

AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Spring 2010

Vol. XV No. 1

Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in the 4th quarter of 2009 (**bold represents yearly total**):

- (5.79) 0.47 tons of various paper through the "ABITIBI Paper Retriever" program
- (11.19) 3.71 tons of aluminum cans
- (56.04) 18.57 tons of bi-metal cans
- (106.03) 35.14 tons of glass
- (30.37) 10.06 tons of HDPE plastics
- (24.31) 8.06 tons of PETE plastics
- (239.17) 79.25 tons of newspapers
- (210.00) 20.00 tons of yard waste
- (8.23) 2.47 tons of scrap metal (Dumpster Program)

For questions concerning the "Curbside Recycling Program", contact Allied Waste Services at 458-5191.

"2010" Dumpster Days

Amherst Township has set the following dates for "Dumpster Days" in 2010:

- April 8, 9, 10
- July 8, 9, 10
- 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!!

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
- Amherst Township Residents only
- I.D. may be checked
- No Commercial
- **No Plastic Bags** – place bags in 55 gal drum

Compost & Wood Chips Available

Free compost and wood chips are available from the Township. If you are interested, contact John Szeftcyk, Road Superintendent, at 988-5894 – x111.

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
Don Gargas, Zoning Inspector

Trustees

Dennis Abraham 986-4555
(Ambulance, Cemetery, Park, Water, Roads, Ditches, Buildings, Land, Enterprise Zones, County Health Rep. Phase II Storm Water/ Environmental Strategy)
Neil Lynch 988-7681
(Zoning, Sewer, Fire, Equipment, Personnel, LORCO, Senior Services, Lorain County Community Alliance Rep, NIMS Primary Contact)
David C. Urig 385-0333
(Lighting, Solid Waste)

Fiscal Officer

Howard Akin 233-7624

Road Superintendent

John Szeftcyk 320-7157

Amherst Twp Senior Services Office

Carol Schmitkons **Ext. 102**
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. Zoning Commission meetings will be shown 8 am, 3 pm & at the conclusion of the 11pm Trustee meetings. All airings are subject to change.

Township Open House & Fundraiser

On Saturday, **May 22nd**, Amherst Township will be holding an “Open House” at the newly renovated Amherst Township Hall located at 7530 Oberlin Road. Township employees and partners will be available to discuss various township services and to lead tours of the facility. Refreshments and snacks will be provided.

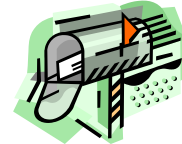


The organization **Funding Amherst Community Enhancements (F.A.C.E.)**, a non-profit corporation of volunteers aligned with the township’s Board of Trustees, will be conducting a “**Silent Auction**” to raise funds for improvements in the Amherst Township Park. You can visit “F.A.C.E.” on “Facebook” for updates and details of the auction items donated by area businesses and residents.

This summer, “F.A.C.E.” will sponsor an “Amherst Township Day” fundraiser with the Lake Erie Crushers at “All Pro Freight Stadium” in Avon Ohio.



A postcard will be mailed in the near future with more details.



Come out and show your community support and pride by joining us at the Amherst Township Open House and Fundraiser.



F.A.C.E. Board of Directors:

Tom Hupman, Richard Rice, Bill Poplar, Edie Tiller,
Richard Barelka, James Kantola, and David Marr.





New Phone System



Along with all the new renovations to the Township Hall, there is also a new, automated phone system. This new system utilizes one main number to reach the township hall where you will hear a “Main Greeting”. At this main greeting you can make a selection to be transferred to a specific office, or you can choose to enter a parties specific extension. To contact Amherst Township call:

Main Phone Number: 988-5894

<u>Office</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Ext.</u>
Senior Service Office	Mary Carek	101
Senior Service Office	Carol Schmitkons	102
Zoning Inspector	Don Gargas	103
Fiscal Officer	Howard Akin	104
Road Superintendent	John Szeftcyk	111



Pictured above is the new Salt Storage Facility.
Pictured below is the Public Meeting Hall.





Planting in Road Right-of-Way

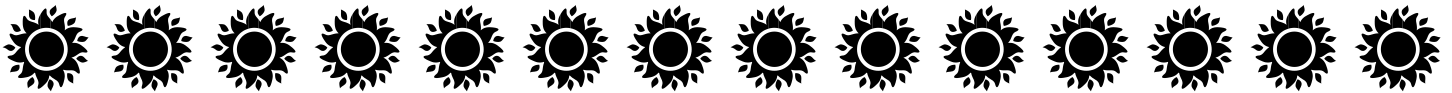


Residents should not landscape or plant near road intersections or inside the road right-of-way. Generally, the road right-of-way is 30 feet on either side of the centerline of the road. If planting occurs in this area, homeowners should not be disappointed if plants are destroyed or removed due to maintenance or repair. Trees should not be planted in this area. If storm sewers run across your property, it is better not to plant trees, shrubs, or other vegetation too close to these lines in order to minimize the chance of any roots penetrating these lines and causing a blockage. Please be aware of any visibility issues that may be caused due to trees and shrubs growing near an intersection or the road right-of-way. Property owners are also responsible for removing dead branches of a tree that overhangs the road.

Concerning intersections, Article 300 of the Amherst Township Zoning Resolution, Section 307 (Visibility at Intersections) states:

On every corner lot there shall be no obstruction to visibility (whether by the location of structures including fences, landscaping or other means) between the heights of 3 feet and 6 feet above the natural grade, within the triangle formed by the right-of-way lines of two intersecting streets, and a line drawn between two points, one on each such right-of-way line, each 25 feet from the point of intersection of such right-of-way lines.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Don Gargas, Amherst Township Zoning Inspector, at **988 5894 (ext 103)**, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 11 a.m., Mon., Wed., & Sat.



Lorain County Solid Waste Events

The LCSWMD has indefinitely postponed all Household Hazardous Waste Collection days and all E-Scrap Collection days. However, you will not be forced to hold all your materials for an extended period. The District has been working on a general alternative to these one-day collection events.

A large building in Elyria is being remodeled to serve as a countywide collection center. This building was the old “DIY” store, located near the intersection of Route 57 & Broad Street in Elyria.

This center will be set up to accept all the materials previously collected at one-day type events, as well as other materials. It will be open on a set schedule, all through the year. There will no longer be a need to mark the calendar with a specific date, and then wait in a long line to dispose of your materials.

For more information you can call their Information Line at **1-800-449-5463** or check their Web pages at www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste.

Fire Service Agreement



In the spirit of true government cooperation, the Amherst Township Board of Trustees and the Village of South Amherst have again entered into a contract for the provision of “Fire Service” and “First Responder Emergency Medical Service” (EMS) for the unincorporated area of the township located to the south of the Ohio Turnpike. By sharing Fire and EMS services, Amherst Township and the Village of South Amherst are able to provide these necessary services to our respective communities at a more effective cost, saving taxpayer dollars. This is a 3-year contract that began on January 1, 2010 and will expire on December 31, 2012.



PERMITS REQUIRED



Oberlin Road Bridge Repair



As Springtime arrives, residents are reminded that permits are needed for the items listed below. 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 Don Gargas, Amherst Township Zoning Inspector for these permits. Building inspections through the Lorain County Building Department may also be required. 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 (ext 103)**. Voice Mail is checked daily.

- | | |
|---------------------|--------|
| Pools | Decks |
| Porches | Patios |
| Gazebos | Fences |
| Garages | Ponds |
| Driveways | Signs |
| New Construction | |
| Building Additions | |
| Accessory Buildings | |

“Building inspections” through the Lorain County Building Department may also be required. These building “inspections” are in addition to the building “permits” that are required from the Township. The Amherst Township Zoning Inspector can assist you for both of these requirements. A building “permit” from the township is required **before** applying for the building “inspection” from the county. Permits for both the township and the county may be viewed on the township’s website under “zoning”.

ODOT will be replacing the Oberlin Road bridge structure that goes over State Route 2. This bridge reconstruction will require the closure of Oberlin Road for 90 consecutive days, while traffic will be maintained on SR 2 during construction.

ODOT anticipates selling the project and being under contract by May 15, 2010. Construction of the bridge could begin in the summer or fall of 2010 or in the spring of 2011. Signage will be in place at least 1 week before construction begins, so that residents can adjust their travel routes. The township Road Superintendent will be notified 18 days before the detour will be in effect.

Funding for this project is provided by Federal Stimulus Funds as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).



\$\$ Home-Repair Funding Help \$\$

“Community Development Block Grant” (CDBG) funding is available through the Lorain County Community Development Department. They are taking applications for low-to-moderate income homeowners who need financial assistance with health or safety related repairs to their residence. The program operates on a first-come first-serve basis and can assist income qualified Lorain County residents of owner occupied homes.

The repairs may address roofs, furnaces, hot water heaters, minor electrical, plumbing, sewer tap-ins, septic system replacement or the elimination of other threats to health and safety. Home repair assistance is available for up to \$8,000 per eligible client or up to \$15,000 for septic system replacement.

For more information or to obtain an application, please contact Linda Blanchette at 328-2332, Ashley Scott at 328-2329, or Angela Brown at 328-2322.

Individuals 60 or over, may contact the Amherst Township Senior Service Office at 988-5894, ext 102 for additional help with this program.

AMHERST TOWNSHIP **PARK REMINDERS**

Residents are reminded that as of March 1, 2003 animals are not permitted in the Amherst Township Park. Whoever violates this resolution is guilty of a minor misdemeanor and shall be prosecuted (ORC Section 511.32).

Also as a reminder, vandalism at the Amherst Township Park is prosecutable. Violators will be charged with Criminal Vandalism according to ORC 2909.05. This is a felony offense and carries a fine of \$2500. This will be strictly enforced. The township park is being patrolled by the Sheriff's Department.

Park Pavilion

Due to the increased usage of the park pavilion, and to avoid scheduling conflict, please contact Amherst Township Road Superintendent, John Szefcyk, to make reservations if you wish to use the pavilion. He can be reached at the township during the week by calling **988-5894 (ext 111)**.

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.

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.

Printed on Recycled Paper

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

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LORAIN, OHIO

NOTE: Meeting Times:

Trustee Meetings at 7:00 p.m. – Zoning Commission Meetings at 6:30 p.m.

Senior GAZETTE

Spring 2010

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

Amherst Township Senior Service Office

ATSSO provides home-delivered meals for those over 60 and disabled adults over 18, with a cost that is adjusted to your income. They can help with Medicare and health insurance questions and issues, provide referrals to other agencies, and help you remain independent. Contact the office at **988-5894 (x101 or x102)**.

Here are a few of the phones numbers for agencies that they often refer people to:

- Lorain County Office on Aging: 326-4800 provides assistance with transportation to doctors; minor home repairs; light housekeeping; chore services; food & nutrition assistance; and medication evaluation & education

ATSSO OFFICE HOURS:

8:00 A.M. – NOON (M-F)

Phone: 988-5894 – Ext. 101 or 102

Email: amhersttwpseniors@oh.rr.com

- WR Area Agency on Aging: 1-800-626-7277
- Legal Aid: 323-8420
- Local VA office: 284-4525
- Adult Protective Services: 284-4465
- Lorain Social Security Office: 244-6052
- “PASSPORT” Senior program: 1-800-626-7277
- L. C. Board of Elections: 326-5900
- L. C. General Health District: 322-6267



2010 Medicare – Premiums, Deductibles, & Financial Assistance

2010 “Part A”:

Hospital deductible:\$1,100
Copay for days 61-90:\$275 per day
Copay for days 91-150: \$550 per day
Skilled Nursing copay for days 21-100:
.....\$137.50 per day

2010 “Part B”:

Annual Deductible:\$155.00

“Part B” premiums:

- Those who were on Medicare prior to 2010 and had premiums withheld from their Social Security check will remain at **\$96.40/month**.
- Those who are new to Medicare in 2010 or who do not currently have the premium withheld from their Social Security check will pay **\$110.50/month**.
- Higher income beneficiaries (above \$85,000 for single, or 170,000 for married) will pay **\$110.50 plus an additional amount based on their income**.

“Part B & D” Financial Assistance

The resource limit for the Ohio QMB/SLMB/QI program in 2010 is increasing to **\$6,600 for an individual** and **\$9,910 for a couple**. This increase could help many clients become eligible for assistance with their “Part B” premium.

QMB – **Qualified Medicare Beneficiary Program** acts like a free Medicare Supplement policy. QMB pays for all deductibles and coinsurances that Medicare does not pay. It also pays the Medicare “Part B” premium. To be eligible:

Individual Income - less than **\$923/mo.**

Married Income - less than **\$1,235/mo.**

SLMB – **Specified Low Income Medicare Beneficiary** program pays the Medicare “Part B” premium. To be eligible:

Individual Income - range **\$924 – \$1,103/mo.**

Married Income - range **\$1,236 – \$1,477/mo.**

QI – **Qualified Individual** program also pays the Medicare “Part B” premium, but these benefits are limited and an individual may need to apply annually. To be eligible:

Individual Income - range **\$1,104 – \$1,239/mo.**

Married Income - range **\$1,478 – \$1,660/mo.**

Those eligible for one of the QMB/SLMB/QI programs are also eligible for the “Part D” Prescription Drug financial assistance.

Don't Get Burned: Protect Yourself from Common Fire Hazards

The best defense against a deadly house fire is to have working smoke detectors installed in several rooms, particularly sleeping areas, and on every floor of your home. For as little as \$7 each, smoke alarms can nearly cut in half the risk of dying in a fire. Smoke alarms sense abnormal amounts of smoke or invisible combustion gases in the air and can detect both smoldering and flaming fires. But having them is only part of the solution; they must always have fresh batteries (install a fresh set each year) and be tested regularly (at least once a month). Smoke alarms wear out over time, so replace yours if it is 10 years old or older.

Once you have the reassurance that you and your family will be alerted if a fire starts in your home, focus on things you can do to prevent a fire from starting in the first place:

- **Make sure the only thing you cook is food.**

Turn handles of pots and pans toward the back of the stove to avoid accidentally knocking them over. Do not leave anything unattended on the stove, even for just a minute. Do not wear loose-fitting clothing around the stove and keep towels, potholders and paper away from hot surfaces. Use the

oven and stove only to cook – do not use them to heat your home.

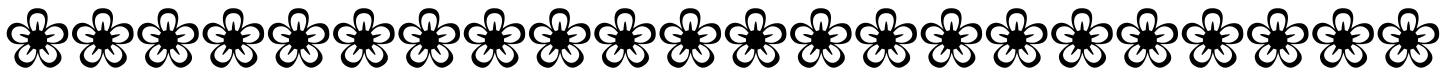
- **Watch your butts.**

If you smoke, use deep-seated ashtrays on steady surfaces. Never smoke while lying down, when tired or when taking medications that cause drowsiness. Keep lighters, matches and lit cigarettes out of the reach of small children.

- **Heat your spaces responsibly.**

If you use electric space heaters, be sure the electrical cords and plugs are in good condition and only plug them directly into an outlet rated to carry the load. Do not plug electric heaters into extension cords or outlet strips. If you heat with a fireplace or heating stove, check that the fireplace flues are clear and use a screen to deflect sparks. Keep combustible materials like blankets, curtains and clothing at least three feet away from any heat sources.

Reprinted from the *Ohio Department on Aging's* January 2010 newsletter, "**Boomerang**".



Personal Safety Tips

Security concerns, medical emergencies, falls . . . these are all safety concerns among older adults, especially those that live alone. Here are some simple, low cost tips older adults can use to protect themselves.

Keep your **car keys** on the nightstand beside your bed at nighttime and in your pocket during the day. Use the panic button to alert a neighbor that you need assistance. Be sure your neighbor knows what you are doing and how to get into your home if it is locked. Remember that if you lock both the screen door and the house door, someone may have to break out the screen or glass to gain entry.

Place your **cell phone** by your bed in "silence mode" to be able to call out if you suspect an intruder may be in the house. Program in a speed dial for "911".

AVAILABLE EQUIPMENT

An electrical Recliner/Lift Chair has been offered to ATSSO. This chair can assist a person from a standing-to-sitting and a sitting-to-standing position. Please contact the office at **988-5894 (ext 102)** if you have a need for this chair.