

AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Summer 2013

Vol. XVIII No. 2

Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in the 1st quarter of 2013.

Fiber	Newspaper	32.8293	Plastic	HDP N	0.8106
	OCC	0.8106		HDP P	1.6212
	Mixed Paper	4.0530		PET	2.4318
Metal	Bi-Metal	2.4318		Blue bags/film	0.4053
	Scrap	0.8106		Cartons	0.4053
	Aluminum	0.8106		Residual	12.1590
Mixed Glass		21.4809	Allied Waste Total	81.0600	

0.87 tons of various paper through the “ABITIBI Paper Retriever” program

-----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**.

“2013” Dumpster Days

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

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
 - 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. 2nd & 4th Tuesdays
 - Amherst Township Residents only
 - I.D. may be checked
 - No Commercial
 - **No Plastic Bags** – place bags in 55 gal drum
- ➔ Yard Waste Pile is located at the far back of the property on the east side of Oberlin Road.

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.

Amherst Township Park Improvements



Many thanks go to Cub Scout Pack 428 for volunteering to clean up and landscape the corner gardens at the Amherst Township Middle Ridge Road Park. These 7 & 8 year old boys, along with a little support from some family members, did a wonderful job planting and mulching these corner gardens. This act of service will go towards the boys achieving their “World Conservation” badge and will be enjoyed by all who visit the park.





**Cub Scout Pack 428 at Amherst Township Park
After a job well done!**



F.A.C.E.'s "Wine Tasting Party" was once again a fun and enjoyable event. Proceeds from this fundraising event will be used for Amherst Township Park Improvements. We would like to thank the businesses and individuals that donated to this event, as well as all those who attended.



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**. It is recommended that residents hire their own inspectors.

Yard Waste Recycling Center Extended Summer Hours

Effective immediately, the "Yard Waste Pile" that is located on Oberlin Road, directly across from the Township Hall/Garage, will be open until 8pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, which coincides with the Trustees Meeting nights. These extended hours will continue through the summer and early fall.

The yard waste pile is for disposing of your limbs, brush, lawn clippings, and leaves. Residents are reminded to please place your empty plastic bags in the 55-gallon drum at the center, or take bags with you.

More Plastics Accepted

Republic Services has expanded the materials most Lorain County residents will be able to recycle. You are now able to recycle plastic containers numbered "3" through "7" in addition to No. 1 and No. 2 plastics. These numbers are located inside the triangle on all plastic items that can be recycled. These items can be placed in your "green" recycle container along with all the other recyclables, including aluminum, steel, and bi-metal cans, glass, newspaper, cardboard, and paper board.



U.S. Congressman, Jim Jordan, held a Town Hall meeting in Amherst Township, sponsored by the Lorain County TEA Party. Over 60 people attended. Also pictured is Kirsten Hill who moderated the event.

HELP WANTED

Senior Services Office Director

Hours: Part-time, weekdays. 20-30 hours/week
8:30 am – 12:30 pm, Flexible hours.

Pay Range: \$13.67 to \$17.26 per hour

Benefits: 457B Deferred Compensation, PERS,
and Medicare

Seeking a caring individual to direct the provision of supportive services to the older adults of Amherst Township. Consider a position where you can make a difference. PC experience using Microsoft Office products required. Good verbal and written communications skills a must. Experience and knowledge in older adult care a plus. Criminal Background check required.

Send resume to:

Senior Services Office Director
Trustee Chairperson Neil Lynch
7530 Oberlin Road
Elyria, Ohio 44035

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

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**Monthly Meeting
Dates & Times:**

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

Senior GAZETTE

Summer 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**.

Position Opening

I will be retiring at the end of November 2013. While this is coming sooner than I had originally planned, I am finding the needs of older adults in my own family are taking up more of my free time these days and leave me with less time to get my own work done. Now, it is time for me to put into practice the information I have been sharing with you over the past 10 years.

The Trustees will begin the recruitment process for my successor. Managing the Home-Delivered Meal Program and dealing with new government reporting requirements will be part of the job. Good computer and communication skills plus a love for working with seniors and their caregivers will be a great assets. If you think you might be interested in serving the township in this capacity, please see the “Help Wanted” article on the last page of this newsletter. Interviews will be held early this fall. Applicants will be notified if we wish to schedule an interview with you.

ATSSO OFFICE HOURS:

8:00 A.M. – NOON (M-F)

Phone: 988-5894 – Ext. 102

Email: amhersttwpseniors@oh.rr.com

“2-1-1” First Call For Help

“First Call for Help” is a Community Resource Directory sponsored by the United Way of Greater Lorain County. This information and referral service utilizes a database of thousands of local resources to assist people in accessing the help they need. It is available 24/7 and is free. All calls are confidential.

You can reach them by calling:

“2-1-1”

(or) 1-800-275-6106

Their website is at: www.211lorain.org

When in Doubt Don’t

Every week notices from different organizations come over my desk about various types of scams and burglaries. Please be careful of what types of personal information you give out online – 1) make sure websites are secure (<https>) and 2) information like vacation dates should not be placed in emails or on Facebook.

Do not give out personal information over the phone unless you initiate the call and know the agency or company you are calling is reputable.

Do not invite into your home door-to-door solicitors or individuals who say they represent companies or agencies you might have dealt with in the past, unless you have called or written to request an in-home consultation.

Medicare: Hospital Status

➔Inpatient

Admission begins the day that you are formally admitted to the hospital with the doctor's order. It ends the day before you are discharged.

"Part A" covers all hospital services for the first 60 days of hospitalization, after a one-time deductible (\$1,184 for 2013). This deductible must be repaid if you are hospitalized again after that 60-day benefit period. "Part B" covers most inpatient doctor-ordered services at 80%. You would be responsible for the remaining 20% after paying the Part B deductible (\$147 in 2013).

➔Outpatient

You are an outpatient if you are getting emergency room treatment, observation services, lab tests, or X-rays, and the doctor hasn't written an order to admit you as an inpatient – even if you spend the night at the hospital. Medicare "Part B" covers outpatient hospital and doctor services. Generally, this means you make a copayment for each individual hospital service used. Note that the copayment amount for a single outpatient service can't be more than the inpatient hospital deductible. In some case, however, your total copayment for all services may be more than that deductible.

In most cases, prescription and over-the-counter drugs that you get in an outpatient setting are not covered by "Part B", but under certain circumstances prescription drugs may be covered by a "Part D" plan. You will likely have to pay the charges for these out of pocket and then submit a claim to your plan for reimbursement.

➔Skilled Nursing Facility Patient

Medicare covers your care in a Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) if you first have a "qualifying hospital stay." That means you've been a hospital inpatient for at least 3 days in a row (includes the day you were admitted as an inpatient but not the day you were discharged).

If your inpatient hospital stay ends before 3 days, ask if you can get care after your discharge in other settings (such as home health care) or through other programs (such as Medicaid or Veteran's benefits). If your doctor orders observation service to determine whether you need to be admitted to the hospital as an inpatient or discharged, you cannot count that time toward the three-day inpatient hospital stay needed for Medicare to cover your "SNF" stay.

Always ask your doctor or the hospital staff if Medicare will cover your "SNF" stay.

➔Know Your Medicare Rights

Regardless of the type of service used, a Medicare beneficiary has these rights:

- Right to have your Medicare-related questions answered in a manner that you can understand.
- Right to learn all your treatment options and to participate in treatment decisions.
- Right to a review of (appeal) certain decisions about health care payment, coverage of services or prescription drug coverage.
- Right to file complaints (grievances) including complaints about the quality of your care.

What's Happening to My Health Insurance???

No doubt many of you who are still working have seen or will see dramatic changes in your health insurance coverage.

The "Affordable Care Act" is expanding health insurance by:

- 1) requiring individuals to obtain "minimal essential coverage" for themselves and for their dependents and
- 2) requiring employers to offer "affordable" health care plans.

Large employers (those who have 50 or more full-time equivalent employees) must offer minimum essential coverage that is affordable or pay a non-deductible excise tax. Affordability means employees whose household incomes are less than 400% of the federal poverty level (\$45,960 single in 2013) must pay no more than 9.5% of their income toward health care premiums. Minimum essential coverage means their policy must pay out at least 60% actuarial value of covered benefits. This is why many companies are getting out of the health coverage or moving toward giving

employees an allowance toward premium costs. Some employers are moving away from spousal coverage in order to provide coverage for dependents up to age 26 as spouses are not subject to dependent status and are not covered by affordability testing.

Also, beginning in 2014, individuals who fail to obtain mandatory coverage will also be penalized with a tax of \$95 or up to 1% of their income, whichever is greater. In 2015, the minimum penalty increases to \$325 and in 2016 it increases to \$695.

More information should be coming to consumers over the next few months on how these mandates will affect them. Be sure to read carefully any information coming from Medicare, the state or federal government and from your current or former employer. If you don't understand the information received, ask questions from the agency or company who has sent out the literature.

Just In Case: Emergency Readiness for Older Adults & Caregivers

Step 1 – Know the basics.

Know how to do things like – how to turn off your gas & electric services; get to know neighbors who might assist you.

Step 2 – Have emergency supplies ready.

This should include 1) items you would need to survive in your home until help arrives and 2) a personal evacuation bag partially packed and ready to go (add things like medications, glasses, denture case, supplies & hearing aid case & batteries at the last minute). Don't forget to include personal hygiene & incontinence supplies as well as pet care supplies.

Step 3 -- Make a personal plan.

Alert the local EMA at 329-5117 if you need special medical services that may require electricity or if you have mobility

issues so you can be placed on their priority response list.

Plan your emergency escape routes from your home. Place your personal evacuation bag in a central location easily accessible from any of these routes.

Designate an out-of-the-area emergency contact that loved ones can call if local phone service is disrupted.

Know emergency procedures for any home health services that you are getting or if you live in a retirement community.

Record your health information in a Personal Health Care Journal like the one published by the U.S. Administration on Aging available by request from Ohio's ProSeniors organization at 800-488-6070.