

AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Spring 2009

Vol. XIV No. 1

Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in the 4th quarter of 2008 (**bold represents yearly total**):

- (5.01) 3.49 tons of various paper through the "ABITIBI Paper Retriever" program (program started in September 2008)
- (4.4) 1.0 tons of aluminum cans
- (22.1) 4.9 tons of bi-metal cans
- (41.7) 9.2 tons of glass
- (11.8) 2.6 tons of HDPE plastics
- (9.5) 2.1 tons of PETE plastics
- (94.1) 20.8 tons of newspapers
- (15.0) 6.0 tons of scrap metal through the dumpster program
- 25.0 tons of Yard Waste

For questions concerning the "Curbside Recycling Program", contact Allied Waste Services at 458-5191.

Dumpster Days

Amherst Township has set the following dates for "Dumpster Days" in 2009:

- April 2, 3, 4 **★(Incentive Contest)**
- July 9, 10, 11
- October 1, 2, 3

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, located at **7530 Oberlin Road**, 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. may be checked
- No Commercial

Compost & Wood Chips Available

Free compost and wood chips are available from the Township. If you are interested, contact John Szczyk, 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

Fax988-5877
Fiscal Officer988-5894
Email: amherstwpfo@oh.rr.com
Road Superintendent (garage)988-5833
Email: 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
Don Gargas, Zoning Inspector

Trustees

Dennis Abraham986-4555
(Ambulance, Cemetery, Park, Water, Roads, Ditches, Buildings, Land, Enterprise Zones, County Health Rep. Phase II Storm Water/ Environmental Strategy)
Neil Lynch988-7681
(Zoning, Sewer, Fire, Equipment, Personnel, LORCO, Senior Services, Lorain County Community Alliance Rep, NIMS Primary Contact)
David C. Urig988-8256
(Lighting, Solid Waste)

Fiscal Officer

Howard Akin233-7624

Road Superintendent

John Szczyk988-7045

Amherst Twp Senior Services Office

Carol Schmitkons988-5822
Email: amherstwp seniors@oh.rr.com
Office Hours – Mon thru Fri – 8am to 12 Noon

Fire Prevention Officer

Wayne Eppley324-3921

LifeCare Ambulance, Inc.

Maude or Herb DeLa Porte323-6111

Sheriff's Department329-3710

Ohio Edison

Automated Outage Reporting Line 1-888-544-4877

TRUSTEE MEETINGS:

2nd & 4th 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 2nd and 4th 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.

“Home for Hope” Raffle

The Ronald McDonald House of Cleveland (RMH) is celebrating 30 years of caring and collaboration for kids and community. The mission of RMH is to support families whose children are receiving treatment at area medical centers by providing a homelike environment and essential resources and services.

You can help the families RMH serves by entering the “Home for Hope” raffle, which offers the chance to win “**The Bradley II**” home built by R. J. Perritt Homes. Visit the R.J. Perritt Homes website for a list of all 30 prizes to be raffled, as well as photos of the home’s construction as it progresses.

The home is located in Copper Creek and is the first Conservation Development in Amherst Township. Copper Creek consists of 20 acres of land with 10-acres of green space, including a natural walking trail through a 6-acre wooded lot. The development also boasts of a “**Rain Garden**” storm water management system created to allow storm water to leave the site cleaner and at a slower rate. The home is “Green Built” with state of the art NEOGBI certified features, including a “Straw Bail Wall”. Many local businesses have also contributed to the construction of this home.

As an added benefit to the community, R.J. Perritt Homes has teamed up with the Lorain County Joint Vocational School (LCJVS) under the supervision of master tradesmen to educate and provide some hands-on experience to construction students.

For more information, Ticket Form, and Raffle rules, visit R.J. Perritt’s website at:

www.rjperritthomes.com

At the home page, click on the “Home for Hope” logo located on the left side:



The winner(s) will be drawn in reverse order and announced at the **Anniversary Street Party**, to be held on **Friday, September 25, 2009** at the Home for Hope site in Copper Creek. Winner(s) need not be present to win.

Entries are \$100 each. Completed ticket forms can be mailed, faxed, or phoned in along with your payment. **All mail-in entries must be postmarked by September 18, 2009.** Raffle entry request forms may also be faxed to (216) 229-0556 or by phone at (216) 229-5757. Winners must be a U.S. resident and 18 years or older (or 21 years of age or older if required by State of residence) to participate and win any prize. All proceeds support the Ronald McDonald House of Cleveland.

For more information about the Ronald McDonald House of Cleveland visit their website at:

www.clevelandrmh.org



The Bradley II

Sublot 22 at Copper Creek
Located on Pyle S. Amherst Road,
just north of Middle Ridge Road
in Amherst Township
2197 Sq. Ft. + 850 Sq. Ft.
Finished Lower Level



**R. J. PERRITT
HOMES**
The Green Builder

Homes To Fit Your Lifestyle

Amherst Township Park Walkway Project

Amherst Township is planning to construct an extension of the existing walking path in the Amherst Township Park that will link the existing path to the Township's Civil War era cemetery and the Workshop Players Theatre. This added length of trail way will improve outdoor recreational activities for the residents of Amherst Township and the surrounding area by facilitating access to the conserved natural area of the park, which is currently not accessible, including access for people with disabilities.

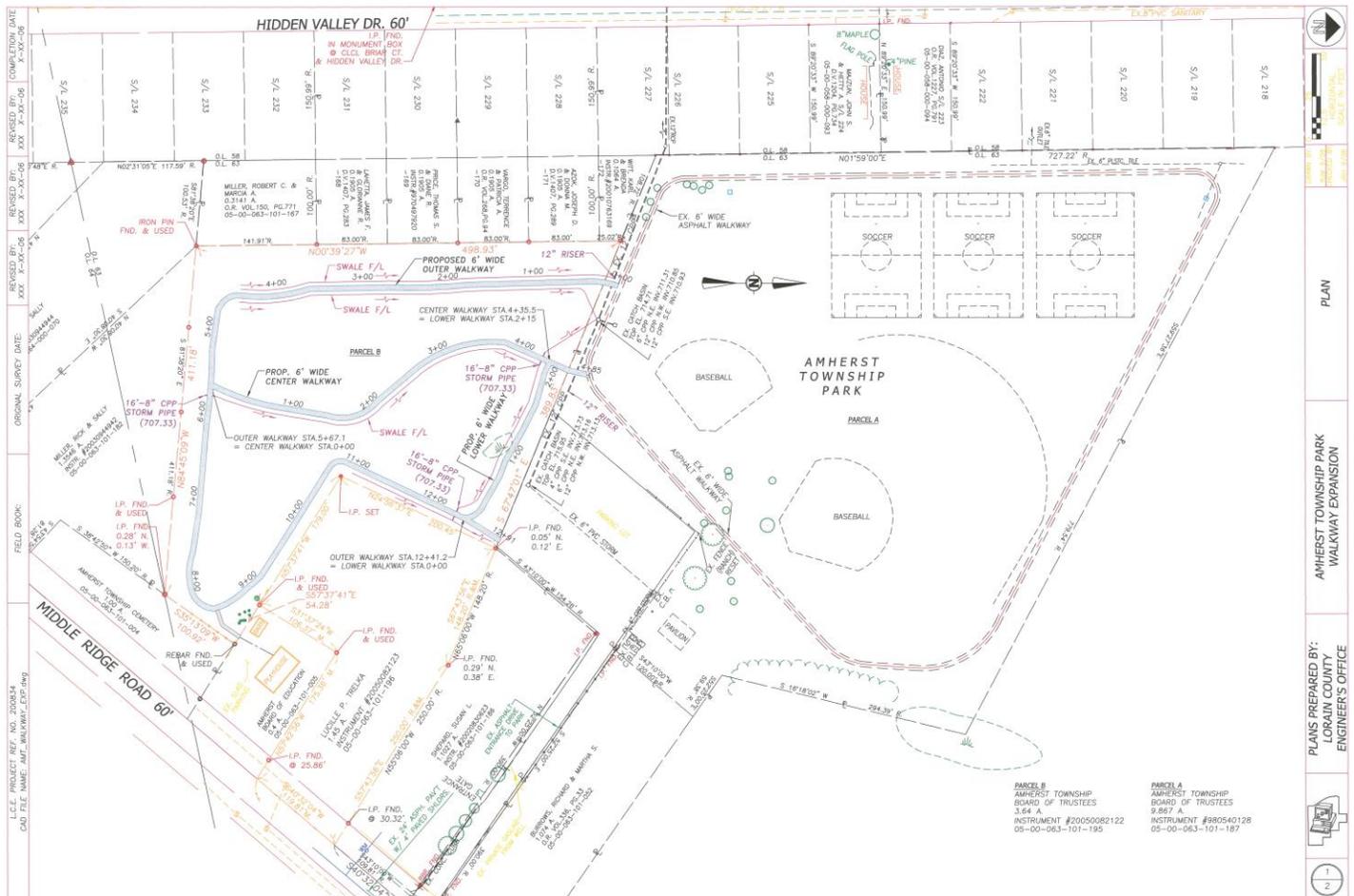
Planned additional lighting to the proposed extension will improve safety and accessibility for theater patrons, by allowing theater cast, crew members and patrons the option to access the township parking area through the trail linkage, thus allowing the Workshop Player Theatre to free up space at the theaters limited parking area. The freed up theater parking area will allow designation of reserve parking for people with disabilities, and will improve emergency service vehicles access to the theater.

Working in cooperation with the Funding Amherst Community Enhancement (F.A.C.E.) group, a non-profit organization chaired by Amherst Township resident Tom Hupman, and with grant writer Dr. Malcolm Peel, the township has applied for several grants. It is hoped that the successful grant awards will pay for the majority of this project's costs and turn this dream into a reality. Cost estimates provided by the Lorain County Engineer's Office for the proposed walkway, as well as resurfacing the parking lot and existing walkway, are \$162,391.

The dark lines in the map below show the location of the new walking path. The existing walking path is located on the perimeter of the soccer and baseball fields. Upon completion there will be approximately 3/4-miles of walking paths in the Amherst Township Park.

F.A.C.E. Board of Directors:

Tom Hupman, Richard Rice, Bill Poplar, Edie Tiller, Richard Barelka, and James Kantola.



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”.

Environmental Protection

With the coming of Spring, keep in mind that everyone has a stake in protecting and improving the environment in Amherst Township and the country. What each person can do, adds up to a large impact on healthier water. Start by using a few personal safeguards.

WHAT IS STORM WATER POLLUTION?

As Storm Water flows over driveways, lawns, and sidewalks, it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants.

Storm Water can flow directly into a lake, stream, river, wetland, or coastal water. Anything that enters a Storm Sewer System is discharged untreated into the water bodies we use for swimming, fishing, and drinking water. Polluted runoff is the greatest threat to clean water!

By practicing healthy household habits, residents can keep common pollutants like pesticides, pet wastes, grass clippings, and automotive fluids off the ground and out of storm water.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? – STORMWATER

- Don’t over water your lawn.
- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly.
- Don’t dispose of household hazardous waste in sinks and toilets.
- Inspect your septic system every three years and have your tank pumped as necessary.
- Make sure rainwater from your property is properly traveling to the nearest storm drain or waterway.
- Compost or mulch yard wastes. Don’t leave it in the street or sweep it into storm drains or waterways such as streams or ditches.
- Cover piles of dirt or mulch used in landscaping projects.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? – SOLID WASTE REDUCTION

Visit the website for the Lorain County Solid Waste Department @ www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste for details on disposing of various waste items such as:

- Fluorescent Bulb & Ballast Recycling
- E-Scrap Recycling
- Household Hazard Waste Days
- Used Motor Oil Recycling
- Printer Cartridge Recycling Program
- Scrap Tire Disposal

Together we can make Amherst Township a Green and Clean Township!

Automated Trash Collection

Beginning January 12, 2009 Amherst Township began "Automated Trash Collection" with Allied Waste Service. By now, all residents should have received a **68-gallon green** cart for recycling. Recyclable materials include number 1 & 2 plastics, aluminum cans, steel cans, glass bottles & jars, newspapers, junk mail, magazines, cardboard, and cereal boxes/paperboard. If you have not received this green cart and you would like to participate in the recycling program, please contact Allied Waste Customer Service Department at **458-5191**. Office hours are from 8AM to 5PM – Monday thru Friday.

If you find that you have less garbage due to the increase in the types of recyclable items allowed, you can contact Allied Waste for a smaller **blue** container (68-gallon). Unless otherwise specified, the original blue container that was delivered to residents was a 96-gallon container. This smaller container equates to an annual savings of approximately \$27 and residents may find the smaller container more convenient and easier to use.



ATTENTION SENIORS!

Seniors over 65 are eligible for a discount on their trash bill. They may also get a smaller trash cart or choose to put out 2 bags if it is too hard for them to get their cart to the curb. Call Allied Waste to make any necessary changes.

Recycling Incentive Contest

On April 2nd, 3rd, & 4th, 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.

RAFFLE ENTRY FORM

For "Recycling Incentive Contest"

Dumpster Days: April 2nd, 3rd, and 4th
(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. For more information about LifeCare as well as links to other related websites visit 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

PRESORTED STD.
US POSTAGE
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LORAIN, OHIO

NOTE: Meeting Times:

Trustee Meetings at 7:00 p.m. – Zoning Commission Meetings at 6:30 p.m.

Senior GAZETTE

Spring 2009

by Carol Schmitkons, Director, Amherst Township Senior Service Office (ATSSO)

Home-Delivered Meal Program

AVI, our meal provider, offers a variety of nutritional food choices to those who are interested in the program. This program is especially helpful for those returning home after surgery or hospitalization and for those who are not able to shop for themselves. Reduced meal rates are available for those with a limited income. Please call **988-5822** for more details.

Prescription Assistance Programs

- **Pharmaceutical companies** often offer assistance to low-income individuals or during Part D's gap period.
- **Ohio's Best Rx**, the state's discount drug program, is available to all Golden Buckeye cardholders.
- **Local pharmacies** offer special generic drug pricing programs.
- **The "Drug Repository Program"** is for low-income people or those without health insurance. Contact the Lorain County Health Department at: **323-6367** or **244-3418**
- **Prescription Assistance Programs** may be found by searching on the Internet. Some useful websites are:
 - www.freemedicinefoundation.com
 - www.rxassist.org
 - www.needymeds.orgEnrollment requirements and forms are available on these websites. If you don't have access to a computer, contact the Amherst Township Senior Service Office.

ATSSO OFFICE HOURS:
8:00 A.M. – NOON (M-F)
amhersttwpseniors@oh.rr.com

Transportation Help

Amherst Township partners with the Lorain County Office on Aging to provide transportation for our residents who need help getting to doctor appointments. To arrange for a ride, call Charlotte Metez at **244-6261** (x4826) or **326-4826**. Call her as soon as you have an appointment scheduled in order to give her time to find you a driver.

Monthly Social Events

- Park Avenue United Methodist Soup/Salad Lunch** held monthly on the third Thursday from 11AM - 1PM (price varies) & a **free breakfast** held on the last Saturday from 8:30 - 11AM.
- St. Joseph's Catholic Golden Agers** meet monthly on the third Wednesday at 11:30 AM at the St. Joseph's Social Hall. Call "JoAnne" at **988-3089** for more information.
- Amherst Golden Agers** meet every Thursday at noon at 188 Beaver Court to play cards. A "Pot Luck" lunch is held on the first & third Thursdays. Occasionally there are special speakers.
- Senior Citizens of Amherst (SCOA)** meet monthly for lunch & speaker. Call Sue Underwood **988-5765** for details.

If you would be willing to offer a ride to one of these events, please call Carol at the Amherst Township Senior Service Office at **988-5822**.

Web Tools

Here are some other “Ohio Department of Aging” and “Department of Insurance” web tools that offer various types of assistance. Type the following titles into your favorite Internet search engine.

Benefits CheckUp – Find benefits and services for which you may qualify.

ConnectMeOhio – Helping older adults and people with disabilities find local services and support.

Network of Care – Provides information about assistive devices, caregiving, and diseases as well as enabling you to keep personal records, create an online family meeting place and communicate directly with elected officials.

Long-Term Care Consumer Guide – Makes choosing a nursing home or assisted living facility easier.

Guide to Health Insurance – Tells how to find, keep and use health insurance.

Apply for Energy Assistance

The “Percentage of Income Payment Plan” (PIPP) is available to households of one with income up to \$15,600 or to households of two with incomes up to \$21,000.

The “Home Energy Assistance Program” (HEAP) is available to households of one with income up to \$18,200 or to households of two with income up to \$24,500.

To apply for these programs, contact the Amherst Township Senior Service Office, the Lorain County Community Action office, or type in “HEAP application” at your favorite Internet search engine.

Energy Efficiency Improvement Incentives

Columbia Gas of Ohio is offering to help reduce the need to use natural gas and help consumers to potentially see savings on their bills.

-Home Performance Program

Efficiency audit and incentives for installation of upgrades.

-New Homes Program

Incentives for construction of homes that are 50% more energy efficient.

-Low Cost Product Rebate

Offered to 8,000 customers per year installing “Energy Star” programmable thermostats & low-flow showerheads.

-WarmChoice Weatherization

Program - For low-income customers.

FirstEnergy is offering:

-ENERGY STAR with Home Performance Program

Allows homeowners to get a home energy audit at a reduced price.

There are up to \$1,250 in incentives for improvements made once an audit is completed.

For information on all of the above programs as well as additional information related to energy savings, visit the “Ohio Consumer Council” website at:

www.pickocc.org

“Welcome to Medicare”

The “Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program” (OSHIIP) is sponsoring a “Welcome to Medicare” seminar for those turning 65 and older.

It will be held on Thursday, May 7th, from 6-8 pm at the Wesleyan Village located at 807 West Avenue in Elyria. This seminar will be helpful to all those interested in learning more about Medicare and Medicaid. Volunteers will also be available to assist you with your questions.