

# AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Fall 2010

Vol. XV No. 3

## Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2010.

- 1.96 tons of various paper through the “ABITIBI Paper Retriever” program
- 3.35 tons of aluminum cans
- 16.80 tons of bi-metal cans
- 31.79 tons of glass
- 9.10 tons of HDPE plastics
- 7.28 tons of PETE plastics
- 71.70 tons of newspapers
- 2.88 tons of scrap metal through the 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:

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 Szczyk, 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](mailto:amhersttwpfo@oh.rr.com)

Road Superintendent (garage) ..... **Ext. 111**

Email: [amhersttwproads@oh.rr.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 Szczyk ..... 320-7157

## Amherst Twp Senior Services Office

Carol Schmitkons ..... **Ext. 102**

Email: [amhersttwpseniors@oh.rr.com](mailto: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

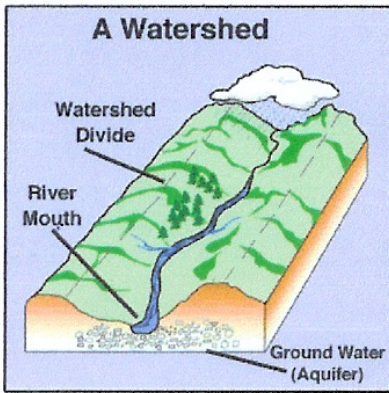
## TRUSTEE MEETINGS:

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

# CLEAN WATER BEGINS WITH YOU AND ME!

## What is a Watershed?



A **watershed** is the area of land that drains to a body of water. Even a small creek in your backyard has a watershed. Small watersheds make up larger watersheds, which in turn form larger river basins, which eventually drain to the largest water body of all: the ocean.

Because we all live in a watershed, our actions directly impact our watershed. If there is pollution in your watershed, then your stream will get polluted from the stormwater runoff that drains into it.

Beaver Creek is YOUR watershed! You can make a difference and help solve the environmental problems in the Beaver Creek by taking some simple steps around your home to control and manage your stormwater runoff.

## The Rundown on Runoff

**Stormwater runoff** is precipitation from rain or snowmelt flowing over the land surface. The addition of roads, driveways, parking lots, rooftops and other impervious surfaces prevents water from soaking into the ground and increases the runoff volume created during storms. This runoff is swiftly carried to our local streams, lakes, wetlands and rivers and can cause flooding and erosion, and wash away important habitat for wildlife that live in the stream.

Stormwater runoff also picks up and carries many different pollutants like sediment, nitrogen, phosphorus, bacteria, oil and grease, trash, pesticides and metals. Storm water runoff is the number one cause of stream impairment in urban areas. Flooding related to stormwater can be difficult and costly to homeowners. Stormwater is unavoidable, but its polluting effects can be reduced by keeping harmful chemicals and other materials out of runoff.

## What Can I Do to Help?

There are many ways that residents can control pollution in stormwater runoff:

- ✓ Rain barrels retain stormwater and provide free water for use around the home and yard.
- ✓ Rain gardens detain stormwater, enhance the beauty of towns and yards, and provide important habitat for birds and butterflies.
- ✓ Washing your car on your lawn or taking it to a professional carwash helps to minimize soapy chemical runoff into storm sewers.
- ✓ Keeping your home septic system maintained and picking up your pet's waste prevents dangerous bacteria from entering Beaver Creek's streams and making people and wildlife sick.



Rain garden (image courtesy Cuyahoga SWCD)

**REMEMBER:** *Storm sewers do not carry stormwater to wastewater treatment plants!* Storm sewers drain directly into the Beaver Creek, its streams, and ultimately Lake Erie. The chemicals washed down a driveway or the bacteria and nutrients leaking from a poorly-maintained septic system are flowing into your drinking water supply! Stormwater pollution cannot be treated in the same way as water pollution from discharge pipes, because stormwater comes from many different sources. The problem can only be solved with everyone's help.

## For More Information:

- The EPA's fact-site on stormwater runoff: <http://www.epa.gov/weatherchannel/stormwater.html>
- Lorain Soil & Water Conservation District: <http://lorainswcd.com/lcpipe.html>
- Black River Watershed Project website: <http://www.blackriverwatershed.org>

If you're interested in future watershed-related involvement and activities, contact the Black River Watershed Coordinator, Christina Znidarsic, at [cznidarsic@loraincounty.us](mailto:cznidarsic@loraincounty.us).

# **AMHERST TOWNSHIP PARK – RECREATIONAL TRAIL PROJECT**

With the determined help of active community members, township employees, a “grants” writer, local businesses, the Lorain County Engineer, the organization Funding Amherst Community Enhancements (F.A.C.E., a non-profit corporation of volunteers aligned with the township's Board of Trustees), and many other individuals, Amherst Township is in the enviable position of having accumulated over \$120,000 in grant funds and donations, which will be used to develop the Amherst Township Park Recreational Trail.

Beginning in 2010, a 2,000-foot trail extension will provide access to the conservation area of the park. The conservation area is a combination of wooded and meadow area, which will provide shade and opportunity for pleasure walking, jogging, biking and exercise, and opportunities for learning about nature. Lighting will be provided along approximately 400-feet of the trail linking to the Amherst Township Civil War era cemetery and the non-profit Workshop Players Theater parking lot on Amherst Exempted Village Schools Middle Ridge Road property. Because the trail link to the cemetery and Workshop Players Theatre follows a steep incline, a special bisecting section of the new trail will provide opportunity for the handicapped and elderly to use it with less exertion and greater user friendliness. Several benches will be placed along the trail extension for rest and relaxation. The trailhead parking lot will be upgraded with improved drainage, asphalt pavement, curbing, striping and security lighting. If the weather cooperates, the Amherst Township Board of Trustees hopes to complete the project in early 2011.

Long-term planning of the Amherst Township park includes improvements to the pavilion and the construction of restroom facilities.

The Amherst Township Park is a wonderful asset for the community, providing recreational activities for people of all ages and physical abilities.

On September 22, 2010, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) officials conducted a “funding” award ceremony for the NatureWorks Round 17 grant that was awarded to Amherst Township.

The development project and cost estimates are summarized in the following tables:

<b>The project consists of the following components:</b>	<b>Cost Estimates</b>
1. Resurface Amherst Township Park entryway and parking lot at trailhead. Replace curbing & existing drainage. Add catch basins & drainage.	<b>\$100,112</b>
2. Resurface a 14-year old, heavily used, 2200-foot x 6-foot wide recreation and walking trail existent within the 10-acre Amherst Township Park. Existing trail constructed was in 1996.	<b>\$18,500</b>
3. Construct a 1991-foot x 6-foot wide extension of the existent trail through a 3.641-acre of land contiguous to the 10-acre Amherst Township Park, which was acquired with a Clean Ohio Round 3 grant funds in 2005.	<b>\$62,000</b>
4. Add (1) pole lamp at southeast corner of parking lot, near trailhead of trail extension, for improved parking lot safety and security.	<b>TBD</b>
5. Add pole lamps on the new trail extension that connects the trailhead parking lot with the Amherst Township Civil War era cemetery and the non-profit Workshop Players Theater parking lot on Amherst Exempted Village Schools Middle Ridge Road property.	<b>\$13,100</b>
6. Construct a stairway up to the Workshop Players Theater parking lot and the level of the Civil War era Cemetery. This stairway will provide access to the Cemetery for visitors from the Amherst Township Park, provide opportunity for the Workshop Players Theater to solve a serious problem of a critical shortage of parking space for theatergoers, and ensure the reservation of parking spots for theater attendees with disabilities.	<b>\$6,431</b>
7. Place benches, manufactured of recycled materials, strategically along the trail extension length for rest opportunities.	<b>TBD</b>
<b>Preliminary Project Cost Estimate by the Lorain County Engineer</b>	<b>\$200,143</b>

<b>Grant Source</b>	<b>Grant Funds Awarded</b>	<b>% Funding Match Required</b>	<b>Minimum Township Match</b>
ODNR NatureWorks Round 16	\$11,702	25%	\$ 3,900
ODNR NatureWorks Round 17	\$34,852	25%	\$11,617
ODNR LWCF	\$23,235	50%	\$23,235
NOPEC	\$50,000	0%	\$ 0
FACE Fundraising	\$TBD	0%	\$ 0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$119,789</b>		<b>\$38,752</b>

## 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”.

## 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.

## REMEMBER TO VOTE!

This year’s general election will be on Tuesday, **November 2<sup>nd</sup>**. 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. The Lorain County Board of Elections is located at 1985 North Ridge Road East, in Lorain. For more information about voting you can call them at 326-5900 or visit their website at: <http://loraincountyelections.com>

## County Collection Center

### Now Open

On Saturday, June 19, 2010 the Lorain County Collection Center opened its doors. After a year of postponed collection events and lots of planning by the District, this center is now open on a weekly basis, free to the residents of Lorain County.

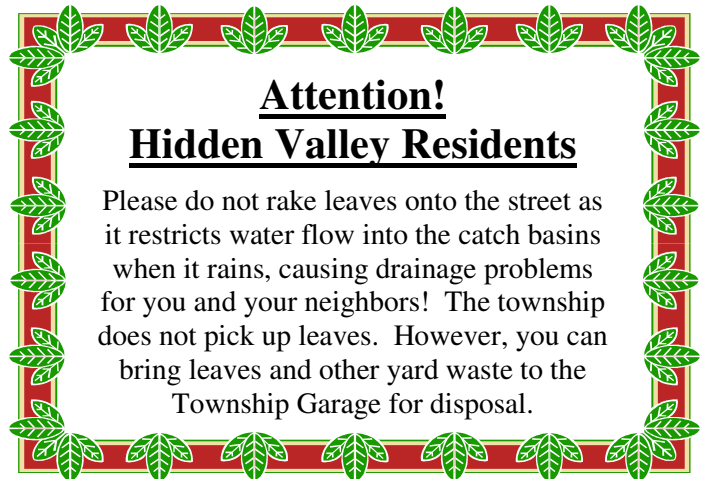
The Collection Center is located at 540 S. Abbe Rd. in Elyria (in the old DIY building). The hours of operation are:

**Mondays & Wednesdays from 12 noon to 6 p.m.  
Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.**

Residents need to bring their drivers license showing proof of county residency.

The facility accepts household hazardous waste, e-scrap (electronics), scrap tires, and florescent bulb & ballasts. Businesses are restricted to e-scrap and florescent bulb & ballast participation only. For a complete list of accepted materials, please call the District at 1-800-449-5463 or visit their website at:

[www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste](http://www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste)



## 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.



# TRICK OR TREAT



# Burning Prohibited



“Trick-or-Treat” in Amherst Township will be held on **Sunday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, 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 31<sup>st</sup>, 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.

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.

## 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.



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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 2010

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

## Meal Options Available to Amherst Township Seniors

### Option 1: Home-Delivered Meals

ATSSO provides home-delivered meals for those over 60 and disabled adults over 18, with a cost that is adjusted to your income. This nutritious, hot lunch program includes your choice of an entrée, soup & sandwich, or soup & salad. To receive a home-delivered meal, contact the office at **988-5894, extension 101 or 102.**

### Option 2: Food Vouchers

“Lorain County Office on Aging” offers a Nutrition Program to qualifying Lorain County Seniors with a high nutritional risk. 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. To become a participant contact the “Lorain County Office on Aging” at **326-4800** or **244-6261 (x4800)** to obtain and fill out an application.

### Option 3: Angel Food Ministry

Angel Food Ministry offers fresh, frozen and packaged food options at greatly reduced prices. Sites within 7 miles of Amherst Township include:

- *Cornerstone United Methodist Church*  
2949 West River Road North
- *Elyria Church of God of Prophecy*  
11233 LaGrange Road
- *Murray Ridge Church of God*  
7942 N Murray Ridge Road
- *St John Lutheran*  
1140 West River Road North

**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](mailto:amhersttwpseniors@oh.rr.com)

## Lorain County’s “Medicare Check-Up Day” Set for Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 11AM

This year’s “Medicare Check-Up Day” sponsored by **OSHIIP** (Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program) will be held on October 21, 2010 at 11am. This event will be held at the New Russia Township Hall, located at 46268 Butternut Ridge Road, just to the west of State Route 58.

This is a worthwhile event where you can learn about recent Medicare changes. You will also get tips on how to enroll for 2011 coverage in a Part D prescription plan and/or a Medicare health plan. Be sure to bring a list of your prescription drugs in order to compare plans.

Amherst Township Senior Service personnel Carol Schmitkons and Mary Carek counsel for OSHIIP and will be there to assist you. If you are unable to attend this event, you can call the Senior Service Office at **988-5894** to schedule an appointment.

# Healthcare Transportation Alternatives

Residents with disabilities may have difficulty finding reliable transportation to their necessary appointments. Some may no longer be able to drive and are not able to get someone else to take them. Here are some options that might be helpful in getting to these appointments.

## **Option 1: LifeCare Ambulance**

LifeCare Ambulance provides this much needed service but it may be costly. Transport by car is \$33.60 one way and an additional \$3.75 per mile. Transport by ambulance (for wheelchair-bound) is \$42.00 one way and an additional \$4.75 per mile. A 20% discount is given to those who pay by credit card or check at time of service, or make payment within 10 days of the service date. All bills must be paid before the next transport.

Ambulatory Medicaid recipients can be transported to any medical appointment if they have "Job and Family Services" fill out the appropriate paperwork. Any questions can be directed to Gaye at LifeCare by calling **365-1127**.

## **Option 2: Visiting Physicians**

Visiting Physicians Association® is the country's leader in house-call medicine, with expertise in geriatric care. Their physicians and clinical team are skilled practitioners who are highly trained in the diagnosis and treatment of seniors as well as the homebound patient. Advancements in medical technology have made the most "state-of-the-art" care available in the comfort of your home. Their mobile diagnostic services

eliminate most emergency room and transportation costs, while providing the same results. These services are covered under Medicare "Part B" and most private insurances.

You will take part in the decisions that affect your health and they will provide important care coordination to help you access community resources and other services available in your home.

Services include but are not limited to:

- Comprehensive review of your medical history, physical examinations and ongoing treatment of your medical condition
- Medication management and medication refills
- State-of-the-art laboratory services and portable diagnostic testing performed in the comfort of your home
- Referral to physical therapy and specialized rehabilitation services
- Coordination of all home care services and medical equipment
- Community placement consultations

You can contact "Visiting Physicians" at **1-888-742-0508**.

## **Option 3: In-Home Care**

These agencies offer a range of services that help you remain safely in your home with some assistance. Many of them offer transportation options. Check the yellow pages or visit the Amherst Township Senior Service Office for a list of agencies serving Lorain County.

## 10 Things to Know About Health Reform: Pointing the Way to Better Care

1. **New Ways of Delivering Care** will foster better communication and coordination among health care providers, patients and family caregivers. They will also help prevent problems like harmful drug interactions, unnecessary hospitalizations, conflicting diagnoses, and failure to connect people with community-based health management services.
2. **Preventive Care** services coverage will be increased by Medicare.
3. **Payment for High Quality, Coordinated Care** in a system that prioritizes effective delivery of the right care, at the right time, for the right patients.
4. **Increased Payment for Primary Care** will help insure patients have ready access to good primary care.
5. **Making Care More Patient-Centered** using patient experience measures and shared decision-making tools will improve quality and reduce care disparity.
6. **Quality Measurement and Improvement** will focus on patient outcomes and functional status, coordination of care, equity of care and reduction of health disparities, and patient experience.
7. **Medication Management** to reduce dangerous medication interactions and medical errors and to help patients and families better manage chronic illness.
8. **Case Transitions** will hold providers accountable for better coordination of care and communication as patients move from one care setting to another.
9. **Stronger Health Care Workforce** will insure an adequate and appropriately trained workforce to meet older patients' complex health needs.
10. **Home- and Community-Based Services** ensure that vulnerable older adults and people with chronic conditions are able to easily access services that keep them out of nursing facilities by providing more independence, better health outcomes and a higher quality of life.

*Article published by "Campaign for Better Care".*



## FLU SHOTS

The Lorain County General Health District has set its 2010 Flu Shot Clinic Schedule. The cost is \$15.00 per shot. Medicare and Medicaid will be accepted. No one is refused due to an inability to pay. Individuals with special conditions or concerns should talk with their doctor before getting a flu shot.

The following dates and locations have been set:

- **Wednesday, September 29<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 6pm**  
New Russia Township Hall, Oberlin  
LaGrange United Methodist Church, LaGrange  
Lorain County Fairgrounds, Wellington  
Columbia Township Fire Dept., Columbia Station
- **Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10am to 3pm**  
Heritage North Elementary School, Avon  
Marion L. Steele High School, Amherst  
Midview Middle School, Grafton  
North Ridgeville Education Center, N. Ridgeville

- **Tuesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> from 4pm to 8pm**  
Oberlin High School, Oberlin  
Sheffield Middle School, Sheffield  
St. Vincent de Paul Church, Elyria  
Firelands Elementary School, Oberlin
- **Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 8pm**  
Avon High School, Avon  
Lorain County JVS, Obelin

Visit [www.loraincountyhealth.com](http://www.loraincountyhealth.com) or call the Lorain County General Health District's Flu Hotline at (440) 329-7926 for the most up-to-date flu clinic and prevention information. Addresses to the above locations are also listed.

For additional flu clinic dates and locations for other locations such as CVS Pharmacy, Rite Aid, Discount Drug Mart, Giant Eagle, Walgreens, and Sam's Club visit:

[www.livehealthyloraincounty.com/fluclinics](http://www.livehealthyloraincounty.com/fluclinics)