

AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Winter 2018

Vol. XXIII No. 4

Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in the 3rd quarter of 2018.

Newspaper	13.45	#1 PET	2.95
Cardboard	21.16	#2 HDPE	1.64
Mixed Paper	43.15	#2 - #7 Plastic Mixed	1.53
Steel Cans	2.25	Aseptic Containers	0.56
Alum. Cans	0.31	Residuals	15.10
Mixed Glass	16.44	Total	118.54

* Above quantities are all listed in tons.

5.120 tons of various paper through the "ABITIBI Paper Retriever" program

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

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

"2019" Dumpster Days

Amherst Township has set the following dates for "Dumpster Days" in 2019:

April 11, 12, 13

October 3, 4, 5

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. 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.

Township Hall & Garage 988-5894

Fax 988-5877

Fiscal Officer **Ext. 104**

Email: amherstwpfo@gmail.com

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

Email: amherstwproads@gmail.com

Zoning Inspector **Ext. 103**

Remi Cerrone, Zoning Inspector

Office Hours for Zoning Insp.:

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

Voice Mail is checked daily

Email: amherstwpzoning@gmail.com

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 370-5242

Amherst Twp Senior Services Office

Lynda Ashley **Ext. 101**

Email: amherstwp seniors@gmail.com

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

Fire Prevention Officer

Wayne Eppley 324-3921

Email: 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:

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

Amherst Township Trustee Meetings may be viewed on Spectrum Cable Channel 1025. 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, & 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.

ECO-FRIENDLY DE-ICING IDEAS

Sidewalk Deicer

For icy steps and sidewalks in freezing temperatures, mix together:

- 1 teaspoon of Dawn dish soap
- 1 tablespoon of rubbing alcohol
- ½ gallon hot/warm water

Pour over walkways. They won't refreeze. No more salt eating at the concrete in your sidewalks!

The freezing point of standard 70% rubbing alcohol is -20°F.

Car Deicer Spray

Fill a spray bottle up ¼ to ⅓ of the way with water. Next, add isopropyl alcohol (yes, the same thing you can buy at any pharmacy for about \$1) until the entire bottle is full.

Shake vigorously until your homemade car deicer is blended.

The next time you're dealing with an icy windshield, spray liberally on the window.

*Excerpt from the "Eco-Friendly & Safe Salting Practices" brochure published by Lorain County's **Public Involvement Public Education (PIPE)**, a division of Lorain County Storm Water District.*

NOPEC

In 2004 Amherst Township residents voted to join NOPEC (Northeast Ohio Public energy Council) for electric and gas aggregation.

NOPEC is a non-profit group of over 220 communities that negotiates lower utility rates. As Ohio's largest energy aggregator, NOPEC buys gas and electricity in bulk to help lower your utility bills. Since 2004, NOPEC has saved Amherst Township customers more than \$980,000 in energy costs and has awarded Amherst Township over \$67,000 in energy-efficiency grants.

As a member of NOPEC's energy aggregation, eligible residents and small businesses in Amherst Township receive an enrollment letter every three years for electric and every two years for natural gas detailing NOPEC's rate options and giving residents the opportunity to opt-out of the aggregation. To enroll in the program, residents don't have to take any action. All eligible accounts are automatically enrolled.

Thank-You

Voter Approval of 0.5-mil

"Ambulance & EMS" Replacement Levy

A big "Thank You" to the Township residents who supported the "Ambulance and Emergency Medical Services" replacement levy. The additional funding provided by the replacement levy will pay for the provision of First Responder and Emergency Medical Services in the Township 24-hours a day, 365-days a year.

Solid Waste Consortium Bid

Amherst Township as part of the "Lorain County Waste and Recycling Consortium" has solicited bids for a new 5-year contract for the disposal and processing of residential solid waste and recyclable material. The bid opening was December 14, 2018. The bid award is scheduled for January 14, 2019. The new contract will be effective on April 1, 2019 and will run through March 31, 2024. If a new waste hauler is selected it will be necessary for the current waste hauler to collect the existing waste and recycling containers. The waste hauler that is awarded the bid will be announced in the Spring Newsletter along with the new rates.

As a non-profit organization, NOPEC negotiates for lower energy rates and better terms and conditions. They educate residents and customers in member communities on how to conserve energy and save even more on their energy bills. NOPEC also advocates for consumer-friendly energy legislation at both the state and federal level.

To verify that NOPEC is your supplier for "Natural Gas" look at the top of the first page of your bill as well as in the "Detail Charges" box on the second page of your bill.

To verify that NOPEC is your supplier for "Electric" look in the right column on the first page of your bill and there will be a section titled "Charges From NOPEC – NextEra Energy Services Ohio".

If your bill does not indicate NOPEC as your supplier, contact a customer care professional by calling **855-667-3201** to determine if there would be a benefit to changing your supplier. You can also visit their website at: www.nopec.org.

NEW FISCAL OFFICER

“Happy Retirement” to **Howard Akin** who has served as the Township Fiscal Officer since January of 2007. During this time Howard went through numerous hours of training in the operation of the State of Ohio Universal Accounting Network (UAN) System, managing public records, processing payroll, budgeting, financing, and ethics. He invested the Township’s interim funds allowing the Township to acquire additional revenue without increasing taxes to the residents. He also managed all the Township’s finances during the expansion of the Township Hall and Garage, including providing the prevailing wage records to the business agents of organized labor trade unions.

Howard moved to the township in 1979. His wife Wendy is also retired and is now a full time bird watcher. His son Bradley works as an Economist for the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Prices and Price Indexes Division and is about to build a home in Stafford Virginia.

Howard received a BA in Economics from Ashland College as well as a Teaching Certification. He received an MBA in Management Systems from Baldwin Wallace College. He taught at Clearview Vincent for 5 years with a 2 year trip to the US Army in the middle. He then went to Luxaire/Westinghouse/Borg-Warner/York for eight years working in Physical Distribution. Howard then began as an Investment Advisor for Pierre Smith & Co. and in 1992 went on to start Akin Investments. AISG was sold in 2003 and Howard thought he was retired until he was appointed as FO in 2007.

Howard’s major hobby is taking care of 2 homes. He collects a lot of things as evidenced by his full basement. He was affiliated with the Boy Scouts for over 40 years and is a life member of the VFW, American Legion and Amherst Historical Society. He is a member of Chautauqua Lake Association, Chautauqua Watershed, Roger Tory Peterson Institute, Chautauqua County Historical Assn., and The Audubon Society. He played softball into his 40s ... now he watches.

Howard’s main retirement goal is to stay healthy. He is great at “Porch” sitting. He hopes to get into catching as opposed to fishing. Howard says he will most likely do at one or two of the organizations in which he is a member.



Chris Kish joined Amherst Township in April of 2017 as Assistant Fiscal Officer before being appointed Fiscal Officer on November 1, 2018, to fulfill Howard Akin's term upon his retirement. Chris also works as an Independent Contractor for Kendal at Oberlin

as their Development Specialist. She has over 23 years of non-profit administrative, marketing, and event planning experience, working for the Lorain County Chamber of Commerce, Team Lorain County and Leadership Lorain County.

In addition to work experience, Chris is Secretary of the Elyria Catholic Advisory Council, President of the United Polish Club of Elyria's Ladies Auxiliary, President of the Board for NAMI Lorain County, and a Notary Public.

Chris is a graduate of Elyria Catholic High School, a licensed Cosmetologist in the State of Ohio, and holds Certificates of Completion in several areas including: Microsoft Office Systems, Accounting, Quick-books, Mental Health First Aid, Travel & Tourism and Event Planning.

Chris is also a proud graduate of Leadership Lorain County "Best Class of 2014" and was honored by her classmates as the recipient of the coveted Jephtha Carroll Award for Outstanding Leadership, the 1st woman to receive this award in its 16 year history.

Chris has been an Amherst Township resident for 16 years and lives in Hidden Valley with her husband Dave, their daughter Victoria and their two puppies, Lily and Max.

We would like to thank Howard for all his hard work given to Amherst Township and wish him a “Happy, Healthy Retirement”. We would like to welcome Chris to her new position as the Township’s Fiscal Officer and look forward to what she has to offer the Township in this position.

Mailbox and Lawn Damage Policy (refresher)

Mailboxes and lawns that are damaged along Amherst Township roads by physical contact with Township equipment will be repaired at the Township's expense, but only if they were properly located and installed. Damage will be evaluated by the Township Road Superintendent on a case by case basis.

Mailboxes and lawns that are damaged on County or State roads within Amherst Township will be addressed by the policy of the agency responsible for the road maintenance.

Damaged lawn area will be repaired and reseeded as determined by the Township.

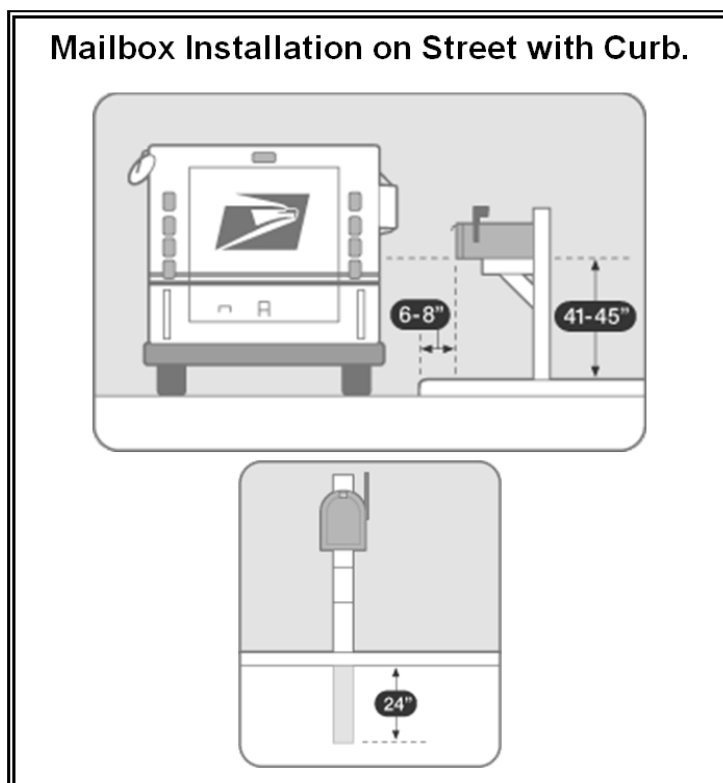
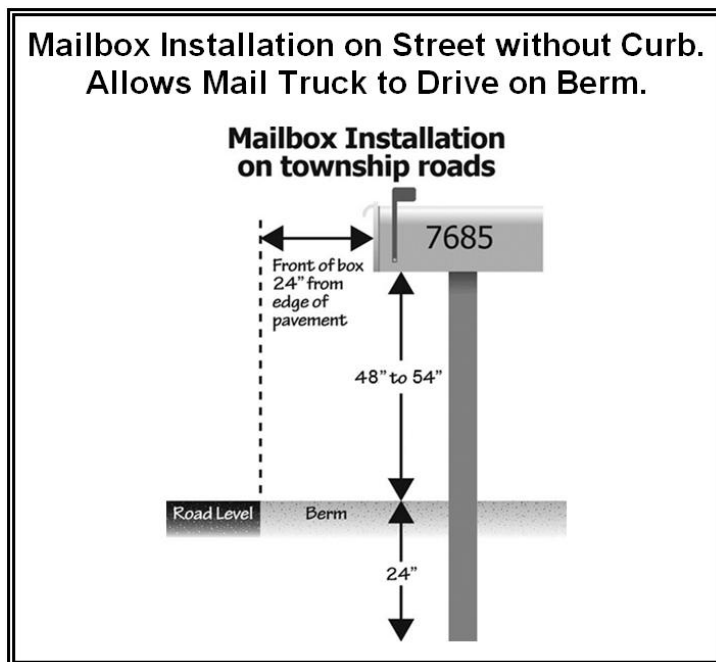
Altered or custom-made mailboxes damaged by plow strike, will be replaced with a standard U.S. postal mailbox and post. The Township is not responsible for any mailbox that is not the standard U.S. postal mailbox permitted in the right-of-way. Replacement of "designer" mailboxes will be the responsibility of the owner.

Owners eligible for a replacement mailbox, as determined by the Township Road Superintendent, may choose to be reimbursed **\$75.00** in lieu of the replacement box. Reimbursement request will occur only after completion of the form found at the end of this policy. *(Please contact Amherst Township or visit their website for this form.)*

Mailboxes that have been confirmed damaged by physical contact of Township equipment will be repaired or replaced by the Township with a standard rural type mailbox on a 4x4 wood post provided that:

- 1) The damaged mailbox had been installed properly per the United States Postal Service.
- 2) If the mailbox and its post were deteriorated, the decision to replace either part will be at the discretion of the Township Road Department.

The mailbox owner is responsible for repair or replacement of the mailbox if the mailbox was damaged by the pressure of the plowed snow and there was no physical contact with the snow plow equipment.



Amherst Township Park Flooding and Public Involvement

A considerable amount of storm water is conveyed underground with storm sewer pipes. One of two 12" diameter main pipes that drain the Amherst Township Park was recently plugged with debris and tree roots causing flooding in the park and the rear yards of residents along Hidden Valley Drive. The severity of the flooding required emergency repair by the Township Road Crew before the arrival of a new storm. Many thanks go to the Road Crew for their quick response and to the residents that alerted the Township to this issue. A special thanks to the township resident that provided the photos of the flood.



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 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. Voice Mail is checked daily.

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.



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 Wed., Dec 26th thru Fri., Jan 18th.



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.

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.**

Senior GAZETTE

Winter 2018

by Lynda Ashley, 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, soup & salad, or sandwich and salad. A “soup only” option is also available as a choice. There is no minimum amount you need to order, the schedule is flexible.

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**.

ATSSO OFFICE HOURS:
8:00 A.M. – NOON (M-F)
Phone: 988-5894 – Ext. 101
 Email: amhersttwpseniors@gmail.com

2019 MEDICARE CHANGES

Medicare Part A and B deductibles will increase beginning January 2019.

Part:		For 2019	
A	Inpatient deductible	\$1364.00 per benefit period	
	Hospital Co Pay:	61-90 days	\$341.00/day
		90-150 days	\$682.00/day
B	*Premium:	\$135.50*	
	Deductible:	\$185.00	
	Co pays:	20%	
Skilled Nursing Co pay:	Days 21-100	\$170.50/day	

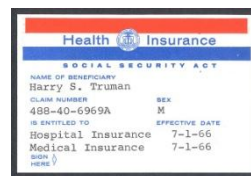
*Part B premium is based on income, some may pay more.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Can you spare 1 hour a week or a month to help your senior neighbors? Our meal program is in need of volunteers to deliver meals to township senior residents. We have an immediate need for **Friday** drivers. Routes are approximately 16 miles long and take about an hour to complete, anytime between the hours of 10:30 a.m. and Noon. Mileage is reimbursed at \$0.545 per mile. If you are interested in volunteering, please call the office.

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.



DEPRESSION



The winter months can intensify feelings of sadness which aging seniors often experience. You may observe a change in mood or behavior during the winter or notice unusual signs of fatigue or sadness or perhaps limited interest in the holiday season.

Depression or feeling blue can be caused by many different factors. It can be related to the loss of a spouse, close friend or companion, or loss of independence. It can also be secondary to a medical problem, illness, or a medication side effect.

Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) is a disorder commonly related to a lack of Vitamin D or a diet lacking in fresh fruits and vegetables. Scientists have proven

that you need 10 minutes of sun exposure daily in order to keep your Vitamin D levels up. During the cold, gray winter months that may not be possible, especially here in northern Ohio.

Treatment for depression can sometimes be lessened with a few simple adjustments like spending more time visiting with loved ones, getting more exercise, eating a nutritionally balanced meal or simply taking a Vitamin D supplement.

You should talk with your physician if you or your loved one is feeling “depressed” to discuss which would be the best treatment/remedy for your situation.



UTILITY SCAM

Utility scammers work year round but seem most active in the winter and summer months when higher utility bills are seen.

These “employees” will contact you stating your payment is overdue and that your water, gas, or electric will be shut off if you don’t pay immediately. They are also known to make promises of discounts or request to update account information.

Never pay immediately over the phone in response to a call threatening to disconnect your service. A utility company will **NEVER** do that. A

disconnection notice will be sent via mail if you are delinquent. Your utility company will never require customers to buy gift cards or prepaid debit cards.

Don’t rely on caller ID, scammers have gotten very good at “spoofing” the caller ID to make it read whatever they want.

If you receive a call requesting immediate payment or any account information – hang up immediately. If you are concerned that you really are delinquent, call the utility company number printed on your bill to speak with an actual company employee.