

AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Spring 2012

Vol. XVII No. 1

Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in tons for **2011** (3rd qtr – 4th qtr – **yearly total**).

0.73 – 0.97 – **4.17** - paper through the “ABITIBI Paper Retriever” program
2.40 – 2.68 – **10.13** - aluminum cans
12.52 – 13.96 – **52.75** - bi-metal cans
22.03 – 24.57 – **92.86** - glass
6.51 – 7.26 – **27.43** - H.D.P.E. plastics
5.91 – 6.58 – **24.89** - P.E.T. plastics
50.06 – 55.83 – **211.01** - newspapers
1.01 – 1.12 – **4.23** - cardboard
2.35 – 2.54 – **7.79** - scrap metal (Dumpster Program)

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

“2012” Dumpster Days

Amherst Township has set the following dates for “Dumpster Days” in 2012:

April 12, 13, 14

July 12, 13, 14

October 4, 5, 6

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

Remi Cerrone, Zoning Inspector

Trustees

Dennis Abraham 986-4555

(Ambulance, Cemetery, Park, Water, Buildings, Land, Enterprise Zones, County Health Rep.)

Neil Lynch 988-7681

(Zoning, Sewer, Fire, Equipment, Personnel, LORCO, Phase II Storm Water/ Environmental Strategy, Senior Services, Lorain County Community Alliance Rep, NIMS Primary Contact, Facility Security)

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. All airings are subject to change.

Joint Police District for Townships

The formation of a Joint Police District for Lorain County Townships has begun. Of the 18 townships in Lorain County, 17 townships have shown “intent” to form a joint police district, including Amherst Township. Columbia Township was the only township that did not indicate its intent to join as they already contract with the Lorain County Sheriff’s Office for 20 hours of patrols.

These 17 townships must now pass a resolution to create and name the joint police district with the objective being to get additional police protection for all the townships. Upon passage of this resolution, one trustee from each participating township will become part of the board for this Police District. The Police District Board will then decide on how much funding is needed and will have control of the money that is received from a levy. Residents of the participating townships will be part of the Police District and should expect to see a levy on the November 2012 ballot. Passage/failure of the levy will be dependent on the entire Police District, not individual townships.

What Is The Problem?

Today’s staffing of the Sheriff’s Department is less than it was in 1999. With the merger of 911 and Sheriff Dispatch, three deputies will be added, but they are still down by 10 deputies. However, none of the deputies are dedicated exclusively to townships. There are 350 square miles and a little more than 56,000 people in the townships that need protection. The reduction of Sheriff Deputies results in increased response times, increased crime rates, and an increased danger to the Deputies as well as to Community members and property.

What Can We Do About It?

The Lorain County Township Association formed a committee to deal with the problem of inadequate road patrols for Lorain County townships. They explored many different possibilities regarding district formation and funding. By forming a Joint Police District, township residents would have long-term benefits and guarantee that there are road patrols in the townships, no matter what happens with the county budgetary issues. The governing board for the Police district would consist of Trustees from all the participating townships.

Advantages of a Joint Police District

Sub-districts will be formed to ensure adequate distribution of deputies. Deputies will be dedicated to the Sub-districts and won’t be pulled out unless there is an emergency. The Police District will contract with the Sheriff’s Office, so administration is already in place (i.e. supervision, radio operations, records, training, policies and procedures). A Police District will allow for reinstatement of “Community Policing”. Sheriff Deputies have county-wide authority. The Trustees/Townships will control how money is spent. A percentage of the fees collected from violations will go back into the Police District.

How Much Will It Cost?

A 1-mil levy for the 17 participating townships would amount to a cost of about \$31 per \$100,000 in property market value per year and would raise an estimate \$1.1 million annually. This money would pay for the salary and equipment for 9 additional deputies in the first year; 10 deputies the second year; and 11 deputies the third year. These deputies would be strictly for Township Road Patrol and cannot be pulled off for any other service that the Sheriff’s Office provides.

Each township in the Police District would have to be contiguous to at least one other township in the district, according to the plan. In the future this district could be expanded to include additional areas such as Columbia Township or other small municipalities, as long as they are contiguous to the established Police District.

Where Do We Go From Here?

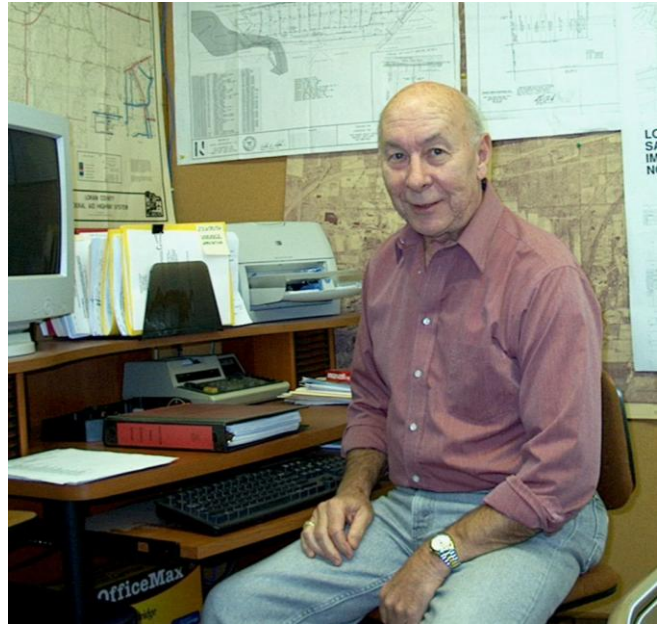
There needs to be discussion and a resolution by the Trustees to join the Joint Police District from each Township. The Joint Police District Board needs to meet to determine how to generate funding and to form a committee to generate an informational campaign and raise funds. The Board needs to determine the amount of the levy needed to fund the Joint Police District and then to place the levy on the ballot.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please attend an Amherst Township Board of Trustees meeting on the 2nd or 4th Tuesday of any month at 7:00 p.m.

Zoning Inspector Retires

Amherst Township's Zoning Inspector, Don Gargas, retired at the end of 2011. Don has been the Zoning Inspector since 2000 and has been responsible for writing permits for buildings and structures, enforcing zoning resolutions, accepting applications for Zoning Amendments and Variances, and in general helping people to understand zoning and zoning areas in the township. Don has also assisted in writing grants as well as assisting the Trustees, the Zoning Commission, and the Zoning Board of Appeals with various projects, as needed. Prior to Zoning Inspector, Don served as a Zoning Committee member from 1997 to 2000.

Don has been a great asset to the township. We would like to thank him for all he has done for our community and wish him well in his retirement.



New Zoning Inspector

Remi Cerrone has been hired to fill the position of Amherst Township Zoning Inspector. Remi has been a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals since 2001 and is familiar with the zoning resolution for Amherst Township. Remi is looking forward to serving the community in his new position. The office hours for the Zoning Inspector will remain the same, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays. He can be contacted by phone at **988-5894 x103** where voice mail is available or he can be contacted by email at amhersttwpzoning@oh.rr.com.



Zoning Commission Board

Glenn Thome – Chairman
Mary Torma – Vice Chair
Hank Harsar – Secretary
Jim Conrady – Member
Darryl Saladin – Member
Mark Onysk – Alternate I
Open – Alternate II

Board of Zoning Appeals

Kirsten Hill – Chairman
Joan Whitman – Vice Chair
Marcie Jaworski – Secretary
Rose Betchker – Member
Ron Sleasman – Member
Roy Cockran – Alternate I
Open – Alternate II

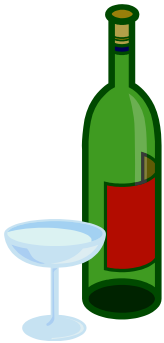
Please contact an Amherst Township Trustee or Zoning Board Member if you are interested in serving on one of these boards.



F.A.C.E. Fundraiser



“Funding Amherst Community Enhancement” will be holding wine tasting party fundraising event again this year. Proceeds from this event will be going towards the Amherst Township Park Project.



WINE TASTING PARTY

When: Friday, April 13th
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. This event will once again be held upstairs in the wine tasting room, the *Villa D’Vino*. Help support the Amherst Township Park while enjoying a casual and fun evening with your friends and neighbors.

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**

We would like to welcome Bob Cole as a new F.A.C.E. board member. The FACE board includes Tom Hupman (president), Jim Kantola, Bill Poplar, Richard Rice, and David Marr, with one seat being open. If you would like to serve in a voluntary capacity on this board, please contact Tom Hupman at 988-9877.



From the Lorain County Sheriff’s Office



Sheriff Phil R. Stammitti recently announced that the Lorain County Sheriff’s Office (LCSO) has joined Facebook. With all of the new social media and technology advancements the Sheriff’s Office wanted to make it easier for citizens to contact them and advise them of any concerns or tips that they may have. This Facebook page will be checked daily and updated periodically for new information for the public as far as persons incarcerated in jail, new wanted persons and just general information about the LCSO.

Citizens are encouraged to log onto their Facebook page and then go to the “Lorain County Sheriff’s Office” Facebook page to view and offer comments

and to click on the “LIKE” us button. You can also get to this Facebook page by going to the Sheriff’s website at www.loraincountysheriff.com and clicking on the Facebook logo at the bottom of the left hand column.

Deputy Bob Vansant has recently been assigned to the Amherst Township area, as well as other townships. He would like to remind residents, especially those living in Hidden Valley, to keep your car doors locked and also to remove any valuables from your car. If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact Deputy Vansant by email at:

rvansant@loraincountysheriff.com

Thank-You

Voter Approval of 1-mil "Road & Bridge" levy

The Amherst Township Board of Trustees appreciates the positive response to the recent vote on the new 1-mil, 5-year "Road & Bridge" levy. Residents will see no increase in their taxes, as the "Road & Bridge" levy has been offset by a reduction in the "Fire and Emergency Medical Service" levy. These levy adjustments will allow current service levels to be maintained for the township roads, bridges, fire and EMS for the next five years.

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 Remi Cerrone, 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".

2012 Road Projects

In 2012, the following roads will be repaired with the asphalt sections being milled-off and resurfaced and the concrete sections having full depth repair.

- Rosedale Ave. (from Middle Ridge to Rustic Hill)
- Allandale Dr. (from Rosedale to Hidden Tree Lane)
- Kay Dr. (from Oberlin to Cul De Sac)
- Linda Dr. (from Oberlin to Kay)

The estimated cost of this project was \$230,650 with \$107,200 coming from an OPWC LTIP Rnd 25 Grant and the remaining \$123,450 being provided by Amherst Township in matching funds. In addition to these repairs, there will be a 254 linear-foot section of Oaknoll (near the Rosedale intersection) that will be repaired.

Bechtel Road will have a "Chip & Seal" upgrade, with the Engineer's estimated cost being \$19,961.

There will be other road rehabs throughout the township including crack sealing and patching.

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.

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

Monthly Meeting
Dates & Times:

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

Senior GAZETTE

Spring 2012

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

2012 Medicare Information

While Social Security benefits have increased 3.6%, several of the Medicare charges have actually dropped this year. **Alcohol misuse screening** and **behavioral counseling** were added as Medicare Coverage Determinations.

- **Part A deductible: \$1,156**
- **Part B deductible: \$140**
- **Hospital stay co-pay days 61-90: \$289/day**
- **Skilled nursing facility co-pay days 21-100: \$144.50/day**
- **Basic Part B premium: \$99.90/mo.** (Amount is higher if you made more than \$85,000 per year the last two years of employment prior to going onto Medicare).

A free “Welcome to Medicare” event for those turning 65, sponsored by the Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIIP) is scheduled for Lorain County at Wesleyan Village in Elyria on Wednesday, July 25th at 6 PM.

Need help before then? Call the office for an appointment (988-5894 ext. 102) or go to the Medicare.gov website and get personalized information by entering your zip code. The website will tell you what health insurance & prescription drug plans are available in your community. It will also access doctor, hospital, nursing home, home health care, & dialysis facility comparisons as well as give details for various kinds of resources, help and support.

ATSSO OFFICE HOURS:

8:00 A.M. – NOON (M-F)

Phone: 988-5894 – Ext. 102

Email: amhersttwpseniors@oh.rr.com

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**.

Lorain County Office on Aging Helps You Access Your Benefits

Did you know that you may be eligible for help to handle many of your needs? Lorain County Office on Aging’s new program “Access to Benefits” can put you in touch with over 1,700 local, state, and federal programs to help you adjust to changes that challenge your independence as you age. Some of the benefits they can screen for are: Medicare Premiums & Prescription Drug Costs; Food Assistance; Low Cost Housing; HEAP & PIPP (Utility Costs); Veteran Services & Benefits; Golden Buckeye; Ohio Best RX; and Safe-Link Phone.

Screening can be done in your home or on the phone. Contact Lauren at 440-326-4822 or Brenda at 440-326-4811 or email them at smalik@loraincounty.us.

Tips for SENIORS

MANAGING PAIN

Caregivers need to understand and help their loved one(s) be able to assess and communicate pain symptoms to their doctors for proper pain management.

Patience and Understanding

It may sound like your loved one is just complaining or cranky, but these can be signs that your loved one is in much pain. Pain can often result in trouble sleeping, poor concentration, anxiety, and even depression. Ask about the pain and take notes on information that is important to discuss with their physician or a pain management specialist.

Symptoms through Body Language

Because it is sometimes hard for seniors to verbalize pain and the actual amount of pain, watch for pain symptoms such as facial expressions, a groan when moving, limping, reduced activity and increased time in bed.

Relieving Pain

Make an appointment to go along on a doctor visit to explain the assessments you have made and discuss both medication and non-medication ways to relieve stress.

Pain medication should be taken at prescribed intervals and not as pain occurs in order to keep the medicine levels in the blood consistent to relieve pain.

Non-medication pain reduction techniques can help both the body and mind decrease pain. Some of these techniques include:

- Warm showers or baths, or heating pad use to bring soothing comfort by warming muscles
- Cool cloth use for icing of muscles to ease the pain caused by inflammation or swelling

- Use of pillows and soft seat cushions
- Relaxation
- Avoiding stressful situations
- Use of breathing techniques and exercises such as yoga and stretching.

SELECTING CLOTHING FOR INDEPENDENCE

Impaired finger dexterity

Shirts that open and close with Velcro tabs give independence to those with dexterity problems. Place Velcro behind the button of a current shirt, nobody will notice.

Limited range of motion

Raglan, dolman or deep-set sleeves allow for freedom of movement and easy dressing. Skimmer dress with Velcro shoulder opening and complete right side, arm-hole to hem opening, eliminates need to raise arms.

Impaired ability to maneuver feet through leg openings or limited ability to stand

Wrist or finger loops help individuals lift garments when dressing. Clothing with side openings increases room and comfort to ease over hips or over leg.

Toileting and changing needs

Extended Velcro fly's offer easy access to personal needs or when using a urinal.

Buttuner

Slip the wire through your buttonhole, over the button, and then pull it through.

Articles taken from **WRAAA News & Updates** for December 2011 & February 2012