



# Amberley Village News

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR RESIDENTS OF AMBERLEY VILLAGE

2021-23  
Council &  
Newly-Elected  
Officials!

## In this issue:

Police Levy Renewal.....	3-4
Lewis Animal Hospital.....	4
Welcome New Council.....	5
Streets Program.....	6
Financial Overview.....	6
Village Awards.....	7
One Stop Drop.....	8

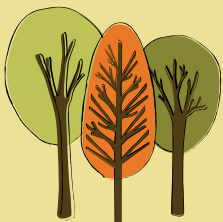


*Tom Muething is shown being sworn in by Judge Jennifer Branch, and will serve again as our Mayor (page 4)*

Village  
Recognitions  
& Awards!

## In every issue:

From the Village Manager....	2
From Chief Wallace.....	2
Looking Ahead.....	8



**PRESENTED BY:**

**Ohio**  
BUSINESS

*Amberley Village has been recognized by Ohio Business Magazine and Hamilton County R3source. Learn more on page 7!*



2021 BEST VILLAGE DIVISION 6TH  
**Amberley Village**



## From the Desk of Village Manager Scot Lahrmer

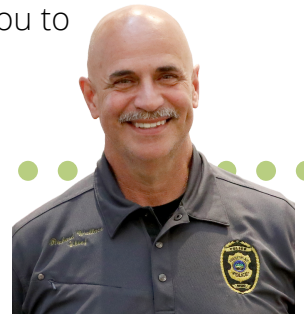


Welcome to the Spring issue of the Amberley Village newsletter! We've got so much to share as we continue working hard to enhance both services and communications with residents. As you'll see in this issue, staff continues to develop creative approaches to Village needs in the areas of Maintenance, Police, Fire and Administration to maximize resources while maintaining the highest standards of service. In fact, we were recently recognized by *Ohio Business Magazine* as well as Hamilton County R3source for leadership in the areas of fiscal responsibility, creative partnerships and diversion of waste into the landfill (see page 7).

And while we're proud of the recognition we've received for these efforts, we know that it's our residents who most deserve the credit. Your partnership is the most critical of all to the process of matching Village services to the needs and wants of our residents, and we truly appreciate your ongoing feedback and support.

And if you run into Chief Wallace, be sure to congratulate him on his recent appointment to President of the Hamilton County Police Association for the 2022 calendar year.

As we prepare for the upcoming May elections (see *Police Levy, page 3*), I invite you to reach out with any questions by calling us at 513-531-8675, or e-mailing me at [slahrmer@amberleyvillage.org](mailto:slahrmer@amberleyvillage.org). I look forward to hearing from you!



## Chief Wallace: Police Update

Amberley Village has always maintained a strong commitment to personalized, community policing, which we've regularly highlighted in our communication with residents. This spring, residents will have an opportunity to vote on a Police Levy Renewal, which helps fund much of what you've come to know and love about Public Safety in Amberley Village. Funding from the levy allows us to operate fully staffed, and affords us the ability to maintain our own Dispatch.

Many smaller communities - like ours - have experienced cutbacks. And while many have seen crime rates go up as a result, Amberley Village has had an overall decrease in crime. This is primarily because of the personal relationships between our Police Department and residents. It's just one of many innovative approaches to the challenges faced by our Department that has allowed us to maintain some of the lowest crime rates and best response times in the County.

I personally invite you to a Community Open House on April 28, 2022 (see page 3) to learn more about how we do this and to give residents the opportunity to get to know the men and women (and our K-9!) who protect our Village every day.





# Police Levy Renewal Won't Raise Taxes

Amberley Village residents often cite strong police services as one of the aspects they love most about living in the Village. This spring, residents will vote on the renewal of the 2017 Amberley Village Police Levy, which expires December 31, 2022.

The Police Levy was first passed in 2012 with the intention of creating a dedicated source of revenue that could only be used for the expenses of police operations and services. At that time, the Village identified the need for \$2.2 million, and the levy was intended to help by bringing in \$1.6 million annually, with the difference coming from the Village General Fund. In 2017, the Village was able to reduce the cost of the levy by 20% through identification of additional revenue streams, reduction of costs through creative partnerships, refurbishment rather than replacement of new equipment, and other innovative cost-savings techniques.

The 2017 levy, which was approved by 87% of Village voters, was reduced to 8 mills, or \$1.3 million annually. Renewal of the levy will not raise taxes. Instead, the 2022 Police Levy would renew and maintain the 8 mills, or \$1.3 million annually toward the \$3.7 million Police Department budget. As with the past five years, the remaining balance, which was \$2.4 million in 2021, would be covered by the Village's General Fund (see graphic, page 4).

Revenues from the tax levy augment funding for 18 full-time patrol officers, including one Police K-9 Unit, and five dispatch/administrative positions. Maintaining the 8 mill levy allows Amberley Village to preserve Police services at current levels, including consistent patrols, Vacation Home Checks and the many personal touches which play a vital role in minimizing Village crime rates. "Amberley Village Police Department is trained to look for things that might invite home intrusions and proactively address them, such as closing open residential garage doors and holiday package delivery at the Police Station," says Chief Wallace. "Many other communities are unable to provide this level of service, and some have experienced an increase in residential crime."

Levy funding enables Amberley Village officers to serve as first responders to all EMS calls, and helps pay the cost of Village Dispatchers, who offer around-the-



From l. to r. are: Auxiliary Officer Jamie Byrd, Sgt. Ryan Shaw, Sgt. Mike Koenig, Chief Wallace, Detective Mark Roeseler, Auxiliary Officer Alex Price, and Officer Ryan Faehr.

clock, personalized service to residents calling the Village for assistance. Amberley Police established an in-house alarm system to help defray costs and preserve its Dispatchers and the ability to provide personal attention during what can often be the most critical moments of residents' lives.

Amberley Village is also widely known for its emphasis on the importance of Community Policing. To that end, Chief Richard Wallace was recently named President of the Hamilton County Police Association, and many Village officers serve in variety of capacities, including the Underwater Search & Rescue Unit, Honor Guard, SWAT and the Mobile Field Force. The Village also serves as home to Hamilton County Heroin Task Force (HCHTF) Commander Tom Fallon.

Community involvement beyond the Amberley Village borders not only raises the profile of the Village overall, but also maximizes exposure and encourages relationships, making it more likely that assistance from outside jurisdictions will be available when needed. Sharing skills and experiences with outside organizations also expands knowledge, and broadens the positive reputation of Amberley Village as a safe community, intolerant of criminal activity. And as residents regularly report, these elements make the Village a highly desirable community in which to live, work and play.

(continued on page 4)



**Community Open House**  
**Amberley Village Firehouse**  
**Thursday, April 28, 2022**

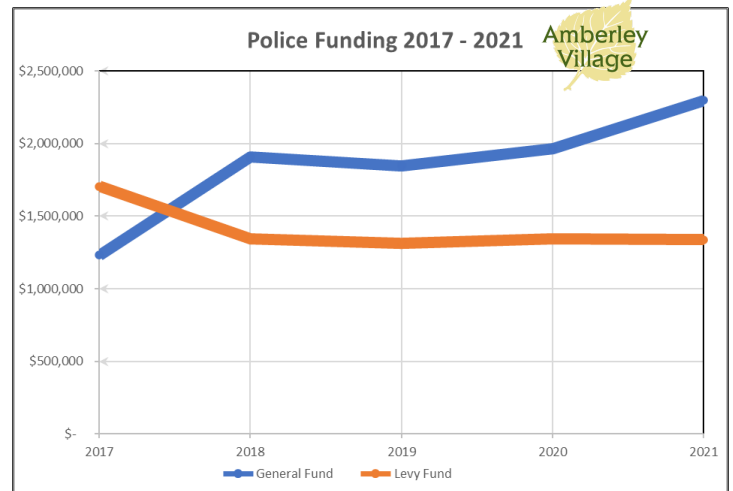
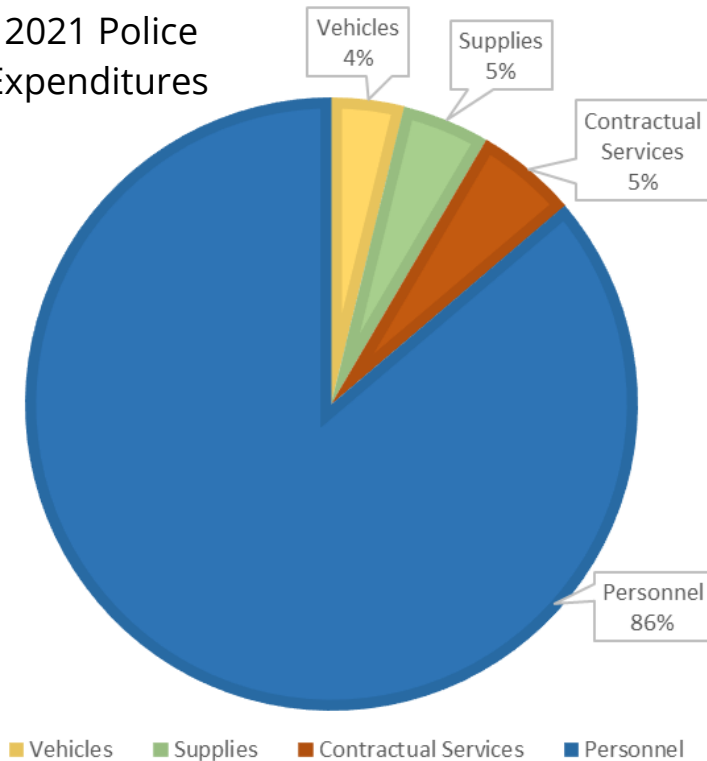
Session #1: 1 - 3 p.m.  
 Session #2: 7 - 9 p.m.

**Join K-9 Creed at our upcoming Community Open House!**

## Police Levy Renewal *(continued from page 3)*

The graphics below and right demonstrate Police Department expenditures and an overview of the percentage of Police Budget spent from Levy dollars vs. General Fund. Creative funding approaches by Village staff show Police funding trending toward greater reliance on the Amberley Village General Fund, however, Levy dollars are still critical to ensuring current levels of service can be maintained.

### 2021 Police Expenditures



## Pickleball (and Yoga) Anyone?

The WeTHRIVE! Health & Wellness Committee is busy coordinating healthy programs for our community, including the return of Yoga on the Lawn and a new program, Pickup Pickleball. Dates for both activities will be posted to the Amberley Village website at [amberlevillage.org](http://amberlevillage.org).

Residents interested in joining the WeTHRIVE! Health & Wellness Committee should contact Jim Rulli at [jrulli@cinci.rr.com](mailto:jrulli@cinci.rr.com). Committee meetings are held monthly, and can be found on the Village website calendar.



## Welcome Lewis Animal Hospital!

Amberley Village is excited to welcome Lewis Animal Hospital to their new location next to Mercy Health at the Amberley Village North Site! Owned by Dr. Les Polasky, Lewis Animal Hospital is a full-service veterinary clinic offering grooming, boarding, diagnostics, radiology, surgery, laser therapy, microchipping, pharmacy and more.

Established in 1914, the practice recently moved from its former location along Reading Road to their new, larger facility with expanded parking and even outdoor space for pet exercise.

The new location in Amberley Village opened in December, and welcomes new patients, boarders and grooming clients.

For more information, visit Lewis Animal Hospital online, call 513-821-1101 or meet the friendly staff at their beautiful new state-of-the-art facility located at 8601 Ridge Road next to Mercy Health.



## Lewis Animal Hospital



*Lewis Animal Hospital opened at the Village North Site in December 2021 and is accepting new patients, boarders and grooming clients.*



## Village Aggregation Program Combats Increased Gas Cost

Amberley Village recently announced a change from a variable to a fixed rate for its gas aggregation program. The Village's aggregation consultant, AGE, recommended the change based on sharply rising natural gas rates leading into this winter. Low production from natural gas producers, after depleted storage levels following the winter storm in February 2021, left major concerns in the market about overall supply heading into what was forecasted by many to be a colder than normal winter.

AGE recommended its aggregation communities not leave any further upside risk to residents and instead lock into a fixed rate for the remainder of the current contract ending in October 2022. This best positioned residents to have the option between a known fixed rate commodity for this winter through the aggregation program vs a variable rate structure offered by Duke's Gas Cost Recovery price-to-compare.

For more information, visit the Aggregation page under Resident Services at [www.amberleyvillage.org](http://www.amberleyvillage.org).

## Virtual ride along in a snow plow!

Amberley Village recently posted a video highlighting the behind-the-scenes challenges of keeping Village roads clear during a snow event. Take your virtual ride-along at the QR code below!



▶ SCAN ME



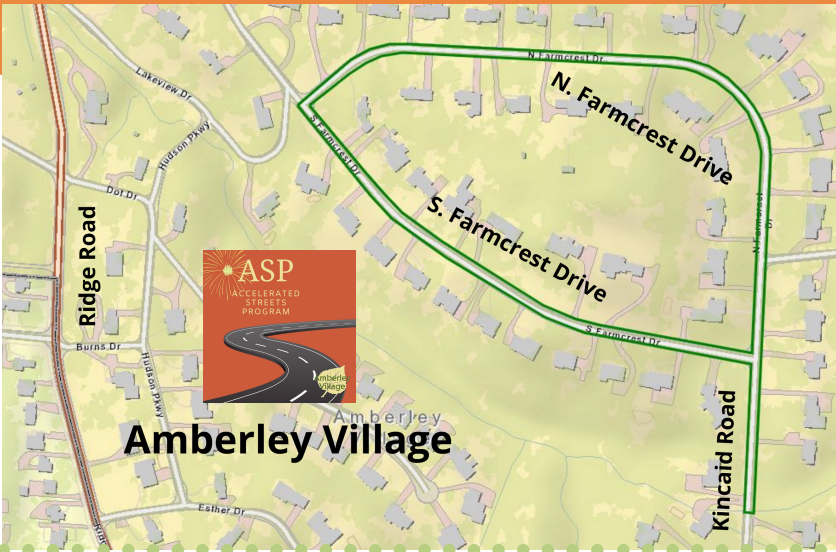
## 2021-23 Council Takes Oath of Office

Amberley Village welcomed the new Council at an Oath of Office Ceremony this past December. Comprised of four returning Councilmembers and three newly-elected officials, the Council was sworn in by Judge Jennifer Branch. Council also selected Tom Muething as Mayor and Natalie Wolf as Vice Mayor at the December meeting. Committees were assigned by Mayor Muething and approved by Council, and are listed on the Village website under GOVERNMENT, along with council bios, pictures and contact information..



**From left to right are:** Richard Bardach, Keely Paul, Bob Rosen, Judge Jennifer Branch (Oath Administrator), Mayor Tom Muething, Jay Shatz, Vice Mayor Natalie Wolf, and Ben Hunt.

## Accelerated Streets Program (ASP) Update: Farmcrest Reconstruction



Work will begin this spring on a total street reconstruction for North and South Farmcrest Drives as well as part of Kincaid. The map at left outlines the streets to be restored (*shown in green*), which will involve taking the roadway down to the dirt and complete restoration of the asphalt.

The project is part of a \$6.7 million investment by the Village in our street conditions over an eight year period. The project has been awarded to Ford Development with Fred Nemann handling water main replacement. The Farmcrest Reconstruction Project, which will begin in the Spring, carries a total investment of \$2 million.

Information regarding the Accelerated Streets Program (ASP), including dates, project information and plans for upcoming street repairs, is available on the Village website under Resident Services.

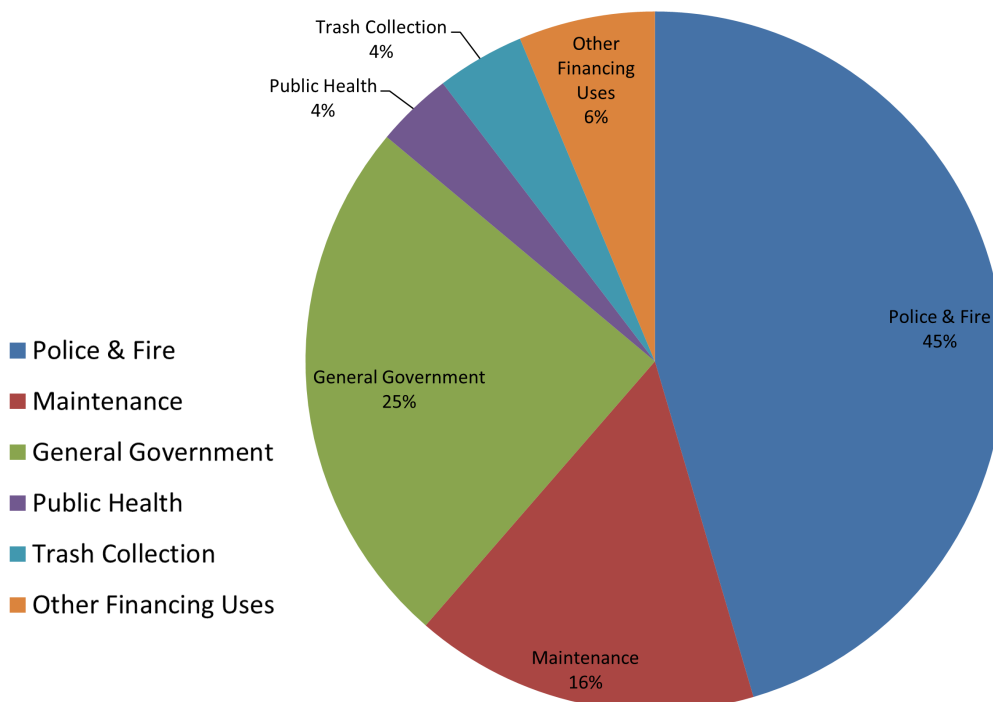
## Village Financial Overview

The Village ended 2021 under budget, with revenues exceeding expenses by \$145,000 and closed the year with a healthy General Fund balance.

Revenues received in 2021 were similar to those collected in 2020, even though 2020's revenue included one-time revenue of \$318,000. Earnings (income) tax remains the primary source of revenue for the Village representing 56% of our General Fund revenue. Several sources of revenue increased in 2021 while others decreased. While the increase in revenue from 2020 to 2021 was less than 1%, this amounted to \$5.8 million collected in 2021.

Expenditures totaled \$5.6 million in 2021, a 5.7% increase over 2020's expenses. This expense includes funding of Village services like police and fire protection, snow and ice control, emergency medical services, brush, and leaf collection. It also includes \$1.3 million toward our Police Department, which received 37% of its funding through the police levy for a total of \$3.6 million in police expenditures. Protecting our residents through our Police Department continues to be the largest expenditure of the Village. For more information, visit the Village website under GOVERNMENT/Open Portal to Village Finances.

### 2021 Amberley Village Expenses



### Where Do Your Property Taxes Go?

Did you know that only 17.2% of property taxes go to fund Village services? That's right! Over 60% of property tax collection goes directly to Cincinnati Public Schools. The list below outlines some of the other services funded by property tax:

- School District (60.4%)
- City/Village (17.2%)
- Children Services (4.5%)
- Developmental Disabilities (4.2%)
- County General Fund (2.8%)
- Park District (2.6%)
- Public Library (2.3%)
- HLTH/Hospital Care-Indigent (1.8%)
- Mental Health Levy (1.8%)
- Senior Services (1.4%)
- Zoological Park (0.4%)
- Family Service/Treatment (0.4%)
- Crime Information Center (0.2%)

Source: HamiltonCountyAuditor.org



## Amberley Village Wins Ohio Success Award from *Ohio Business Magazine*



Amberley Village

Amberley Village was recently recognized by *Ohio Business Magazine* for its innovative business practices in the 2022 Ohio Success Awards. The submission included examples of creative cost-saving measures taken by Village staff, including the purchase of a mini-excavator purchased with grant dollars, and the shared purchase of a boom-arm mower with Symmes Township. As one of only two joint Police-Fire Departments in the State, Amberley Village's creative and effective approach to public safety also allows for more personalized service to residents. Thanks to our dedicated staff and residents in making this award possible!



## Village Leads County in Recycling



Another thanks to our residents for their ongoing commitment to diverting waste from the landfill! Amberley Village is proud to be the recipient of the 2021 Best Village Diversion Rate award, which was presented to Mayor Muething (below right) by Gage Bradford (left) of Hamilton County R3source. The Award itself is made of recycled glass, and was shared with Council at the February meeting, where the Mayor also announced that the Village was ranked #1 in landfill diversion rates out of all municipalities of any size within Hamilton County! The continued success of the Village as a leader in recycling is attributed largely to the efforts of Village residents and the work of Village Maintenance Crews.

Hamilton County R3source will host a composting program in late Spring. Check out the Village website for updates!

## Rumpke Now Accepts Plastic & Aluminum Cups!

From plastic takeout and souvenir cups to disposable aluminum cups, Rumpke now takes more types of recycling than ever before! Yogurt cups, butter tubs and plastic carry out containers are also now accepted. But contamination is always a hitch in the recycling process, so be sure you know what's acceptable and what's not. Visit our website for handy links to resources, or use the QR Code below to view a short video - and keep those cups coming!



Learn more about Rumpke's growing list of recyclables at left!

Brush Collection runs throughout the year. See guidelines at right!



SCAN ME



### Get Connected!

Mobile App Available on  
Google Play or the App Store

### Join us on:



Sign up for Amberley Village E-News  
on our website or text AMBERLEYNEWS to 22828



Amberley Village Municipal Building  
7149 Ridge Road  
Amberley Village, OH 45237  
(513) 531-8675

[www.amberleyvillage.org](http://www.amberleyvillage.org)

PSRT STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
CINCINNATI OH  
PERMIT 9142

## Looking Ahead:

Monday, April 11:	Regular Meeting of Council
Monday, April 18:	Tax or Extension Due Date
Thursday, April 28:	Community Open House Sessions
Saturday, April 30:	DEA National Drug Takeback Day
Sunday, May 1:	One Stop Drop
Tuesday, May 3:	Primary Election
Monday, May 9:	Regular Meeting of Council
Sunday, May 15:	Bike Safety Event
Monday, June 13:	Regular Meeting of Council
Monday, July 11:	Regular Meeting of Council
Monday, August 8:	Regular Meeting of Council
Sunday, August 28:	Ice Cream Social

**Always check the Village website for the latest changes and updates**

*Committee meetings are posted regularly  
on the website calendar, Village posting boards  
and on Facebook. Sign up to receive notices via email  
on the Village website at [www.amberleyvillage.org](http://www.amberleyvillage.org).*



# ONE STOP DROP RECYCLING EVENT

All neighborhoods welcome!

Amberley  
Village



Coordinated by:



AMBERLEY VILLAGE  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
STEWARDSHIP  
COMMITTEE

**Sunday, May 1, 2022: Noon - 3 p.m.**  
**Amberley Green 7801 Ridge Road**

*List of accepted items at: [amberleyvillage.org](http://amberleyvillage.org)*