

# AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Fall 2007

Vol. XII No. 3

## Recycling Report

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

- 0.9 tons of aluminum cans
- 2.1 tons of bi-metal cans
- 9.1 tons of glass
- 2.6 tons of HDPE plastics
- 2.1 tons of PETE plastics
- 20.4 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:

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 they may be downloaded from the Township's website.

## Township Hall & Garage

Fax .....988-5877

Fiscal Officer .....988-5894

Email: [amhersttwpfo@oh.rr.com](mailto:amhersttwpfo@oh.rr.com)

Road Superintendent (garage) .....988-5833

Email: [amhersttwproads@oh.rr.com](mailto: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](mailto:amhersttwpzoning@oh.rr.com)

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

Howard Akin .....233-7624

## Road Superintendent

John Szeftcyk .....988-7045

## Amherst Twp Senior Services Office

Carol Schmitkons.....988-5822

Email: [amhersttwpseniors@oh.rr.com](mailto: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

## Ohio Edison

Automated Outage Reporting Line ..... 1-888-544-4877

## TRUSTEE MEETINGS:

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

## 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 that 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.

## 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.



## Recycling Incentive Contest

Winners of the July 2007 recycling contest received a gift certificate from “Law’s Auto Service” Marathon Station.

Winner of a \$150 gift certificate is:  
Virginia Szilvasy

Winner of a \$124 gift certificate is:  
Gary Lamier

Winners of a \$200 gift certificate are:  
Bill Farlow, David Fly, Dennis Hodkey, Jeanette Kosakowski, Frank Lasso, Nancy Metzler, Aaron Schmitkons, Barbara Shinsky, and Kenneth Welton.

## SIGNS

**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.

**Garage Sale Signs.** 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.

A 2<sup>nd</sup> Lorain County Household Hazard Waste Collection Day will be held on Saturday, **September 29<sup>th</sup>** from 9am to 3pm. The two locations will be P.C. Campana Industrial Park at 3000 Leavitt Road in Lorain and Grafton Twp. Hall & Fire Station at 17109 Avon Belden Road in Grafton. For more information call the Lorain County Solid Waste District at 1-800-449-5463 or visit their website at [www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste](http://www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste).

## FEATURED EMPLOYEE

Mary Torma is our featured employee. Mary was previously on the Zoning Commission for 6 years, holding the position of Chairman for 2 of those years. She took some time off and came back to the zoning commission in 2002. As a member of the Zoning Commission, Mary 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, Mary enjoys developing and reviewing zoning plans, assuring that standards are met. She also enjoys working with the people in the township.

Mary is currently an Associate Professor at Lorain County Community College. She teaches courses in law, entrepreneurship, human resources, and management. Mary also has a private law practice.

Mary was born and raised in Lorain County and has lived here most of her life, with time out for college. She graduated from Lorain Catholic High School. Mary’s extensive college career includes a B.A. in Psychology from St. Mary’s College in Notre Dame, an M.B.A. from Baldwin-Wallace College, and a Juris Doctor from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. She is also licensed to practice law in the State of Ohio by the Ohio Supreme Court.

Mary and her husband Jerry have been married for 23 years. They have lived in the township for 19 years. Jerry works for Nordson Corporation. They have 16-year-old twins, Katie and Steve. Katie works as a lifeguard when she is not in school. Steve had a computer internship at Hyland Software in Westlake this past summer.

For fun, Mary loves to write. She has had 2 books published, and is currently working on a third book. She also enjoys walking, gardening, the Browns and the Cavs. She and her family enjoy volunteering together at various functions. They have done everything from serving lunch at a soup kitchen in Lorain to volunteering at the International Children’s Games in Cleveland. Mary also attends her children’s school activities.



Mary is a member of the Lorain County Bar Association, the Ohio State Bar Association, and the American Bar Association. She has served as a Vice-Chair of an American Bar Association committee and has been trained in mediation by the Lorain County Bar Association. She is also a member of the United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship. Mary serves as a member of the St. Peter Church (Lorain) Finance Council. Over the past 30 years she has served on many boards in various leadership capacities including president of Common Ground in Oberlin, member of the 1985 class of Leadership Lorain County, chairman of the Lorain County Woman of Achievement Luncheon, president of the Lorain YWCA, president of the Northeast Ohio Hospital Systems Society, president of Altrusa, member of the Lorain Catholic High School Foundation Board, and secretary of the St. Joseph Hospital Foundation Board.

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

# Zoning Amendment Ballot Issue

A group, known as “Consolidated Investors Group”, owns land to the east of Route 58 and south of the Turnpike. The CIG land located within 1,500 feet of Route 58 has, for several years, been zoned General Business (GB-1). As part of the Amherst Township “**State Route 58 Corridor Study**” and comprehensive rezoning in February of 2007, approximately 55.7-acres of CIG land to the east was zoned to Mixed Use (MU-2). This Mixed Use zoning extends from the general business zoning to approximately half way between Route 58 and Oberlin Road (See Zoning Map on next page).

In keeping with the spirit of the State Route 58 corridor studies, CIG proposed that the 55.7-acre Mixed Use and 42.7-acre Residential/Agricultural (R-AG) land to the south be rezoned to General Business (See **Zoning Map area bounded by dashed line**). This approximate 98-acres of land would become part of the existing general business district, thus providing the Township with a larger general business district, immediately adjacent to the Turnpike. Having the general business zoning in place would permit potential businesses to confidently begin planning and investing considerable sums without fear of the time delays and other costs involved in rezoning.

CIG has been in discussions, through brokers, with national retailers and other potential users and developers. All of which generally require 100-acres with general business zoning.

The rezoning would permit growth and development in a controlled way at a location in the Township that minimizes the impact on Township residents. It would improve the opportunities for increased real estate tax and other tax revenue for the Township. Further, there would be more

opportunities for jobs and for the services provided by the retailers and other establishments that would be located in the development.

During the Public Hearings, concerns were raised with respect to adult entertainment. CIG agreed to voluntarily prohibit adult entertainment uses in the land to be rezoned to general business and in its land that had already been zoned for general business. The restriction was placed in a deed. An executed deed has been delivered to the Township Trustees. It will be easier for the Trustees to enforce the prohibition on adult entertainment, through the deed restrictions, than it would be through the Township's zoning laws.

After considering all of these matters, the Zoning Commission unanimously approved the rezoning. Subsequently, a majority of the Trustees adopted Resolution 5/8/07, rezoning the land to General Business (GB-1).

As provided by the Township zoning resolution, petitions were circulated to have an election concerning the rezoning.

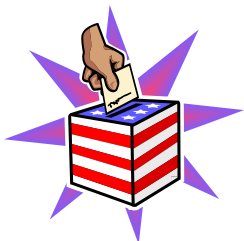
The question before Township voters will be whether or not the area bounded by the dashed line in the Zoning Map should be rezoned from 55.7-acres of Mixed Use (MU-2) and 42.7-acres of Residential Agricultural (R-AG) to 98.4-acres of General Business (GB-1). A sample of the ballot language and the zoning map are shown on the following page.

**Please exercise your right to vote  
regarding this question on**

**Tuesday, November 6, 2007**



## **REMEMBER**



**TO VOTE**

This year's general election will be on Tuesday, **November 6<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 9<sup>th</sup>**.

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 **326-5900** to request an absentee ballot, or visit their website. Absentee voting begins on October 2<sup>nd</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>

# PROPOSED ZONING AMENDMENT

## NO. 5/8/07

AMHERST TOWNSHIP (unincorporated area)

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

(Full text of resolution is posted at this polling place.)

A resolution to amend the Amherst Township Zoning Map and rezone 98.142 acres of land, being 55.6908 acres from MU 2 (Mixed Use Office/Industrial), and 42.7274 acres from R-AG (Residential/Agricultural) to GB-1 (General Business).

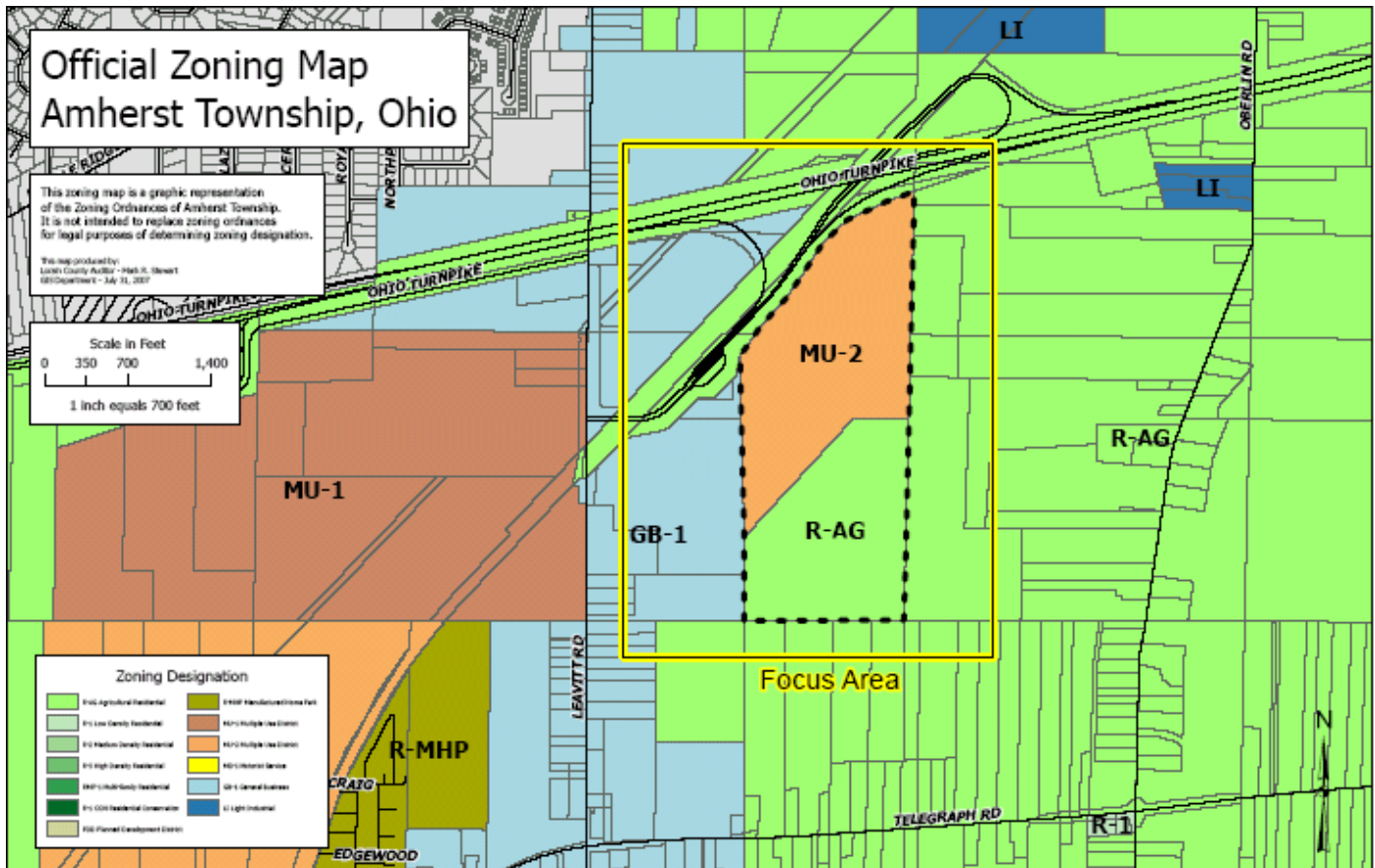
The amendment proposes to rezone: permanent parcel nos. 05-00-046-000-037 and 05-00-046-000-038 and the easterly portion of 05-00-047-046-026, east of the existing GB-1 zone line, from MU-2 to GB-1; and

the easterly portion of permanent parcel no. 05-00-047-000-028 east of the existing GB-1 zone line, from MU-2 and R-AG to GB-1; and

permanent parcel no. 05-00-047-000-004 from R-AG to GB-1.

The proposed rezoning is located approximately one-quarter mile east of State Route 58 and immediately south of the Ohio Turnpike/State Route 58 Interchange.

<b>YES</b>	<b>SHALL ZONING AMENDMENT NO. 5/8/07 REZONING PARCELS OF LAND IN AMHERST TOWNSHIP AND AMENDING THE ZONING MAP BE APPROVED?</b>
<b>NO</b>	





# TRICK OR TREAT



## PERMITS REQUIRED

“Trick-or-Treat” in Amherst Township will be held on **Sunday, October 28<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 28<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.



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”.

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

PRESORTED STD.  
US POSTAGE  
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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

Fall 2007

by Carol Schmitkons, Amherst Township Senior Service Director

## Home-Delivered Meal Program

Are you working on fall yard clean up or house cleaning and find you have no time to cook a balanced lunch or dinner? Why not sign up for home-delivered meals. 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: Meal Program Drivers

We are in need of someone in the community to fill a vacancy in our weekly meal driver rotation as well as a few 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 cost is available if desired.

## Life-Time Plan for Continuing Care at Home

Many older adults would like to stay in their home as their health worsens, rather than having to go into a long-term care facility. There are many new solutions being designed to meet this desire. One of the best in our area is “Kendal at Home”. While it may not be an affordable answer for everyone, it might give you another option to consider.

“Kendal at Home” is a continuing-care retirement community that has no buildings or walls as it brings care and services into the member’s home. Kendal at Home is designed for persons who desire to remain in their own homes and well connected to their community, yet still want to have long-term plans in place. It offers four affordable membership options for long-term care coverage.

Interested persons age 60 and older who are living independently may apply for membership. There is a one-time investment fee based on age and the plan of care chosen and ongoing monthly fees paid to the program. Members are guaranteed a full continuum of care in their homes, and if needed, in a long-term care facility, based upon the benefits in the plan chosen. Potential members are assessed for health and functional status and assigned a personal care coordinator who provides for the care when needed throughout each member’s life.

Services provided include the following: personal care; home nursing care; homemakers; companions; emergency

**ATTSO OFFICE HOURS:**  
**8:00 A.M. – NOON (M-F)**  
[amhersttwpseniors@oh.rr.com](mailto:amhersttwpseniors@oh.rr.com)

## Health and Medication Information

Do you take several kinds of medication each day? Do you want to know if the medications you are taking might be interacting with one another? If so, you may find these websites helpful:

[www.healthtouch.com](http://www.healthtouch.com)  
[www.rxlist.com](http://www.rxlist.com)

If you are looking for health information, you may find these web sites helpful:

[www.health.gov](http://www.health.gov)  
[www.netwellness.com](http://www.netwellness.com)  
[www.odh.state.oh.us](http://www.odh.state.oh.us)  
[www.nih.gov](http://www.nih.gov)

response system; adult day care; limited transportation; meal delivery (on a limited basis); assisted living; skilled nursing; referral services; annual physical exam; biennial in-home functional and safety assessment; initial and ongoing functional assessments; and regular communication with member and care coordinator. All of this is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Kendal at Home is more comprehensive than most long-term care insurance plans and focuses not only on preserving assets but also providing and managing services for their members for the rest of their lives. They concentrate on quality of care, quality of life and giving their members peace of mind, right at home. Highly qualified and credentialed service providers have been contracted to provide member service.

The four plan choices offer 100%, 85%, or 70% coverage for in-home services and facility care or 100% coverage for in-home services only.

The benefits of Kendal at Home are 1) life-time guarantee of care; 2) fraction of cost for self-payment for comparable service; 3) protection of assets; 4) burden of coordinating services and care removed from spouse or family; 5) fees may be tax deductible as a medical expense; and 6) Kendal is a name that can be trusted to provide high quality care.

For more information call Kendal® at Home at **1-877-284-6639** or visit them online at: [www.kahome.kendal.org](http://www.kahome.kendal.org).

## 2008 Medicare Part D Plans

Fall is almost here and it's time to start thinking about changes you may want to make to your Medicare Part D coverage. Every year some plans leave the program and new ones enter the marketplace.

The "new plans" list for 2008 will come out in October and you can begin shopping for the best plan to fit your needs at the cheapest price beginning **November 15th** and continuing until **December 31st**. Medicare reps tells us that it's best to have your changes made by **December 8th** if you wish to ensure that your new coverage is available on **January 1, 2008**.

**Remember, shopping for the best plan is like buying a new car. It pays to shop around!!!**

Last year, I had clients who saved as much as a thousand dollars for the year by changing plans. Who should definitely consider shopping for plans?

- Those who have changed medications during 2007.
- Those who will fall into the gap (donut hole) and face paying full price for their medications.
- Those who did not get coverage because they weren't on any medications.
- Those who have nearly exhausted their savings and have a low monthly income. They may qualify for additional help paying for their premiums and co-pays for their prescriptions along with finding a cheaper plan.
- Those who are on very expensive medications or who have added expensive medications during 2007.

## The New Homestead Exemption

The new Homestead Exemption Law allows more seniors and disabled homeowners to get property tax relief. Seniors who are age 65 by 12/31/07, surviving spouses who were at least 59 years old on the date of their spouse's death, and those who are certified totally and permanently disabled as of 1/1/2007 will now be eligible for the Homestead Exemption if they own their own home. Income limits no longer apply. This means that eligible taxpayers would have \$25,000 taken off the taxable value of their home and save an average of \$400 per year on their property taxes.

Those who are eligible for this savings have until **October 1st** to apply. Those who already have the Homestead Exemption will be automatically enrolled in the new program.

When applying, you must provide a copy of an age-identifying ID, such as your driver's license or birth certificate. Application forms are available at the Amherst Township Senior Service office, which is located at 7530 Oberlin Road. Office hours are from 8 am to noon on Monday thru Friday. Carol will be glad to make a copy of your identification for you if you need one made. If you need help filling out the form, please call **988-5822** for an appointment.

Applications may also be downloaded off the Internet by visiting the county auditor's website at:

[www.loraincounty.com/auditor](http://www.loraincounty.com/auditor)

Then click on "Application for new Homestead Exemption".

## Making Smart Energy Choices

Looking for a way to save money on your monthly utility bills? Check out the Ohio Consumers' Counsel website at [www.pickocc.org/smartenergy](http://www.pickocc.org/smartenergy) to see a whole section devoted to the smart use of energy, which includes an interactive Smart Energy House. It takes consumers on a room-by-room tour providing estimated costs to run large appliances. With this information consumers can better understand how the use of appliances and other items can impact their monthly electric and gas bills. Two of the goals of this interactive tool are to reveal the potential savings of owning energy efficient models and to provide tips to help customers control energy usage in each room of their house.

To get started, consumers need to answer a few simple questions related to the size of their house, the region of Ohio in which they live and the names of the gas and electric companies that provide their service. The submitted answers

will provide a cost analysis of various home appliances along with tips that could result in savings on utility bills. Consumers will learn:

- How small adjustments to appliances can increase energy efficiency
- How to better protect a house from the summer heat
- How much energy-efficient appliances can save on energy bills
- How to save on energy bills
- How to save energy when using items that still use power while in stand-by mode
- What the projected annual operating costs are for common household appliances.

*Taken from May/June 2007OCC Newsletter*