

# AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Fall 2008

Vol. XIII No. 3

## Recycling Report

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

- 1.1 tons of aluminum cans
- 5.5 tons of bi-metal cans
- 10.4 tons of glass
- 2.9 tons of HDPE plastics
- 2.4 tons of PETE plastics
- 23.4 tons of newspapers
- 3.0 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 2008:

**October 2, 3, 4 ★(Incentive Contest)**

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, Buildings, Land, Enterprise Zones, County Health Rep. Phase II Storm Water/ Environmental Strategy)

Neil Lynch .....988-7681

(Zoning, Sewer, Fire, Equipment, Personnel, LORCO, Senior Services, Lorain County Community Alliance Rep, NIMS Primary Contact)

David C. Urig.....988-8256

(Lighting, Solid Waste)

## 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.

## 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.

## 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)



**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.



## **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.

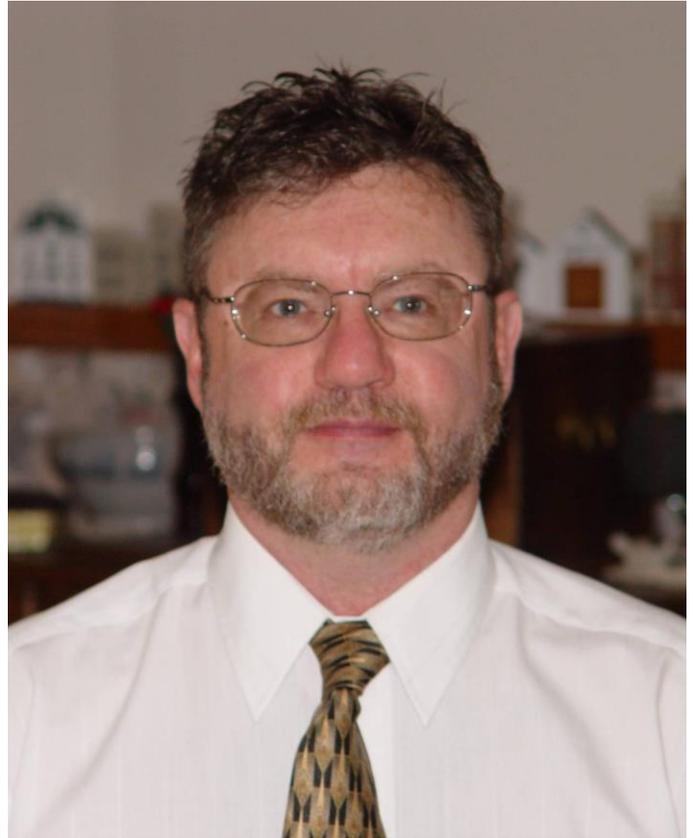
**Garage Sale Signs.** If a fall garage sale is in your plans, remember that if you place signs on near-by corners or on property other than your own, **you are required to have that property owner’s permission**. Your signs are limited to a maximum of 8 square feet. Also help keep the Township litter free by removing and properly disposing of the signs when your sale is over.

## FEATURED EMPLOYEE

Ron Sleasman is our featured employee. Ron has worked for the Township for 10 years as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. He was a regular member for 6 years and has been an alternate for the past 4 years. 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. During his years as a regular board member, Ron liked being a part of the team and seeing the township grow with direction. Ron found it challenging to review and evaluate all the information provided in the variance process. The most difficult decisions occurred when voting against a variance request that he felt would negatively affect the township.

Ron was born in Charleroi, PA and lived there until he was 10 years old, when his family moved to Elyria Township. Ron graduated from Elyria High School and has taken courses at LCCC. He currently works for the Ford Motor Company and has been with them for 35 years. Ron has lived in Amherst Township for the past 18 years.

Ron has had the pleasure of being married to his wonderful wife Lindy for 27½ years. His son Mike and wife Cindy have just had their first child, Elliott Michael, and they live in northwest Illinois. His daughter Angie and her husband Brian have three children, Annabelle (6), Madalyn (4), and Toby (5-months), and they live in Twinsburg. His daughter Holly and her husband Jason live in Charlotte, NC.



Ron enjoys spending time with his grandchildren and when he can he likes to cook and do small household projects.

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



### REMEMBER TO VOTE!

This year's general election will be on Tuesday, **November 4<sup>th</sup>**. Polls will be open from 6:30 am to 7:30 pm. Remember to bring your identification with you to the polls. Please exercise your right to vote. New registrations and change of addresses need to be completed by **October 6<sup>th</sup>**. Absentee voting begins on **September 30<sup>th</sup>**.

The Lorain County Board of Elections is located at 1985 North 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>

### New Board Member

We would like to welcome Mark Onysyk to the Zoning Commission.

Mark will be filling the second alternate position. Thank you for your interest in serving your community.



Recently Amherst Township started participation in the Abitibi Paper Retriever® Community Recycling Program, by having a container placed at the Township Hall. Residents can drop off their newspaper, magazines, shopping catalogs, and mail. Please do NOT include Plastic, Glass, Metal, or Trash. For more information visit their website at [www.paperretriever.com](http://www.paperretriever.com).

## Recycling Incentive Contest

On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, & 4<sup>th</sup>, 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: October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**(Thursday, Friday, and Saturday – Time: 7:00am to 3:30pm)**

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

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

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



# TRICK OR TREAT



“Trick-or-Treat” in Amherst Township will be held on **Sunday, October 26<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 26<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.



## 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”.

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Printed on Recycled Paper

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 2008

by Carol Schmitkons, Amherst Township Senior Service Director

## Home-Delivered Meal Program

AVI, our meal provider, offers a variety of food choices and allows participants to change between options. Meal prices depend 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 (M-F)**

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

## Medicare

### Medical Savings Account

A Medicare Savings Account (MSA) plan is a type of Medicare Advantage plan. It combines a high-deductible health plan with a medical savings plan. You can use the MSA first to pay for health care, and then you're covered under the high-deductible health plan once you reach your deductible. MSA plans can give you extra control while still providing coverage against catastrophic health care expenses.

#### **Important information about these plans:**

- MSA plans do not offer Medicare "Part D" prescription drug coverage.
- **Savings account portion of the plan**  
This is a special type of savings plan. Medicare pays a set amount to private companies that offer these plans. The plan deposits money from Medicare into the savings account at the beginning of each year. You cannot deposit your own money into these accounts.
- **High Deductible Health Plan portion**  
This part of an MSA plan is a high-deductible Medicare Advantage plan. MSA benefit packages must cover all Medicare "Part A" and "Part B" services and they cannot restrict access to a network of providers.

## Shopping for Your Best 2009 Medicare Options

Each year Medicare allows its participants to change plans. Open enrollment for "Part D" runs from November 15<sup>th</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>. Open enrollment for "Part C" Medicare Advantage plans and Medicare Supplements runs January through March.

Anyone wishing to save money on their health care coverage should compare plan costs at this time. A website at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) offers "Part D" comparisons and other helpful information on Medicare-related services. Another website at [www.ohioinsurance.gov](http://www.ohioinsurance.gov) offers Medicare Advantage and MedSup plan comparisons.

If you are not computer savvy, do not understand what the plan information means, or you need help changing plans, please call the office at **988-5822** to make an appointment. Time slots fill up fast so it's best to call early to mid-November.

## Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots will be available one month before the general election, which falls on Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> this year. If you cannot get out to vote but would like to have a say in who becomes our next president, call the Senior Service Office at **988-5822** or the Board of Elections at **326-5900** to have an application for an absentee ballot mailed directly to you.

## The Ohio Partnership for Long-Term Care Insurance

The Ohio Partnership for Long-Term Care Insurance is a collaboration between the state of Ohio and private insurance companies created to encourage Ohioans to plan for their long-term care needs.

This partnership established “qualified partnership policies” which offers a unique benefit of Medicaid asset protection – **not available in other long-term care policies sold in Ohio**. In addition to long-term care coverage, you will be able to keep more of your assets if you ever need to apply for Medicaid long-term care services. Ohioans without a partnership policy who need Medicaid long-term care services must deplete almost all of their assets to qualify for the Medicaid program.

**How do I know if a partnership policy is right for me?** Generally, financial planners recommend considering long-term care insurance if you:

- own total assets of at least \$75,000 (not including your home or car) that you want to protect;
- have annual retirement income of at least \$25,000 to \$35,000 for an individual or \$35,000 to \$50,000 for a couple that you want to protect or that would allow you to pay out-of-pocket for your long-term care needs;
- are able to pay premiums without financial difficulty;
- want to leave an inheritance to your family or other heirs; and
- have already decided on the type of health care you want in the future.

People also buy long-term care insurance for peace of mind, greater independence, greater ability to receive care at home, and greater choice of care options.

**Why would I need Medicaid if I already have a partnership policy?** Long-term care is expensive and you may have expenses that exceed your long-term care insurance coverage. If so, you can apply for Medicaid to help pay the difference between what the policy covers and what is owed. Owning a partnership policy allows you to keep assets that exceed the typical Medicaid limit and still qualify for the Medicaid program.

## “Planning for Your Future” Seminar

Many people call me with questions about planning for their future care or that of a family member. On Sunday, **October 12<sup>th</sup>** from 1 PM – 4 PM, the “**Henrietta United Methodist Church**” which is located at 52148 St. Rt. 113 will be hosting a seminar dealing with planning for your future.

Elder lawyer, Gayle Reeves of Vermilion, will cover “Estate Planning” and “Long-term Care Planning”. Eric Hempel of Hempel Funeral Home in Amherst will address “Funeral Planning”.

Also on Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup> there will be a “Blood Drive” from 10AM – 1PM and an “Information Fair” from 12 – 1PM. This will be a great place for older adults to come with their adult children to get their questions answered for free. If you have further questions about the event, you may call my office **988-5822**.

## Implementation Delayed for DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program

The Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008, enacted on July 15, 2008, has delayed the Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics and Supplies (**DMEPOS**) Competitive Bidding Program for 18 months. Any enrolled DMEPOS supplier (i.e. anyone currently accepting Medicare’s payment for the DMEPOS supplies they sell) can still furnish items that had been included in the first round of DMEPOS Competitive Bidding. This time extension will allow consumers, providers and Medicare more time to make sure the best program for all involved is implemented and also to educate its consumers.



Pictured above are: (seated from left to right) drivers Jane Meyer (Henrietta), Pam Welton, and Ray Roth; (standing from left to right) Trustee Neil Lynch, driver Dave Rosso, Township employee Georgianne Lynch, Jim Schmitkons, Senior Service Director Carol Schmitkons, Fiscal Officer Howard Akin; drivers Dottie Roth, Keith Rumpler, and Sue Rumpler; Henrietta drivers Jean Bonnett, Rhonda Smith and Mike Smith. (Substitute Henrietta driver, Fritz Knoble was not in attendance).

Pictured below are: AVI District Manger Rob Sunday and Kitchen Supervisor Lori Marincin, our meal providers.

On Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, Carol Schmitkons hosted the “Senior Service Appreciation Luncheon”, serving the volunteer meal drivers, meal providers, and Township personnel with a wonderful lunch. It is her way of showing appreciation to the volunteer drivers for their service to the seniors in Amherst and Henrietta Townships. Amherst and Henrietta Townships are very fortunate to be served by such caring people, who donate their time to the service of others. Many thanks to our volunteer meal drivers!

