

AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Fall 2026

Vol. XXXI No. 3

Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in the 2nd quarter of 2026 through curbside pickup.

Newspaper	0.00	#1 PET	8.09
Cardboard	37.21	#2 HDPE Natural	1.62
Mixed Paper	56.63	# HDPE Color	1.62
Steel Cans	3.24	#3 - #7 Plastic Mixed	0.00
Alum. Cans	3.24	Residuals	27.51
Mixed Glass	22.65	Total	161.80

* Above quantities are all listed in tons.

- 5.51 tons of scrap metal through the dumpster program.

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

“2026” Dumpster Days

Amherst Township has set the following dates for “Dumpster Days” in 2026.

October 22, 23, 24

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

Drop-Off Hours for Yard Waste!!

Brush, limbs (6” max dia.), 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 Tree Stumps
- **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

Twp Administrator..... Ext. 101

Email: amhersttwp@gmail.com

NEW Office Hours: Mon thru Fri – 8am to 2pm

Fiscal Officer Ext. 104

Email: amhersttwpfo@gmail.com

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

Email: amhersttwproads@gmail.com

Zoning Inspector Ext. 103

Ryan Valentin, Zoning Inspector

Email: amhersttwpzoning@gmail.com

NEW Office Hours:

Mon. through Fri. – 3:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.

Other hours available by appointment only

Trustees

Neil Lynch 988-7681

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

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

(Lighting, Solid Waste, Zoning,)

Jeremy Watson.....(cell) 452-8098

(Cemetery, Park, Water, Buildings/Land, NBHD Watch, Enterprise Zones, County Health Rep.)

Fiscal Officer

Chris Kish(cell) 213-0659

Road Superintendent

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

Twp Administrator/Senior Service Office

Morgan Orozco Ext. 101

Fire Prevention Officer

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

Email: amhersttwpfire@gmail.com

LifeCare Ambulance, Inc.

Kim Mason or Michelle Skinner..... 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 ROAD DEPARTMENT

In 2025, Amherst Township submitted an application for **Round 40** of **OPWC** (Ohio Public Works Commission) funding. This project titled “Hidden Valley Concrete & Catch Basin Replacement” was for 14’ x 300’ of concrete replacement on Deepwood Lane (from addresses 312 to 318) at a projected cost of \$81,460 and 130’ full width replacement from the concrete seam near 365 Deepwood Lane to the center of the cul-de-sac at a projected cost of \$106,075. In conjunction with this project, Amherst Township applied for two **LCSWD** (Lorain County Solid Waste District) **Mini Grants** for the replacement of a total of 4 catch basins. Amherst Township was approved for both funding sources. Bids were opened at the May 12th Trustee meeting with the project being awarded to Denes Concrete Inc. at a cost of \$146,694.50. Work on this project will be completed in 2026. Additional work may be done due to the bid being under the engineer’s estimate.

For 2026, Amherst Township will be submitting two applications for **Round 41** of OPWC funding for concrete replacement projects in Hidden Valley.

The projects for 2026 will be on:

- Graybark Lane (from addresses 127 to 131) at an estimated cost of \$171,130
- Oaknoll Drive (from addresses 440 to 446) at an estimated cost of \$147,220

Each project includes the replacement of 2 catch basins.

If these projects are recommended to the State by the OPWC District 9 Integrating Committee, the township will then apply for two LCSWD Mini Grants to fund the catch basin replacement portion of each project. State approval and funds are usually announced in early July. If Amherst Township’s projects are approved, the township will then accept bids in the Spring of 2027.

OPWC Round 41 Projects				
Graybark Estimate	Oaknoll Estimate	Total Cost	Apportionment (%)	Description
\$171,130	\$147,220	\$318,350	100.00%	Total Project Cost Estimate
\$ 33,370	\$ 28,707	\$ 62,077	19.50%	OPWC Grant
\$ 33,370	\$ 28,707	\$ 62,077	19.50%	OPWC 20-yr, 0% Loan
\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 15,000	4.71%	Stormwater Mini Grant
\$ 96,890	\$ 82,306	\$179,196	56.29%	Amherst Township Contribution

NEW TRUCK w/PLOW

During preparation of the 2021 township budget, the Trustees directed \$50,000 to be set aside each year for the planned purchase of a new Truck in 2024 or 2025. The truck is to be fully outfitted for plowing roads and providing other township services. It will be replacing the existing 1988 International Diesel Snow Plow truck.

After various setbacks and delays, the township will be purchasing a 2025 MACK GR42 Single Axle Truck from M&K Truck quoted at \$136,336 and it will be outfitted by JUDCO Truck Equipment with a “Snow and Ice Body Package” quoted at \$137,350 for a total cost of \$273,686. Delivery and outfitting of this vehicle is not expected to be complete until late summer of 2027.

Keeping Catch Basins Clean

For local road departments, heavy storms bring a big challenge: keeping roads in good shape and drivers safe. We cannot control the weather, but we can make sure our drains are ready. Clearing storm drains before a storm is not just a regular chore; it is vital for public safety.

When leaves, trash, and dirt block storm drains, rainwater has nowhere to go. This causes deep puddles on the street. Standing water increases the chances of cars sliding out of control, serious crashes, and road closures. Besides being unsafe, standing water ruins the road itself. Water soaks into the ground underneath the pavement, causing potholes, cracks, and major damage. What starts as a simple clogged drain can quickly turn into a very expensive repair.

To stop this from happening, the Amherst Township Road Crew will inspect and clean storm catch basins prior to a forecast major rain event, but it would help if residents made sure all debris were removed from the top of catch basins or in the gutter curb in front of their home. A clean, working storm water drainage system is the best way to defend our roadways against severe weather.

TWP ADMIN & SR SERV DIRECTOR

HAPPY RETIREMENT

After almost 13 years of exemplary service, **Lynda Ashley** retired at the end of July. Lynda was hired as the Senior Service Director in **October 2013**. While in this position, Lynda took on a steadily increasing workload of responsibilities and extra duties. Recognizing her exceptional management skills and unwavering commitment, the township promoted her in **June 2017** to include the role of Township Administrator. By **July 2023**, the demands of the office had increased to the point where Lynda hired and supervised a Seasonal Part-Time Administrative Assistant to help manage the workload.

To say Lynda wore many hats would be an understatement. While her responsibilities are truly too numerous to list, her tenure is highlighted by a staggering array of contributions to the day-to-day business of Amherst Township. Lynda served as the community's ultimate multi-tasker, successfully managing tasks such as:

Administrative Leadership: She acted as the point person and first contact for the township, assisted Trustees, conducted specialized research upon request, and created and maintained various complex spreadsheets to streamline township business, including cemetery records.

Community Relations: She received, managed, and followed through with citizen complaints, while also managing the operations and reservations for the Park Pavilions. She created and maintained the township's official Facebook page.

Zoning & Property Management: She kept township records impeccably organized, with a special focus on zoning files. She also trained two Zoning Inspectors and stepped in to fill the role of Zoning Inspector herself whenever the position was vacant. Additionally, she oversaw the management of the township rental property and supervised the cleaning of the township hall and offices.

Financial & Regulatory Oversight: Lynda helped with the grant writing responsibilities including successful grant writing for the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) and managing purchasing logistics. She also completed specialized training for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration



Lynda Ashley and Morgan Orozco

(FMCSA) to handle the federal requirements for the township's CDL drivers.

Senior Advocacy: As Senior Service Director, Lynda completed annual OSHIP training to provide crucial Medicare counseling to local residents.

There is no doubt that Lynda's evolving role became absolutely vital to the daily operation of Amherst Township. Her hard work, organizational skills, and willingness to step in wherever she was needed have shaped the community for the better.

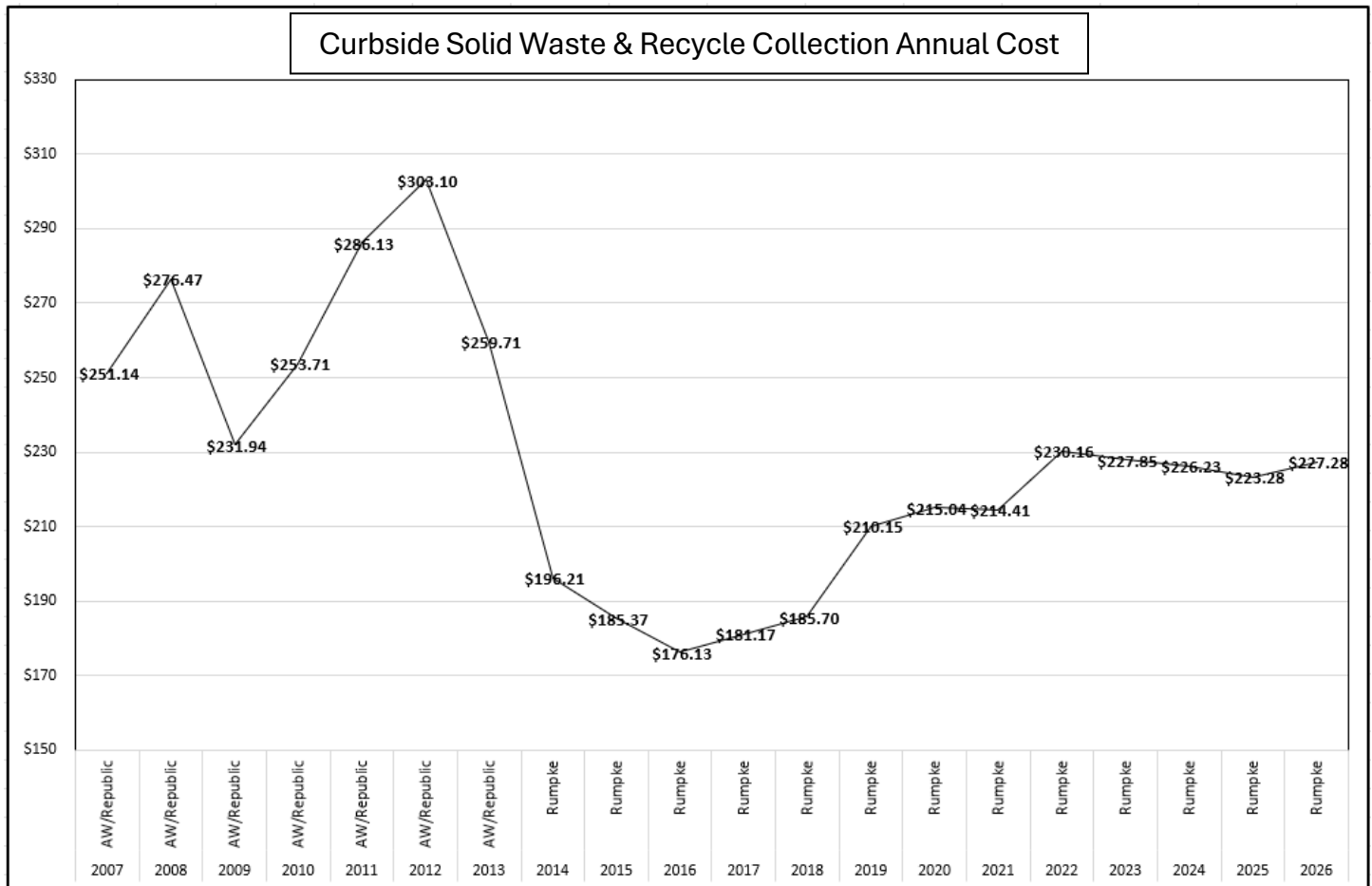
As she closes this chapter, Lynda is looking forward to a much-deserved, relaxing retirement. She plans to spend plenty of quality time with her family, embark on more vacations, and enjoy plenty of peaceful "pool time" at home.

The township extends its deepest gratitude to Lynda for her countless contributions, her tireless work ethic, and her unyielding dedication to our residents. We wish her the absolute best, good health, and immense happiness in her retirement!

PROMOTION

Morgan Orozco has been appointed to a full-time position as the "Senior Service Director / Township Administrator". Having worked with Lynda since starting as "Seasonal Part Time Administrative Assistant" in **July 2023**, the transition to this new position should be smooth and efficient. Morgan will also be taking on some of the responsibilities of the Township Administrative Assistant and Media Technology Operator.

Lorain County Solid Waste Consortium



Amherst Township is one of 13 members of the Lorain County Solid Waste and Recyclables Collection Consortium. The Consortium was formed in 2013, with the purpose of providing a collective competitive bidding opportunity to political subdivisions for securing solid waste and recyclable material collection and disposal services. These communities recognized that their residents were paying too much for residential waste collection, hauling and disposal when benchmarked against the cost paid by other communities for similar services in the region. The residents of the Consortium communities had been serviced by the same waste hauler for many years without significant competition for the provision of residential curbside recycling and waste collection services.

Every five years, the Lorain County Consortium member communities solicit bids for the collection, transport and disposal of residential curbside solid waste and recyclable materials. The current 5-year contract is with Rumpke Waste & Recycling Services and runs from April 1, 2024 through March 31, 2029.

These charts show the cost savings realized by consortium members:

- Typical Consortium Customer Experienced 24.5% Savings in 2014
- Consortium Customers Pay less in 2026 than in 2007
- Existence of Consortium resulted in savings for all County residents

Year	Provider	Annual Cost
2007	AW/Republic	\$251.14
2008	AW/Republic	\$276.47
2009	AW/Republic	\$231.94
2010	AW/Republic	\$253.71
2011	AW/Republic	\$286.13
2012	AW/Republic	\$303.10
2013	AW/Republic	\$259.71
2014	Rumpke	\$196.21
2015	Rumpke	\$185.37
2016	Rumpke	\$176.13
2017	Rumpke	\$181.17
2018	Rumpke	\$185.70
2019	Rumpke	\$210.15
2020	Rumpke	\$215.04
2021	Rumpke	\$214.41
2022	Rumpke	\$230.16
2023	Rumpke	\$227.85
2024	Rumpke	\$226.23
2025	Rumpke	\$223.28
2026	Rumpke	\$227.28
*2026 is an estimated cost		

Sandstone Crossing – Coming Soon to Amherst Township

Construction is officially underway on **Sandstone Crossing**, a new skilled nursing and rehabilitation center in Amherst Township, supported by **Foundations Health Solutions**. The center will expand access to short-term rehabilitation, skilled nursing, and long-term care services for residents throughout Amherst Township and the greater Lorain County community.

Designed with residents, families, and caregivers in mind, Sandstone Crossing will feature **98 private resident rooms**, modern rehabilitation and therapy spaces, welcoming common areas, and amenities focused on recovery, independence, comfort, and quality of life.

Services will include skilled nursing care, short-term rehabilitation, physical, occupational and speech therapy, long-term care, wound care and specialized

clinical services, restorative nursing, social services, and life-enrichment programming.

In addition to bringing a new healthcare resource to the community, Sandstone Crossing will create employment opportunities for nurses, nursing assistants, therapists, dietary and environmental services professionals, and other members of the caregiving team.

Additional updates on construction, career opportunities, admissions, and the anticipated opening will be shared as the project progresses. Follow them on FB at “Sandstone Crossing Health & Rehabilitation”. They hope to welcome their first residents in the fall of 2027.

For more information, contact Jamie McGinty by phone at 216-570-0460 or by email at:

Jamie.McGinty@FoundationsHealth.net



Pictured from left to right: Jamie McGinty, District Manager; Rob Peterson, Administrator; Neil Lynch, Township Trustee; Gayle Manning, House Representative District 52; Mallory Boss, Regional Administrator; Lee Mahar, Business Development.

Never Place Batteries in Trash or Recycling

Since 2016, battery fires have increased by 900%, leading to 102 deaths in 2024 alone. Never place batteries in your trash or recycling bins. Instead, put old batteries in plastic bags or cover the ends of battery terminals with clear packing tape. This prevents lingering charges from releasing in the event of contact.

Locate your nearest disposal site or look for battery drop-off events in your community. “[The Battery Network](#)” is a great resource that promotes battery

recycling across the country and includes a “Find a Drop-off Location” button. Visit their website at:

<https://batterynetwork.org>

The “Lorain County Collection Center” accepts some items that contain batteries, as well as button-style, Lithium ion, and rechargeable batteries. For more details, visit their website at:

www.loraincountyohio.gov/184/Lorain-County-Collection-Center

Attention! Residents in Developments

As a reminder, please **do not rake leaves onto the street** as it restricts water flow into the catch basins when it rains, causing drainage problems for you and your neighbors! The township **does not** pick up leaves. However, you can bring leaves and other yard waste to the Township Yard Waste Recycling Center, located across the road from the Township garage, for disposal.

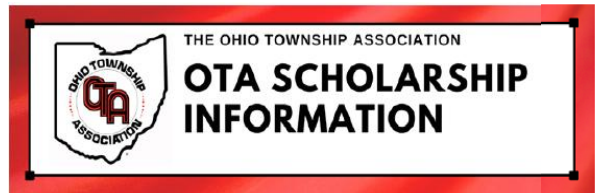
If there is a catch basin in front of your house, residents are encouraged to keep the top surface of the catch basins clear of debris.

Yard Waste Recycling Center Extended Fall Hours

The Amherst Township Yard Waste Recycling Center will be open for extended hours in the Fall to accommodate the recycling of leaves and other yard waste. Beginning **October 15th**, and continuing through **December 1st**, the Yard Waste Recycling Center will open at 8:00 am and close at sunset. The Yard Waste Recycling Center is a self-service operation. Please place your empty plastic bags in the 55-gal drum at the center or take bags with you.

WHAT IS YARD WASTE?

Yard waste includes grass clippings, leaves, tree and shrub trimmings, and plant materials from vegetable and flower gardens.



The Ohio Township Association Scholarship Program began in 2005. Many years prior to this, former board member Paul Smith and his wife, Ethel, gave the initial donation to the OTA Scholarship Fund, providing the groundwork for future scholarships. The scholarships are also funded by donations from County Township Associations, personal gifts, and proceeds from the OTA's annual golf outing.

This year, they will be awarding up to **five** high school seniors **\$1,500 each** for their future education. There are three types of scholarships; Academic Achievement, Local Government Achievement, and Trade School. Applicants must attend at least one official township meeting taking place in their county or school district (and not necessarily in their own township) and fill out the attendance form found on the website.

For more information or if you have questions, please call their office at **(614) 863-0045**.

To learn more about each scholarship, including all forms, requirements, and eligibility, please visit their website at:

www.ohiotownships.org/scholarship-program

The 2027 application period is open now and closes at 11:59 p.m. on January 31, 2027.



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.



Amherst Fire Dept's Response To Amherst Township	2nd Quarter 2026	
Fire Calls (N of Turnpike):	24	28.9%
Fire Calls (S of Turnpike):	14	16.9%
EMS-First Responder (N):	27	32.5%
EMS-First Responder (S):	18	21.7%
Total Calls:	83	100%
MVA's in Amherst Township (N&S):	10	



REMEMBER TO VOTE!



This year's general election will be on Tuesday, **November 3rd**. Early voting begins October 6th. Remember to bring your identification with you to the polls. Please exercise your right to vote. The Lorain County Board of Elections is located at 1985 North Ridge Road East, in Lorain.

For more information about voting, you can call them at **326-5900** or visit their website at:

<http://voteloraincountyohio.gov>

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 (includes Prefab), 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.** (Permit forms are available on the township's website.)

Please contact **Ryan Valentin**, Amherst Township Zoning Inspector for these permits. Office hours for the Zoning Inspector are Monday through Friday from 3:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. He can be reached at **988-5894, ext 103** or by email at:

amhersttwpzoning@gmail.com

Residents are encouraged to call first to verify that the Zoning Inspector will be in the office.

NEW HOURS

**Amherst Township
Senior Service Office Hours:
8:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. (M-F)
Ph: 440-988-5894 – Ext. 101
Morgan Orozco, Director**

Email: 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.

MEDICARE Open Enrollment

The Open Enrollment period for Medicare "Part D" starts on **October 15, 2026**, and runs through **December 7, 2026**. During this time period, Medicare participants are encouraged to review their Part D (Prescription) plan. Each year changes are made to premiums, co pays, coverage amounts, and drug tiers. It is wise to review your current plan's cost for 2027 as there may be other plans out there that will offer better coverage and/or a lower cost.

Those on Medicare can compare plans on the Medicare website at "www.medicare.gov" or by calling the Senior Service Office to make an appointment for looking at your comparisons. Morgan can be reached at 440-988-5894 Ext 101 or by email at amhersttwpSeniors@gmail.com.

NEW HOURS

**Amherst Township
Zoning Inspector:
Monday thru Friday
3:45 P.M. – 5:45 P.M.**

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

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**Monthly Meeting
Dates & Times:**

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



**TRICK
OR
TREAT**



**Burning
Prohibited**



“Trick-or-Treat” in Amherst Township will be held on:

Sunday, October 25th, 2026
from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Residents that wish to pass out candy should turn on their outside lights. This newsletter will be the only notification given by Amherst Township.

Please note that residents of Westwood Estates Mobile Home Park and Amherst Trail Mobile Home Park will be notified by management of their date and time.



The burning of leaves, grass clippings, brush, and limbs is prohibited in the township. Unnecessary tax dollars are spent when the fire department responds to a fire call that is not a true emergency.

If you have any questions, please contact Amherst Township’s Fire Prevention Officer Chris Niehart of the Amherst City Fire Department by cell at:

440-597-0005

for “Amherst Fire Prevention Bureau”

or by email at amhersttwfire@gmail.com or contact one of your township trustees.

Yard waste may be brought to the Amherst Township Garage for disposal. For drop-off times, days, and location, see the front page of this newsletter.

For more information about Ohio’s Open Burning Regulations, read the Ohio EPA’s brochure at:
<https://epa.ohio.gov/static/Portals/47/facts/openburn.pdf>