

# AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Winter 2007

Vol. XII No. 4

## Recycling Report

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

- 1.0 tons of aluminum cans
- 4.6 tons of bi-metal cans
- 8.8 tons of glass
- 2.5 tons of HDPE plastics
- 2.0 tons of PETE plastics
- 19.8 tons of newspapers
- 5.3 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 2008:

- April 10, 11, 12
- July 10, 11, 12
- October 2, 3, 4

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 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.



Pictured above: Workshop Players recently added a ramp and vestibule to the building.  
Pictured below: Newly installed fence around the Middle Ridge Road cemetery, to help minimize intrusion into the cemetery by snowplows and vehicles. This fence was partially funded by a “Close the Loop Recycle Grant”. The grant covered two-thirds of the cost and the township covered the balance.





The “Children’s Climbing Wall” (above) for younger children, was added to the Amherst Township Park this past summer. The park also offers swings & slides (below) as well as soccer fields, baseball fields, and a 2300-foot, blacktopped walking path.





## 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 26<sup>th</sup> thru Jan 6<sup>th</sup>.



The Amherst Township Hall received a much needed “face-lift” which included new siding, windows, and landscaping.



## **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](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).

## **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**. To contact the sheriff’s dispatch from your cell phone without being charged, call **323-1212**. These are not a “911” emergency lines.

## **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.

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Amherst Township  
7530 Oberlin Road  
Elyria, OH 44035  
[www.amhersttownship.us](http://www.amhersttownship.us)

<b>PRESORTED STD.</b>
<b>US POSTAGE</b>
<b>PAID</b>
<b>PERMIT NO.179</b>
<b>LORAIN, OHIO</b>

<p><b>NOTE: Meeting Times:</b> Trustee Meetings at 7:00 p.m. – Zoning Commission Meetings at 6:30 p.m.</p>
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## Home-Delivered Meal Program

Many older adults find it difficult to safely get to the grocery store in the winter. With higher heating and electric bills, they also find it harder to stretch their monthly income. Add to this, unexpected health problems and we find many older adults' ability to remain independent is severely threatened during the winter months.

Home-delivered meal programs are designed to keep seniors healthy and safe, especially during the winter months. If you have a neighbor, family member, or friend who could use our help, do them a favor and call our office at **988-5822**. A "Home-Delivery Program" brochure that explains our program will be mailed to the address you provide. We can help them stretch their budgets because our meals are available on a sliding fee basis. This means that those with the least amount of income pay the lowest price for the food.

## New Meal Provider Announced for 2008

We are pleased to announce that as a service to our community, Nordson Corporation and their food service provider, AVI, have agreed to provide the meals for our home-delivered meal program for 2008. We will no longer be catering to special dietary needs. At press time, final details of the new program are still being worked out. If you are interested in joining our program please call **988-5822** for more details.

## Prescription Assistance Programs

"Ohio's Best RX" is an additional tool that Ohio residents have to use in the battle against high prescription drug costs. It is a blessing for Ohioans who are entering the Part D coverage gap. This prescription discount card discounts almost all generic and brand name drugs for an average savings of 34%.

The program is administered by the Ohio Department of Aging and is available to adults over 60 along with the Golden Buckeye Card, no matter what their income level is. Those under 60 may also qualify for the card but their eligibility is based on income and family size.

In general, people can use the card if they do not have other drug coverage, but Medicare Part D beneficiaries may use it when they are in the "donut hole". However, it is wise to check with your Part D plan to make sure that "Best Rx" can be used along with the card for drugs that are purchased during the coverage gap period.

There are 2,300 pharmacies that participate in the "Best Rx" program. Mail order is also available. To find a participating pharmacy, call "Ohio's Best Rx" at **1-866-923-7879** or visit their website at [www.ohiobestrx.org](http://www.ohiobestrx.org) and click on "Pharmacy Locator" from the menu on the left side of the home page.

To apply for "Ohio's Best Rx" a simple, one-page application must be completed. There is no fee.

## 2008 Medicare Plan

During October, Medicare and Social Security “health plans” and “drug plans” should have notified you of any changes for 2008. As of October 11<sup>th</sup>, you could compare your current drug coverage with 2008 plans at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).

However, changes could not be made until the 2008 “Open Enrollment” period. This “Open Enrollment” period started November 15<sup>th</sup> & runs until December 31<sup>st</sup>.

In 2008 there will be “58” Medicare prescription drug plans. This is down from last year’s “61” plans. Several plans have been discontinued and several new plans have been added.

- There are “2” plans that still have premiums under \$20. These plans are the best choices for people not currently taking a lot of medication.
- There are “34” plans that have no deductibles.
- There are “29” plans that are offering enhanced benefits or services.
- There are “15” plans that will not charge a premium to those who qualify for extra help with their prescription drug costs.

If you are still struggling to pay for your medications, why not call and set up an appointment to see if you might qualify for the additional assistance. We have been told that 4–6% of those who are eligible for prescription drug assistance in Lorain County are currently not taking advantage of this help.

The good news is that Medicare has told us that 88% of those who are currently enrolled in a “Part D” plan could switch to a plan with lower premiums in 2008. It pays to compare prices every year. Call now **(988-5822)** for an appointment.

## Is It Time for a Medical Alert?

Recently, I picked up this helpful fact sheet distributed by “Philips Lifeline”, a service from several of the greater Cleveland area hospitals. It states that a medical alert service can help older adults & individuals with chronic medical conditions feel more confident about living in the one place that they feel most comfortable – in their own home. To find out if it’s time to consider an alert answer these 9 questions:

- **Are you alone for several hours each day or night? (2 points)**
- **In the past year, have you fallen, been anxious about falling, or otherwise been at risk for falling in your home? (3 points)**
- **Have you been hospitalized or gone to the emergency room in the past year? (2 points)**
- **Do you have at least one of these chronic ailments: heart disease, stroke, COPD, osteoporosis, diabetes, or arthritis? (2 points)**
- **Do you use a cane, walker, wheelchair, stair climber, or other assistive-type device to help with balance or walking? (3 points)**
- **Are you required to take several daily medications? (3 points)**
- **Do you require assistance with at least one of the following activities: bathing, toileting, dressing, meal prep, etc.? (3 points)**
- **Would a medical alert service provide peace of mind for your loved one? (1 point)**
- **Is it important to you to continue to live independently? (1 point)**

A score of 15-20 points shows there’s an **urgent** need for this service; 8-14 points shows an **elevated** need; 4-7 shows **moderate** need; and 0-3 shows **limited** need.



**Many thanks** to our Amherst Township Senior Service Volunteer Meal-Delivery Drivers: (pictured from left to right) Dave Rosso, Keith Rumpler, Sue Rumpler, Ray Roth, Dottie Roth, and Senior Service Director Carol Schmitkons.

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We would like to extend our sympathy to Jake Nekich, whose wife Phyllis passed away in November of this year. Over the past 4-years, Jake and Phyllis volunteered their time 2 days each week delivering meals and visiting homebound seniors in Amherst Township. As Jake and Phyllis provided comfort and support to our older adults, we hope Jake will find comfort while mourning the loss of his beloved wife Phyllis. Please keep Jake in your prayers.

## Helpful Community Services

**LEAP'S Low Vision Program** goal is to allow maximum independence and safety in the home through technology and adaptive skills. Anyone who is experiencing visual difficulties that are not correctable by medical treatment, surgery, or glasses is a good candidate for rehabilitation services and education. For more information call them at: **324-3444**.

**Community Services for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing** also provides service to help maintain independence. They help those with hearing problems interact more effectively and break the communication barrier. They may be reached at **277-4602** (voice/TTY).

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

**E-Mail Address!!:**  
[amhersttwpseniors@oh.rr.com](mailto:amhersttwpseniors@oh.rr.com)