

# AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Spring 2008

Vol. XIII No. 1

## Recycling Report

For the fourth quarter of 2007, Amherst Township recycled the following quantities through the "Blue Bag" program (**bold represents yearly total**):

- (3.7) 1.1 tons of aluminum cans
- (15.7) 5.3 tons of bi-metal cans
- (34.9) 10.1 tons of glass
- (10.0) 2.9 tons of HDPE plastics
- (8.0) 2.3 tons of PETE plastics
- (78.6) 22.8 tons of newspapers
- (16.3) 5.0 tons of scrap metal through the dumpster program
- (102.0) 25.0 tons of Yard Waste/Compost

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!!

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 Szefcyk, 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 (Please note change of responsibilities)

Dennis Abraham .....986-4555  
(Ambulance, Cemetery, Park, Water, Roads, Ditches, Buildings, Land, Enterprise Zones, County Health Rep.)  
Neil Lynch .....988-7681  
(Zoning, Sewer, Fire, Equipment, Personnel, LORCO, Senior Services, NIMS Primary Contact)  
David C. Urig.....988-8256  
(Lighting, Solid Waste, Phase II Storm Water/ Environmental Strategy, Alt LORCO & County Health Rep.)

## Fiscal Officer

Howard Akin .....233-7624

## Road Superintendent

John Szefcyk .....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.

# Lorain County Solid Waste Events

## Pride Day

Amherst Township will again be participating in Lorain County's "Pride Day", a one-day litter clean up event that will be held on **Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>**. However, "Pride Day" projects have not yet been established. Please call the township if you would like to participate or make a donation for this event.

**"Scrap Tire Collection Day"** will also be held on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Trailers will be at 9 different locations around the county from 9 AM to 3 PM. Please visit the LSCWMD website for details.

## Electronics Collection Days

There will be 4 collection dates in 2008. Acceptable items are personal computers and related items, cell phones, small office equipment, and household televisions and audio equipment.

**Day I.** Saturday, **April 5** from 9 AM to 3 PM  
P.C. Campana Industrial Park, Rt. 58, Lorain

**Day II.** Saturday, **June 14** from 9 AM to 3 PM  
Wellington Township Garage, 105 Maple St

**Day III.** Saturday, **July 26** from 9 AM to 3 PM  
Windstream Service Center, 560 Ternes Ave, Elyria

**Day IV.** Saturday, **October 11** from 9 AM to 3 PM  
Location to be announced

## Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days

There will be 2 collection dates in 2008. Acceptable items are paint, chemicals, oil, batteries, fluorescent lamps, and a wide variety of other hazardous items. Please visit the LSCWMD website for details.

**Day I.** Saturday, **April 19** from 9 AM to 3 PM  
Lorain County Community College, 1005 N. Abbe Road, Elyria  
Lorain County Joint Vocational School, 15181 Rt. 58, Oberlin

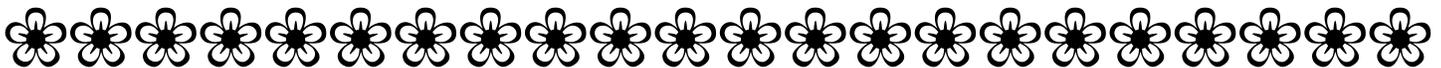
**Day II.** Saturday, **September 13** from 9 AM to 3 PM  
Location to be announced

Solid Waste also has year-round recycling collection programs that include:

- Collection of Mercury & Mercury-Containing Implements
- Scrap Tire Drop-Off (5 sites open daily)
- Fluorescent Bulb & Ballast Recycling
- Large Appliance Pick-Up & Recycling
- Household Battery Collection & Recycling
- Paper Collection & Recycling
- Printer Cartridge Collection & Recycling

For more information, please contact the Lorain County Solid Waste Management District at **1-800-449-5463**. To see the complete schedule of all collection events along with more detailed information, visit their website at:

[www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste](http://www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste)



## Crime Watch Security Flasher 911 System

According to our Community Policing Officer, Deputy Joe Greiner, 20 more of these adapters are now available upon request. Once emergency services have been called (Police, Fire, and Ambulance), with the use of the "Crime Watch Security Flasher 911 System" citizens of Lorain County can immediately have their residences identified by the flashing light. Officers will instruct the recipients of the "Crime Watch Security Flasher 911 System" that its use should be for emergency situations only, and are not intended for routine delivery style occasions. Please advise your children as well. This device should be treated the same as calling "911". If a Deputy observes a house with this device activated, a check on the well being of the occupants will be done, even if there is not call for emergency service listed with the Police, Fire, or EMS.

These adapters install into a standard light socket and operate off the same switch as the standard porch light. They will be provided free of charge to qualified candidates of Lorain County, courtesy of the Lorain County Sheriff's Office. For complete details see the "**Spring 2006**" newsletter on the township's website at [www.amhersttownship.us](http://www.amhersttownship.us).

If anyone is interested in obtaining a "Crime Watch Security Flasher 911 System", you can contact Deputy Greiner at **440-329-3749**. Please state your name, address, the city or township that you live in, and a return number where you can be reached. This number is to the "Community Policing Officer" Office and is not monitored 24 hours a day.

# FEATURED EMPLOYEE

Henry Harsar is our featured employee. "Hank" has worked for the Township for about 3 years as an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Alternates may be called to serve on the board at any given meeting and must be as prepared as any other board member. As a member of the Zoning Commission, Hank 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, Hank enjoys meeting people, learning about the zoning code as well as zoning issues, and helping with the growth in the township. The least appealing aspect of his job is attending meetings on cold winter nights.

Hank is retired (semi) after working 35 years in the Lorain City School district as a teacher and principal. He is currently working as an educational consultant.

Hank has lived in the township for the past 29 years. He is happily married for 31 years to his wife Nancy, who is also retired from the Lorain City Schools after she worked for 32 years as an elementary teacher. They have three grown children (Megan, Bryan, and Sean) and three grandchildren.

Hank was born and raised in Lorain where he attended Lorain city Schools. He graduated from Bowling Green State University.



For fun, Hank attends Zoning Commission meetings. He and Nancy also like to travel, golf, and take classes at Lorain County Community College. Growing flowers, roses, and yard work also provide him with enjoyment and a few sore muscles as well!

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



## 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.

- \$391 – Resident**
- \$673 – 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.

## Road and Storm Drainage Improvements

Approximately \$145,000 was expended in 2007 to improve various Amherst Township Roads and Storm Sewers. The largest project was the Broadway, Taylor and Tenney Road reconstruction and storm tile replacement. Additional storm system cleaning and tile replacement occurred on Tina Lane, Kay Drive, Hornyak Court, Oaknoll, Rosedale and Bechtel Road, and joint sealing was completed on Dewey and Rice Roads.

A more ambitious Road and Storm Drainage program is planned for 2008, at an estimated cost of \$430,000. The major project in 2008 will be concrete slab replacement for various roads in the Hidden Valley Subdivision, at an estimated cost of \$295,000. Amherst Township has applied for a combination of grants and loans for the Hidden Valley area project, but is currently on the “un-funded” list, meaning this project is dependent upon available funding sources.

Additional 2008 projects include “Chip & Seal” of Tina Lane, Hornyak Court, Fowl Road and Bechtel Road. Park Avenue will be milled and repaved. Stang Road, Oberlin Road, Balsam Drive and various Hidden Valley Subdivision streets will undergo crack sealing. Roadside ditches and tile along Oberlin, Bechtel and Dewey Roads will be cleaned, along with general maintenance and cleaning of the various catch basins and storm sewers. Street Sweeping will be conducted within the higher density residential sub-divisions in the early spring.

Every effort will be made to maintain through traffic during these road and drainage improvement projects, but some detours may be necessary. Please use caution when driving through or near these various projects.

## PERMITS REQUIRED

As Springtime arrives, residents are reminded that permits are needed for the items listed below. 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. Building inspections through the Lorain County Building Department may also be required. 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.

Pools	Decks
Porches	Patios
Gazebos	Fences
Garages	Ponds
Driveways	Signs

New Construction  
Building Additions  
Accessory Buildings

“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”.



The Bischoff Barn on Oberlin Road across from the Amherst Township Hall was a familiar fixture in Amherst Township and a symbol of our agricultural history. Sadly, the barn was removed this winter due to safety concerns. The trustees contacted various individuals that deal in barn restoration and removal, but were unable to locate anyone with a real interest in preserving the barn. Many thanks to Thom Scheidler for providing this picture. Thom's father, Jerry Scheidler, has created a slide show entitled "Demolition of a Big Red Barn" that has been placed on the township's website.

## Recycling Incentive Contest

Back again in 2008, 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.

Part of 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.

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## RAFFLE ENTRY FORM

**For "Recycling Incentive Contest"**

**Dumpster Days: April 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**(Thursday, Friday, and Saturday – Time: 7:00am to 3:30pm)**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

# **AMHERST TOWNSHIP** **PARK REMINDERS**

Residents are reminded that as of March 1, 2003 animals are not permitted in the Amherst Township Park. Whoever violates this resolution is guilty of a minor misdemeanor and shall be prosecuted (ORC Section 511.32).

Also as a reminder, vandalism at the Amherst Township Park is prosecutable. Violators will be charged with Criminal Vandalism according to ORC 2909.05. This is a felony offense and carries a fine of \$2500. This will be strictly enforced. The township park is being patrolled by the Sheriff's Department.

## **Park Pavilion**

Due to the increased usage of the park pavilion, and to avoid scheduling conflict, please contact Amherst Township Road Superintendent, John Szefcyk, to make reservations if you wish to use the pavilion. He can be reached during the week at **988-5833**.

# **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.

Printed on Recycled Paper

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

PRESORTED STD.  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
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

Spring 2008

by Carol Schmitkons, Amherst Township Senior Service Director

## Home-Delivered Meal Program

Seniors participating in the new meal program are reporting that they like the variety of food choices and the ability to change between options. Meal prices depend on your income level. If you are interested in joining our program or delivering meals, please call **988-5822** for more details.

## Homestead Exemption

Those seniors who missed out on the Homestead Exemption last year and those who will be turning 65 in 2008 may submit applications through June of 2008. Call the Lorain County Auditor's office at 329-5207 for more information.

## 2008 Medicare Information

### Part A

Hospital deductible.....	\$1,024
Hospital co-pay.....	\$256/day (inpatient days 61-90)
Lifetime reserve co-pay.....	\$512/day (inpatient days 91-150)
Skilled nursing co-pay.....	\$128/day

### Part B

Monthly premium.....	\$96.40
Annual deductible.....	\$135
Coinsurance amount.....	20%

### Part D

Coverage gap begins when **total drug costs** reach **\$2,150**. This amount includes your out-of-pocket expenses as well as any money your prescription drug plan paid toward your drugs. While in the gap, you're responsible for **100%** of your prescription costs until your **total drug costs** reach **\$5,726.25**. Your plan then pays about **95%** of all drug costs for the rest of 2008.

## **ATTSO OFFICE HOURS:**

**8:00 A.M. – NOON (M-F)**

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

## 2007 Year-End Report

**Meal Program:** Our volunteers and director drove 4971 miles to deliver 3520 meals to 32 participants.

**Transportation:** 19 trips, 430 total miles.

**Support Services (one-on-one work with clients):** We spent 115.82 hours filling out forms and helping clients get services they need by assisting them with phone calls to agencies or going to appointments with them. Seventy-Five (75) of these hours were for the Medicare counseling program administered by the Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIP).

**Director Schmitkons** worked 1233 hours with 22% of her time spent on the meal program and 23% spent on the "one-on-one" work with 100 consumers. She drove a total of 2477 miles.

### Highlights of 2007:

- Funding from the WRAAA & CDB grants saved the township \$5,050!
- With the encouragement of the Lorain County Office on Aging, we extended our service area to include Henrietta Township. The Henrietta Township trustees voted to join us and were included in our 2008 grant applications. Meal and support services were extended to that community during the fourth quarter of 2007.
- AVI Food Systems, was chosen to provide meals for 2008. While the new plan will not be able to meet special dietary needs, it does provide more flexibility and plan options. Residents may select from one of 3 plans – entrée, sandwich and soup, or soup and salad.

## **REBATE INFORMATION**

Seniors need to know that in order to receive a refund from the "stimulus package rebate", they need to file a 2007 income tax return, even though they may not have filed an income tax return in recent years. To qualify, Social Security income must be at least \$3,000.

## **Care Choice Ohio**

Care Choice Ohio is a consultation program designed to promote long-range planning for health and financial care for Ohio's older population. Far too often, plans for the care of elderly family members and friends are put off into "the future". Consequently, these difficult and often stressful decisions are frequently made during a crisis situation and in great haste.

Not long ago in Ohio and nationwide, long-term care for older persons most often meant only care in a nursing home. Not anymore. When it comes to long-term care, Ohioans have more choices than ever before. Now, thanks to a statewide assistance program called Care Choice Ohio, finding out about available services can be quick and convenient. Care Choice Ohio has been initiated specifically to help seniors and their family members plan earlier for long-term care needs. Anyone, regardless of age or income, can take advantage of this free service offered by the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging. Specially trained consultants are available to make friendly, personalized home visits to assess you or your loved one's circumstances and needs. They will discuss eligibility for programs and will inform you and your family of the long-term care services and long-range financial planning options existing in Ohio.

For more information on Care Choice Ohio, contact Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging at 1-800-626-7277.

## **Digital Television Transition**

On February 17, 2009 the nation's television broadcasters will switch television signals from analog to digital transmissions. Not to be confused with "high definition" (HD) or "flat screen" or other modern television features, **digital refers to the way that television broadcasts are delivered to your TV set.** Older TVs only pick up analog signals so when broadcasters switch to digital transmission, they will not be able to receive free, over-the-air signals without doing **one** of the following:

- 1) Purchase a converter box to attach to your existing TV. Retail price is expected to be \$55-\$75, but government coupons worth \$40 will be available early in 2008. The converter will sit on top of your TV and change the digital signal to analog so your TV can "read" it.
- 2) Upgrade your TV to new digital model.
- 3) Subscribe to a cable or satellite service.

## **What Everyone Needs to Know about Memory Loss**

Having had a father and an aunt who suffered from Alzheimer's, I highly recommend the following FREE educational series for persons living with memory loss (recommended for family members, friends & professionals). These sessions are from 6:30-8:30 on Wednesday evenings and are being held at Wesleyan Senior Living's "Cascade Hall" located at 807 West Avenue in Elyria (across from the Elyria High School).

### **Session 1 April 16 – Geriatrician Dr. Chrismer**

Breakout Session: Activities

### **Session 2 April 23 – Legal & Financial Planning with an Elder Law Attorney**

Breakout Session: Safety

### **Session 3 April 30 – Practical Tips: Living with Memory Loss**

Breakout Session: Communication Skills, Understanding Behaviors

### **Session 4 May 7 – Latest Research with a Research Specialist**

Breakout Session: Resource Panel

**\*\*Wesleyan's Day Away (adult day care)** will be open to care for loved ones with memory loss during the programs.

**\*\*For reservations**, call the Alzheimer's Association Western Region Office in Avon at 934-7750, ext 1477.