



# Amberley Village

## NEWS

### Vacancies for Police-Fire and Maintenance Positions Filled



Four vacancies across two departments have recently been filled and the Village is pleased to introduce the new hires to the community.

The newest members of the Police-Fire Department were welcomed at the June Village Council meeting. Mayor Muething conducted the swearing-in ceremony for Officer-Firefighters Delarisco Sumler and John Burton.

Officer Delarisco Sumler joined the Police Department on May 25. Sumler began his police career in 2001 with the Lincoln Heights Police Department and has worked for the Lockland Police Department since 2009 prior to coming to the Village.

Officer John Burton also joined the Police-Fire Department in May. Officer Burton became certified as a Police Officer in 2012 and began his career as a reserve with Mt. Healthy and Colerain Township. He worked full-time with the Colerain Police Department prior to coming to the Village.

Maintenance/Fire Fighter Jim Swader joined the Maintenance Department on March 23. Swader's background is in plumbing although he has worked in maintenance and landscaping and brings 20 years of experience to the Village.

David Stone joined the Maintenance Department on April 27. David was recruited

from the Hamilton County Public Works Department where he has been an equipment operator for the last three years, and has worked in construction and landscaping.

All four serve the dual role of performing fire fighting duties for the Village and recently completed the 240-hour fire fighter training over the course of six weeks. Each have received state certification as fire fighters.



Police Officer/Fire Fighters Delarisco Sumler and John Burton



Maintenance Worker/Fire Fighters Jim Swader and David Stone

PRSRVT STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
CINCINNATI, OH  
PERMIT 9142

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



### Transparency Tools Added

In July, the Village launched several transparency tools with a focus on technology. A mobile app for iPhone and Android was released, and Facebook and Twitter accounts were activated. Residents can connect with the Village and get the latest updates faster than ever using their mobile device!



The Village's communication toolbox now includes regular mail (twice a year via the print newsletter), e-blasts via email to website subscribers, 5 posting boards located throughout the Village, the Nextdoor website, the Village website, the mobile app, Facebook, and Twitter for a total of 8 possible ways to receive information about Village business in addition to the option of attending committee and council meetings.

### Business in Amberley

The Village would like to congratulate Pepsi located on Sunnybrook Drive on their \$9 million investment into their Amberley Village facility where Pepsi products are bottled. Even though the Village has a small commercial presence, it is critical to our larger community's tax base. This is tremendous news for Pepsi and Amberley Village as we appreciate their investment in our community.



### Community Calendar

- Fire Prevention Week**  
October 4-10, the Amberley Village Police-Fire Department reminds you to keep your family safe with working smoke alarms in every bedroom.
- Council Meeting**  
WHEN: October 12 at 6:30 p.m.  
WHERE: Council Chambers, Amberley Village Municipal Building
- Environmental Stewardship Committee**  
WHEN: October 19 at 7 p.m.  
WHERE: Community Room, Amberley Village Municipal Building
- ESC Fall Program - French Park Creek Walk**  
WHEN: October 25 at 1-3 p.m.  
WHERE: French Park, 3012 Section Road
- 2014 Extended Tax Returns Due**  
If you filed an extension for your 2014 Tax Return, it is due on October 15. Filing and paying on time can save you a late filing penalty fee as well as interest.

**Income Tax Update**  
In January residents will be receiving a letter from the Tax Office outlining changes in the Amberley Village Tax Ordinance and how they apply to you. The updated Tax Ordinance will be available on our website by year-end. Tax years prior to 2016 will follow current Tax Ordinance Chapter 93.

The changes are a result from House Bill 5 adopted by the 130th Ohio General Assembly requiring municipal corporations to establish a uniform tax base by defining the forms of income they may or may not tax. The bill follows most of our current tax ordinance procedures but changes include limitation of 2016 employee business expenses, uniform filing dates for tax returns, extensions, estimates and withholding payments. Penalties, interest, fees and charges will also follow a uniform amount or percentage.

If you have any questions please call the Tax Administrator, Patty Meiers, Monday – Friday 8 am. to 4 p.m. at (513) 531-0130.

### Stormwater Utility Fees Reduced 30%

The Village's Storm Water Utility was implemented in 2003. The utility was created to effectively manage and finance a storm water system within the Village. The intent was to establish and maintain fair and reasonable storm water management service charges for each lot or parcel in the Village as each property contributes to storm water runoff and benefits from effective management of storm water.

2015 Budget reflected a decrease to the utility fee rate. The Storm Water Advisory Board and the Streets, Public Utilities and Sewers Committee held meetings to consider the proposed reduction. After reviewing the major accomplishments and potential future projects, the consensus recommended to Council was to reduce the fee. Three readings of the ordinance to reduce the fee occurred and Council adopted Ordinance 2015-6 at its June meeting, which reduced residents' storm water rate by 30% and went into effect on July 23.

The utility generates approximately \$332,000 per year or \$83,000 per quarter. Village code requires the funds generated be exclusively used for storm water utility purposes. Since 2003, the Village has invested over \$3.3 million into the storm water infrastructure. With the majority of larger and more expensive storm water projects completed in recent years, the

Residents will receive a pro-rated rate reduction on their bill beginning with the October billing cycle and the full 30% rate reduction will be reflected on their January bill from Cincinnati Water Works where the storm water utility fee is itemized.

### Village Receives Financial Audit

The State Auditor released the Village audit for 2012 and 2013. This is a comprehensive review by the State Auditor of our internal control, compliance testing, review of our methods, accuracy and legality of the accounts, financial reports, records and files.

The Village is required to be audited every 2 years and the report reflects a clean audit, free of findings. The State released the audit on July 9 and it is available to view by going to the Village website, the State Auditor's website or by visiting the Administrative offices and requesting a copy.

### Pedestrian Safety

Since August 2014, the Village has brought awareness to pedestrian safety on our roadways and has taken notable steps with the installation of a crosswalk, Ped Xing pavement markings, reflective spinners, radar enforcement, and additional pedestrian signage. Continuing with the 3-E's of Traffic Safety (education, engineering and enforcement), the next step in the process will be to install temporary speed humps in locations throughout the Village in order to monitor effectiveness of these devices. The first installations will be located on Elbrook Avenue and Fairhaven Lane. The speed humps are driver awareness oriented. Pedestrians are urged to utilize the crosswalks where available and walk facing traffic.





## Residents Celebrate 75 Years as a Village

The 75th Anniversary Parade and Celebration brought the community together for a day of family fun and activities! The parade made its way through the Village with several units bursting with community spirit and pride. In the evening, the swing time band music had plenty of folks up and dancing to the entertainment of those gathered under the tent enjoying dinner. The hot air balloon was very popular and was quite a sight to see floating on Village grounds!

The Village is greatly appreciative for all of the volunteers, sponsors, and individual contributors who played a part in making this a successful and memorable event for our community!



Check out the Village's Facebook page for a video of the parade and event photos.



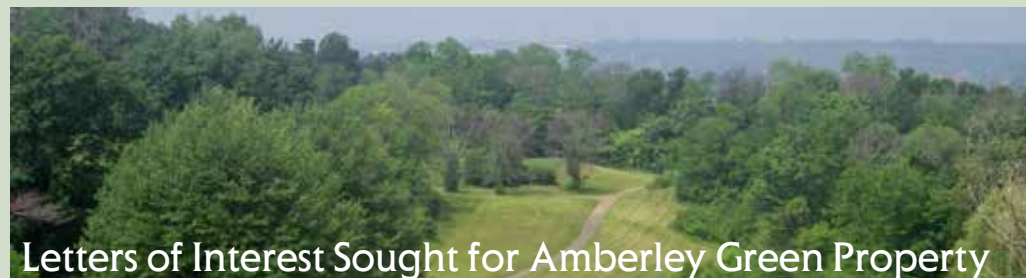
## Purchase Agreement for Portions of North Site Property

The North Site property was listed with Jones Lang LaSalle in February this year. Since then, various inquiries have been vetted and discussed with the Land Development Committee. The Committee recently recommended an agreement with Schuermann Properties to sell portions of the North Site for a purchase price of \$1,370,000 for the 13.7 acres. The property identified includes the location of the former Swim and Tennis Club to the east of the Village Maintenance Garage and north of the Garage excluding the communications tower.

At its August meeting, Village Council approved the agreement for constructing a mixed use commercial development on the North Site. This development could include retail, office and office/flex buildings.



The purchase agreement provides for a 30 day period where economic feasibility of this concept would be pursued by the real estate developer. If the developer determines there is reason to move forward, a 2nd 30 day period would allow the purchaser to evaluate other matters like title, zoning, environmental conditions, etc. This is a fast paced analysis of the property while it is under contract. Schuermann Properties has agreed to share information gathered during the due diligence period which may also be valuable to the Village.



## Letters of Interest Sought for Amberley Green Property

The Village has issued a Request for Letters of Interest in Amberley Green. In July, this request was sent to various interested parties and professionals in the development field to bring awareness to the Village's desire to partner with a development company for professional assistance in the design, marketing and development of this 133-acre tract situated at Ridge and Galbraith Roads.

The request outlined the Amberley Green property and provided relevant information, including the Village's objectives for the property:

- Maximize economic benefit to the Village.
- Land use consistent with needs of the Village.
- Incorporation of green space, buffer areas, and open space to accommodate some community use.
- Create unique opportunities to integrate the beauty, location and size of the property.
- Be sensitive to adjacent single-family residential use.

- Improve economic health and sustainability for the Village.
- Development ideas will be pursued as a partnership between Amberley Village and developer and there will be good alignment of objectives between Amberley and developer.
- Minimize Village financial contribution.
- Amberley will retain ownership of the land at least until the nature of the development is clear.
- Be aesthetically pleasing.

While this is an informal process, parties interested were asked for submissions by August 31. The Village Manager and Land Development Committee will review letters of interest received.

Residents interested in attending future meetings of the Land Development Committee during this process are encouraged to go to [www.amberleyvillage.org](http://www.amberleyvillage.org) and click on Subscribe to sign-up for the Meeting Notifications group to receive advance notice of meetings via email.



## Brush Pick-Up Suspended October – December

Continuing with streamlined operations and limited staff, the Village's Maintenance Department crew will concentrate on bulk leaf collection during mid-October through December. The last pick-up day for residents will be your regularly scheduled pick-up day during the week of **October 12** through

**October 16.** Brush pick-up will resume in January.

To find out the last day of brush pick-up on your street, please visit the News section at [AmberleyVillage.org](http://AmberleyVillage.org).

## Leaf Collection Starts October 19

The Village's annual leaf collection program will begin on Monday, October 19 this year. The Maintenance Department has readied its equipment and the crews will make regular routes throughout Village to provide leaf collection to residents until December 31, 2015.

The black and white advisory signs will be posted at the entrance to your neighborhood in advance of the crews, projecting the estimated day of collection in your area.

Crews will stay on schedule as much as possible. Weather, equipment, parking on the street, and debris mixed with leaves all affect the Village's ability to collect leaves.

### Tips When Raking Your Leaves:

- Please avoid placing leaves in the street to keep gutters and storm drains from clogging.
- Please avoid parking in front of leaf piles; crews are not able to pick up piles with access issues.
- Never place leaves around fire hydrants, mailboxes, sign posts, utility poles or guy wires.

## Do Not Solicit List

The Village's solicitation ordinance initially enacted in 1956 and amended in 1970, has become unenforceable since that time due to the U.S. Supreme Court and Ohio court rulings which have substantially changed the law to limit the Village's ability to regulate door-to-door sales.

The ordinance amendment provides for a pre-registration process for solicitors managed by the Police Department and establishes a Do Not Solicit list for residents.

Residents wishing to place their address on the Do Not Solicit list should contact the Police Department at 531-2040. Dispatchers are prepared to take your calls and only your address will appear on the Do Not Solicit list. Additionally, residents can place a placard that reads "No Solicitors" on their private property.

To read the solicitation ordinance changes in full, visit [www.amberleyvillage.org](http://www.amberleyvillage.org) and click on the Forms and Documents, then go to Ordinances and Resolutions to view Ordinance 2015-8.

