

AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Spring 2013

Vol. XVIII No. 1

Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in the 4th quarter of 2012 (**bold represents yearly total**):

(3.87) 1.03 tons of various paper through the "ABITIBI Paper Retriever" program

<u>Yearly</u>	<u>4th Quarter</u>	
1 st qtr = 99.62	Oct = 39.19	} aluminum cans bi-metal cans glass HDPE plastics PETE plastics newspapers cardboard
2 nd qtr = 109.50	Nov = 32.40	
3 rd qtr = 108.72	Dec = <u>28.98</u>	
4 th qtr = <u>100.57</u>	Total = 100.57	
Total = 418.41	Tons	

1.80 tons of scrap metal (Dumpster Program)

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

"2013" Dumpster Days & Pride Day

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

April 11, 12, 13

May 18 (Pride Day)

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

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 (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

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.

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. 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	

Effective May 11, 2012, residential "Building Inspections" through the Lorain County Building Department are **no longer required**. It is recommended that residents hire their own inspectors.

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.

Looking for Volunteers

Amherst Township is looking for groups, such as Scouts, to volunteer to clean up and landscape the corner garden areas of the Middle Ridge Road Park. They would also like to have completed a project that would identify and possibly label trees and plants in the conserved area of the Park. If you are interested, please contact one of the Trustees. Contact information is on the first page.

2013 Road Projects

The 2013 OPWC road project is a joint effort with the City of Amherst. The project involves installing drain tile and enclosing the ditch as well as repaving Park Avenue, between Dewey Road and SR58, a distance of approximately 2,000 lineal feet. The total project cost including construction and engineering as proposed in the OPWC application for financial assistance is \$462,000 of which \$415,000 is construction costs that includes a 10% contingency. The funding for this work is divided as follows:

- 43% OPWC Grant
- 41% City of Amherst
- 16% Amherst Township

PRIDE DAY

Lorain County Solid Waste Department has set Saturday, May 18th as "Pride Day". As part of the county wide clean-up effort, Amherst Township will have a dumpster available on that day.

Hidden Valley Water & Sewer Rate Issues

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

If you would like to be notified of future meetings 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.

In Memory of Jerome “Jerry” Scheidler

Amherst Township has lost a valuable community volunteer and friend. Jerry Scheidler passed away on Saturday, December 29, 2012, following a three-week illness.

Jerry has been involved with Amherst Township and his community for many years. In past years Jerry was a member of the Amherst Township Board of Zoning Appeals and also sat on a board that reviewed and updated the Amherst Township Zoning Manual. Jerry and his wife Marilyn attended many of the Trustee meetings. Jerry also took many photos of the progress of the new Township Hall as it was being renovated and expanded, as well as taking photos and creating a slide show of the demolition of the old Bischoff Barn that used to be located across from the township hall on Oberlin Road.

Jerry was a member of Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Amherst for the past 54 years where he was very active as a Eucharistic Minister for Masses and the homebound. He also served as treasurer for the Vincentians, which is St. Joseph’s group of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, a group that is dedicated to assisting those in need and seeking charity and justice. Jerry and his wife Marilyn delivered “Meals on Wheels” in Amherst for the past 17 years. They also went to Panera Bread on a weekly basis where they would transport food that would otherwise have been thrown away and take it to “Catholic Charities”.

Jerry was raised in North Ridgeville, where he graduated from high school. He served in the United States Army from 1954-1956. He received an Associates Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Cleveland State University (formerly Fenn College). Jerry worked for Moen as a designer/checker in the engineering department for 25 years and received two patents for shower heads. He retired in 1995.



Jerry was married to his wife Marilyn for 54 years. They have lived in Amherst Township for all of those 54 years, where they raised their 7 children, four boys and three girls. They now have 12 grandchildren as well.

Jerry enjoyed listening and dancing to polka music, bowling and caring for his lawn. He was an avid Browns, Indians, and OSU fan. Jerry found his greatest joy spending time with his wife, children, and grandchildren.

We will miss Jerry and the kindness, generosity, and community service that he gave to others. We would like to extend our sincerest sympathy to Jerry’s wife Marilyn, their children, and the rest of Jerry’s family.



Board of Zoning Appeals

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

Zoning Commission Board

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

Change Notice:

Please note that the Zoning Commission is now meeting on the first **Wednesday** of the month at 6:30 pm.

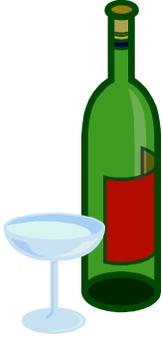
Please contact an Amherst Township Trustee or Zoning Board Member if you are interested in serving on one of these boards.



F.A.C.E. Fundraiser



“Funding Amherst Community Enhancement” will be holding their 3rd Annual Wine Tasting Party fundraising event. Proceeds from this event will be going towards the Amherst Township Park Project.



WINE TASTING PARTY

When: Friday, April 12th
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**

The FACE board includes Tom Hupman (president), Jim Kantola, Bill Poplar, Richard Rice, David Marr, and Bob Cole, 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.



Pictured below is the newly installed frame for the “Tot Swing Set” that was purchased with funds raised by the F.A.C.E. group. It is located between the picnic shelter and the shed in the Amherst Township Park on Middle Ridge Road. Two “Tot Swings” will soon be installed, when the weather improves.



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.

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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 Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Senior Gazette

Spring 2013

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**.



2012 Senior Services Wrap-Up

- Meals served: 3,026 to 17 residents
- Meal delivery miles: 4,396 miles
- OSHIIP counseling hours: 153.5 hours
- OSHIIP consumers: 151 clients
- Hours spent researching client Medicare issues: 32.04 hours
- Publicized OSHIIP/Medicare through newsletter articles or presentations: 22.94 hours – Four Medicare presentations + the JVS Senior Fair
- OSHIIP training hours: 26.78 hours
- Number unduplicated clients helped by the WRAAA support services grant in 2012: 81 clients
- Total receiving support services (includes township residents): 122

ATSSO OFFICE HOURS:
8:00 A.M. – NOON (M-F)

Phone: 988-5894 – Ext. 102

Email: amhersttwpseniors@oh.rr.com

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Did you know that 10% of the grandparents in Ohio are involved with raising and providing most of the care for children in households with children? One fourth of the grandparents in this group are the sole provider for these children. Here are some statistics on these grandparents:

- The average age is 55 years old, but 16% are over 65
- 87% are females
- 43% are not currently married
- 51% have annual household incomes of less than \$30,000 per year

If you find yourself in this situation and you need help dealing with your grandchildren, contact Kinship Caregiver Support at the Lorain County Office on Aging at **326-4800**. They sponsor a support group at the Lorain Public Library South Branch located at 2121 Homewood Drive on the second Wednesday of the month from 12 noon to 2 p.m.

AARP Free Tax Assistance

The Amherst Public Library offers E-filing assistance for low-to-middle income taxpayers, with emphasis on those 60 years and older. The library is located at 221 Spring Street in Amherst. This service is offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., beginning February 1st through April 15th. Please call them at **984-4230** to schedule an appointment.

Hours Changed

The **Lorain Social Security Office** has new hours. They are now open from 9am to 3pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Wednesday office hours have been shortened to 9 a.m. to Noon.

Medicare Information

---2013 Welcome to Medicare Events

While no event for those turning 65 in 2013 is being scheduled for Lorain County, there are events scheduled in nearby counties:

Cuyahoga County's event will be held on April 18th at the Ehrnfelt Center, 18100 Royalton Road, Strongsville

Huron County's event will be held on April 30th at the Fisher-Titus Medical Center, 272 Benedict Ave, Norwalk

Ashland County's event will be held on May 13th at Samaritan on Main, 663 E Main St, Ashland (***RSVP to 419-207-2563 for the Ashland Event***)

All Events begin at 6PM.

---Facility Fees

A Medicare beneficiary can be charged a "facility fee" for a doctor visit that occurs in a hospital-owned building. Called "provider-based billing," it allows hospitals that own physician practices (and outpatient clinics that meet certain federal requirements) to bill separately for the facility and physician services. Doctors' offices owned by physicians and freestanding clinics are not permitted to charge a facility fee.

Medicare will not pay this fee; it is the beneficiary's responsibility. If you don't know whether the facility can charge a fee, be sure to ask.

---Medication Therapy Management Programs for Complex Health Needs

If you're in a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan and you have complex health needs, you may be eligible to participate in a Medication Therapy Management (MTM) program. These programs help you and your doctor make sure your medications are working. MTM programs include a free discussion and review of all of your medications by a pharmacist or other health professional to help you use them safely. You'll get a summary of this discussion to help you get the most benefit from your medications. You may want to bring this summary when you talk with your doctors or other health care providers. You'll also get a personal medication list that will include all of the medications you're taking and why you take them.

If you take many medications for more than one chronic health condition, contact your drug plan to see if you're eligible.

---Health Savings Account (HSA) Q & A's

Health Savings Accounts (HSA's) were created in 2003 so that individuals who are covered by High Deductible Health Plans could receive tax-preferred treatment of money saved for medical expenses. OSHIP has received a substantial number of questions regarding HSAs and Medicare. Generally, an adult who is covered by a high-deductible health plan (and has no other first-dollar coverage) may establish an HSA. Being eligible for Medicare does not disqualify you from having an HSA, but enrolling in Medicare will prevent you from contributing to an existing HSA.

Q: I've just turned 65 but am not ready to retire any time soon. I want to keep my employer health insurance plan until I do retire. Can I continue contributing to my Health Savings Account?

A: Yes. If you're qualified for Medicare but do not enroll, you can keep making contributions to your HSA.

Most employer HSA plans are coupled with a High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP). HDHP's are considered current group coverage. With current group health coverage, you can sign up for Medicare without penalty when you stop working or lose the HDHP coverage. You will no longer be able to contribute to the HSA if you enroll in Medicare. Social Security income must also be delayed. Applying for Social Security starts Medicare Part A (hospital insurance) and disqualifies you from coverage under the HSA.

Q: My spouse will be eligible for Medicare halfway through this year and he plans to enroll at that time. How much can he contribute to his HSA this year?

A: He can contribute to the HSA only as long as he's not covered by Medicare. Contributions must be prorated accordingly. Medicare coverage begins the first of the month. If he turns 65 in July, coverage can start July 1st. In this case, the prorated amount would be one-half of the annual amount allowed; the HSA will cover him through the first half of the year.

Q: What if I have money left over in my HSA when I join Medicare? Can it be used for anything?

A: Although you can no longer make contributions to the HSA, you can use the money to pay the Medicare Part B premium and for costs under Medicare Part D or Advantage plans.

Leftover HSA money can also be used for co-payments and deductibles you pay for medical expenses, out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs, vision and dental care, but cannot be used to pay Medicare supplement premiums.

You can use leftover HSA money for non-medical expenses as well. In such cases, income taxes will apply. People over age 65 do not suffer any other penalties when using the money to pay non-medical costs.

