

AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Winter 2006

Vol. XI No. 4

Recycling Report

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

- 1.0 tons of aluminum cans
- 5.0 tons of bi-metal cans
- 9.5 tons of glass
- 2.7 tons of HDPE plastics
- 2.2 tons of PETE plastics
- 21.3 tons of newspapers
- 6.0 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 2007:

April 12, 13, 14

July 5, 6, 7

October 4, 5, 6

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
Fiscal Officer988-5894
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

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

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 – 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 BUILDING PERMITS

In 2006 there was a change in the state law stating that by May of 2007 all Cities, Villages and Townships in Ohio are to be covered by Building codes. Therefore, on November 14, 2006, by a unanimous vote of the Amherst Township Trustees, Amherst Township joined seven other Lorain County townships as a part of the "County Residential Building Department". This means all 1-, 2-, or 3-family dwelling units, whether new structures, additions to an existing home, or a change of use will be required to have a Building Permit. Permits are only required for residential buildings. Outbuildings (such as sheds, barns, or storage facilities), agricultural structures, and detached garages are not subject to Building Code permits.

The County's inspectors are all certified in the State of Ohio. The inspections are completed in the evenings and on weekends. Currently there are no daytime inspections. However, in the near future the "Lorain County Building Department" hopes to employ their first daytime inspector. The "Lorain County Building Department" is a State certified department.

February 1, 2007 will be the effective date that "Building Permits" are required in Amherst Township. The township's website will post copies

of the residential building permit requirements, applications and fee schedule as well as the Lorain County Building Code. If you plan to hire a contractor to work for you, please verify that they are registered with the "Lorain County Building Department". As a homeowner you are permitted to complete the work yourself or hire a contractor. In either case, you will be required to "pull" a permit.

The Lorain County Building Department is located at 216 Third Street, Elyria, OH. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Please contact this office to make arrangements to get your permit. If you have any questions concerning these new regulations, please call Linda at (440) 328-2330.

Commercial and Industrial structures are subject to State Building permits as they always have been. If you are building a Commercial or Industrial structure, contact the state of Ohio. If you need the contact information you can call the "Lorain County Building Department" for assistance.

Other townships that are also members of the "County Residential Building Department" are Sheffield, Columbia, Elyria, LaGrange, Penfield, Grafton, and Eaton townships.



Broadway Ave. / Taylor St. Sanitary Sewer Project

The State of Ohio EPA has issued administrative orders to the County to install sanitary sewers in the Broadway Ave./Taylor St. area. On June 14, 2006, bids were opened to construct the sewers, which were 12% below the Engineer's estimate. On October 26, 2006, the Lorain County Economic Development Coordinator, Rebecca Jones, released information that \$382,400 has been received from CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) for partial funding of the project. Construction of the

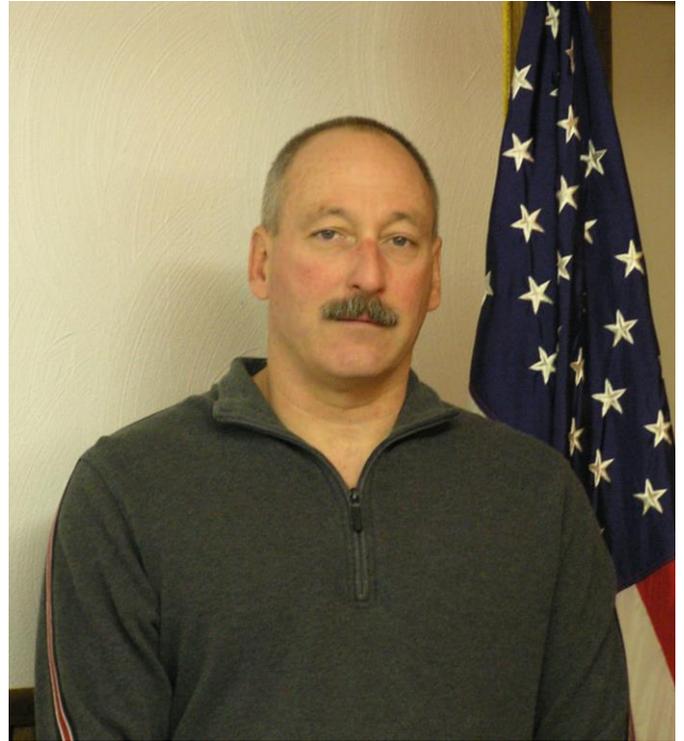
Sanitary Sewers will begin in early December 2006, with an expected completion in October of 2007. An additional \$123,600 has been received from CDBG for low to moderate-income residences to help with their on-lot connection costs. Contact Lorain County Economic Development Coordinator Rebecca Jones at (440) 328-2326 to determine if you qualify for on-lot sanitary connection financial assistance.

FEATURED EMPLOYEE

Darryl Saladin is our featured employee. Darryl has been on the Zoning Commission for about 24 years. As a member of the Zoning Commission, Darryl 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 land use, 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. As a Zoning Commission member, Darryl likes to see all of the changes over the years, and there have been plenty of them. Darryl finds the job to be difficult when the meeting load gets heavy and it becomes hard to juggle all of the meetings between his work schedules. The past 2-3 years have been challenging with all of the zoning activity that is going on in the township.

Darryl works for the Ford Motor Company in Brookpark and hopes to retire in 7 years.

Darryl grew up in the township and has lived here for 51 years. He graduated from Amherst Marion L. Steele High School in 1973. He has been married to his wife Patricia for 25 years. They have two children. Their daughter Jennifer is 21 years old and is in her 4th year of college. Their son Bryan is 19 years old and is in the carpenter' apprenticeship program. Darryl also graduated from Local 42 Plumber's and Pipefitter's Hall.



For fun Darryl likes to take the family on vacations. His hobbies are racing and hunting. Darryl also belongs to the "Midwest Supermodified Association".

We would like to thank Darryl 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!



Amherst Youth Soccer Assoc.

Children age 5 through the 8th grade may register for the "Spring" Soccer League on January 18, 2007 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, 2007. Players are not required to be Amherst students. "Spring" sign-ups are for the 2nd half of the season only. If a child signed up for the "Fall" season, they are already registered for the "Spring" season.

For players under the age of 8, a copy of their birth certificate will need to be supplied, along with \$35.

All other players (age 9 & older before July 31st) will need to supply a small picture of themselves (2"x3") to be used for a player's pass, and a copy of their birth certificate, along with \$50.

A second sign-up will also be held on February 2, 2007 from 10am to 2pm at the Nordson Depot.

New Board Member

We would like to welcome Glenn Thome to the Zoning Commission. He will be filling an alternate position. Thank you for your interest in serving your community.

More Website Updates

"Community Development Planning" is a new section that has been added to the website. This section includes information on our growing community. Of special interest is the "Amherst Township Comprehensive Plan" as well as the "SR58 Corridor Study" which includes the presentations given by HNTB for the Route 58 Traffic Study. Check it out at: www.amhersttownship.us.



Snow Ban



Christmas Tree Disposal



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.

Amherst Township residents may bring their live Christmas Trees to the rear of the Amherst Township Garage Monday through 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 6th.



Recycling Incentive Contest

In 2006, a new recycling incentive contest began May 1st and ran for 20 weeks. Addresses were randomly pulled on a weekly basis. If the chosen address had a “Blue Bag” of recyclables on the curb for pick-up, the resident won a gift certificate. Two households per week were awarded.

Having an incentive program is an eligibility requirement of the “Solid Waste Grant” award received by Amherst Township.

All winners, including the 2005 fall raffle winners, received a \$50 gas card from “Law’s Auto Service” Marathon Station.

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.

Fall 2005

“Dumpster Event” Recycling Raffle Contest Winners:

Tim Russell, Sharie Riccardi, Gary Lamier, Florence Gnizak, Robin Gnizak, Michael Gargas, Tom Flanagan, Walter Bonhotel, Greg Ashley, and Richard Herman.

2006 “Curbside” Incentive Contest Winners:

Lopez – 139 Westwood Mobile Park
 Ward – 43725 Middle Ridge Road
 Dinsmoor – 848 Deer Run
 Kimmick – 482 Oaknoll
 Kozak – 7555 Leavitt Road
 Percival – 8688 Oberlin Road
 Karolak – 48241 Rice Road
 Lottman – 45500 Telegraph Road
 Perez – 170 Westwood Mobile Park
 Rudolph – 323 Westwood Mobile Park
 Cioffi – 878 Moss Canyon
 McCarty – 7360 Hidden Glen
 Tolstick – 160 Westwood Mobile Park
 McDonald – 8920 Oberlin Road
 Tokarczyk – 45320 Old Middle Ridge Road
 Tylicki – 47600 Middle Ridge Road

Citro – 6339 Juniper
 ? – 9109 Leavitt Road
 Nunamaker – 226 Rustic Hill
 Eikleberry – 422 Oaknoll
 Cantanese – 198 Westwood Mobile Park
 Fortner – 48086 Rice Road
 Schmauch – 44125 Telegraph Road
 Studstill – 87 Westwood Mobile Park
 Fly – 44655 Middle Ridge Road
 Maines – 46105 Middle Ridge Road
 Menefee – 125 Hidden Tree Lane
 Schlechter – 44070 Telegraph Road
 Niece – 182 Westwood Mobile Park
 Ferguson – 8596 Bechtel Road
 Salinas – 209 Cottontail Court
 Payne – 44460 Albrecht Road
 ? – 230 Amherst Mobile Home Park
 Gill – 290 Westwood Mobile Park
 Dulmage – 8219 Oberlin Road
 Folkwein – 47305 Middle Ridge Road
 Elliott – 9 Westwood Mobile Park
 Matesik – 6642 Rosedale
 Weir – 494 Oaknoll Drive
 Duerk – 44069 Telegraph Road

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.

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**.

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

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

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

Senior GAZETTE

Winter 2006

by Carol Schmitkons, Amherst Township Senior Service Director

Home-Delivered Meal Program

Next year's meal provider will be Golden Acres Lorain County Nursing Home. 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 gloomy winter days. 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.

I wish to send along a special thanks to all those who have volunteered their time to deliver meals this year, especially Jake & Phyllis Nekich, Keith Rumpler, Debbie Senko, and Ray & Dottie Roth. We couldn't do it without your help!!!

Aging & Disability Resource Network (ADRN)

The Administration on Aging (AoA) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) joined forces to fund "Real Choice System Change Grants" that would enable people of all ages with disabilities or long-term illnesses to live a meaningful life in the community. The Ohio Department on Aging (ODA) was awarded a 3-year grant. Through contract with the ODA, the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging (WRAAA), of which we are a part, is to create the ADRN as the pilot site for Ohio. Its purpose is to:

- 1) Create a coordinated approach to integrating information and referral for all available services, both public and private, to individuals aged 60+ and for people with disabilities age 18 and over.
- 2) Provide streamlined access to long-term care services through a network of service providers.

Check out their website www.ConnectMeOhio.org. This program is meant for consumers and their caregivers, provider organizations and the Greater Cleveland community.

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

Lorain County Prescription Discount Cards Available

- ✓ Free enrollment
- ✓ No limits
- ✓ Use whenever prescription not covered by insurance
- ✓ No age requirements – no need to be Medicare beneficiary to enroll
- ✓ No income requirements
- ✓ Family coverage
- ✓ Average savings 20%

Visiting Nurses Association (VNA) Healthy Town Website

The "Healthy Town" website presents new and improved, easy-to-use information specific to improving the health of seniors in our community. Log on to "Healthy Town's" website at www.vnahealthytown.org for:

- Fast Facts
- Prevention Checklist
- Health Profile
- Links to Resources
- Download and print brochures

VNA also has a second website that is helpful for seniors. It is www.htseniorscreen.org. This site will give you the following information:

- Identify your health risks
- Get your personal prevention checklist
- Access information for a healthy you

How to Arrange for a Ride

Seniors needing rides to doctor appointments should call **Charlotte Metez** at the Lorain County Office on Aging at **244-6261 (ext. 4826)** from Lorain or **326-4826** from Elyria to arrange for pick up. Please call her as soon as you know the time and date of your doctor appointment. We 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 these needs.

Holiday Blues, Depression, or Dementia??

Here at the office I see my mission as ensuring continued quality of life for the older adult residents of Amherst Township. Our office exists to help all township residents over the age of 60 maintain their independence and freedom to live with dignity.

As the holiday season approaches, I become more aware of many older adults struggling to enjoy life – a mate may be gone, the kids may live far away, the circle of close friends may be dwindling, forgetting things may make one fearful, and health issues may be increasing. Suddenly the golden years don't seem so golden any more. Zest for life is often replaced with pain, bitterness, anger and resentment. The holiday season, meant to be a time filled with good memories and the counting of our blessings and designed to give us new hope and vision for the new year ahead, suddenly loses its appeal. One looks in the mirror and suddenly feels old, useless and lonely and dread of the holidays and fear of what the future holds sets in.

Depression and dementia are ugly words in my vocabulary, but for many older adults they are a real part of the holidays. Instead of joining in holiday

festivities, family traditions and making memories that will live on long after they are gone, many prefer to sit in a dark lonely room and dwell on the “what if’s” or the “if only’s”. Here are some ways to recognize that you have a problem and realize that it’s time to get help, so your holidays can once again be filled with my favorite word, joy.

- ✓ Causes of Depression
 - Medical conditions
 - Reaction to pain and disability
 - Medications
 - Life events & personal crisis
 - Family history
 - Personality
- ✓ Get help now; don't wait until it gets worse!
 - Check with your doctor – he knows your family history, yours meds, your health problems
 - Share with a close friend or family member who’s known you for a long time & whom you trust
 - Talk to a counselor or a clergyman

What about Dementia? How is it Different from Depression?

	<u>Depression</u>	<u>Dementia</u>
<u>Onset:</u>	Abrupt or gradual; often result of life changes	Gradual and unrecognized; no specific cause
<u>Prognosis:</u>	Usually responds to medicine	Progressive decline over time; often irreversible
<u>Mood:</u>	Depressed, anxious, irritable	Stable; irritated and agitated when under stress or with change
<u>Attention:</u>	Fluctuates	Normal until advanced stages
<u>Thinking & speech:</u>	May be slow, impaired concentration, but logical; expresses helplessness, hopelessness, and low self worth	Difficulty with abstract thinking; may make poor judgments; words become difficult to find
<u>Memory:</u>	Possible problems with recent and remote events	Short-term memory problems more severe over time
<u>Time of day issues:</u>	Often complains of feeling worse in the morning	“Sundowning” common; agitation with change in routine or when tired
<u>Symptom duration:</u>	Relatively short with gradual improvement	Long, with worsening over time

E-Mail Address: amhersttwpseniors@comcast.net

Medicare Updates

Open Enrollment Period

There will be even more Part D plans to choose from in 2007 – 61 to be exact, so you might find that one of the new plans better meets your needs. Seniors who have delayed enrolling in Medicare Part D, wish to change plans, or just want to make sure their current plan is still the best choice, may do so by calling me at **988-5822** during this year's "open enrollment period", which begins on **November 15th** and continues until **December 31st**. Coverage changes will go into effect January 1st, 2007. If you failed to sign up for a plan before the May 15, 2006 deadline, you will have to pay a monthly premium penalty which will be applied on top of the regular plan premium starting in January. After that, the next enrollment time will not begin until November 15, 2007 when the premium penalty will grow from **\$2.24** 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.**

Medicare Helps You Stay Healthy

Utilize Medicare's preventive benefits by asking your doctor or health care provider to discuss which of the preventive services you need and how often you need them. Covered benefits include:

- Bone mass measurement
- Cardiovascular screening
- Colorectal cancer screening
- Diabetes screening
- Services & supplies
- Vaccinations for flu, pneumonia, & hepatitis B
- Glaucoma screening
- Pap test& pelvic exam with clinical breast exam
- Prostate cancer screening
- Screening mammogram
- Smoking cessation counseling
- "Welcome to Medicare" physical exam, which now includes an ultrasound screening for abdominal aortic aneurysm during the first six month you are eligible for Medicare benefits

2007 Medicare Amounts

➤ Part A

- Hospital deductible.....\$92 per period
- Hospital co-pay\$248/day In-patient days 61-90
- Skilled Nursing Facility Co-pay\$124/day

➤ Part B

- Monthly premium.....\$93.50
- Annual deductible\$131
- Copay 20%

Secondary Insurance

Many people ask me about which type is best when they become eligible for Medicare. Here's an easy way to think about it:

- Group Health plans from a former employer or union are usually the cheapest & best supplements to Medicare if you're lucky enough to have one available, even if you have to pay part of the cost.
- Medicaid is state assistance to those with limited income & resources.
- Medicare Supplemental Insurance is private insurance designed to coordinate with original Medicare. There are 12 standard plans (A-L) which pay all or most of the remaining costs after Medicare pays their portion. There is no network of providers or facilities with these plans and you are guaranteed the right to purchase one of these plans without medical underwriting, **but** they must be purchased within six months from the Part B effective date for those over 65 years of age.



*May your Holiday & New Year
Be Filled with Great Joy!!!!*

