Recycling Report
Amherst Township recycled the following quantities through the “Blue Bag” program (3rd quarter):
- 1.3 tons of aluminum cans
- 6.6 tons of bi-metal cans
- 12.6 tons of glass
- 3.6 tons of HDPE plastics
- 2.9 tons of PETE plastics
- 28.2 tons of newspapers
- 6.3 tons of scrap metal through the dumpster program in April
For questions concerning the “Blue Bag” program, contact BFI at 458-5191 or David Urig at 988-8256.

Dumpster Days
Amherst Township has set the following dates for “Dumpster Days” in 2005:
- April 7, 8, 9
- July 7, 8, 9
- October 6, 7, 8
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.
Christmas Trees, 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.

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

Township Hall & Garage
Fax ..................................................988-5877
Clerk ..............................................988-5894
Road Superintendent (garage) ..........988-5833
   Email: amherstwproads@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: amherstwpzoning@comcast.net
      Don Gargas, Zoning Inspector

Trustees
Dennis Abraham .............................986-4555
(Ambulance, Cemetery, Park, Water, Roads, Ditches, Enterprise Zones, County Health Rep.)
Neil Lynch ......................................988-7681
(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 Koval ......................................233-5744

Road Superintendent
John Szefcyk ...................................988-7045

Amherst Twp Senior Services Office
Carol Schmitkons ............................988-5822
   Email: amherstwp seniors@comcast.net
   Office Hours – Mon thru Fri – 8am to 12 Noon

Fire Prevention Officer
Wayne Epplley ..................................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 am, 4 pm, & 11 pm. Zoning Commission meetings will be shown 8 am, 3 pm & at the conclusion of the 11pm Trustee meetings. All airings are subject to change.

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.
MARKETING OF STATE ROUTE 58

Amherst Township Trustees have hired D.B. Hartt to undertake a supplemental planning study for the Route 58 and Route 113 corridors. These areas are identified as key development areas for the Township during the recent process to update the Township’s Comprehensive Zoning Plan.

The corridor study will include the area along Route 58 from Ackerman Road (Park Ave) to the southern township line, which is just south of the Deer Track Golf Club. The study will also include the area along SR 113 from the South Amherst city limits to just east of Route 58. The geographic area will specifically encompass an area which includes:

1. North of the Turnpike: from the Amherst city limits to approximately ½ mile east of Rt 58
2. South of the Turnpike: from the South Amherst city limits to approximately ½ mile east of Rt 58

The boundaries may be slightly refined based on the results of the study.

The overall goal of the Route 58 Corridor Study is to provide the Township with more definitive information about the corridor and to assist the Township in developing more detailed strategies for this corridor than what is presently represented in the Township’s “1995 Comprehensive Zoning Plan”, including the 2004 update. This plan is available for public viewing at the Township Hall.

The objectives of this planning study are to:

1. Estimate the current development potential and implications given the corridor’s existing natural and “man-made” characteristics and current zoning requirements.

2. Identify traffic impacts and outline traffic management strategies based on current zoning, compared to two or three alternative development scenarios generally consistent with the comprehensive plan.

3. Provide detailed policies and implementation strategies which could include:
   - Zoning amendments – text and map;
   - Traffic management approaches;
   - Marketing and economic development;
   - Environmental preservation approaches; and
   - Site and building design standards.

The first task was to record the existing conditions of the corridor area. Detailed data was gathered from existing reports and sources about land uses, property owners, natural features, and traffic data. A base map was created using ArcView 3.3 GIS software. This base map shows: existing property lines; ownership; topography; buildings and driveways; natural features (i.e. wooded areas, streams, floodplains, wet areas, etc.); major infrastructure facilities; & zoning districts.

The second task is to estimate the expected development under current zoning, based on the above base information and current market trends. This development will be analyzed with respect to traffic, infrastructure, and environment impact. The development under current zoning will be compared with 2-3 possible development alternatives for the corridor.

The third task is to have two joint public meetings with the Township’s Zoning Commission, Board of Trustees, and Board of Zoning Appeals in order to review the analysis and to solicit input on the preferred development approach. The first of these two meetings was held November 2nd at the regularly scheduled Zoning Commission meeting. It was taped and should have been aired at the times listed on the front page of this newsletter. The second meeting has yet to be scheduled. When a meeting date is set, it will be posted in the township bulletin board at the township hall on Oberlin Road.

The fourth step is to identify the preferred development scenario and to provide a set of actions needed to achieve the desired development pattern. D.B. Hartt will provide the Township with a conceptual plan that will identify the road network; the general placement of buildings; the location of parking; pedestrian/design amenities; and environmental features to be preserved. An outline of the zoning changes needed to achieve the development strategy will also be provided, as well as other implementation measures that need to be considered.

The last step will be to evaluate the updates and consider them to be added as a further addendum to the 2004 Comprehensive Zoning Plan Update. This study plan is being implemented in order to minimize the traffic impact on our community while optimizing the economic development of future businesses, while minimizing the future tax burden on the residents of the township.
**FEATURED EMPLOYEE**

Don Gargas, Zoning Inspector for Amherst Township, is our featured employee. Don started working for the township as a Zoning Committee member from 1997 to 2000. Then in 2000, Don accepted the position of Zoning Inspector. As the Zoning Inspector Don is responsible for writing permits for buildings and structures, enforcing zoning resolutions, accepting applications for Zoning Amendments and Variances, and in general helping people to understand zoning and zoning areas in the township. Don has broadened his job responsibilities by assisting in writing grants, and by assisting the Trustees, the Zoning Commission, and the Zoning Board of Appeals with various projects, as needed. Don also maintains a liaison with the County Prosecutor. Don enjoys his job because of all the different people he gets to meet in the community. He also likes being involved with the leading edge of what is happening in the township and helping people. The hardest thing about his job is having to enforce zoning when people will not conform to the current zoning, especially when the prosecutor needs to get involved. Thankfully this doesn’t happen too often.

Don and his wife Cheryl have lived in the township for the past 11 years. They have 2 daughters as well as 2 granddaughters. Don grew up in the Elyria/Lorain area and attended Elyria Catholic as well as LCCC. He graduated from Ohio State with a Business Degree. Don is a member of the American Legion as well as the Amherst Eagles. He served in the U.S. Army for 2 years. He recently became a board member of the newly formed 501(c)(3) non-profit organization for Amherst Township. Don’s favorite pastime is gardening and yard work around his home.

Many thanks to Don for all the work he does maintaining the zoning in our township and for being so involved in our community.

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**Christmas Tree Disposal**

Amherst Township residents may bring their live Christmas Trees to the rear of the Amherst Township Garage Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Residents may also leave live trees on their lawn near the road. The township road crew will be picking up these trees Dec 26th thru Jan 7th.

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**DRIVEWAY PERMITS**

Effective November 1, 2004, Amherst Township and Lorain County now require permits for all new driveways which are located in the township.

Before constructing a driveway, a permit form must be processed by the Township or by the County, depending on the road location. Driveways located on a township road require a township permit. Driveways located on a county road require a county permit. There will be no fee for either permit. For more information, call the Zoning Inspector, Don Gargas, at 988-5866, or contact the Lorain County Engineer’s office at 329-5586.

**Lorain County Sheriff’s Bike Patrol**

We would again like to thank the Lorain County Sheriff’s Department for providing their bike patrol during Amherst Township’s “Trick-or-Treat” day. This is the third year in a row that the bike patrol has cruised Amherst Township’s neighborhoods to ensure the safety of our children participating in this holiday. This year’s bike patrol consisted of Deputy J.D. Rico and Deputy Jason Smith.
Amherst Township is in the process of creating a new nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Its name is FACE (Funding Amherst Community Enhancement).

Its purpose is to explore and obtain funding and services to enhance the quality of life for all the residents of Amherst Township and the surrounding areas by seeking funds through grants, donations, and volunteer efforts.

What is a nonprofit organization? A common and broad definition would be that it is a tax-exempt organization that serves the public interest. In general, the purpose of this type of organization must be charitable, educational, scientific, religious, or literary. The public expects to be able to make donations to these organizations and deduct these donations from their federal taxes.

The 7-member FACE board consists of Howard Akin (4yrs), John Eibon (3yrs), Don Gargas (4yrs), Richard Rice (2yrs) and Carol Schmitkons (4yrs). Two open positions remain to be filled. One position is for a 3-year term, the other is for a 2-year term. Carol Schmitkons is the Statutory Agent for the organization.

Ohio EPA regulations also prohibit the burning of some materials anywhere in the state at any time. These include: materials containing rubber, grease, and asphalt or made from petroleum, such as tires, cars, and auto parts, plastics or plastic-coated wire; garbage – any wastes created in the process of handling preparing or consumption of food; and, dead animals.

A copy of Ohio EPA’s brochure “Before you Light It: Know Ohio’s Open Burning Regulations” is available on the Agency’s web site at [www.epa.state.oh.us](http://www.epa.state.oh.us). A copy of Ohio EPA’s open burning rules can be found at [www.epa.state.oh.us/dapc/regs/3745-19/3745_19.html](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dapc/regs/3745-19/3745_19.html).

By practicing healthy household habits, homeowners can keep common pollutants like pesticides, pet waste, grass clippings, and automotive fluids off the ground and out of storm water.
NOPEC

In March of 2004, Amherst Township voters approved giving township residents the choice of joining the North East Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC). The individual utility customers NOPEC represents enjoy the advantages of bulk buying power, professional expertise, and consumer advocacy on their behalf. With more than 600,000 potential customers, NOPEC is the largest public aggregation in the United States. Eight other communities in Lorain County belong to NOPEC. They include Avon, Avon Lake, Elyria, Lorain, South Amherst, Sheffield Lake, Sheffield Village and North Ridgeville. The leveraged buying power of NOPEC should encourage lower and more stable utility cost.

Residents are reminded to watch their mail for information concerning the NOPEC Gas and Electric aggregation program. Township residents wishing to join NOPEC will not be required to do anything. Those wishing to opt-out will be required to sign and return the document provided by NOPEC.

For more information regarding NOPEC, visit their website at: www.nopecinfo.org

Middle Ridge Road Safety Improvement

Various residents have approached the Amherst Township Board of Trustees regarding concerns over safety at various intersections along Middle Ridge Road. The traffic safety, efficiency, capacity and flow along Middle Ridge Road between SR2 and SR58 has been reduced due to increased development and traffic usage. Therefore the Trustees have passed a resolution requesting the Lorain County Engineer to study and make recommendations for improvements regarding the traffic safety, efficiency, capacity and flow along Middle Ridge Road. The Trustees are requesting that left hand turning lanes are desired at the following intersections with Middle Ridge Road:

1. Eddystone
2. Oberlin Road/Hidden Valley Drive
3. Oberlin Road
4. Dewey
5. Nordson Drive

Recycling Incentive Contest

The recycling incentive program for 2004 is complete. This incentive program was an eligibility requirement of the “Solid Waste Grant” award received by Amherst Township. This program consisted of a raffle which was held in conjunction with the township’s “dumpster events”.

While the contest is over, residents are encouraged to place their blue bags out for pick up along with their regular garbage pick up. Items that may be recycled in the blue bags are:

- “1” and “2” plastics (HDPE and PETE)
- Bi-metal cans (canned food cans)
- Aluminum cans
- Glass beverage bottles
- Newspapers

Newspapers are to be placed in a separate blue bag from the rest of the recyclables. Also, please rinse all food and beverage containers before placing them in a blue bag.

All residents who brought a blue bag of recyclables or recyclable yard waste to the dumpster event in October received a $50 gift certificate. In addition, five (5) names were drawn for $100 gift certificates.

Winners of the October 2004 Incentive Contest:

$50 Gift Certificates:

Adkins Greenhouse: Barb Shinsky
Cuenin’s Auto Service: Michelle Walsh, Cyndy Tipton, Jeff McVetta
Don Mould’s: John Schermer, Charles Barckert, David Fly
G & G Auto Parts: Diana Horn, Bob Barckert, Perry Box
Law’s Auto Service: Eileen Herrmann, Jack Trewella, Roland Camarillo
NAPA Auto Parts: Nelson Barnes, Christine Winrod, John Zan
Sumpter’s Hardware: Frank Lasso, Carol Schmitkons
Thome Farms: Rick Cornish, Dennis Hodkey, Wendy Lasso, Bill Farlow

$100 Gift Certificates

A & C Tires: Jack Trewella
Don Mould’s: Wendy Lasso
G & G Auto Parts: David Fly
Law’s Auto Service: John Zan
Thome Farms: John Schermer
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

LIFECARE

Amherst Township, as a member of the Sandstone Joint Ambulance District, has chosen “LifeCare” to be their ambulance provider. President Maude DeLa Porte and Vice-President Herb DeLa 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. For more information about LifeCare as well as links to other related websites visit www.geocities.com/lifecaredispatch.

Contact Sheriff’s Dept.

If residents know of or experience any adverse road conditions in the township, please contact the Sheriff’s Department at 329-3710 or 323-1212.

Twp. Bulletin Board

Scheduled meetings and Trustee Work Sessions are regularly posted in the bulletin board at the Township Hall. These are public meetings and residents are welcome to attend.

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Printed on Recycled Paper

Amherst Township
7530 Oberlin Road
Elyria, OH 44035
www.amhersttownship.us
“Thanks”giving 2004

2004 is fast coming to an end. Since Thanksgiving comes near the end of the year, it is also a good time to take the time to thank everyone who has made our program a success. So on behalf of the Trustees and myself, I wish to send special thanks to Kathy Blahay, Jennifer DeWitt, Butch and Linda Dorsey, Jake and Phyllis Nekich, John Pardee and his teens, Scott Rankin, Ray and Dottie Roth, and Keith Rumpler. These volunteers helped with transporting seniors, doing yard work, plowing snow, and delivering meals. They gave me more time to assist seniors with other needs.

I also appreciated the excellent presentations given at our “Senior Activities” this year. Many thanks to Tony Syrowski from the Amherst Fire Department for his presentation on fire safety; to James Basso from the Center for Hearing Care for his presentation on hearing issues; and to Tracy Noll from the Visiting Nurses Association for her presentation on home care alternatives. I just wish more township seniors had come out to learn more about ways they could stay independent longer. Due to low participation in our monthly “Senior Activities”, we will be canceling them until we can come up with other ways to meet your needs. If you have ideas, please call the office at 988-5822.

Tasty Meals Available to Seniors

Golden Acres “winter” menu has just come out. The cabbage rolls, Swiss steak, coconut-breaded chicken, homemade lasagna, mousse, cheesecake, pumpkin pie, and German chocolate cake all sound incredibly delicious. Keep in mind that anyone in the township who is sixty years of age or older can take advantage of meals, especially while the weather is bad this winter. Just call the office for details. Remember that the meal costs are reduced for those with low incomes, so don’t let the cost deter you.

More Volunteers Needed!!!

During the winter months, many seniors call looking for people to plow their driveway. If you can help meet this need, or you might be willing to drive occasionally for the meal and transportation programs, please call Carol at 988-5822.

Support Services Grant Award

We are pleased to announce that the Amherst Township Senior Service Office has received its first grant. The $2500 grant for support services for 2005-2006 was awarded by the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging (WRAAA), which is our area’s coordinating agency for the Ohio Department of Aging. The money will be used to hire township resident, Jennifer DeWitt, a licensed social worker with eight years of experience, to provide support services for township seniors.

Jennifer’s job will consist of assessing client’s needs and then providing them with information about benefits or services available to them. This may also include helping them to complete forms, or providing them with referrals or linkages to appropriate resources. She can link them to these resources by:

- Notifying an agency that a client will be calling them for service;
- Scheduling an appointments for clients;
- Assisting or participating with a client at a scheduled appointment;
- Contacting a client and/or the agency to determine the outcome of a referral/linkage; or
- Providing follow up as needed.

If you would like to use any of these services, please call the office at 988-5822 to schedule an appointment with Jennifer DeWitt. You can meet with her at the office or in your home.

HAVE A SAFE HOLIDAY &
A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR!!!
Senior GAZETTE (page 2)

Medicare Updates

Discount Prescription Drug Cards:
- Those with monthly incomes of less than $1048 (single) or $1405 (married) who have no health insurance coverage for prescription drugs and who have not yet signed up for a card this year are now eligible for the full 2004 additional $600 transitional assistance for their medications, plus the full benefit for 2005. However, you must sign up for a card before December 31st. If you wait until next year to sign up, you will lose 25% of the $600 for each quarter you delay.
- There are some decent cards available, and several of the area pharmacies already discount their drugs even before the drug cards are applied. Further good news is that several of the “drug” companies have teamed up with some of the “drug card” companies to offer additional discounts to those with low incomes that have used up their $600 transitional assistance. At a Cuyahoga County Conference on Aging, a panel speaking about Medicare stated that Ohio’s “Medicare-Approved” Golden Buckeye Drug Discount Card offers one of the best plans in the state, especially for those with low incomes. It offers aid beyond the $600 transitional assistance mentioned above.
- Remember that if you are covered by Medicare, you can only have one (1) “Medicare-Approved” prescription discount card. This card will have the “Medicare” logo printed on the card. However, you may have an unlimited number of “non-Medicare Approved” cards. These “non-Medicare Approved” cards are usually sponsored by the state of Ohio or by a pharmacy company. An example would be the gold-colored Golden Buckeye Card, which is a “non-Medicare Approved” card and does not contain the Medicare logo. Ohioans using this card in addition to their “Medicare-Approved” drug card can save an average of 24% on prescriptions at participating pharmacies.
- As of November 2004, a new choice for Ohioans is Ohio’s Best Rx. It is designed to help people 60 years of age and older, whose monthly income is less than $1940 (single) or $2602 (married). There is no enrollment fee and the card has an optional mail order delivery feature.

2006 Medicare Part D (Prescription Drug Coverage):
- Cost will be $35 per month.
- Enrolling after the initial open enrollment period will carry a penalty of 1% per month in addition to the $35 premium.
- Most people will end up paying $4100 of their first $5100 prescription costs before the Medicare will begin covering 95% of the cost. Low-income people will still see reductions in their costs.

To get help choosing the prescription drug card that best meets your medications needs, as well as help with downloading and filling out the appropriate application forms, please call Carol at 988-5822.

Notes from the Ohio Consumer’s Counsel (OCC)

Expect higher gas prices this winter due to high world oil and natural gas prices. Winter temperatures will also play a significant role in whether prices rise this winter and by how much.

Utility customers have several options for managing their natural gas bills. The OCC offers the following free resources to help reduce their heating costs:

Energy Efficiency – The OCC offers a “room by room” energy efficiency guide that provides “no-cost” and “low-cost” tips for lowering your winter heating bills.

Budget Billing – This program spreads consumers’ natural gas expenses evenly throughout the year.

Financial Assistance Programs – Several programs are available to help keep Ohioans warm this winter. For example, low-income consumers can apply for the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) and the Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP).

Publications about these and other programs can be found on the OCC’s website at: www.pickocc.org

or by calling 1-877-742-5622, toll free.

E-Mail Address: amhersttwpseniors@comcast.net