

Amberley Financial Update

Preparation is underway on a reduced 2013 budget which will allow the Village to begin reducing the \$6.2 million Amberley Green debt. Controlling our operational costs, delaying capital purchases, diversifying our revenue base and becoming more entrepreneurial in our strategic thinking have resulted in ensuring that the fiscal health of the Village and our residents is protected. The financial situation has improved considerably as a result of:

- The police levy, approved by residents in March, will provide revenues to fund our police department.
- Over the last year, costs have been reduced in all departments. Expenses as of June 2012 are \$330,000 less than what was spent through June 2011.
- Employee pay has been frozen since 2010.
- Postponing training and operating needs.
- Employees increased their contribution to healthcare from 10% to 15% effective August 1, 2012.
- Outsourced payroll processing.
- Police staffing reduced by two lieutenant positions.
- The full time tax administrator position has been reduced to part-time hours.
- New cruisers have not been purchased since 2010.
- The full-time front desk position has been reduced to part-time hours.
- Maintenance staffing reduced by one laborer position.
- The police schedule has been modified to reduce overtime.
- Deferring equipment and vehicle replacement.

A strong financial foundation is essential to protecting our quality of life, maintaining public investments in infrastructure and providing the core services residents expect. The Village will continue to emphasize good financial management, monitor economic challenges and evaluate and prioritize services. Economic development is also important with the North Site in the process of being rezoned for business development and Amberley Green development options being explored by the Land Development Committee. As mentioned in last month's E-News, the Village has embarked on a collaboration study with the communities of Silverton and Deer Park. While efficiency and effectiveness in Amberley has been a cornerstone of our service delivery, exploring collaboration with adjacent communities makes good business sense. Amberley Village has engaged in lean government and cost cutting measures as a means to solve our financial situation, however, it's time to look for the feasibility of sharing services, facilities, equipment and/or personnel all in an effort to withstand additional financial challenges while still delivering services to residents. The Village still has significant work ahead of itself to fully address our long term financial health and the Village will continue to be vigilant in identifying opportunities to contain expenses in order to continue the highest level of service in these challenging times. ☐

Sign-Up for Village E-News!
Visit AmberleyVillage.Org



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

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
CINCINNATI OH
PERMIT 5400



Community Calendar:

- August 13:** Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- August 19:** Ice Cream Social 6 p.m.
- August 27:** Environmental Stewardship Committee 7:30 p.m.

Paper Shredding and Used Shoe Drop-Off
August 19 From 10 a.m. to Noon

Please drop off your old, unwanted athletic shoes (adult or kids) in the front parking lot of Village Hall on August 19 from 10 a.m. to noon. Paper shredding will be available to Village residents. Large cardboard and magazines also accepted.

SAVE THE DATE:

Amberley Green Garden Fall Festival and ESC Treewalk
October 7th (Rain date October 14th)



Don't Wait to Get Your Village News!

Communicating the business of the Village is an important function for our residents. While the Village utilizes various ways to communicate, budget cuts previously eliminated the print newsletter, which was then converted to the electronic "E-News" newsletter. To increase readership of the E-News and to ensure residents are being reached, this print edition of the newsletter will be published bi-annually. Don't want to wait to get your Village news? Visit AmberleyVillage.org and click on Subscriptions to sign-up to receive the Village E-News, which is published monthly.

Amberley Village NEWS

Ice Cream Social - August 19

The Amberley Village Ice Cream Social will be held on August 19 from 6-8 p.m. at Village Hall. ☐



NEW THIS YEAR!

Teens get their art on: Sidewalk Chalk Art. Jr. High and High School teens must submit proposals to Village Hall no later than Friday, August 17. Participants must be available August 19 to do the drawing and have it finished by 5 p.m.

The Children's Art Show

Bring art to the Ice Cream Social by 6 p.m. for display. All submissions welcome!

More For Kids:

Children's bike parade at 6:45 p.m. Bike decorations encouraged but not required. No strollers or dogs, please. ☐

Upcoming Block Watch Meeting

The Amberley Village Police/Fire Department will host a neighborhood block watch meeting on Monday, August 13 at 7 p.m. the Village Hall in the Community Room. Officers will provide information about block watch programs to encourage residents to get to know their neighbors, share information on crime, and work together with the police officers to reduce and prevent crime by forming neighborhood watch groups. Registration is not required.



2012 Street Improvement Program

Village Council approved funding for a street improvement program that will begin later this summer. The Village infrastructure is one of our most vital assets and investment into our streets and storm water systems is critical. Council awarded a \$458,660 contract to Prus Construction. Funding for our street program comes from a street maintenance fund (\$350,680) and and storm water fund (\$107,980) which are seperate from our general fund and can only be used for street or storm water related improvements. The 2012 Street Improvement Program encompasses three areas; resurfacing, patching and curbing and will impact the following streets:

Repaving:

Beechlands Drive, East and West Beechlands, East Winding Way and Dot Drive between Ridge Road and Hudson Parkway.

Patching:

Certain locations on Fair Oaks Lane, Fair Oaks Drive (south of Section Road), Farm Acres, East and West Farm Acres, Kincaid (between Section Road and Kincaid Lane), Rollman Estates Drive, Ambercreek Drive, Ridgeway Close, South Farmcrest Drive, Fair Acres Drive and Dot Drive (near 3080 Dot).

Curbing:

Replace deteriorated sections of the curb and gutter on Sagamore Drive, Dot Drive, Crestdale Court and North and South Whitetree Circle.

Residents can expect work to begin in August and conclude in November. Residents will be notified by the contractor prior to work beginning if their driveway will be blocked or otherwise inaccessible. Street closures are rare during this type of project; therefore, traffic will be maintained.



Electric and Gas Aggregation

After the voters approved electric and natural gas aggregation on November 8, 2011, the Village moved forward with implementing electric aggregation for our residents. Most residents are now saving an average of \$175 annually from the current Duke Energy rate. The Village has had a very successful electric aggregation program with enrollment in excess of 95% which is considered excellent and well above the norm of 75-80%. Amberley Village residents are saving money with one of the lowest electric rates in southwest Ohio! When voters approved energy aggregation last fall, the Village went to work to obtain the best rates for our residents. We are now served competitively by DP&L with a per kilowatt hour rate of \$.0455.

If you are paying more with another supplier and wish to participate in the Village's aggregation program, call DP&L at 1-888-674-3753 and request to be enrolled in Amberley's opt-out program. Residents should first check to see what, if any, cancellation charges may apply (from your existing supplier) before enrolling with DP&L.

The Village has begun the same aggregation process for natural gas and anticipates a program will be available before the heating season begins. Village Council has authorized a master service agreement with Interstate Gas Supply (IGS). A gas rate hasn't been established yet, but residents can expect to save more money. Residents have begun to be solicited for natural gas commitments by companies but should wait until the Village secures the best deal for them. To ensure you get this timely information, visit AmberleyVillage.org and click on Subscriptions to sign-up to receive the Village E-News, which is published monthly.

WeTHRIVE! Program Update

How does Amberley Village continue to be a thriving, desirable community? With a \$24,000 community wellness mini-grant from Hamilton County Public Health and the CDC, Amberley has made several improvements and enhancements to the quality of life in the Village while still maintaining a budget that is leaner than ever and an administrative staff that continues to practice frugality.

More than 25 families are enjoying the fruits of their labor in the new Amberley Green Community Garden located behind the old clubhouse at Amberley Green. Garden education seminars, canning and storing classes, and social activities are planned for the garden.

The new "Take-a-Break" rest area has been enjoyed by the Amberley Village Women's Forum, Amberley staff, gardeners, and the birds who visit the feeders. Despite this summer's drought, water is plentiful in the two 2,500 gallon rain-water tanks. The ingenuity of Amberley's staff made it possible to collect rain during this spring's storms as well as to pump standing water out of the old swimming pool.

Funds from the WeTHRIVE! mini-grant were also used to enhance the Amberley walking track by enabling the purchase of four pieces of fitness equipment. Residents can use this versatile equipment on their own or bring a personal trainer to the track to assist them.

A new trail has been added to the current French Park trail system and a new bridge makes the trail easy to access from Ridge Road for users who park at the Village Hall fields. New signage indicates trailheads and directs users to the trail, Amberley Green garden, and designates the ball fields as tobacco-free areas.



Amberley Green – Enhanced Community Access

Village Council, at its July 9 meeting, passed Ordinance 2012-04 which established that parking permits be issued for non-residents to access the Amberley Green Park. Recommended by the Public Buildings and Parks Committee, the objective is to enhance the accessibility of recreational opportunities and promote the health and welfare of the community in alignment with the goals of the WeThrive! program. Non-residents may obtain a parking permit from the Amberley Village Police Department. Proper identification is required. Applicants must provide the Village with a valid name, current address, phone number, and email address before a permit or sticker will be issued.

Sign-Up for Village E-News!
Visit AmberleyVillage.Org

Public Safety in Amberley

Feeling secure in our community and our home is one of the most valued traits we possess. Our perception of community safety is important not only to our physical and psychological health, but also to the vitality of the Village. Amberley Village recognizes the value residents place on safety and the decisions made by the Village always prioritize public safety. Your approval of our police levy in the spring demonstrated your priority for safety and your confidence in the Police Department.

With approval of the police levy, our financial situation has greatly improved, but the Police Department continues to find areas of savings. With the elimination of two lieutenant positions over the past two years, the Department is being reconfigured with sergeant positions to decrease our operating costs and maintain proper chain of command. Overtime costs are being closely managed and after 6 months of expenses, only 23% of the overtime budget has been spent. New police cruisers have not been purchased and vehicles are being recycled into the fleet to defer expenses. It is only through the continued efforts and focus of Amberley Police Department's 16 committed, loyal and dedicated employees that the Department has been able to maintain service levels.

Despite budget difficulties, your Police Department continues to deliver a high level of service. You see them patrolling your neighborhood, they enforce traffic laws, they double as fire fighters and the level of community policing they perform is outstanding. The Police Department also focuses on investigations especially personal and property crimes.

Recently our Police Department was successful in apprehending a suspect involved with a home invasion in the Village. Through the efforts of attentive residents and meticulous police work, our Police Department was able to solve a heinous crime committed in the Village. Rest assured when crime occurs in Amberley, our Police Department not only responds promptly but works diligently toward solving crimes.

If you would like to be informed of various crime alerts, be sure to subscribe to the Amberley Village E-News by clicking on Subscriptions at AmberleyVillage.org.



Did you know...

Police Department Activity from January 1, 2012 – July 31, 2012

- 175 arrests
- Investigated 64 offenses
- Filed 209 Complaint reports
- Taken 52 Auto Accident reports
- Answered 3,757 E911 calls compared to 3,253 for this time last year

Outdoor Fires

Outdoor fires are popular summertime options, whether for a barbeque or for relaxing around a fire pit with friends and family. Knowing some important rules and safety tips before you start will help keep you and your property safe. The standards below should be followed for every fire, both for safety and to adhere to village ordinances.

- Keep all fires at least 25 feet away from any structure, even when in an approved container or fire pit.
- Fires must be less than three feet in diameter and two feet in height. Fires larger than this size fit into the "bonfire" category and require a permit.
- The only permitted material to be burned is clean, seasoned firewood. Outdoor fires should not be used for waste disposal or brush removal in Amberley Village.
- Keep a means to extinguish the fire readily available.
- An adult must be present at the time of any outdoor fire.

An important Village Police/Fire Department goal is to reduce injury and property damage through education. If you have any questions about outdoor fires or any Fire Department activity, please contact the department at 531-2040. A firefighter will be glad to talk with you and answer all your questions. Have a safe summer!

Brush Collection Suspended During
Leaf Pick-Up Season

The Amberley Village Service Department will begin collecting leaves the week of October 15th and will continue through December 31st. As was done last year, the maintenance department staff will concentrate on bulk leaf collection during this period. Brush pick-up will resume in January. The last brush pick-up for residents will be your regularly scheduled pick-up day during the week of October 8-12. During leaf collection season, we appreciate your taking note of the following procedures for the disposal of leaves:

- Pile leaves on your property just behind the curb (not in the street) extending no more than 10 feet into your yard. Please avoid placing leaves in the street to keep gutters and storm drains from clogging.
- Keep all grass, brush clippings and other debris (rocks, gravel, trash, metal, etc.) out of leaf piles. Such debris can damage the Village equipment.
- Provide clear access to leaf piles. Please avoid parking in front of leaf piles; crews are not able to pick up piles with access issues.
- Never discard leaves into creek beds.



LEAF
COLLECTION
DO NOT
BLOCK PILES

MONDAY

- Never place leaves 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, equipment, parking on the street, volume of leaves, and debris mixed with leaves all affect the Village's ability to collect leaves.