

AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Fall 2009

Vol. XIV No. 3

Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in the 2nd quarter of 2009.

- 3.47 tons of various paper through the "ABITIBI Paper Retriever" program
- 3.13 tons of aluminum cans
- 15.75 tons of bi-metal cans
- 29.79 tons of glass
- 8.55 tons of HDPE plastics
- 6.84 tons of PETE plastics
- 67.25 tons of newspapers
- 30.00 tons of yard waste
- 413.00 tons of concrete
- 3.29 tons of scrap metal through the dumpster program

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:

October 1, 2, 3 ★(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 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
- **No Plastic Bags** – place bags in 55 gal drum

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: 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 Szeftcyk320-7157

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.

Township Hall & Highway Maintenance Facility Improvements

The Amherst Township Hall and Highway Maintenance facility was constructed at 7530 Oberlin Road in the early 1970s. The western portion of the facility served as the highway maintenance area, and the eastern portion served as the public meeting and office area. The attic was used for storage of township records. The approximately 5,000 square foot pole barn construction facility has served Amherst Township over the past 35+ years, but improvements were necessary.

As the township has grown, and regulations have changed, the Board of Trustees recognized the need to upgrade the township facilities.

- Township equipment was exposed to the outdoor weather conditions, vandalism and theft, as there was not enough internal shelter.
- Records were stored in an attic without adequate environmental controls, resulting in damage from temperature cycling and insects.
- The public meeting area also served as the office area for the Zoning Inspector and the Trustees, exposing records, PCs and other sensitive electronic equipment.
- Diesel fumes and other VOC emissions cross-contaminated the office and public meeting areas.
- The limited paved area prevented adequate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act regarding parking facilities.
- Public meetings with high interest required clearing of the highway garage to provide adequate room, but resulted in public safety concerns.

The difficulty was finding adequate funding within the current revenue sources. In 2007, an estate settlement of a prominent township family resulted in the largest estate tax ever received by Amherst Township. The trustees agreed that the funds should be used for long-term capital improvements, versus general operating expenses, and thus set aside the funds for future improvement of the township facilities. In 2008, an estate settlement of another prominent township family resulted in possibly the second largest estate settlement in township history. The 2007 and 2008 estate tax settlements provided approximately \$470,000 to the residents of Amherst Township. To put this into perspective, less than

\$300 in estate tax has been received by Amherst Township in 2009 as of September 1st.

In May of 2008, Amherst Township engaged the services of an Architect and Engineer to begin the planning of an upgraded Township Hall and Highway Maintenance facility. Public bids were solicited in February 2009, and construction began in late April.

An approximate 5,000 square foot addition to the west of the original building will serve as the Highway Maintenance facility. An approximate 1,500 square foot addition on the south side of the original facility will serve as a storage area for public records, table and chair storage, a trustee office and mechanical room. Two bays of the original Highway Maintenance facility are being renovated to serve as the public meeting hall, and the original east side area that served as both a public meeting area and office space, will be restricted to office area only.

Additional improvements are as follows:

- More paved parking spaces for the public & additional ADA parking
- Improved outdoor lighting
- Removal of utility poles
- Larger and more comfortable public meeting area
- Improved security and communication system with fire detection ability
- Firewall separation of Highway Maintenance facility from Public meeting area and offices
- Easier access for road salt delivery
- Flammable/Hazardous storage area
- Additional insulation and roof material change to reduce energy usage and railroad noise
- Upgraded electrical service
- Separate restroom and shower facility for Highway Maintenance staff
- Upgraded high efficiency HVAC system
- Additional ADA Compliant restrooms

The Amherst Township Hall and Highway Maintenance facility upgrade meets all current regulations, and is currently on time and within budget. Completion is expected by the end of October. We hope the citizens of Amherst Township will appreciate the Amherst Township Hall and Highway Maintenance facility improvements, and agree that their tax dollars are well spent.

Photos were taken on 9/5/2009



The old entrance will now lead to the Township Offices for Seniors, Zoning, and Fiscal Officer. The new entrance in the center of the building will be to the new Public Meeting Hall.



New Entrance to Public Meeting Hall



New Highway Maintenance Facility



Raised platform in Public Meeting Hall. There will be rooms behind the platform, one to the left for storage of chairs and tables, one to the right for Executive Session meetings.



Raised platform as viewed from the right side.



The new foyer entrance as viewed from inside, in the new Public Meeting Area.



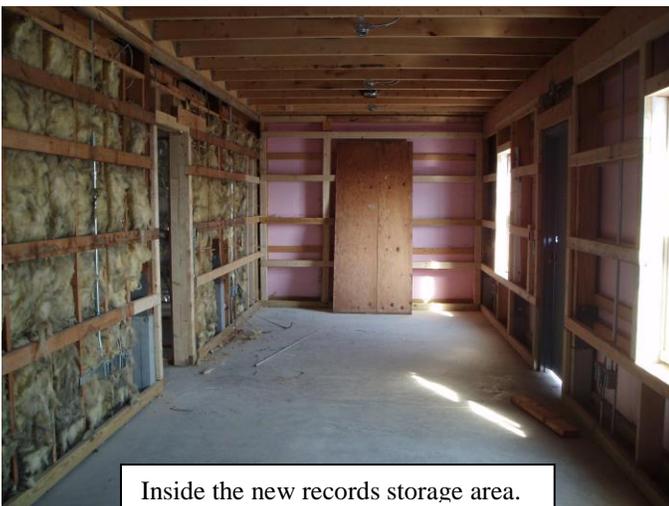
Standing in the old Public Meeting area, the kitchen will remain in the same location, but it has been slightly expanded. It will have access on both sides as well as a large serving window that goes to the new Public Meeting area. In the background is the new foyer entrance.



Standing in front of the kitchen, a view of the new office area where the old Public Meeting area was. To the left are the offices for the Zoning Inspector and the Fiscal Officer. The room on the right is a conference room. All the way to the back (where the pink insulation is visible) is the new records storage area.



A closer view of the office for the Fiscal Officer on the left and the conference room on the right. The new records storage room is visible in the back.



Inside the new records storage area.



The new office for the Zoning Inspector now occupies the area of the previous office for the Fiscal Officer and is expanded. The Senior Service office remains in its same location (not pictured, but to the left of the office for the Zoning Inspector), and is being renovated and upgraded.

FEATURED EMPLOYEE

Marcie Jaworski is our featured employee. Marcie has been on the Zoning Board of Appeals for the past four years, the first 2 years serving as an alternate. She is currently secretary to the board for the ZBA.

As a member of the ZBA, some of her duties include building and land use regulations. Marcie and the other four members work closely together to maintain our small town appeal, yet keep up with economic growth within our community. They accomplish this by conserving and protecting property and their values, securing the most appropriate use of land and facilitating adequate but economic provisions of public improvements according to the Township zoning rules. Some of the harder decisions are those projects that would negatively affect the community.

As Secretary to the board, Marcie takes notes at each meeting, prepares copies for the board, and reads them at the next meeting. Marcie would like to see more citizens at the ZBA meetings to actually view what the board is trying to do.

Marcie was born and raised in a rural town called Painesville Township where her father also served on the Zoning Board of Appeals. After graduation, Marcie attended Bowling Green State University, where she met her husband Mark. Later she obtained a Masters Degree in Curriculum from Ashland University. She has been a teacher with the Vermillion Board of Education for 32 years and is looking forward to retiring in the next 2 years. Marcie and her family have lived in Amherst Township for 21 years.

Marcie and her husband Mark celebrated their 33rd anniversary in August. Mark is a 9th grade Biology teacher in the Lorain School system. Their son Bryan is a graduate of Miami University with a degree in business and currently lives in Cincinnati. Their



daughter Erin graduated from Ohio State University, majoring in meteorology. She now lives in Little Rock, Arkansas with her husband whom she met when they were both doing an internship for NASA in Cleveland.

For the past 15 years, Marcie has been a member of the Amherst Women's Club, known as the "Twigbenders". The club is a branch of an Ohio group whose affiliation began 52 years ago by our own Amherstonian, Elaine Harlan.

In her spare time, mostly during the summer, Marcie enjoys kayaking, walking, gardening, reading, and golf. She also enjoys artistic projects. Her current hobby is painting lighthouses.

Thank you Marcie for your devotion to the ZBA and Amherst Township.



Flu Shot Clinics



The Lorain County General Health District is currently in the planning process of establishing the dates for both “Seasonal” and “H1N1” Flu Shot Clinics. The information on flu and flu immunizations is changing frequently this season. Please be sure to check their website at www.loraincountyhealth.com for the most up to date details. The following is some general information provided by the LCGHD.

✓ **Take action daily**

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or your sleeve when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs spread that way.
- Stay home if you get sick. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.

✓ **Follow public health advice** regarding school closures, avoiding crowds and other social distancing measures.

✓ **Stay Healthy.** Influenza is thought to spread mainly person-to-person through coughing or sneezing of infected people.

Zoning Commission

Mary Torma was elected chairman for the remainder of 2009. Glenn Thome was promoted from an alternate to full commission member, and serves as the secretary to the Zoning Commission. Thank you for your interest in serving your community.

REMEMBER TO VOTE!

This year’s general election will be on Tuesday, **November 3rd**. 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 5th**. Absentee voting begins on **September 29th**.

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, you can call them at 326-5900 or visit the Lorain County Board of Elections website at: <http://loraincountyelections.com>

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.

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.



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.



Recycling Incentive Contest

In July, 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 **\$25 Gas Card** from "Law's Auto Service, Inc." located on Middle Ridge Road near the State Route 2 interchange.

The Winners were:

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Michael Alexander | Gary N. Lamier |
| Philip & Angela Bak | Denver T. Limer |
| Charles H. Barckert | Anne Poore |
| Jay Bardar | Charles Sapienza |
| Elaine Birkline | Barbara Shauck |
| Lu Bringman | Barb Shinsky |
| Keith & Amelia Burrer | Walter Szewczyk |
| Michael Gargas | Catherine Urig |
| Dennis Hodkey | Michelle Walsh |
| Tiffany Hodkey | Christine Winrod |

RAFFLE ENTRY FORM

For "Recycling Incentive Contest"
Dumpster Days: October 1st, 2nd, and 3rd
(Thursday, Friday, and Saturday – Time: 7:00am to 3:30pm)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____



TRICK OR TREAT



PERMITS REQUIRED

“Trick-or-Treat” in Amherst Township will be held on **Sunday, October 25th, 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 25th, 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.



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”.

Printed on Recycled Paper

Amherst Township
7530 Oberlin Road
Elyria, OH 44035
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

Fall 2009

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

Lorain County's Only Geriatric Assessment Center opens in Elyria

Lorain County's only Geriatric Assessment Center opens in Elyria at Wesleyan Senior Living. The new "Collaborative Care Evaluation Center" will now provide comprehensive geriatric assessments.

Dr. Swarnalatha Meyyazhagan, MD (nicknamed Dr. Mevy at Wesleyan), is the Medical Director at Wesleyan Senior Living, and will be leading the team of medical and geriatric professionals who will work with the seniors, their family members, the senior's physicians, and other care providers to provide a comprehensive medical, psychological, and social assessment. According to Dr. Mevy, "Our goal at Collaborative Care is to provide an independent life plan that allows seniors to live a safe, healthy, full life, in the comfort of their own home."

An assessment at Collaborative Care consists of the following steps:

- An examination of the older person's current status in terms of their:
 - Physical, mental, and psychosocial health.
 - Ability to function well - to independently perform the basic activities of daily living such as dressing, bathing, preparing meals, and managing medication.
 - Living arrangements, social network, and access to support services.
- An identification of current problems or anticipated future problems in any of these areas.
- The development of a comprehensive "care plan" which addresses all problems identified, suggests specific interventions or actions required, and makes specific recommendations regarding resources needed to provide the necessary support services.

The good news is that now over half of the seniors who thought they needed to move out of their homes are able to stay in their homes with a comprehensive geriatric assessment. You can Contact "Collaborative Care" of Wesleyan Village at **284-9201**.

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

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.

Medicare Part D

Medicare Part D plans may be changed during the open enrollment period, which is between November 15th and December 31st each year. Medicare supplements may be changed between January 1st & March 31st.

If you wish to make sure your current plan is still the best choice for 2010, Amherst Township Senior Service Office will begin running comparisons as soon as the 2010 plans and premiums are announced or in early November. Those who have had comparisons run in the past can save a trip to the office by calling us at **988-5822** to update your medication list. We will contact you with the results. If you have never had a comparison run, call the office for an appointment or to schedule an in-home visit if you are homebound.

OSHIIP's Medicare Part D Check Up Event for Lorain County

On Tuesday, November 10th from 1:00- 4:30 pm, OSHIIP will be at the Avon Lake Public Library to discuss changes in Medicare for 2010 and to run Part D comparisons for seniors.

The Difference between “Home Health” & “In-Home Care”

By Jack Warren

So often when senior citizens are given their home-going instructions from a discharge planner at a nursing/rehab center or a hospital, they are given a list of possible providers, and instructed—“Here, call one of these names. They’ll be able to help you.” The helpless feeling that they are left with only worsens as they wonder which option is the best choice for them.

First, we need to respect the position of the discharge planners. Their job is to get you on your way home with as much information as possible. They CANNOT recommend one provider over another. Second, let’s identify our options – “Home Health Care” vs. “In-Home Care”. Both occur in the home, but are markedly different in their service offerings.

“Home Health Care” is designed to bring “skilled services” to your home. Skilled services are those things like taking your vital statistics, providing wound care or a periodic bath or shower, or helping you to start your occupational or physical therapy. These things were ordered by your doctor and are most commonly covered under your Medicare Plan.

“In-Home Care”, on the other hand, is designed to assist you AND your family with the everyday tasks such as shopping, meal planning and preparation, laundry, vacuuming, dusting, and dish-washing. Additionally, many home care agencies will assist with toileting, bathing/showering, dressing, and providing medication reminders. And the biggest benefit of such a service is companionship. In-Home care is NOT covered under Medicare because, by its definition, it is non-medical in scope.

However, many long-term care insurance policies recognize “In-Home Care” as a suitable alternative to assisted living facilities and nursing homes. So as long as the Client is safe in their own home, they will pay benefits to those using “In-Home Care” services. If you are not covered by a long-term care policy, the fees associated with “In-Home Care” are generally “out-of-pocket”. If you or your spouse served in the armed forces during active war-time, VA pension options exist for you. Contact the Lorain County Veterans Service Commission for details.

Of course, cost is always a concern. I always recommend an agency over an individual, even though the hiring of an individual is less costly up front. At \$17 to \$22 per hour an agency will provide greater peace-of-mind in the long run.

The most important advice I have to offer today is this: If you are baffled by the home-going instructions, or if you feel you should have more options than what a discharge planner seems to be offering you, STOP. Ask them to slow down until you are certain you understand. If you still aren’t sure, ask to see a “Patient Advocate” or an “Ombudsman”. It is your right as a patient to have these services provided.

If you have questions concerning “In-home Care”, you may contact Jack Warren directly at **440-458-4440**.

Jack Warren is a Certified Senior Advisor (CSA) and the General Manager and co-owner of “Comfort Keepers” in Elyria, an “In-Home Care Agency” specializing in Alzheimer’s and Dementia Care.