

AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Summer 2004

Vol. IX No. 2

Recycling Report

For the first quarter of 2004, Amherst Township recycled the following quantities through the "Blue Bag" program:

- 1.3 tons of aluminum cans
 - 6.5 tons of bi-metal cans
 - 12.4 tons of glass
 - 3.6 tons of HDPE plastics
 - 2.7 tons of PETE plastics
 - 27.9 tons of newspapers
- There were no dumpster days in the first quarter, therefore no scrap metal.

Question concerning the "Blue Bag" program may be directed to BFI at 458-5191 or David Urig at 988-8256.

Dumpster Days

Amherst Township has set the following dates for "Dumpster Days" in 2004:

July 8, 9, 10 ★(Incentive Contest)

October 7, 8, 9

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

Please note: **NO TIRES WITH RIMS!**
NO PROPANE TANKS!

Drop-Off Hours for Yard Waste!!

The waste drop-off area is now fenced and gated. Brush, limbs, grass clippings, and leaves may be brought to the rear of the Amherst Township Garage at the following times:

- 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Mon – Fri
- 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Saturday
- Amherst Township Residents only
- I.D. will be checked
- No Commercial

The garage is located at 7530 Oberlin Road.

Newspapers, cans, glass, and 1's & 2's plastics can be placed at your curb in blue bags for BFI pick-up. Newspapers should be "blue bagged" separately.

Compost Available

Free compost is available from the Township. If you are interested, contact John Szeftcyk, Road Superintendent, at 988-5833.

TRUSTEE MEETINGS:

2nd & 4th Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Township Hall & Garage

Office (Zoning Inspector) 988-5866
Fax 988-5877
Road Superintendent..... 988-5833
Email: amhersttwproads@comcast.net
Clerk 988-5894
Office Hours for Zoning Insp.:
Mon., Wed. & Sat. – 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Voice Mail is checked daily
Email: amhersttwpzoning@comcast.net
Don Gargas, Zoning Inspector

Trustees

Dennis Abraham 986-4555
(Ambulance, Cemetery, Park, Water, Roads, Ditches, Enterprise Zones, County Health Rep.)
Neil Lynch 988-7681
(Sewer, Fire, Land, Equipment, Personnel, LORCO, Senior Services, Zoning)
David C. Urig..... 988-8256
(Lighting, Buildings, Solid Waste, Phase II Storm Water/ Environmental Strategy, Alternate County Health Rep.)

Clerk

John Koval 233-5744

Road Superintendent

John Szeftcyk 988-7045

Amherst Twp Senior Services Office

Carol Schmitkons..... 988-5822
Office Hours – Mon thru Fri – 9am to 1pm

Fire Prevention Officer

Wayne Eppley..... 324-3921

LifeCare Ambulance, Inc.

Maude or Herb DeLa Porte..... 323-6111

Sheriff's Department..... 329-3710

Township Website www.amhersttownship.us

Amherst Township Meetings may be viewed on Amherst Cable Channel 12. They will air for 7 days, running Mon thru Mon, following the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. Air times are at 9:00 a.m., 4:00 p.m., and 10:00 p.m.

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

FEATURED EMPLOYEE

John Szefcyk, Road Superintendent for Amherst Township, is our featured employee. He has worked for the Township for 27 years. His key job responsibilities include “Roads” (repairs and improvements), Snow Removal, ditch drainage, maintenance of Township equipment, maintenance of the Township’s park and cemeteries, Project Manager of OPWC Projects, and writing grant applications. John enjoys the work he does and especially likes to be involved with the people of Amherst Township.

John has lived in the Amherst area his entire life. He was raised on a family farm in Amherst Twp., which is still active today. He has been married to his wife Liz (nee Miller) for 35 years. They have three children, two boys and one girl, and three grandchildren. John was with the U.S. Army Engineers for 3 years, where he became a sergeant. He was in Viet Nam from 1967 to 1969.

John’s hobbies include hunting, camping, and other outdoor activities. He is a lifetime member of the VFW and the NRA, and is the founder and chairman of the Lorain County “Friends of NRA”. John is a member of the Lorain Rifle and Pistol Club and holds the position of “Muzzle Loading” director. He also likes to participate in the “Black Powder Shooting Competition”.



John also enjoys hunting turkeys and has wide variety of turkey calling equipment. He is the founder and past president of the “Black River Chapter” of the “National Wild Turkey Federation” (NWTF}. For thirteen years he was a board member of the “Ohio State Chapter” of the NWTF.

Many thanks go out to John for keeping our roads safe, our equipment maintained, and our parks and cemeteries in order.



Amherst Township’s new pumper/tanker fire truck was delivered to the Amherst Fire Dept. on March 29th. Many thanks to Kevin Henceroth and Tim Gates of the Amherst Fire Dept. for insuring that the truck met the specification.



Amherst Township Detention Basin



Progress continues on the 830,000-gallon Kay Drive Wastewater Detention Basin.



PERMITS REQUIRED

Residents are reminded that permits are needed for pools, decks, porches, patios, gazebos, fences, ponds, signs, garages, new construction, building additions, and accessory buildings. When a permit is applied for 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 Don Gargas, 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 988-5866. Voice Mail is checked daily.

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.

\$350 – Resident
\$600 – Non-Resident

LIFECARE

Amherst Township, as a member of the Sandstone Joint Ambulance District, has chosen “LifeCare” to be their ambulance provider. President Maude DeLa Porte and Vice-President Herb DeLa 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**. For more information about LifeCare as well as links to other related websites visit **www.geocities.com/lifecaredispatch**.

Contact Sheriff’s Dept.

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**.

Curfew

Please be aware that a curfew exists in Amherst Township for minors age 16 and under between the hours of Midnight and 5 a.m. This curfew will be enforced by the Lorain County Sheriff’s Dept.

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

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AMHERST,OHIO.

Senior GAZETTE

Summer 2004

Carol Schmitkons, Amherst Township Senior Service (ATTSO) Director

Medicare Modernization Act of 2003

In 2003, President Bush and Congress passed a new law to bring people with Medicare more choices in health care coverage and better health care benefits. The new law will strengthen the current program, add new prescription drug and preventive benefits, and provide extra help to people with low incomes. You will still be able to choose doctors, hospitals and pharmacies. Here is a timeline of what will be happening in the next year and a half.

- **2004 – Discount Drug Cards start**
- **2005 – New and improved Preventive Benefits start**
- **2006 – Prescription Drug Plans start**

In this issue we will discuss the changes that will take place in 2004. Future issues of the Senior Gazette will cover the planned Medicare changes of 2005 and 2006 in more detail.

NEW NAME

“Medicare + Choice” plans will now be called “Medicare Advantage” plans. More Preferred Providers Organization plans (PPO’s) will be included, which will give you more choices of doctors and service providers. This is particularly nice if you travel to other states or live out of the state for part of the year. A referral is usually not required as long as the new doctor is on the PPO’s list.

WHAT’S NEW WITH MEDICARE

Part A

- Hospital Deductible per benefit period (60 days beginning the first night you are hospitalized)\$876
- Hospital Co-Pay (for inpatient hospital days 61-90)\$219/day
- Lifetime Reserve Day Co-Pay\$438/day
- Skilled Nursing Facility Co-Pay (for days 21-100 inpatient rehab).....\$109.50/day

Part B

- Monthly Premium (up 13%).....\$66.60
- Annual deductible remains.....\$100
- Co-insurance amount for most Part B servicesremains 20%

OHIO MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAMS FOR 2004

These programs offer financial assistance to people covered by Medicare.

Medicaid eligibility

	<u>Single</u>	<u>Married</u>
Monthly income:	\$510	\$866
Total resources:	\$1500	\$2250

Medicaid Spend-Down deducts from your income amounts you pay for covered medical expenses or health insurance. Example: Jane’s monthly income is \$600. Her prescriptions cost \$200 per month. After spending \$90 on the prescriptions, she qualifies for Medicaid for the remainder of the month. Medicaid will pay for the rest of her prescriptions, plus any other medical costs she has that month.

Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) acts like a free Medicare Supplement policy. It pays:

- All deductibles and coinsurances that Medicare does not pay
- Medicare Part B premium
- Eligibility is:

	<u>Single</u>	<u>Married</u>
Monthly income:	\$796	\$1061
Total resources:	\$4000	\$6000

Specified Low Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB) has higher limits than QMB. It pays:

- Medicare Part B premium
- Retroactive Part B amounts for each of the past three months
- Eligibility is:

	<u>Single</u>	<u>Married</u>
Monthly income:	\$951	\$1269
Total resources:	\$4000	\$6000

Qualified Individual (QI) is limited. The program is scheduled to end October 1, 2004. It only pays the Medicare Part B premium.

	<u>Single</u>	<u>Married</u>
Monthly income:	\$1068	\$1426
Total resources:	\$4000	\$6000

If you think you qualify for any of these credits and/or you have any questions on these Medicare changes, please call Carol at **988-5822**.

DRUG DISCOUNT CARDS

Drug Discount Cards will offer partial relief to high prescription drug costs from June 1, 2004 until the full Medicare drug benefits begin in January 2006. Registration for the drug discount cards that include Medicare's seal of approval will begin in May, with benefits starting in June.

Medicare will contract with private companies to offer the new drug discount cards until Medicare prescription drug benefits start in 2006. A discount card with Medicare's seal of approval can save you 10 – 25% on prescription drugs. You may qualify for a \$600 credit on your discount card to help pay for your prescription drugs if your individual income for 2004 is no more than \$12,569 (married couples no more than \$16,862) and you are not on Medicaid or an employer's group health plan.

The list of nationwide companies who will have discount cards is continually growing. Check Medicare's website (www.Medicare.gov) for a complete, updated list. The following is a list of several of the companies:

- Aetna Health Management, LLC
- Caremark Advantage, Inc.
- Catalyst Rx
- Medco Health Solutions, Inc.
- PBM Plus, Inc.
- PharmaCare Management Services, Inc.
- Pharmacy Care Alliance, Inc.
- Scrip Solutions, LLC
- SXC Health Solutions, Inc.
- United Healthcare Insurance Co.
- WellPoint Pharmacy Management
- Express Scripts, Inc.
- Argus Health Systems, Inc.
- Computer Sciences Corporation (National & OH)
- First Health Services Corporation (OH & several other states)
- Golden Buckeye's Medicare-approved card (\$20 charge will work best for the low income)

Medical Health Plan Card sponsors in Ohio that are also participating are:

- Community Insurance Company (2 plans)
- Health Plan of the Upper Ohio Valley
- Hometown Health Plan
- SummaCare Inc.
- United Healthcare of Ohio

Watch out for fakes! Don't agree to buy any card that does not carry the official logo shown below or



that costs more than \$30.

Medicare will provide comparative drug pricing for all approved cards at www.Medicare.gov or by calling **1-800-633-4227**. If you provide them with your prescription(s), they can do a cost comparison between the different plans for you specifically. This will allow you to compare prices to see which card will offer you the most savings for the drugs you are on.

TAKIN' A BREAK

The first two "Senior Activities" were held in April and May at the Amherst Eagles, with a dozen or so seniors in attendance. In **April**, a presentation was given on the pros and cons of the new "low-carb" diets. There was also discussion on how important exercise is in helping to lose weight and stay healthy. At the **May** activity, the discussion was on the importance of Calcium in your diet and everyone learned a few more new exercises.

Meeting dates for the summer months will be June 21st, July 19th, August 16th, and September 20th. Meetings are held at the Amherst Eagles located at 1161 Milan Avenue. They are open to all seniors in Amherst Township as well as all seniors in the city of Amherst or anyone having a 44001 zip code. Call the office at 988-5822 to reserve a lunch, or you may also bring your own lunch.

In **June** the focus will be on playing card games and board games. Bring your favorite game with you. There will also be discussion on the Medicare changes for 2004-2006, as well as the new "drug discount cards". In **July** the group will be touring the "Amherst Historical Society". Hope to see you there!

**NEW OFFICE HOURS:
8:00 a.m. – Noon (M-F)**