

# AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Summer 2012

Vol. XVII No. 2

## Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2012.

- 1.27 tons of various paper through the "ABITIBI Paper Retriever" program
- 2.38 tons of aluminum cans
- 12.42 tons of bi-metal cans
- 21.85 tons of glass
- 6.46 tons of HDPE plastics
- 5.86 tons of PETE plastics
- 49.67 tons of newspapers
- 0.98 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**.

## "2012" Dumpster Days

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

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

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** ..... 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, 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.

# Lorain County Joint Police District Update

In May 2012, 16 of the 18 townships in Lorain County voted to form the “Lorain County Joint Police District” (LCJPD). The townships of Amherst, Brighton, Brownhelm, Camden, Carlisle, Eaton, Elyria, Grafton, Henrietta, Huntington, New Russia, Penfield, Pittsfield, Rochester, Sheffield and Wellington are members of the LCJPD. A Trustee from each member township has been provided with a seat on the LCJPD Board.

The purpose of the LCJPD is to secure police protection for the people and businesses in the unincorporated areas of the townships.

The Police District Board will determine the LCJPD funding requirements and will have control of the money provided by a levy. Residents 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 were added, but the Sheriff department is still down by 10 deputies. Currently, no deputies are dedicated exclusively to townships. There are over 350 square miles and 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 Have We Done About It?

The Lorain County Township Association formed a committee to deal with the problem of inadequate police protection for the Lorain County townships. Many different possibilities regarding police district formation and funding were explored. The Association determined that a single Lorain County Joint Police District would be the most cost effective option, providing township residents with long-term benefits, and a guarantee that there are police patrols in the townships, no matter what happens with County budgetary issues.

The LCJPD Board is evaluating the impact of fixed-term and continuing levies of 1.0 to 1.25 mills.

## How Much Will It Cost?

A 1-mil levy for the 16 participating townships would raise an estimated \$1.1 million annually and cost approximately \$31 per \$100,000 in property market value per year. Through a contract with the Sheriff, this money would pay for the salary, equipment, and 3 vehicles 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 policing and cannot be pulled off for any other service that the Sheriff’s Office provides.

In the future this district could be expanded to include additional townships or other small municipalities, as long as they are contiguous to the established Police District.

## What Will a Joint Police District Accomplish?

- Allow for “Community Policing”, as deputies will be dedicated to the Sub-districts and won’t be pulled out, unless there is an emergency.
- A contract with the Sheriff’s Office will avoid duplication of administration and overhead cost (i.e. supervision, radio operations, records, training, policies and procedures).
- Money will be used only for additional police protection in the townships.
- A percentage of violation fees retained by the LCJPD versus sending 100% to Columbus.
- Better crime prevention in the townships
- Improved safety for deputies
- Faster response time and improved safety for township residents and businesses

## Why Care, & Who Wants More Taxes?

Nobody wants additional taxes, but the Police District issue is very important to the future of law enforcement in the townships, and funding is required for the service. Township residents are encouraged to become informed about this issue, so that each person can make a knowledgeable decision when voting in November.

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

## **Stormwater & Drainage Improvements**

What a difference a year makes. Through June 1<sup>st</sup> of 2012, Amherst Township has received 11-inches less of rain fall for the year versus 2011. The reduced rainfall, along with a mild winter, has significantly reduced the number of complaints relative to stormwater issues.

Although complaints are down, the Amherst Township Road crew has been busy making drainage improvements. The following projects are currently in process, or will be completed in 2012:

- Drainage has been extended along Deepwood Lane and Rosedale Avenue to minimize water intrusion into residential homes and to eliminate the discharge of sump lines on township roads.
- Roadside ditch cleaning is ongoing along major roads with open ditches
- An Outfall project will help to drain the Broadway and Taylor Street area
- 1,260-Feet of the Bevins Ditch, east of Oberlin Road, will be cleared of brush and trees, improving drainage for the northeast section of the Hidden Valley subdivision, impacting over 100 homes. This project will cost approximately \$18,000. \$16,021 of project funding will be provided by the Lorain County Stormwater District.
- A Stang Road Drainage improvement project will cost approximately \$6,000 for the addition of 682-feet of 15-inch diameter pipe system with catch basins.

Road Superintendent Szeftcyk has recommended clearing of 12,000-feet of the Engle Ditch, which runs north and south of Stang Road. The Engle Ditch is the receptor for the Battenhouse Ditch that meanders along the East and West side of Oberlin Road, as far south as the Lorain County Airport. Clearing of the Engle Ditch would reduce the probability of flooding experienced on Stang and Oberlin Road during heavy rain events, improving safety and reducing property loss. The cost of this drainage improvement project is more than Amherst Township can accommodate in a single year, so the project will be attempted in phases. The first phase would clear 6,000-feet of the Engle Ditch at a cost of \$108,000. Partial funding has been requested from the Lorain County Stormwater District. The scope and viability of this project will be dependent upon available funding.

## **2012 Road Projects**

Roads receiving major rehabilitation in 2012 will include Rosedale Avenue, Allandale, Kay, Linda Drive and 254-ft of Oaknoll Drive just west of Rosedale. Linda Drive will be widened by approximately 1-foot on each side. The concrete and asphalt work was awarded to J.L. Reichert. This project will cost approximately \$238,000, with \$107,200 being funded by an Ohio Public Works Commission Local Transportation Improvement Program (OPWC/LTIP) Round-25 grant, and the balance will be funded by Amherst Township. The asphalt roads will be milled and resurfaced, while the concrete portions will have full-depth replacement.

The Board of Trustees is evaluating concrete replacement for the Briar Court Cul-de-sac. The Road Superintendent has recommended full-depth rehabilitation of this cul-de-sac, and has provided a material cost estimate of \$7,385. This road work would be completed with in-house personnel, subject to funding availability.

## **Park Improvement Projects**

The final reimbursement grant of \$23,235 was received from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, administered through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. This was the final payment for the \$200,000+ multi-year park improvement project that 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. \$119,789 of project funding was obtained from various grants.

A group of Amherst Township residents and business owners, through the formation of the non-profit group FACE (**F**unding **A**mherst **C**ommunity **E**nhancements), continues to raise funds for park improvement projects. In addition to helping the planning of major park improvements, FACE has raised funds for a toddler swing set, and is currently raising funds for the addition of park benches along the new walking trail. The park improvements completed over the past 4-years would not have been possible without the many volunteer hours contributed by the members of FACE.

The Board of Trustees is hopeful that a future Eagle Scout project, in collaboration with community volunteers, can restore the park corner gardens, and add landscaping between the Middle Ridge Cemetery retaining wall and Park trail.

# Home Sewage Treatment Systems – Know the Cost

## Why Does It Matter?

Water quality in Lorain County is a concern for everyone. The importance of preserving our environment for future generations is everyone's responsibility. Poorly maintained home sewage treatment systems contribute to the degradation of our streams, rivers, and Lake Erie. <sup>(1 & 3)</sup>

It is also important to have the right type of system for the soil conditions. Less than 5% of the soils in Lorain County are suitable for traditional leach line systems. <sup>(2)</sup> If a system is installed without the right soil conditions it can lead to further degradation. <sup>(2)</sup>

## Basic Operating Cost

The cost of properly maintaining your home sewage treatment system is relatively low. The average monthly electrical cost to keep the aeration pump operating ranges from \$10 to \$20 per month. Annual pumping ranges from \$150 to \$200 <sup>(2)</sup> for the average family. Replacement of the filter ranges from \$200 to \$280 per year. When broken down, the **monthly cost** to properly operate a home system averages between **\$39** and **\$60** for the average home. The **annual cost** to operate a home sewage treatment system averages between **\$470** and **\$760**. Home size and type of system account for the variation.



## Long Term Maintenance

The long term investment in a "Home Sewage Treatment System" involves replacement of parts and even the entire system. It is recommended aeration pumps should be serviced annually and replaced every 10 years. Older tank systems have a useful life of 15 years. The **average home** should set aside **\$35** to **\$75** per month to cover the replacement cost associated with replacing a home sewage treatment system parts and equipment every 10 to 20 years.

## Cost Comparison

Knowing the true cost to properly operate and maintain a home sewage treatment system is important to home owners. Combining Operating and Maintenance will cost a home owner between **\$74** and **\$135** per month. Homeowners who do not maintain their systems at the minimum level might experience even higher costs.

- (1) Black River Remedial Action Plan 2008 Annual Report
- (2) Ohio State University Extension Bulletin 896
- (3) Ohio State University Extension Bulletin 854
- (4) Lorain County General Health District, March 1, 2010 Releases



## LORCO Mission and Goals

The Lorain County Rural Wastewater District's mission is to logically and economically provide wastewater collection and treatment to unsewered areas of Lorain County. The goals in providing sewers are to provide cost effective alternatives to home sewage treatment systems and preserve our natural environment. Not all communities can support cost effective collection systems. For those who cannot, LORCO wants to ensure the home sewage treatment systems are operating effectively.

Brochure provided by:

**Lorain County**  
**Rural Wastewater District**  
22898 West Road  
P.O. Box 158  
Wellington, Ohio 44090  
Phone: 440-647-4882  
Fax: 440-645-4870  
E-mail: [rberner@lorco.org](mailto:rberner@lorco.org)

## 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.

## 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.

## 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](http://www.amhersttownship.us)

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<b>Monthly Meeting Dates &amp; Times:</b>	<b><u>Trustees:</u></b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. <b><u>Zoning Commission:</u></b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.
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# Senior GAZETTE

Summer 2012

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 “soup only” option is also available as a choice.

We currently need a few individuals willing to sub when meal drivers occasionally are unable to deliver meals. **Mileage is reimbursed.**

If you would like to receive a home-delivered meal or if you would like to be a volunteer meal driver, please contact the Senior Service Office at **988-5894, extension 102.**

## Social Security Statement Available Online

Convenient and secure access to your Social Security statements is now available online at:

[www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov)

## New CMS Website

The “Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services” (CMS) is sponsoring a new website that offers valuable information about the following topics:

- Federal Policy Guidance
- State Resource Center
- Affordable Care Act
- Medicaid & CHIP Program Information
- Waivers (information organized by state, program name, waiver authority and status of an application)

Visit this website at [www.Medicaid.gov](http://www.Medicaid.gov)

**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)

## Lorain County Support Groups

The “Center for Body, Mind & Spirit” located at 41201 Schaden Road in Elyria offers a wide range of programs including:

- Support Groups
  - Breast Cancer
  - Man-to-Man Prostate Cancer Support Group
  - Coping with Lung Cancer
  - Leukemia, Lymphoma and Myeloma Support Group
- Exercise and Fitness
- Creative Healing Workshops & Groups
- A Place to Learn: Educational Sessions
- Individual Support Services, such as social work supportive counseling, hospice and palliative care information, comfort touch, lymphedema therapy consultation, labyrinth exploration, legal consultation and meditation

Programs and services are free to anyone touched by cancer.

For more information, call them at **440-324-0480** or you can see their program guide online at:

[www.MercyOnline.org/CBMS](http://www.MercyOnline.org/CBMS)

## News from the Department of Health and Human Services:

### --Administration for Community Living

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary, Kathleen Sebelius, recently announced the formation of a new HHS division that combines the Administration on Aging (AoA) with the Administration on Developmental Disabilities and the Office on Disability. The new division, "Administration for Community Living" (ACL) provides a formal infrastructure to ensure consistency & coordination in community living policy across the Federal government.

The reorganization will strengthen HHS efforts to support community living, regardless of age.

### --Expansion of the Community First Choice Option

The latest step towards expanding community living created the Community First Choice (CFC) Option. The new health care law gives States additional resources to make community living a first choice, and leave nursing homes and institutions as a fall back option.

Locally, in response to these initiatives, LEAP is establishing a local advisory group, of which I will be a part, to address housing alternatives and transportation for nursing home residents being returned to local community settings.

## Pro Seniors

### **What Is Pro Seniors?**

Founded in 1975, Pro Seniors is a non-profit organization that provides free legal and long-term care help to older adults. Pro Seniors offers Ohio residents age 60 and older the advice and information they need to solve their legal and nursing home, adult care facility, and home health care problems. They are dedicated to helping older adults maintain their independence by empowering them, by protecting their interests, and by helping them access resources.

### **What Pro Seniors Offers You**

Pro Seniors maintains a "Legal Hotline" that serves the State of Ohio. By calling their Legal Hotline at **1-800-488-6070**, Ohio residents age 60 or older can receive free assistance over the telephone with a variety of legal or long-term care problems. Pro Seniors also provides pamphlets on a variety of subjects, from Medicare and Medicaid to consumer fraud and food stamps. You can find a complete list of pamphlets along with more information on their website at **www.ProSeniors.org**.

### **SCAM NOTICE**

Diabetes patients beware of calls claiming to be from Medicare that offer you **free** glucose meters or diabetic test strips. This is a red flag as Medicare never makes calls offering supplies or services! Remember to never give away personal information over the phone, including your Medicare number, bank account information, or credit card numbers, especially if someone has called you.

If you think you're the target of a scam, report it to the "Office of Inspector General" (OIG) hotline at **1-800-447-8477** or contact **Pro Seniors**, Ohio's designated "State Medicare Patrol" for healthcare fraud at **1-800-488-6070**.

# Help For Alzheimer's Caregivers

## Making the Home Safe for Those with Alzheimer's

Alzheimer Disease is an incurable disease that afflicts nearly half of adults over 85. It presents a true test of human resources for the burdened family caregiver. These caregivers are particularly concerned for the safety of their loved ones.

The following tips are from "**Today's Caregiver**" and are intended to help relieve some of the stress felt by those involved in the care of a person with Alzheimer's while assuring that their safety needs are met as well as maintaining independence, positive social interaction and meaningful activities:

- Consider setting your home water heater below 120 degrees, since the individual may no longer be sensitive to extreme temperatures.
- Prepare a list of emergency phone numbers including local police and fire departments, as well as the nearest hospital and poison control center. Conduct fire drills regularly and check fire alarms and extinguishers monthly.
- "Kiddy Gates" should not be used to prevent wandering because they are generally not strong enough to keep an individual from climbing over them or kicking them down.
- Mirrors and glass surfaces can cause confusion and delusions for a person with Alzheimer's. If they frighten the

affected individual, take them down or cover them up.

- Remove electrical appliances, such as hair dryers, curling irons and electric razors from the bathroom.
- Provide a "safe place" where the person can roam or move freely without risk of injury. Even in barrier-free areas, caregivers should pay close attention to what the affected person is doing, particularly as the disease progresses and the likelihood of needing assistance increases.

More information is available on their website at: [www.caregiver.com](http://www.caregiver.com).

*Just released:*

## Alzheimer's Disease & Other Dementias Interactive Educational Course

This ground-breaking method helps caregivers make the most of a senior's life journey – including that individual's history, passions, and hobbies – to meet each day's behavioral challenges.

Home Instead Senior Care® network Care-training program offers family caregivers the same kind of training that their professional CAREGivers<sup>SM</sup> receive.

This e-learning course is available for no cost. This course along with more information may be found at:

[www.helpforalzheimersfamilies.com](http://www.helpforalzheimersfamilies.com)