

AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Summer 2011

Vol. XVI No. 2

Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in the 1st quarter of 2011.

- 1.25 tons of various paper through the "ABITIBI Paper Retriever" program
- 2.26 tons of aluminum cans
- 11.75 tons of bi-metal cans
- 20.68 tons of glass
- 6.11 tons of HDPE plastics
- 5.54 tons of PETE plastics
- 47.00 tons of newspapers
- 0.94 tons of Cardboard

-----There were no dumpster days in the first quarter, therefore no scrap metal.

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

"2011" Dumpster Days

Amherst Township has set the following "tentative" dates for "Dumpster Days" in 2011:

- July 7, 8, 9 (SCHEDULED)
- 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!!

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, 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, Roads, Ditches)

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:

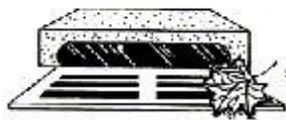
2nd & 4th Tuesdays of each month at **7:00 p.m.**

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.

AMHERST TOWNSHIP PARK – RECREATIONAL TRAIL PROJECT

The Amherst Township Park, Recreational Trail Project is nearing completion. The 2,200-foot trail extension through the conservation area has been added and grass has been planted and is growing along the sides of this trail. A stairway was constructed connecting this trail extension to the Workshop Players Theater and township cemetery. The existing 2,200-foot trail was resurfaced. A security light was added to the parking lot as well as

additional drainage. The new curbing along the entryway is also done and the entryway was made wider. Still to be done is the resurfacing of the entryway and parking lot as well as installing the lamp poles along the new trail extension that connects the trailhead parking lot with the Workshop Players Theater and township cemetery. Long term, benches along the new trail extension will be added as funding becomes available.



Storm Sewers & Lawn Care



Where does the Storm Sewer go?

The water that enters storm drains typically carries pollutants such as fertilizer, oil, and leaves. A common misconception about storm sewers is that they go to a waste-water treatment plant. This is not the case. Storm sewers transport stormwater to the nearest river, lake, stream or wetland.

Excess fertilizers and pesticides applied to lawns and gardens wash off and pollute streams. Please observe these tips to reduce stormwater pollution:

- Don't over water your lawn. Consider using a soaker hose instead of a sprinkler.

- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly and only the recommended amounts. Use organic mulch or safer pest control methods whenever possible.
- Compost or mulch yard waste. Don't leave it in the street or sweep it into storm drains or streams.
- Cover piles of dirt or mulch being used in landscaping projects.

Also note that by keeping grass clippings and leaves out of the streets, storm drains are kept clear and free flowing. This helps in preventing flooding issues, which has been a major issue this spring and early summer.

Amherst Township Day at the “Crushers”

Again this summer, F.A.C.E. (Funding Amherst Community Enhancement) will be sponsoring an “Amherst Township Day” fundraiser at “All Pro Freight Stadium” in Avon Ohio.



**GAME DATE
& TIME:
Thursday,
July 28, 2011
@ 7:05 P.M.**



Ticket Vouchers are \$9.00 per ticket with \$3.00 of each ticket going towards Amherst Township Park improvements.

Ticket Vouchers may be purchased by contacting:

- Tom Hupman at **988-9877**
- David Marr at **752-0757**
- Carol Schmitkons, Senior Service Director,
Mon- Fri (8am-noon)
at **988-5894 - Ext. 102**



F.A.C.E.'s “Wine Tasting Party” was a fun and enjoyable event. Proceeds from this fundraising event will be used for Amherst Township Park Improvements. We would like to thank the businesses and individuals that donated to this event, as well as all those who attended.



CHIP Grant Funds Available Home Repair and Rehabilitation

Under the direction of the Lorain County Commissioners, the Lorain County Community Development Department is taking applications from low-to-moderate income homeowners who need 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, 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. Up to \$35,000 is available to qualified residents for Private Owner Rehabilitation for eligible rehabilitation projects.

For additional information or to request an application, please call: Angela Brown at 440-328-2322.

New Title Office in Township

The new Lorain County Clerk of Courts title office in Amherst Township is now open. It is located in the Visitor's Center at 8025 Leavitt Road, just south of the Turnpike exchange.

The Amherst Township office will offer all title services, auto and watercraft as well as Passport applications and Passport photos.

Lorain Social Security Office Has New Location

In April, the Lorain Social Security Office moved to a new location. They are no longer at 300 Broadway. Their new address is **221 West 5th Street**. The public is also able to take care of Social Security related business on their website at www.socialsecurity.gov or by using the agency's national toll-free number, **1-800-772-1213** or **hotline at 1-800-998-0180**.



OBERLIN ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT



Progress continues on the replacement of the Oberlin Road Bridge that spans Route 2.

ABOVE: Photo from the south side of the bridge looking to the north.

RIGHT: Photo from the north side of the bridge looking to the south.

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” may be 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 may be 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”.

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.

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

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LORAIN, OHIO

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

New “Road and Bridge” Levy – No New Taxes

It is no secret that the worst recession since the Great Depression has had a negative impact at the National, State and Local level. This recession has impacted families, businesses and governments. To maintain balanced budgets at the State and County government levels, revenues that were previously shared at the local township level are being reduced or eliminated. In addition, the recession has negatively impacted real estate revenues and investment earnings. The table below summarizes several of the larger revenue reductions impacting Amherst Township.

<u>Amherst Township Annual Revenue Reduction</u>	
Revenue Source	Annual Revenue Reduction
State of Ohio Local Government Fund	\$62,000
Lorain County Solid Waste Management District	\$60,000
Tangible Personal Property Tax	\$55,000
Interest/Investment Earnings	\$42,000
2009 Property Reassessment Collected 2010	\$27,000
Estate Tax (Revenue has varied from \$300 to \$482,000 between 2007 & 2010. Revenue eliminated effective 1/01/2013)	\$15,000
Total Annual Revenue Reduction	\$261,000

Just as many of you have adjusted to smaller household budgets, Amherst Township has adjusted to reduced revenues. These adjustments include delayed equipment replacement, employee headcount reduction through attrition, and delays in road maintenance activities. These adjustments cannot continue long-term without negatively impacting our community.

The Board of Trustees, in conjunction with a group of local citizens, has developed a plan to maintain current service levels and replace aging road maintenance equipment. This plan will require voter approval of a new 1-mil, 5-year “Road and Bridge” property tax levy.

Recognizing the difficult economic circumstances facing many Amherst Township residents, the Board of Trustees intends to offset any increase in property tax resulting from a new “Road and Bridge” levy by reducing the current “Fire and Emergency Medical Service” levy by an equivalent dollar amount for the next five years. This will result in a new “**Road & Bridge**” levy, but no new taxes.

Please attend any Board of Amherst Township Trustee meeting on the 2nd or 4th Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm to learn more about the proposed **new 1-mil, 5-year “Road and Bridge”** levy, but no new taxes.

See the reverse side for a summary of Road and Bridge projects completed in 2010 and planned for 2011.

2010/2011 Road, Bridge, Drainage & Park Improvement Costs

<u>2010 Road Improvements</u>		
Road	From - To	Cost
Bechtel Road	S.R. 113 (south to) Albrecht Road	\$167,575
Hidden Valley Sub-Div	Concrete Replacement / Crack Sealing	\$283,200
Hemlock Drive	North Ridge Road to Laurel Lane	\$37,000
Striping & Pavement Markings		\$8,500
2010 Culvert Improvements by Township		
Cleaning and General Maintenance		\$5,000
2010 Ditch Improvements		
Bechtel Road	Ditch Enclosure / Cleaning	\$15,500
Mowing and General Maintenance		\$5,500
2010 Miscellaneous		
Township Park Improvements New Trail		\$16,955
Township Park Improvements Existing Trail		\$60,347
2010 Grand Total:		\$599,577

<u>Proposed 2011 Road Improvements</u>		
Road	From - To	Cost
Hidden Valley Sub-Div	Concrete Replacement	\$344,267
Allandale Drive	Rosedale Ave. to Hidden Tree Lane	\$40,810
Kay Drive	Oberlin Road to Cul De Sac	\$26,000
Linda Drive	Oberlin Road to Kay Drive	\$40,000
Rosedale Ave.	Middle Ridge Road to Rustic Hill	\$123,840
Proposed 2011 Culvert Improvements by Township		
Cleaning and General Maintenance		\$5,500
Proposed 2011 Ditch Improvements		
Mowing & General Maintenance		\$5,500
Dewey Road	Cleaning	\$4,000
Bechtel Road	Cleaning	\$3,500
Stang Road	Cleaning	\$3,500
Oberlin Road South	Cleaning	\$3,500
Proposed 2011 Miscellaneous		
Hidden Valley Sub-Div	Crack Sealing	\$35,000
Stang Road	Crack Sealing	\$25,000
Middle Ridge Road	Crack Sealing	\$40,000
Tina Lane	Hot Mix	\$65,000
Rice Road	Crack Sealing	\$35,000
Proposed 2011 Grand Total:		\$800,417

Senior GAZETTE

Summer 2011

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 new “soup only” option has also been added to your choices. To receive a home-delivered meal, contact the office at **988-5894, extension 102.**

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

Phone: 988-5894 – Ext. 102

Email: amhersttwpseniors@oh.rr.com

**Please call the office for any
questions you may have
concerning Medicare**

Ohio Means Generations – Because 50+ Matters

“Ohio Means Generations” is a multi-agency initiative to help people of all ages, but particularly Ohioans age 50 and older, realize their full potential as workers, students and volunteers, while assisting employers, schools and civic organizations to achieve more in their communities.

OhioMeansGenerations.com, the companion website, is a collaboration of several Ohio Departments, the state Workforce Development Board, the Ohio Board of Regents, the Ohio Community Service Council, area agencies on aging, as well as other organizations devoted to promoting civic engagement for adults age 50-plus. On this website, Ohioans can seek opportunities to remain in or return to the workforce, acquire new skills and continue a lifetime of learning, or put their time and talents to good use serving their communities.

2011

Medicare Information

2011 “Part D” – Open Enrollment Period Changes

This fall’s open enrollment period for approved 2012 “Part D” plans price comparisons and plan changes starts **October 15th** (instead of November 1st) and ends on **December 7th** (instead of December 31st).

Be sure to mark your calendar now with the new dates so you are not stuck in a plan that may not be meeting your medication needs for another year.

VA “Creditable” Coverage

Veterans please note that Veterans Administration coverage is **creditable** if one wishes to change to or add a Medicare “Part D” plan.

However, if you decide to switch to Medicare “Part A and B”, the VA hospital and medical coverage is **not considered creditable.**



Helpful Advice

A meal participant suggested this helpful hint. When sending cards to someone who is in the hospital or a nursing home for rehab, she suggests that you use their home address for return address rather than your own. Then, if your card gets there after they go home, it will still get to them rather than being returned to you.



Don't Carry Medicare Cards in Your Wallet or Purse

Identity thieves are on the prowl. They often target older adults because of their slower reaction times. Stealing a purse or a wallet can be an easy way to get your personal information. Driver's licenses have birthdates on them and Medicare cards usually use your social security number as part of the claim number.

So, I suggest putting your Medicare card in a file that you take with you to the doctor's office or that's available to family or emergency workers should you suddenly be taken to the ER. Also, don't carry bank account numbers and passwords with you. Leave them home in a safe place or with a trusted family member that you can call if you have forgotten them and find yourself needing them while you're out and about.

Driver Awareness/Safety Class

The Lorain County Sheriff's Office in conjunction with the American Automobile Association (AAA) are pleased to announce a **FREE** program for Lorain County Seniors that offers tips on Driver Awareness/Safety issues as well as Identity Theft information.

The Senior Driver Awareness/Resident Safety Program is designed to make a lifesaving difference in the lives of older drivers by offering useful tips on how to improve their driving, and protect themselves against crimes, scams and other potential dangers.

It is important to keep seniors safe and mobile. People over 65 are the fastest-growing population in the United States. By 2030, one in five drivers will be age 65 or older, which means there will be more than 30 million older drivers on our roads. Because of their fragility, seniors have the highest crash death rate per mile of everyone except teenagers.

AAA East Central and Lorain County Sheriff's Office are presenting this **FREE** program to keep our seniors safe and aware.

WHEN & WHERE

This program will be held on **Wednesday – July 6th** from 10:00 am until 12 noon at the Amherst Township Hall, which is located at 7530 Oberlin Road.

This **FREE** program is open to all Lorain County residents. So as to try and get an accurate count, please pre-register by calling the Sheriff's Office at 329-3700 as to how many will be attending. Light refreshments will be served.

*Sheriff Phil R. Stammitti - Lorain County Sheriff
AAA East Central Safety Advisor Lori Cook*

Medicare Annual Wellness Visit

More information on the annual wellness visit that was briefly mentioned in the last issue:

- You can get an Annual Wellness Visit every 12 months after **initial** “Welcome to Medicare” physical exam (offered to anyone who has joined Medicare “Part B” within the first 12 months after joining).
- Never had a Welcome to Medicare exam? That’s OK, you can get a free Annual Wellness Visit now and each year after – if Part B has been effective for 12 months.
- There is no cost-sharing (no coinsurance or deductible).
- During the visit, a personalized prevention plan will be developed, which builds on findings from the initial exam. It’s important to note the distinctions between the **initial** and **subsequent** wellness visits.

Initial annual wellness visit includes:

- Routine measurements – height, weight, blood pressure, body-mass index.
- Review of medical and family history.
- Establishes a list of current providers, suppliers, and medications.
- Personal risk assessment (including any mental health conditions).
- Review of functional ability and level of safety.

- Detection of any cognitive impairment.
- Screens for depression.
- Establishes a schedule for Medicare’s screening and preventive services you qualify for over the next 5 to 10 years.
- Provides other advice or referral services that may help intervene and treat potential health risks.

Subsequent annual wellness visits include:

- Measurement of weight, blood pressure, and other measurements deemed appropriate (height and body-mass index only for significant weight change).
- Updates medical and family history, providers list, suppliers and medications, screening schedule and list of referral services to help intervene and treat potential health risks.
- Reviews initial personal risk assessment.
- Detection of cognitive impairment risks.

CMS offers a quick-reference guide on the components of the “Welcome to Medicare” physical exam: [ABCs of the Initial Preventive Physical Examination](#). It provides a flow chart, explains all components of the exam, suggests what information and which documents a new Medicare beneficiary should bring along to the exam, and links to additional resources.