

AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Summer 2006

Vol. XI No. 2

Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities through the "Blue Bag" program (1st quarter):

- 0.9 tons of aluminum cans
- 4.6 tons of bi-metal cans
- 8.7 tons of glass
- 2.5 tons of HDPE plastics
- 2.0 tons of PETE plastics
- 19.5 tons of newspapers

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

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:

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!!

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 Szefczyk, 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
Fiscal Officer (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 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. Urig.....988-8256
(Lighting, Buildings, Solid Waste, Phase II Storm Water/ Environmental Strategy, Alternate County Health Rep.)

Fiscal Officer (Clerk)

John Koval233-5744

Road Superintendent

John Szefczyk988-7045

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 Eppley324-3921

LifeCare Ambulance, Inc.

Maude or Herb DeLa Porte.....323-6111

Sheriff's Department.....329-3710

Township Website www.amhersttownship.us

Amherst Township Trustee Meetings may be viewed on Amherst Cable Channel 12. They will air for 7 days, running Mon thru Mon, following the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. Air times are at 9 am, 4 pm, & 11 pm. Zoning Commission meetings will be shown 8 am, 3 pm & at the conclusion of the 11pm Trustee meetings. All airings are subject to change.

NOACA Awards \$75,000 TLCI Grant

The Northeast Ohio Area Wide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) has awarded Lorain County and Amherst Township \$75,000 as part of NOACA's Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI). NOACA is responsible for transportation and environmental planning in Northeast Ohio, serving all county, municipal, and township governments in Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina Counties.

The TLCI planning grant program provides federal funding assistance for communities to conduct or contract for the planning of transportation improvements that help advance the Initiative's goals. These goals include:

- Enhance the economic viability of existing communities within the region
- Enhance the regions quality of life
- Foster compact land use developments
- Facilitate accessibility by improving the range of transportation choices by adding or improving pedestrian, transit or bicycle facilities
- Improve the safety and efficiency of the existing transportation system.

Amherst Township has been working with D.B. Hartt, a Planning and Development Consultant, for the past two years to update the township's Comprehensive Plan established in 1995. Many meetings have been conducted that have included the Amherst Township Trustees, Zoning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, Residents, Property Owners, County Departments, the Ohio Turnpike Commission, the Ohio Department of Transportation and public service providers. It was clear during these meetings that there is a desire to minimize the tax burden placed on residential properties by pursuing reasonable economic development in Amherst Township.

An area of Amherst Township that received a more focused analysis for economic development included the SR58 and SR113 corridors, an area that includes 2000+ acres. To facilitate economic development in this area, a transportation network

must be developed that adequately manages increased traffic in a manner that minimizes traffic concentration and congestion.

Amherst Township and Lorain County have been working in collaboration to enhance the region's quality of life. With the completion of the Ohio Turnpike interchange at SR58, and the much-needed sanitary sewers that are now available, there is a need to establish a more detailed transportation plan to avoid fragmented development. It is the goal of Lorain County and Amherst Township to foster Transportation Oriented Development that maintains the potential for excursion rail service, and includes vehicular traffic and transit stops and bike/pedestrian paths.

The \$75,000 TLCI Planning Grant federal funds, along with \$18,750 in local matching funds, will be used to develop a detailed transportation plan, and conduct a traffic study of the SR58 corridor near the Ohio Turnpike interchange. The study will be used to determine the most advantageous locations for proposed intersections that will connect the vacant land west of SR58 with the Ohio Turnpike junction, and lead to reasonable economic development.

The study will concentrate on the intersections of SR58/SR113, SR58/Middle Ridge, SR58/Turnpike Interchange, SR113/Pyle-South Amherst and Middle Ridge/Pyle-South Amherst. At the conclusion of the planning study, a schematic road layout should result that provides Lorain County and Amherst Township with the best locations for an East/West boulevard and supporting interconnections.

The Amherst Township Trustees would like to thank the many stakeholders that have participated in the planning activities to date, and look forward to your continued involvement. A special thanks goes out to Ms. Linda Blanchette and the Lorain County Community Development Department for preparing the TLCI grant application, and their support of collaboration with Amherst Township in advancing the goals of economic development for the regional area.

FEATURED EMPLOYEE

Jim Conrady is our featured employee. Jim has worked for the Township for about 5 years. As a current member of the Zoning Commission, Jim's duties range from discussing zoning permits and zoning change requests, to interpreting our township constituent's needs and future goals – based on the Amherst Township Zoning Resolution and the Ohio Revised Code. The board listens to concerns and details of plans and proposals, trying to predict the township's growth speed and evolving infrastructure. This can be pretty daunting at times, but they try to make the best decisions based on the information, homeowner input, and professional opinions at their disposal.

Jim likes the complexity and variety of the decisions that the board makes and also the details that they encounter. He feels they often come away with a new, deeper understanding of issues as well as emerging consequences from stagnant thinking. However, there are times that not acting on an issue appears to be a better course of action than trying to solve an existing symptom. What he finds difficult about this job is that many of us, as residents of Amherst Township, want to keep things the way they are, but not preparing for future growth in the area can leave us at a serious risk of uncontrolled growth and city-type headaches. And with any decision that the board makes, there are always critics.

Jim is a Tech Ed teacher for the Midview School District in Grafton. From time-to-time he also teaches part-time at the Lorain County Joint Vocational School. Jim also publishes a monthly technical newsletter for a national car club which he started in 1985, for a French sports car, the SIMCA.

F.A.C.E.

Edie Tiller has joined the FACE board, filling a 4-year term. Edie is the manager of the First Federal Branch that just opened on the corner of Rt. 58 and Park Ave.

The board continues to plan for a campaign to raise monies to build a community center and rest room facility in the Amherst Township Park.



Jim spent most of his childhood in the Amherst area, and still feels privileged to be able to reside here. He attended college at Kent State University where he graduated with a BA in 1978 and an MA in 1980. Jim “bought the farm” here in Amherst Township about 15 years ago, and loves this area. He and his family have 15 acres and enjoy every minute of living here. Jim and his wife Sherrell have been together almost 12 years and have a son, Kenny, who is in the fourth grade. Sherrell is a Guidance Counselor at the Avon Middle School.

For fun Jim collects and restores European sports cars and other vehicles such as SIMCA, Lotus, MG, Maserati, Matra, Renault, antique tractors, antique Grumman motor home, Cushman scooter, etc. He likes European travel, and writes to his friends in France and Germany when he can't get over for a visit. He has also been restoring his century home, and loves antiques, flea markets, and internet auctions. Jim enjoys taking his cars to car cruises, target shooting, motorcycling, and anything car-related (swap meets, vintage racing, rallying).

Jim is currently a Cub Scout leader and a Builder's Club advisor (a public school group that is affiliated with Kiwanis). Jim is also the president and founder of the SIMCA Car Club of America.

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

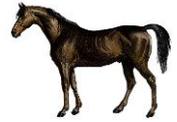
PRIDE DAY 2006

As part of Pride Day, flowers were planted at the Amherst Township Hall and the Amherst Township Park on Middle Ridge Road. Planters were also hung at the Township Hall. We would like to thank the following Amherst Township business's for their donations for this project:

- * Thome Farms
- * Don Mould's Plant Outlet
- * Adkins Greenhouse & Flower Shop



NO PETS IN PARK



To preserve the park for public uses, and to protect the health and safety of those using the park, the Amherst Township Trustees passed Resolution No. 10/04/02 stating that 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).

Enforcement of this resolution began on **March 1, 2003.**

Signs are posted in the park stating that pets are not allowed.

Kendeigh Cemetery



Middle Ridge Road Cemetery



A 25' Flag Pole was installed at each of the Township's cemeteries. We would like to thank the Amherst VFW Post 1662 (Commander Don Wagner) for donating all U.S. flags flown by Amherst Township.

“New” Recycling Incentive Program

Amherst Township will have a new incentive program in 2006. An address will be drawn at random each week and then a township representative will check the address that week. If it is observed that the address is participating in the “Blue Bag” recycling that week, then the address will win a gift certificate to a local business. The incentive program will run for approximately 20 weeks during this summer. Addresses will be eligible for only one prize during the contest.

“Blue Bag” Pick-up

Amherst Township continues to investigate alternatives to the weekly curbside “Blue Bag” pick-up that may entail less frequent pick-up. This is due to a reduction in funding for community recycling programs by the Lorain County Solid Waste Management District. Amherst Township received only \$54,732.14 (including \$2,000 for a district mandated incentive program) for 2006. This left only \$52,432.14 for “Blue Bag” recycling. The “Blue Bag” recycling cost alone is \$70,290. The \$17,557.86 deficit is currently being covered by the township's general fund. At this newsletter's printing, no decision had yet been made by the township trustees as to an alternative pick-up program.

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.

\$370 – Resident

\$636 – 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 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.

Printed on Recycled Paper

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

**PRESORTED STD.
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO.179
LORAIN, OHIO**

NOTE: Meeting Times:

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

Senior GAZETTE

Summer 2006

by Carol Schmitkons, Amherst Township Senior Service Director

2005 ATSSO Year-End Report

Meal Program: We delivered 4,257 meals to 32 different participants during 2005. At 1,310 more meals than 2004, we averaged 5 more meals per day than in 2004 and 10 more than in 2003. Our meal drivers drove a total of 3,630 miles to take meals to our seniors.

Transportation: We made 23 trips, totaling 461 miles, to get our clients to their appointments.

Support Services (one-on-one work with clients):

We spent 121.4 hours filling out forms and helping clients get the services that they need by assisting them with phone calls to agencies, or by going to appointments with them. Of these hours, 58.8 were used for the Medicare counseling program, which is administered by the Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIIP).

Referrals: We sent 3.9 hours referring 15 clients to various agencies and services around the community.

Grants: In 2005, we applied for and received two grants. One grant is for support services from the "Ohio Department of Aging", which is administered by the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging. This grant will offset the cost of assessing clients' needs, aid them in filling out the paperwork that is necessary to obtain the needed assistance, and then follow up on their progress. The other grant is a "Community Development Block" grant from the Lorain County Commissioners that offsets costs for our meal program. This grant was obtained as part of a proposal submitted by the "Lorain County Office on Aging" for a "Community Development Block" grant to offset the cost of delivering meals to people with low to moderate incomes.

Transportation Program Changes

In 2005 the Amherst Township Senior Service Office averaged only 1 or 2 calls per month requesting a ride. Therefore, seniors needing a ride should call **Charlotte Metz** at the "Lorain County Office on Aging". She can be reached at **244-6261** (Lorain) or **326-4826** (Elyria). Ask for **extension 4826**. Please call her as soon as you know the time and date of your doctor appointment so she can arrange for someone to pick you up. In case of an emergency or short notice for an appointment, we will still try to assist you. Please call **988-5822** for those needs.

Medicare Part D Updates

Seniors who have not enrolled in Medicare Part D by May 15th will have to pay a \$2.24 per month penalty in addition to the regular plan premium. **You will not be able to enroll in a plan until the next open enrollment period, which begins November 15, 2006 and runs through December 31, 2006.** Coverage will not start until January 1, 2007 and will include the \$2.24 penalty. After that, the next enrollment time will not begin until November 15, 2007 and the premium penalty will grow to **\$6.08** per month. Only seniors with very low incomes and assets will not be affected by the premium penalty, which is calculated at 1% for each month of delay in enrolling.

As a reminder to those on Medicare plus Medicaid, Medicaid Spend Down, or those enrolled in a Medicare Savings Program (such as QMB and SLMB), you can change plans monthly if your current plan does not meet your needs.

If you are having problems with the plan you have, you can get help from one of the following:

- **Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIIP)** at 1-800-686-1578
- **Pro Seniors** at 1-800-488-6070
- **Medicare** at 1-800-633-4227
- **Greater Cleveland Access to Benefits Coalition** at 1-866-885-1650
- **Ohio Medicaid** at 1-800-324-8680

If your problems cannot be solved by any of these agencies, call the **Senior Intake Line of Legal Aid** for Lorain County at 1-800-444-7348.

Beginning November 15th through December 31st, Part D participants will be able to re-evaluate their plans to make sure they continue to be the most cost effective way to meet their prescription needs. I have found that people who have added or changed medications during the plan comparison stage often found a different plan was cheaper than the one initially selected. I would encourage people who fall into this category to schedule an appointment during that time to have your medications re-entered to see if you should make a plan change.

Montessori-Programming provides Help for Those with Dementia

Recently, I attended a gerontology class on this topic at Tri-C. I was happy to find a program where the initial assessment made on a dementia patient evaluated the basic skills still remaining rather than those they no longer have.

Cameron Camp of the Myers Research Institute in Beachwood, Ohio and his colleagues have studied the highly-structured activities, developed by educator Maria Montessori, to allow young children to learn by manipulating objects in a manner that engages their minds, but rarely cause them to fail. Mr. Camp has adapted these kinds of exercises for older people with dementia, tailoring them to the individual's background and interests. Drawing on the fact that people with Alzheimer's and other types of dementia "live in the moment," Camp feels his job is to give these people as many good moments as he can by focusing on the strengths and abilities that still remain rather than their problems and deficits.

The focus at the Myers Research Institute is an individual's remaining basic skills – can they read, sort, categorize, or manipulate objects? Then they customize activities for these skills because at any stage of dementia there is a range of capability. If you give people a reason to get out of bed, activities that engage them and allow them to feel successful, they will be happier in the

settings they find themselves in. It doesn't matter if they make mistakes. It's more important that they enjoy the process. Camp's research has shown that those who engage in this type of mental and physical stimulation tend to exhibit fewer signs of agitation, depression and anxiety. Furthermore, the activities can help patients maintain the motor skills needed to feed themselves or button buttons and they can also trigger memories, then conversations that connect the patient and the caregiver.

Why is this important? Today more than 70 percent of people with dementia are being cared for in the family home. As this irreversible brain disorder progresses, it robs the individual of their memory and eventually impairs most of their mental and physical functions. This method gives family members many ways to keep their loved ones, who are increasingly more debilitated by their dementia, ways to bring moments of sunshine and rays of hope into their otherwise frustrating and long days of caregiving.

To download samples of Mr. Camp's activities for dementia patients, go to the following websites:

www.alz.org

www.aarp.org/bulletin/longterm

www.myersresearch.org

E-Mail Address: amhersttwpseniors@comcast.net

What to Save and What to Shred

Seniors often ask which records are important to keep and for how long. Here are the answers:

- ✓ **Cancelled checks:**
 - For permanent improvements to the home or relating to the purchase or sale of property, loans, mortgages or non-deductible contributions to an IRA, keep indefinitely.
 - For tax deductible contributions to charities or to pay real estate taxes, keep 7 years, which is the time the IRS can check on a return.
- ✓ **Income tax returns:** Keep whatever relates to the return for 7 years.
- ✓ **Invoices or sales receipts:**
 - For large item purchases (such as furniture or appliances), keep for as long as you have the item, in case you need to provide the value for insurance purposes.
 - For warranted items or those that may possibly be returned, keep only as long as the warranty or return period exists.
- ✓ **Deposit, ATM & Debit Card receipts:** Save until transaction appears on a statement and the information is verified as correct.
- ✓ **Statement of “creditable” prescription drug coverage from former employer or union:** Keep forever in case you later need to switch to Medicare Part D coverage. This will allow you get Part D without a penalty.

- ✓ **Credit Card, Bank, Mutual Fund, and IRA statements:** For those with no tax or other long-term significance, save for 1 year. For those containing tax-related items, save for at least 7 years. If you get a detailed annual statement, discard the monthly statements. Monthly statements involving disputed bills and proof of their payment, along with any of your objections, should be kept indefinitely.
- ✓ **Documents for Sale or Purchase of Investments:** Keep for as long as you own them and for 7 years after that.
- ✓ **Utility bills:** Once they are paid, shred and discard them. If you are selling your home, then keep them for a year to show potential buyers what your utility costs are.
- ✓ **Old accounts:** Unless they are needed for tax purposes, dispose of proof of old bank and brokerage accounts, life insurance policies and other assets that you no longer own. When keeping for tax purposes, you should mark them with date closed or sold and keep them for 7 years.

Always shred or tear up any documents with identifying information.

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