

# AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Fall 2006

Vol. XI No. 3

## Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities through the "Blue Bag" program (2<sup>nd</sup> quarter):

- 1.0 tons of aluminum cans
- 5.0 tons of bi-metal cans
- 9.4 tons of glass
- 2.7 tons of HDPE plastics
- 2.1 tons of PETE plastics
- 21.1 tons of newspapers
- 7.0 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:

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 Szczyk, 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  
Fiscal Officer (clerk).....988-5894  
Road Superintendent (garage) .....988-5833  
Email: [amhersttwproads@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto: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.)

## Fiscal Officer (Clerk)

John Koval .....233-5744

## Road Superintendent

John Szczyk .....988-7045

## Amherst Twp Senior Services Office

Carol Schmitkons.....988-5822  
Email: [amhersttwpSeniors@comcast.net](mailto:amhersttwpSeniors@comcast.net)  
Office Hours – Mon thru Fri – 8am to 12 Noon

## Fire Prevention Officer

Wayne Eppley .....324-3921

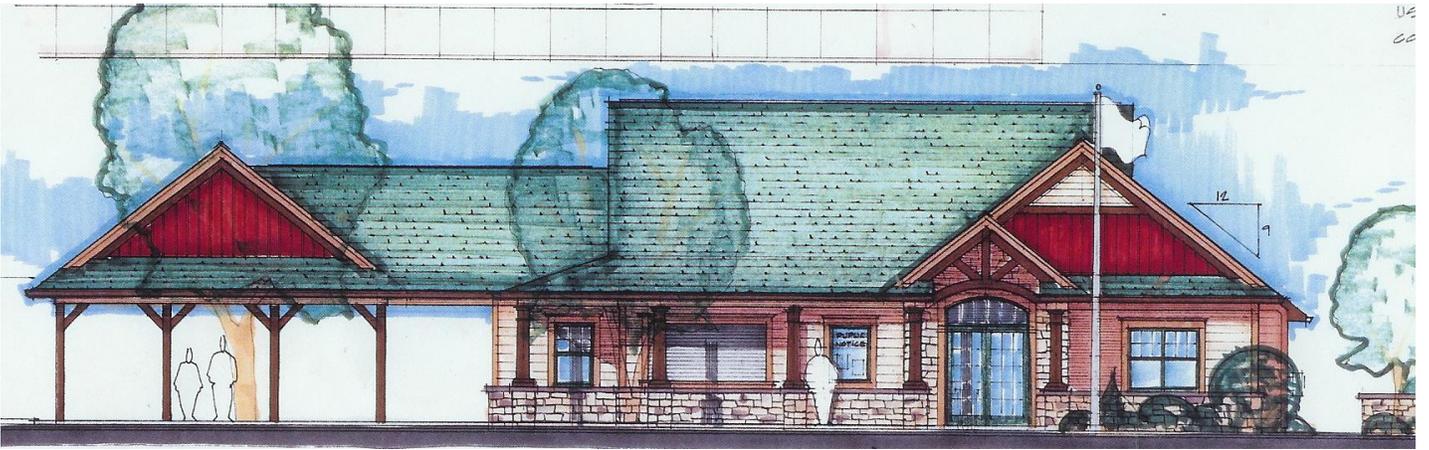
## LifeCare Ambulance, Inc.

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.



## **THE ALL-PURPOSE AMHERST TOWNSHIP PARK CENTER**

Funding Amherst Community Enhancements (F.A.C.E.) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization whose purpose is to explore and obtain funding and services to enhance the quality of life for all the residents of Amherst Township and the surrounding areas by seeking funds through grants, donations, and volunteer efforts.

As its first major project, FACE is planning to create an All-Purpose Park Center at the Amherst Township Park located on Middle Ridge Road, the only public park in the Township. The park's 13.6 acres contain four (4) soccer fields, two (2) baseball-softball fields, a playground for young children, hiking trails, portable toilets, an aging picnic pavilion, and a 62-car parking lot. The Township Park is open year-round from dawn to dusk and has enjoyed approximately 10,000+ adults and children visitors per year.

### **THE NEED**

A lack of adequate support facilities in the face of increasing usage is dictating the need for a new and expanded Park Center. For example, at present, there are no indoor toilets or running water, no adequate electrical service, no concessions stand for refreshments, no indoor rooms in which smaller groups can meet and/or eat. In addition, the parking

lot and toilet facilities provide limited access for people with disabilities, severely restricting enjoyment of the park by this segment of our community.

### **THE GOALS**

Goals of this project include: increased usage of the Park, enhanced satisfaction and increased support of those who do use it, and a greater attractiveness of the Park to a wider variety of community groups (such as, seniors and people with disabilities). The new facility will allow more diversified use by community groups, organizations and individuals. The planned indoor meeting room will be used for seniors to meet, outdoor educational programs to be held, various groups to hold meetings, and families to schedule weddings and reunions.

FACE invites all township residents to submit suggestions for inclusion in this first project and ideas for future undertakings. Suggestions should be sent to:

F.A.C.E. Chairman, Mr. Howard Akin  
c/o Amherst Township Hall  
7530 Oberlin Road  
Elyria, OH 44035



### **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**

### **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**.

## FEATURED EMPLOYEE

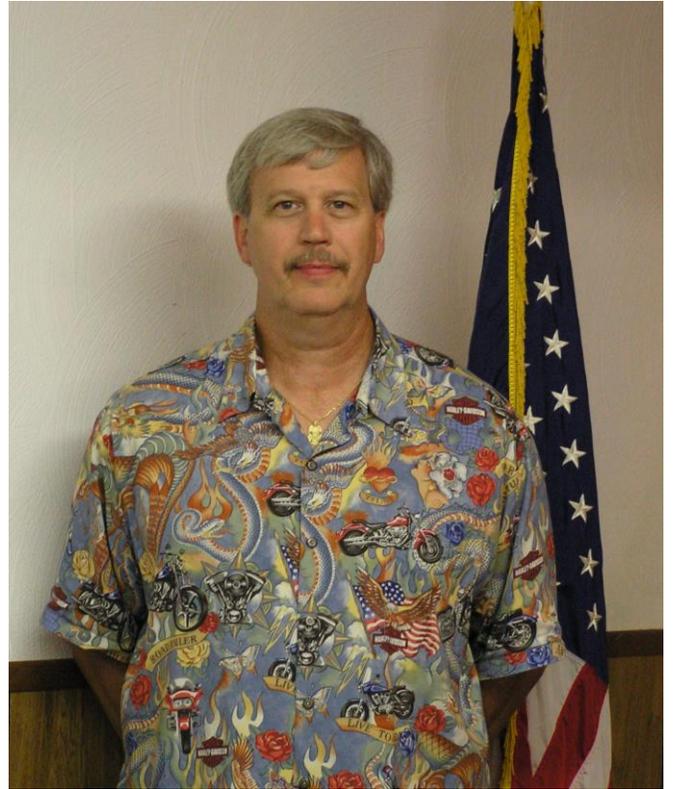
Roy Cochran is our featured employee. Roy has worked for the Township for about 5 years. If someone wants to do something that does not necessarily agree with the current zoning, they bring it before the Board of Zoning Appeals. Examples may be lot splits, building, or running a business that is not a permitted use in the area. The BZA also annually reviews all of the “Conditional Uses” in the township to make sure everyone is still in compliance. Sometimes the board must make very difficult decisions on an appeal. This often means that someone will be disappointed, as there are often two sides of the appeal. As a BZA member, Roy likes being involved in the future of the township.

Roy is a Captain on the Lorain Fire Department and holds the position of Training Officer. He is also the owner of “Excalibur Solutions”, a business that offers consulting and training services to industrial clients on OSHA (Occupational Safety & Health Administration) compliance issues.

Roy has lived in the township for about 15 years. He has been married to his wife Pam for 21 years. Pam is a Geriatric Nurse Practitioner at Kendal of Oberlin. Their two grandchildren live with them, Riley is 6 and Devyn is 5.

Roy was raised in Lorain and has been a Lorain County resident for most of his life. He graduated from Lorain County Community College and is currently a student at the University of Cincinnati, enrolled in their “Fire & Safety Engineering Program”.

For fun Roy enjoys sports, outdoor activities, and riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle.



Roy is affiliated with several organizations relating to his profession and is an associate member of the “Safety Professional Organization”. He is also a member of the Church of the Open Door where he is active in the men’s ministry.

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

### STREET LIGHTS OUT

If you notice a street light out near your home, residents are encouraged to contact Ohio Edison by calling their “Automated Outage Reporting”

### New Board Members

The Board of Zoning Appeals recently acquired two new members. We would like to welcome to the board Kirsten Penton Hill, who is filling a regular board member position, and Marcie Jaworski, who is filling an alternate position. Thanks to both of you for your interest in serving your community.



**Attention!**  
**Hidden Valley Residents**

Please do not rake leaves onto the street as it restricts water flow into the catch basins when it rains, causing drainage problems for you and your neighbors! The township does not pick up leaves. However, you can bring leaves and other yard waste to the Township Garage for disposal.

**Your Yard Waste**

Limbs, brush, grass clippings, and leaves may be brought to the Township Garage at 7350 Oberlin Road. Hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Monday thru Friday, and from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Saturday. There is a composting area at the rear of the property where the items may be placed.

**Please – limbs, brush, grass clippings, and leaves only!**

No garbage, refuse, or other items allowed. It has come to the attention of the Township Trustees that garbage and refuse have been left with the compost material. This causes extra work and cost to the township. It is not the intent of the composting program to provide other refuse disposal.

**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](http://www.lifecareambulance.com).

For more information about LifeCare as well as links to other related websites visit:

[www.geocities.com/lifecaredispatch](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.



**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. For drop-off times, days, and location, see “Your Yard Waste” and the front page of this newsletter.

**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 obtained 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.



# Remember to Vote!



This year's general election will be on Tuesday, **November 7<sup>th</sup>**. Please exercise your right to vote. Remember that to be eligible to vote this fall, you must take along your driver's license or a photo ID to show to the poll workers. New registrations and change of addresses need to be completed by **October 10<sup>th</sup>**. You can register at any county Board of Elections office, any public high school or vocational school, any Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles, any public library, or the county treasurers' office, to name a few of the locations. Registrations can also be mailed to the county board of elections or the Secretary of State's Office, but they must be postmarked at least 30 days prior to the election.

If you are unable to get out and vote but you would still like a say in how our country is run, call the Lorain County Board of Elections at **244-3186** to

request an absentee ballot, or visit their website. Absentee voting begins on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The Lorain County Board of Elections is located at 1985 N. Ridge Road East, in Lorain. For more information about voting and other registration locations, visit the Lorain County Board of Elections website at:

<http://lorainboe.erienet.net>

**Your vote counts!** The percentage and number of voters in our community influences many of the decisions that affect Amherst Township. Let's show the rest of Lorain County how committed Amherst Township residents are to exercising their rights by voting!

**Please vote on Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>**



## SIGNS



### *From the desk of the Zoning Inspector:*

Fall brings some new activities and this fall it will include Elections.

This brings up the placement of **Political Signs**. Amherst Township limits the size of these signs to **8 square feet**. No permit is required for Political Signs, but the permission of the property owner is required. These signs may be placed 30 days prior to Election Day and must be removed 10 days after the election.

Also, if a fall garage sale is in your plans, remember that if you place signs on near-by corners or on property other than your own, **you are required to**

**have that property owner's permission.** Please keep your signs to a reasonable size such as 8 square feet. Also help keep the Township litter free by removing and properly disposing of the signs when your sale is over.

If you are preparing for winter with the installation of replacement windows, home insulation, or a new furnace, the Township does not require a permit for these, but always choose a qualified contractor. We do not require contractors to be licensed or bonded in the Township, but it is recommended that you check for these kinds of assurances.



# TRICK OR TREAT



“Trick-or-Treat” in Amherst Township will be held on **Sunday, October 29<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 29<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.



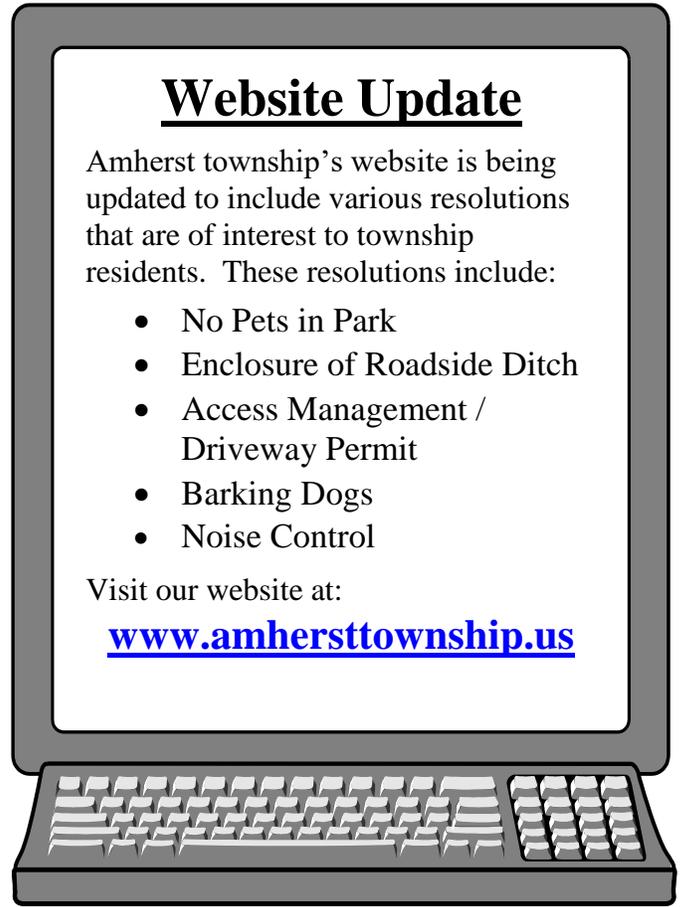
## Website Update

Amherst township’s website is being updated to include various resolutions that are of interest to township residents. These resolutions include:

- No Pets in Park
- Enclosure of Roadside Ditch
- Access Management / Driveway Permit
- Barking Dogs
- Noise Control

Visit our website at:

[www.amhersttownship.us](http://www.amhersttownship.us)



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Elyria, OH 44035  
www.amhersttownship.us

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### **NOTE: Meeting Times:**

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

# Senior GAZETTE

Fall 2006

by Carol Schmitkons, Amherst Township Senior Service Director

## Home-Delivered Meal Program

In the fall, we send out surveys to all who have participated in our meal program during the previous year. We ask them what they have liked about the program and what changes they would like to see made. They also help make the decision as to whether the current meal provider should be retained for the next year, or if we should get meals from another source in the area. We try our best to gear our program to the needs of those we serve.

The winter months will soon be upon us once again and perhaps you don't find it as easy to get to the grocery store or to cook for yourself as you did when you were younger and had more energy and your health was better. Why not let us help you out? Getting a hot meal once a day and having someone check on you to make sure you are OK sure can brighten up those the gloomy winter days. The meal cost is based on your income level, so if you need to stretch your monthly income, this may be a way we can help you.

## Think Fast to Minimize Stroke Effects

Fewer than one in five Americans can recognize even one stroke symptom. Stroke is the leading cause of death in America. Recognizing stroke symptoms and reacting quickly to get treatment can save lives and minimize stroke effects or even reverse them. The **National Stroke Association** has launched a campaign to make recognizing a stroke easy. Just think **F.A.S.T.**

- **F**ace - Ask the person to smile. Does one side of the face droop?
- **A**rms - Ask the person to hold both arms up evenly. Does one arm drift downward?
- **S**peech - Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence. Are the words slurred or mixed up?
- **T**ime - If the person shows any of these symptoms, call 9-1-1 immediately. Brain cells are dying.

Up to 80 % of strokes are preventable. Stop smoking, keep blood pressure, cholesterol and diabetes under control, and manage atrial fibrillation (a condition where the heart beats irregularly) to reduce stroke risk. More information about strokes can be found by contacting the National Stroke Association at **1-800-STROKES** or go to their website [www.strokes.org](http://www.strokes.org).

## Safeguarding Your Social Security Number

Recently, we have heard much in the news about identity theft and lost VA information that contained Social Security numbers. Why all the fuss?

Your Social Security number is the key that unlocks the door to a wealth of information about you personally. Much of it could spell disaster if it got into the hand of any criminal. Social Security is working hard at trying to prevent this from happening. Here are some things they have recently done:

- Specific proofs of age, identity, and citizenship are required for anyone applying for new or replacement Social Security cards.
- All documents that are used as proof must either be originals or copies certified by the issuing agency. Photocopies or notarized copies will no longer be accepted.
- Social Security numbers have been removed from all benefits checks. Only the last 4 digits are used on Social Security mailings.

Here are some additional ways you can protect your information:

- Keep your Social Security Card in a safe place with your other important papers. Do not carry it with you unless you need to show it to an employer or a service provider.
- Giving your social security number is voluntary. If it is requested, ask how it will be used and why it is needed.

## Vision Impairment

Vision impairment is one of the most feared disabilities among Americans. Although it is believed that half of all blindness could be prevented, vision loss continues to increase. Age-related eye diseases are the leading causes. The number of older Americans affected by age-related eye diseases, such as **retinopathy, cataract, glaucoma** and **age-related macular degeneration**, is expected to double over the next 30 years. The best ways to minimize these problems are 1) to schedule regular preventative eye exams, 2) to manage diabetes, 3) to wear sunglasses to protect your eyes from too much UV radiation from the sun, and 4) to control your cigarette and alcohol consumption & diet. To learn more about these diseases and how you may be able to preserve your vision, visit [www.preventblindness.org](http://www.preventblindness.org).

## Medicare Part D Update

### How the Coverage Gap Works

After most Medicare Part D plan deductibles of \$250 have been met, people only pay 25% of the cost for their next \$2000 worth of medication. Then comes the period called the “coverage gap” or “donut hole” when individuals who are on expensive medications must pick up the next \$3600 of their medications on their own with no subsidizing from the government. Currently, the government is saying only 10% of those covered by Part D will fall into this category. Is there any help available for those who do enter this dark, scary money pit? Here are some things these people can do:

- **Keep using your Medicare drug plan card** even while in the “coverage gap”. The card insures you’ll get the Drug Plan’s negotiated discount rates and the money you spend counts toward your catastrophic coverage, which begins once you have spent \$3600 out-of-pocket for drug costs in a calendar year.
- **Ask your doctor** about generic or less expensive brand-name drugs that would work just as well as the ones you’re taking now. Switching to a lower cost drug is often enough to help you avoid the “coverage gap”.
- **Look into other “wraparound” coverage sources** that you may be able to qualify for. Check with current or former employers, unions, and State Pharmaceutical Assistance Programs. Here in Ohio, if you are on very expensive medications, consider choosing the “Humana Complete” plan for next year. It has a higher premium, but your medication cost stays the same all year long, even during the “coverage gap”. In the long run, the most expensive plan will save you a lot of money since you will not be paying the full price of your drugs during the “coverage gap” period.
- **Look into Patient Assistance Programs** like RxAssist, Xubex, Free Medicine and Wellpoint. They will help during the “gap period” or if your medication is very expensive even with Part D coverage. These programs all have Internet sites, but if you do not have Internet access, please call Carol at **988-5822**. She will be able to tell you if your medication is on their formulary list, the program requirements, and how to apply.
- **Explore National and Community-based charitable programs** that might offer assistance. Examples of these are the “National Patient Advocate Foundation” or “National Organization for Rare Diseases”.

### Open Enrollment Period

Remember, seniors who have delayed enrolling in Medicare Part D, those who wish to change plans or who just want to make sure their current plan is still the best choice for them if their medications have changed, may do so by calling Carol at **988-5822** during the 2006 open enrollment period, which begins **November 15<sup>th</sup>** and continues through **December 31<sup>st</sup>**. Coverage changes will go into effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007. If you failed to sign up for a plan before the May 15, 2006 deadline, you will have to pay a **\$2.24** a month premium penalty (which is applied on top of the regular plan premium) and starts in January. After that, the next enrollment period will not begin until November 15, 2007, when 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 calculated at 1% for each month of delay in enrolling.**

The Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIIP) is planning a “Medicare Re-Enrollment Day” for Lorain County on **Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>** at the Lorain County Community College from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. From 10:00-11:30 there will be speakers from OSHIIP, Social Security, and Jobs and Family Services to help people understand the changes for 2007. They can also answer questions about the current program. From 1:00-4:00, OSHIIP counselors will be on hand to run plan comparisons and to help seniors make changes. If you are unable to attend, you can call Carol to answer your questions or to schedule a home visit.

### How to Arrange for a Ride

Seniors needing rides to doctor appointments should call **Charlotte Metez** at the Lorain County Office on Aging to arrange for pick up. You can reach her at **244-6261** (Lorain) or **326-4826** (Elyria) and her extension is **4826**. Please call as soon as you know the time & date of your doctor appointment. The Amherst Twp. Senior Service Office will only be assisting clients who have a non-life-threatening emergency or short notice for an appointment. You may call **988-5822** for help with those needs.

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

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