

AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Winter 2009

Vol. XIV No. 4

Recycling Report

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

- 1.08 tons of various paper through the "ABITIBI Paper Retriever" program
- 3.57 tons of aluminum cans
- 17.83 tons of bi-metal cans
- 33.73 tons of glass
- 9.65 tons of HDPE plastics
- 7.72 tons of PETE plastics
- 76.06 tons of newspapers
- 30.00 tons of yard waste
- 2.47 tons of scrap metal (Dumpster Program)

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

"2010" Dumpster Days

Amherst Township has set the following dates for "Dumpster Days" in 2010:

- April 8, 9, 10
- July 8, 9, 10
- October 7, 8, 9

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!!

Christmas Trees, 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: 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. Urig984-2515
(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.



Christmas Tree Disposal



Amherst Township residents may bring their live Christmas Trees 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) **Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** Residents may also leave live trees on their lawn near the road. The township road crew will be picking up these trees Sat., Dec 26th thru Fri., Jan 8th.



Snow Ban



Residents are reminded that there is a “Snow Ban” in effect in Amherst Township. If there are two inches of snow or more, vehicles should not be parked on the street.

Amherst Township Park Trail Project Update

As reported last spring, Amherst Township is planning to extend the existing walking path in the Amherst Township Park, linking the existing path to the Township’s Civil War era cemetery and the Workshop Players Theatre. This additional trail 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.

The Lorain County Engineer’s cost estimate for the proposed walkway, as well as resurfacing the parking lot and existing walkway, is \$162,391. The township applied for several grants, hoping to fund the majority of this project with grant money. This fall, the ODNR awarded the township a grant of \$11,702 to help with the funding of the trail extension. Although this amount is considerably less than the funding required, the Board of Trustees has agreed to accept the funding, and complete as much of the project as possible. Additional grant funding will be sought in 2010 to fund the balance of the project.

The township Road Crew has roughed in the trail extension, and used reclaimed road grindings for the trail base. The roughed in trail is currently accessible to foot and bike traffic. Future improvements will meet ADA compliance, and allow for walking with baby strollers.

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.



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.

\$403 – Resident
\$693 – Non-Resident

Twp. 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.

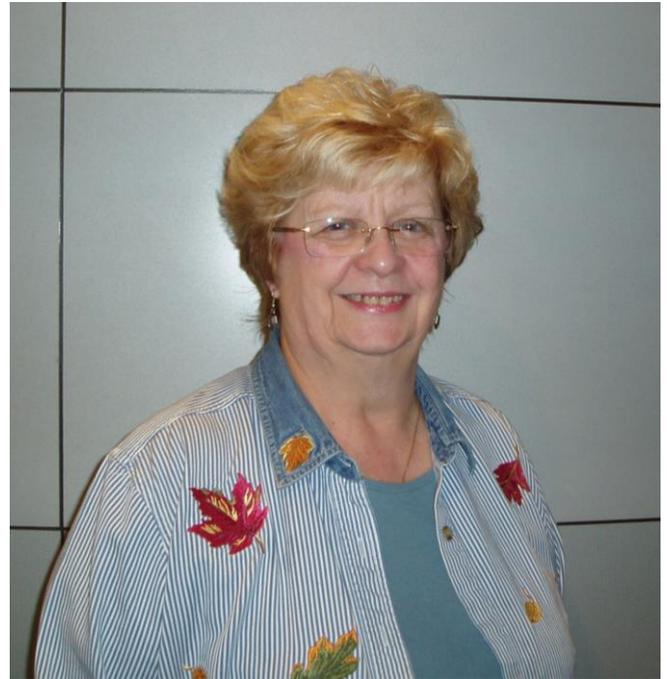
FEATURED EMPLOYEE

Joan Whitman is our featured employee. Joan has been on the Zoning Board of Appeals for the past year and a half and attends most of the Regular Trustee Meetings.

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. As a member of the ZBA, Joan likes learning about how the township is run and what the laws are for zoning. She believes that it is good to know what is going on in the township and attending meetings keeps her informed. She thinks that more people should attend the meetings so they can know first hand how things are run. Watching the meetings on cable is also a benefit, although not always timely, as they may be a week or two in the past.

Joan was born and raised in Lorain, Ohio. She is a graduate of Lorain High School and Lorain County Community College. Joan worked as an Office Manager for a medical office for 25 years and at Metro Medical Center as a “coder & biller” for the last 5 years before retiring.

Joan and her husband Bob have been married for 46 years and have lived in Amherst Township the entire time. They have two sons, Robert and Ronald, and four grandchildren.



Joan likes to spend time with her grandchildren when they are not in school. She also enjoys exploring the Internet, going for walks, and she loves to read. Joan is a member of St. Peter’s United Church of Christ in Amherst. She has served two 6-year terms on the church council, serving as Vice President and Deaconess. She was a member of the Alter Guild, taught Sunday School, and works at the Vacation Bible School every year.

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

Township Hall Expansion & Upgrade Status



By November, the concrete parking lot has been poured, parking spaces are lined, and parking stops installed. Grass seeding is completed.



View of the main meeting area, looking at the new entry way and kitchen. The tile flooring is installed and the walls are painted. Exit signs, emergency lighting, and fire detection are also in.

2010 Allied Waste Large Item Curbside Pickup Weeks:

January 11th

February 8th

March 8th

April 12th

May 10th

June 14th

July 12th

August 9th

September 13th

October 11th

November 8th

December 13th



“WIN A RAIN BARREL!” CONTEST



Thanks to those of you who filled out the “Win A Rain Barrel!” environmental survey. We received over 100 responses. Winners were picked during the October 27th Regular Trustee Meeting. Ten Amherst Township residents won a 50-gallon rain barrel.

The Winners were:

Charles Bezoski
Tim Bivins
Brian Bott
David Dempsey
Michael Gargas

Tammy King
Eleanor Lewis
Steve Ostrolencki
Eileen Rockwell
John Schmitkons



Recycling Incentive Contest

In October, 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 October “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	Bill & Debbie Mann
Rich Antus	Jeff McVetta
Philip & Angela Bak	Nancy Metzler
Jay Bardar	Jacki Rich
Denise Bringman	Charles Sapienza
William Bringman	Jerry Scheidler
Keith & Amelia Burrer	John Schmitkons
Roland Camarillo	Kim Schmitkons
Jeanette Kosakowski	Walter Szewczyk
Gary N. Lamier	Virginia Szilvasy
Frank Lasso	Pam Welton

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.

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Amherst Township
7530 Oberlin Road
Elyria, OH 44035
www.amhersttownship.us

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

Senior GAZETTE

Winter 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.

April 1, 2010 Census Day Don't Miss Being Counted

Many people think the census is a bother and an invasion of privacy, but information gained from the census is helpful to many different people and agencies in both the public and private sectors. The Amherst Township Senior Services Office uses the information in planning to determine how many people in the community might need our help. We also use the information when we apply for grants to offset the cost of services we provide.

Census information determines how well we are represented in state and federal government because population determines congressional seats. Census information also determines where new schools, hospitals, churches and community facilities are needed. Most important for us, as your local government representatives, is the fact that the census figures are used to calculate the percentage of funds allocated to various communities or service agencies in the county or across the state. This affects how much service we can offer to you for things like road repair, home delivered meals, and assistance for sewer installations.

Please help us, and your community, by filling out your census form on April 1st. If you need assistance filling out the form don't hesitate to call the office at **988-5822** for help.

ATSSO OFFICE HOURS:

8:00 A.M. – NOON (M-F)

amhersttwpseniors@oh.rr.com

Safe Driving Tips for Seniors

As we age, more factors begin to affect our ability to drive safely. Things like glare, visual adaptation to darkness, slower reaction time, and subtle vision and hearing changes all influence driver safety.

Here are some tips the Elyria City Health District recently offered in the "*Senior News*":

- Change your driving habits if you start to feel uneasy on the road – slow down, drive less, & plan when and where you will drive; avoid driving at night, during rush hour & when heavy snow, rain or high winds are predicted.
- Take an AARP- or AAA- sponsored driving refresher course.
- Wear your seat belt.
- Get your hearing & vision checked regularly. Make sure you are wearing the appropriate glasses for day and night driving situations.
- Keep your windshields clean inside and out.
- Make sure your interior & exterior mirrors are properly adjusted before starting out.
- Don't drive if you've been drinking or are taking medications that affect one's ability to drive safely. Read the warnings on all new medications.

Are You Prepared for Winter's Blizzards & Other Disaster Situations?

It's easy to think that a disaster will never come our way when the sun is shining and the garden is full of lush, tasty veggies, but what happens when the destructive winds spawn a tornado or a kitchen fire gets out of control? Are we prepared? Do we have a plan in mind? Here are some items to consider:

- Develop a list of emergency numbers
- Establish a designated meeting place outside the home as well as a designated out-of-area destination if you can't return home immediately
- Assemble a disaster supply kit with 3 day's supply of water, non-perishable food, first aid kit, clothes, bedding, sanitation items, tools and "special needs" items like glasses, medications, cash, copies of important documents
- Learn when & how to shut off the main lines for water, gas & electricity
- Install smoke detectors on each level & check batteries semi-annually
- Know two ways out of every room
- Determine how to handle your special needs if you are elderly or disabled
(The local Emergency Management Office maintains a list of those needing special assistance during disasters – considered contacting them at **329-5117** to be placed on their list.)
- Plan for pet care

If disaster strikes:

- remain calm and patient
- put your plan into action
- provide assistance to those with special needs
- check for injuries
- check local news for information and instructions

When officials say it is OK to venture out of your designated spot:

- assess the condition of your residence with a flashlight not an open flame
- smell for gas leaks
- shut off damaged utilities
- clean up any hazardous or flammable spills
- treat injuries
- notify local and out-of-town contacts
- document damage for insurance claims

The "Ohio Food Assistance Program" & Township's "Meal Program"

This nutrition assistance program is available to individuals whose gross income is less than \$1,127 per month and couples whose income is less than \$1,517 per month. Household expenses such as rent or mortgage, utilities and medical costs are taken into account to determine potential eligibility.

The township's "Meal Program" also helps those with low incomes by providing one nutritious hot meal per day at a cost that is in line with income. Call the Amherst Township Senior Service Office at **988-5822** for more information on the three meal options that are offered.

Lorain County Office On Aging – Nutrition Program

Lorain County Office on Aging is pleased to announce an innovative nutrition program that provides healthy meals to qualifying seniors. Eligible participants will receive **12 vouchers a month** that they can use to order healthy meals from a “dietician-approved” menu at Blue Sky Restaurant in Amherst. These vouchers can be used anytime Mondays through Thursdays. Participation is limited.

Who is eligible to participate in the Nutrition Program?

- You must be 60 years of age or older, or are an accompanying spouse of a participant.
- Preference will be given to individuals who are a high nutritional risk.

What does the Nutrition Program provide?

- 12 vouchers per month to redeem for a meal selection listed on the specified menu at Blue Sky Restaurant (includes lunch and dinner options)
- Socialization
- Freedom to choose preferred times and choices for meals

What are the conditions of the Nutrition Program?

- Vouchers are good only for selections from the specified menu. There will be no substitutions allowed. Selections that are not on the specified menu will be at the cost of the participant.
- Vouchers can only be used by the person who received them.

- Vouchers cannot be applied towards a tip.
- Vouchers are for “Dine-In” use only and cannot be used for “to go” or “carryout” meals.
- Each voucher is good for one meal only. Participant may use more than one voucher per day.
- Voucher needs to be given to the server before meal is ordered.
- Cannot be replaced if lost or stolen.
- Meals cannot be shared.

How do you become a participant?

- Contact the Lorain County Office on Aging at **(440) 326-4800** or **(440) 244-6261**, extension 4800, to obtain and fill out an application.
- Once eligible, vouchers can be picked up at “Lorain County Office on Aging” located at 320 N. Gateway Blvd. in Elyria, on Mondays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. At this time, applicants will receive a packet including the diner “rights and responsibilities”, “Nutrition Education” material, and a Lorain County Office on Aging brochure.

Participants are given an opportunity to make donations in support of the Nutrition Program. All donations will be used to enhance and expand the Nutrition Program services.

For more information please contact:

Stacy Pennell
SWA – Nutrition Program Coordinator
(440) 326-4824