

2017 Extended Tax Office Hours

This year Amberley Village tax returns are due Tuesday April 18, 2017. The Income Tax Office is extending hours during April for filing your 2016 tax return.

Our regular hours are 8am to 4pm Monday through Friday. If you need assistance completing your return please call Tax Administrator Patty Meiers at (513) 531-0130 to make an appointment. April tax office hours will be as follows:

April extended tax office hours will be available on:

Saturday, April 1	8-11 a.m.
Saturday, April 8	8-11 a.m.
Sunday, April 9	11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Monday - Thursday, April 10-13	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Monday, April 17 & Tuesday, April 18	7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

License Plate Reader Effectiveness

Amberley Village Police has acquired License Plate Readers (LPR) that are boosting our agency's effectiveness and creating a safer environment for our community.

The Vigilant cameras capture a photo of each car and transmit the images and the plate numbers to a database which collects plate numbers and alerts posted by other agencies from all over the state. If a vehicle has been reported as stolen or has been flagged as part of a crime, the system will send an alert to every officer on patrol in the area.

While it is humanly impossible to look at every single plate encountered, the LPR cameras do this by reading faster than the human eye and focusing on collecting the plate data, making them a force multiplier for patrol officers.

The LPR alerts officers when approaching vehicles in which a dangerous suspect is likely present. If a plate is entered into the FBI's National Crime Information Center database or associated with a violent crime, the patrol officer receives a warning immediately upon encountering that vehicle and can take extra precautions or call for backup.

The data collected in Amberley has been essential in apprehending many stolen vehicles, as well as aiding a number of successful investigations and arrests. All our marked patrol vehicles are equipped with the LPR system. This 2017 year alone, in Amberley, we have had 654 LPR hit confirmations, which include traffic warrants, misdemeanor warrants, felony warrants and stolen vehicles.



Vacation House Check

Before you go on vacation, contact the Amberley Village Police Department at 531-2040 to arrange for vacation house checks while you're away. Officers conduct security checks for out of town residents while on regular patrolling duties in the Village.



Community Calendar

One Stop Drop Recycle Day

WHEN: April 2, 2017 from 12-4 p.m.
WHERE: Amberley Green, 7801 Ridge Road

Residents can drive through to drop off electronics, paper for confidential shredding, and non-greasy textiles and creative materials. For additional details, visit www.amberleyvillage.org and check out the News section for the event flyer.

Council Meeting

WHEN: April 13 at 6:30 p.m.
WHERE: Council Chambers, Amberley Village Municipal Building

Arbor Day & Earth Day Celebration

WHEN: April 24 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!

Community Forums

WHEN: March 29 at 1:30 and 7:00 pm, and April 18 at 7:00 pm
WHERE: Jewish Community Center, 8485 Ridge Road, Amberley Room

Residents are invited to attend one of three community forums this spring to hear about current finances, the reduced police levy and developments within our community. The Village Council, Manager and staff will be available to answer your questions about services, projects or any aspect of the Village. Please join us for a few hours, bring your questions and get connected with what's happening in Amberley Village!



Get Connected!

Mobile App Available on
Google Play or the App Store



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



PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
CINCINNATI, OH
PERMIT 4343

Amberley Village NEWS

SPRING 2017

Reduced Police Levy on May 2 Ballot

Residents will have the opportunity to vote Tuesday, May 2 on a reduced 8 mill police levy that provides a significant source of funding for our Police Department. The 8 mill levy comes to voters as the 2012 police levy for 10 mills expires in December of this year.

The May 2 levy represents a 20% reduction in what voters approved in 2012. The intention of the 2012 police levy was to create a dedicated source of revenue that could only be used for the expenses of police operations and services. Tremendous progress has been made the last five years by having this dedicated revenue for police services. Not only has the police levy been used solely for police personnel costs, the Village has been able to improve its overall financial position enabling Village Council to ask residents for less money, hence the 20% reduction. At the time of the 2012 levy, the Village had identified the need for \$2.2 million of additional revenues and the levy was intended to help by providing \$1.6 million. Over the past five years, this need has been substantially reduced and thus we are able to lower the police levy. The 2012 police levy approved by voters was the first time residents voted on a property tax increase since 1955 when 7 mills were approved for general Village expenses.



Over the past five years, the Village has been successful in generating new revenue sources as well as maintaining a strong cost discipline. This has more than offset the loss of some revenue including the loss of Saturday Knight Limited which was occupying the former Gibson property. The Village is focused on the possibility of other new revenues as well as the maintenance of the strong cost discipline and thereby hopes for further reductions in the future.

The cost of operating the Amberley Village Police Department is about \$2.7 million per year. The General Fund contributes over \$1 million towards the Department while the balance is paid from the police levy. The 2012 police levy generated \$1.6 million each year. The May 2 police levy will generate \$1.3 million and the Village General Fund will pay \$1.4 million.

(continued on pg 2)



One Stop Drop Recycle Day
Sunday, April 2, 2017 from 12-4 p.m.
Amberley Green, 7801 Ridge Road

Visit 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!



Police Levy (continued)

Village Council’s Finance Committee and Village staff spent several months this past year to identify the appropriate millage going forward. Police Department expenditures were reviewed for the last 4 years, the Village updated its Financial Sustainability Plan and revenues and expenditures Village-wide were studied including the status of possible future revenues. After this work, options for millage were considered and the Council determined an 8 mill levy was the appropriate level.



In the table below, the reduction can be observed for a homeowner when comparing the expiring 2012 levy cost to the proposed 2017 reduced levy cost. For example, a home valued at \$200,000 under the 8 mill levy will cost \$480 per year or \$128 less than the past.

VALUE OF PROPERTY	2012 LEVY COST (expires Dec. 2017)	Proposed REDUCED LEVY (lowered by 20%)
\$200,000	\$608/year	\$480
\$500,000	\$1,520/year	\$1,200

Keeping Amberley Village a secure place to live and raise a family has always been an unwavering priority for Village Council, our Police Department and residents alike. Recognizing this importance, the Village Police Department has undergone extensive measures to ensure we have a police force of the highest caliber that provides effective and efficient safety services for the community.

If you would like more information about Village finances or the upcoming levy, please feel free to call the Village at 531-8675 or go to our website at AmberleyVillage.org.

2016 Year-End Financial Summary

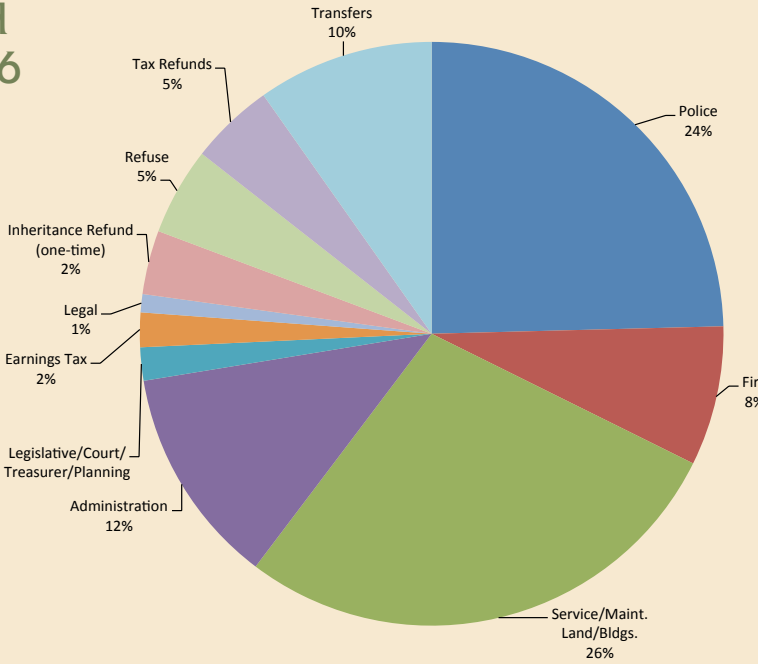
2016 was an exceptional financial year for the Village. With conservative spending in a cost control environment combined with conservative revenue projections and unanticipated revenues, the Village has positioned itself to ask for less money for the renewal police levy on the May 2 ballot. Below are some highlights of the 2016 General Fund finances:

General Fund Expenses 2016
Total = \$4,248,454

Expenses in 2016 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 2016 but only \$4.2 million was spent. The pie chart below shows the distribution of expenses in 2016 for our General Fund, where most services are funded.

Expense Type	Amount
Police	\$1,044,855
Fire	328,533
Service/Maint./Land/Bldgs.	1,188,625
Administration	514,702
Legislative/Court/Treasurer/Planning	78,106
Earnings Tax	81,196
Legal	42,759
Public Health	150,417
Refuse	206,581
Tax Refunds	197,415
Transfers	415,265
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$4,248,454

General Fund Expenses 2016

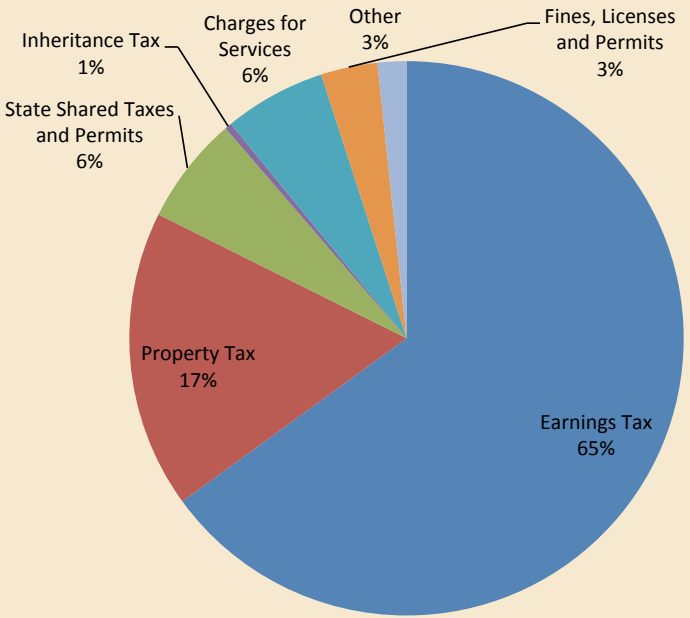


General Fund Revenue 2016
Total = \$5,492,862

2016 revenues for the Village were substantially higher than anticipated largely due to the increase in earnings tax collections which is partially related to tax filing deadline changes. Overall for the General Fund, the Village collected \$5.4 million of which \$3.5 million was from earnings tax. Since the earnings tax is the most significant source of our Village revenue, overall General Fund revenues were higher. The pie chart below shows the distribution of revenues collected in 2016 for our General Fund.

Revenue Source	Amount
Earnings Tax	\$3,569,790
Property Tax	954,420
State Shared Taxes and Permits	346,540
Inheritance Tax	22,152
Charges for Services	326,418
Fines, Licenses and Permits	181,359
Miscellaneous	92,183
TOTAL REVENUE	\$5,492,862

General Fund Revenue 2016



Lease Signed for 2-Acres on North Site

Nearly four years ago, Council rezoned the North Site to offer additional development opportunities within the Village. The North Site District zoning was applied to the 26-acre Village-owned property located north of Ronald Reagan Highway to encourage office developments and other similar uses for business purpose. Village Council is pleased to announce it has finalized a 2-acre ground lease for the construction of a medical office building. The 15,000 square foot development will occur on the site of the former Tennis and Swim Club property facing Ronald Reagan Highway. The long-term ground lease with Schuermann Properties will bring Mercy Health to the location as tenant. The submitted medical office building site plan will be considered at the April 4 Zoning Board of Appeals meeting.



While the North Site 26-acre tract is primarily utilized for the Village’s Maintenance Department and composting operations, the site can encompass additional business use but has limitations due to traffic on Ridge Road. The Village will continue to encourage development for the remaining underutilized portions of the property for the permitted uses approved in the North Site Zoning District which include office, flex office/warehouse, hotels/motels, nursing homes, recreational uses, government/public buildings/facilities, universities, and other educational facilities.

Look Back at 2016 and Focus for 2017

Each year the Village Administration identifies operational and service goals within each department which are guided by the overall priorities set by the Village Council. The focus over the past few years has been to improve the Village’s financial position, maintain a safe community and look for opportunities to improve our community. Good progress was made in 2016 in all of these areas.

The Village’s financial position continued to improve with continued increases in revenues and the maintenance of a very strong cost discipline. This improvement has led the Village Council to a decision to reduce the police levy that will be on the May 2nd ballot by 20%. While the police levy is an integral funding source for our police department the focus continues to be the maintenance of a strong cost discipline across all aspects of Village services and review opportunities to grow revenues.

Progress was made on two of the underutilized properties in the Village. A 2-acre lease was signed with Schuermann Properties for a medical office building on the North Site (former Amberley Swim Club) that will generate \$50-60,000 annually in revenue for the Village. Focus to develop the remaining available acreage on the property will continue for the permitted uses. The 56-acre property in the industrial zone (former Gibson property) was recently purchased by the Greater Cincinnati Port Authority. This acquisition is part of a strategic plan by the Port to revitalize underperforming properties in Hamilton County. The goal is to return the property to a better use that will generate revenues for local communities and provide jobs for the region.

We continue to examine the best use for the Amberley Green property. Currently, we are working with the Mayerson JCC to explore whether there could be an opportunity that would make sense for both the Village and the JCC for a portion of this property. This will be a key focus in 2017 and we hope to come to a decision this year.

The priorities for 2017 will continue to be the economic development of underutilized and underperforming properties, ascertain a long-term outlook on recreational assets in the Village, and continue to communicate with residents on these developments as well as other activities in the Village.

