

AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Winter 2005

Vol. X No. 4

Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities through the "Blue Bag" program (3rd quarter):

- 1.5 tons of aluminum cans
- 7.3 tons of bi-metal cans
- 13.9 tons of glass
- 4.0 tons of HDPE plastics
- 3.2 tons of PETE plastics
- 31.3 tons of newspapers
- 7.5 tons of scrap metal through the dumpster program

For questions concerning the "Blue Bag" program, contact Allied Waste Services at 458-5191 or David Urig at 988-8256.

Dumpster Days

Amherst Township has set the following dates for "Dumpster Days" in 2006:

- April 6, 7, 8
- July 6, 7, 8
- October 5, 6, 7

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!!

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 Allied 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:

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

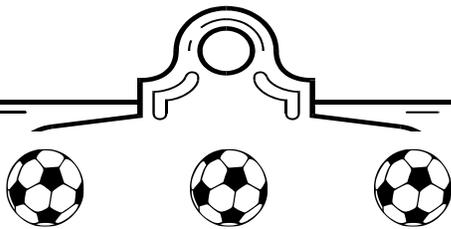
Township Website www.amhersttownship.us

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.



AMHERST TOWNSHIP **PARK ADDITION**

Construction of the In-line fence is now complete. This fence will separate the recently purchased 3.6-acre park addition from private property.



Amherst Youth Soccer Association

Children age 5 through the 8th grade may register for the Spring Soccer League on January 19, 2006 from 6:00-8:00 pm at the Nordson Depot. Soccer will start the first week of April. Players must be 5 years of age before July 31, 2006. Players are not required to be Amherst students.

For players under the age of 8, a copy of their birth certificate will need to be supplied, along with \$30.

All other players will need to supply a small picture of themselves (2"x3") to be used for a player's pass, a copy of their birth certificate, along with \$40.

A second sign-up will also be held on February 4, 2006 from 10am to 2pm at the Nordson Depot.



Local K of C **to Sponsor** **Youth** **Free Throw** **Championship**



All boys and girls ages 10 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the 2005-2006 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship. The local competition will be held on January 8th at 6 pm in the St Joseph School Gym. All contestants are recognized for their participation in the event. Participants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent. For entry forms or additional information contact: Joe Miller at 984-2101.

FEATURED EMPLOYEE

Jim Yorks is our featured employee. Jim has worked for the Township for 5 years. He is currently on the Zoning Commission and was previously a member of the “Safety Task Force”. As a member of the Zoning Commission, Jim needs to study and be familiar with the Amherst Township Zoning Resolution. The Zoning Commission makes decisions on rezoning, handles special requests from individuals on rezoning, and reviews “Site Plan Reviews”, signs, and text changes to the Zoning Resolution. They are also looking at the goals and vision of the overall “Comprehensive Use Plan” for the future of the Township. The Zoning Commission usually meets once a month. However, with the Quarry project, Conservation Development, the “Comprehensive Use Plan” and the “Route 58 Corridor Plan”, the last two years have been very busy with many extra meetings and public hearings.

Jim enjoys meeting new people in the township as well as working with his fellow commission members, the township trustees, and other county officials. He finds the job to be gratifying, as he is made aware of future development projects (like the “Quarries”) and can be a part of the design phases so that the township’s concerns can be addressed prior to breaking ground. He also appreciates the opportunity to give back to the community by sharing his talent in an effort to promote quality, controlled growth. Jim finds the job to be difficult when they are unable to grant an applicant’s request and when weighing private property owner’s zoning rights vs. enforcing development standards in the best interest of the township as a whole. He also dislikes when there is an aversion toward political agendas and meetings that last too long.

Jim is a registered architect and president of the A & E firm of James A. Yorks Architect and Associates in Amherst, Ohio. He is responsible for directing design, development and managing the consulting and construction administration of the studio’s commissions. Jim started his own practice in 1998 specializing in private residential and commercial design. For the previous 15 years, he was employed by Star Builders Inc., during which time he held many positions such as carpenter, project manager, vice president, and principle architect in the commercial/industrial facilities development areas. Jim has been working since he was in the 6th grade and some of his previous positions include being a



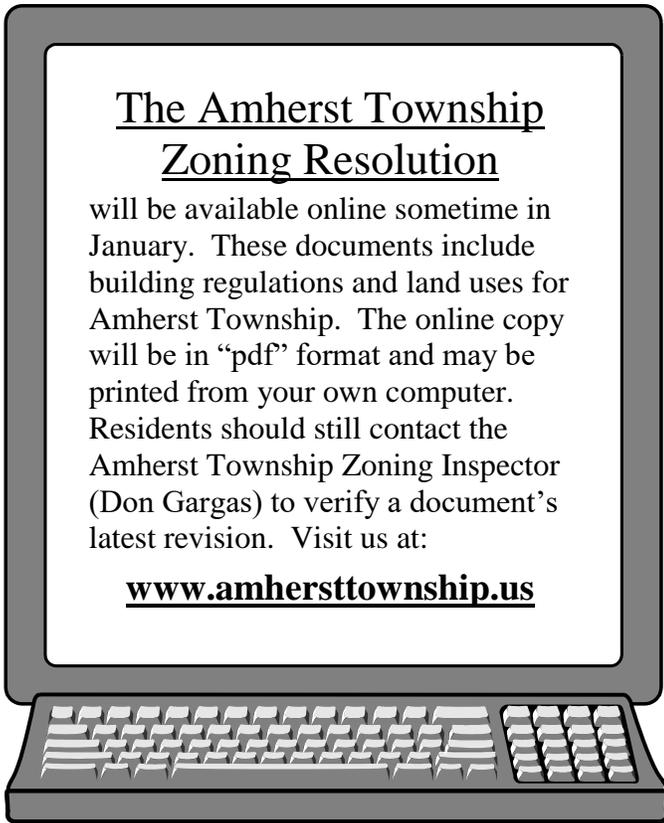
paper boy, a baker, a grounds care taker, a gas station attendant, a sign painter, a draftsman, a product designer, a furniture designer, and an interior designer.

Jim is a 1984 Bachelor of Architecture Graduate from the University of Cincinnati’s College of Design, Architecture, Art and Planning. He graduated from Elyria West High School. Jim is a life long Lorain County resident and has been living in the township for the last 20 years.

Jim is a single, proud father blessed with 5 children: Kristi (20), Amy (18), Austin (15), Landen (13), and Nathan (11). He is energetically involved with their academic, sports, band, choir, and drama club activities. He also enjoys golf, travel, fishing, and woodworking.

Jim is very active in the community. His other affiliations include: Co-Chair for the City of Amherst Historical District, Design Review Board; Board of Directors for the Amherst Library – Trustee; Member of the Ohio Library Council; Board of Directors for the Amherst Rotary Club and past president; Member of the International Building Code Council; Board of Directors for Amherst Mainstreet – Design Committee Chairman; and past president of the Amherst Noonday Club.

We would like to thank Jim for being a valuable part of our community, and for taking the time in his busy schedule to serve on the Amherst Township Zoning Commission!



F.A.C.E.

The Face Board has approved a project that will improve the Township Park. The Project will include rest rooms, a concession stand, and a meeting room, all contained in the same building. The project will require improvements in the parking lot and possible additions to the walking track. The plans are being prepared and we will have further information in later newsletters.

Currently the board is able to accept donations that are tax deductible. Please keep us in mind as you are making your year-end contributions.

Our board has 2 openings. If you have interest in helping enhance our community please call Howard Akin at 233-7624.



Snow Ban



Residents are reminded that there is a “Snow Ban” in effect in Amherst Township. If there are two inches of snow or more, vehicles should not be parked on the street.



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.



Allied Waste Services (BFI) Offers Senior Discount

If you are an Amherst Township senior who meets all of the requirements listed below, you are eligible for a discount that can save you approximately \$80 per year on your trash pickup bill:

- ✓ You have a Golden Buckeye Card.
- ✓ You are not employed outside the home.
- ✓ You have no children or boarders living with you.
- ✓ You are limited to 2 cans or 3 bags, weekly

To receive the discount, you must drop off or mail a copy of your Golden Buckeye card (showing both sides) along with acknowledgement that you meet the above criteria. **Do not** send this information with your bill, as it goes to a different location. The mailing address is:

Elyria Allied Waste/BFI
P.O. Box 4011
Elyria, OH 44036

For more details call 1-800-433-1309.



“ICE” Cell Phone Program

“In Case of Emergency”

With the popularity of cell phones and their use, the Lorain County Sheriff’s Office is making residents aware of a very simple program designed to aid emergency responders in their efforts to identify victims whose identity is unknown and/or in need of having a responsible person contacted. This program is totally voluntary and can be accomplished without the aid of your cellular provider.

The program known by the acronym I.C.E. for (In Case of Emergency) was first developed by the East Anglian Ambulance Service in England. The premise of the program is very simple. Cell Phone users are requested to make an entry into their cell phone’s address book with the indicator ICE. This ICE number listed in their cell phone address book should contain the phone number as a next of kin or other person that the subscriber would like to have contacted in the event of an emergency. This entry could be made even more specific and equally helpful by denoting the ICE entry as: ICE MOM, ICE DAD, etc. for quicker reference. Subscribers are encouraged to make more than one ICE entry in their address book in the event that one or more entries cannot be reached.

Often, people are in possession of their cell phones even when not carrying personal identification as might be the case when involved in athletic activities such as bicycling, running, walking, etc. It would also help out police, fire, ambulance, or hospital personnel if someone is involved in an auto-accident and they are unconscious, this gives emergency personnel a resource to reach out to the most important people.

The ICE program concept of sticking this information in your cell phone is not to be the “be-all-end-all” for contact of the next of kin. It’s just an extra thing you can do that doesn’t cost anything.

An additional benefit to deputies and police would be to provide officers the ability to return found cell phones to their owners when lost. Law Enforcement agencies routinely come into the possession of lost cell phones that are, at times, difficult to return to their owners.

Sheriff Stammitti and the Lorain County Sheriff’s Office would like to wish you a

**“Safe and Happy
Holiday!!”**

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 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.

Printed on Recycled Paper

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

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

Senior GAZETTE

Winter 2005

Carol Schmitkons, Amherst Township Senior Service Director

Medicare Changes for 2006

Correction from Fall issue: When you do not join during the open enrollment period, your premium cost will go up **at least 1%** per month for every month that you wait to join, not **10%** as stated in the last issue. Like other insurance, you will have to pay this penalty as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage.

The open enrollment period begins **November 15th and runs through May 15th**. If you join after May 15, 2006, the **next open enrollment period is November 15, 2006 to December 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.

If you have any questions about prescription drug card providers, Medicare supplement policies, or enrollment procedures, call the Senior Service Office at **988-5822** or call the **OSHIIP** hotline at **1-800-686-1578** or you can contact them by e-mail them at: www.ohioinsurance.gov.

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. Last quarter, only a couple of people expressed interest, so this will be your last chance to sign up. 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

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

Golden Acres Winter 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 and dislikes, and your special dietary needs.

The fall-winter menu cycle started in October. Some of the meals they are currently serving each month are Swiss steak, cabbage rolls, homemade lasagna, and corned beef. 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?

Snowplowing

Each winter, we get calls from seniors who are looking for people who do residential snowplowing. Here are the names of some commercial services near our community who do residential driveways. Now is the time to call them and find out prices and get on their list.

- Ally Builders Handyman Services at 986-2230 or 320-3510
- Owens Tree Service at 988-9258
- Perfect Image Landscape at 245-2185
- Dave's Snow Plowing at 988-3981 or Kathie(dispatcher) at 246-2034

Any other individuals in the community, who do driveways to earn a little extra money during the winter, can call the office & leave your name & phone number and we will be glad to give out your information when people call.

Timely Information for Seniors & Their Children

Periodically we receive a newsletter from “Cornerstone Consultants, Inc” of Wellington. A recent issue had information that was worth passing along to our residents. So with the permission of Tama McAleese, president of Cornerstone Consultants, we hope you will find these two articles helpful.

Tama hosts a call-in radio program (888-281-1110) on Saturday mornings from 10-11 AM on WHK, 1420 AM. This is a good place to gather financial information or ask questions.

Free credit reports

Every year “financially-fit” consumers are turned down for credit or are otherwise damaged by incorrect, incomplete, misleading, or fraudulent credit data.

Since paying your bills on time does not protect you from reporting errors due to sloppiness, mistaken identity, or fraud, it is vital to investigate who has been inquiring about you, if credit cards were issued in your name without your permission or maybe even sent elsewhere, and for any entries that do NOT belong in your credit record.

Thanks to a federal law, you can receive a **free** credit report on www.annualcreditreport.com, which is a Web site set up by the major credit bureaus. If you find inaccurate or fraudulent information, instructions are given for how to dispute the questionable entries.

If you pay bills on time, have no outstanding credit balances, and are not planning to borrow in the near future, **why** should you **bother**? Because your credit history can be used by companies to determine your rates for other purchases such as auto and homeowner insurance.

How to Prepare For an Emergency or Unexpected Event

Here are some items to have available for immediate access and to make your family representative or children aware of:

- ✓ A cash stash for emergency use for purchasing necessary items or to transact temporary business.
- ✓ Two sources of emergency funds for 3 to 6 months of budgeted expenses with check-writing privileges (ex. banks, credit unions, or money market mutual funds).

- ✓ A property and auto insurance plan with an extra personal liability umbrella policy if you have accumulated valuable assets.
- ✓ Up-to-date estate planning documents and copies of all beneficiary designations for financial accounts and insurance policies. Snowbirds should keep originals of wills and financial and health Power of Attorneys in a fire-retardant lock box that can go with you when you leave home for the winter.
- ✓ A current list of all credit cards, bank accounts, investments, license plate numbers and car VINs so you can react quickly to protect your personal life, property and assets if a theft occurs?
- ✓ Make sure that you post a list of address and phone numbers for important people like your doctors, lawyer, clergyman, insurance agent, and emergency contact and for the local fire and police departments near the phone. Give your designated family representative a copy of this list plus the following: 1) a list of your personal financial accounts numbers and passwords, pertinent representative names and phone numbers, 2) a list of what bills need to be when and how they are paid (on-line banking, check (where you keep your checkbook) or electronic fund transfer (**remember**: they will need to be designated on the accounts to be able to access them), 3) a record of your computer passwords, how to access important files and where to find your backup file disks, and 4) a list of important keys and where the items are they go to.
- ✓ Labeled master key board that includes keys for all cars, house, out buildings and other important items such as a lockbox, safety deposit box, home safe or off-site storage facilities.
- ✓ Lockbox with key attached so you can access its information away from the home. Store it near a fire exit along with several flashlights and lots of charged batteries.
- ✓ If you have to suddenly flee home, do you keep your cars’ gas tanks nearly full and are there county maps in each which show all the area’s back roads?
- ✓ List of each family member’s vital medications should be taped to the refrigerator door for easy access in case they need to be rushed to the hospital.
- ✓ A communication system is a must during disasters or a family crisis. Do all family members know where to go or whom to contact?

E-Mail Address: amhersttwpseniors@comcast.net