

AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Summer 2007

Vol. XII No. 2

Recycling Report

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

- 0.7 tons of aluminum cans
 - 3.7 tons of bi-metal cans
 - 6.9 tons of glass
 - 2.0 tons of HDPE plastics
 - 1.6 tons of PETE plastics
 - 15.6 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 2007:

July 5, 6, 7 **★(Incentive Contest)**

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!!

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.

Township Hall & Garage

Fax988-5877
Fiscal Officer988-5894
Email: amhersttwpfo@oh.rr.com
Road Superintendent (garage)988-5833
Email: amhersttwproads@oh.rr.com
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@oh.rr.com
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

Howard Akin233-7624

Road Superintendent

John Szeftcyk988-7045

Amherst Twp Senior Services Office

Carol Schmitkons.....988-5822
Email: amhersttwpseniors@oh.rr.com
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

TRUSTEE MEETINGS:

2nd & 4th Tuesdays of each month at **7:00 p.m.**

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.

Conservation Development

R. J. Perritt Homes will be developing a 20.31-acre parcel as a 41-unit, Single-Family, Conservation Development on the east side of Pyle-South Amherst Road, just north of Middle Ridge Road. The development will be called Copper Creek. Homes will range in size from 1,688 square feet to 2,720 square feet.

Approximately 9.6 acres of common open space will be deeded to a Homeowner's Association to be utilized as private open space and park area. The common open space area shall be conserved to permanently remain in a natural state, and the area shall be prohibited from being further developed with home sites. A walking trail will be constructed in the conserved wooded area for the use of the resident homeowners and their guests.

A multi-purpose rain garden will be constructed in the northern portion of the development. The rain garden will be an attractive landscaping feature planted with perennial native plants, will serve as a detention area for large rainfall, and is designed to absorb stormwater run-off from impervious surfaces, thus filtering the pollutants from the stormwater prior to discharge into the storm sewers.

Earthen mounding and landscaping will be constructed along Pyle-South Amherst Road to serve as an attractive entryway to the Copper Creek development, and to act as a buffer for the current and future Amherst Township Residents. A minimum 25-foot wide buffer area will surround the development. The conserved wooded area at the east end of the development will provide a nice buffer area for City of Amherst residents and Amherst township residents living nearby.

The approximate 1,761 feet of new road pavement will become a dedicated public street. Sanitary sewers, water and electric service will be provided by the City of Amherst. Storm sewers and pavement will be maintained by Amherst Township, while the street-side sidewalk, rain garden and common open space maintenance will be the responsibility of the Copper Creek residents.

To view more information on this project visit:

www.rjperritthomes.com

Click on "Home Sites" then on "Copper Creek".



FEATURED EMPLOYEE

Kirsten Penton Hill is our featured employee. Kirsten has worked for the Township since August 2006 as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, and holds the position of Secretary for 2007. If someone wants to do something that does not necessarily agree with the current zoning, they bring it before the ZBA. Examples may be lot splits, building, or running a business that is not a permitted use in the area. The ZBA also annually reviews all of the “Conditional Uses” in the township to make sure everyone is still in compliance. Kirsten enjoys learning about zoning and its purpose in the township.

Since 1995, Kirsten has been a co-owner of “Penton’s Farm Market” on North Ridge Road with her husband Andy. The business is a year-round farm market providing produce, deli, bakery, and specialty products to the community since the 1960’s. She also operated “Penton’s Pumpkin Patch”. In the past, Kirsten has worked for General Motors under an Internship, as an accountant at Wright, Griffin, Davis, & Co., CPA’s, and as an auditor and vice president at Key Bank in Cleveland. As an auditor she traveled nation wide before settling back in Amherst Township.

As the daughter of Bill and Gunver Penton, Kirsten grew up in Amherst Township. After attending college, she lived in Ann Arbor, Michigan and Lakewood, Ohio. She has now returned to the township to raise her children here. Kirsten graduated from Amherst Steele High School in 1982 as class vice-president. She received a “Bachelor of Business Administration” from Adrian College in Adrian, Michigan and a “Master of Business Administration” from Baldwin Wallace College. She is also a “Certified Public Accountant”, certified by the State of Ohio.

Kirsten has been married to her husband Andy Hill for 18 years. They have a 14-year-old son, Kyle, and a 12-year-old daughter, Nina.

Kirsten enjoys exercising and does so several times per week. She has completed several triathlons and a



marathon, but now runs shorter races each summer. She enjoys cooking and likes to try new recipes. Recently, she acted as the “General Contractor” on a Barn Loft construction project. She also attends her children’s sports activities.

Kirsten is a board member of “Amherst Schools Educational Foundation” and has been a past president of “Direct Agricultural Marketing Association of Ohio”. She is a member of OSCPA (Ohio Society of CPA’s) and of AICPA (American Institute of Certified Public Accountants). She was also a past member of the Lorain Family YMCA.

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

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

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.



Lorain County Sheriff's Community Policing Report

Driving Safety

Please be aware that bad driving conditions are still present. As thunderstorms arrive, it is important to pay close attention to standing water as well as water running across the roadways. It takes very little water to lose traction on the road surface, causing your vehicle to hydroplane and you to lose control.

REMEMBER!!! IF A ROADWAY IS CLOSED DUE TO HIGH WATER, DO NOT PROCEED PAST THE BARRIER.

Give yourself plenty of time when traveling and be aware of your fellow drivers.

As well as paying proper attention to roadway conditions, be aware of distractions inside your vehicle. Use hands free adapters for your cell phones or pull over to a safe spot until you complete your call. Limit your activities while driving to driving. Eating, talking on phones, text messaging, watching DVD players, and personal grooming while driving are examples of activities that lead to accidents. Trying to multi-task while operating a vehicle puts others as well as yourself in danger. Drive Safe.

Graduation Season

With graduation season here, the Lorain County Sheriff Office wants be sure that everyone has an enjoyable time. Extra DUI and Seat Belt enforcement will be in affect to assure that your graduation is a safe and memorable time.

I hope you all enjoy this summer and as always you can contact me at **440-329-3749** with any questions or concerns. **REMEMBER!!!** The above number is to my office and is not monitored 24 hours a day. If you have an emergency or a problem that needs immediate attention, dial **440-329-3710** or **911**.

Deputy J. Greiner
Community Policing Officer
Lorain County Sheriff's Office

PRIDE DAY 2007

As part of Pride Day, wood chips were spread and 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 businesses for their donations to this project:

- * Thome Farms
- * North Shore Landscape

Middle Ridge Road Left Turn Lanes

The Lorain County Engineer has received an Ohio Public Works grant for the installation of left turn lanes on Middle Ridge Road at "Eddystone Drive" and the north section of "Oberlin Road" in Amherst Township. The grant will cover approximately 83% of the estimated cost of \$100,000 for the improvements with the County Engineer covering the balance. The Lorain County Engineer studied five intersections on Middle Ridge Road. These intersections included Hidden Valley Drive, Dewey Road, and Nordson Drive as well as the two locations that will be improved. Three of the five locations did not meet the warrants as required by the "Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices" for the addition of a turning lane.

Plans for the "Eddystone Drive" left turn lane are complete and were advertised for bids in May, with construction to be completed this year. Designs for the left turn lane at "Oberlin Road (north)" are underway. This project will be advertised for bids when the design is complete.

F.A.C.E.

Please welcome Jim Kantola as a new board member of Amherst Township's nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, Funding Amherst Community Enhancement.

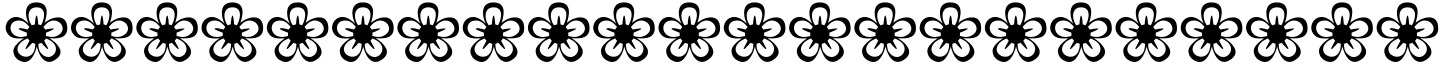
PAY-AS-YOU-THROW

A "Pay-As-You-Throw" (PAYT) program is being considered by the LCSWMD. "PAYT" programs allow residents to pay for solid waste services on a per-unit basis. The ultimate outcome is that the residents who throw away more, pay more.

The Amherst Township Trustees are considering a community-contracted hauler

"PAYT" program that would improve recycling and stabilize rates. No decision has been made to convert to the "PAYT" program at this time, but information provided by Allied Waste indicates that continuing with the current program will result in a higher cost increase to the township residents versus the "PAYT" program.

Stay tuned for further information in future newsletters or watch the Trustee Meetings on cable.



Recycling Incentive Contest

Back again in 2007, there will be an incentive program to encourage recycling. This incentive program is an eligibility requirement of the "Solid Waste Grant" award received by Amherst Township.

This program will consist of a raffle to be held in conjunction with the township's "dumpster events". To enter the raffle, simply fill out the entry form below. Bring the completed form along with a blue bag of recyclables or recyclable yard waste to the dumpster event. Winners will be drawn during one of the regularly scheduled Trustee meetings. Items that may be recycled in the blue bags are:

- "1" and "2" plastics (HDPE and PETE)
- Bi-metal cans (canned food cans)
- Aluminum cans
- Glass beverage bottles
- Newspapers

Newspapers are to be placed in a separate blue bag from the rest of the recyclables. Also, please rinse all food and beverage containers before placing them in a blue bag.

Winners of the April 2007 recycling contest received a \$20 gift certificate from one of the following township businesses:

- Don Mould's Plant Outlet
- "Law's Auto Service" Marathon Station
- Maggie's Greenhouse
- Steve Polansky Market, Inc.
- Thome Farms

The winners are:

Philip Bak, Charles Barckert, Elaine Birkline, Denise Bringman, William Bringman, Dale Cary, Tom Flanagan, Daniel Fly, Dave Fly, Dennis Hodkey, Sandra Jewell, Raymond Koba, Gary Lamier, Helen Podlich, Anne Poore, Sharie Riccardi, Jacki Rich, Barbara Shauck, Pam Welton, and Dorothy Wilford.

RAFFLE ENTRY FORM

For "Recycling Incentive Contest"

Dumpster Days: July 5th, 6th, and 7th

(Thursday, Friday, and Saturday – Time: 7:00am to 3:30pm)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

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.

“Building inspections” through the Lorain County Building Department may also be required. These building “inspections” are in addition to the building “permits” that are required from the Township. The Amherst Township Zoning Inspector can assist you for both of these requirements. A building “permit” from the township is required **before** applying for the building “inspection” from the county. Permits for both the township and the county may be viewed on the township’s website under “zoning”.

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
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NOTE: Meeting Times: Trustee Meetings at 7:00 p.m. – Zoning Commission Meetings at 6:30 p.m.
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Senior GAZETTE

Summer 2007

by Carol Schmitkons, Amherst Township Senior Service Director

Home-Delivered Meal Program

Want to make the most of those glorious days of summer? Sign up for home-delivered meals. The summer meal rotation started May 1st. 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.

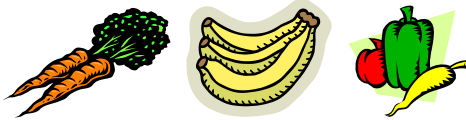
HELP NEEDED for Meal Program Drivers

One of our meal drivers is unable to continue delivering meals on a weekly basis due to health problems. We are in need of someone in the community to fill this spot on a weekly basis, as well as people who would be willing to sub on an occasional basis. The meals are picked up at Golden Acres and the route takes approximately 1¼-hours to deliver. Some assistance with mileage costs is available if desired. Please consider volunteering your time to this important community service.

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

Ohio's Best Rx & Golden Buckeye Rx Program to Merge

The drug component of the "Golden Buckeye Program" has been eliminated and management of "Ohio's Best Rx Program" has been transferred to the "Department on Aging". Eligibility for "Best Rx" has been expanded by changing the income guideline for Ohioans under the age of 60 from 250% of federal poverty to 300% of federal poverty. Current users of the Golden Buckeye prescription program age 60 or older are eligible for and will be enrolled in "Best Rx". Golden Buckeye cardholders can continue to use it to save on various products and services at thousands of participating merchants.



Healthy Meals



So you put on a few extra pounds over the winter and you want to get back into shape in time to enjoy summer sports, hobbies and yard work. The key to successful weight management: Physical activity and a mostly plant-based diet.

Many of us give up on the exercise part because we think we have to carve out large blocks of time to exercise each day; time that we don't have, especially if we're still working. Or, we just don't have the energy or stamina to last that long, so we rationalize that it's easier to do nothing. Let's start out gradually for say five to ten minutes a day. Try picking up a basket and doing a fast walk around the house stopping to pick up clutter, clothing or trash along the way. Then go up or down stairs to drop off items accumulated in a designated spot to be dealt with later. Make another round to water the plants or a trip out to the mailbox and back. Get out the vacuum and do a quick touch up of the carpeted portion of the house, and the broom or dust mop to touch up the bare floor areas. If you haven't used up your time, you can take a quick walk to the garden to see how things are growing. To add more time, wash the car, hoe the garden, or pick some flowers

to take to a family member or a neighbor. You'll be smiling because you've accomplished something while exercising, and you've worked in time to make someone else feel good too. Why not put a creative touch to your exercising and gradually increase the time along the way?

Now let's tackle the dinner plate. For most Americans, it contains a large piece of meat, a big serving of potatoes, and a teeny-tiny portion of vegetables. What's wrong with this plate is what's wrong with the American diet. Too much meat with saturated fat and too little vegetables and fruit with fiber and phytochemicals that help fight disease. We need to begin to slowly transition to smaller portions of meat, supplementing or replacing white potatoes with whole grain alternates and sweet potatoes, and dramatically increasing the amount of vegetables and fruits we're eating. We should not only move to a plate filled 2/3 or more with vegetables, fruits, whole grains and beans and 1/3 or less meat, poultry or fish, but also try reducing the amount we eat each day. First get the portions correct and then if you want to lose weight, gradually reduce portion sizes by about 25%.

Adult Day Care

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend an Adult Day Care Event at Wesleyan Village in Elyria. I would like to take this opportunity to make our community aware of the outreach services provided by Wesleyan Village's "Day Away" program. "Day Away" is a weekday alternative to home health care and is open from 7 AM–5 PM. Both full and half-day programs are available.

"Day Away" can give caregivers peace of mind while they are at work, a day's rest, time to themselves, time to complete errands, or a central place for a doctor visit and socialization for their loved one. "Day Away" provides:

- **Complimentary Assessment Visit** to determine the level of care needed, to understand any special concerns, and to give the participant and family the opportunity to see the program.
- **Health Services** provided by a Registered Nurse to help promote rehabilitation or to monitor medications. Optional services include occupational, physical or speech therapy, appointments with a dentist, a geriatric physician, an optometrist, a podiatrist or a social worker.
- **Safe and Secure Environment** with stimulating group and individual activities in a setting where areas are secured to ensure the well being of those participants who are at risk of wandering.
- **Socialization** for participants who might otherwise spend the day alone.
- **Opportunities for Employed Caregivers** to continue employment while caring for a family member at home.

- **Multiple Levels of Programming and Care** to meet the diverse interests and needs of participants. Some of the available activities are arm-chair travel, arts & crafts, exercise, gardening, movies, music & dancing, cards & bingo, music & pet therapy, inspirational messages, health monitoring and men's & ladies groups. Many activities are geared to the individual's level of functioning to give all participants a sense of dignity and worth.
- **Meals and Snacks** including nutritious and appetizing breakfast or lunch and an afternoon snack.
- **Personal Care Services** such as bathing and beauty & barber-shop care.
- **Optional Transportation and Van Outings.** Transportation within a 10-mile radius of the facility is available.

I'm sure many of you are thinking that such an extensive program may be out of your price range. You might be surprised to find out that thanks to arrangements with the VA, PASSPORT, Waiver 4, and the Alzheimer's Association, many people can get help paying for their participation in the program rather than having to pay the full price. To arrange for a complimentary assessment visit and tour, call "Day Away - Adult Day Service Center" at Wesleyan Village at **440-284-9288**; or check out their information at:

www.villageliving.com

New E-Mail Address!!: amhersttwpseniors@oh.rr.com

"Ohio Lifeline"

Save! Save! Save! On your phone bill with "Lifeline" from CenturyTel

Qualifications: Income at or below 150% of the 2007 federal poverty level (\$1,276/month for an individual or \$1,711/month for a couple) OR participation in one of the following programs:

- Federal Public Housing/Section 8
- Food Stamps
- Disability Assistance
- Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)
- Medicaid
- Ohio Works First (AKA Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF))
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI or SSD)
- National School Lunch's Free Lunch Program

Savings with CenturyTel "Lifeline":

- \$14.09 monthly discount for local service
- FREE phone line connection
- FREE Toll restriction
- NO DEPOSIT
- FREE optional blocking of 900 and 976 numbers
- Customers with past due bills may qualify for special payment arrangements on outstanding local charges.