

AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Summer 2010

Vol. XV No. 2

Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in the 1st quarter of 2010.

- 1.41 tons of various paper through the "ABITIBI Paper Retriever" program
- 3.46 tons of aluminum cans
- 17.36 tons of bi-metal cans
- 32.38 tons of glass
- 9.40 tons of HDPE plastics
- 7.53 tons of PETE plastics
- 74.07 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.

"2010" Dumpster Days

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

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!!

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 988-5894 – x111.

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 988-5894

Fax 988-5877
Fiscal Officer **Ext. 104**
Email: amhersttwpfo@oh.rr.com
Road Superintendent (garage) **Ext. 111**
Email: amhersttwproads@oh.rr.com
Office (Zoning Inspector) **Ext. 103**
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 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 385-0333
(Lighting, Solid Waste)

Fiscal Officer

Howard Akin 233-7624

Road Superintendent

John Szeftcyk 320-7157

Amherst Twp Senior Services Office

Carol Schmitkons **Ext. 102**
Email: amhersttwpseniors@oh.rr.com
Office Hours – Mon thru Fri – 8am to 12 Noon

Fire Prevention Officer

Wayne Eppley 324-3921

LifeCare Ambulance, Inc.

Pete or Herb de la Porte 323-6111

Sheriff's Department 329-3710

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.

COMMUNITY SERVICE IN ACTION



This spring, Boy Scout members of Troop 494 from Amherst and Troop 450 from Birmingham donated their time and service to Amherst Township as part of a “Community Service Project”. On a drizzly Saturday morning, these boys dug holes and planted flowers, shrubs, and trees at the Amherst Township Hall on Oberlin Road. They also installed fabric, mulch, and stones in the landscaping areas. Many of the boys are new to scouts, while others are at various ranks up through “Life Scout”. These boys range in age from 11 to 18 years old.

A goal of the Boy Scouts of America is the personal growth of each Scout through a combination of Fun and Education. There are 7 ranks of advancement to become an Eagle Scout, the highest ranking in the Boy Scouts. These ranks include Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life,

and finally Eagle. These advancements are achieved by completing both rank and merit badge requirements. Advancement is a four step process where the Boy Scout learns the rank and merit badge requirements; the Scout demonstrates the knowledge learned; the Scout is reviewed; and the Scout is recognized. This process is repeated for every badge that is earned and awarded. An Eagle Scout must earn a minimum of 12 Required Merit Badges. There are also approximately 100 various tasks that must be completed including Community Service and showing Scout Spirit. Some of the other tasks include camping first aid, knots & lashings, cooking, personal fitness, and management and service to others to mention a few.

Amherst Township would like to thank these young men for a job well done!



FEATURED EMPLOYEE

Mary Carek is our featured employee. In January 2009, Mary began working in Senior Services as an assistant to Carol Schmitkons. As an assistant, some of Mary's many duties include coordinating the Meal Program, delivering meals to program participants, and assisting with Medicare clients. She organized client and service data into an "ACCESS" database to facilitate report generation for the Senior Service Director, the Board of Trustees, and grant applications. Mary aided in the implementation of the new phone system and also assists other township associates as needed. According to Mary, the best part of her job is working with the meal program, compiling data for grants, and working with everyone.

Mary retired in 2007 after working for 19 years for William Sopko & Sons Co. and Stamco Industries, Inc. located in Euclid, Ohio. She was the Controller and IT Manager for both companies, and also supervised the Accounting Departments' associates and the Human Resource Manager. Prior to these companies, she worked for a professional sports agent for 10 years and held the position of VP of Business Management and company Controller. Most of their clients were professional baseball and football players with a few Cleveland local news and sports casters. Mary also worked with a variety of local companies on a consulting basis doing bookkeeping, taxes, and payroll while pursuing a college degree and raising a family.

Mary was born and raised in Lorain, Ohio. In 1977 she graduated from LCCC with an Associates Degree in Pre-Professional Business. In 1979 she graduated from Baldwin-Wallace College with a Bachelor of Arts Degree, majoring in Accounting and with minors in Economics and Marketing.



Mary loves to garden, read, travel, spend time with family and friends, and people watch. She also enjoys driving her '51 Chevy to local cruise in spots and to out-of-state shows to meet new and interesting people.

We are grateful to have Mary involved in our community. Many thanks to Mary for all the work she does with our seniors, as well as adding to the enhancement of our community and township.



Home Weatherization Assistance

The Lorain County Community Action Agency administers a state-funded program designed to provide safe energy conservation measures to income-eligible Lorain County households. All families receiving assistance under "Supplemental Security Income" (SSI) or "Home Energy Assistance Program" (HEAP) are automatically eligible. Households who don't live in federally subsidized housing and don't supply their own primary heat source are eligible if their income meets federal poverty guidelines which are:

\$21,600 for a family of 1
\$29,140 for a family of 2
\$36,620 for a family of 3
\$44,100 for a family of 4

The program provides weather-stripping, insulation, caulking, water heater blankets, refrigerator replacement, heating/cooling system repairs and compact fluorescent lamps. Applications are available in the Senior Services Office.



Amherst Township Day

Join F.A.C.E. to cheer on our own Lorain County Baseball team, the Lake Erie Crushers, as they sponsor an “Amherst Township Day” fundraiser at “All Pro Freight Stadium” in Avon Ohio.

GAME DATE & TIME:

Sunday, August 22, 2010 @ 5:05 P.M.

Ticket Vouchers are \$9.00 per ticket with \$3.00 of each ticket going towards the “Project in the Park”.

Ticket Vouchers may be purchase at the township hall, from any F.A.C.E. member, through the new F.A.C.E. website, or by contacting David Marr at **440-752-0757**.



NEW WEBSITE!

Visit the newly created F.A.C.E. website at:

www.amhersttwface.org

This website is full of information about Funding Amherst Community Enhancement (F.A.C.E.), a non-profit corporation created by the Amherst Township Trustees to seek donations, grants, and volunteers to work on projects to enrich the lives of all citizens in Amherst Township and the surrounding communities.

The website includes a list of the current board members and their contact information, news, photo gallery, Calendar of Event, links, a FAQ page, and an On-Line Auction page. View additional photos of the Township Open House on the “photo gallery” page.

F.A.C.E. is also on Facebook! Sign up and become a Facebook friend of F.A.C.E.!



More Community Service

Early Saturday morning on May 8th, between the rain storms that passed through the area, a team of volunteers gathered at the Amherst Township Park and Soccer Fields. Phi Theta Kappa and Gamma Tau Sigma students and alumni from Lorain County Community College gathered at the park to plant annuals and perennials in the four corner gardens.

The two groups, keeping with tradition of community service and helping to keep the planet green, braved the high winds and rains to accomplish this service. It was a task of fun and fellowship while giving back to the community that supports the local educational system.

Amherst Township Road Superintendent John Scefcyk and employee Marv Traster planned the project and transported the plants and materials to the garden sites for use by the volunteers.



Pictured from left to right are: Cathy Rushwin, Evan Davidson, Annette McKinney, and Dave McKinney.



Township
Open House

F.A.C.E. and the Amherst Township Employees sponsored an Open House and Silent Auction at the newly renovated Township Hall. With over 150 community members stopping in to visit the local sponsors and community services, the Open House was a welcoming success. Over \$2800 was raised to support the Amherst Township Park Improvement Project.

We would like to thank the table sponsors and all those who contributed to the Silent Auction. Visit the F.A.C.E. website to see a list of these contributors.



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 988-5894. 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, which include wheelchair transportation, 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.

Take Action: **Protect Yourself from Fraud**

During the past quarter, we have had two Medicare cases where we either suspected predatory sales tactics were being used or there was possible fraud. We can't recommend strongly enough that when you are in doubt about a piece of mail or a phone call that you receive, please either check it out with a family member, a reliable friend or call us. **NEVER give out personal information** over the phone or to a salesman who comes to your door without first checking them out. Merely tell them that you do not accept solicitation without first carefully reading about the product. Ask them to send you information in the mail or to leave information with you. A caution flag should go up if they try to pressure you into buying something or they play on your emotions or feelings.

The **Ohio Department of Insurance's Fraud Protection Program** and the **Ohio Department of Aging** have worked together to produce a workbook for consumers, ***Take Action: Protect Yourself From Fraud***, that talks about fraudulent practices in the areas of life insurance, annuities, investments, living trusts, reverse mortgages, Medicare sales practices, healthcare and online security. We hope to have copies of this guide in our office in the near future. They have also created a new website – www.takeaction.ohio.gov – where consumers can get materials and learn about financial exploitation.

ATSSO OFFICE HOURS:
8:00 A.M. – NOON (M-F)

Phone: 988-5894

Carol Schmitkons at Ext. 102

Mary Carek at Ext. 101

Email: amhersttwpseniors@oh.rr.com

Amherst Twp Senior Service Office

ATSSO provides home-delivered meals for those over 60 and disabled adults over 18, with a cost that is adjusted to your income. They can help with Medicare and health insurance questions and issues, provide referrals to other agencies, and help you remain independent. Contact the office at **988-5894 (x101 or x102)**.

Managing Debt

If you are struggling with debt and want to avoid bankruptcy, there are other options available to prevent wage garnishment. **Consumer Credit Counseling Service (1-800-355-2227)** can help you set up a debt repayment plan where you make one regular payment no matter how many creditors you have. The main advantage of this is that many creditors will not charge interest and fees. Filing for **trusteeship** through your **municipal court** is another type of debt repayment.

Legal Aid (323-8420) also advises that you may not need credit counseling if your income is from Social Security, Veterans benefits or public assistance (or, in some instances, from a pension, alimony or child support) because that income can be protected from creditors.

MedSup Plan Options Change

Effective June 1, 2010 current MedSup (also known as Medigap) Plans **E, H, I, & J** will no longer be offered. Two new plans, **M** and **N** are to be offered as well as a **separate version of Plan F** with a **\$2000 deductible**. Plan **M**'s major difference is that it will only cover **50%** of the **Part A deductible**, while Plan **N**'s major difference is that it has a **copay** of up to **\$20** for office visits and up to **\$50** for **emergency room visits** unless you are admitted as a result of the ER visit.

Minor changes have been made to **basic coverage**. It will now include coverage for **Part B outpatient** and **Part A hospice coinsurances**.

Plans **K** only cover **basics** at **50%** and **L** at **75%** but will cover **hospitalization & preventive care** at **100%**. Both of these plans have **out-of-pocket limits before the plan pays 100%**:

K's is **\$4,620** and **L's** is **\$2,310**.

Deductibles: **Part A's** are covered at **100%** under **Plan B, C, F, G & N**; at **75%** under **L**; and at **50%** under **K & M**.

Part B's will be cover at **100%** in **Plans B, C, & F**; at **50%** in **K**; and at **75%** in **L**. Only **F & G** cover **Part B excess** at **100%**.

Skilled nursing coverage is **100%** for **all plans except A, K & L** (**A** does not offer this coverage, **K** covers **50%** of the cost and **L** covers **75%**).

Foreign travel emergency will be covered under **Plans C, D, G, M & N**.

Stop by the office for chart showing new plans or a copy can be emailed to you.

Donut Hole Rebate Coming Soon

One provision of the health care reform act is a \$250 rebate to Medicare recipients who reach the 2010 Part D coverage gap. There is no application form to fill out to receive the rebate. The Part D plans must notify CMS of beneficiaries eligible for the rebate.

Respite Care Available to Family Caregivers

The Family Caregiver Support Program is a program of the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging, funded by the Older Americans Act and the state of Ohio, which can offer you respite reimbursement. Respite offers breathing space or relief from caregiving duties. Effective respite meets your needs as well as those of your loved one by:

- giving you time to do something you enjoyed doing in the past but are no longer able to do
- providing social contact for your loved one in an Adult Day Center
- bringing someone into the home to help with household tasks to reduce the number of tasks you need to attend to
- allowing the caregiver a chance to take a trip or go on a vacation

The goal of respite is to make your caregiving experience more satisfying and rewarding by relieving stress and providing more time for self care. For more information on this program, call **800-581-6884**.

Health Care Savings Tips

Use a **generic substitute** for brand name drugs if they're available. Compare your prescription coverage generic copay with the local pharmacy's discounted pricing for both 30- & 90-day supplies. Often local pharmacy prices are much cheaper.

Stand-alone laboratories have less overhead costs and often charge less for their services than hospital labs.

Retail health clinics, walk-in doctor's offices and urgent care centers can treat many of the same non-emergency health problems and injuries that an ER can for half the cost.