

# AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Fall 2005

Vol. X No. 3

## Recycling Report

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

- 1.4 tons of aluminum cans
- 7.1 tons of bi-metal cans
- 13.4 tons of glass
- 3.8 tons of HDPE plastics
- 3.1 tons of PETE plastics
- 30.2 tons of newspapers
- 7.0 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:

**October 6, 7, 8 ★(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 & Wood Chips Available

Free compost and wood chips are 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:

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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

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 Szeftcyk .....988-7045

## 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

## 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](http://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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

# Conservation Development

Amherst Township amended the township Zoning Resolution on March 22, 2005 to offer Conservation Development, a type of PUD development, as an **"optional"** land use to township property owners in the "R-1" (0.5-acre) and "R-AG" (1.0-acre) zoning districts per ORC §519.021(C). The existing "R-1" & "R-AG" zoning regulations continue to apply in these districts, unless the Zoning Commission and trustees approves an application of a property owner to subject the owner's property to Conservation Development regulations. Upgraded regulations were approved on August 23, 2005 to ensure that contiguous property owners are informed of public hearings on imminent Conservation Development applications.

The Amherst Township Conservation Development zoning regulations offer property developers a more flexible arrangement of building units, versus the existing applicable zoning regulations. In addition, property owners are ensured of obtaining "statistical" density in terms of the number of building units allowed. In other words, if a property consists of 100-acres in an "R-AG" district, a property developer is ensured of the construction of 100 homes.

This statistical density guarantee should facilitate the financial decision making of property developers, and generally will allow for the construction of additional homes, estimated at an increase of 20% more housing units. The flexible home arrangement should allow for a more efficient use and installation of supporting infrastructure, thus reducing installation cost. The statistical density and flexibility in home arrangements should improve the property value and potential earnings for property developers.

If a property developer chooses to apply Conservation Development zoning to their property, there are several conditions that must be met. These conditions are beneficial to the township and residents, and in some cases, also a benefit to the marketing of the property owner's development. Some of the main conditions are:

1. A minimum of 40% of the land must be conserved as common open space. Deed restrictions and an agreement approved by Amherst Township shall identify the common open space, and the restriction from further development. The open space may be held by the owners of the Conservation Development area, Amherst Township, a Homeowners Association, the Lorain County Metroparks, or a combination of these

entities, as defined in the agreement approved by Amherst Township.

2. The property developer must submit General and Final development plans for approval by the township Zoning Commission and township Trustees. This added level of scrutiny is not authorized by the Ohio Revised Code for standard zoning, but is authorized in the ORC PUD zoning code. This does not negate the subdivision review requirements before the Lorain County Planning Commission, but is an additional level of review.
3. The minimum development area is 15-acres.

Conservation Development offers many advantages to Amherst Township. Advantages such as:

1. Conserved open space should maintain the rural "feel" of the township by preserving trees, wildlife, open areas and natural features.
2. Better stormwater management through retarding of run-off allowed by conserved areas and reduced land disturbance during construction, thus reducing pollution and flooding potential. This directly complies with the township's "Stormwater Management" plan.
3. Potential for community parks without expenditure of taxpayer dollars.
4. More efficient generation of tax revenues, as the additional homes and flexible arrangement will bring in a higher revenue density versus infrastructure maintenance cost.
5. Lifestyle flexibility for seniors and working families that do not have the time or ability to maintain large lots, but do not desire to live in the high density areas encountered in municipalities.
6. Potential for pedestrian trails such as walking/biking nature trails.
7. Reduced long-term maintenance cost for the township in terms of road and drainage maintenance, as flexible arrangement of homes should reduce the amount of streets and storm sewers that must be maintained. In addition, there is the potential for private streets in which maintenance services would be provided by the fronting homeowners.
8. The design reviews before the township Zoning Commission and Trustees will afford township residents local forums to review the development plans, discuss concerns and options with the developer, and should result in a development more acceptable to all interested parties.

## FEATURED EMPLOYEE

Janice DeAngelis is our featured employee. Janice has worked for the Township for 5 years and is currently the Chairperson for the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). If someone wants to do something that does not necessarily agree with the current zoning, they bring it before the ZBA. Examples may be lot splits, building, or running a business that is not a permitted use in the area. The ZBA also annually reviews all of the “Conditional Uses” in the township to make sure everyone is still in compliance. As Chairperson, Janice sends out meeting notices to the newspapers and to neighboring property owners. She is also responsible for running the meetings.

Janice likes learning about the zoning in the township and what makes a community appealing, as well as meeting new people in the township. She also enjoys working with the other board members and says they have a fair and professional board. The bad part of her job is having to make hard decisions that are in the best interest overall to the township, but makes the applicant unhappy. Janice was also a member of the “Safety Task Force” committee.

Janice grew up in rural Ashtabula County, where her family still lives today. She completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from Bowling Green State University. She moved to Amherst Township in 1986. She has been married for 27 years to her husband, Frank, who is a manager at Nordson Corporation. They have two children. Kristin is 24 and is teaching High School English in Charlotte, NC. David is 23 and is working on his doctorate in Computer Engineering at the University of Texas in Austin, while he is teaching and doing research assistance.

Janice works full time for the Lorain County Chapter of the American Red Cross where she is the Director



of “Education and Training”. She is responsible for managing all of the First Aid, CPR, Water Safety, and Babysitter’s Training programs in the County. They train approximately 15,000 people annually at businesses and at the Red Cross Chapter. Janice is also a member of the Lorain Rotary Club, the Lorain County Safety Council (serving on the Steering Committee), the Leadership Lorain County – Class of 2000, and Lorain County Board of Elections (voting booth for Amherst Twp. – Precinct #4), and the Lorain County Chamber of Commerce.

Janice is interested in travel, current events, history, architecture, and reading. She also enjoys golfing, Pilates, and working out at the YMCA.

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



### 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.

### 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**.

## Middle Ridge Road Traffic Study

At the request of the Amherst Township Trustees, the County Engineer had a consulting engineer perform a traffic study of Middle Ridge Road intersections with Eddystone Drive, Oberlin/Hidden Valley Drive, Oberlin Road, and Nordson Drive to determine if left turn lanes would be warranted. The study determined that left hand turn lanes are warranted on Middle Ridge Road at Eddystone Drive and Oberlin Road.

The study recommended modifying the traffic signal at Oberlin/Hidden Valley Drive to allow for a westbound left turn arrow. The County Engineer is reviewing the recommended signal modifications. The signal modifications could be implemented this year if deemed appropriate.

Plans will be prepared for the addition of the recommended turning lanes with the intent to apply for Issue II funding in 2006, and with construction to be done in 2007.

Please use caution when approaching these intersections, as the township has experienced multiple vehicle accidents at these approaches.

## Township Property Purchase

Amherst Township completed the acquisition of 9.00 acres of property on August 1, 2005, at a sales price of \$135,000. Total expenditure of taxpayer dollars, inclusive of all closing costs, lot split, and recording fees amounted to \$139,426, or \$15,492 per acre.

The property consists of 223 feet of frontage on the east side of Oberlin road, immediately across the street from the existing township hall. Available utilities include sanitary sewer, gas, water, electric, and communication lines.

The land acquisition will accommodate future township growth, and the potential for additional fire, ambulance, and emergency medical service.

## F.A.C.E.

The FACE board has received acknowledgement from the IRS and is now able to accept donations that will allow the donor to take a tax deduction. You may send donations to FACE at 7530 Oberlin Road, Elyria, OH, 44035.

**Tom Hupman** has joined the FACE board as a 4-year Trustee. Tom is a retired K-Mart store manager and brings a strong management and finance background to the board.

**Dr. Malcolm Peel** has joined FACE as a grant writer. He brings a tremendous amount of experience in this area and will be invaluable as FACE moves forward.

**F.A.C.E.**'s first project will be a combination Rest Room/Concession Stand in the Amherst Township Park.

## 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.

## 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>.



## Preparing for Winter

- As a safety issue, please do not pile snow around fire hydrants. It is best to keep hydrants clear of any snow, excess mounding of soil, or plants.
- Also, when cleaning your driveways, do not plow or shovel snow onto the streets after the Township/County has plowed.
- Mailboxes should be inspected to make sure the posts are in good condition before the winter snowplowing begins.
- Be aware that the bridge decks freeze before the pavement does, causing them to be slippery even when the roads are clear.



## 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.

For the July Recycling Contest:

Winners of a \$20 gift certificate were:

Charles Barckert, Nan Cornish, Lisa Ganobcik, Dennis Hodkey, and Virginia Szilvasy.

Winners of a \$25 gift certificate were:

Philip Bak, Ted Balzer, Robert Barckert, Brian Bowman, Michelle Cawrse, Matthew Cawrse, Dale Cary, Marilyn Cesear, Bill Farlow, Frank Fruner, Dave Fly, Daniel Fly, Janice Gargas, Richard Herman, Brian Hodkey, Diana Horn, Jeanette Kosakowski, Wendy Lasso, Frank Lasso, Deborah Mann, Nancy Metzler, JoAnn Orosz, Roger Reaser, Eileen Rockwell, Jacki Rich, Al Schmitt, David Schmitkons, Sarah Schmitkons, Carol Schmitkons, Kelly Schermer, Jeanette Sciarrotta, Barb Shinsky, Cynthia Tipton, Jack Trewella, Dorothy Wilford, and Patricia Wright.



## RAFFLE ENTRY FORM

For "Recycling Incentive Contest"

**Dumpster Days: October 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2005**  
**(Thursday, Friday, and Saturday – Time: 7:00am to 3:30pm)**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_



# **TRICK-OR-TREAT**



“Trick-or-Treat” in Amherst Township will be held on **Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.** this year. Residents that wish to pass out candy should turn on their outside lights.

Also on Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, the City of Amherst Fire Department will be sponsoring a “Costume Contest” with registration starting at 3:00 p.m. at the Sans Springs Building, located at 480 Park Ave. in Amherst. Judging for the contest will start promptly at 4:00 p.m.

The annual “Halloween Parade” will follow, from 4:30 – 5:00 p.m. In case of inclement weather, the parade will be cancelled and the “Costume Contest” will be held at the Amherst Fire Department located at 414 Church St. in Amherst.



# **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.

## **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**

### **NOTE: New Earlier Meeting Times:**

Trustee Meetings now at 7:00 p.m. – Zoning Commission Meetings now at 6:30 p.m.

# Senior GAZETTE

Fall 2005

Carol Schmitkons, Amherst Township Senior Service Director

## Medicare Changes for 2006

Enrollment procedures for the new "Prescription Drug Coverage" were discussed at the Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIIP) regional training. Here is some of the important information you need to know:

1. This summer, beneficiaries will begin getting letters from Medicare, the Social Security Administration (SSA), former employers and/or your Medicare supplemental insurance or HMO company about their prescription drug options. It is **very important** that all of this information be **read carefully** and then kept in a safe place until you have signed up for a drug card program and you have received your new card for prescriptions. If you discard a provider's information, and then decide that their program is best for you, there may be a considerable amount of time spent obtaining the information applicable to your individual situation.
2. The open enrollment period runs from **November 15<sup>th</sup> through May 15<sup>th</sup>**. Seniors who do not join a plan by May 15, 2006 will have to wait until November 15, 2006 to join. When you do join, **your premium cost will go up at least 1% per month for every month that you wait to join**. Like other insurance, you will have to pay this penalty as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage. If you join after May 15, 2006, the next open enrollment period is Nov 15, 2006 to Dec 31, 2006. However, coverage for people who enroll during this period will not take effect until January 1, 2007. You may be healthy now and not using any expensive medication, but if you need coverage later on when health problems come, you may be in for a **major** monthly out-of-pocket expense.
3. If your medications are presently covered under a **Medicare Senior Advantage** HMO plan, those plans will have drug card options.
4. If you are covered by health insurance provided by your **former employer**, the government is subsidizing

those plans to continue drug coverage. Many employers will be wrapping their coverage around one of the plans that a Medicare drug card provider offers. What this means is that your former employer may cover your monthly "Part D" premium and/or have their coverage kick in to cover the out-of-pocket costs for deductibles or co-pays. Some employers, however, may choose to drop their drug coverage. In this case, their retirees will be notified that the drug coverage under their health plan is being dropped and they will have 60 days to enroll in the Medicare Prescription Drug program.

5. Please **take time to learn all the facts** about Medicare's prescription drug coverage so that you can make an informed decision about whether or not to join. If you think you may **qualify for the extra help** in paying for Medicare's prescription drug coverage premiums, deductibles, and co-pays, you can get help filling out the SSA application from the Amherst Township Senior Service Office, OSHIIP, or the local SSA office.

Please **BEWARE!!** Even though Medicare and their authorized service providers have tried very hard to make their materials easily identifiable, scams may still be out there. **Do not give out your personal information over the phone** in exchange for FREE health services or FREE medical supplies OR cash offers! Your personal information includes but is not limited to your birth date, social security number, Medicare number, mother's maiden name, and driver's license number.

Ask the caller to send you literature and an application in the mail. Then, **read it carefully**. Have another family member check out the offer. If you question whether a card provider or an offer is legitimate, don't hesitate to call the **OSHIIP hotline at 1-800-686-1578** or you can contact them by e-mail them at: [www.ohioinsurance.gov](http://www.ohioinsurance.gov).

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## Exercise Class

Judy Szeftczk, a retired nursing home activity director, is willing to lead an exercise class for seniors in the community if there is enough interest.

If you are interested in attending, please call the office at **988-5822** and leave your name, phone number and the best time of day for you to attend the class.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR:

- TRANSPORTING SENIORS TO THE DOCTOR
- SUBBING FOR MEAL PROGRAM DRIVERS

**CAN YOU HELP US? CALL 988-5822**

**E-Mail Address:** [amhersttwpseniors@comcast.net](mailto:amhersttwpseniors@comcast.net)

## Golden Acres Fall Meals

Perhaps you have trouble making ends meet, you don't like to cook, or your doctor says you need a more nutritious diet. We have the perfect solution for you. Golden Acres prepares a hot lunch for any adult over 60 enrolled in our home-delivered meal program. They will even take into consideration your personal likes & dislikes and your special dietary needs.

Right now some of the meals they are serving during the month are chicken paprikash, ham loaf, city chicken, stuffed peppers, BLT's, Rueben sandwiches & BBQ ribs. We guarantee that you will get these delicious meals delivered to your door for less than you could get the same meal in a local restaurant. Why not call the office at **988-5822** to find out just how much our healthy meals would cost you?

## National Family Caregiver Support Program

The National Family Caregiver Support Program was included in the last reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (2000). It is a direct result of a recommendation from the 1995 White House Conference on Aging. The legislation requires all Area Agencies to provide 3 specific services to Family Caregivers regardless of age, income, or other criteria. These services include:

- Information
- Assistance in accessing services
- Counseling, Support Groups, Education & Training

In addition, the legislation authorizes temporary or emergency respite (care in a "Care Facility") with eligibility:

- Care Recipient must be 60 years old or older and must have limitations in 2 activities of Daily Living (bathing, grooming, toileting, dressing, eating & mobility [getting in & out of bed, transferring to wheelchair or walker & moving from place to place] )
- or*
- Family Caregiver is 60 or over & is a grandparent raising grandchildren

Since July 2001, Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging, our service provider, provided service to over 9,700 Family Caregivers.

- 50% were daughters
- 11% were sons
- 24% were spouses or partners
- 13% were other relatives
- 3% were friends, neighbors, or non-relatives

Of the caregivers, 45% said that the services they received gave them the support they needed to continue care giving, while 23% said the most important thing was the temporary respite, the time out for themselves.

## Upcoming

### White House Conference on Aging

The following information is being compiled by the Lorain County Office on Aging and will be sent on to the Ohio Department of Aging for use in creating the state's final report to the national conference, which will be held in **December**. The needs that will be discussed there are also used to assist the public and private sectors in taking actions that will promote dignity, health, independence, & economic security for senior citizens.

If you would like a say, please respond by:

- Calling Carol at **988-5822**
- Emailing your response to **amhersttwpseniors@comcast.net**
- Mailing this form to:

**Amherst Township Senior Services**  
7530 Oberlin Road  
Elyria, OH 44035

\*\*\*\*\*

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

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