

AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Winter 2013

Vol. XVIII No. 4

Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in the 3rd quarter of 2013.

Cardboard	20.51	Plastics 1's & 2's	4.27
Mixed Paper	18.83	Plastics 3's to 7's	1.39
Newspaper	10.64	Glass	15.91
Bi-Metal Cans	1.66	Other	0.14
Aluminum Cans	0.97	Residual	18.21

*Above quantities are all listed in tons.

2.20 tons of various paper through the "ABITIBI Paper Retriever" program

There was no scrap metal in the 3rd quarter.

For questions concerning the new "Curbside Recycling Program", contact **RUMPKE** at **1-800-828-8171**.

"2014" Dumpster Days

Amherst Township has set the following dates for "Dumpster Days" in 2014:

April 10, 11, 13

"Pride Day" in May

October 2, 3, 4

Hours are from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Please note: **NO TIRES!**

NO PROPANE TANKS!

Drop-Off Hours for Yard Waste!!

Christmas Trees, brush, limbs, grass clippings, and leaves may be brought to the Amherst Township property located on the **EAST** side of Oberlin Road (directly across from the Township Garage which is located at 7530 Oberlin Road) at the following times:

- 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Mon – Fri
- 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Saturday
- 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. 2nd & 4th Tuesdays
- Amherst Township Residents only
- I.D. may be checked
- No Commercial
- **No Plastic Bags** – place bags in 55 gal drum
- ➔ **Yard Waste Pile** is located at the far back of the property on the east side of Oberlin Road.

Compost & Wood Chips

Free compost and wood chips **may be** available from the Township. If you are interested, contact John Szeftcyk, Road Superintendent, at 988-5894 – Ext. 111.

Have a problem? Complaint forms are available at the Township Hall, inside the white bulletin board, or they may be downloaded from the Township's website.

Township Hall & Garage 988-5894

Fax 988-5877

Fiscal Officer **Ext. 104**

Email: amhersttwpfo@oh.rr.com

Road Superintendent (garage) **Ext. 111**

Email: amhersttwproads@oh.rr.com

Office (Zoning Inspector) **Ext. 103**

Office Hours for Zoning Insp.:

Mon., Wed., & Sat. – 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Voice Mail is checked daily

Email: amhersttwpzoning@oh.rr.com

Remi Cerrone, Zoning Inspector

Trustees

Dennis Abraham (cell) 213-6775

(Ambulance, Cemetery, Park, Water, Buildings, Land, Enterprise Zones, County Health Rep.)

Neil Lynch 988-7681

(Zoning, Sewer, Fire, Equipment, Personnel, LORCO, Phase II Storm Water/ Environmental Strategy, Senior Services, Facility Security, NIMS Primary Contact, Lorain County Community Alliance Rep, Lorain County Joint Police District Rep.)

David C. Urig 385-0333

(Lighting, Solid Waste, Roads, Ditches)

Fiscal Officer

Howard Akin 233-7624

Road Superintendent

John Szeftcyk 320-7157

Amherst Twp Senior Services Office

Lynda Ashley **Ext. 101**

Email: amhersttwpSeniors@oh.rr.com

Office Hours – Mon thru Fri – 8am to 12 Noon

Fire Prevention Officer

Wayne Eppley 324-3921

LifeCare Ambulance, Inc.

Pete or Herb de la Porte 323-6111

Sheriff's Department 329-3710

Ohio Edison

Automated Outage Reporting Line 1-888-544-4877

TRUSTEE MEETINGS:

2nd & 4th Tuesdays of each month at **7:00 p.m.**

Amherst Township Trustee Meetings may be viewed on Amherst Cable Channel 12. They will air for 7 days, running Mon – Mon, following the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. Air times are at 9 am, 4 pm, & 11 pm. All airings are subject to change.

MORE ON THE NEW WASTE HAULER

By now all Amherst Township residents should have received a flyer from **RUMPKE** explaining their services. If you have not received this flyer please contact RUMPKE at **1-800-828-8171**.

During the month of December, Republic Waste Services will be picking up their carts from Amherst Township residents. After these carts have been picked up, residents should place their garbage in black bags and their recycles in blue or clear bags. These bags should be placed on the curb where Republic will continue to provide service through the end of December.

Do not use the Rumpke carts until they begin service on Tuesday, January 7, 2014. These carts will be delivered to Amherst Township residents December 1st through the 25th. Please call Rumpke if you have not received your carts by the 25th.

Initially, residents will receive a brown 95-gallon "solid waste" cart and a green 65-gallon "recycle" cart (Service Level 1). If these carts do not meet your needs, please contact Rumpke with your choice of service level:

Service Level	"Solid Waste" Cart Size	"Recyclable" Cart Size	Base Cost PerQtr. *
1	95	65	\$53.25
2	65	65	\$47.79
3	35	65	\$42.90

*In addition to the "Base Cost" residents will see a \$1.27 Lorain County Admin Fee per quarter.

Residents who request a change to service level 2 or 3 will be invoiced for their choice even though there may be some delay in replacing the trash cart with the smaller sized cart.

There are also optional upgrades to Service Level 1. These options include:

- 1 extra 95-gal **trash** cart - Service Level + \$16.77 per quarter
- 1 extra 65-gal **recycle** cart - Service Level + \$8.73 per quarter
- Unlimited Trash Upgrade - Service Level + (see flyer for details) \$37.86 per quarter

For "**Bulky Items**", residents may place bulky items out for collection on **one** day per calendar month at no charge. There will be a charge for collection of bulky items on additional days in the same month. Call Rumpke with any questions.

Rumpke's first round of billing is scheduled for mid January 2014.

Contact Information for RUMPKE:

Phone: 1-800-828-8171

Email: centralohio.market@rumpke.com

Online: www.rumpke.com

RECYCLE GUIDELINES

Along with the new waste hauler come new guidelines for your recycle material. Please read through the items that are not acceptable, as some of these items are ones that you are used to putting in the recycle container.

The items that are **NOT** acceptable include:

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| • Garbage | • Foil Juice Pouches |
| • Food | • Non Plastic Bottles |
| • Plastic Bags | • Drinking Glass |
| • Butter Tubs | • Ceramics or Dishes |
| • Food Trays | • Pots or Pans |
| • Buckets | • Window Glass |
| • Electronics | • Syringes |
| • Yard Waste | • Batteries |
| • Light Bulbs | • Car Parts |

Items that are acceptable include:

Paper – Office/Computer paper; Newspapers & inserts; Magazines & catalogs; Junk mail & envelopes; Phone books; Paper grocery bags; Cereal & snack boxes; Cardboard flattened to 2' x 3'; Clean pizza boxes that are free of food & grease.

Cartons – Cartons for juice, soy milk, milk, broth, cream, egg substitutes. All cartons with caps & straws removed.

Plastic Bottles #1 - #7 – Plastic bottles & jugs with a base wider than its small mouth.

Metals – Aluminum cans; Metal cans & lids; Tin cans; Aerosol cans with lids & tips removed.

Glass – Bottles & jars of any color with their lids removed.



Amherst Township wishes a Happy Retirement to Senior Service Director Carol Schmitkons (right) and welcomes Lynda Ashley (left).

Farewell – It’s Been a Pleasure to Serve You

I hope that you have found the information that I have shared over the past ten years helpful and that all of you will continue to join me in seeking to improve the lives of our senior residents by promoting their dignity, worth, and ability to remain independent. I especially wish to thank my meal drivers and Mary Carek, who streamlined the office’s recordkeeping, for making our office successful.

Richard Morgan, one of my favorite authors, says: *“We live in a society that worships retirement. How odd that we should spend all our lives doing something so that we don’t have to do it any more. Retirement may be a time to slow down, and not get up and go to work every day. But that doesn’t mean we stop living and withdraw completely from the mainstream of life. Retirement is but a transition in the journey of life. All the experience and skills we have accumulated over a lifetime need to be harvested so that we can offer ourselves to the service of God (and our communities).”*

Many have asked whether I will still be doing Medicare counseling. The answer is a definite “YES”. To me, that has been the most rewarding part of this job. If you need help, contact this office at 988-5894 x101 and Lynda can put you in touch with me.

Introduction of New ATSSO Director

Hello, my name is Lynda Ashley. My husband, Greg, and I have lived in Amherst Township for 26 years and raised 3 children in Hidden Valley. Our two oldest children are married and we are grandparents to a precious baby boy, Lucas.

I am blessed to have been hired for the position of Senior Services Director, taking over for Carol upon her retirement. I have many years of experience dealing with Older Adults while employed in various settings which included a Long Term Care Facility, a Medical Practice, a Hospital, and both Acute and Chronic Hemodialysis Centers.

I am looking forward to working with the Senior Citizens of Amherst Township and will do my best to be of assistance to you.

I am excited to be here, eager to learn the job, and can’t wait to meet many of you either in person or over the phone. I can be reached by visiting or calling the office at 988-5894 x101 on Monday – Friday from 8AM to Noon.

(additional Senior Gazette article)

SNAP Benefits Cut

The 2009 Recovery Act's temporary boost to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits ended on November 1st. This resulted in a benefit cut for every SNAP household. The Ohio Association of Food Banks reports that without SNAP more than 850,000 Ohio households will be affected. This means 21 fewer meals a month for a family of four, leaving the average SNAP recipient with only about \$1.40 per meal at a time when we're seeing rapidly rising food costs.

LIFECARE

Amherst Township, as a member of the Sandstone Joint Ambulance District, has chosen "LifeCare" to be their ambulance provider. President Pete de la Porte and Vice-President Herb de la Porte own and operate LifeCare. They can be reached at 323-6111. To learn more about their services, visit their website at:

www.lifecareambulance.com

Contact Sheriff's Dept.

Residents are reminded that they can help deter crime by keeping home and car doors locked, as well as keeping garage doors closed. If residents know of, or see, any suspicious activity in the township or at the Amherst Township Park, please contact the Sheriff's Dept. at **329-3710**. To contact the sheriff's dispatch from your cell phone without being charged, call **323-1212**. These are not "911" emergency lines.

Lots Available

Cemetery lots are available at Kendeigh Cemetery, located at the intersection of Quarry Road and Middle Ridge Road. Lots may be purchased by contacting the Township Office at 988-5833 x111.

\$403 – Resident

\$693 – Non-Resident

Storm Water Management

What is Storm Water Runoff??

In open fields, forests and wetlands, most rain is absorbed by the soil or taken up by plants and trees. In developed areas, rain or snow that falls on impermeable roofs, parking lots, streets and lawns is not absorbed. This precipitation (called storm water or storm water runoff) enters local water bodies through storm sewer systems.

What is Storm Water Pollution?

Unlike pollution from sewage treatment plants, storm water pollution comes from many different sources. Storm water runoff can dissolve, pick up and transport many types of household products that cause this pollution. Automotive waste, lawn chemicals, paints and eroded soil are all pollutants.

Open dumps and tire piles are also a concern to storm water pollution. Dumping typically occurs on secondary roads, along waterways, abandoned lots, open fields, and even near construction sights.

If you would like to report or inquire about litter, dumping or environmental crimes, contact the **Lorain Count Sheriff's Office Environmental Crimes Unit: Deputy Bill Curtis at 440-329-3743 or Deputy Mickey Jackson at 440-329-3759**. For more information you can visit their website at:

www.loraincountysheriff.com

Remember:

Stormwater is not treated before it enters the lake and our waterways, unlike Sanitary Waste Water which is treated at a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) prior to its discharge into the lake. Stormwater pollution may destroy fish, wildlife and aquatic life habitats; lessen aesthetic value; and threaten public health with contaminated food, drinking water, supplies and recreational waterways.



SOCCER



This fall you may have noticed children playing soccer on the two new soccer fields located on the east side of Oberlin Road, across from the Amherst Township Hall.

The township road crew under the leadership of John Szeftcyk installed the drainage for these fields. We would also like to recognize the generosity of the people that contributed and donated their time, talent, equipment, and financial resources to the construction of these two new fields for our local youth. These people include:

- ★ Ken Carney, Lorain County Engineer, and his department provided the layout and drawings for the construction of these fields as well as shared equipment for the grading of these fields.
- ★ Allen Grobe cultivated and plowed the fields.
- ★ Frank Engle contributed to the field preparation by leveling and seeding.
- ★ The Soccer Association provided the seeding.

For information about sign-ups on the Amherst Soccer Association please contact John Bena at 440-654-1622.



PARK BALL FIELDS

Amherst Township Middle Ridge Road Park has two ball fields, one is designed for baseball and the other is designed for softball. At the December 10th Trustees Meeting, the Amherst Township Trustees agreed to a 3-year lease agreement with the “Miners Travel Baseball Club” and the “Amherst Fastpitch Softball Organization” for use of these fields.

The lease gives the ball teams in these organizations priority use of these fields for their games and practices. In exchange, these organizations will be responsible for maintaining the fields in good condition and repair. These organizations also have big plans for making future improvements to these ball fields.

When these teams are not scheduled to be on the ball fields, the fields are available for use by other teams or the public. Those interested in using the fields should contact Amherst Township Road Superintendent John Szeftcyk at 988-5894 ext 111 to verify when these fields are available.

The **Miners Travel Baseball Club** is looking for 9-year-old boys to fill out their 2014 roster. The Miners are in their fourth year of playing competitive travel baseball. The season begins in April and runs thru July. However, the winter practice sessions have begun. Please contact Bill Jones at **440-537-3883** if interested.

Amherst Fastpitch Softball Organization is looking for girls to fill its roster in the OGSO league for the 10U age group for spring/summer of 2014. If you are interested in progressing to more competitive levels, please call Dave Parson at 440-346-3429.

PERMITS REQUIRED

Residents are reminded that permits are needed for pools, decks, porches, patios, gazebos, fences, ponds, signs, garages, new construction, building additions, accessory buildings, and driveways. When a permit is obtained before the start of construction, the fee will be reduced by 50%. Be sure you or your contractor has obtained a permit. **Payments must be made by check only. Cash is not accepted.**

Please contact Remi Cerrone, Amherst Township Zoning Inspector for these permits. Office hours for the Zoning Inspector are from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. He can be reached at 988-5894. Voice Mail is checked daily.

Effective May 11, 2012, residential "Building Inspections" through the Lorain County Building Department are **no longer required**. It is recommended that residents hire their own inspectors.



Printed on Recycled Paper

Amherst Township
7530 Oberlin Road
Elyria, OH 44035
www.amhersttownship.us

PRESORTED STD.
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO.179
LORAIN, OHIO



Christmas Tree Disposal



Amherst Township residents may bring their live Christmas Trees to the Amherst Township property located on the **EAST** side of Oberlin Road (directly across from the Township Garage, which is located at 7530 Oberlin Road) **Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** Residents may also leave live trees on their lawn near the road. The township road crew will be picking up these trees **Thur., Dec 26th thru Fri., Jan 10th.**



Snow Ban



Residents are reminded that there is a "Snow Ban" in effect in Amherst Township. If there are two inches of snow or more, vehicles should not be parked on the street.

Monthly Meeting Dates & Times: **Trustees:** 2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.
Zoning Commission: 1st Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Senior GAZETTE

Winter 2013

by Carol Schmitkons, Director, Amherst Township Senior Service Office (ATSSO)

Home-Delivered Meal Program

ATSSO provides home-delivered meals for those over 60 and disabled adults over 18, with a cost that is adjusted to your income. This nutritious, hot lunch program includes your choice of an entrée, soup & sandwich, or soup & salad. A "soup only" option is also available as a choice. If you would like to receive a home-delivered meal, please contact the Senior Service Office at **988-5894, ext. 101**.

"**Home Instead Senior Care**[®]" is offering a paid service for those senior citizens that may need extra help with the following:

1. Transportation
2. Pick up Prescriptions
3. Grocery Shopping and Meal Preparation
4. Help to secure a safe environment

The cost is \$85 for 4 hours of service plus mileage (not to exceed 30 miles). Please call them at **440-353-3080** for more information.

OSHIP's Purpose

The Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIP) was set up as part of the Ohio Department of Insurance. Its purpose is to help seniors, those turning 65 or those going on Medicare due to disability, understand how to choose among the many Medicare options.

Director Chris Reeg says, "We always tell people it's about the three C's: convenience, coverage and cost." For seniors, being able to get their prescriptions filled at a nearby pharmacy or through the mail can be an important convenience, so they should ask whether their preferred pharmacy is in a plan's network. Coverage refers to making sure the plan covers the medications the person is taking. Those two elements combined with the issue of how much the plan costs are used to determine if it's the right choice.

ATSSO OFFICE HOURS:

8:00 A.M. – NOON (M-F)

Phone: 988-5894 – Ext. 101

Email: amhersttwpseniors@oh.rr.com

Health Insurance Marketplace: Open Enrollment

The Health Insurance Marketplace is a new way to get coverage that meets your needs for those who are not covered by Medicare. Whether you're uninsured, you've been denied coverage in the past, or you just want to explore new options, the Marketplace will give you more choice and control over your health coverage. The 6-month open enrollment period runs from October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014. Coverage starts as early as January 1, 2014. You can take the first step to getting health insurance by creating your Marketplace account. Questions? Call 1-800-318-2596, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Free "Options Counseling"

Lorain County Office of Aging offers "Options Counseling" to eligible older adults (60+ years) and their families to develop a long-term plan to help them stay in their home or to successfully transition from hospitals, rehab facilities, and other long/short term nursing facilities back into their homes. To learn more, call the Lorain County Office on Aging at 440-326-4800 and ask to speak with one of their "Options" Counselors.

Tips for Avoiding Scams & Swindles

Financial scams targeting seniors have become so prevalent that they're now considered "The Crime of the 21st Century." Why? Because seniors are thought to have a significant amount of money sitting in their accounts. Financial scams also often go unreported or can be difficult to prosecute, so they're considered a "low-risk" crime. However, they're devastating to many older adults and can leave them in a very vulnerable position with little time to recoup their losses. It's not just wealthy seniors who are targeted. Low-income older adults are also at risk of financial abuse. And it's not always strangers who perpetrate these crimes. Over 90% of all reported elder abuse is committed by an older person's own family members, most often their adult children, followed by grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and others.

Here are some tips from the National Council on Aging that can help you steer clear of some scams and stay safe:

Health Insurance Fraud

- Never sign blank insurance claim forms.
- Never give blanket permission to a medical provider to bill for services rendered. Know if your physician ordered equipment for you.
- Ask your medical providers what they will charge and what you will be expected to pay out-of-pocket.
- Carefully review your insurer's explanation of the benefits statement. Call your insurer and provider if you have questions.
- Give your insurance/Medicare identification only to those who have provided you with medical services.
- Keep accurate records of all health care appointments.

Counterfeit Prescription Drugs

Most commonly, counterfeit drug scams operate on the Internet. The danger is that besides paying money for supposedly better-priced specialized medications, victims may purchase unsafe substances.

Prevent Falls

To help you prevent falls this winter, Ohio's new falls prevention initiative, "STEADY U Ohio", offers the following tips:

- Bundle up to stay warm but make sure you can see in all directions and move easily and freely. Wear sturdy shoes or boots with treads, even if you're just going out to get the newspaper.
- Do some light stretching before you venture out; it will make you physically more able to prevent a fall.
- Carry a small bag of salt, sand or kitty litter in your pocket or purse to sprinkle in front of you for traction on icy paths.
- If you can, avoid walking on surfaces that may be icy. If you can't, slow down, shorten your stride, and walk with your feet pointed out slightly and knees gently bent to improve traction and balance.
- Snow can hide curbs and uneven surfaces. If you can't see where your foot will land, find another way.
- Replace worn rubber tips on canes, walkers and crutches. Ask a mobility equipment dealer about winter canes or cleats you can add to existing equipment.
- Dry off shoes, canes, crutches and walkers as soon as you get indoors. Wet shoes on dry surfaces are just as dangerous as dry shoes on wet surfaces.
- If you are going out alone, carry a cell phone; know who you will call if you fall, and make sure that person knows what to do if you call.
- Carry a cleaning cloth and stop immediately to clean your glasses if they fog up going from outdoors to indoors.
- Ask your post office, newspaper and garbage collector about service options that might make it safer for you when conditions are bad.