

AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Summer 2009

Vol. XIV No. 2

Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in the 1st quarter of 2009.

- 0.77 tons of various paper through the "ABITIBI Paper Retriever" program
- 0.78 tons of aluminum cans
- 3.89 tons of bi-metal cans
- 7.37 tons of glass
- 2.11 tons of HDPE plastics
- 1.69 tons of PETE plastics
- 16.61 tons of newspapers
- There were no dumpster days in the first quarter, therefore no scrap metal.

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:

- July 9, 10, 11 **★(Incentive Contest)**
- 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!!

Please note Location Change!!

Brush, limbs, grass clippings, and leaves may be brought to the Amherst Township property located on the **EAST** side of Oberlin Road (directly across from the Township Garage which is 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 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

Fax988-5877
Fiscal Officer988-5894
Email: amhersttwpfo@oh.rr.com
Road Superintendent (garage)988-5833
Email: 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
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 Szeftcyk988-7045

Amherst Twp Senior Services Office

Carol Schmitkons988-5822

Email: amhersttwpseniors@oh.rr.com

Office Hours – Mon thru Fri – 8am to 12 Noon

Fire Prevention Officer

Wayne Eppley324-3921

LifeCare Ambulance, Inc.

Pete or Herb de la 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.

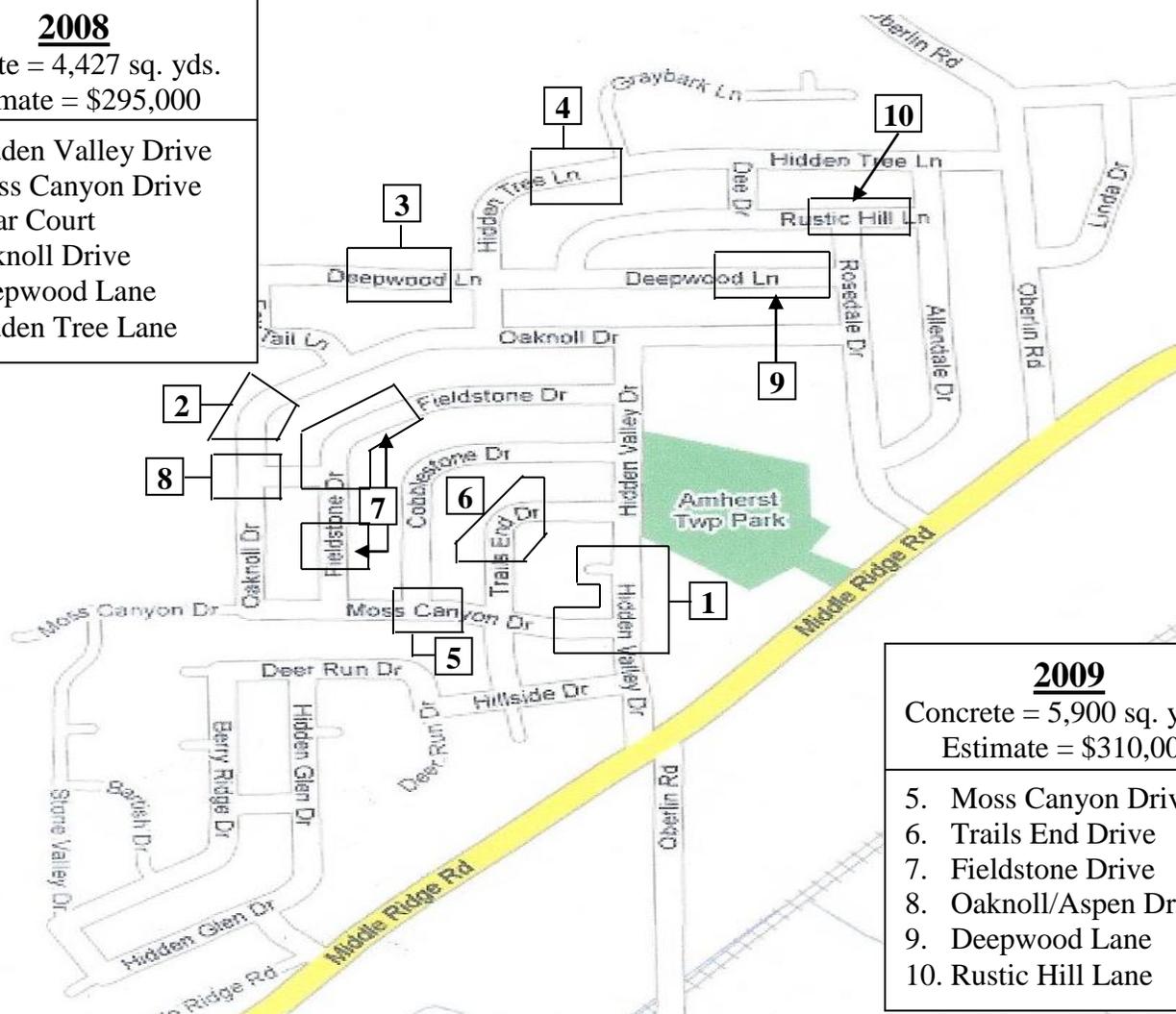
Amherst Township Road Projects

The streets of Hidden Valley are concrete construction, and some of the older streets were constructed in the 1970's with little to no street base or drainage. Because of the lower speed limits and traffic volumes in the Valley, street repair does not usually qualify for grant funding through the Ohio Public Works Commission. Over the years, your local tax dollars have been used to repair only the most severely damaged street sections in the Valley. These emergency repairs required saw cutting of the damaged sections, and replacement with new concrete. The very small sectional replacement of street did not allow for adequate improvement of the street base, nor the addition of necessary drainage. As a result, the repairs were generally short lived, heaving & settling during freeze-thaw cycles, resulting in damage from routine plowing and road use. In addition, this type of repair has a very large unit cost.

In 2008, a different approach was taken for the Hidden Valley Subdivision street rehabilitation and safety improvement projects. The new method involved larger sectional replacement to allow for sub-base and drainage improvement. Funding of these larger street projects was made possible through interest free, 20-year term loans obtained from the Ohio Public Works Commission. The **2008** repairs were funded with a \$90K grant, \$110k loan, and \$95K local funds. The **2009** repairs were funded with a \$200K loan and \$110K in local funds. 2010 will allow for one additional large road rehabilitation project in Hidden Valley, funded by a \$200K loan and \$100K local funds. After 2010, it is expected that the Valley streets can be maintained with routine patching and crack sealing, allowing time for the interest free loans to be repaid, at which point further rehabilitation projects will be required.

Also in 2010, resurfacing of Bechtel Road is planned. Funding of Bechtel Road will be a combination of OPWC grant funds and local township tax dollars.

<u>2008</u>
Concrete = 4,427 sq. yds. Estimate = \$295,000
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hidden Valley Drive Moss Canyon Drive Briar Court 2. Oaknoll Drive 3. Deepwood Lane 4. Hidden Tree Lane



<u>2009</u>
Concrete = 5,900 sq. yds. Estimate = \$310,000
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Moss Canyon Drive 6. Trails End Drive 7. Fieldstone Drive 8. Oaknoll/Aspen Drive 9. Deepwood Lane 10. Rustic Hill Lane

In Memory of L. Elaine Krieg

Amherst Township has lost a valuable employee, community activist and friend. Zoning Chairperson, Elaine Krieg, passed away on Friday, May 1, 2009 as a result of a sudden and unexpected illness. As the chairperson of the Amherst Township Zoning Commission, Elaine was responsible for running the meetings, organizing the agenda, preparing the “Public Hearing” notices, delivering “Public Hearing” information to the other commission members, the Lorain Journal, and the Lorain County Community Development Department. She also contacted the other commission members regarding special meetings as well as monthly meeting. As a Zoning Commission member, she made decisions on rezoning, handled special requests from individuals on rezoning, and reviewed “Site Plan Reviews”, signs, and text changes to the Zoning Resolution.



Elaine enjoyed meeting new people in the township as well as working with the other commission members and the township elected officials. She said the difficult part of her job was when people were unhappy with the decisions made by the commission.

Recently, Elaine was trying to form a community block watch in the township to help prevent crime, and to strengthen the relationships among neighbors and with the Sheriff department.

Elaine’s position as the Zoning Commission Chairperson, and her strong opinions for various causes

and ideas that she supported, sometimes resulted in heated disagreements among residents and various township officials. At the same time, Elaine’s passionate support for her position demonstrated her desire to continually improve the environment and quality of life in Amherst Township for current and future residents.

We will miss Elaine’s debates, her passion and her laughter, and we would like to extend our sincerest sympathy to Elaine’s husband, John, her children Allison and Mathew, her mother Lois, and the rest of Elaine’s family.



“Home for Hope” Raffle



Time is running out to purchase your Ronald McDonald “Home for Hope” Raffle ticket. The drawing will be held on Friday, September 25, 2009, at the Home for Hope site in the Amherst Township Copper Creek development, during the Anniversary Street Party. Entries are \$100 each and a maximum of 15,000 tickets will be sold. There are 30 eco-friendly prizes that will be reverse raffled, with the grand prize being “The Bradley II” green home built by R.J. Perritt Homes. If you are interested in seeing the house, it is now open on Saturdays and Sundays from 1-5 pm. All proceeds support the Ronald McDonald House of Cleveland. For more information visit either of the following websites:

www.clevelandrmh.org
www.rjperritthomes.com

New Building for LifeCare

LifeCare Ambulance is proud to announce the purchase and remodeling of an under-utilized building in downtown Amherst. Thanks to help from the “Community Improvement Coalition” and support from the officials of the City of Amherst and Amherst Township, LifeCare will be serving the “Sandstone Joint Ambulance District” from the new building located on Park Avenue across the street from the old Post Office. The SJAD includes the City of Amherst, Amherst Township, and the Village of South Amherst.

LifeCare began using the Eastern portion of the building in March and will soon have parking for three ambulances. Opening in May is a uniform supply store, and in June, the *Perk Avenue Coffee Shop*, both to be located on the West side of the building. When you drive by LifeCare be sure to admire the “Star of Life” emblem, donated by Tim Drost. Other local participation in the project came from the contractor, H. Fior General Contractors, Inc. and Mark Lesner, the architect.



New Building for Amherst Township



Completed Construction of Township Hall and Garage expansion as of June 12, 2009.



Base for the new Salt Shed

July 9-10-11 Dumpster Event

The dumpsters will be located on the EAST side of Oberlin Road, directly across from the Township Garage. Yard Waste collection has also been moved to the east side of Oberlin Road. Please do not leave plastic bags in the yard waste pile.

Also, Goodwill Industries will have collection bins located at the township hall during the July Dumpster Event. They request the following items: clothing, house wares, collectibles, cell phones, stuffed animals, shoes, hats, books, belts, knick knack's, tools, totes, and purses. A tax deduction receipt will be available for your donations. During Pride Day 2009, 88 lbs. of clothing were collected at the Township Hall for Goodwill Industries.

2009 Allied Waste Large Item Curbside Pickup Weeks:	
July 13th	October 12th
August 10th	November 9th
September 14th	December 14th

Curbside "Recycling" Pickup

Recyclable material must be placed in the green container provided by Allied Waste. Seniors who have "bagged" rubbish collection must use the green container if they wish to participate in the curbside recycle program. Bagged recyclables will not be picked up.



Recycling Incentive Contest

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

Items that may be recycled are:

- "1" and "2" plastics (HDPE and PETE)
- Aluminum and Steel cans
- Glass beverage bottles & jars
- Cardboard boxes / Cereal boxes
- Newspapers / Magazines / Junk Mail

Please rinse all food and beverage containers before placing them in the recycle bin.

Winners of the April "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:

Howard Akin	Jay Bardar
Keith Burrer	Dale & Ariene Cary
Liz Cupp	Allen W. Diedrick
Steven Derifaj	William Freeman
Sandra Jewell	Jeff Jones
Gary N. Lamier	Bill & Debbie Mann
Charles R. Sapienza	Thom Scheidler
Jerome Scheidler	David Schmitkons
Judy Szewczyk	Ken Welton

RAFFLE ENTRY FORM

For "Recycling Incentive Contest"

Dumpster Days: July 9th, 10th, and 11th
(Thursday, Friday, and Saturday – Time: 7:00am to 3:30pm)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

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 Pete de la Porte and Vice-President Herb de la 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.

Contact Sheriff’s Dept.

Residents are reminded that they can help deter crime by keeping home and car doors locked, as well as keeping garage doors closed. 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 “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.
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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

A variety of food choices at prices geared to income level are available to those over 60 or disabled adults over 18. Call **988-5822** for more details. ATSSO is also looking for 2 more meal drivers.

Food Assistance Programs

The **Ohio Food Assistance Program** is a nutrition assistance program. Those who qualify for benefits receive an electronic card that works just like a debit or credit card at the grocery store. For program information call Marcia Kubach, "Food Assistance Program Outreach Coordinator" for the Second Harvest Food Bank, at **(440) 326-4825**.

The **OBB Benefits Check Up's** new web-based service is another way to find assistance with paying for food. It provides easy access to information about the federal **SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)**. It can assist older Americans or their caregivers with finding information about local food programs, eligibility standards, application information and state-specific hotline phone numbers.

Economic Difficulties?

The Ohio Benefits Bank (OBB) at www.OBB.Ohio.Gov is a web-based computer program designed to connect low- and moderate-income Ohioans with access to information about tax credit and public benefits. Ohioans can also check potential eligibility for other work support benefits such as health care coverage, home energy assistance, child care subsidies, and food stamps at an OBB site.

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

Special Pension

"Veterans Aid & Attendance Special Pension" is for Veterans and/or surviving spouses serving from WWI to present. It is **not** dependent on service-related injuries.

It **does** help to pay for in-home care, a nursing home or an assisted living facility. To qualify, an individual must (by a doctor's order) require help with eating, bathing, dressing or incontinence care. Those who are blind or are a nursing home patient due to mental or physical incapacity also qualify.

It **does not** pay for a person needing housekeeping, part-time or respite care. For more detailed information call Lorain County Veterans Services at **284-4625**.

The Ohio Department of Aging proudly announces **Boomerang**, a free, lifestyles e-mail newsletter for baby boomers and "young" seniors. Subscribe at:
www.aging.ohio.gov/news/boomerang

When COBRA Strikes

The new Stimulus Plan provides a 65% subsidy for COBRA continuation premiums for up to nine months covering workers, and their families, who have involuntarily been terminated from their jobs between September 1, 2008 and December 31, 2009. Those who initially failed to elect COBRA because it was unaffordable would be given an additional 60 days to elect COBRA and receive the subsidy.

Lower Your Electric Bills!

(from “Ohio Consumer Counsel News”)

You can save money on your electric bill every month by completely turning off electronic equipment. Household appliances and electronics contribute to a majority of the expenses seen on monthly electric bills. What consumers may not know is a significant portion of that expense could be the result of items that are not in use. Computers, video game consoles, digital clocks, televisions, refrigerators and cell phones still use power even when they are “off.” Items that use a remote control, have an external power supply (like an AC adapter), have digital displays, battery chargers or soft-touch key pads are all examples of “vampire” or “standby” power products that can drive consumer’s electric bills up.

The amount of power these items use in standby mode can be startling. While most devices use much less electricity while in standby mode, combined they can account for up to 10% of your monthly bill. The largest power vampires are desktop computers, laptop computers and digital cable boxes with DVR’s. Even PS3/Xbox, 360/Wii, TVs, DVD players, charged cell phones, cable modems and the LCD in CPU monitors use 1-5 watts.

Some standby power is necessary. It’s what makes conveniences convenient. While it may be impossible to eliminate it, there are ways to reduce it. Unplug items not regularly used. Attach several similar items, like computer equipment, to a plug strip and turn it off while away. Items like cable boxes and Internet modems, which rely on standby power to send information, should be connected to a different circuit so the connection is not lost.

SOCIAL SECURITY NEWS

Compassionate allowances are a way for Social Security offices to quickly identify diseases and other medical conditions that qualify to expedite SSDI claims.

Under this newly created list of 50 impairments, Social Security offices can now act in a matter of days rather than months or years. For more information visit the following website:

www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances

Prescription Drug Plan Publications

Receive the new free publication for Medicare beneficiaries wishing to save money on “Part D” prescription drug plans by calling **1-800-772-1213**.

Gas Choice Agreement’s Fine Print (from “Ohio Consumer Counsel News”)

The Ohio Consumer Counsel (OCC) advises consumers to become familiar and understand all supplier contract language before enrolling. It is the consumer’s responsibility to understand any agreement’s fine print. Be sure to check out the following before completing your enrollment agreement:

- Does the agreement automatically renew upon completion?
- Would automatic renewal subject you to a higher rate?
- Is your rate fixed or variable?
- Are there additional fees for enrollment, transfer or cancellation?
- Is the supplier a certified Choice Program participant?