

AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Spring 2021

Vol. XXVI No. 1

Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in the 4th quarter of 2020 through curbside pickup.

Bold represents yearly total.

Newspaper	****	40.49	#1 PET	3.95	12.83
Cardboard	38.10	101.77	#2 HDPE	0.98	5.91
Mixed Paper	32.66	162.50	#2 - #7 Plastic Mixed	1.43	6.03
Steel Cans	1.61	8.39	Aseptic Containers	0.00	1.68
Alum. Cans	1.12	2.04	Residuals	24.96	70.40
Mixed Glass	19.30	68.77	Total	124.10	480.80

*Above quantities are all listed in tons.

4.90 tons of various paper through the "ABITIBI Paper Retriever" program (**10.94 tons** = Yearly Total)

7.06 tons of scrap metal through the dumpster program (**7.06 tons** = Yearly Total)

For questions concerning the "Curbside Recycling Program", contact **RUMPKE** at **1-800-828-8171**.

"2021" Dumpster Days

Amherst Township has set the following dates for "Dumpster Days" in 2021.

April 15, 16, 17

October 14, 15, 16

Hours are from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Please note: **NO TIRES!**

NO FREON!

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
 - **8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. 2nd & 4th Tuesdays**
 - Amherst Township Residents only
 - I.D. may be checked
 - No Commercial
 - **No Plastic Bags** – place bags in 55 gal drum
- ➔ **Yard Waste Pile** is located at the far back of the property on the east side of Oberlin Road.

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@gmail.com

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

Email: amhersttwproads@gmail.com

Zoning Inspector (Voicemail checked daily) **Ext. 103**

Remi Cerrone, Zoning Inspector

Email: amhersttwpzoning@gmail.com

Office Hours: Mon., Wed., & Sat. – 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Trustees

Dennis Abraham(cell) 213-6775

(Ambulance, Cemetery, Park, Water, Buildings, Land, Roads, Ditches, Neighborhood Watch, Enterprise Zones, County Health Rep.)

Neil Lynch 988-7681

(Sewer, Fire, Equipment, Personnel, Senior Services, Phase II Storm Water/ Environmental Strategy, LORCO, Facility Security, NIMS Primary Contact, Lorain County Community Alliance Rep, Lorain County Joint Police District Rep.)

David C. Urig..... 385-0333

(Lighting, Solid Waste, Zoning,)

Fiscal Officer

Chris Kish(cell) 213-0659

Road Superintendent

Kevin Smarsh..... (work cell) 370-5242

Twp Administrator/Senior Service Office

Lynda Ashley **Ext. 101**

Email: amhersttwp@gmail.com

Email: amhersttwpseniors@gmail.com

Office Hours: Mon thru Fri – 8am to 12 Noon

Fire Prevention Officer

Chris Niehart.....(cell) 597-0005

Email: amhersttwpfire@gmail.com

LifeCare Ambulance, Inc.

Dave Richards..... 323-6111

Sheriff's Department 329-3710

A.T. Community Policing Officer: **Matthew Lawson**

Dpt Lawson's Non-Emergency/Voicemail329-3752

Email: mlawson@loraincountysheriff.com

Ohio Edison

(1-888-LIGHTTS)

Automated Outage Reporting Line..... 1-888-544-4877

TRUSTEE MEETINGS:

2nd & 4th Tuesdays of each month at **7:00 p.m.**

•Trustee Meetings are viewable online on the "Meetings" page of the Township website or through the "Amherst Township" channel on YouTube.

PERMITS REQUIRED

As Springtime arrives, residents are reminded that permits are needed for the items listed below. 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 Remi Cerrone, 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 (ext 103)**. Voice Mail is checked daily.

Pools	Patios	Porches
Decks	Fences	Gazebos
Ponds	Signs	Garages
Accessory Buildings	Driveways	
Building Additions	New Construction	

*Building Inspections are not required. It is recommended that residents hire their own inspectors.

DRIVEWAY APRONS

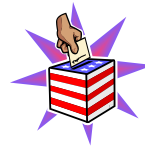
Residents are also reminded that when a road project requires modification of a drive apron, as a general rule, the drive apron modification will be completed with the same material as the road project. In all cases, maintenance of a drive apron is the responsibility of the property owner.



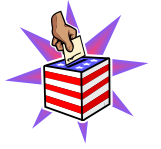
Planting in Road Right-of-Way



Residents should not landscape or plant near road intersections or inside the road right-of-way. Generally, the road right-of-way is 30 feet on either side of the centerline of the road. If planting occurs in this area, homeowners should not be disappointed if plants are destroyed or removed due to maintenance or repair. Trees should not be planted in this area. If storm sewers run across your property, it is better not to plant trees, shrubs, or other vegetation too close to these lines in order to minimize the chance of any roots penetrating these lines and causing a blockage. Please be aware of any visibility issues that may be caused due to trees and shrubs growing near an intersection or the road right-of-way. Property owners are also responsible for removing dead branches of a tree that overhangs the road.



REMEMBER TO VOTE!



- This year's primary/special election will be on Tuesday, **May 4th**. Polls will be open from 6:30 am to 7:30 pm. Please remember to bring your identification with you to the polls.
- In-person Absentee voting begins on Tuesday, **April 6th** and runs through Monday, May 3rd. This type of voting is done at the Lorain County Board of Elections (**LCBOE**) located at 1985 North Ridge Road East, Lorain. Office hours during this period are Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Extended hours and additional days will be posted on their website.
- Mail-In Absentee voting is a two-step process. You must first complete an "Absentee Ballot Request Form" and return it to the LCBOE. This form can be found on the LCBOE website. After receiving and processing your absentee request, the LCBOE will mail a "Voted Absentee Ballot" to you. Completed "Absentee Ballot Request Forms" and "Voted Absentee Ballots" can be:
 - Mailed to the LCBOE;
 - Dropped off at the LCBOE office; or
 - Placed in Lorain County's drop box located just off of the parking lot on the north side of the Board of Elections building. The drop box is available 24/7 and is monitored by video surveillance.

"Absentee Ballot Request Forms" can be completed and turned in at any time. "Voted Absentee Ballots" will be mailed out starting Tuesday, **April 6th**. If you return your "Voted Absentee Ballot" by mail, it must be postmarked no later than the day before Election Day and received by your county board of elections no later than 10 days after the election.

Please exercise your right to vote. The LCBOE 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 new website at:

www.voteloraincountyohio.gov

The website includes various information including Register/Update Your Registration; Voter Registration Status; Absentee Ballot Status; Polling Place Lookup; Sample Ballot; Issue Text; and Absentee Ballot Request Form.

ISSUE 10

PROPOSED TAX LEVY (RENEWAL)

AMHERST TOWNSHIP ROAD DISTRICT
(UNINCORPORATED PORTION OF AMHERST TOWNSHIP)

A Majority Affirmative Vote Is Necessary For Passage.

A renewal of a tax for the benefit of Amherst Township Road District for the purpose of **the general construction, reconstruction, resurfacing, and repair of streets, roads, and bridges** at a rate not exceeding 1 mill for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to \$0.10 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for a period of 5 years, commencing in 2021, first due in calendar year 2022.

FOR THE TAX LEVY

AGAINST THE TAX LEVY

Lots Available

Please note that as of January 1, 2021, Amherst Township made an increase to the fee schedule, which includes cemetery lot fees. This is the first increase in fees since March 10, 2015.

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 Road Superintendant at 988-5894 x111.

\$415 – Resident

\$714 – Non-Resident

**Amherst Township
Senior Service Office Hours:
8:00 A.M. – NOON (M-F)
Phone: 988-5894 – Ext. 101**

Lynda Ashley, Director

Email: amhersttwpseniors@gmail.com



**1-mil
5-year**



Road Levy Renewal

A 1-mil 5-year Road and Bridge Levy renewal will appear on the May 4, 2021 Primary ballot. This levy was first approved by the residents of Amherst Twp. in November of 2011 and again in March of 2016. Upon approval of the levy in 2011, the Amherst Township Board of Trustees reduced the collection of an existing Fire and EMS levy to ensure no tax increase would be experienced by property owners in Amherst Township.

The last time a voted levy for township services increased taxes for Amherst Township property owners was in 2001. Tax levy increases experienced by Amherst Township property owners since 2001 have generally resulted from levies approved for educational or countywide services.

Approval of this levy renewal will not increase property taxes, but will provide \$123,413 for the reconstruction, resurfacing and repair of roads and bridges in Amherst Township pursuant to Ohio Revised Cod 5705.19(G).

NEW RECYCLING ITEMS

RUMPKE is very pleased to announce they are now accepting plastic tubs in their recycling program!!

So, yogurt eaters rejoice! Bring on the butter tubs and toss in those fruit cups! All of these items will find new life through Rumpke's enhanced recycling program. Simply rinse your containers, reattach lids and toss them into your bin loose with the rest of your recycling items!

Like with other acceptable items, Rumpke has secured long-term contracts with stable, regional end-users for this material, ensuring that your containers will be turned into new plastic containers. Additionally, with a grant from "The Recycling Partnership", Rumpke will soon add robotic technology at some of its recycling facilities to further enhance the recycling process!

Rumpke customers can recycle the following items:

- Plastic bottles, jugs, and tubs (butter, sour cream, cottage cheese tubs as well as yogurt and fruit cups)
- Cartons (juice, milk, broth, etc., not egg)
- Glass bottles and jars (any color)
- Aluminum and steel cans
- Paper, paper board (cereal boxes, 12-pack containers, mail, etc.), and cardboard

All items should be clean, empty, and placed in recycling containers loose to ensure proper processing. Rumpke asks to please reattach lids on all acceptable plastic containers. Please remember plastic bags and trash bags should never be placed in your curbside recycling bin.

Residents are reminded to contact RUMPKE direct if they have any issue with their pickup service. Their contact number (1-800-828-8171) is always listed on the front page of this newsletter. For more information visit their website at:

www.rumpke.com



Did You Know?

The recycling symbol on the bottom of a plastic product does not necessarily indicate that the item can be recycled. That number surrounded by chasing arrows is a resin identification code and tells users what kind of plastic they're holding. Rumpke recommends checking the **SHAPE** of the container before tossing it in your recycling carts. Bottles, jugs and now tubs are all on the acceptable items list.

"Chip & Seal" Program

For the 6th year, the Lorain County Engineer's Office is once again offering all townships the opportunity to participate in the 2021 county-wide "Chip & Seal" bid program. Amherst Township has chosen to participate in this program and has submitted their request to have **Tina Lane, Rice Court, and Hornyak Street** to be included as part of the bid. By combining projects from various communities the engineer is able to get a lower base price due to the increased volume.

The Lorain County Engineer has estimated the total improvement project cost to be \$10,161.25 for the "Chip & Seal" finish layer. Because these roads are being maintained on a timely basis, base repair and pre-leveling are not required, thus saving taxpayer money.

It is the goal of the county engineer to have the bid document ready by April/May so that a notice to proceed can be issued in June/July to the successful contractor.

LORAIN COUNTY SOLID WASTE CONSORTIUM

Amherst Township is a member of the Lorain County Solid Waste and Recyclables Collection Consortium. The Consortium of twelve Lorain County communities was formed in 2013. These communities recognized that their residents were paying too much for residential waste collection, hauling and disposal when benchmarked against the cost paid by other communities for similar services in the region. The residents of the Consortium communities had been serviced by the same waste hauler for many years without significant competition for the provision of residential curbside recycling and waste collection services.

The purpose of the Consortium is to provide a collective competitive bidding opportunity to political subdivisions for securing solid waste and recyclable material collection and disposal services. Ohio Revised Code section 505.27 provides the lawful authority for the Amherst Township Board of Trustees

to select an independent contractor to be the exclusive provider of residential curbside recycling and waste collection services.

The Consortium solicited bids for the 5-year contract period from April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2024. Kimble, Republic and Rumpke provided bids for the contract period. On January 8, 2019, the Amherst Township Board of Trustees agreed to award the bid to **Rumpke Waste and Recycling Services** as the lowest and best Bidder. The estimated quarterly cost per residential unit is displayed in the chart below.

Earlier this year the Consortium voted to reduce the \$0.99 Consortium Administrative Fee for the second time since 2013. The original administrative fee was \$1.27 per quarter. The reduced Administrative Fee of **\$0.60** should be reflected in the second quarter billing statement. The fuel surcharge cost varies and is not included in the chart below.



Residential Curbside Solid Waste and Recyclable Collection Cost April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2024				
Solid Waste Container Size (Gallons)	Recyclable Materials Container Size (Gallons)	Base Bid Price per Residential Unit per Quarter	Consortium Administrative Fee	Total Quarterly Cost
96	64	\$59.25	\$0.60	\$59.85
64	64	\$53.31	\$0.60	\$53.91
32	64	\$47.97	\$0.60	\$48.57



NOPEC GRANTS

Amherst Township is a member of NOPEC’s natural gas and electric aggregation programs. NOPEC (Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council) is a nonprofit group of over 240 Ohio communities that negotiates lower utility rates. As Ohio’s largest governmental energy aggregator, NOPEC buys gas and electricity from NextEra Energy in bulk to help lower your utility bills.

NOPEC and NextEra value Ohio communities’ membership and award grants to help them achieve even greater savings. These grants are offered to help implement energy efficiency or energy infrastructure projects that will benefit a community for years to come.

● “NOPEC Energized Community” (NEC) Grant Program provides grants to NOPEC communities for energy-related projects that can improve community facilities and reduce energy-related expenses. Amherst Township was awarded \$16,202 in NEC Grant Dollars for 2021. These funds will be used towards replacing the current township overhead fluorescent lighting in the

garage and hall with LED lighting. NEC Grant dollars from the previous 3 years went towards the purchase of a generator for the Township Hall, as Amherst Township Hall has been designated as an Emergency Shelter by the Red Cross.

● NOPEC also awarded Amherst Township with \$1500 of “Community Event Sponsorship” (CES) funds for 2021 that will be used to pay for grinding of yard waste. This amount will be combined with 2020’s \$1500 CES grant that was put into escrow, as we were forced to cancel the Spring Dumpster Days event due to the Coronavirus, and CARES funds were used to fund a private contractor to perform the Fall Dumpster Days event.

For more information about NOPEC, contact their customer service line at **855-667-3201** or visit their website at:

www.nopec.org

***“DID YOU KNOW?”* WHOSE DITCH IS THAT?**

Township officials are often the first call when a resident has an issue with drainage on or near their property. But whose responsibility is it to repair or maintain a ditch? There are a few factors to consider.

Townships, in many cases, are not responsible for ditch maintenance. In 1980, through House Bill 268, the General Assembly effectively removed township responsibility to improve, clean, or repair township ditches, drains, and watercourses with the repeal of R.C. Ch. 6139 and 6141. The major exception to this provision is if the ditch is providing drainage from a township road.

A road or highway includes “all appurtenances to the road or highway, including but not limited to, bridges, viaducts, grade separations, culverts, lighting, signalization, and approaches on or to such road or highway” (R.C. §5501.01). A right-of-way includes “the roadway, shoulders or berm, ditch, and slopes extending to the right-of-way limits under the control of the state or local authority” (R.C. §4511.01(UU)(2)). Pursuant to R.C. §5571.02, townships are generally responsible for the maintenance of township roads, which includes ditches that drain the township road.

As widely understood and decided by the Ohio Supreme Court, townships can only act under express authority granted in the Ohio Revised Code. As discussed above, no authority is given to townships to

maintain private drains. Maintenance of privately constructed ditches and tile are the responsibility of the property owner.

Landowners are able to petition the county for improvements to drainage and ditches on their property (R.C. Ch. 6131 and 6137). Upon the filing of a petition, the county may make necessary improvements and assess the property owner(s) for the cost. Townships may be similarly assessed if township property is within the watershed and the project benefits township property. After the project is complete, those benefitted will also be assessed for maintenance costs.

Ditch maintenance is an important and often overlooked (but necessary) expense. Improper drainage can lead to flooding, deterioration of the roads, etc. Poorly maintained ditches may fail in time and lead to increased costs for the township. Townships can work with their county engineers or county soil and water conservation district for questions or issues with ditch problems in their area.

“Did You Know?” is informational only and is not intended to serve as legal advice.

Taken from “Grassroots Clippings” November 2020 (a monthly publication of the Ohio Township Association)

NEW TOWNSHIP ROAD EQUIPMENT



Amherst Township purchased a Chrysler RAM Pickup Truck using CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds. This purchase was done to implement policy of only one person per vehicle in order to maintain social distancing. The plow allows for township employees who do not have a CDL to be able to assist with plowing cul-de-sacs and the township parking lots.

Zoning Commission Board

Lonnie Dillon – Chairman
 Jim Conrady – Vice Chair
 Jim McCann – Secretary
 Hank Harsar – Member
 Darryl Saladin – Member
 Colin Serne – Alternate I
 Geno Taliano – Alternate II

Board of Zoning Appeals

Bill Latrany – Chairman
 Tari Reph – Vice Chair
 Ronald Friend – Secretary
 Kirsten Hill – Member
 Joan Whitman – Member
 Rose Betchker – Alternate I
 Steve Ostrolencki – Alternate II

Amherst Township would like to welcome **Colin Serne** to the Zoning Commission Board, as an Alternate.

We would also like to thank **Glenn Thome** for his 14 years of dedicated service on the Zoning Commission. Glenn has served as chairperson for the last 10 years and as secretary for 3 prior years, one of those 3 years as vice-chair also. Glenn retired at the end of his term in 2020.



No Tires



As a reminder, Amherst Township no longer collects tires during the “Dumpster Day” events. You can dispose of tires at the Lorain County Collection Center, located at 540 S. Abbe Road in Elyria. Their hours of operation are from 12 pm to 6 pm on Wednesdays and from 9 am to 3 pm on Saturdays. They can be reached by phone at 440-329-5440. For guidelines and a list of other items that can be recycled, visit:

www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste

Click on “Collection Center” in the left column.

Amherst Fire Dept’s Response To Amherst Township	4th Quarter 2020	
Fire Calls (N of Turnpike):	11	14.7%
Fire Calls (S of Turnpike):	9	12.0%
EMS-First Responder (N):	40	53.3%
EMS-First Responder (S):	15	20.0%
Total Calls:	75	100%

LORAIN COUNTY EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

Amherst Township residents can receive Lorain County Emergency Alerts and Public Service Announcements. This Countywide Emergency Notification System enables the County, as well as individual jurisdictions within the county, to notify residents of pertinent information such as weather alerts, evacuation warnings and missing child, adult, or Amber alerts by way of voice, text, email, pager, and social media.

The County has selected the “Wireless Emergency Notification System” (WENS), operated by Inspiron Logistics, an Ohio based company, to provide this service. To sign up for this service and to choose the alerts you want, go to the website listed below.

Here you will need to enter your first and last name. You will then enter your phone number(s) and choose whether you want a “Text” or “Voice” message alert, or both. You may also choose to receive alerts my email. Then

you can select any city(s), village(s), or township(s) that you would like to receive alerts from, as well as choosing which type(s) of weather alerts(s) you would like to receive. Below these options there is an option to “unsubscribe” and to “report mobile number error”.

Because township residents receive utilities from a variety of providers, you may want to select cities that correspond to where you receive your utilities, or your Lorain County work location if applicable.

Lorain County WENS was first implemented in 2015.

Amherst Township recently entered into a 3-year contract renewal by signing a MOU with the Lorain County Board of Commissioner to participate in and access the Lorain County “Wireless Emergency Notification System”. This 3-year contract began on January 1, 2021 and will end on December 31, 2023.

https://entry.inspironlogistics.com/lorain_oh/wens.cfm

AMHERST TOWNSHIP **PARK REMINDERS**

Residents are reminded that as of March 1, 2003 animals are not permitted in the Amherst Township Park. Whoever violates this resolution is guilty of a minor misdemeanor and shall be prosecuted (ORC Section 511.32).

Also as a reminder, vandalism at the Amherst Township Park is prosecutable. Violators will be charged with Criminal Vandalism according to ORC 2909.05. This is a felony offense and carries a fine of \$2500. This will be strictly enforced. The township park is being patrolled by the Sheriff's Department.

Park Pavilion Reservations

To avoid a scheduling conflict, please contact Amherst Township Senior Service Director, **Lynda Ashley**, to reserve the park pavilion. Current reservations can be viewed on the Township's website under "Depts/Park".

Lynda can be reached at the township Mondays through Fridays between 8 a.m. and 12 noon by calling **988-5894 (ext 101)**.

LIFECARE

Amherst Township, as a member of the Sandstone Joint Ambulance District, has chosen "LifeCare" to be their ambulance provider. LifeCare is now owned and operated by its employees with Dave Richards as President. They can be reached by calling 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.

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
Dates & Times:

Trustees: 2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.
Zoning Commission: 1st Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.