

AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Summer 2005

Vol. X No. 2

Recycling Report

For the first quarter of 2005, Amherst Township recycled the following quantities through the "Blue Bag" program:

- 1.2 tons of aluminum cans
- 5.9 tons of bi-metal cans
- 11.2 tons of glass
- 3.2 tons of HDPE plastics
- 2.6 tons of PETE plastics
- 25.3 tons of newspapers

There were no dumpster days in the first quarter, therefore no scrap metal.

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:

July 7, 8, 9 ★(Incentive Contest)

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

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. Urig988-8256
(Lighting, Buildings, Solid Waste, Phase II Storm Water/ Environmental Strategy, Alternate County Health Rep.)

Clerk

John Koval233-5744

Road Superintendent

John Szeftcyk988-7045

Amherst Twp Senior Services Office

Carol Schmitkons988-5822
Email: amhersttwp seniors@comcast.net
Office Hours – Mon thru Fri – 8am to 12 Noon

Fire Prevention Officer

Wayne Eppley324-3921

Park Coordinator

Tony Ellis988-3033
Email: amherstman620@aol.com

LifeCare Ambulance, Inc.

Maude or Herb DeLa Porte323-6111

Sheriff's Department329-3710

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.

THE “AMHERST QUARRIES”

What can you do with a parcel of land over 900 acres in size, that has several bodies of water with vertical rock cliffs, some that are over 200 feet high? Land, that for over a century was not only an employment center, but also a dominant cultural mainstay in the community? Land, that for at least two generations has been known as an “unofficial” resort for various types for swimming, diving, and exploring? Land that is known for its tantalizing beauty.

For some, this has been a potential issue facing the Quarry property because it was zoned for industrial use, as well as being located in three different communities, Amherst Township, Brownhelm Township, and South Amherst Village.

The Quarry has a rich history. As a result of the Chicago fire in 1871, Amherst Quarry Sandstone was highly desired because of its fire-resistant nature. Many communities in Lorain County prospered financially and culturally as a result of the mining operation. Local and migrant workers influenced the “Blue-Collar” craftsmen-like core that is Lorain County.

During the past 10 months, residents, elected officials and appointed officials from all three communities have been working to prepare zoning texts that would be appropriate for the quarry area to allow for an adoptive “re-use” of this property.

Trans European Securities International, LLC (TES) has a new vision for this site. They see a “scarred” but beautiful landscape begging to be the home of a new championship golf course, hotels, commercial space, office space that would include worldwide corporate headquarters, single-family housing, and

high-rise style housing on this unique site. They also plan for a venue for scuba diving, rock climbing, and other “leisure-time” activities. And even though Lorain County has four distinct seasons, TES has reported that they want to create a “Caribbean North” under glass as one of these “leisure-time” activities.

Is there a risk associated with this vision? Few things in life are risk-free. But what the communities have received is more zoning or land use control over the sites than what presently exists. As of Monday, May 9th, the new zoning text has been approved, the new zoning has been applied, and the preliminary design has been accepted by all three communities. TES is now developing the project’s final plan. The final plan will be reviewed and considered for compliance as compared with the already accepted preliminary plans as well as community standards.

The developer has not been given a green light to build! He has been given the local communities’ okay that what they have seen and heard so far is acceptable and needs to be developed further. The developer is taking the approved preliminary plan and is starting to work on specific and very detailed Engineering and Architectural drawings that will delineate the actual development and construction methods. This is also known as the “Final Plans”. During this next phase, the developer will again be constantly analyzing the financial feasibility of this project. The developer is taking the project ‘to the next level’. This will be the most exciting yet most precarious time for the success or failure of this project. Remember, one person’s scarred landscape is another person’s pristine site; and sometimes a gnarly mature tree is a symbol of Mother Nature’s beauty.



Spring 2005 view of part of the Quarry Site

Beauty

is in the eye of the beholder

There is a story often told of two stonecutters that could have taken place at the Amherst Quarries. These two stonecutters were asked by a young person, “What are you doing?” One man said, “Cutting stone into blocks”, while the other man proclaimed with a very broad smile and much pride, “Why, I am a critical part of a team of professionals building a cathedral somewhere.” Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

FEATURED EMPLOYEE

Elaine Krieg is our featured employee. She has been on the Zoning Commission for eight years, and is currently the Chairman of the Zoning Commission. As the chairman, Elaine is responsible for running the meetings, organizing the agenda, preparing the “Public Hearing” notices, delivering “Public Hearing” information to the other commission members, the Lorain Journal, and the Lorain County Community Development Department. She also makes phone contact with commission members about special meetings as well as monthly meeting. As a Zoning Commission member, she makes decisions on rezoning, handles special requests from individuals on rezoning, and reviews “Site Plan Reviews”, signs, and text changes to the Zoning Resolution. Zoning Commission members also study and review the Amherst Township Zoning Resolution. Currently the Zoning Commission is also looking at the goals and vision of the overall “Comprehensive Use Plan” for the Township.

Elaine enjoys meeting new people in the township as well as working with the other commission members and the township trustees. The difficult part of her job is when people are unhappy with the decisions made by the commission. Elaine has also served as secretary of the Zoning Commission, and for one year she held both the chairman and secretary positions at the same time.

Elaine has lived in Amherst Township for 18 years. She is married to her husband, John, who is a Registered Nurse. They have two children, Allison and Matthew. Elaine has been teaching for 28 years and is currently with the Vermillion Local Schools.



She graduated from Brookside High School, received a Bachelor of Science and Education Degree from Miami University, and a Masters Degree in reading from Baldwin Wallace. She was also a former president of the “American Association of University Women”.

In her spare time, Elaine enjoys reading mysteries and non-fictions, golfing, and walking her golden retriever, Hanna. She also works out at “Curves” and loves it!

We would like to thank Elaine for being a valuable part of our township and for taking the time in her busy schedule to serve on the Zoning Commission!

To view full-sized, color pictures, as well as 2 additional Quarry photos, visit us online at: www.amhersttownship.us





↗
East



Middle Ridge Rd.

This is the Turnpike.
← East --- West →

DITCH CLEANING & MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

In the early spring and after major storm events, the township receives calls from property owners who are concerned with the overflowing of ditches and flooding of their property. Residents may be able to get some relief if those ditches can be cleaned.

Ohio law does not allow the townships to clean ditches on private property. But Lorain County does offer a "Ditch Cleaning Program". In order to participate in this program, 100% of the property owners along that ditch need to sign a petition and take it to the township trustees, requesting that their ditch be put on a "Ditch Cleaning and Maintenance Program". The Lorain County Commissioners will fund the initial ditch cleaning, then the property owners will be assessed a very small fee for the ongoing maintenance in the future. Requests that have 100% of the property owner's signatures will receive priority. In the event that 100% of property owners do not sign the petition, instead of going to the trustees, the petition would be taken to the Lorain County Commissioners, where the residents would petition the Commissioners directly. However, the preference is to get 100% of the signatures, which assures that your ditch project has a better chance of being funded by the Commissioners.

Please contact John Szefcyk, Amherst Township Road Superintendent, or the "Lorain Soil & Water Conservation District" if you interested in starting a petition for the ditch cleaning program.

The "Lorain Soil & Water Conservation District" presented the following points that describe the "Lorain County Ditch Cleaning Program":

1. Initial cleaning is funded 100% with county funds from the County Commissioners.
2. Landowners in watershed must agree to put the ditch on the permanent county maintenance program.
3. Maintenance assessment fees are based on acreage owned within the watershed.
4. The total annual assessment for a watershed's maintenance shall not exceed 5% of the initial project cost.
5. Landowners will be assessed a maximum of \$3 per acre per year for parcels over 10 acres.
6. Residential properties 10 acres or less will be assessed a maximum annual fee of \$30.
7. The collection of annual fees will be discontinued when the maintenance fund for a particular ditch equals or exceeds 20% of the initial project cost.

NOTICE!

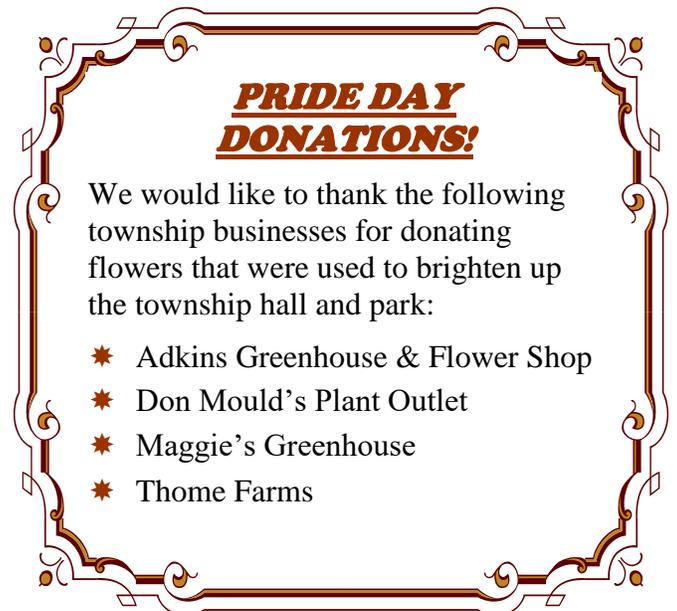
Effective May 1, 2005, Amherst Township resolution 4/3/05 requires that any property owner wishing to enclose a roadside ditch or to install a driveway approach culvert, must obtain a permit. This only applies to township roads. The permit fee is \$50 and is payable by check only, made out to "Amherst Township". If the application is denied, the permit fee will be returned to the applicant. This resolution is authorized by the Ohio Revised Code, Sections 5571.02 and 5571.16.

To ensure proper road drainage, township employees, or contractors authorized by the township, shall perform the work specified in the permit application. In addition, the township will specify materials and methods of excavation, refilling, and resurfacing to be followed.

The Amherst Township Road Superintendent will make an estimate of all installation costs. The permit applicant will pay all costs to install any culvert or tile.

Application forms may be picked up at the township hall, or may be downloaded off the townships website at:

www.amhersttownship.us.



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 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.

\$360 – Resident
\$618 – 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 <http://www.lifecareambulance.com/>. For more information about LifeCare as well as links to other related websites visit <http://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**.

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

Senior GAZETTE

Summer 2005

Carol Schmitkons, Amherst Township Senior Service (ATSSO) Director

Upcoming

White House Conference on Aging

In October of this year, selected delegates from all over the United States will gather in Washington, D.C. to form a policy on aging to present to the President and the Congress. This conference happens every ten years. The needs that are discussed there are also used to assist the public and private sectors to take actions that will promote dignity, health, independence, and economic security for senior citizens. On June 6th, Carol will be attending the Cleveland area “Pre”-White House Conference on Aging.

If you would like a say, please contact Carol with the following information. Call her at **988-5822** & leave a message; or mail information to the township hall; or send an email to amhersttwpseniors@comcast.net

I am a Senior citizen (check age bracket)

55-65 66-75 76-85 86+

a Caregiver

a Senior Advocate

a Professional in the aging field

Other _____

My concerns are: (Rank your most pressing concerns 1 through 6):

Social Security & economic retirement issues

Senior citizens in the workplace

Provision of services to help seniors remain independent & stay in their own homes

Age discrimination

Housing affordability & design

Enhanced transportation

Care giving support

Disease prevention & management

Intergenerational issues

Access to proper nutrition

Other _____

Comments: _____

Optional:

Name, Address, Phone number, & Email address

May Was

National Older Americans Month

“Older Americans help others to understand the past, and they teach timeless lessons of courage, endurance and love. Through their legacy of patriotism, service and responsibility, America’s seniors also unite families and communities and serve as role models for younger generations.” President George W. Bush

Older Americans Month originated with a presidential proclamation in May 1963. It has been proclaimed by presidents every year since then. There are:

- 36.3 million people 65 & over (7/1/2004) This group accounts for 12% of the US population. Between 2003 & 2004, 351,000 people moved into this age group.
- 4.9 million people 85 & over (7/1/2004)
- 4.6 million people 65 & over are still employed.
- 10.2% of people 65 & over live in poverty.
- 73,000 people 65 & over were enrolled in college in October 2002.
- 17% of Florida’s population were 65 & over on 7/1/2004. Close behind were West Virginia, Pennsylvania, North Dakota, & Iowa with 15% each.
- 86.7 million are projected to be 65 & over in 2050. People in this age group will comprise 21% of the total population at that time.

Information for this article was taken from the May 5, 2005 edition of Farm & Dairy.

Fall Tour Planned

Face Board member, **Nancy Harper**, Director of Admissions for the Elyria Methodist Village, has offered to host a tour of their facility for our older adults this fall. The tour would include lunch for all and transportation will be provided for those who are homebound. If you are interested in going on this tour please call the office at **988-5822** to be placed on the list. If there is enough interest, you will be contacted with the date and time of the tour.

Thanks Nancy for making this offer to our senior community.

E-Mail Address: amhersttwpseniors@comcast.net

MEDICARE UPDATES

New preventative benefits began in January 2005. They include diabetes screening, cardiovascular screening, and the “Welcome to Medicare” physical that is available to new Medicare enrollees during the first six months that they are on Medicare.

Medicare beneficiaries with limited incomes will soon be able to find out whether they qualify for substantial extra help in paying for prescription drugs after the new drug benefit goes into effect on January 1, 2006. From late May through August, the Social Security Administration will be sending application forms to people who are currently in their system because they are already enrolled in certain government assistance programs. The “low income” coverage level program will offer thousands of dollars worth of savings if you are on a number of medications, especially “name brand” drugs. Those who qualify will pay either “no” or “reduced” premiums and deductibles, and low co-pay, depending on income and circumstances.

Who’s eligible? Those receiving full Medicaid benefits with incomes lower than \$9,570 (single) or \$12,830 (couple) [**Level 1**]; and those receiving Medicaid with incomes higher than Level 1 **or** SSI

(without Medicaid) **or** Medicare premiums paid by Ohio [**Level 2**] will automatically be enrolled. There are also two other levels of additional help for those whose income is not higher than \$14,355 (single) or \$19,245 (couple). These two levels (**3 & 4**) also have restrictions on assets. You must apply for these benefits, which are slightly different as to what you must pay for out-of-pocket. Both of these two levels offer full coverage with no gap where \$2,850 of annual drug costs must be paid for by most beneficiaries.

If you get one of these forms and need help filling it out, Carol has been trained by the Ohio Department of Insurance to assist you. Please call the office at **988-5822** to set up an appointment. She can come to your home or you may come to the office.

Information on coverage options for all other beneficiaries (except those with good retiree drug coverage) will be available in October. This information will be covered in the fall issue of the “Senior Gazette”. Open enrollment runs from November 15, 2005 through May 15, 2006. After May 15, 2006, there will be higher premiums for ‘late’ enrollees.

Seniors, Beware!!!

Recently, one of our meal program participants notified us that someone had called saying that they were from her bank and needed her account number. Fortunately, she asked for their name first and they hung up.

New scams surface every day and we don’t want you to be part of one. If anyone calls you and asks for your bank account or credit card numbers, tell them you don’t give out that information over the phone. Immediately, call your bank to find out if the call was legitimate. Look up their number in the phone book. Don’t use any numbers that the caller may have given you. If your bank was not the one calling you, notify the sheriff’s department of the fraudulent phone call.

Other information that should not be given to people you don’t know is driver’s license numbers, social security numbers, birth dates, and mother’s maiden names. Also beware of being asked to call 900 area code phone numbers. If you aren’t sure whether something’s legitimate, hang up.

Help with Yard Work

John Eibon, one of the Funding Amherst Community Enhancement (**FACE**) board members has agreed to act as the liaison between the Senior Service Office and the Amherst Marion L. Steele football team, which is looking for some community service opportunities. They are willing to do yard work for township seniors. If you are over 60 and have trouble doing some of your yard work or other outdoor chores, please call Carol at **988-5822** and she will get the information needed to link you up with this fine community service.

Boys, on behalf of the older adults of our community, we wish to **thank you** in advance for your efforts and the donation of your time.

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