

AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Spring 2005

Vol. X No. 1

Recycling Report

For the fourth quarter of 2004, Amherst Township recycled the following quantities through the "Blue Bag" program (**bold represents yearly total**):

(5.0)	1.1 tons of aluminum cans
(24.8)	5.3 tons of bi-metal cans
(47.1)	10.0 tons of glass
(13.6)	2.8 tons of HDPE plastics
(10.7)	2.3 tons of PETE plastics
(105.9)	22.4 tons of newspapers
(24.1)	10.0 tons of scrap metal through the dumpster program

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 **★(Incentive Contest)**

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. 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 Szeftcyk, 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 7:00 p.m.

Township Hall & Garage

Fax	988-5877
Clerk	988-5894
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

<u>Dennis Abraham</u>	986-4555
(Ambulance, Cemetery, Park, Water, Roads, Ditches, Enterprise Zones, County Health Rep.)	
<u>Neil Lynch</u>	988-7681
(Sewer, Fire, Land, Equipment, Personnel, LORCO, Senior Services, Zoning)	
<u>David C. Urig</u>	988-8256
(Lighting, Buildings, Solid Waste, Phase II Storm Water/ Environmental Strategy, Alternate County Health Rep.)	

Clerk

John Koval	233-5744
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Road Superintendent

John Szeftcyk	988-7045
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Amherst Twp Senior Services Office

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

Fire Prevention Officer

Wayne Eppley	324-3921
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Park Coordinator

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

LifeCare Ambulance, Inc.

Maude or Herb DeLa Porte	323-6111
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<u>Sheriff's Department</u>	329-3710
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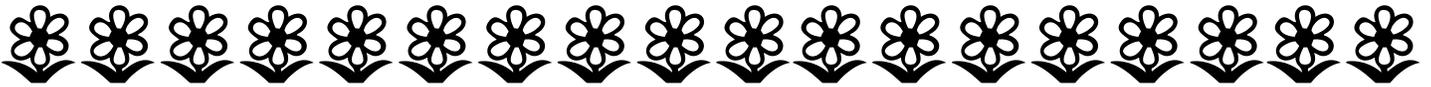
Township Website www.amhersttownship.us

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.

F.A.C.E.

The first official meeting of the Board of Directors of the newly formed non-profit corporation, Funding Amherst Community Enhancement (FACE), was held on February 15th. The by-laws were finalized and approved. The three original Board members voted to add John Eibon and Richard Rice to the Board. Howard Akin was then elected President of the Board and John Eibon was elected Treasurer. Names were submitted to fill the other Board vacancies. These people will be contacted to see if they are willing to serve. The next FACE Board meeting is set for March 15th.

The Board of Directors would like to invite the residents of Amherst Township to assist them in choosing a logo that will be used on all official communications. Since FACE was set up to enrich the lives of everyone in the community, they felt that the community should have a say in this process. All logo designs should be submitted to Carol Schmitkons. They may be mailed to her attention at the Amherst Township Hall, 7530 Oberlin Road, Elyria, OH 44035 or emailed to amhersttwpseniors@comcast.net. The winner will have his or her picture in the summer issue of the Township newsletter along with a reproduction of the design submitted. Entries need to be in our hands by April 30th to be considered.

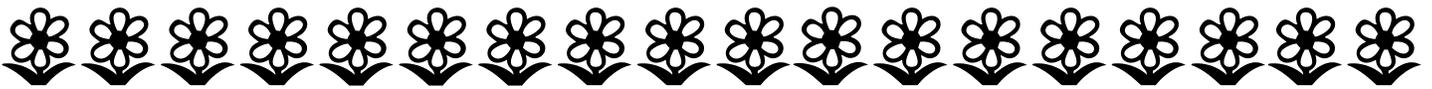


The 2nd annual Senior Service Volunteer Appreciation brought together our volunteers, trustees, and representatives from our meal provider, Golden Acres. We couldn't be successful without volunteer help. Won't you help us too!

Seated (L to R): Carol Schmitkons, Ray Roth

Front Row (L to R): Keith Rumpler, Jennifer DeWitt, Connie Mesko, Dorothy Roth, Sandy Jaram, David Urig

Back Row (L to R): Dennis Abraham, Phyllis Nekich, John Koval, Jake Nekich, Neil Lynch



Address Markers

Have you noticed the 6" x 18" green address markers that are on some of the mailbox posts? These markers have 3" reflective numbers on them and are highly visible. These markers can be of assistance if an emergency service needs to locate your residence, or if out-of-town friends or relatives are visiting.

If you are interested in purchasing a green address marker for your mailbox, please contact the Elyria

Township Fire Department, 41416 Griswold Road, Elyria, at **324-2973**. There is someone at the station between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., 7 days a week. Leave a message if the phone isn't answered. The markers cost \$10, which includes up to 5 numbers on each side of the marker. Extra 3" reflective numbers may be purchased for 25 cents each. Payments may be made with a check or with cash, only. The markers have 3-predrilled holes.

FEATURED EMPLOYEE

Carol Schmitkons, Amherst Township Senior Service Director, is our featured employee. Carol started working for the township 2-½ years ago when the Senior Service Office for Amherst Township was created. As director, she is responsible for managing the meal program, preparing a quarterly newsletter, assisting clients in getting the help they need (either through various agencies or with direct “one-on-one” assistance), applying for grants, giving information and referral support, and providing transportation for clients (either making the arrangements or doing the driving). Carol is also certified by the “Ohio Dept. of Insurance” to do Medicare counseling. Carol enjoys seeing seniors stay independent as long as possible. She likes helping to resolve problems and then seeing the hope that is generated from the solutions.

Carol has lived in the township for her entire life. She has been married to her husband Jim for 33 years. They have a son Aaron who is completing his Masters in Mechanical Engineering at Ohio State. Also, they recently acquired a new daughter-in-law, Kim, who is married to Aaron. Carol attended the Amherst school system, and then attended Bluffton College where she obtained a Bachelors degree in Home Economics. She is also taking continuing education classes relative to her Senior Service Director position.

Carol was a very busy “stay-at-home” mom. Besides helping to farm their fruit & berry orchards, as well as maintaining a small garden, she was very involved with her son’s school and her church. She was on the Open Door Christian School board for 3 years, treasurer of the Open Door Christian School Parent Teacher Fellowship for 4 years, lead a “Ladies Bible Study” discussion group for 15 years, as well as teaching Open Door’s Pioneer Girls (similar to Girl Scouts) for 5 years. During these years Jim and Carol also did most of the work on building their current



home. She currently teaches adult Sunday school classes and Bible Study classes at the Henrietta United Methodist Church, and is a member of United Methodist Women (UMW). Carol is also in charge of the Flea Market for the LaGrange Engine Club. Her most recently added position is the Statutory Agent for FACE, the newly formed non-profit corporation for Amherst Township.

The only issue Carol has with her director’s position is that it takes time away from her many hobbies. For fun, she likes to read, knit, crochet, garden, take cooking classes, and is very involved with Amateur Radio. Carol is a member of the Lorain County Amateur Radio Association and EMARSS (Emergency Management Amateur Radio Support Service). She is also a member of various ladies’ Amateur Radio groups including CHIX, Buckeye Belles, and Young Ladies Radio League (YLRL).

We are grateful to have Carol involved in our community. Many thanks to Carol for all the work she does with our seniors, as well as adding to the enhancement of our community.



HELP!

VOLUNTEERISM is the lifeblood of a successful Senior Service program. Our meal volunteers have been very faithful, but once in a while someone gets sick. We could use a few people willing to act as subs. Also, Jennifer DeWitt, one of our meal volunteers,

has now been hired to help with our support service. She would like to be relieved of her meal delivery day as soon as we can find someone willing to deliver on Thursdays. Please call the Senior Service office at **988-5822** if you can help!



Planting in Road Right-of-Way

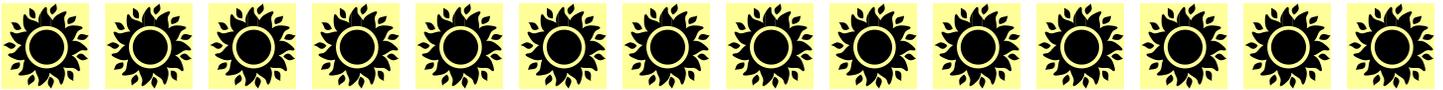


Residents should not landscape or plant near road intersections or inside the road right-of-way. Generally, the road right-of-way is 30 feet on either side of the centerline of the road. If planting occurs in this area, homeowners should not be disappointed if plants are destroyed or removed due to maintenance 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.

Concerning intersections, Article 300 of the Amherst Township Zoning Resolution, Section 307 (Visibility at Intersections) states:

On every corner lot there shall be no obstruction to visibility (whether by the location of structures including fences, landscaping or other means) between the heights of 3 feet and 6 feet above the natural grade, within the triangle formed by the right-of-way lines of two intersecting streets, and a line drawn between two points, one on each such right-of-way line, each 25 feet from the point of intersection of such right-of-way lines.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Don Gargas, Amherst Township Zoning Inspector, at **988 5866**, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 11 a.m., Mon., Wed., & Sat.



PARK ADDITION

Amherst Township is in the process of purchasing additional land for the Middle Ridge Road Park. The Local Natural Resource Advisory Council (NRAC) has approved Amherst Township's request for "Clean Ohio" grant funds in the amount of \$30,000 to purchase 3.6 acres of additional property that is contiguous to the current parkland. As part of the "Clean Ohio" grant requirement, this additional area must be maintained in its natural state. Planned improvements that comply with this grant include the addition of a walking/jogging/biking/roller-blading pathway and perimeter fencing.

Park Pavilion

Due to the increased usage of the park pavilion, and to avoid scheduling conflict, please contact Amherst Township Road Superintendent, John Szeftcyk, to make reservations if you wish to use the pavilion. He can be reached during the week at **988-5833**.

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.

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.

Annual HHW Collection Day

The annual "Household Hazardous Waste" Collection Day for 2005 will be held on Saturday, **April 23rd**. Potential locations are LCCC located on Abbe Road in Elyria and LCJVS located on SR58 in Oberlin. This program is free to all Lorain County residents.

For more information, please contact the Lorain County Solid Waste Management District at **1-800-449-5463**. You can view more information on their website at www.lorcnty.org. At the "Home Page" click on "Departments", and then select "Solid Waste". Also, there is additional information on other items that can be recycled or collected as waste.

As an added note, Lorain County's "Pride Day" (a one-day litter clean up event) is going to be held on Saturday, May 21st. Amherst Township will be participating in this event. However, "Pride Day" projects have not yet been established. Please call the township if you would like to participate in this event.

NOPEC

Wondering why you haven't seen anything about this program? NOPEC is currently negotiating with a new natural gas supplier. Once that is resolved, they will be sending out notifications to all township residents of the choices available to them. Notifications will be for both natural gas and electric. If you have any further questions, you can call NOPEC at 1-866-579-9487 or visit their website at:

www.NOPECINFO.org

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. The Lorain County Sheriff's Department will enforce this curfew.

Recycling Incentive Contest

Again in 2005, there will be an incentive program to encourage recycling. This incentive program is an eligibility requirement of the "Solid Waste Grant" award received by Amherst Township.

This program will consist of a raffle to be held in conjunction with the township's "dumpster events". To enter the raffle, simply fill out the entry form below. Bring the completed form along with a blue bag of recyclables or recyclable yard waste to the dumpster event. Winners will be drawn during one of the regularly scheduled Trustee meetings.

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.

RAFFLE ENTRY FORM

For "Recycling Incentive Contest"

Dumpster Days: April 7th, 8th, and 9th, 2005

(Thursday, Friday, and Saturday – Time: 7:00am to 3:30pm)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

PERMITS REQUIRED

As Springtime arrives, residents are reminded that permits are needed for the following items listed below. 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.

- | | |
|---------------------|--------|
| Pools | Decks |
| Porches | Patios |
| Gazebos | Fences |
| Garages | Ponds |
| Driveways | Signs |
| New Construction | |
| Building Additions | |
| Accessory Buildings | |

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 see, any suspicious activity in the township or at the Amherst Township Park, please contact the Sheriff’s Dept. at **329-3710**.

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.

\$360 – Resident
\$618 – Non-Resident

Printed on Recycled Paper

Amherst Township
7530 Oberlin Road
Elyria, OH 44035
www.amhersttownship.us

**PRESORTED STD.
USPOSTAGE
PAID
PERMITNO.118
AMHERST,OHIO.**

NOTE: New Earlier Meeting Times:
Trustee Meetings now at 7:00 p.m. – Zoning Commission Meetings now at 6:30 p.m.

Senior GAZETTE

Spring 2005

Carol Schmitkons, Amherst Township Senior Service (ATSSO) Director

2004 ATSSO YEAR-END REPORT

Meal Program: We delivered 2,947 meals to 24 participants during 2004. We averaged 11.73 meals per day, which is almost double the 6.4 meals/day average for 2003. Our meal drivers drove a total of 2,874 miles to take meals to our seniors this year, as compared to 3,915 miles in 2003. In 2004, we chose to get our meals from Golden Acres and also gave the drivers their own coolers. This allowed the drivers to pick up the meals at Golden Acres and then go home after finishing their route, rather than coming back to the Township Hall to drop off the coolers for the next driver, thus saving on mileage. Because of these changes, we were able to cut our loss per meal by \$.27 this year. This program is run at a loss in order to ensure that those least able to afford the program have at least one hot, balanced meal per day.

Transportation: We made 16 trips with clients this year. We drove 437 miles to see that our clients arrived at their doctor appointments on time.

Support Services (one-on-one work with clients): We spent 69.3 hours helping clients with Medicare issues, arranging services for seniors who have had surgery, filling out forms, and helping clients get services that they needed by assisting them with phone calls to agencies or by going to appointments with them. The Medicare counseling program, administered by the Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIP), took up 33.85 of those hours.

Referrals: We spent 13.05 hours referring 56 clients to various agencies and services around the community.

Grants: We applied for two grants in 2004 and received one grant from the Ohio Department of Aging for support services. This grant will help us better assess clients' needs, aid them in filling out the paperwork necessary to obtain the needed assistance, and then follow up on their progress. This grant will be administered by the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging (WRAAA).



Jennifer DeWitt (left), a licensed social worker, and Carol Schmitkons (right), Senior Service Director, are eager to assist area Seniors by providing them with support services.

MEDICARE UPDATES

This quarter's Medicare update comes courtesy of Congressman Sherrod Brown's winter 2004 newsletter. The following are excerpts from an article entitled, "Study Shows Varying Benefits from Changes to Medicare".

- 2 out of 3 beneficiaries will receive some benefit from the new 2006 Medicare Prescription Drug benefit. The remaining beneficiaries will pay as much or more for their medication.
- Low-income Americans stand to benefit the most-with an average reduction of 83%.
- Those who enroll in the new drug benefit, but do not receive the low-income subsidies, are projected to pay on the average 28% less out of pocket.
- More than a third of those who enroll will pay annual premiums expected to be around \$420, and will realize no savings because they will spend little or no money on prescription medicines. Another 9% (2.4 million) could see significantly higher out-of-pocket costs because they are projected to lose more generous prescription drug coverage from their former employers.

It is important that all Medicare beneficiaries fully explore the options available to them as the new drug coverage is phased in. Those beneficiaries who elected to purchase a Medicare Discount Card have the option of changing or renewing that card after January 1, 2005.

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

“EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS 101” – SENIOR EDITION

In light of all the heavy snows we’ve had this winter, area flooding, the upcoming tornado season, and our occasional heightened terrorist alerts, it is a good time to talk about how to prepare in advance for emergency situations. The following information comes from the American Red Cross booklet entitled, “Disaster Preparedness for Seniors by Seniors.”

● **Take responsibility:** Plan ahead even if you have physical limitations. By planning ahead, you can avoid waiting in long lines for critical supplies, such as food, water, and medicine. Disaster can strike quickly and without warning! Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster, but they can’t reach everyone right away. Keep in touch with your neighbors and look out for each other.

● **Notification:** Obtain a battery-powered radio tuned to the local Emergency Alert Station, which is WEOL 930AM. You also might want to get a NOAA weather radio which provides the earliest warning if bad weather is approaching (available at local electronic stores). If the power is on, your local TV stations broadcast alerts. Local emergency officials occasionally may go door-to-door giving special warnings. Strictly follow their instructions. If you, or someone in your neighborhood, has special needs, please register them with the Amherst Twp. Senior Service Office so we can get help to you as soon as possible. The office phone number is **988-5822**.

● **Use a family “Disaster Plan” checklist to get started:**

- ✓ Assemble enough medical and general disaster supplies to last for at least a three-day evacuation. Store in an easy-to-carry container, such as a backpack, duffle bag, or small suitcase, that also has an ID tag. Label any equipment that you would need, such as wheelchairs, canes, or walkers.
- ✓ Arrange for someone to check on you.
- ✓ Plan and practice the best escape routes from your home.
- ✓ Plan for transportation if you need to evacuate to a Red Cross shelter.
- ✓ Find the safe places in your home for each type of emergency.
- ✓ Have a plan to signal the need for help.

- ✓ Post emergency phone numbers near the phone.
- ✓ If you have home health care service, plan ahead with your agency for emergency procedures.
- ✓ Teach those who may assist you in an emergency how to operate necessary equipment. Be sure they are able to reach you.

● **Medical supplies to pack for evacuation:**

- ✓ First aid kit including aspirin, sterile bandages, sunscreen, soap, scissors, gauze, and tweezers.
- ✓ 3-day supply of prescription medicines, list of medications (including dosages), and list of allergies.
- ✓ Extra eyeglasses and hearing aid batteries.
- ✓ Extra wheelchair batteries, oxygen.
- ✓ List of the style and serial numbers of medical devices such as pacemakers.
- ✓ Medical insurance and Medicare cards.
- ✓ List of doctors and relative or friend who should be notified if you are injured.

● **General emergency supplies to pack for evacuation:**

- ✓ Battery-powered radio and flashlight with extra batteries for each.
- ✓ Change of clothing, rain gear, and sturdy shoes.
- ✓ Blanket or sleeping bag.
- ✓ Extra set of keys.
- ✓ Cash, credit cards, and change for pay phone.
- ✓ Personal hygiene supplies.
- ✓ Phone numbers of local and non-local relatives or friends.
- ✓ Insurance agent’s name and number.

● **Additional supplies to have on hand if you are ordered to stay in your home:**

- ✓ Water supply – three gallons per day, per person, stored in sealed, unbreakable containers.
- ✓ Non-perishable food supply – including any special foods you may require. Choose foods that are easy to store and carry, nutritious, and ready-to-eat. Rotate this food regularly.
- ✓ Manual can opener.
- ✓ Non-perishable pet food.

E-Mail Address: amhersttwpseniors@comcast.net