

# AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Summer 2008

Vol. XIII No. 2

## Recycling Report

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

- 1.0 tons of aluminum cans
  - 5.2 tons of bi-metal cans
  - 9.8 tons of glass
  - 2.8 tons of HDPE plastics
  - 2.2 tons of PETE plastics
  - 22.1 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 2008:

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: [amherstwpfo@oh.rr.com](mailto:amherstwpfo@oh.rr.com)  
Road Superintendent (garage) .....988-5833  
Email: [amherstwproads@oh.rr.com](mailto:amherstwproads@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: [amherstwpzoning@oh.rr.com](mailto:amherstwpzoning@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: [amherstwp seniors@oh.rr.com](mailto:amherstwp seniors@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

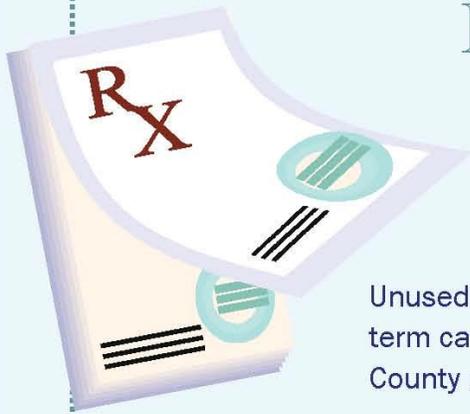
## TRUSTEE MEETINGS:

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 Drug Repository

## Prescription Assistance Program



Unused prescription drugs from nursing homes and long-term care facilities are available at low or no cost to Lorain County residents in need.

### Who is Eligible?

- Persons in financial need, who have no or limited medication insurance coverage

### What is the Process?

- Medical providers request prescriptions to be filled by the Drug Repository
- Medicines are then mailed directly to the patient

### Available Prescriptions?

- Types and availability of medications vary from month to month, based on donations and inventory
- For a complete listing of current medicines, visit [www.loraincountyhealth.com](http://www.loraincountyhealth.com)

For more information regarding program details, donations, and guidelines, contact the Lorain County General Health District.

Elyria: 440.322.6367

Lorain: 440.244.3418

[www.loraincountyhealth.com](http://www.loraincountyhealth.com)

*This program is a cooperative effort between Community Foundation of Lorain County, Lorain County General Health District, Coalition for the Uninsured of Lorain County, Buderer Drug Company, and the Lorain County Free Clinic.*

# Changes to Zoning Employees

Recently the township accepted the resignations of Jim Yorks and Janice DeAngelis. Jim has been a member of the Zoning Commission for the past 7½ years. Janice has been a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for the past 7½ years, as well as being the ZBA Chairman. We would like to let them know that they have been greatly appreciated for their contribution to Amherst Township.

For the Zoning Commission:

- Hank Harsar has moved from the Alternate #1 position to a Zoning Commission member.
- Glenn Thome has moved from the Alternate #2 position to the Alternate #1 position.
- The Alternate #2 position remains open at this time.

For the Zoning Board of Appeals:

- Marcie Jaworski has moved from the Alternate #2 position to a ZBA member.
- Joan Whitman was recently appointed to the Alternate #2 position.

If other Amherst Township residents are interested in getting involved as an alternate on either the Zoning Commission or the Zoning Board of Appeals, please contact Neil Lynch at **988-7681**.

The Zoning Commission meets on a monthly basis on the first Tuesday of the month. The ZBA holds an organizational meeting in January and three (3) “Conditional Use” meetings in February/March. All other ZBA meetings are on an “as required” basis, averaging three (3) additional meetings per year.



## 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**

## Twsp. 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.

# A message from the Sheriff's Dept.

The Lorain County Sheriff's Department has recently hired two new Deputies. This is good news, as it will allow for another Deputy to be assigned as a "Community Policing Officer". The total number of "CPO's" in Lorain County will again be at three, allowing more time for our CPO to be involved in the activities in our township.

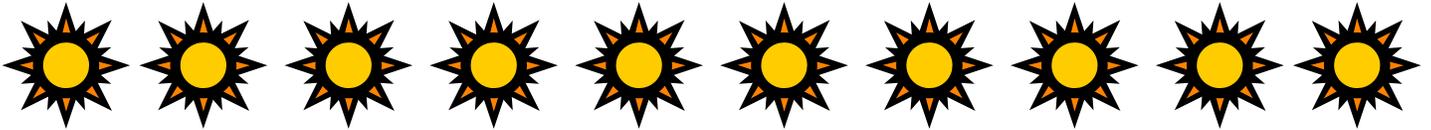
Please be aware that there have been quite a few "car break-ins", especially in the Hidden Valley area. All residents should:

- Keep your doors locked – house & auto
- Turn outside lights on
- Don't leave valuables in your vehicle!

## PRIDE DAY 2008

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** – hanging pots  
9060 State Route 58 (in Amh Twp)
- ★ **Don Mould's** – flowers  
8676 State Route 58 (in Amh Twp)
- ★ **North Shore Landscape** – mulch  
6001 Baumhart Road, Lorain



## Recycling Incentive Contest

In April, Amherst Township held a raffle in conjunction with the township's "dumpster event" as an incentive program to encourage residents to recycle more. Residents brought a raffle form along with a blue bag of recyclables or recyclable yard waste to the dumpster event. This incentive program is an eligibility requirement of the "Solid Waste Grant" award received by Amherst Township.

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 "Incentive Contest" received a **\$50 Gas Card** from "Law's Auto Service, Inc." located on Middle Ridge Road near the State Route 2 interchange.

### The Winners were:

Charles Barckert	Dan & Sharie Riccardi
Elaine Birkline	Eileen Rockwell
Bill Bringman	Charles Sapienza
Lu Bringman	Jerry Scheidler
Estel & Dale Cary	John Schmitkons
Tony Cioffi	Kim Schmitkons
Trang Fly	Barbara Shauck
Dawn Freeman	Barb Shinsky
Randy Haring	Virginia Szilvasy
Frank Lasso	Pam Welton
Deborah Mann	

## **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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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

Summer 2008

by Carol Schmitkons, Amherst Township Senior Service Director

## Home-Delivered Meal Program

Summer is coming and many seniors like to work in their yard and take advantage of the nice weather to participate in various activities. If you don't like to spend time cooking in a hot kitchen, why not try our meal program available to anyone over 60. We have a variety of food choices and the cost depends on your income level. If you are interested in joining our program or in delivering meals, please call **988-5822** for more details.

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

## Helpful Credit Card Information

Put your work phone number on your checks instead of your home phone. If you have a PO Box, use that instead of your home address. If you do not have a PO Box, use your work address. Never have your Social Security number printed on your checks.

Photocopy the contents of your wallet (both sides of each license, credit card, etc.) so you will know what was in your wallet as well as providing a record of all the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel if your wallet is lost or stolen. Keep the copy in a safe place. Carry a photocopy of your passport when you travel either here or abroad.

### **Some critical information to limit the damage in case your wallet or purse are stolen:**

- You should cancel your credit cards immediately. The key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call (see above paragraph). Keep this information where you can find it.
- File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where your wallet or purse

was stolen. This proves to the credit providers that you were diligent, and this is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one).

- Perhaps the **most important step** of all is to call the 3 national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name. (I had never heard of doing that until advised by a bank that called to tell me an application for credit was made over the Internet in my name.) Also call the Social Security fraud line number.

The alert means any company that checks your credit knows that your information was stolen, and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit.

Here are the numbers you always need to call if your credit information has been stolen:

- 1.) **Equifax:** 1-800-525-6285
- 2.) **Experian:** 1-888-397-3742
- 3.) **Trans Union** 1-800-680 7289
- 4.) **Social Security Administration (fraud line):** 1-800-269-0271

# **Fraud Target: Senior Citizens**

Because there are so many good tips, more information will be shared in future editions of the "Senior Gazette".

The following information may be found at:  
[www.fbi.gov/ma/cases/fraud/seniorsfam.htm](http://www.fbi.gov/ma/cases/fraud/seniorsfam.htm)

It has been the experience of the FBI that the elderly are targeted for fraud for several reasons:

- 1) Older American citizens are most likely to have a "nest egg," own their home and/or have excellent credit all of which the con-man will try to tap into.
- 2) Individuals who grew up in the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s were generally raised to be polite and trusting. The con-man will exploit these traits knowing that it is difficult or impossible for these individuals to say "no" or just hang up the phone.
- 3) Older Americans are less likely to report a fraud because they don't know who to report it to, are too ashamed at having been scammed, or do not know they have been scammed. In some cases, an elderly victim may not report the crime because he or she is concerned that relatives may come to the conclusion that the victim no longer has the mental capacity to take care of his or her own financial affairs.
- 4) When an elderly victim does report the crime, they often make poor witnesses. The con-man knows the effects of age on memory and he/she is counting on the fact that the elderly victim will not be able to supply enough detailed information to investigators such as: How many times did the fraudster call? What time of day did he/she call? Did he provide a call back number or address? Was it always the same person? Did you meet in person? What did the fraudster look like? Did he/she have any recognizable accent? Where did you send the money? What did you receive if anything and how was it delivered? What promises were made and when? Did you keep any notes of your conversations?

The victims' realization that they have been victimized may take weeks or, more likely, months after contact with the con-man. This extended time frame will test the memory of almost anyone.

5) Lastly, when it comes to products that promise increased cognitive function, virility, physical conditioning, anti-cancer properties and so on, older Americans make up the segment of the population most concerned about these issues. In a country where new cures and vaccinations for old diseases have given every American hope for a long and fruitful life, it is not so unbelievable that the products offered by these con-men can do what they say they can do.

## **Some Tips to Avoiding Counterfeit Prescription Drugs**

- Be mindful of appearance. Closely examine the packaging and lot numbers of prescription drugs and be alert of any changes from one prescription to the next.
- Consult your pharmacist or physician if your prescription drug looks suspicious.
- Alert your pharmacist and physician immediately if your medication causes adverse side effects or if your condition does not improve.
- Use caution when purchasing drugs on the Internet. Do not purchase medications from unlicensed online distributors or those who sell medications without a prescription. Reputable online pharmacies will have a seal of approval called the "Verified Internet Pharmacy Practice Site" (VIPPS), provided by the Association of Boards of Pharmacy in the United States.
- Product promotions or cost reductions and other "special deals" may be associated with counterfeit product promotion.

## **Fraud Target: Senior Citizens (cont.)**

### **Medical Equipment Fraud:**

Equipment manufacturers offer "free" products to individuals. Insurers are then charged for products that were not needed and/or may not have been delivered.

### **Medicare Fraud:**

- Never sign blank insurance claim forms.
- Never give blanket authorization to a medical provider to bill for services rendered.
- Ask your medical providers what they will charge and what you will be expected to pay out-of-pocket.
- Carefully review your insurer's "Explanation of Benefits" (EOB) statement. Call your insurer and provider if you have questions.
- Do not do business with door-to-door or telephone salespeople who tell you that services of medical equipment are free.
- Give your insurance/Medicare identification only to those who have provided you with medical services.
- Keep accurate records of all health care appointments.
- Know if your physician ordered equipment for you.

## **Allied Waste Services Offers Senior Discount**

If you are an Amherst Township senior who meets all of the requirements listed below, you are eligible for a discount that can save you approximately \$60 per year on your trash pickup bill:

- ✓ You have a Golden Buckeye Card.
- ✓ You are not employed outside the home.
- ✓ You have no children or boarders living with you.
- ✓ You are limited to 2 cans or 3 bags, weekly

If you are one of the few residents who are on the "Pay As You Throw" program, you will receive a "68-gallon" can on the reduced plan. This will be the same size can other residents will receive for the reduced plan as the "PAYT" program is introduced to other areas of the township.

To receive the discount, you must drop off or mail a copy of your Golden Buckeye card (showing both sides) along with acknowledgement that you meet the above criteria. **Do not** send this information with your bill, as the bill goes to a different location. The mailing address is:

Elyria Allied Waste  
P.O. Box 4011  
Elyria, OH 44036

If you prefer to drop off the information in person, the service window is open from 8am until noon on Monday through Friday. Allied Waste is located at 40195 Butternut Ridge Road in Elyria.

**For more details call 1-800-433-1309.**

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