



# THE VILLAGE

## NEWSLETTER

### VILLAGE OF SOUTH AMHERST

## A YEAR TO CELEBRATE

2024 was an exciting year for The Community and Economic Development Committee. The committee was started when Jeri Leigh Siss resigned as council member and with a desire to bring the community together and look to the future of growth, requested of the mayor and council to be director of a newly formed SA CED. From there, a small but mighty crew of unpaid volunteers began to take shape.

They began with the Memorial Day Parade and Honor Ceremony in partnership with the Village Administration, Cemetery Board and Safety forces.

In October, through the efforts of key volunteers Erin Viock and Stephanie Koscho, the SA CED hosted their first ever community inclusive, family-friendly fall fun festival as an addition to the Halloween Parade and Cider and Donuts Reception hosted by the SA Fire Association.

During the winter season, the SA CED again partnered with the Fire Association and the Village to create an additional family friendly fun community event with Kris Kringle's Holly Jolly Mingle. With crafts, cookies, hot cocoa, Santa and the Grinch, the event was one to remember. Thanks to community partners, we were also able to once again light the great and mighty pine tree behind town hall.

We know that to achieve such things, it takes a village to bring a village together! Our committee also has community members who don't even get a fancy title, but they show up and volunteer, because they want to see their community be a place they can be proud of.

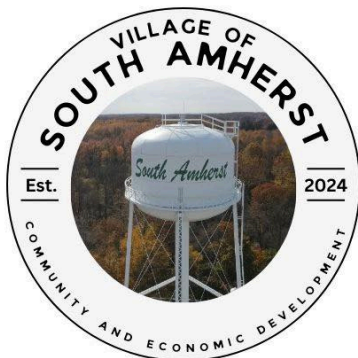
2024 brought a spectacular coming together of our small-town big heart community. What was co-created at each of the events was more than anyone could have imagined and almost everything they could have dreamed of. And there are so many people to acknowledge for what will hopefully become annual events and will certainly be an example for others to follow.

Without our community partners and sponsors, the village mayor and council, the administrative staff and most importantly, the volunteers, none of this would have been possible. The countless hours of meeting and creating, the monetary donations and the efforts to be visible in a crowded online space shouldnt go without acknowledgement.

The committee is in the planning stages for 2025 for these events and so much more. We are looking to share what makes this place we call home so special. The people, the businesses, the history.

Our meetings are open to the public and are held at the town hall on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM but may change with notice via the village website, the SA CED and Village Facebook pages and the town hall bulletin board.

We would love to have "I can and I will" people join us in co-creating another amazing year for our community and looking forward to a great 2025.



The Community and Economic Development Committee.

## UPDATES ON SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES

Over the past year, we have researched options for village trash removal and have entered into an understanding with Republic Services. This understanding ensures consistent and competitive pricing for all village residents, replacing previous free-market rates that reached as high as \$125 per quarter.

### What This Means for Residents

Starting February 1, 2025, and continuing through December 31, 2031, Republic Services will provide solid waste and recycling services under the following terms:

#### 1. Weekly Collection:

- Solid waste (blue containers), recyclables (green containers), and up to two additional items (e.g., leaf bags, extra bagged waste, bundled branches, or bulk items) will be collected weekly on Fridays.
- Bulk items include but are not limited to furniture, mattresses (must be wrapped and sealed), appliances (Freon or gases must be removed), and carpeting.

#### 2. Recycling Guidelines:

- Accepted items include plastics (#1-7), aluminum and bi-metal cans, glass bottles, jars, paper (newspapers, magazines, junk mail, catalogs, office papers), and cardboard.
- All food and beverage containers must be rinsed before being placed in the recycling cart.
- Recyclables can be mixed in the same cart—no need for separation by material type.

#### 3. Holiday Service Schedule:

- Trash collection will be delayed by one day for the following holidays: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

#### 1. Additional Services:

- Residents requiring extra capacity can arrange for additional carts:
- Additional solid waste cart: \$6.00/month (\$50.00 delivery fee).
- Additional recycling cart: \$6.00/month (\$50.00 delivery fee).
- For additional refuse removal, contact BFIO at (440) 458-5191 or (800) 327-5000.

#### 2. Optional Service Providers:

- Residents may choose other waste collection providers, as the village does not restrict other service providers.
- Refuse Carts are the property of Republic Service, and residents may be charged a return fee according to their current arrangement with Republic Services when services are canceled.

### Service Costs

**Below are the monthly rates for trash and recycling services (billed quarterly):**

#### Service Period

##### Monthly Rate

**February 1, 2025 – January 31, 2026**

**\$23.02**

**February 1, 2026 – January 31, 2027**

**\$24.17**

**February 1, 2027 – January 31, 2028**

**\$25.38**

**February 1, 2028 – January 31, 2029**

**\$26.65**

**Quarterly Administrative/Mailing Fee: \$4.75/quarter.**

## NEW COMPUTER SOFTWARE REVOLUTIONIZES WATER BILLING MANAGEMENT FOR RESIDENTS

In an era where technology increasingly intersects with our daily lives, a new computer software solution will be launching as of January 2025. This innovative software is designed to streamline water usage tracking, billing, and improved communication.



### Key Features of the Software

#### 1. Integrated Billing System

Gone are the days of complicated postcard water bills. The new software features an integrated billing system that simplifies the payment process. Residents can view their current and past bills and water usage, set up automatic payments, enroll in paperless bills, and receive reminders when bills are due, making it easier than ever to manage their water expenses.

#### 2. Improved Communication

The software serves as a bridge between residents and water management authorities. Regular updates, maintenance alerts, and community engagement features facilitate better communication, ensuring residents are informed about local water issues and initiatives.

### Conclusion

As we transition into the new software it is important to have current information (Account Owner, phone numbers, and email addresses) for our residents to ensure communications run smoothly. If you have filled out the information sheet that was included in your August bill Thank You.

## VILLAGE CONTACTS

**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:**

**September 2**

**October 14 ,**

**November 11, 28, 29**

**December 24, 25, 31**

## NO TURN ON RED COMING SOON

We have received numerous calls and seen posts on social media asking why we have a "No Turn On Red Monday through Friday now that the school has closed.

Council considered removing the sign or replacing it with a "No Turn On Red" regardless of the day of the week.

Considering the visibility issues and safety of everyone, Council voted to replace the sign with "No Turn On Red". This change will take place sometime in early 2025.

## ADDITIONS TO OUR FLEET OF VEHICLES

Some of our residents have been in the village long enough to know our struggles with having a decent fleet of vehicles to serve our residents better while others are new here to the village and may not be aware of the condition of our previous fleet. Proper financial management, maintenance, care, and selection make a big difference. We thought you would appreciate the update on what our fleet looks like today.



Utility Department FKA Water, Street, and Service

## VILLAGE LEGISLATION 101

**There are three distinct categories of legislation: ordinances, resolutions, and appropriations.**

1. **Ordinances:** These are legislative measures of a more permanent nature, typically establishing laws or procedures that must be adhered to by the community or the village government. Examples include village zoning regulations, laws prohibiting animals from running at large, and requirements for the village to post public notices. The standard procedure for the passage of an ordinance involves three readings; however, in urgent situations, an ordinance may be enacted as an emergency measure.
2. **Resolutions:** In contrast to ordinances, resolutions are temporary legislative actions, generally applicable for a specified duration. Examples include agreements with the County regarding the Wireless Emergency Notification System (WENS) and contracts for specific services. When the village receives these contracts or agreements with sufficient notice, they will also undergo the standard three readings.
3. **Appropriation Ordinances:** These ordinances are specifically designed to authorize the allocation and use of village funds. The fiscal officer, in collaboration with the finance committee, prepares the annual budget, which necessitates the adoption of an appropriation ordinance. Throughout the fiscal year, adjustments to the budget may be required due to factors such as the receipt of grants or the necessity of making loan payments. Notably, an appropriation ordinance may be passed with only one reading.



Fire Department Command Vehicle

# WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO AND WHY

In the fall of 2023, residents were reached out to with a village-wide survey, asking for their input on the direction they envision for our community. In response, a 13-member steering committee representing various age demographics of the village was formed. This committee analyzed survey responses and took on the vital task of crafting a vision statement for our future.

Through thoughtful discussions, the committee explored what types of development align with our values and how to blend our small-town charm with forward-thinking ideas. These conversations sparked a series of meaningful changes.

The need to modernize Zoning Ordinances, establish a Planning Commission to align with the Ohio Revised Code, and prepare for future growth in the village was recognized. To help guide this process, a partnership with Aislinn Consulting was formed, and close work with the steering committee led to the development of the following Vision Statement:

## Vision Statement

**South Amherst is a charming historic village blending rural traditions with a welcoming community spirit for a brighter tomorrow.**

This vision is supported by seven strategic priorities that reflect the aspirations of our community:

- 1. Diversifying and creating sustainable revenue sources**
- 2. Communicating and informing the community**
- 3. Planning for infrastructure**
- 4. Enhancing community aesthetics**
- 5. Encouraging community engagement**
- 6. Ensuring public safety**
- 7. Managing growth and development**

With this vision as a guide, the newly established Planning Commission has been meeting regularly to update the Zoning Code, create rules for the Planning Commission, and recommend changes to the Zoning Map. These updates were presented to the council, which passed legislation to ensure zoning regulations align with the community's vision and priorities.

Why are these changes important?

As the rapid growth in surrounding areas is observed, it's clear that thoughtful planning is essential to preserving what makes South Amherst special. By aligning efforts with the Vision Statement and strategic priorities, any growth or development can be ensured to complement our small-town character and strengthen our community.

Pride remains in our identity as a small-town community with a big heart, and these efforts will help protect and enhance that spirit for generations to come.