Staffing levels stayed the same in 2015, which is 2 less police positions, 2 less police supervisory positions and 1 less position in the maintenance department than 4 years ago.

The Village continues to be faced with containing expenses in order to continue the highest level of service to our residents in these financially challenging times. Highlights of some of the items included in the 2016 Budget:

- 2 replacement Police vehicles
- 2 additional license plate readers
- Replacement radios in the Police and Fire Department
- Salt purchases
- Solar speed sign

- Contracted right-of-way and Amberley Green mowing
- Salt bin repair/replacement
- Leaf vacuum and pickup truck replacement
- Transfer from general fund to street fund - \$200,000
- Transfer from general fund to capital fund - \$150,000
- \$400,000 street program
- \$735,000 total capital budget

The 2016 Budget maintains Village services and directs our limited financial resources to accomplish the major goals and objectives of the Village for the year. The approach to the 2016 Budget was to contain costs, support existing services and programs, fund current staff levels and highlight large ticket items through the capital budget. The proposed 2016 Budget continues the focus on providing excellent services in the most cost effective and efficient manner in order to preserve and enhance our quality of life as we move forward into the future.

## Amberley Green Update

Throughout 2014, the Village's Land Development Committee held several public meetings with real estate market professionals for the purpose of discussing and understanding the potential of the Amberley Green and North Site properties. The next step in this discovery process was taken in 2015 when the Village sent out requests for proposals to understand what market professionals would identify as potential plans for the Amberley Green which included the requirement to align with the Village's objectives set forth in the Long Range Plan, prepared by a working group of residents and adopted by Council in 2011. Proposals were received from Great Traditions, Dov Limited, Project Planning Consultants, and Amberley Development Partners. A recommendation was made at the December 30, 2015 Land Development Committee meeting to proceed with Amberley Development Partners to prepare an agreement.

Council, at its February 8 regular meeting, authorized the Village Manager to enter into negotiations with Amberley Development Partners for an agreement to take the next steps in the development of a plan for Amberley Green. The development of this plan will take between six and nine months and there will be opportunities along the way for resident input. There has not been any decision to develop the property and this phase will allow the Village to explore whether something can be done to create an asset for Amberley residents, understanding the site has many challenges, including traffic.

The Village has several objectives to achieve in the overall process including resident input, maximizing economic benefit to the Village, land use consistent with the needs of the



Village, incorporation of green space, buffer areas, and open space to accommodate some community use, creation of unique opportunities to integrate the beauty, location and size of the property, being sensitive to adjacent single-family residential use, improvement of economic health and sustainability for the Village, minimizing the Village's financial contribution and retaining ownership until the nature of development is clear.

Residents can stay connected on discussions of the Land Development Committee by signing up to receive advance notice of upcoming meetings. Visit [www.amberleyvillage.org](http://www.amberleyvillage.org) and click on Subscribe to sign-up for the Meeting Notifications group to receive upcoming meeting information via email.

## \$172,570 Grant Received for Fire Apparatus

The Village's Fire Department has been awarded \$172,570 in grant funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to replace its outdated Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) along with the compressor and bottle fill station. The breathing apparatus device or SCBA is worn by fire fighters to receive breathable air when exposed to smoke and other toxic gases—a critical tool in fire fighting safety.

The new SCBA will meet the latest recommended safety standards set by the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA). The Village's current SCBAs, purchased in 1999, do not meet these standards and numerous have failed inspections and been removed from service. The new SCBAs come with many improvements. The materials can withstand higher temperatures often produced during fires in today's structures. Voice communication equipment built into the SCBA has significantly improved making it clearer to communicate with personnel on the emergency scene. As shown in the picture, many design enhancements can also be observed not only as to function, but also how the equipment fits onto the fire fighter's back.

The Village has been able to replace this vital fire fighting safety equipment by being assertive in the pursuit of grant dollars. The equipment replacement cost that was budgeted in the capital fund for \$189,000 will no longer be paid from municipal funds, alleviating the use of tax dollars while enabling the Village to update obsolete safety equipment that would normally be paid with local tax dollars.



## Vacant Council Seat Filled

At its February 8 meeting, Council voted to select Elida Kamine to fill the At-Large seat vacated by Bill Doering in late December 2015. Village Charter provided the council with two months to select a new member for the open seat. Announcements for the application process were publicized and an interview process was conducted by the six-member council during January.

Solicitor Kevin Frank administered the swearing-in of Elida and she will serve the remainder of the 2015-2017 term as one of the two At-Large council seats representing Village residents.

