

THE VILLAGE

NEWSLETTER

VILLAGE OF SOUTH AMHERST

THE ECLIPSE

South Amherst and the rest of Lorain County are smack in the direct path of the once-in-a-lifetime solar eclipse that will occur at 3:08 p.m., April 8. If you miss it, you'll have to wait until 2099 to see it again from Ohio. The last solar eclipse visible in Ohio was in 1806

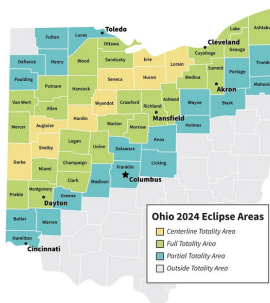
We are among the fortunate few in the 124-mile-wide band in the state to experience a total solar eclipse, when the moon moves in front of the sun plunging the Earth into darkness. Don't be late, it will only last four minutes.

Ohio officials warn the eclipse will attract an estimated million visitors from all over the country to the state, which could cause traffic problems.

They suggest residents do their marketing, shopping and errands before April 8. Be sure to fill prescriptions in advance. People should plan on staying close to home the day of the event. Police in South Amherst will be enforcing the parking ordinance to keep traffic moving and avoid traffic tie-ups.

Cities across the state, those along Lake Erie in particular, are planning on capitalizing on the rare event with celebrations and eclipse watch parties.

The South Amherst Historical Society is planning a series of events at the historic South Ridge Hall, 110 W. Main St beginning at 11 a.m. Food and coffee trucks will be on hand, educational information and coloring sheets will be available. Residents are warned to not look directly into the sun during the eclipse without wearing specially designed Eclipse Glasses. These can be purchased at Piggy's Main Street Market, 136 East Main Street and the Sunoco Par Mar gas station at 104 East Main Street.



WHAT IS HAPPENING

LETS TALK TRASH

To better serve you, the Mayor and Council is asking for your feedback about the current waste removal services. Visit the village website to take the survey or Piggys.

Scan QR to take survey



MONDAY APRIL 22ND @7PM

Come join us as we invite a representative from the Lorain County Solid Waste Consortium to talk.



DUMPSTER DAYS

SATURDAY APRIL 26TH / 27TH 2024

8am- 4pm and 8 till dumpster is full

LORAIN COUNTY BEAUTIFUL

SATURDAY MAY

18TH 2024

Make a difference in your community by signing up to help keep Lorain County clean, green and beautiful! For information on volunteering in your community, please contact:

sacommecondev@southamherst.org

There will also be a dumpster at town hall.

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

SSG JAMES HUNTER

MEMORIAL BASKETBALL GAME

SATURDAY MAY

25TH 2024



Youth & Adult 3v3 games

& Free throw/3 point contest

Sign up on Facebook page **SSG James P Hunter**

Memorial Foundation, LLC

Registration ends May 1st.

Music, food, games, face painting & more!

Event is free with exception of food vendors.

Donations are welcome

Shirts can be purchased at mistakesonthelake.com

\$6 every purchase goes back to the **SSG James P Hunter**

Memorial Foundation.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE



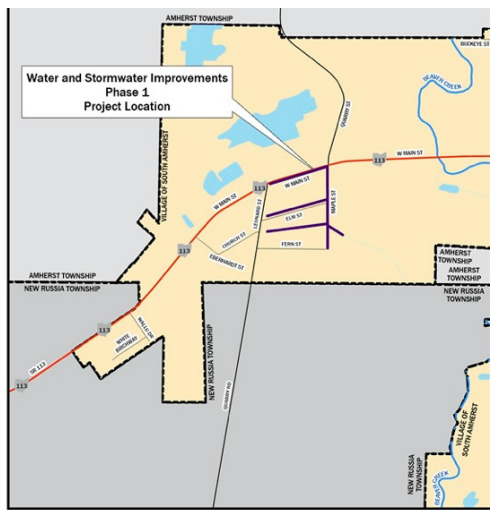
MONDAY MAY

27TH 2024

Lineup at 9:30 a.m. Kenwood, Parade start 10 a.m.

OHIO WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT

The village recently applied to the State of Ohio Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Grant Program, after an unsuccessful first round application, and is awaiting a decision. The proposed project includes replacement of waterlines and storm sewer in a portion of West Main Street, Maple Street, Elm Street, Fern Street, and Leonard Street. This area was identified as part of a larger study by the Lorain County Engineer's Office in 2020. The existing waterlines are approximately 60 to 100 years old, and the storm sewer system has had small repairs done over the years. This project will affect approximately 120 homes and 300 residents.



Thank You to Village Volunteers

The following residents graciously volunteer their time throughout the year by participating in the following committees or boards during 2023:

- Audit Committee:** Melissa Yoby
- Finance Committee:** Paula Knodel
- Memorial Parade Committee:** Kathy Thomas
- Park Board:** Jessica Beran, Laurie Beran, Thomas Pellittieri
- Records Commission:** Judy Meade
- Zoning Board of Appeals:** Steve Iwanek, Dominic Gentile and former members Paul Knott and Zoltan Zoltai

- Village Hall Office Numbers:** (440)986-2222
- Water/Stormwater Department** ext. 1
- Fiscal Officer/Mayor's Court Payments** ext. 2
- Office of the Mayor** ext. 3
- Cemetery** ext. 4
- Building/Records** ext. 5 or (440)986-1061
- Zoning** (440) 986-1162

Village Offices will be Closed on These Week Days in 2024

- May 27** **October 14 ,**
- June 19** **November 11, 28, 29**
- July 4** **December 24, 25, 31**
- September 2**

NEW ADDITIONS

Exciting news from our bustling Village! We're thrilled to welcome new members to our team, including **Mike Sangiacomo** and **Robb Koscho** joining the council, **Larry Verga** and **Chris Gallagher** to the cemetery board, and **Victor Bellan** as the newest addition to the Park board. A heartfelt thank you to everyone dedicated to making our Village the wonderful community it is.

BULK TRASH DAYS FOR 2024

Garbage Cans

Trash shall not be placed on the curb lawn before 12:00 noon on the day before designated pick-up. Empty containers must be removed from the curb lawn before noon on day after designated pick-up.

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| MARCH 20 | AUGUST 21 |
| APRIL 17 | SEPTEMBER 18 |
| MAY 22 | OCTOBER 23 |
| JUNE 19 | NOVEMBER 20 |
| JULY 17 | DECEMBER 18 |

Bulk items are to only be put out the day before pickup!!!



TOWN SEALS

We need your help choosing our new town seal design! Cast your vote for your favorite design and help shape our village's identity. Visit Town Hall to vote. Every vote counts, so don't miss out on this chance to make a difference. Let's create a town seal we can all be proud of together! To vote visit Town Hall.

HOME MODIFICATION PROGRAM

Older South Amherst residents can apply to have a wheelchair ramp and bathroom safety bars in showers and toilets in their home for free under a grant offered by the Lorain County Office on Aging.

The "Home Modification Program" is designed to "keep older citizens in their homes" by offering thousands of dollars in upgrades at no expense to the homeowner.

The program is funded by a federal grant combined with a local grant and is now available on a first come basis to Lorain County residents over the age of 60. The program will be offered until the funds run out. It is not available to house renters or apartment dwellers.

Project Coordinator John Slatcoff said the money for the work will be available "until the grant runs out." He said the grant was in excess of \$800,000. "The ramps will be installed at the homes, these usually cost between \$5,000 and \$7,000, but will be free," he said. "We will also install grab bars for toilets and other bathroom accessories to make them safer."

Slatcoff said anyone interested in applying for the program should call his office at 440-406-3337 or 440-326-4800 and arrange for an inspection.

BLESSING BOX

Coming soon to Town Hall a Blessing Box, thanks to Jennifer Schlifer! Stocked with essentials for those in need, this initiative embodies our community's spirit of kindness.



VIEW OUR CODIFIED ORDINANCES

Scan the QR to view our codified ordinances at



We also post the ordinances and resolutions for a reading or vote at the town hall, Piggys and East of Chicago Pizza.

LET'S TALK REAL ESTATE TAXES

Do you know how much of your real estate taxes go to support the operations of the village? Residents have lived here long enough to know how much their total tax bill is generally. How much does the village generally generate in real estate tax revenue? Some pay the bill and never give it much more thought. So many residents have commented on what they get for the taxes they pay. It is hard-earned money and everyone's budget is stretched to the limits. Managing a village municipality is no different. You would like to have all the amenities, but the money just doesn't stretch that far. A recent real estate tax bill example is below comparing the amount that goes to the village to what is paid to the village. Shocking? Perhaps you would like to look at your real estate tax bill to see how much the village is getting to provide services to you. Here is an example for the first half year:

OPPORTUNITIES

Playground Committee

The Park Board is looking for resident input for a new playground at the Community Park. If you would like to be part of this project from the ground up, please contact Laurie Beran at recordsclerk@southamherst.org or 440-986-1061.

Agriculture committee

Agriculture Committee is looking for volunteers to serve as the vital link between you and the council. Whether it's navigating fowl regulations, discussing farming initiatives, or addressing agricultural concerns, your involvement is crucial! Join us in shaping policies and initiatives that impact our community's agricultural landscape. Let's cultivate a thriving environment together! If interested contact mayorjones@southamherst.org



South Amherst Council, in an effort to maintain fiscal responsibility and ensure fair and consistent tax collection, has concluded the one-year grace period during which penalties and interest on income tax payments were temporarily waived.

The grace period began on October 1, 2022, when the village tax administrator duties were awarded to Regional Income Tax Agency, also known as RITA.

Effective November 13, 2023, taxpayers are encouraged to fulfill their tax obligations promptly to avoid any additional charges. The resumption of standard penalties and interest aligns with the Council's commitment to maintaining a fair and equitable tax system that sustains essential public services.

The Council remains committed to transparency in financial matters. Residents are invited to reach out to RITA at 800-860-7482 or the Fiscal Officer at 440-986-2222 Ext.2 for inquiries or assistance related to income tax. Additional information is available in South Amherst codified ordinance Chapter 182 and Ordinance #1783-23, Chapter 182 amendment.

SUMMARY OF CHARGES (on the left of statement)		TAX DISTRIBUTION(on the right of the statement)	
Total	761.87	County	188.62
		Township	13.84
		JVS	28.06
		School	431.8
		* City	71.96
		Misc/Health	6.32
		* Special	21.27
		Total	761.87

Under the City category the village received \$71.96 from one resident to pay for police, fire, park, tax administration, law director, building, zoning, and village administration for the first half of the year. Storm water management received \$21.27. So, \$143.92 for the entire year for all those services and \$42.54 for an aging Storm water system. That is something to think about.

SIDEWALKS

The Service, Street, and Sidewalk Committee looked at the sidewalks around town in 2022 and 2023. We came up with three categories: Remove overgrown grass, needs repairs such as leveling if there is a one-inch trip hazard, or needs replaced because it is too broken up. We planned to notify residents of their responsibility to make the repairs. However, we learned that the water department needed to increase their rates in 2023. The sidewalk committee did not feel the residents needed another additional expense due to the water rate increase. In 2024, we will be trying to find other resources to help defray the cost of repairs to homeowners for sidewalk repairs.

Village residents are responsible for the cost of repairs to sidewalks for several reasons:

- **Property Ownership:** Sidewalks are typically considered part of the public right-of-way but are usually maintained by property owners. Property owners are responsible for the upkeep of sidewalks adjacent to their properties as it is seen as an extension of their property.
- **Local Ordinances:** Many villages have local ordinances or regulations that specify property owners' responsibility for maintaining sidewalks. These regulations may require property owners to repair or replace damaged sidewalks to ensure safety and accessibility.
- **Liability:** Property owners may be held liable for accidents or injuries that occur due to poorly maintained sidewalks. By maintaining sidewalks, property owners can reduce the risk of legal liability.
- **Resource Allocation:** Local governments often have limited budgets and resources, and prioritizing sidewalk maintenance can be a challenge. By placing responsibility on property owners, the financial burden is distributed among those who directly benefit from the sidewalks.

Property owners should be aware of their local ordinances and responsibilities to ensure the safety and accessibility of sidewalks in their community.

WATER AND STORM SYSTEM

On November 13th the village council voted to dissolve the South Amherst Board of Public Affairs and establish a Village Utility Administrator position which offers several potential benefits such as:

- **Efficiency:** A single administrator can streamline decision-making and daily operations, reducing bureaucracy and potentially making it easier to manage utilities.
- **Expertise:** An administrator may have specialized knowledge and experience in utility management, which can lead to more effective oversight and planning.
- **Consistency:** A consistent point of contact can improve communication with residents and stakeholders, fostering better customer service and responsiveness to concerns.
- **Accountability:** With a single administrator, it may be clearer who is responsible for utility-related decisions and outcomes, making accountability easier to establish.
- **Flexibility:** An administrator can make quicker decisions in response to evolving utility needs and challenges, as opposed to the potentially slower decision-making process of a board.

We want to take this opportunity to thank the most current board members and all those that have served before them. It is an arduous task that is seldom recognized. Very few people step forward to serve their community and this group has been there through some pretty difficult times. They are to be commended and thanked.