

AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Fall 2012

Vol. XVII No. 3

Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in the 2nd quarter of 2012.

- 0.87 tons of various paper through the "ABITIBI Paper Retriever" program
- 2.62 tons of aluminum cans
- 13.65 tons of bi-metal cans
- 24.02 tons of glass
- 7.09 tons of HDPE plastics
- 6.44 tons of PETE plastics
- 54.59 tons of newspapers
- 1.09 tons of Cardboard

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:

October 4, 5, 6

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

➔ Extended Fall Drop-Off hours from 8:00 am to sunset beginning October 15th thru December 1st.

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

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, 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

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.

Lorain County Joint Police District



INFORMATION ABOUT THE LORAIN COUNTY POLICE DISTRICT LEVY

This fall, there will be an issue on the November ballot for a 1.25 mill levy for the Lorain County Joint Police District. Since this is a completely new concept for township residents, it is important that our citizens understand what this entity is and how this levy will impact the township. Below is a summary of how the District was formed and how it will operate. Residents are strongly urged to become informed about this issue.

What Is The Problem?

- Sheriff Office staffing less than it was in 1999
- No deputies dedicated exclusively to townships
- 350+ square mile area policed in townships
- 56,000+ township residents need protection
- Reduction of Sheriff Deputies results in
 - increased response times,
 - increased crime rates,
 - increased danger to Deputies, and
 - increased danger to Community members and property

What Have We Done About It?

The Lorain County Township Association evaluated the problem of inadequate police protection for the Lorain County townships. The Association determined that a single Joint Police District would be the most cost effective option. Sixteen townships joined the police district.

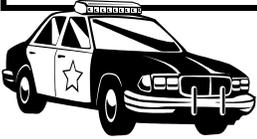
How Much Will It Cost?

A 1.25-mil, 5-year levy for the 16 participating townships would raise an estimated \$1.3 million annually and cost approximately \$39 annually, or \$3.25/month, per \$100,000 in property market value. Through a contract with the Sheriff, this money would pay for the salary, equipment, vehicles and 10 deputies. These deputies would be strictly for Township policing.

What Will a Joint Police District Accomplish?

- Faster response time
- Safety for township residents and businesses
- Increased crime prevention in the townships
- Safety for deputies
- 10 additional officers patrolling townships
- “Community Policing”, as deputies will be dedicated to Sub-districts
- Contract with the Sheriff 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
- Percentage of violation fees will be retained by the LCJPD versus sending 100% to Columbus
- The Lorain County Joint Police District Board, governed by Township Trustees, will control the levy money
- Guarantee Sheriff patrols in the townships, no matter what happens with County budgetary issues

Lorain County Joint Police District



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 on November 6.

Where Can You Get More Information?

If you have any questions, would like more information, or would like to voice your opinion, please attend your Township Board of Trustees meetings, or contact your Township Trustees.

You can also learn more about the Lorain County Joint Police District and ballot issue by attending a special LCJPD Community Forum:

What: LCJPD Community Forum

Where: Amherst Township Hall

When: Tuesday, October 9, 2012

Time: 7:00 p.m.

What Will the Ballot Look Like?

Proposed Tax Levy (Additional) Lorain County Joint Police District

A Majority Affirmative Vote is Necessary For Passage

An additional tax for the benefit of the Lorain County Joint Police District for the purpose of **providing the payment of cost incurred by district as a result of contracts made with other political subdivisions in order to obtain police protection** at a rate not exceeding 1.25 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to \$0.125 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for a period of 5 years, commencing in 2012, first due in calendar 2013.

	FOR THE TAX LEVY
	AGAINST THE TAX LEVY

Passage or failure of the Police District levy will be dependent upon the voters of the entire Police District, not individual townships.

The member townships of Amherst, Brighton, Brownhelm, Camden, Carlisle, Eaton, Elyria, Grafton, Henrietta, Huntington, New Russia, Penfield, Pittsfield, Rochester, Sheffield and Wellington will vote on the issue.



SIGNS



Political Signs. Amherst Township limits the size of these signs to **8 square feet**. No permit is required for Political Signs, but the permission of the property owner is required. These signs may be placed 30 days prior to Election Day and must be removed 10 days after the election.

Garage Sale Signs. If a fall garage sale is in your plans, remember that if you place signs on near-by corners or on property other than your own, **you are required to have that property owner's permission**. Your signs are limited to a maximum of 8 square feet. Also help keep the Township litter free by removing and properly disposing of the signs when your sale is over.



REMEMBER **TO VOTE!**



This year's general election will be on Tuesday, **November 6th**. Polls will be open from 6:30 am to 7:30 pm. Remember to bring your identification with you to the polls. Please exercise your right to vote. The Lorain County Board of Elections is located at 1985 North Ridge Road East, in Lorain. For more information about voting you can call them at 326-5900 or visit their website at: <http://loraincountyelections.com>



FLU SHOTS



Anyone can catch the flu. It's never known when people will begin to get sick and how long the illness will last. To protect both you and your loved ones this flu season, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends a flu vaccine as the first and best way to protect yourself from flu viruses each year. Prevent the spread of disease and defend your health by receiving a flu shot.

The Lorain County General Health District's Seasonal Flu Shot Clinics for 2012 are scheduled for September 26th and 29th, October 2nd, and November 3rd. For Amherst Township residents, the closest clinic will be held on **Saturday, September 29th, at Marion L. Steele High School from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.** Please note that there is a \$15 charge for the seasonal flu vaccine for residents within the Health District (All Lorain County except Avon Lake, Elyria, Lorain, & Vermillion) and a \$20 charge for those who live outside of the Health District. Medicare and Medicaid will be accepted and no one is refused due to an inability to pay. A flu form is required. This form is available on the Health District's website.

Flu shots are also available at a variety of other locations, such as Drug Mart, Rite Aid, Walgreens, and K-Mart). For a list of the places, times, and costs at these other locations, visit the Lorain County General Health District's website at:

www.loraincountyhealth.com

(Go to "Immunization/Shots" then to Flu Clinics) or call them at 440-322-6367. This information along with other flu information is also available at:

www.LorainCountyFlu.com

New Board Member

We would like to welcome Ron Friend to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Ron will be filling the first alternate position. Thank you for your interest in serving your community.



Medication Collection Event



On Saturday, September 29th, the Lorain County Sheriff's Office "Drug Task Force" along with participating departments will be holding a "Prescription Turn-in Event". This is an opportunity for you to safely dispose of any no longer needed medication. No personal information will be asked.

Please remove all prescription labels from your medication bottles before arriving. All medications will be held by law enforcement officers until they can safely be disposed of.

Medications can be dropped off at the Lorain County Sheriff's Office located at 9896 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria, and other convenient locations, including the Amherst Police Dept.

For a complete list of locations, visit:

www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste

and look under "What's New" to view the 2012 Medication Collection Flyer.

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.**

New Loader/Backhoe

Approval by the voters of the 1-mil “Road and Bridge” levy (with a corresponding reduction in the “Fire and Ambulance” levy) has allowed the township to trade in the old 2001 backhoe and purchase a new 2012 Case 590SN Loader/Backhoe. The backhoe is the most vital piece of equipment used by the road crew in the maintenance of the roads and roadside drainage. It is used for road berming, cleaning out ditches, moving soil, breaking up and removing concrete for road replacement, installing and removing signs, loading salt into the snow plow trucks, as well as many other uses.

This new piece of equipment will:

- Considerably reduce the amount of emissions
- Reduce the amount of “out-of-service” days required for repair and maintenance
- Improve operational efficiencies
- Make your road crew happy ☺



Attention!

Hidden Valley Residents

As a reminder, please do not rake leaves onto the street as it restricts water flow into the catch basins when it rains, causing drainage problems for you and your neighbors! The township does not pick up leaves. However, you can bring leaves and other yard waste to the Township Yard Waste Recycling Center, located across the road from the Township garage, for disposal.

Yard Waste Recycling Center

Extended Fall Hours

The Amherst Township Yard Waste Recycling Center will be open for extended hours in the Fall to accommodate the recycling of leaves and other yard waste. Beginning October 15, and continuing through December 1, the Yard Waste Recycling Center will open at 8:00 am and close at sunset. The Yard Waste Recycling Center is a self-service operation. Please place your empty plastic bags in the 55-gal drum at the center or take bags with you.

“Dumpster Day” Changes

Amherst Township has held three weekend “Dumpster Day” events over the past eight years. These “Dumpster Day” events allow residents to dispose of large items that may not be collected by curbside pickup, and provide a convenient disposal method for large volumes of non-food waste. Due to budget constraints, the Board of Trustees is offering only two “Dumpster Day” events in 2013. The number of “Dumpster Day” events in future years will be adjusted based upon future budget conditions. The 2013 “Dumpster Day” events will be held in April and October, with the specific dates to be announced in future newsletters.



No Tires



Amherst Township will no longer be collecting tires. You can dispose of tires at the Lorain County Recycling Center, located at 1234 Abbe Road in Elyria. Their hours of operation are from 12 pm to 6 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays and from 9 am to 6 pm on Saturdays. For guidelines and a list of other items that can be recycled, visit:

www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste

Click on “Collection Center” in the right column.

Volunteer Opportunity

Amherst Township is looking for a group (such as the Scouts) to take on the project of sprucing up the corner gardens at the Amherst Township Park on Middle Ridge Road. There are 4 corner gardens that need some attention. Please contact one of your Trustees if you are interest. Their contact information is listed on the front page.



**TRICK
OR
TREAT**



**Burning
Prohibited**



“Trick-or-Treat” in Amherst Township will be held on **Sunday, October 28th, from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.** this year. Residents that wish to pass out candy should turn on their outside lights.

Also on Sunday, October 28th, the City of Amherst Fire Department will be sponsoring a “Costume Contest” with registration starting at 3:00 p.m. at the Sans Springs Building, located at 480 Park Ave. in Amherst. Judging for the contest will start promptly at 4:00 p.m.

The annual “Halloween Parade” will follow, from 4:30 – 5:00 p.m. In case of inclement weather, the parade will be cancelled and the “Costume Contest” will be held at the Amherst Fire Department located at 414 Church St. in Amherst.



The burning of leaves, grass clippings, brush, and limbs is prohibited in the township. Unnecessary tax dollars are spent when the fire department responds to a fire call that is not a true emergency.

If you have any questions, please call Fire Inspector, Wayne Eppley, at 324-3921, or contact one of your township trustees. Yard waste may be brought to the Amherst Township Garage for disposal. For drop-off times, days, and location, see “Your Yard Waste” and the front page of this newsletter.

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.

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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

Fall 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. If you would like to receive a home-delivered meal, please contact the Senior Service Office at **988-5894, ext. 102**.

ATSSO OFFICE HOURS:

8:00 A.M. – NOON (M-F)

Phone: 988-5894 – Ext. 102

Email: amhersttwpseniors@oh.rr.com

Who Pays First?

Here are a few of the most common situations that must follow federal Coordination of Benefits rules when people with Medicare also have other health coverage. For more, review Medicare's *Who Pays First* booklet at <http://www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/02179.pdf>.

<i>If you</i>	<i>Situation</i>	<i>Pays first</i>	<i>Pays second</i>
Are covered by Medicare and Medicaid	Entitled to Medicare and Medicaid	Medicare	Medicaid, but only after other coverage (such as employer group health plans) has paid
Are 65 or older and covered by a group health plan because you or your spouse still works	Entitled to Medicare The employer has 20 or more employees	Group health plan	Medicare
	The employer has less than 20 employees ¹	Medicare	Group health plan
Have a retirement group health plan after you retire and are 65 or older	Entitled to Medicare	Medicare ²	Retiree coverage ²
Are disabled and covered by a large group health plan from your work, or from a working family member	Entitled to Medicare The employer has 100 or more employees	Large group health plan	Medicare
	The employer has less than 100 employees	Medicare	Group health plan
Have End-Stage Renal Disease ³ (ESRD) (permanent kidney failure requiring dialysis or a kidney transplant) and group health plan coverage (includes retirement plans)	First 30 months of eligibility or entitlement to Medicare	Group health plan	Medicare
	After 30 months of eligibility or entitlement to Medicare	Medicare	Group health plan

¹ If your employer participates in a plan that is sponsored by two or more employers, the rules are slightly different.

² If you have a Medicare Advantage retirement plan, it pays first; no other plan pays second.

³ If you originally got Medicare due to your age or a disability other than ESRD, and Medicare was your primary payer, it still pays first when you become eligible due to ESRD.

Continued ⇨

<i>If you</i>	<i>Situation</i>	<i>Pays first</i>	<i>Pays second</i>
Have ESRD and COBRA coverage	First 30 months of eligibility or entitlement to Medicare	COBRA	Medicare
	After 30 months	Medicare	COBRA
Are 65 or older, or disabled, and covered by Medicare and COBRA coverage	Entitled to Medicare	Medicare	COBRA
Have been in an accident where no-fault or liability coverage is involved	Entitled to Medicare	No-fault or liability insurance for services related to accident claim	Medicare
Are covered under workers' compensation because of a job-related illness or injury	Entitled to Medicare	Workers' compensation for services related to workers' compensation claim	Usually doesn't apply, but Medicare may make a conditional payment
Are a veteran and have Veterans' benefits	Entitled to Medicare and Veterans' benefits	Medicare pays for Medicare-covered services Veterans Affairs pays for VA-authorized services Generally, Medicare and VA can't pay for the same service	Usually doesn't apply
Are covered under TRICARE	Entitled to Medicare and TRICARE	Medicare pays for Medicare-covered services TRICARE pays for services from a military hospital or any other federal provider	TRICARE may pay second
Have black lung disease and are covered under the Federal Black Lung Benefits Program	Entitled to Medicare and the Federal Black Lung Benefits Program	The Federal Black Lung Benefits Program for services related to black lung	Medicare