

## Police Department Acquires Used Cruisers, Saving Tax Dollars



Residents may notice that something seems different about a few of the Amberley Village Police cruisers and that's right! The paint job may stay the same, but Amberley Police are ready to phase in two Dodge Chargers as the successor to Amberley's trusty Crown Victoria. Since Ford announced plans to stop manufacturing the Crown Victoria, the full-size, rear-wheel-drive sedans that make up about 70 percent of the nation's police fleet, law enforcement agencies nationwide have been evaluating potential replacements.

Amberley's Police Department has acquired two used 2010 Dodge Chargers from the Village of Newtown in an effort to save the Village money. The Department had not purchased cruisers since 2009 and the aging fleet maintenance costs were climbing upwards of \$33,000 annually.

Village Council approved the purchase of the two used fully equipped cruisers in November for \$18,500 each. Three police vehicles that had reached their end of useful life were removed from service. The sale of those out of service vehicles added to the cost savings of purchasing used vehicles and resulted in a savings to the Village of \$38,000. This is an outstanding example of strategic changes in the Village's approach to equipment acquisition with cost efficiency in the forefront, saving tax dollars.

The 2010 Dodge Chargers have transitioned to the Village's possession with less than 46,000 miles. The intent behind purchasing these vehicles is to reduce the repair and maintenance expense and to put newer vehicles on the road.

## Amberley Collaborates to Provide Dispatch Services to Silverton



As the Village continues to focus on efficiency and effectiveness with its services, exploring collaboration of services with other communities is a priority. Amberley Village is one of four PSAPs (Public Safety Answering System) in the County. The Village prides itself on our personal service as well as our turnaround time on calls. Silverton and Amberley Police have worked together in the past and providing Silverton with dispatch enables both communities to benefit financially. This also provides some level of mutual aid support and back-up between the two departments which is crucial to both communities. As local governments are financially strained and government collaboration is one of the few opportunities we can offer, the Village began dispatching for Silverton in December.

Here are some frequently asked questions about this arrangement:

### What will happen when I call 911?

Residents who call 911 will hear "911 what is your emergency?" The Amberley dispatcher on the phone will take your information and immediately start a response from police, fire or both. There will be no difference in the amount of time before assistance will be dispatched.

### What if I need the police, but it is not an emergency?

When an immediate police response is not needed, residents should call 531-2040. As has been the case in the past, the Police Department lobby continues to be open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. A resident is welcome to come to the public safety window to speak with a dispatcher.

### Will it take longer for the Village to respond to calls for service?

Amberley dispatch is staffed 24 hours a day and calls are dispatched for immediate response. During peak times, part-time dispatchers will be utilized to provide additional coverage. Additionally, all full-time dispatchers are EMD certified (Emergency Medical Dispatchers) which gives our dispatchers the ability to dispatch the emergency and also provide emergency care if needed.

PRSRT STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
CINCINNATI OH  
PERMIT 5400



7149 RIDGE ROAD  
AMBERLEY VILLAGE, OH 45237  
PH 513-581-8675  
AMBERLEYVILLAGE.ORG

**Useful Numbers**  
Tax Office: 531-0130  
Police/Fire Non-Emergency: 531-2040  
Energy Aggregation Suppliers:  
Electric: DP&L 1-888-674-3753  
Natural Gas: IGS Energy 1-800-280-4474

## Community Calendar

### Arbor Day is April 22

Special Celebration of Arbor Day & Earth Day! (details to be announced)

### One Stop Drop: Amberley Recycles

When: May 19 from 12-4 p.m.  
Where: Amberley Green Parking Lot  
Electronics recycling, secure document shredding and more!

### Get the Dirt on Backyard Composting

When: May 14, 2013 at 6 p.m.  
Where: Amberley Village Community Room  
Interested in learning more about composting? Attend this hour-long evening seminar focusing on the basics of backyard composting and receive a free kitchen collector and a \$20 coupon toward the purchase of a compost bin. Call 946-7734 to register. Space is limited.

### Community Survey: Living with Urban Deer

The Health, Education & Welfare Committee would like to hear from you! By April 30, a community survey will be available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DXJK8V>. Residents interested in sharing their experiences of living with deer in the Village are encouraged to take the survey. Submitted information will help the Village collect deer-related data.

# Amberley Village NEWS



## Trash & Recycling Services Enhanced, Fees Reduced

The Village is pleased to announce that after participating in The Center for Local Government's waste and recycling consortium to bid for collection services alongside area communities, residents will enjoy reduced fees while receiving enhanced services.

Another reason our rates are lower is due to the Service Department's brush chipping, leaf removal, and tree recycling programs which keep yard waste out of the waste stream.

Residents can expect a lower bill as well as a rate-lock for a three-year period, illustrated below.

Waste Collection & Recycling Services	2013	2014	2015
3-Year Locked-In Rate	\$12.39	\$12.39	\$12.39

The new rate for 2013, 2014 and 2015 represents a 7.8% decrease from our 2012 rate and 10.6% decrease from the rate that would have gone into effect January 1, 2013 had the Village not received a more favorable contract. Another benefit for residents is the **65 gallon wheeled recycle tote that will be provided to residents by Rumpke**. The process of delivering the totes will take 10-14 days and begin the week of March 11. This wheeled tote will provide a convenient way for residents to get the recycle materials to the curb, offer increased capacity for recyclables and prevent the recyclables from being blown out of the bin since the tote has a lid.

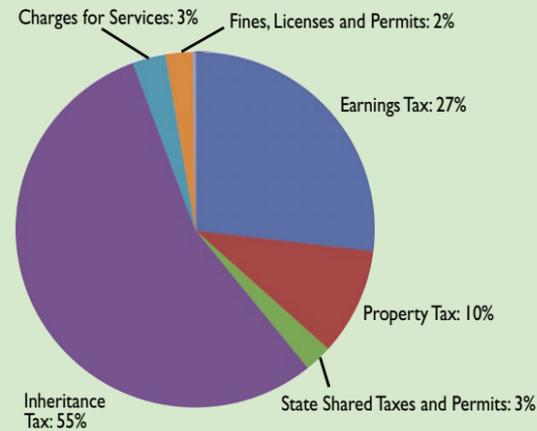
Residents received a mailer from Rumpke announcing the availability of the wheeled totes. If you have any questions about receiving the larger recycling container, please contact Amberley Village at (513) 531-8675.

## 2012 Year-End Financials

In 2012, budgeted expenses were expected to exceed anticipated revenues by \$1.5 million; fortunately, the deficit was \$1.1 million reflecting significant progress along with a lot of sacrifices. The best news is the Village is debt free after the Village received an unexpected windfall through the State's inheritance tax. Although this revenue source for the Village has been eliminated by the State of Ohio, effective January 1, 2013 the Village used the inheritance tax money plus an additional \$900,000 of Village funds to retire the Amberley Green debt.

### General Fund Revenue 2012 Total = \$9,932,441

The general fund revenues are used to fund general operations of the Village government.

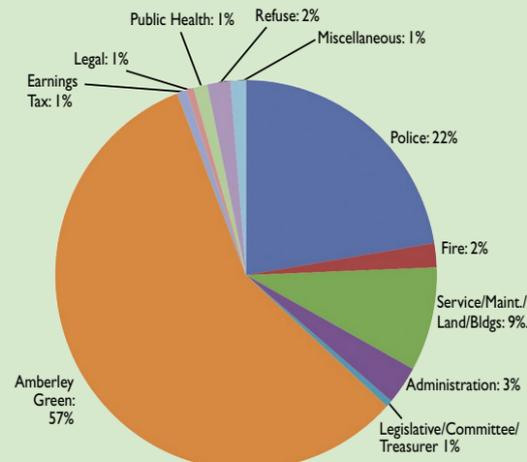


Tax	Revenue
Earnings Tax	\$2,665,946
Property Tax	976,400
State Shared Taxes and Permits	250,579
Inheritance Tax	5,478,462
Charges for Services	294,940
Fines, Licenses and Permits	240,751
Miscellaneous	25,363
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,932,441</b>

### General Fund Expenses 2012 Total = \$11,096,167

While the Village dipped into its reserve funds to help pay off the Amberley Green debt, the unencumbered balance at the end of 2012 was \$1.8 million. Through various actions, the Village has stabilized the budget bringing revenue and spending into balance with no forecast of deficit spending. However, there are significant needs which have been postponed or delayed that need to be addressed in order to be financially sustainable.

Title	Expenses
Police	\$2,481,993
Fire	221,598
Service/Maint./Land/Bldgs.	959,338
Administration	354,322
Legislative/Committee/Treasurer	61,446
Amberley Green	6,364,023
Earnings Tax	91,602
Legal	68,458
Public Health	130,343
Refuse	217,935
Miscellaneous	145,109
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$11,096,167</b>



## The 2013 Budget

When Village Council approved the 2013 Budget at its December meeting, it marked a major change from previous budgets where deficit spending was necessary. No deficit spending is anticipated in 2013 as the Village continues its austerity program. The budget deficit for 2012 was \$1.1 million and the 2013 Budget reverses the spending imbalance via a multi-faceted approach to controlling costs, the voter-approved police levy and becoming more strategic in doing business in a different manner.

The 2013 Budget is very lean and assumes the cost savings that have been realized will continue into the future. The foundation for the budget included minimizing departmental increases and reducing line items requests with continued focus on providing excellent services in the most cost effective and efficient manner. It does not include any additional full time personnel, assumes staffing levels remain stagnant and costs are controlled. It also assumes the collection and continuation of the police levy, revenues staying constant, steady employment at businesses in the Village and stable property values.

To provide police and fire, administration, maintenance and zoning services to the Village residents, the staffing funded in the 2013 Budget includes 31 full time positions,

down 4 positions since 2011:

- 16 Police/fire officers
- 4 Dispatchers/clerks
- 4 Administrative positions
- 7 Service/Maintenance personnel/firefighters

### 31 Total

Bringing revenue and spending into balance has been achieved but the 2013 budget does not include funding in multiple areas such as investments into our infrastructure, full staffing costs, vehicle replacements, supplies, unfunded liabilities and other needs that have been delayed. These items well exceed what the Village can afford but must be factored into future budgets. While expenses have been reduced and staffing has been restructured, the Village still has significant work ahead of itself to fully address our long term financial health but excellent progress has been made.

Over the next few months, staff will focus on financial sustainability for the Village with the goal of seeking consensus with Council on capital budgets, fund balance policies and a long term business model that is sustainable.

## Joint Economic Development Zone (JEDZ)

As the Village continues to identify strategic ways of doing business differently, Amberley has entered into an arrangement that encourages cooperation among Sycamore Township and Amberley Village to enhance development opportunities. The approval of a Joint Economic Development Zone (JEDZ) agreement mutually benefits the economic vitality of Sycamore Township and Amberley Village. Under Ohio law, townships are permitted to enter into a JEDZ whereby the township is able to work together to develop township land for commercial purposes. The benefit to the Village is receiving a portion of the earnings tax levied in the JEDZ without having to annex it and provide services. The benefits to the township are that it does not lose prime development land, it can still collect property taxes, and the area can be taxed with an earnings tax. This shared services arrangement allows Sycamore Township to diversify its revenue stream by partnering with Amberley to collect income tax in the township. The JEDZ is designed to encourage cooperation among local communities, enhance development opportunities and mutually benefit the economic vitality of each area.

The zone, referred to as the Southwest District, would include commercial development within Sycamore Township primarily west of Kenwood Road, east of Silver Crest Drive, south of Orchard Lane and north of the I-71 entrance ramp. This includes only property zoned for retail and office within Sycamore Township. The income tax would be applied, administered and collected by the Village on the commercial property within the Southwest District.

The general terms of the JEDZ agreement includes applying a .75% earnings tax to the Southwest District which Amberley will collect and receive compensation equal to 2% of gross tax revenues to cover cost. 90% of the remaining funds collected will be distributed to Sycamore Township and 10% will be allocated to Amberley Village.

The JEDZ agreement was approved by Sycamore Township Trustees on January 30 and will be submitted to voters in Sycamore Township who have the final say on its approval. Sycamore Township has also entered into a JEDZ with the City of Madeira. Sycamore Township residents will vote on the JEDZ agreements on May 7.

## 2013 Street Improvement Program

The Village infrastructure is one of our most vital assets. Investment into our streets and storm water systems is critical. Excellent infrastructure encourages reinvestment into our community and is essential in providing services that support economic growth. Infrastructure has a direct impact on our personal and economic health.

After years of postponing and delaying street needs due to financial constraints, the Village must take proactive efforts to develop financial plans to address our street needs. Village Council took the first step in January authorizing core samples of concrete based streets in the Farmcrest and Farm Acres neighborhoods to assess their condition. This analysis will be part of the basis for developing a comprehensive view of street needs but an important component of this is preparing a plan to fund capital projects.

The 2013 Street Improvement Program is being assembled and discussed at the staff and committee levels at this time. It is anticipated that this year's program will largely consist of pavement/curb patching and the Village will continue to service, maintain and repair our infrastructure in the most economical fashion in an effort to preserve the quality of our streets.

The Village budget for 2013 reflects the austerity measures implemented in 2011 and 2012 to align Village spending with available revenues. The 2013 Budget for street improvements reflects what the Village can afford but falls short of addressing our infrastructure needs. As part of an effort to assess the Village's street condition and preparation of a capital budget for our infrastructure needs, staff will be working with Council on identifying what our true needs are.

Please check the Village web site or subscribe to the Village E-News for updates as the 2013 Street Improvement Program is solidified and authorized by Council.

