

# AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Winter 2023

Vol. XXVIII No. 4

## Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2023 through curbside pickup.

Newspaper	0.00	#1 PET	5.32
Cardboard	24.49	#2 HDPE Natural	1.06
Mixed Paper	37.27	# HDPE Color	1.06
Steel Cans	2.13	#3 - #7 Plastic Mixed	0.00
Alum. Cans	2.13	Residuals	18.10
Mixed Glass	14.91	Total	106.48

\* Above quantities are all listed in tons.

- There were no dumpster days in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, therefore no scrap metal.

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

## “2024” Dumpster Days

Amherst Township has set the following dates for “Dumpster Days” in 2024.

**April 18, 19, 20**

**October 3, 4, 5**

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

Please note: **NO FREON or PROPANE TANKS!**

**\*NO TIRES or HAZARDOUS WASTE!**

\*Take these items to LC Collection Center & Tire Sites!

For a list of their acceptable and prohibited items visit:

[www.loraincountyohio.gov](http://www.loraincountyohio.gov)

## Drop-Off Hours for Yard Waste!!

**Christmas Trees**, brush, limbs, grass clippings, and leaves may be brought to the Amherst Township property located on the **EAST** side of Oberlin Road (directly across from the Township Garage which is located at 7530 Oberlin Road) at the following times:

- 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Mon – Fri
  - 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Saturday
  - **8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

- Trustee Meetings are viewable online on the “**Meetings**” page of the Township website or through the “Amherst Township” channel on YouTube.

## Township Hall & Garage 988-5894

Fax..... 988-5877

Fiscal Officer ..... **Ext. 104**

Email: [amhersttwpfo@gmail.com](mailto:amhersttwpfo@gmail.com)

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

Email: [amhersttwproads@gmail.com](mailto:amhersttwproads@gmail.com)

Zoning Inspector ..... **Ext. 103**

Sam D’Ambrosio, Zoning Inspector

Email: [amhersttwpzoning@gmail.com](mailto:amhersttwpzoning@gmail.com)

Office Hours: **Mon., Wed., Fri.** – 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Other hours available by appointment only

## 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](mailto:amhersttwp@gmail.com)

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

## Fire Prevention Officer

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

Email: [amhersttwpfire@gmail.com](mailto:amhersttwpfire@gmail.com)

## LifeCare Ambulance, Inc.

Kim Mason or Michelle Skinner..... 323-6111

## Sheriff’s Department ..... 329-3710

Township Impact Officer: **Dpt. Marialyse Fuller**

Dpt. Fuller’s Non-Emergency/Voicemail..... 329-3800

Email: [mfuller@loraincountysheriff.com](mailto:mfuller@loraincountysheriff.com)

## Ohio Edison

(1-888-LIGHTTS)

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.**

# Lorain County “Specialized Rescue Response” Overview

Lorain County is in the enviable position of having a robust “Specialized Rescue Response” to include:

## **Technical Rescue Team**

### **Dive Rescue Team**

### **Hazardous Materials Response Team**

In many areas, these teams are not available as part of the normal emergency response. In others, they may be limited to the city they represent. And, in many cases, the response is limited to certain areas within the rescue discipline. The residents of Lorain County have access to all areas of specialized rescue through the cooperative efforts of our county jurisdictions and the members of the fire departments in those cities, townships, and villages.

The “Technical Rescue” response covers many types of rescue to include confined spaces, trench collapse, rope rescue, high angle rescue, wide area searches, and structural collapse. This team is utilized many times throughout the year.

The most common type of response here, as in many agencies, is to **structural collapses**. These events are usually due to a vehicle striking a home or business which compromises the structural integrity of the home or building. The team can respond with shoring equipment and build framework to stabilize the structure until permanent repairs are made. This results in less damage over time and prevents further collapse. **Rope rescues** are made in areas such as the lake shore, river areas, or anywhere a cliff or steep hill exists. **Trench collapse** involves shoring the collapsed area of the trench in order to rescue trapped persons. This is done through a combination of hydraulic cylinders which expand to hold large wooden panels or heavy timber pieces. Many **confined spaces** exist in the county and knowledge of these is vital to ensuring that a rapid rescue can take place. Spaces such as grain silos, underground tanks, utility cabinets, etc. must be considered during training for this discipline. The team responds with a large trailer equipped to assist in any of the situations noted.

The “Dive Rescue Team” consists of trained rescue divers who can enter any body of water to assist a trapped person or recover objects thrown into the water. In addition, this team is trained in swift water rescue for our many rivers and creeks. Some of these waterways can become very dangerous with

heavy rains and it is not uncommon for less skilled persons to attempt to kayak or canoe these swollen tributaries resulting in a rescue situation. In addition, some drivers choose to drive into water covered areas of roadways and end up trapped in a stalled vehicle requiring the service of this team.

The “Hazardous Materials Response Team” is trained to respond to and stop releases of many types of hazardous materials such as gases, liquids, powders, and solids. This team has specialized equipment which allows them to enter these areas while encapsulated in a protective suit and with devices to monitor the air for dangerous substances. Training for this discipline is quite extensive and the members have a strong knowledge of the hazardous materials in factories, businesses, as well as transport trucks and trains which pass through the county. The equipment they bring to the scene can allow them to stop the release of a hazardous material and contain any spilled substances as well.

For this service, each jurisdiction pays the small sum of **36 cents/resident per year** and agrees to allow members of the local fire department to participate as members of the team. The members of each team must undergo an enormous amount of training to gain the knowledge needed to properly respond. In addition to the initial training, each team attends classes and conducts numerous training exercises throughout the year in order to build proficiency. All of the team members have volunteered to spend the extra time needed in order to train and respond to emergencies and we owe them a debt of gratitude for their service!

For more information, or to sign up for emergency alerts, visit the Lorain County Department of Emergency Management at:

[www.loraincountyohio.gov](http://www.loraincountyohio.gov)

From the drop down menu select Government → Departments → EMA & Homeland Security.

The following QR Code will take you to a webpage where you can sign up for emergency alerts.



# OPWC Round 38

In August 2023, Amherst Township submitted two projects for Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) Round 38 grant funding. In November the OPWC District 9 Integrating Committee approved both of these projects! The process now moves to the State where they generally follow this recommendation as long as the funds are available. State approval and funds are usually announced in early July.

## Moss Canyon Drive Concrete Replacement

This project will involve 753-sq.yds. of concrete, a 241-ft long by 28-ft wide x 7-in thick section of roadway between 843 and 851 Moss Canyon Drive (near the intersection of Fieldstone Drive). It will also include 30-sq.yds. of 6-inch thick concrete driveway apron replacement. Total project cost is estimated at \$126,140. Funding will include \$95,867 from Amherst Township and \$30,273 from OPWC. The OPWC funding will consist of \$7,265 in grant funds and \$23,008 loan funds at 0% interest for 20 years.

## Middle Ridge Road Resurfacing

This project involves milling off 1.5” of asphalt along a 3,635-ft length by 21-ft wide section of Middle Ridge Road from the Brownhelm Township line continuing easterly to Quarry Road and laying down a replacement 1.5” thick surface of new hotmix asphalt, including the intersection. Pavement repair to 6” depth will occur, if required, along with linear berm grading. Total project cost is estimated at \$158,925. Funding will include \$41,325 from Amherst Township and \$117,600 from OPWC. The OPWC funding will consist of \$81,100 in grant funds and \$36,500 loan funds at 0% interest for 12 years.

Many thanks to Lynda and Kevin for working on these grant applications and developing a full understanding of the District 9 project funding scoring methodology. By adjusting the project funding request to optimize the rank score, Amherst Township is the only Lorain County Township to have two projects awarded!

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## NOPEC

### “Small Business Energy Audit Program”

**GRANT FUNDS Available for Small Businesses!!**

NOPEC secured federal funds to support small businesses through their new “NOPEC Small Business Energy Audit Program”.

Small Business owners in NOPEC member communities, which includes Amherst Township, can apply for energy audit funding to cover 60% – 100% of the cost of qualifying energy audits. Get a comprehensive analysis of your building’s energy efficiency and receive recommendations for upgrades that can reduce energy costs.

NOPEC can even provide a list of “Preferred Energy Audit Partners” that can perform an energy audit for your small business with guaranteed priority status and response time for participants of this program. These partners will provide you with a quality energy audit and a detailed report to help you understand your building’s current energy usage and how you can save money through energy efficiency initiatives.

To view the list of partners or to apply for energy audit funding, go to:

[www.nopec.org/apply-for-an-energy-audit](http://www.nopec.org/apply-for-an-energy-audit)

## ZONING NOTES

Residents should be aware that all “**Prefab**” sheds and buildings are considered Accessory Buildings. This includes sheds that can be purchased at “big box” stores. Residents should contact the Amherst Township Zoning Inspector prior to installation of any Accessory Building.

The Amherst Township Zoning Resolution defines an Accessory Building (see “Building, Accessory”) as “a subordinate building which is incidental and accessory to that of the principal building, if such a building already exists on the land. Among the items not to be construed as accessory buildings are Utility Trailers and Shipping Containers”.

Also note that the Board of Trustees will be evaluating adjustments to permit fees at the 2024 Organizational Meeting on December 19, 2023. Although fee adjustments and effective dates have not yet been finalized, you might wish to apply for your permit sooner, rather than later, if you plan to install a fence, pool, accessory building or other item requiring a zoning permit within the next three months. This will ensure you pay the current permit fee versus the future increased fees.

# Wind & Solar Facility Consideration in Amherst Township

The Lorain County Board of Commissioners has been considering a ban of large wind and solar facilities. In October 2021, Senate Bill 52 was enacted into law providing counties some powers over renewable generation sites. Since then, similar bans have been adopted throughout the state including Allen County, Auglaize County, Medina County, and various others.

O.R.C. 303.58 allows County Commissioners to establish restricted areas within the unincorporated areas of the county where certain wind and solar facilities cannot be constructed. These facilities include economically significant wind farms, large solar facilities, and large wind farms. The areas which can ban these facilities include all of or part of a township.

An "**economically significant wind farm**" means wind turbines and associated facilities with a single interconnection to the electrical grid and designed for, or capable of, operation at an aggregate capacity of five or more megawatts but less than fifty megawatts. The term excludes one or more wind turbines and associated facilities that are primarily dedicated to providing electricity to a single customer at a single location and that are designed for, or capable of, operation at an aggregate capacity of less than twenty megawatts, as measured at the customer's point of interconnection to the electrical grid. In other words, any restriction imposed by the Lorain County Board of Commissioners will not apply to a homeowner, business owner, or farmer who wants to put up solar panels or a wind turbine, but only applies to industrial scale projects

"**Large solar facility**" means an electric generating plant that consists of solar panels and associated facilities with a single interconnection to the electrical grid that is a major utility facility.

"**Large wind farm**" means an electric generating plant that consists of wind turbines and associated facilities with a single interconnection to the electrical grid that is a major utility facility.

"**Major utility facility**" means either (a) Electric generating plant and associated facilities designed for, or capable of, operation at a capacity of fifty megawatts or more; or (b) An electric transmission line and associated facilities of a design capacity of one hundred kilovolts or more.

The approaches taken on these bans have varied. Some opt to completely ban all construction of said facilities in all townships of a county. Others have opted for a piecemeal ban where the ban is only active in the townships who desire such a ban. After discussions, the Lorain County Board of Commissioners and their legal representative have determined that a piecemeal ban will not only serve the county best, but it will also best serve the interests of each township individually.

In furtherance of this plan, the Lorain County Commissioners are seeking input from each township. Each township will have the ability to customize their ban areas. For those interested, each Township will discuss the matter at their usual meetings and if so inclined, pass a resolution at a subsequent meeting. The resolution will detail the desired ban areas. These ban areas may be modified in the future to fit each township's needs but cannot be modified without the necessary process stated in O.R.C. 303.58. This includes further notice and resolutions to be undertaken by the County Commissioners at that later date.

The 125 Megawatt Wheatsborough Solar, LLC, being developed by Apex Clean Energy, is a large solar facility with battery storage currently under construction in Erie County and is a large solar facility nearest to Lorain County. Apex Clean Energy is also developing Emerson Creek Wind, a 298-Megawatt wind energy project in rural Huron and Erie Counties in Ohio that will cover 32,000 acres of leased land, of which 84.5 acres will have 52 to 72 wind turbines and other facilities. The Emerson Creek Wind project application was filed with the Ohio Power Siting Board in early 2019 by Firelands Wind, LLC. Since the Ohio Legislature shifted regulation of large wind farms and solar facilities to County Boards of Commissioners, the Erie County Board of Commissioners has banned any new large wind farm and solar facility projects.

Locally, Beacon Solar, a 35-acre solar farm covered by more than 17,400 solar panels that generates 4 megawatts of electricity, is located on East Capel Road west of state Route 83 on land the Village of Grafton purchased from the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections in February 2018.

There are 119 agriculturally zoned parcels of land in Amherst Township greater than 10-acres, totaling 3,139-acres, ranging in size from 10 to 104 acres. The average parcel size is 26.4-acres and the median is 19.9-acres. The Amherst Township Trustees are not aware of any organizations approaching Amherst Township property owners regarding the installation of large solar facilities or large wind farms, but it has been rumored that property owners in southern Lorain County have been approached.

To help the eighteen Lorain County Township Boards of Trustees make an informed decision, the Lorain County Township Association (LCTA) has invited representatives from a major electrical utility and the Lorain County Farm Bureau to discuss the pros and cons of restrictions on economically significant wind farms, large solar facilities, and large wind farms at the January 2024 meeting of the LCTA.

**Amherst Township  
Senior Service Office Hours:  
8:00 A.M. – NOON (M-F)  
Ph: 440-988-5894 – Ext. 101  
Lynda Ashley, Director**

Email: [amhersttwpseniors@gmail.com](mailto:amhersttwpseniors@gmail.com)

Callers are strongly encouraged to leave a message with your name, number, and a brief description of the reason for the call. All messages will receive a call back.

## SHRED EVENT

Amherst Township’s “Community Shred Event” which was held on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, was successful!! The county shredded approximately 1,686 lbs. of paper! We are hopeful of hosting another Shred Event during the April Dumpster Days being held April 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>. Watch for more details in the Spring Newsletter.



## 2024 MEDICARE CHANGES

Medicare Part A and B deductibles will increase beginning January 2024.

Part:		For 2024
<b>A</b>	Inpatient deductible	\$1632.00 per benefit period
	Hospital Co Pay:	
	61-90 days	\$408.00/day
	90-150 days	\$816.00/day
<b>B</b>	*Premium:	\$174.70*
	Deductible:	\$240.00
	Co-insurance:	20%
Skilled Nursing Co pay:	Days 21-100	\$204.00/day

\*Part B premium is based on income, some may pay more.

## 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.

## Mailbox Preparation

Before the snow falls and the plows are out, residents should check their **mailbox posts**. Rotted posts will cause the mailbox to break if the snow becomes too heavy.

While the township’s plow drivers take every precaution to avoid broken mailboxes, sometimes it does occur. Please note, IF the mailbox is broken due to the township plowing the road AND there is NO evidence of a rotted post, the township will replace the mailbox with a standard-type box. IF the post is rotted OR it is hit by a vehicle or any other damage not sustained from our plows, Amherst Township is NOT responsible for replacement.

If you live on a County or State owned road, you should contact the County or ODOT concerning your mailbox. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the township office at 988-5894 ext. 101.



Amherst Fire Dept’s Response To Amherst Township	3rd Quarter 2023	
<b>Fire Calls (N of Turnpike):</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>27%</b>
<b>Fire Calls (S of Turnpike):</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>EMS-First Responder (N):</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>33%</b>
<b>EMS-First Responder (S):</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>Total Calls:</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>MVA’s in Amherst Township (N&amp;S):</b>	<b>12</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/sheds, 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 Sam D'Ambrosio, 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**.

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.

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

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# Christmas Tree



## Disposal

Amherst Township residents may bring their live Christmas Trees to the Amherst Township property located on the EAST side of Oberlin Road (directly across from the Township Garage, which is located at 7530 Oberlin Road) Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Residents may also leave live trees on their lawn near the road. The township road crew will be picking up these trees **Tue., Dec 26<sup>th</sup> thru Fri., Jan 19<sup>th</sup>**.



## SNOW BAN



Parking is prohibited on all township streets and highways in Amherst Township during a snow emergency, which may be declared when snowfall exceeds 2 inches or severe snow or ice condition exists.

A fine for violation of this resolution will be **\$50** if paid within seven days of the violation and **\$100** if paid more than seven days of the violation.

**To avoid having your vehicle towed or ticketed, residents are asked not to park on the street when the snow exceeds 2 inches.**

**Monthly Meeting  
Dates & Times:**

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