

AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Fall 2011

Vol. XVI No. 3

Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in the 2nd quarter of 2011.

- 1.22 tons of various paper through the "ABITIBI Paper Retriever" program
- 2.79 tons of aluminum cans
- 14.52 tons of bi-metal cans
- 25.58 tons of glass
- 7.55 tons of H.D.P.E. plastics
- 6.86 tons of P.E.T. plastics
- 58.12 tons of newspapers
- 1.16 tons of Cardboard
- 2.90 tons of scrap metal through the dumpster program

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

"2011" Dumpster Days

Amherst Township has set the following "tentative" dates for "Dumpster Days" in 2011:

October 6, 7, 8 (SCHEDULED)

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, 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, Roads, Ditches)

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.

ISSUE 4

AMHERST TOWNSHIP

1-Mil • 5-Year

Road & Bridge

Property Tax Levy

BUT

NO TAX INCREASE

Resolution 8/8/11, passed by the Board of Trustees on August 23, 2011, will reduce the collection of the “Fire & EMS Levy” upon passage of the new “Road & Bridge Levy” by an equivalent amount so that residents will see no tax increase.

New “Road and Bridge” Levy – No New Taxes

It is no secret that the worst recession since the Great Depression has had a negative impact at the National, State and Local level. This recession has impacted families, businesses and governments. To maintain balanced budgets at the State and County government levels, revenues that were previously shared at the local township level are being reduced or eliminated. In addition, the recession has negatively impacted real estate revenues and investment earnings. The table below summarizes several of the larger revenue reductions impacting Amherst Township.

<u>Amherst Township Annual Revenue Reduction</u>	
Revenue Source	Annual Revenue Reduction
State of Ohio Local Government Fund	\$62,000
Lorain County Solid Waste Management District	\$60,000
Tangible Personal Property Tax	\$55,000
Interest/Investment Earnings	\$42,000
2009 Property Reassessment Collected 2010	\$27,000
Estate Tax (Revenue has varied from \$300 to \$482,000 between 2007 & 2010. Revenue eliminated effective 1/01/2013)	\$15,000
Total Annual Revenue Reduction	\$261,000

Just as many of you have adjusted to smaller household budgets, Amherst Township has adjusted to reduced revenues. These adjustments include delayed equipment replacement, employee headcount reduction through attrition, and delays in road maintenance activities. These adjustments cannot continue long-term without negatively impacting our community.

The Board of Trustees, in conjunction with a group of local citizens, has developed a plan to maintain current service levels and replace aging road maintenance equipment. This plan will require voter approval of a new 1-mil, 5-year “Road and Bridge” property tax levy.

Recognizing the difficult economic circumstances facing many Amherst Township residents, the Board of Trustees intends to offset any increase in property tax resulting from a new “Road and Bridge” levy by reducing the current “Fire and Emergency Medical Service” levy by an equivalent dollar amount for the next five years. This will result in a **new “Road & Bridge” levy, but no new taxes**.

Please attend any Board of Amherst Township Trustee meeting on the 2nd or 4th Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm to learn more about the proposed **new 1-mil, 5-year “Road and Bridge” levy, but no new taxes**.

See the reverse side for a summary of Road and Bridge projects completed in 2010 and planned for 2011.

2010/2011 Road, Bridge, Drainage & Park Improvement Costs

<u>2010 Road Improvements</u>		
Road	From - To	Cost
Bechtel Road	S.R. 113 (south to) Albrecht Road	\$167,575
Hidden Valley Sub-Div	Concrete Replacement / Crack Sealing	\$283,200
Hemlock Drive	North Ridge Road to Laurel Lane	\$37,000
Striping & Pavement Markings		\$8,500
2010 Culvert Improvements by Township		
Cleaning and General Maintenance		\$5,000
2010 Ditch Improvements		
Bechtel Road	Ditch Enclosure / Cleaning	\$15,500
Mowing and General Maintenance		\$5,500
2010 Miscellaneous		
Township Park Improvements New Trail		\$16,955
Township Park Improvements Existing Trail		\$60,347
2010 Grand Total:		\$599,577
<u>Proposed 2011 Road Improvements</u>		
Road	From - To	Cost
Hidden Valley Sub-Div	Concrete Replacement	\$344,267
Allandale Drive	Rosedale Ave. to Hidden Tree Lane	\$40,810
Kay Drive	Oberlin Road to Cul De Sac	\$26,000
Linda Drive	Oberlin Road to Kay Drive	\$40,000
Rosedale Ave.	Middle Ridge Road to Rustic Hill	\$123,840
Proposed 2011 Culvert Improvements by Township		
Cleaning and General Maintenance		\$5,500
Proposed 2011 Ditch Improvements		
Mowing & General Maintenance		\$5,500
Dewey Road	Cleaning	\$4,000
Bechtel Road	Cleaning	\$3,500
Stang Road	Cleaning	\$3,500
Oberlin Road South	Cleaning	\$3,500
Proposed 2011 Miscellaneous		
Hidden Valley Sub-Div	Crack Sealing	\$35,000
Stang Road	Crack Sealing	\$25,000
Middle Ridge Road	Crack Sealing	\$40,000
Tina Lane	Hot Mix	\$65,000
Rice Road	Crack Sealing	\$35,000
Proposed 2011 Grand Total:		\$800,417

SPECIAL TRUSTEE MEETING

OCTOBER 11, 2011

7:00 p.m.

Amherst Township Hall
7530 Oberlin Road

“Issue 4”

1-mil, 5-year Road & Bridge Levy

The Amherst Township Board of Trustees has set aside the first meeting in October to discuss and answer residents questions concerning the new “Road and Bridge” Levy that will appear on the ballot this November.

The proposed 1-mil, 5-year levy is for the general construction, reconstruction, resurfacing and repair of streets, roads and bridges in the Amherst Township Road District pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 5705.19(G). This Road and Bridge levy is expected to generate \$120,000 per year.

Recognizing the difficult economic circumstances facing many Amherst Township residents and businesses, the Board of Trustees intends to offset any increase in property tax resulting from a new

“Road and Bridge” levy by administratively reducing the current “Fire and Emergency Medical Service” levy by an equivalent dollar amount for the next five years. This will result in a **new “Road & Bridge” levy, but no new taxes**.

Even with an administrative reduction of the Fire and EMS levy upon voter approval of the Road and Bridge Levy, the Board of Trustees believes current reserves and expected receipts of the Fire and EMS fund are adequate to maintain current Fire and EMS service levels for the next five years.

If you cannot attend this meeting, please contact any of the Trustees to discuss this proposed Road and Bridge Levy. Contact information for the Trustees is listed on the front page of this newsletter.

2011 Lorain County Flu Shot Clinics

The flu season and your busy schedule can be unpredictable, so for your convenience the **Lorain County General Health District** has partnered with **LorainCounty.com** to offer an interactive, easy-to-use "Flu Shot Clinic Locator".

Protect yourself and defend against the spread of disease by receiving a flu shot. To best protect both you and your family this flu season, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend a yearly flu vaccine as the first and most important step in protecting against flu viruses. This year, the seasonal flu vaccine will guard against the most common types of influenza. Get a flu shot, keep healthy.

Features of the "Flu Shot Clinic Locator" include:

- Flu clinic locations provided by Lorain County General Health District, Elyria City Health District and many local pharmacies.
- Prices of flu shots for each clinic.
- Clinic sorting by date, location and sponsoring organization.

Visit the "Flu Shot Clinic Locator" at www.loraincountyflu.com/fluclinics to help you find a clinic that is conveniently located to where you live, work or play.

Here is the 2011 Lorain County General Health District's Seasonal Flu Shot Clinic Schedule:

Wednesday, September 28, 2011 from **10:00 am – 6:00 pm** at:

- LaGrange United Methodist Church: 105 W. Main St., LaGrange, OH 44050
- Columbia Township Fire Department: 25540 Royalton Rd., Columbia Station, OH 44028
- New Russia Township Hall: 46268 Butternut Ridge Rd., Oberlin, OH 44074
- Lorain County Fairgrounds: 23000 Fairgrounds Rd., Wellington, OH 44090

Saturday, October 1, 2011 from **9:00 am – 3:00 pm** at:

- Amherst Marion L. Steele High School: 450 Washington St., Amherst, OH 44001
- Midview Middle School: 37999 W. Capel Rd., Grafton, OH 44044
- Heritage North Elementary School: 35575 Detroit Rd., Avon, OH 44011
- North Ridgeville Education Center: 5490 Mills Creek Lane, North Ridgeville, OH 44039

Tuesday, October 4, 2011 from **4:00 pm - 7:30 pm** at:

- Firelands Elementary School: 10799 Vermilion Rd., Oberlin, OH 44074
- Oberlin High School: 281 N. Pleasant St., Oberlin, OH 44074
- Sheffield Middle School: 1919 Harris Rd., Sheffield, OH 44054
- St. Vincent De Paul Church: 41295 N. Ridge Rd., Elyria, OH 44035

Saturday, November 5, 2011 from **9:00 am - 3:00 pm** at:

- Lorain County JVS: 15181 State Route 58, Oberlin, OH 44074
- Avon High School: 37545 Detroit Rd., Avon, OH 44011

- The cost is \$15.00 per shot for residents of Lorain County General Health District. (All Lorain County except Avon Lake, Elyria, Lorain & Vermillion)
- For persons living outside Lorain County General Health District the cost is \$20.00 per shot.
- Medicare and Medicaid will be accepted.
- No one is refused due to an inability to pay.

- Individuals with special medical conditions or concerns should talk with their doctor before getting a flu shot.

Visit www.loraincountyflu.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. The website also has flu forms that can be filled out ahead of time.

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” may be 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 may be 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”.

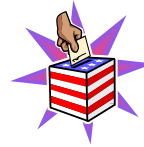


SIGNS



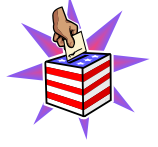
Political Signs. Amherst Township limits the size of these signs to **8 square feet**. No permit is required for Political Signs, but the permission of the property owner is required. These signs may be placed 30 days prior to Election Day and must be removed 10 days after the election.

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 8th**. 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>



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 30th, 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 30th, 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.

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

Monthly Meeting **Trustees:** 2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.
Dates & Times: **Zoning Commission:** 1st Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Senior GAZETTE

Fall 2011

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

Home-Delivered Meal Program

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. A new “soup only” option has also been added to your choices. To receive a home-delivered meal, contact the office at **988-5894, extension 102.**

What is an Ethical Will?

Hospice of the Western Reserve provided this answer to that question:

Sometimes called *life closure* or *legacy work*, an ethical will is a collection of personal values and family history that can be passed on to loved ones. While a legal will designates the disposition and transfer of material possessions and assets, an ethical will bequeaths personal values, reflections, advice and ideals. Transitional times like marriage, birth or end of life, special events and times of reflection often spark ideas for preserving your legacy with an ethical will. Legacy work and ethical wills can include a compilation of music, writing, creating a piece of art, fabric work, dolls, books, memory boxes and videos. Recording your legacy with an ethical will is like writing a love letter to those who are important to us so **write it, tape it, video it, record it, scrapbook it, sew it, craft it - pass it on.**

For other good ideas on what to include visit www.HospiceWR.org/Legacy.

ATSSO OFFICE HOURS:

8:00 A.M. – NOON (M-F)

Phone: 988-5894 – Ext. 102

Email: amhersttwpseniors@oh.rr.com

Please call the office for any questions you may have concerning Medicare

2011

Medicare Information

Medicare Check-Up Event

Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIIP) will be holding their annual Lorain County “Medicare Check-Up Event” on **Wednesday, October 12th**, at 10 a.m. at the New Russia Township Hall located at 45440 Butternut Ridge Road (just west of State Route 58).

This meeting will be presented by OSHIIP trainer, Christine Moeller, and will give you the information you need to make wise health-care choices. It will explain what changes will be made to your Medicare Part A and B coverage as well as which companies and plans have been approved to offer “Part D” plans for 2012.

Reminder:

2011 “Part D” Open Enrollment Period has changed

The new dates are:

October 15th to December 7th

Adult Protective Services

How do you tell if an elderly person is neglected or being exploited?

Here is some information about who can receive help, how to know if help is needed, and who to call.

APS's goals are to:

- Prevent, reduce or remedy conditions causing endangerment
- Maximize independence and self-determination
- Prevent unnecessary institutionalization

In Lorain County, **Adult Protective Services** is a division of the Department of Job & Family Services. They can be reached at **440-284-4465** on Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM.

Help is extended to persons 60 or over, who are believed to be at risk of abuse, neglect (including self-neglect), or exploitation, and who are:

-Handicapped by the infirmities of aging, or who have a physical or mental impairment that prevents them from providing for their own care or protection

-Living in a community setting (not a nursing home)

All reports are confidential, but you can remain anonymous. Emergencies are investigated within 24 hours, and all other reports within three working days.

Types of elder abuse – if any of these **red flags** are observed, ask that your suspicions be checked out:

****Physical Abuse:** Using coercion or inflicting injury by punching, pushing, slapping, kicking; restraining, cutting, burning or using objects; Unusual or severe bruising; bone fractures; untreated injuries.

****Sexual Abuse:** Any type of touching, fondling or sexual activity, when forced or threatened or without consent.

****Emotional Abuse:** Verbal threats, intimidation, humiliation, harassment; put-downs; name-calling and insults; playing mind games; isolation from family and friends; being restrained, locked in; fearfulness, agitation or withdrawal; elder's report of abuse.

****Neglect:** Untreated medical conditions; malnutrition or dehydration; unpleasant body odors; wandering; unsafe house conditions; bedsores; elder's report of mistreatment.

****Exploitation:** unexplained disappearance of funds or possessions; sudden changes in wills or financial documents; unpaid bills, unusual credit card purchases, large debts; parasitic relationship or 'new friends'; caregiver's unwillingness to use elder's resources for their care; elder's report of financial exploitation.