

AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Fall 2004

Vol. IX No. 3

Recycling Report

For the second quarter of 2004, Amherst Township recycled the following quantities through the "Blue Bag" program:

- 1.3 tons of aluminum cans
- 6.4 tons of bi-metal cans
- 12.1 tons of glass
- 3.6 tons of HDPE plastics
- 2.8 tons of PETE plastics
- 27.4 tons of newspapers
- 7.8 tons of scrap metal through the dumpster program in April

Question concerning the "Blue Bag" program may be directed to BFI at 458-5191 or David Urig at 988-8256.

Dumpster Days

Amherst Township has set the following dates for "Dumpster Days" in 2004:

October 7, 8, 9 **★(Incentive Contest)**

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!!

The waste drop-off area is now fenced and gated. Brush, limbs, grass clippings, and leaves may be brought to the rear of the Amherst Township Garage 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. will be checked
- No Commercial

The garage is located at 7530 Oberlin Road.

Newspapers, cans, glass, and 1's & 2's plastics can be placed at your curb in blue bags for BFI pick-up. Newspapers should be "blue bagged" separately.

Compost Available

Free compost is available from the Township. If you are interested, contact John Szefcyk, Road Superintendent, at 988-5833.

Have a problem? Complaint forms are available at the Township Hall, inside the white bulletin board, or may be downloaded from the Township's website.

TRUSTEE MEETINGS:

2nd & 4th Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Township Hall & Garage

Fax988-5877
Clerk988-5894
Road Superintendent (garage)988-5833
Email: amhersttwproads@comcast.net
Office (Zoning Inspector)988-5866
Office Hours for Zoning Insp.:
Mon., Wed., & Sat. – 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Voice Mail is checked daily
Email: amhersttwpzoning@comcast.net
Don Gargas, Zoning Inspector

Trustees

Dennis Abraham986-4555
(Ambulance, Cemetery, Park, Water, Roads, Ditches, Enterprise Zones, County Health Rep.)
Neil Lynch988-7681
(Sewer, Fire, Land, Equipment, Personnel, LORCO, Senior Services, Zoning)
David C. Urig.....988-8256
(Lighting, Buildings, Solid Waste, Phase II Storm Water/ Environmental Strategy, Alternate County Health Rep.)

Clerk

John Koval233-5744

Road Superintendent

John Szefcyk988-7045

Amherst Twp Senior Services Office

Carol Schmitkons.....988-5822
Email: amhersttwpSeniors@comcast.net
Office Hours – Mon thru Fri – 8am to 12 Noon

Fire Prevention Officer

Wayne Eppley.....324-3921

Park Coordinator

Tony Ellis.....988-3033
Email: amherstman620@aol.com

LifeCare Ambulance, Inc.

Maude or Herb DeLa Porte.....323-6111

Sheriff's Department.....329-3710

Township Website www.amhersttownship.us

Amherst Township Trustee Meetings may be viewed on Amherst Cable Channel 12. They will air for 7 days, running Mon thru Mon, following the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. Air times are at 9:00 a.m., 4:00 p.m., and 10:00 p.m. Zoning Commission meetings will be shown at the conclusion of the Trustee meetings.

TOWNSHIP AMBULANCE SERVICE

Since the change in ambulance service provision late last year, there is some confusion about ambulance coverage in the township. In order to get some clarification on the services provided, we contacted both **LifeCare Ambulance, Inc.**, our current 911 emergency ambulance service, and **North Central EMS**, our past provider. We hope that this article will give you a better idea of which service will best provide you with the type of non-emergency transportation that you require.

“911” Services

Both groups are equipped and trained to handle this service. Currently, if you call “911”, a **Life Care** ambulance will be dispatched to your location.

Non-emergency services

Non-emergency transport is defined as patients with *“medical needs requiring transportation that cannot be provided by a private car, taxi, bus, or other form of private/public transportation”*.

Medical need further means that there is a condition that requires the patient to be either wheelchair or bed bound, and that the medical need has been established & approved by the attending physician.

This is the area where the two ambulance services take a slightly different approach.

North Central is a “not-for-profit” organization, which because it is eligible for grants and other types of funding, can offer a membership program to cover certain types of transports. If you do not have insurance coverage, their membership program may benefit you. It is available to individuals and families for \$49 per year. Coverage includes ground ambulance services to or from a medical facility within North Central’s service area, or an Ohio hospital in Cleveland, Toledo, or Columbus.

Physician authorization may be required for non-emergency transfers. Wheelchair trips or doctor visits are not included. North Central still services our area for non-emergency transports. If you have any questions concerning the membership program or you would like more information, please contact Don Ballah at 1-800-589-2515.

LifeCare provides non-emergency ambulance transportation as well as ambulette (wheelchair van) transport for patients who are wheelchair bound. However, LifeCare Ambulance, Inc. does not offer a subscription plan based on the recommendations of the Attorney General’s Office.

To offset the benefit of a subscription plan, in 1999 LifeCare became a member of the largest ambulance network in Ohio. This allows them to have contracts with many of the major insurance companies, which covers the majority of the people in our community, making a subscription plan redundant. Coverage of ambulance services is contingent on your insurance plan.

LifeCare will make every attempt to bill the patient’s primary and secondary insurance before billing the patient for co-pays and deductibles, as indicated in their health insurance plan. Insurance companies, including Medicare and Medicaid, may reject or deny claims based on their interpretation of coverage under the patient’s plan, or if they determine that the type of transportation was not “medically necessary”. Ambulette (wheelchair van) transports are not covered by Medicare, nor are they known to be covered by any subscription plan.

LifeCare’s billing office is always willing to work with patients to set up a payment plan.

If you have any questions or you would like more information on their services, please contact Maude or Herb DeLa Porte at 323-6111.



Zoning Commission Meetings now to be Taped and Aired

Starting in September, Amherst Township Zoning Commission Meetings will be taped and shown on Amherst Cable Channel 12, at the conclusion of the Trustee meetings. Zoning Commission Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the 1st Tuesday of the month at the Township Hall on Oberlin Road. These meetings are open to the public.

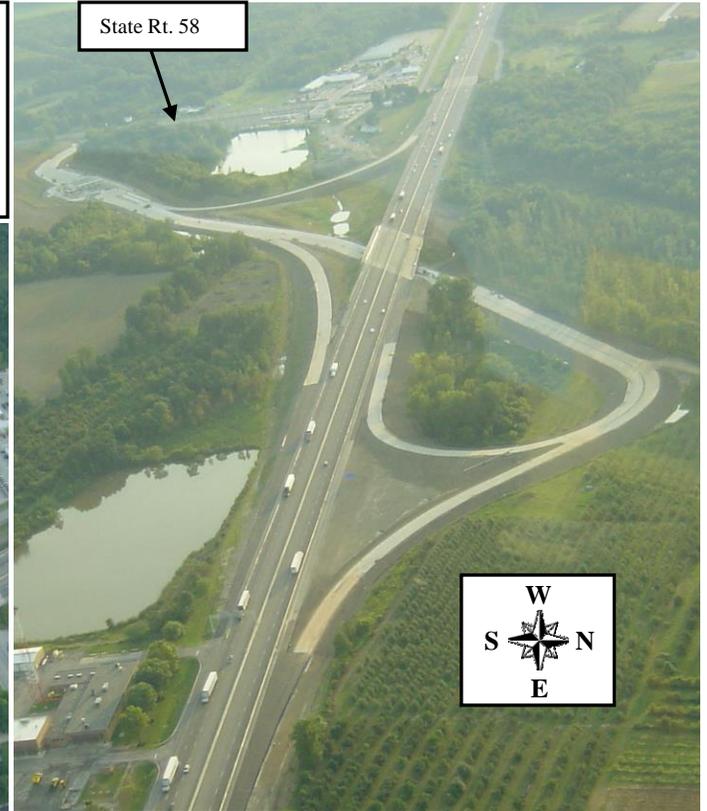
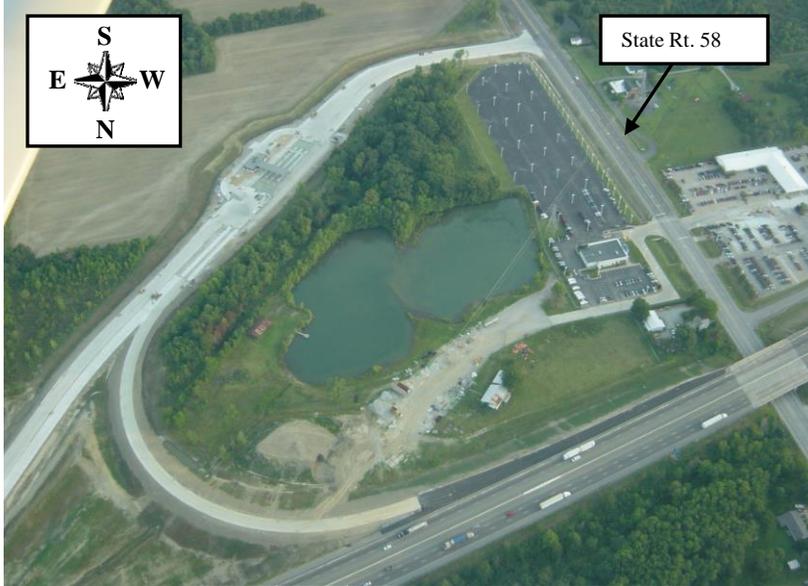
Street Lights Out

If you notice a street light out near your home, residents are encouraged to contact Ohio Edison by calling their “Automated Outage Reporting” phone number at:

1-888-544-4877

Turnpike Update

The Amherst/Oberlin Interchange, located in Amherst Township, is scheduled to be open sometime in November. Visit the township's website for more photos.



Thanks to Dan Gross for providing the opportunity to take these aerial views.



The Amherst Township Wastewater Detention Basin nears completion.

PERMITS REQUIRED

Residents are reminded that permits are needed for pools, decks, porches, patios, gazebos, fences, ponds, signs, garages, new construction, building additions, and accessory buildings. When a permit is applied for 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 Don Gargas, 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 988-5866. Voice Mail is checked daily.

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.

\$350 – Resident
\$600 – Non-Resident



Burning Prohibited



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 which 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. See front page of the newsletter for days, times, and location.

Contact Sheriff's Dept.

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**.

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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Senior GAZETTE

Fall 2004

Carol Schmitkons, Amherst Township Senior Service (ATTSO) Director

SERVICES PROVIDED

Our office can provide seniors 60+ with:

- Home-delivered meal program
- Transportation to doctor visits
- Medicare counseling
- Referrals to other agencies for services we cannot provide

TAKIN' A BREAK

SENIOR ACTIVITY FALL TOPICS:

All meetings will be held from 11 am to 1 pm at the Amherst Eagles located at 1161 Milan Avenue.

September 20: Amherst Fire Chief Norheim – Fire Safety

October 18: James Brasso, audiologist – “What Do You Mean, You Can’t Hear What I Said” – a talk on hearing issues

November 15: Visiting Nurses Association – Home Care Options

December 20: Christmas Party with White Elephant Gift Exchange

HOME SAFETY

By Carol Schmitkons

During the past few years, fire has disrupted the lives of several township seniors. It was after the Westwood senior lost her life, and another senior couple told me that they were fortunate to have a corroded gas connection to their water heater discovered during a home weatherization check, that I began thinking about dedicating an issue of the Gazette to safety issues.

I’ll begin by relating an incident that occurred in my own family last fall.

Many home safety problems lead to disasters that could have been prevented had a home safety check been made. Just ask my mom, Mrs. Frank Herrmann of Oberlin Road here in the township.

One cold morning last October, she decided to turn on her fuel oil furnace to warm up the house. Within a short period of time, an alarm went off in the house. She recognized that it wasn’t the sound her smoke alarm made so she went to find the source of the sound. She discovered it was coming from a CO detector we had purchased for her. She immediately called “911”.

The Amherst Fire Department arrived within minutes to check the CO levels. Mom was ushered out of the house and large fans were brought in to air out the house. The furnace repairman who had installed a hotter, more efficient burner in the furnace over the summer was called in. He determined that the new burner had apparently loosened the soot build-up from the malfunctioning old unit. The soot fell down to the base of the chimney and blocked the flue pipe.

Mom had a shoulder problem and was taking some strong pain medication to help her sleep at night. I am thankful she had not turned on the furnace the night before or I might not have my mother here today.

Lessons learned:

- Check heating and cooling systems annually
- Have chimneys checked and cleaned regularly
- Install both a smoke detector and a CO detector, learn to recognize the distinct sound of each, and check their batteries monthly

**FALL OFFICE HOURS:
8:00 A.M. – Noon (M-F)**

FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST

Following is a “Fire Safety Checklist for Older Americans”, adapted from a pamphlet published by the US Consumer Product Safety Commission, AARP, and the National Association of State Fire Marshals that lists other important items to check.

- ✓ Install & maintain smoke detectors on every level of your home, especially near bedrooms.
- ✓ Use smoking materials safely. Never smoke in bed, while drowsy, or while under the influence of medication or alcohol. Make sure ashtray contents are cool before you dispose of them.
- ✓ Pay attention to your cooking. Keep pot handles turned inward, & keep cooking surfaces & surrounding areas free from clutter & grease build-up. Use potholders & oven mitts and avoid wearing loose clothing with flowing sleeves while cooking. Take a reminder with you if you must leave the kitchen with food cooking on the range top.
- ✓ Heat your home safely. Keep anything that can melt or burn away from all heaters, furnaces, fireplaces, and water heaters. Never use a range or oven to heat your home.
- ✓ Practice electrical safety. Have your home’s wiring system inspected every 10 years and make recommended repairs. Never overload the electrical system. Plug each appliance directly into its own outlet and avoid using extension cords. Install ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI’s) in rooms where water may be present. Install and maintain electrical appliances according to the manufacturer’s instructions.
- ✓ Keep matches and lighters away from children.
- ✓ Know what to do in case of fire. Practice two ways out of every room in your home. If you use a walker or wheelchair, or otherwise might have a problem escaping from a fire, discuss your escape plans ahead of time with your fire department, your family, and your neighbors. Get out as soon as you discover a fire. If you are behind a closed door, feel it with your hand before opening it; if it is hot, exit the room some other way, if possible.

Make sure windows can be unlocked and opened, and security bars are released. If you are passing through a smoky area stoop low so your head is beneath the smoke. If your clothes catch on fire, stop, gently drop to the ground, cover your face and roll to smother the flames. Do not try to fight the fire. That will only delay your escape. Leave your possessions behind, and never go back into a burning building for any reason. Once out of the house, immediately dial “9-1-1”.

SCHEDULE A HOME SAFETY CHECK NOW

Before the fall heating season begins, be sure to call your local heating contractor to schedule a furnace inspection. Also, Amherst Township Fire Inspector, Wayne Eppley, is willing to do walk-through “Fire Safety Inspections” and will help to set up escape plans, but only at the request of property owners. If you would like to schedule a “Fire Safety Inspection” or you need assistance with scheduling a furnace inspection, please call the office at **988-5822**. The “Fire Safety Inspection” is available to anyone in the township, although it is especially important for the elderly, the physically impaired, and those that live in mobile homes, as it is harder for them to flee in case of an emergency. If problems are discovered, there are agencies in the community that can help the elderly, or those with low incomes, in order to cover repair or replacement costs. Should you need help in these areas, please call Carol early in the fall before these agencies get booked up or run out of funds.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND **REMEMBER TO VOTE!**

It is important to get out and vote! If you are unable to get to your normal precinct polling location, you may stop by the Senior Service office to pick up an “absentee ballot application form”. The office is located in the Township Hall at 7530 Oberlin Road. If you cannot get to the office, please call the office at **988-5822**, and an application will be mailed to you. Also, you can call the office if you need assistance in filling out the application form, or if you need someone to read the ballot to you.

E-Mail Address: amhersttwpseniors@comcast.net



