

AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Spring 2011

Vol. XVI No. 1

Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in the 4th quarter of 2010 (**bold represents yearly total**):

- (5.51) 1.00 tons of various paper through the "ABITIBI Paper Retriever" program
- (8.87) 2.56 tons of Aluminum Cans
- (45.13) 13.37 tons of Steel/Bi-metal Cans
- (83.03) 23.52 tons of Glass
- (24.06) 6.95 tons of H.D.P.E. plastics
- (16.79) 6.31 tons of P.E.T. plastics
- (187.80) 53.44 tons of Newspapers
- (1.42) 1.07 tons of Cardboard
- (10.15) 3.89 tons of scrap metal (Dumpster Program)

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:

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

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.

PET WASTE



Pet waste left on the street or lawn does not just go away or fertilize the grass. The bacteria in pet waste is often washed down storm drains and into ditches, streams, lakes, and inlets, and can travel for miles in the water.

So what can you do? Simple.

Whether you are in your yard or on a walk, dispose of your pet's waste promptly in the trash to prevent it from entering storm drains and roadside ditches. Simply bring plastic bags with you when you walk your pet. Use a bag to pick up the pet waste, tie closed and place in trash.



Most comments during the 2009 P.I.P.E. Survey were concerning residents not cleaning up after their pets. Below is some interesting information:

- 95% of fecal bacteria found in Stormwater comes from wildlife, livestock, and pets.
- 20-30% of fecal bacteria in runoff comes from dogs.
- Lorain County's 27,000 dogs produce an estimated 5-6 tons of solid waste each day!
- Dog waste can carry E. coli, salmonella, and giardia into the rivers, ponds, and lakes we swim and fish in.
- Feces can also spread parasites like roundworms and other nematodes.
- Other nutrients in dog waste cause problems with algae overgrowth and create the possibility for summer fish kills.

WHY SHOULD WE PUT PET WASTE IN BAGS?

There are more than 27,000 dogs registered in Lorain County. That's a tremendous amount of pet waste! Research has shown that the organic matter and nutrients contained in pet waste can degrade water quality. When pet waste is washed into streams or ponds through storm drains, it will decay. The process of breaking down the organic matter in the waste uses up the dissolved oxygen, and releases ammonia. Low oxygen levels, increased ammonia, and warm summer water temperatures can kill fish and other aquatic organisms.



Excess nutrients from pet waste added to surface waters can lead to cloudy, green water from accelerated algae and weed growth. Decay of plant matter further reduces oxygen levels. Foul odors as well as unsightly ponds and streams can reduce property values significantly. In addition, dog waste often contains a variety of microorganisms—including bacteria and internal parasites that may make other dogs and children sick.



**Lorain County P.I.P.E. Contact:
Nancy Funni
Lorain Soil & Water Conservation District
440-326-5805**

FEATURED EMPLOYEE

Wayne Eppley is our featured employee. In 1991, Wayne was appointed Amherst Township Fire Prevention/Inspection Officer by the trustees. There was a need to have someone with fire safety knowledge available to answer resident's questions and perform fire safety inspections of businesses, group homes, foster homes, etc.

As the Township's Fire Prevention/Inspection Officer, Wayne is able to regulate acceptable open burning that is allowable by the Ohio EPA and Ohio Fire Codes. Many types of allowable fires in the past are now banned by those two agencies. It is best to contact Wayne if in doubt. Illegal burning can be very expensive to the township due to fire department responses. Wayne can inspect new and existing commercial construction and remodeling to assist if proper code regulations are being followed. He also assists in the investigation of fires in the township, when needed.

Wayne enjoys the ability to work with many different people and answer questions concerning fire prevention. Proper education in fire safety can help prevent many dangerous and financially devastating losses. All homes should have working smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. Smoke and carbon monoxide are two silent, deadly killers. Prevention and early detection are the best practices. Everyone should have a plan to exit the house during an emergency and remember calling "911" will get you police, fire, or EMS. Wayne does not enjoy getting called out to a fire in the middle of the night on the coldest day of the year, nor during a thunderstorm or a 97 degree afternoon. The absolute worst part about his job is to be called to a fire with the loss of a life. During his career as a firefighter, he has seen this numerous times.

Wayne began his fire service in Carlisle Township in 1971 where he was a volunteer firefighter for 6 years. He then transferred to Elyria Township after getting married in 1977. For the past 34 years he has remained active with Elyria Township and recently retired as their Fire Chief, but still remains on the department as a firefighter/EMT. In 1979 Wayne was hired by the City of Elyria as a fulltime firefighter/EMT and has held that position for 32 years. He has been a Lieutenant since 1989 and has been assigned to Fire Station #3 since 1990.

Wayne was raised in Elyria Township until the age of 7. He lived in a house on Telegraph Road next to his grandparents, Milton and Marie Eppley. They lived on a farm and had a few milking cows and chickens, and grew wheat, oats, corn, soybeans, and potatoes. They also had an orchard with cherry, apple, and peach trees. His family then moved to a farm on West Ridge Road in Carlisle Township.



Wayne graduated from Keystone High School in 1970. He attended Ohio State University for a short time and then attended Lorain County Community College studying Fire Science courses. He is a State of Ohio certified Firefighter II, EMT-B, and Fire Inspector.

In 1977 Wayne married his wife, Karen, and moved back to Elyria Township. They have 3 children – Lori age 32, Brian age 31, and Mark age 21.

Wayne enjoys spending time vacationing in places such as Florida, South Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, Nevada, and Canada as well as having been on 5 cruises. Wayne also has several cameras and enjoys photography.

In the past, Wayne has been a member of Boy Scout Troop 118, 4-H, and Zion United Methodist Church. He is currently a member of St. Vincent De Paul Catholic Church, Lorain County Fire Chiefs Association, Ohio Fire Chiefs Association, Lorain County Fire Investigators Association, Elyria Firefighters IAFF Local 474, and Elyria Township Emergency Association.

We would like to thank Wayne for the services that he provides to Amherst Township. For any fire safety related questions, please feel free to contact Wayne by phone at **324-3921** by email at wayneeppley@aol.com.



No Parking of Commercial Vehicles on Residential Township Roads



On February 22, 2011, the Amherst Township Trustees passed a Resolution prohibiting the parking of commercial vehicles with a gross vehicle weight of 10,000 lbs. or greater on all Designated Roads (see list at right).

With public safety in mind, the Board of Trustees determined that it was necessary to prohibit Commercial Vehicle parking in order to reduce the mingling of commercial traffic with pedestrian traffic on streets without street lights and sidewalks. Further, it will eliminate the physical obstruction and the obstruction of view on township roads that is caused by parking these commercial vehicles on the roads. The Board of Trustees also wishes to limit truck traffic in residential neighborhoods, excessive wear and tear on township roads, and the loss of residential character, all caused by the traveling to park and the parking of commercial vehicles on those roads.

The Board of Trustees, the Lorain County Deputy Sheriff, the Ohio State Patrol, or the Township Road Superintendent may order into storage any vehicle parked in violation of these regulations. The Owner or any lien holder of a vehicle ordered into storage may claim the vehicle upon presentation of proof of ownership, which may be evidenced by a certificate of title. The Owner or lien holder of said vehicle will be responsible for the payment of all expenses, charges and fines incurred as a result of the parking violation and removal and storage of the vehicle.

Violation of these regulations is a minor misdemeanor. The fines that are levied and collected under these regulations shall be paid into the township general fund.

The following are Designated Roads:

- Allandale Drive** between Rosedale Dr. & Hidden Tree Ln.
- Balsam Drive** between south terminus & Hemlock Dr.
- Bartish Drive** between Berry Ridge Dr. & Stone Valley Dr.
- Berry Ridge** between Stone Valley Dr. & Deer Run Dr.
- Briar Court** between west terminus & Hidden Valley Dr.
- Broadway Street** between south terminus & Amherst Corporation Limit
- Cobblestone Drive** between Moss Canyon Dr. & Hidden Valley Dr.
- Copper Creek Drive** between Pyle-South Amherst Rd. & east terminus
- Dee Drive** between Rustic Hill Dr. & Hidden Tree Ln.
- Deepwood Lane** between west terminus & Rosedale Dr.
- Erie Court** between west terminus & Dewey Rd.
- Fieldstone Drive** between Moss Canyon Dr. & Hidden Valley Dr.
- Graybark Drive** between Hidden Tree Ln. & east terminus
- Hemlock Drive** between Balsam Dr. & North Ridge Rd.
- Hidden Glen Drive** between west terminus & Deer Run Dr.
- Hidden Tree Lane** between Oaknoll Dr. & Oberlin Rd.
- Hidden Valley Drive** between Middle Ridge Rd. & Oaknoll Dr.
- Hillside Drive** between Deer Run Dr. & Hidden Valley Dr.
- Hornyak Court** between west terminus & Quarry Rd.
- Juniper Lane** between south terminus & Laurel Ln.
- Kay Drive** between Oberlin Rd. & east terminus
- Kestrel Way** between Copper Creek Dr. & north terminus
- Laurel Lane** between Hemlock Dr. & east terminus
- Linda Drive** between Oberlin Rd. & Kay Dr.
- Moonstone Drive** between Berry Ridge Dr. & Hidden Glen Dr.
- Moss Canyon Drive** between west terminus & Hidden Valley Dr.
- Oaknoll Drive** between Moss Canyon Dr. & Rosedale Dr.
- Old Middle Ridge Road** between west terminus & Eddystone Dr.
- Rice Court** between Quarry Rd. & east terminus
- Rosedale Avenue** between Middle Ridge Rd. & Rustic Hill Dr.
- Rustic Hill Drive** between Deepwood Ln. & Allandale Dr.
- Stone Valley Drive** between Hidden Glen Dr. & Moss Canyon Dr.
- Taylor Street** between south terminus & Amherst Corp Limit
- Tina Lane** between west terminus & North Ridge Rd.
- Trails End Drive** between south terminus & Hidden Valley Dr.

PERMITS REQUIRED

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” 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”.



F.A.C.E. Fundraisers

“Funding Amherst Community Enhancement” will be holding two fundraising events this year. Proceeds for both of these events will be going towards the Park Project.

WINE TASTING PARTY



**When: Friday, April 29th
from 7-9 pm**

**Where: Amherst Party Shop
275 S. Main St.**

Cost: \$25 per person



Ticket cost includes wine/beer samples, food, and Hors d’oeuvres. The event will be held upstairs in the newly renovated wine tasting room, the *Villa D’Vino*. Tickets may be purchased by contacting:

- Amherst Party Shop at **988-4132**
- Tom Hupman at **988-9877**
- David Marr at **752-0757**
- Carol Schmitkons, Senior Service Director, Mon- Fri (8am-noon) at **988-5894 – Ext. 102**



**CRUSHERS
GAME**



Again this summer, F.A.C.E. will be sponsoring an “Amherst Township Day” fundraiser at “All Pro Freight Stadium” in Avon Ohio. Information about purchasing ticket vouchers for this event will be in the next newsletter.

GAME DATE & TIME:

Thursday, July 28, 2011 @ 7:05 P.M.



On Tuesday, May 3, 2011, township residents who live in the Amherst Exempted Village School District will be asked to vote regarding Issue 2. To learn more about this issue, visit the following website sponsored by “Citizens for Amherst Schools”:

www.amherstgoodtogreatlevy.org

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

PRESORTED STD.
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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 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 extends special thanks for their help to our new volunteer meal drivers, **Christina Gonzalez and Jean Lee.**

Energy Assistance Program

Ohio’s “**Department of Development’s Energy Assistance Program**” raised the limit on the household income level. The new limit is now 200% of the federal poverty level instead of 150%. Now an individual receiving less than \$1,815 per month or a couple making less than \$2,452 will be able to apply for HEAP, PIPP Plus, or Home Weatherization Assistance.

Transportation Options for Seniors & Severely Disabled

The *Lorain County Office on Aging* Transportation Department has advised ATSSO that their funding has been cut and their services are limited. Please call Charlotte at **440-326-4826** as soon as you schedule a doctor appointment to insure that you are able to get a ride.

Goodwill Industries of Lorain County, Inc. is now offering transportation for severely disabled and elderly citizens who have ABSOLUTELY no other way to get to doctor appointments, drug stores or shopping. Most fees are \$5 for one-way trips and \$7.50 for round-trips. To schedule a pickup, call Goodwill Industries at **244-3016**, Monday through Friday between 9am & 3pm.

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

Medicare Updates

What’s New for 2011?

John Hammarlund, administrator for regional Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service, gave this summary in a Senior Health Insurance Information Program news release:

- 1. Original Medicare will cover the full cost of annual well visit with doctor.** Until now, only a one-time “Welcome to Medicare” exam was covered during first year on Part B.
- 2. When you reach the coverage gap or “donut hole”, you’ll receive 50% off brand name price and 7% off generics while in the gap.** The full price of the drugs is still used to determine when you qualify for catastrophic coverage.
- 3. Medicare Advantage (MA) plans are now required to have annual out-of-pocket maximums and other consumer protections.** These rates will be capped at \$6,700 for 2011. Many plans have voluntarily set lower maximums. In addition, you can no longer be charged more for services (such as chemo) than if you were in Original Medicare.

4. If you have Original Medicare, you'll pay nothing out-of-pocket for most preventative services.

The 20% co-pay for lab tests and screenings after the Part B deductible is met is going away. A broad range of preventive services such as Pap tests, colonoscopies, mammograms & prostate cancer screenings will no longer have deductibles or co-pays. If you're in an "MA" plan, contact your insurer to find out if it has also eliminated out-of-pocket costs for tests & screenings.

5. Your Medicare premiums may change. "Part B" monthly premiums for most are still the same as 2010:

- \$96.40 (enrolled 2008 and earlier)
- \$110.50 (enrolled 2009 & 2010);
- \$115.40 (new enrollees for 2011).

Beneficiaries who have a higher annual taxable income (over \$85,000 for singles and \$170,000 for married) will be charged more. Depending on the income, monthly premiums will range from \$161.50 to \$269.10, plus monthly "Part D" premiums will have a surcharge ranging from \$12 to \$69.10.

6. New coverage change dates:

- The "disenrollment" period for "Medicare Advantage" is now from **Jan 1** to **Feb 14**. This is for switching back to "Original Medicare + Part D" or changing to a different "MA".
- Open enrollment for "Part D" is now from **Oct 15** to **Dec 7**. New coverage still begins on January 1.

Medicare Advantage

vs.

Medicare Supplement + Part D

A **Medicare Advantage (MA)** plan is similar to an employer's "HMO" (Health Maintenance Options) which requires in-network doctor & hospital use or a "PPO" (Preferred Provider Options) which prefers in-network providers but will accept out-of-network providers and charge a higher co-pay. **MA's** are usually better for those who are healthy and want to try to save money. These plans have very low or no monthly premiums, but have high out-of-pocket charges before coverage begins. Annual drug costs are often much higher for "**MA**" plans versus a stand-alone "Part D" plan.

Medicare Supplement plans pick up what Original Medicare does not cover. While these plans have higher monthly premiums some of the benefits include more flexibility when it comes to doctor and hospital choices as well as a variety of coverage options. These options include: full coverage of deductibles and co-pays to partial coverage options with no out-of-pocket deductibles; a \$2,000 deductible option; and 2 options with out-of-pocket limits less than many of the **MA's**. Medicare Supplement plans are better for those on a fixed income with little savings.

Remember careful shopping for plans is most crucial for those with disabilities or pre-existing conditions when they turn 65 as all plans are required to accept everyone at that point. After that time, healthy individuals are free to switch plans during open enrollment periods, but those with health issues do not have to be accepted by insurers.