

AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Winter 2010

Vol. XV No. 4

Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in the 3rd quarter of 2010.

- 1.15 tons of various paper through the "ABITIBI Paper Retriever" program
- 2.18 tons of aluminum cans
- 11.07 tons of bi-metal cans
- 20.35 tons of glass
- 5.90 tons of HDPE plastics
- 1.51 tons of PETE plastics
- 46.05 tons of newspapers
- 0.35 tons of cardboard
- 3.38 tons of scrap metal through the 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 "tentative" dates for "Dumpster Days" in 2011:

April 7, 8, 9

July 7, 8, 9

October 6, 7, 8

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!!

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
- 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.

blackriver

Get the Black Back on Track!

Storm Water 101: The Rundown on Runoff

What is Storm Water Runoff?

Storm water runoff is precipitation from rain or snowmelt flowing over the land surface. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, rooftops, and streets prevent storm water from naturally soaking into the ground.

Why is Storm Water Runoff a Problem?

Storm water picks up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flows directly into the nearest water body or into a storm sewer. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged *untreated* into the water we use for swimming, fishing, and drinking water: the Black River and Lake Erie.

What are the Effects of Storm Water Runoff in Our Watershed?

Lack of storm water management leads to increased flooding as areas no longer have the permeable surface to deal with the excess water flow. Flooding related to storm water is difficult to fix and costly to homeowners.

Sediment clouds the water and makes it difficult for aquatic plants to grow, clogs the gills of fish, and destroys aquatic habitats.

Excess nutrients from fertilizers and failing septic systems can cause algal blooms, some of which may be toxic to humans. Decomposing algae from blooms removes oxygen from the water and kills any aquatic life. Bacteria from failing septic systems and animal waste can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards.

Polluted storm water often affects drinking water sources. Lorain County communities get their drinking water mainly from Lake Erie but also from two locations in the Black River. Treatment of drinking water to remove the pollution is costly, and water can only be drawn during certain times because it's too expensive to treat otherwise.

Healthy Habits for Clean Water

Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly and only apply these chemicals in the recommended amounts. Avoid application if the forecast calls for rain.

Compost or mulch yard waste. Don't leave it in the street or sweep it into storm drains.

When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly in order to keep harmful bacteria and nutrients from washing into the waterways.

Consider rain barrels and rain gardens: rain barrels retain storm water and provide free water for use around the home and yard. Rain gardens detain storm water, enhance the beauty of towns and yards, and provide important habitat for birds and butterflies.



“Rain Garden” example in Amherst Township at the “Copper Creek” development by R.J. Perritt Homes

For more information, contact Christina Znidarsic, Watershed Coordinator, at 440-328-2336, or by email at sznidarsic@loraincounty.us.

In Memory of Richard P. Barelka

Amherst Township has lost a valuable community volunteer and friend. F.A.C.E. board member Richard Barelka passed away suddenly of a heart attack on Saturday, October 30, 2010.

“Funding Amherst Community Enhancement” is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization whose purpose is to explore and obtain funding and services to enhance the quality of life for all the residents of Amherst Township and the surrounding areas by seeking funds through grants, donations, and volunteer efforts.

Richard was a very active member of this board. He provided computer services to the board as well as managed the group’s webpage, which he helped to create. He also set up a “Facebook” page for FACE. Richard provided photography services for events including the Township’s Open House in May 2010 and the “Presentation of Funds” for the Park Project in September of 2010. Richard contributed a great deal to the planning and execution of the Silent Auction which was held during the Open House, and presented the idea of holding a “Wine Tasting Party” for the groups’ next fund raising event. He was also Treasurer of the FACE board and was responsible for handling the funds, receiving money and paying bills. Richard was a good part of the group and a friend to all those he worked with.

Richard was born in Fort Worth, Texas, and lived most of his life in Avon before moving to Amherst 13 years ago. He was a graduate of Avon High School and the Lorain County Joint Vocational School. He continued his education earning an associate degree in Culinary Arts from Johnson and Wales College and then a bachelor’s degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management from Johnson and Wales University in Providence Rhode Island.



Richard owned and operated the Cookie Cupboard Plus, a cookie and coffee shop located in the old arcade building in Cleveland and was owner of the Ohio Postal Center Shipping and Packaging, as well as Lionhearted Leadership Website Design. Richard was a volunteer and trainer with the American Red Cross, a member of the Johnson and Wales University Alumni Association, and a Minister with the Universal Life Church Ministries.

Family noted that Richard really enjoyed his volunteer work with F.A.C.E. and Amherst Township. We’ll miss Richard’s smile and commitment to helping others and would like to extend our sincerest sympathy to Richard’s family.



Presentation of the \$34,852 “Round 17” Nature Works grant to Amherst Township at a ceremony held in the Township Park on September 22, 2010. (from left to right):

- Tom Hupman (FACE)
- Dr. Malcolm Peel (Grant Writer)
- Richard Rice (FACE)
- Sean Logan (ODNR Director)
- Neil Lynch (Trustee)
- Jim Kantola (FACE)
- Sue Morano (State Senator)
- David Urig (Trustee)
- Richard Barelka (FACE)



Mary Carek from the Amherst Township Senior Service Office will be retiring at the beginning of 2011. Mary has spent the last 2-years working for the township and has made valuable contributions. We would like to thank Mary for all her efforts and wish her well as she begins a new chapter of her life!



F.A.C.E. is currently planning for two fund raising activities in 2011. On Friday, April 29th, F.A.C.E. will be holding a Wine Tasting Party at the Amherst Party Shop. Details for this event will be in the 2011 Spring Newsletter. There will also be another "Amherst Township Crushers Day" to be held in July or August of 2011. Details for this event will be in the 2011 Summer Newsletter.

Survey for Amherst Recreational Facility

Lorain County Metro Parks is conducting a survey about the possibility of partnering with the Amherst Exempted Village School District on a recreational facility. This facility could contain such activities as swimming, basketball/volleyball courts, fitness/weight room, etc. If you would like to share your thoughts and opinions on this possible venture, please visit their website at www.metroparks.cc/ where you can participate in their survey.



Amherst Township
Recreational Trail
Extension



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 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 988-5894. Voice Mail is checked daily.

“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”.



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 Mon., Dec 27th thru Fri., Jan 7th.



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.

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

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

**ATSSO OFFICE HOURS:
8:00 A.M. – NOON (M-F)**

Phone: 988-5894

Carol Schmitkons at Ext. 102

Email: amhersttwpseniors@oh.rr.com

Amherst Twp Senior Service Office

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

Another Meal Option

The “Second Harvest Food Bank” in collaboration with the “Lorain County Office on Aging” launched an outreach to seniors known as the Ohio “Food Assistance Program: (FAP) commonly called Food Stamps or SNAP. To learn more about the program’s requirements, contact FAP Outreach Coordinator, Marcia Kubach, at 440-326-4825.



*May your Holiday
& New Year
Be Filled with
Great Joy!!!!*

2011 Medicare Changes

Medicare Part A & B

- Part A deductible: **\$1,132**
- Co-payment for hospital stay days 61-90: **\$283/day**
- Co-payment for hospital stay days 91 and beyond: **\$566/day**
- Skilled nursing facility co-payment, days 21-100: **\$141.50/day**
- Basic Part B Premium: **\$115.40/month** (You will also pay more if you made more than \$85,000 per year the last two years you were employed prior to going onto Medicare)
- Part B deductible: **\$162**

Part D

Only 34 plans will be available this year. The lowest premium for 2011 will be **\$14.80** and the highest (which offers some coverage for generics and brands in the gap) will be **\$111.50**.

The lowest priced deductible is **\$70** and most deductibles will be **\$310**. There are seven (7) plans that will be available to those eligible for the “Low Income Subsidy”.

Medicare consumers will see greater discounts for prescription drugs sold either as a separate “Part D” plan or as part of bundled “Medicare Advantage” coverage. The health care law will offer a 50% discount from drug makers to those in the “donut hole”.

Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, & Supplies

Lorain County is going to be involved in the first phase of the competitive bidding program for these products. This program is designed to ensure beneficiaries who are with the Original Medicare continue to receive quality medical equipment and related services from accredited suppliers, while reducing beneficiaries “out-of-pocket” expenses and saving Medicare program money. Items covered under this program are:

- Oxygen, oxygen equipment and supplies
- Standard power wheelchairs, scooters and related accessories
- Complex rehabilitative power wheelchairs and related accessories
- Mail-order diabetic supplies
- Enteral nutrients, equipment and supplies
- Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) devices and Respiratory Assist Devices (RADs) and related supplies and accessories
- Hospital beds and related accessories
- Walkers and related accessories

Grandfathered suppliers who do not win a contract may nonetheless continue to service their Medicare clients if they agree to the same terms and payment rates as the winning bidders. If beneficiaries are renting equipment that is eligible for grandfathering, the supplier will let them know in writing 30 business days before the program begins.

Some beneficiaries in these areas may need to switch to different suppliers in order to have Medicare continue to cover the equipment and supplies they need. When beneficiaries switch to new suppliers, their doctors will need to write new orders for needed equipment. Current suppliers must pick up their equipment and new suppliers must deliver replacement equipment and supplies to beneficiaries. The pickup and delivery must be coordinated so that nobody is left without needed equipment and supplies.



Medicare Advantage and Rx Plans

At enrollment and annually (15 days prior to the Coordinated Election Period) Medicare Advantage Plans must disclose a provider directory; Rx Plans must disclose formulary information and a pharmacy directory.

Unsolicited contacts are prohibited, including “door-to-door” sales. Unless requested by the consumer, the following are also prohibited:

- Outbound marketing calls
- Calls or visits to consumers who attended marketing events

- Sales calls to market plans or products to members who have voluntarily disenrolled

Before an appointment:

- The agent must identify the types of products to be discussed
- Beneficiary must agree to the scope of the appointment; plan must document the agreement in writing or record the agreement by phone.

PIPP Plus

Ohio's "Percentage of Income Payment Plan Plus" (PIPP Plus) makes monthly gas or electric payments more affordable on a year-round basis for customers whose gross yearly household income does not exceed 150 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. "PIPP Plus" also offers incentives to customers who make their payments on time each month. Customers who repeatedly miss payments can be removed from the program.

"PIPP Plus" customers will be required to pay \$10 or six percent of their gross monthly household income, whichever is greater, for gas or electric service. Customers with all-electric homes will pay \$10 or 10 percent, whichever is greater. Electric customers, like natural gas customers, will have the same monthly "PIPP Plus" payment year-round.

To remain on "PIPP Plus", customers must re-verify their gross monthly household income annually and may be required to make up any missed payments.

"PIPP Plus" customers who become ineligible for the program will be placed on a 12-month plan to help transition to full bill payments. Customers who make monthly payments on time and in full will continue to receive credits toward their monthly bill balance.

For more information, visit these websites:

PUCO.ohio.gov
energyhelp.ohio.gov

Ohioans may also contact the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio at 1-800-686-7826 or the Ohio Department of Development at 1-800-282-0880.

High Risk Pool

The new health care reform law funds the creation of a temporary health insurance program – or "High Risk Pool" – in every state for people with pre-existing health conditions.

Ohio has decided to run its own program which will last until 2014, when full federal reforms take effect. It has designated the non-profit mutual insurance company "Medical Mutual of Ohio" to administer its temporary "High Risk Pool Program". The program is designed to provide quality health insurance benefits at an affordable price to uninsured Ohioans with pre-existing health conditions as soon as possible.

Medical Mutual is offering two Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) plans. One plan has a deductible of \$1,500 and the other is \$2,500. Pre-existing condition exclusions and waiting periods do not apply.

To be eligible to enroll, you must meet each of these requirements to qualify:

- Be a U.S. citizen or U.S. national, or be lawfully present in the U.S.;
- Be uninsured for six (6) months prior to the date you apply for coverage;
- Not be eligible for Medicare, the Ohio Medical Assistance Program, the Ohio Children's Health Insurance Program or an employer sponsored group health plan, unless you are subject to a mandatory initial waiting period;
- And have a qualifying pre-existing condition, as evidenced by a denial of coverage by two insurers, or documentation from a health professional.