

# AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Spring 2018

Vol. XXIII No. 1

## Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2017 (**bold represents yearly total**).

Newspaper	33.29	<b>136.33</b>	#1 PET	5.27	<b>21.58</b>
Cardboard	16.64	<b>68.17</b>	#2 HDPE	5.82	<b>23.85</b>
Mixed Paper	13.31	<b>54.53</b>	#2 - #7 Plastic Mixed	2.22	<b>9.09</b>
Steel Cans	2.77	<b>11.36</b>	Aseptic Containers	0.55	<b>2.27</b>
Alum. Cans	1.11	<b>4.54</b>	Residuals	11.10	<b>45.44</b>
Mixed Glass	18.86	<b>77.25</b>	Total	110.95	<b>454.43</b>

\*Above quantities are all listed in tons.

1.264 tons of various paper through the "ABITIBI Paper Retriever" program (**5.444 tons = Yearly Total**)

4.03 tons of scrap metal through the dumpster program (**10.26 tons = Yearly Total**)

**120 tons** of yard waste ground-up and hauled away

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

## "2018" Dumpster Days

Amherst Township has set the following dates for "Dumpster Days" in 2018:

**April 26, 27, 28**

**October 11, 12, 13**

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

Please note: **NO TIRES!**

**NO PROPANE TANKS!**

## 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.

## Township Hall & Garage 988-5894

Fax ..... 988-5877

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

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

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

Email: [amherstwproads@gmail.com](mailto:amherstwproads@gmail.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: [amherstwpzoning@gmail.com](mailto:amherstwpzoning@gmail.com)

Remi Cerrone, Zoning Inspector

## 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

Howard Akin ..... 233-7624

## Road Superintendent

Kevin Smarsh ..... 370-5242

## Amherst Twp Senior Services Office

Lynda Ashley ..... **Ext. 101**

Email: [amherstwp seniors@gmail.com](mailto:amherstwp seniors@gmail.com)

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

## Fire Prevention Officer

Wayne Eppley ..... 324-3921

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

## LifeCare Ambulance, Inc.

Pete or Herb de la Porte ..... 323-6111

Sheriff's Department ..... 329-3710

## 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.**

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, & 10 pm. All airings are subject to change.

**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.

# STORM WATER MANAGEMENT

## LCSWD Grant Program:

In 2017 the township planned to complete “Phase I / Part B” of the “Engle Ditch Drainage Improvement and Flooding Abatement” project. The total estimated cost of this phase of the project was \$96,750 and the township requested \$87,750 in LCSWD Grant Funds but was unsuccessful in obtaining the requested amount. In February of 2017 the township was notified that it would only receive \$50,000 in grant funds. The project plan was adjusted to improve about 490 feet of the Batten-House ditch extending from the western side of the bridge at the intersection of Stang Road and Oberlin Road to the culvert passing under the Lakeshore Railway. This work has yet to be completed.

In December of 2017, Amherst Township once again applied for LCSWD Grant Funds for “Phase I/Part B” of the “Engle Ditch Drainage Improvement and Flooding Abatement” project, requesting \$75,000 in grant funds. They were successful in obtaining these funds for 2018.

Work on both of these projects is anticipated to be completed in 2018. The township plans to apply for LCSWD Grant Funds for the 2019 / 2020 funding cycles to be used for the Engle Ditch Phase II improvement project.

## Dry Weather Screening

Since December 27, 2002 Ohio EPA has issued 3 NPDES General Permits that authorize small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4’s) to discharge storm water under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).

Lorain County has created a Sanitary and Storm Water District (LCSWMD) for the implementation of a Storm Water Management Program (SWMP). The SWMP that LCSWMD has developed covers the unincorporated urbanized area of Lorain County as well as 8 townships that were defined by Ohio EPA as Phase II Small MS4’s. The SWMP has combined efforts of the County and these communities by having LSCWMD be the permit holder with the Townships as co-permittees. These townships include **Amherst**, Carlisle, Columbia, Eaton, Elyria, Grafton, Henrietta, and Sheffield.

The SWMP defines legal authority to develop, implement and enforce the permit requirements. It

also establishes the permit coverage area, organizational structure, and addresses the following 6 minimum control measures (MCM) as required by the permit:

- MCM #1 – Public Education and Outreach on Storm Water Impacts
- MCM #2 – Public Involvement/Participation
- MCM #3 – Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
- MCM #4 – Construction Site Storm Water Runoff Control
- MCM #5 – Post-Construction Storm Water Management in New Development and Redevelopment
- MCM #6 – Pollution Prevention / Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations

Under the Illicit Discharge and Elimination control measure, Dry-Weather Screening (DWS) of each outfall is required. An outfall is the discharge point of a waste stream into a body of water. Amherst Township has 36 outfalls that will be screened over the course of the 5-year NPDES permit term.

Dry weather is defined as 72 consecutive hours with less than 0.10 inch of rainfall. Dry weather screenings are a visual inspection of the outfalls to determine if any dry weather flows are present. These dry weather flows can originate from natural sources such as ground water and captured streams, or can be an indicator/result of an illicit discharge.

All outfalls with dry weather flow are baseline tested for 4 common indicators. These indicators are Ammonia and Potassium (indicating a sanitary discharge), Surfactants (indicating detergents), and Fluoride or Chlorine (indicating discharge from a treated water source). With these four parameters, the discharge can be narrowed down to the likely contamination source, if any.

Each outfall that has dry weather flow present will be evaluated to determine if the discharge is illicit, and if so, what tracing techniques are best suited to determine the source of the illicit discharge.

When illicit discharge is identified, the EPA mandates that we try to find out the source of the discharge. To avoid any issues, residents should make sure that any on-lot sanitary systems are in good working order. Residents should also take care to not allow oil and other auto fluids to enter the storm water system.



# NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES!!



Due to the reduction of support for the current email addresses, Amherst Township has decided to change all email addresses from “oh.rr.com” to “gmail.com”.

The existing “oh.rr.com” email addresses will be monitored for a period of time, but residents should use the new “gmail.com” addresses when communicating with the township.

The prefix remains the same on all emails, and only the email provider has changed.

If residents have questions or concerns about the roads please contact the Road Superintendent by phone or email. Do not use Social media and expect to hear back from the township. The Road Superintendent, Kevin Smarsh can be reached by phone at 988-5894, Ext. 111. Please leave a message and he will get back to you. He can also be reached by email at:

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

Please use the following email addresses to contact your township representatives:

- Road Superintendent, Kevin Smarsh:  
[amhersttwproads@gmail.com](mailto:amhersttwproads@gmail.com)
- Zoning Inspector, Remi Cerrone:  
[amhersttwpzoning@gmail.com](mailto:amhersttwpzoning@gmail.com)
- Fiscal Officer, Howard Akin:  
[amhersttwpfo@gmail.com](mailto:amhersttwpfo@gmail.com)
- Senior Service Director, Lynda Ashley:  
[amhersttwpseniors@gmail.com](mailto:amhersttwpseniors@gmail.com)
- Township Administrator, Lynda Ashley:  
(for general use and Park Pavilion reservations)  
[amhersttwp@gmail.com](mailto:amhersttwp@gmail.com)
- Also note that the email for the Fire Prevention Officer, Wayne Eppley remains the same:  
[amhersttwpfire@gmail.com](mailto:amhersttwpfire@gmail.com)

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## NO BATTERIES IN GARBAGE

In 2017, Rumpke experienced more than a dozen fires at its Cincinnati and Columbus recycling facilities. They also had numerous truck fires across the company. The culprit: batteries.

Placing batteries (specifically lithium ion batteries) in your recycling and trash containers causes a dangerous situation. When batteries break, they spark fires, putting people (employees and the motoring public) unnecessarily at risk.

Please do not place batteries in your trash or recycling containers. Batteries can be taken to the Lorain County Collection Center located at:

**540 S. Abbe Road, Elyria**

Hours of Operation: **12 Noon – 6 pm (Mon & Wed)**  
**9 am – 6 pm (Saturdays)**

Residents of Lorain County may also drop off Household Hazardous Waste (HHW), E-Scrap, Fluorescent Bulbs and Ballast, Scrap Tires, and books (paperback / hard cover). For more information, please feel free to contact the District at **329-5440** or visit their website at:

[www.loraincounty.us/](http://www.loraincounty.us/commissioners-departments/solid-waste-management/collection-center)  
[commissioners-departments/](http://www.loraincounty.us/commissioners-departments/solid-waste-management/collection-center)  
[solid-waste-management/](http://www.loraincounty.us/commissioners-departments/solid-waste-management/collection-center)  
[collection-center](http://www.loraincounty.us/commissioners-departments/solid-waste-management/collection-center)

# 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.



# NOPEC GIVES BACK



Nearly 500,000 Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) **electric** customers will receive reduced rates on the generation portion of their utility bills thanks to a \$9 million price reduction program being implemented by NOPEC this spring.

The rate reduction will benefit all current NOPEC electric customers served by Ohio Edison and The Illuminating Company (CEI). On average, the rate reduction will equate to nearly \$18 for residential customers and about \$39 for small business accounts over the 4-month program period.

About \$5.4 million of the \$9 million comes from NOPEC's settlement with its former electric supplier. In late 2016, FirstEnergy Solutions terminated its contract to provide electricity to NOPEC customers three years early. NOPEC decided to add to the settlement proceeds to bring the total give back to \$9 million, which represents a good portion of the benefit NOPEC customers would have received had that contract run to term. When combined with the \$25 million previously given back in the form of additional on-bill savings, these funds bring the total give back to NOPEC electric customers to well over \$34 million from 2010 to 2016.

All NOPEC customers who will benefit from this give back will receive a postcard in the mail in the next few weeks notifying them of the rate reduction program.

## ABOUT NOPEC

The Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) is the largest non-profit retail energy aggregation in the United States. Currently, NOPEC supplies electricity and natural gas to more than 800,000 residential and small business customers in 219 member communities in 14 Ohio counties, including Amherst Township.

Since 2001, NOPEC has saved its members more than \$300 million dollars in cumulative energy savings and have provided more than \$20 million in community energy efficiency grants. For more information about NOPEC, visit their website at:

[www.nopec.org](http://www.nopec.org)



# F.A.C.E. Fundraiser



“Funding Amherst Community Enhancement” will be holding their 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Wine Tasting Party fundraising event. Proceeds from this event will support Amherst Township Park Projects.

## WINE TASTING PARTY



**When:** Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup>  
from 7-9 pm

### NEW LOCATION!!!

**Where:** Amherst Township Hall  
7530 Oberlin Road

**Cost:** \$25 per person

**Tickets may be purchased by contacting:**

- Amherst Party Shop at **988-4132**
- Tom Hupman at **487-6876**
- David Marr at **752-0757**
- Lynda Ashley, Senior Service Director,  
Mon- Fri (8am-noon) at **988-5894 – Ext. 101**



Ticket cost includes wine/beer samples, food, and Hors d’oeuvres. This event has been relocated to the Amherst Township Hall. Help support the Amherst Township Park while enjoying a casual and fun evening with your friends and neighbors.



## ENTER THE LORAIN COUNTY BIG TREE CONTEST

The Lorain Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) is excited to announce the third annual Lorain County BIG TREE Contest! This voluntary contest will promote the beauty and benefits provided by our county’s biggest and oldest trees.



This year the featured tree species is the **Tulip Poplar** (Liriodendron Tulipifera). Participants can nominate what they believe might be the largest in Lorain county based on trunk circumference, crown spread, and total height.

Nomination forms must be submitted to Lorain SWCD no later than Friday, July 13th by 4:30 p.m. Please email to [lpارش@loraincounty.us](mailto:lpارش@loraincounty.us) or submit in person or through the mail to the Lorain Soil & Water Conservation District, 42110 Russia Rd., Elyria, OH 44035.

Gifts are yet to be determined and will be announced at the Lorain SWCD Annual Meeting in September.

For more information and to see the contest description visit their website at:

<http://www.lorainswcd.com/news>

Or call the Lorain SWCD at **440-326-5800**.

Also listed in their online Winter/Spring 2018 newsletter is information about the 2018 Seedling Sale and the Spring Fish Sale.

The Seedling Sale is on a first-come, first-serve basis since there is a limit number of each packet available. Order pick up is on one day only, Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 6pm. Various seedlings are being offered including Conifers, Hardwoods, Shrubs, Perennials, and a Rain Garden Kit. Details and an order form are available in the newsletter.

Lorain SWCD is also taking orders for fingerling-size fish for stocking your ponds. Order deadline is Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup> and order distribution will be on Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 11:30 am. Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Hybrid Bluegill, Channel Catfish, Yellow Perch, Redear Sunfish (Shellcrackers), Fathead Minnows, Japanese Koi, and Triploid White Amur are all available. Details and an order form are available in the newsletter.



# **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.

She 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. President Pete de la Porte and Vice-President Herb de la Porte own and operate LifeCare. They can be reached at 323-6111. To learn more about their services, visit their website at:

[www.lifecareambulance.com](http://www.lifecareambulance.com)

## **Contact Sheriff's Dept.**

Residents are reminded that they can help deter crime by keeping home and car doors locked, as well as keeping garage doors closed. If residents know of, or see, any suspicious activity in the township or at the Amherst Township Park, please contact the Sheriff's Dept. at **329-3710**. To contact the sheriff's dispatch from your cell phone without being charged, call **323-1212**. These are not "911" emergency lines.

## **Curfew**

Please be aware that a curfew exists in Amherst Township for minors age 16 and under between the hours of Midnight and 5 a.m. This curfew will be enforced by the Lorain County Sheriff's Dept.

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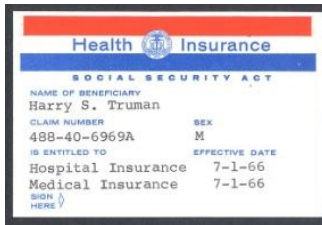
Amherst Township  
7530 Oberlin Road  
Elyria, OH 44035  
www.amhersttownship.us

**PRESORTED STD.**  
**US POSTAGE**  
**PAID**  
**PERMIT NO.179**  
**LORAIN, OHIO**

**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.

## You're Getting a New MEDICARE CARD!



Between April 2018 and April 2019, Medicare will be removing Social Security numbers from Medicare cards and mailing each person a new card. This will help keep your information more secure and help protect your identity. You'll get a new Medicare Number that's unique to you, and it will only be used for your Medicare coverage. The new card won't change your coverage or benefits.

Here's how you can get ready:

- Make sure your mailing address is up to date. If your address needs to be corrected, contact Social Security by calling them at **1-800-772-1213** or visit their website at: "ssa.gov/myaccount".
- Beware of anyone who contacts you about your new Medicare card! Medicare will never ask you to give personal or private information to get your new Medicare Number and card.
- Understand that mailing everyone a new card will take some time. Your card might arrive at a different time than your friend's or neighbor's.

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

**Phone: 988-5894 – Ext. 101**

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



## 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, soup & salad, or sandwich and salad. A "soup only" option is also available as a choice.

If you would like to receive a home-delivered meal, or need more information, please contact the Senior Service Office at **988-5894, ext. 101**.

Meals can be provided for short term coverage for vacations if needed. Please call the office to inquire.

## SENIOR FEST 2018

"Lorain County Office on Aging" and "Lorain County Public Health" will be hosting "The Senior Fest 2018" on Thursday, April 26, 2018 from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm in the Spitzer Center at Lorain County Community College.

This event is FREE to the public.

Tips on how to improve your health, health screenings, and demonstrations will be available.

# HEALTHY LIVING

As we grow older, health problems including those that affect the body and mind are more likely to occur. A number of steps can be taken to help preserve good physical and mental health well into the golden years.

Heart disease, diabetes and cancer are all conditions that become increasingly likely. Other aging problems include osteoporosis, the weakening of the bones, as well as vision and hearing problems.

The probability of a senior falling and causing an injury increases with age commonly due to problems with balance and osteoporosis issues. Poor vision and/or poor lighting can be contributing factors as well.

Mental health problems become more prevalent. The most well-known is Alzheimer's disease, a condition that causes declining mental function and other debilitating behaviors in older adults. In addition, a common but under-treated condition in senior citizens is depression. Often, older adults develop depression in concurrence with other debilitating health conditions like heart disease or cancer. Commonly, a side effect of many medications can be depression. In the winter months, lack of sun and a deficiency in Vitamin D can also contribute to depression.

Research suggests that maintaining a healthy weight is critically important to reduce the risk for such chronic health problems as heart disease, diabetes, and osteoporosis. Eating a healthy diet

and regular exercise will help reduce these risks. Other steps that can help with good health as people age include maintaining good sleep patterns, abstaining from smoking and staying socially active with friends and family and involved in the community.

*SOURCES: U.S. National Library of Medicine; U.S. National Institute of Mental Health; U.S. National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases.*



## FREE TAX HELP For SENIORS

IRS-trained and certified volunteers will be available to prepare Federal, State, and Local tax returns free-of-charge for middle to low income seniors.

Amherst Public Library, located at 221 Spring Street, will host the volunteers every Tuesday and Thursday beginning February 1st through April 17th.

Reservations are required by calling the library at **988-4230**. Call early, spaces are filling fast.

