

AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Spring 2014

Vol. XIX No. 1

Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in the 4th quarter of 2013 (**bold represents yearly total**).

Cardboard	18.75	57.81	Plastics 1's & 2's	3.91	14.30
Mixed Paper	17.22	56.38	Plastics 3's to 7's	1.27	6.29
Newspaper	9.72	62.38	Glass	14.54	65.68
Bi-Metal Cans	1.51	7.02	Other	0.14	1.22
Alum. Cans	0.88	3.50	Residual	16.64	62.74

*Above quantities are all listed in tons.

2.47 tons of various paper through the "ABITIBI Paper Retriever" program (**5.58** Yearly Total)

0.37 tons of scrap metal through the dumpster program
392.7 tons of yard waste for 2013

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

"2014" Dumpster Days

Amherst Township has set the following dates for "Dumpster Days" in 2014:

April 10, 11, 12

May 17 (Pride Day)

October 2, 3, 4

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.

Compost & Wood Chips

Free compost and wood chips **may be** available from the Township. If you are interested, contact John Szeftcyk, Road Superintendent, at 988-5894 – Ext. 111.

Have a problem? Complaint forms are available at the Township Hall, inside the white bulletin board, or they may be downloaded from the Township's website.

Township Hall & Garage 988-5894

Fax 988-5877

Fiscal Officer **Ext. 104**

Email: amhersttwpfo@oh.rr.com

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

Email: amhersttwproads@oh.rr.com

Office (Zoning Inspector) **Ext. 103**

Office Hours for Zoning Insp.:

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

Voice Mail is checked daily

Email: amhersttwpzoning@oh.rr.com

Remi Cerrone, Zoning Inspector

Trustees

Dennis Abraham (cell) 213-6775

(Ambulance, Cemetery, Park, Water, Buildings,
Land, Enterprise Zones, County Health Rep.)

Neil Lynch 988-7681

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

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

(Lighting, Solid Waste, Roads, Ditches)

Fiscal Officer

Howard Akin 233-7624

Road Superintendent

John Szeftcyk 320-7157

Amherst Twp Senior Services Office

Lynda Ashley **Ext. 101**

Email: amhersttwpseniors@oh.rr.com

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

Fire Prevention Officer

Wayne Eppley 324-3921

LifeCare Ambulance, Inc.

Pete or Herb de la Porte 323-6111

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

Ohio Edison

Automated Outage Reporting Line 1-888-544-4877

TRUSTEE MEETINGS:

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

Amherst Township Trustee Meetings may be viewed on Amherst Cable Channel 12. They will air for 7 days, running Mon – Mon, following the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. Air times are at 9 am, 4 pm, & 11 pm. All airings are subject to change.

OHIO TURNPIKE MITIGATION PROGRAM

Amherst Township and the City of Amherst collaborated jointly by apply for funding from the Ohio Turnpike Mitigation Program that would mitigate the flooding and storm water quality degradation impact of the Ohio Turnpike.

Both communities have been adversely affected by the significant amount of impervious surface required to support the Ohio Turnpike. Over five miles of turnpike roadway length, two service plazas and an interchange have been constructed within the Township and City, with minimal accommodation for the management of storm water. Our current natural and municipal drainage facilities regularly exceed capacity during rain events and winter melts, resulting in road closures, erosion, sediment, flooded basements, and health and safety concerns.

This Storm Water Management project would consist of two retention basins that would alleviate peak storm water flow and improve storm water quality. A preliminary cost estimate of \$600,000 has been determined for the project, with 10% being provided locally, and 90% being requested in Turnpike Mitigation funds.

Currently, it is expected that both retention basins would be constructed in Amherst Township, with one basin predominantly benefitting businesses and residents in the City of Amherst, and one basin predominantly benefitting residents in Amherst Twp.

If the Ohio Turnpike Mitigation project funding request is approved as structured in the grant application, Amherst Township should expect to appropriate \$30,000 of Township funds in 2014, although the actual project and expenditure may occur in 2015. Amherst Township would also apply for Lorain County Storm Water District funds to help in funding the \$30,000 Amherst Township share.

The Ohio Turnpike Mitigation Program is a 2-Year program that includes \$5 million of funding that will be made available annually, with no more than \$1 million awarded to any single project. After the January 31, 2014 application deadline, 38 projects totaling \$21,591,011 had been submitted. Projects for consideration included noise walls, drainage, bridge preservation, minor resurfacing and other infrastructure improvements required for public transportation systems. To be eligible, projects must lie within one mile of the turnpike and demonstrate a negative impact to the community caused by the turnpike. Projects for consideration must be sponsored by a local government.

Funded projects will be identified by the end of April 2014. We are hopeful that this joint community project will be looked upon favorably and be funded in the near future.

Road Signage Safety Improvement

Amherst Township was identified by ODOT as having a higher than average crash rate across the entire township system. Because of this identification, Amherst Township was eligible to apply for a "Township-wide Signage Grant" from ODOT. This grant provides up to \$50,000 in combined signs, posts and hardware to systematically improve the signage in the township.

In a cooperative partnership with the Village of South Amherst, the northern portion of South Amherst that is within Amherst Township was included in this grant. The Township and Village expect to receive the signage material this summer, with installation beginning shortly thereafter. It is hoped that the improved signage will help reduce the crash rate in the Township and Village.

REMEMBER, VOTE STATE ISSUE 1!

On Tuesday, **May 6th**, Amherst Township voters will consider several issues and candidates for office. State Issue 1 will be considered by all Ohio voters. Issue 1 is a Constitutional amendment that would fund public infrastructure capital improvements by permitting the issuance of general obligation bonds. Issue 1 would renew the State Capital Improvements Program (SCIP), which has helped local communities all over Ohio complete 11,500 road, bridge, sewer and other infrastructure projects over the last 27 years. The SCIP was first authorized by voters in 1987, and it has been renewed by voters twice, in 1995 and 2005. Issue 1 extends the SCIP 10 more years, authorizing \$1.875-billion in infrastructure aid for local governments. Funds to repay project bonds are already built into state budget planning, so Issue 1 has NO increase in taxes. Approval of Issue 1 would also reduce the pressure to raise local taxes. The SCIP has helped Amherst Township fund major road rehabilitation projects over the past 27-years.

MIDDLE RIDGE ROAD LEFT TURN LANES

In 2005, a group of Amherst Township residents approached the Trustees to express their concerns over the number of serious accidents occurring at the intersections on Middle Ridge Road. As a result of residents' concern, the Trustees requested the Lorain County Engineer to investigate options to reduce the number of service motor vehicle accidents and improve traffic flow.

After conducting a traffic study, the Lorain County Engineer determined that the addition of two turning lanes, one at Eddystone Lane and one at Oberlin Road (north), and a change in the traffic signal sequence at Hidden Valley Drive would meet the objectives.

The additional turn lane at Eddystone and the traffic signal sequence change at Hidden Valley Drive were completed in 2007, but an additional turn lane at Oberlin Road (north) was delayed due to a lack of available funds and the complexity of the road realignment.

Amherst Township has been notified that the left turn lane at Oberlin Road (north) has been approved for 2017

or possibly sooner. This project will include installing a left turn lane on Middle Ridge Road for eastbound traffic turning left onto Oberlin Road northbound; realignment of the existing skewed intersection to be a perpendicular "T" intersection; removal/trimming of vegetation to improve sight distance; and improving the signage at the horizontal curve.

The project has an estimated FY2017 construction cost of \$257,000 including construction engineering. The projected funding breakdown for the project is as follows:

- \$233,600 – Construction Contract Estimate
- \$ 23,400 – 10% Construction Engineering Estimate
- \$257,000 – Total Cost

- \$205,600 – 80% HSIP Funding
- \$ 51,400 – 20% Local Match (Amherst Township)
- \$257,000 – Total Funding

The maximum amount of Federal funding (at 80%) is \$297,000. This Federal funding comes from the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP).

Drainage Improvements

Amherst Township is planning for approximately \$12,000 in drainage improvements in 2014 along a tributary of the east branch of Beaver Creek and a section of the Bevin's Ditch. Approximately \$8,000 will be grant funds from the Lorain County Storm Water District, and the balance will be from the Township's General Fund.

The Beaver Creek tributary project involves the removal of a large fallen oak tree, log jams and brush just west of the Oberlin and Stang Road intersection. This project will help alleviate some of the water backup in the Engle and Battenhouse Ditch that causes localized flooding of the roads and drainage concerns for approximately 100 homeowners in the area.

The Bevin's Ditch project is a continuation of work started three years ago to clear trees and brush from the drainage course, along with restoring an additional 700-feet of the ditch to its original profile. This project will help with drainage for approximately 150 homeowners in the eastern portion of Hidden Valley, Kay Drive, Linda Drive and a portion of Oberlin Road.

Much thanks to the property owners that have provided permission for Amherst Township and various contractors to gain access to their property with heavy equipment and personnel. Your voluntary permission for access helps alleviate flooding issues experienced by your neighbors and on our roadways.



Top photo shows the large fallen oak tree while the bottom photo shows the log jams and brush.



Crime Watch Security Flasher 911 System

At a recent Trustees Meeting, Deputy Bob Vansant stated that the Lorain County Sheriff's Office would once again be distributing the "Crime Watch Security Flasher 911 System".

These adapters install into a standard light socket and operate off the same switch as the standard porch light. They will be provided free of charge to qualified candidates of Lorain County, courtesy of the Lorain County Sheriff's Office.

The flashing light of the "Crime Watch Security Flasher 911 System" will help responding emergency service personnel (Police, Fire, and Ambulance) to more easily identify the emergency location, leading to faster emergency response. Officers will instruct the recipients of the "Crime Watch Security Flasher 911 System" that its use should be for emergency situations only, and are not intended for routine delivery style occasions. Please advise your children as well. This device should be treated the same as calling "911". If a Deputy observes a house with this device activated, a check on the well being of the occupants will be done, even if there is not call for emergency service listed with the Police, Fire, or EMS.

To qualify for a free "Crime Watch Security Flasher 911 System", you need to meet one of the following criteria: 1) Elderly resident; 2) Resident living alone; 3) Special Need / Medical Condition / Family member with special need or medical condition; or 4) Resident with very young children. You may also state another need that you feel qualifies you for the security flasher.

An application form is required to obtain a "Crime Watch Security Flasher 911 System". These forms are available through the Amherst Township Senior Service Director, Lynda Ashley, or may be downloaded from the Township's website on the "Seniors" page, or by contacting Deputy Vansant.

Completed forms may be left with Lynda Ashley or you may contact Deputy Vansant by email at rvansant@loraincountysheriff.com or by calling the "Community Policing Officer" Office at **329-3749**. Please leave a message stating your name, address, and a return number where you can be reached. This number is not monitored 24 hours a day. The Senior Service Office is located at the Township Hall and has office hours from 8am to noon, Mon. through Fri. Lynda may be reached at **988-5894, ext. 101**.

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



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.

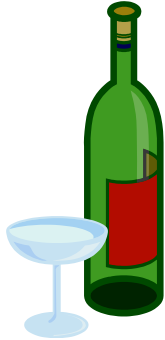




F.A.C.E. Fundraiser



“Funding Amherst Community Enhancement” will be holding their 4th Annual Wine Tasting Party fundraising event. Proceeds from this event will support Amherst Township Park Projects.



WINE TASTING PARTY

When: Friday, April 25th
from 7-9 pm

Where: Amherst Party Shop
275 S. Main St.

Cost: \$25 per person



Ticket cost includes wine/beer samples, food, and Hors d’oeuvres. This event will once again be held upstairs in the wine tasting room, the *Villa D’Vino*. Help support the Amherst Township Park while enjoying a casual and fun evening with your friends and neighbors.

Tickets may be purchased by contacting:

- Amherst Party Shop at **988-4132**
- Tom Hupman at **988-9877**
- David Marr at **752-0757**
- Lynda Ashley, Senior Service Director,
Mon- Fri (8am-noon) at **988-5894 – Ext. 101**

The FACE board includes Tom Hupman (president), Jim Kantola, Bill Poplar, Richard Rice, David Marr, and Bob Cole, with one seat being open.

If you would like to serve in a voluntary capacity on this board, please contact Tom Hupman at 988-9877.



The FACE group is currently raising funds for the addition of ten park benches to be placed along the Amherst Township Middle Ridge Park activity trail. The group hopes to match any funds raised with a grant from the Lorain County Solid Waste District. The effort of these dedicated volunteers, and past volunteers, in improving our Amherst community for people of all ages is greatly appreciated.



PRIDE DAY



Lorain County Solid Waste Department has set Saturday, May 17th as “Pride Day 2014”. As part of the county wide clean-up effort, Amherst Township will have a dumpster available on that day.

Change Notice:

Please note that the Zoning Commission is back to meeting on the first **Tuesday** of the month at 6:30 pm.

There are still open positions on the Zoning Commission as well as the Board of Zoning Appeals. Please contact an Amherst Township Trustee if you are interested in serving on one of these boards.

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

Due to the increased usage of the park pavilion, and to avoid scheduling conflict, please contact Amherst Township Road Superintendent, John Szeftcyk, to make reservations if you wish to use the pavilion. He can be reached at the township during the week by calling **988-5894 (ext 111)**.

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

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.
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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

Spring 2014

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, or soup & salad. A “soup only” option is also available as a choice. If you would like to receive a home-delivered meal, please contact the Senior Service Office at **988-5894, ext. 101**.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

ATSSO is in need of volunteer drivers to deliver meals from 10:30-12:00 noon. We have a vacancy on Thursday's through the end of April and need year round substitute drivers. Please call the Senior Office if you are able to help.

OSHIIP

Featured Volunteer

Our own Carol Schmitkons, retired Senior Service Director, was the “Featured Volunteer” in the January 2014 edition of OSHIIP’s newsletter. Even though she has retired from Amherst Township, she will continue to serve as the Lorain County coordinator for OSHIIP (Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program). The article contained a wonderful write up and we encourage you to read it online at : www.insurance.ohio.gov. From the Menu Bar on the main page select “Newsroom, then Newsletters, then the OSHIIP Newsletter”. Select the January 2014 edition and go to page 3.

ATSSO OFFICE HOURS:

8:00 A.M. – NOON (M-F)

Phone: 988-5894 – Ext. 101

Email: amhersttwpseniors@oh.rr.com

MYCARE OHIO

“*MyCare Ohio*” is coming to Northeast Ohio. It is a new managed care plan designed for adults 18 and older who are receiving services from BOTH Medicare and Medicaid.

If you currently participate in a wavier program including, PASSPORT, CHOICES, Ohio Home Care or Assisted Living, if you reside in a nursing home, or live in the community and receive Medicare and a Medicaid card each month for full Medicaid services, you will be required to make a decision about “*MyCare Ohio*”.

Enrollment begins in Lorain County on May 1, 2014. MyCare Ohio participants in Lorain County can choose between three plans that will be offered. If you have any questions regarding MyCare Ohio, please contact:

**LORAIN COUNTY OFFICE ON
AGING'S
BENEFITS ASSISTANCE
COORDINATOR AT
(440) 326-4800**

You can also find more information online by going to www.ohiomh.com. Then click on the “MyCare Ohio” button located in the bottom right corner of the website’s homepage.

HELP WITH EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES

Are you or a senior family member struggling with everyday activities while trying to remain independent? There are local agencies that provide specialized elderly companion care for loved ones daily needs. Services include meal preparation, light housekeeping, hygiene assistance, errands and shopping.

Two local agencies are available for assistance:

- **Visiting Angels**
PASSPORT Certified
Phone: 988-3004 or visit:
www.visitingangels.com
- **Home Instead Senior Care**
Phone: 353-3080 or visit:
www.homeinstead.com/690

AARP

FREE TAX ASSISTANCE

The Amherst Public Library offers E-filing assistance for low-to-middle income taxpayers, with emphasis on those 60 years and older. This service is offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 to 3:00, February 1st through April 15th. Please call 984-4230 to schedule an appointment.

CHORE SERVICE

“Chore Services” are provided to eligible older adults – 60 years and older- who need help with chores in their home, to maintain a clean, safe, and sanitary living environment. This service may be used twice a year. “Chore Services” will provide heavy household cleaning and seasonal maintenance. To learn more or schedule Chore Services, please call:

440-326-4800

A WORD OF CAUTION!

According to the Lorain County Sheriff, telephone scams targeting older adults are occurring in our area. The caller asks for money to bail out a “grandchild” that is in trouble; it could be car trouble, credit card trouble, jail – they ask for your bank information or credit card numbers with promises to pay you back.

If you receive a call, **DO NOT GIVE OUT ANY PERSONAL ACCOUNT INFORMATION OR CREDIT CARD INFORMATION.**

For your peace of mind, the Sheriff suggests using another phone to verify that the family member is not in trouble.

ANTI-FRAUD HOTLINE

If you or someone you know suspect you have been a victim of a scam or fraud aimed at seniors, the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging has set up a new toll-free hotline to help. This will make it easier for senior citizens to report suspected fraud and receive assistance.

The free anti-fraud hotline will be staffed by a team of committee investigators weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST. You can report suspected fraud by calling: **1-855-303-9470.**