

# AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Winter 2012

Vol. XVII No. 4

## Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2012.

- 0.70 tons of various paper through the "ABITIBI Paper Retriever" program
- 2.61 tons of aluminum cans
- 13.59 tons of bi-metal cans
- 23.91 tons of glass
- 7.07 tons of HDPE plastics
- 6.42 tons of PETE plastics
- 54.03 tons of newspapers
- 1.09 tons of Cardboard

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

## "2013" Dumpster Days

Amherst Township has set the following dates for "Dumpster Days" in 2013:

**April 11, 12, 13**

**October 3, 4, 5**

Hours are from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Please note: **NO TIRES!**

**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

➔ **Yard Waste Pile** was relocated farther to the east. See article on the next page of this newsletter.

## Compost & Wood Chips

Free compost and wood chips **may be** 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](mailto:amhersttwpfo@oh.rr.com)

Road Superintendent (garage) ..... **Ext. 111**

Email: [amhersttwproads@oh.rr.com](mailto: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](mailto:amhersttwpzoning@oh.rr.com)

Remi Cerrone, Zoning Inspector

## Trustees

**Dennis Abraham** ..... (cell) 213-6775

(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, Facility Security, NIMS Primary Contact,

Lorain County Community Alliance Rep,

Lorain County Joint Police District Rep.)

**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](mailto: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:

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month. Air times are at 9 am, 4 pm, & 11 pm. All airings are subject to change.

# “Yard Waste” Site Relocated

The Amherst Township “Yard Waste” site has been relocated to the very back of the property that is located on the EAST side of Oberlin Road, directly across from the Township Garage. This places the yard waste further to the east of where it was previously located.

The township has extended the driveway to the back of the property. Chips milled from road projects were recycled to give this new drive a good base. Signs will be posted to direct you to the new location. The relocation will improve appearances as well as reducing the negative impacts to the adjoining properties.

Residents are reminded to place all plastic bags in the 55-gallon drum that is located on the “Yard Waste” site.



This photo shows the main entrance to the “Yard Waste” site.



This photo shows where the previous “Yard Waste” pile was located.



This photo shows the drive leading to the back of the property.

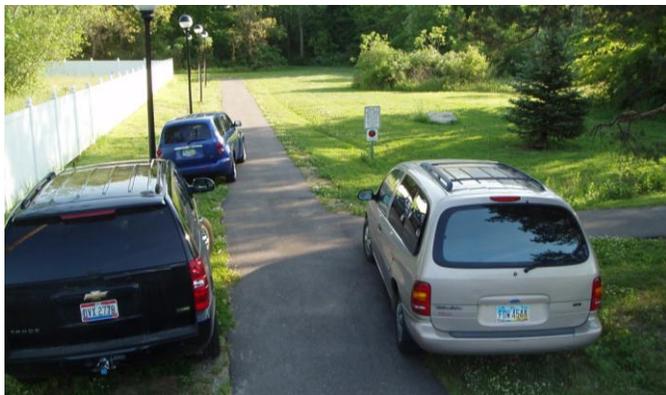


This photo shows the new location for “Yard Waste” and the 55-gallon drum for plastic bags.

# Amherst Township Park

As reported in previous editions of this newsletter, Amherst Township has received grant funding for the \$200,000+ multi-year improvement project to the Amherst Township Park located on Middle Ridge Road. This project included extending the paved trails by 2,200 feet, repaving the existing 2,200-foot trail, paving the parking lot, improving

drainage, and improving park lighting. Even with the increased number of parking spaces, the following pictures show the parking area is still filled to capacity during peak hours of use for youth sports. Amherst Township is very fortunate to have this multi-use park that has now been used by several generations of area residents.



# Rowland Nature Preserve

Amherst Township residents may be interested in visiting a wonderful park in Elyria Township on the eastern border of Amherst Township. The Rowland Nature Preserve, located at 7475 Murray Ridge Road, is now open to the public.

Mr. Billy Rowland, of Rowland Enterprises, donated 58.32 acres of land to Elyria Township with the intent of keeping the land preserved. The property, which is just to the south of the Turnpike, also includes the 12-acre "Turnpike Pond".

The park has a paved access road leading to a 40-car paved parking lot. There is a 600 square foot observation deck/fishing pier connected to the parking area with a paved trail. This allows the south-west corner of the lake to be ADA accessible.



The public can enjoy a 10 foot wide wood chip covered walkway all the way around the lake. There are about 1.75 miles of walking trails around the lake and through the woods. Dogs are permitted in the park, but must be on hand held leashes.

On May 11, 2010, the 12 acre lake was stocked with 60 Amurs, 200 Largemouth Bass, 100 Redear Sunfish (Shellcracker). The amurs, a bottom feeding fish, were added for vegetation control. They were 10 to 12 inches long and will grow to 3 to 4 feet long and weigh 30 to 40 lbs. Attempting to catch this fish is prohibited, if caught, they must be released. Existing fish in lake include Blue Gill, Channell Cat, Yellow Perch, and Flathead Minnow, along with Turtles, and Frogs.

A small skating rink located near the main entrance to the preserve for use in the cold, winter months.



## Rowland Nature Preserve

**Park Rules:**

Park Closes at Sunset • Alcoholic beverages are prohibited  
 Dogs on hand-held leashes only • No swimming, wading or boating  
 No ATVs or snowmobiles • All vehicles must remain on paved areas  
 No firearms or hunting • Fishing: State License Required

By order of The Elyria Township Board of Trustees



The Rowland Nature Preserve now has seven different walking trails. To view this map in color, visit their website at [www.elyriatownship.com](http://www.elyriatownship.com) or go to the Elyria Township Facebook page. The website has more information about the development of this nature preserve and includes many photos. Click on "Rowland Nature Preserve" in the "Community Box" on the left side of the Home Page.



## Help Reduce Your Carbon Footprint



A trend has recently developed among environmentally conscious individuals, who are making choices for their future in a new way. They are making choices based on whether or not products and services are earth-friendly. This grass-roots based movement has become known as “going green”.

The following recycling tips will help you “go green” and think about how you could make different choices to reduce your carbon footprint, or negative impact on the environment.

- **Think before you throw away.** The items you throw away can often be recycled. Start by contacting your trash removal service or learn about local Collection Events through the Solid Waste District. For more information visit their website at: [www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste](http://www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste)
- **Create a recycle box.** Place a bin for paper near a printer and encourage others to use it. Recycling paper means saving more trees from being logged.
- **Print double-sided copies.** Set up your documents for printing double-sided to cut your paper usage in half.
- **Turn it off.** Power-off your electrical items when they are not in use. To save time, you may try plugging items in to a power strip that you can easily turn off with one switch.
- **Pack a lunch.** Save time and resources by packing lunch and looking for recycling containers to dispose of your waste.
- **Bring a mug.** Use a ceramic coffee mug from home instead of wasting disposable coffee cups. You can use it not only for your office coffee pot, but most coffee shops are happy to fill a customer’s mug.
- **Plant a tree.** Trees absorb carbon dioxide and help clean the air we breathe. Try the Lorain County Extension Office for information about how to get free tree seedlings.
- **Save power on your computer.** Change the power-saving function on your computer so the monitor shuts off automatically at 5 minutes, the hard drive at 20 minutes (or more) and it finally goes into “sleep mode” after 30 minutes.
- **Plan your trips.** Instead of driving to just one place, try combining multiple stops into one trip. Plan your errands, visits and work to reduce the number of trips you take.

*(This excerpt was taken from the Lorain County Solid Waste Management District website.)*

## “Flushing Fairness Awareness”

For Hidden Valley Residents who are concerned with the recent increases in water and sewer rates, you can stay informed as to the status of these increases by hitting “LIKE” on the **Facebook** page “Flushing Fairness Awareness”. Correspondence may also be made by email to:

[flushingfairnessawareness@yahoo.com](mailto:flushingfairnessawareness@yahoo.com)

A neighborhood meeting is being planned for sometime in January. If you would like to be notified of this meeting you can send your email address to the Flushing Fairness Awareness email address listed above. If you do not have email and would like to be contacted, please leave your name and number with Amherst Township Senior Service Director, Carol Schmitkons, by calling her at 988-5894, ext. 102.

## 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](http://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.

## Lots Available

Cemetery lots are available at Kendeigh Cemetery, located at the intersection of Quarry Road and Middle Ridge Road. Lots may be purchased by contacting the Township Office at 988-5833 x111.

**\$403 – Resident**

**\$693 – Non-Resident**

# 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 Remi Cerrone, 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.

Effective May 11, 2012, residential "Building Inspections" through the Lorain County Building Department are **no longer required**.

At the April 10, 2012 Trustee Meeting, Amherst Township Trustees passed resolution 04/04/12, electing to "Opt Out" of the Lorain County Building Department. It is recommended that residents hire their own inspectors.



# 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 Wed., Dec 26<sup>th</sup> thru Fri., Jan 11<sup>th</sup>.**



# 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

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

# Senior GAZETTE

Winter 2012

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

## 2013 Medicare Updates

### Part A

\$1184 Hospital Deductible  
\$296/day copay days 61-90  
\$592/day Lifetime Reserve Days  
\$148 SNF copay days 21-100

### Part B:

\$104.90 monthly premium for most  
\$147 annual deductible

## Changes to Medicare Advantage Plan

This fall, "Anthem Senior Advantage" notified over 3, 800 residents in Lorain County that they would be discontinuing their HMO plans in our area. I have been very busy helping area residents switch to other plans.

OSHIIP has advised us that we will be able to make plan changes for these beneficiaries until the end of February 2013, but I would advise completing these changes before December 31, 2012 for continuous coverage. If you need help in determining what plan is best for you, please call the office at **988-5894 ext. 102** to set up an appointment.

Be sure to check with your doctor before enrolling in any plan to make sure they accept the plan that you are considering. Remember that if your plan is dropped, you now have a wonderful opportunity to upgrade to better coverage if you have a pre-existing condition

### **ATSSO OFFICE HOURS:**

**8:00 A.M. – NOON (M-F)**

**Phone: 988-5894 – Ext. 102**

Email: [amhersttwpseniors@oh.rr.com](mailto: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 "soup only" option is also available as a choice. If you would like to receive a home-delivered meal, please contact the Senior Service Office at **988-5894, ext. 102**.

We wish to welcome the Azok's to our winter delivery team. They will be covering for one of our couples who winter in Florida. Thank you for being willing to serve the community.

Also, a special thanks to our meal provider, AVI, for agreeing to keep our seniors meal costs the same for yet another year.

### Hours Changed

The Lorain Social Security Office has new hours. They are now open from 9am to 3pm on Monday thru Friday.

In 2013, Wednesday office hours may be shortened to 9am to noon.

### "Lunch Out" Keeps Cabin Fever Away

You can join **Elmcroft Senior Living Community of Lorain** for lunch at noon on the last Wednesday of each month.

They are located at 3290 Cooper Foster Park Road, just west of Super K. Their phone number is 440-960-2813.

## **Now's the Time to Winterize Your Home and Yourself**

Be prepared, no matter what weather winter has in store. Ohio winters can run the gamut from unseasonably warm and rainy, to dangerously cold with heavy snowfalls, and everything in between. Given this uncertainty, it can be hard to prepare for an Ohio winter, but that doesn't mean you can't take a few steps now to plan for whatever "Old Man Winter" has in store for us this year.

A good plan starts with making sure that your home – and you – are winterized.

### **Winterize your home:**

- Disconnect your outdoor garden hose, shut off the water valve inside the house and drain the spigot.
- Inspect your home for any exterior damage that might invite pests looking to warm up. Trouble spots include leaky pipes, warped storm windows, frayed screens and tattered shingles.
- Clean debris from gutters and downspouts and inspect sidewalks near the house for cracks and gaps that could let water into your foundation.
- Make sure winter equipment, such as a snow shovel, ice scrapers and sidewalk salt are somewhere that you can easily access. They won't do you much good if they're in your iced-over shed.

### **Winterize yourself:**

- Check your coat. Is your winter coat in good shape? Inspect it for rips and tears and places where the lining may be thinning. Does it still fit properly, and can you move freely while wearing it? Is it long enough to warm your lower torso as well as your upper body? Do you have a hood or hat to cover your head and ears? Do you have a lighter coat for days when it isn't parka weather, but a jacket just won't cut it?

- Protect your hands. Do you have a pair of gloves that provide sufficient protection from cold and wet conditions? Do they allow you to do most normal tasks (such as driving and opening doors) without taking them off?
- Keep your feet warm and dry. Do you have warm, waterproof shoes or boots for day-to-day wear during winter? Are they in good shape with rugged, slip-proof soles in good repair? Are they comfortable and do they fit properly so that you can walk without tripping or falling?
- Protect your eyes. Sunglasses, including prescription clip-on types, can provide essential UV protection while they reduce glare and make it easier to see in wintery conditions.
- Get a flu shot.

Finally, know your limitations and stay active. As we age, our bodies become less able to handle temperature extremes and we become more susceptible to cold-weather illnesses and injuries such as frostbite and hypothermia. Maintaining physical activity levels similar to warm weather is essential to keeping your body fit and preventing illness or injury. You just may have to be creative in how you do it. Clean house more often, adopt a new exercise routine you can do at home, or find indoor places like stores and malls where you can walk, perhaps with friends. Know your limits when working or playing outside, and take regular breaks to warm up and stay hydrated.

Article by John R. Ratliff, taken from Ohio Department of Aging's, November 2012 newsletter, *Boomerang*