

# AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Spring 2025

Vol. XXX No. 1

## Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2024 through curbside pickup.

**Bold represents yearly total.**

Newspaper	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	#1 PET	7.33	<b>26.37</b>
Cardboard	33.71	<b>121.31</b>	#2 HDPE Natural	1.47	<b>5.27</b>
Mixed Paper	51.30	<b>184.60</b>	# HDPE Color	1.47	<b>5.27</b>
Steel Cans	2.93	<b>10.55</b>	#3 - #7 Plastic Mixed	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Alum. Cans	2.93	<b>10.55</b>	Residuals	24.92	<b>89.66</b>
Mixed Glass	20.52	<b>73.84</b>	Total	146.56	<b>527.42</b>

\*Above quantities are all listed in tons.

4.53 tons of scrap metal through the dumpster program  
(**9.27 tons** = Yearly Total)

**3450 cu/yd** yard waste collected in 2023/ground-up in 2024

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

## “2025” Dumpster Days

Amherst Township has set the following dates for “Dumpster Days” in 2025.

**April 24, 25, 26-w/shred event**

**October 2, 3, 4**

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

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

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

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

For a list of their acceptable and prohibited items visit:

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

## Drop-Off Hours for Yard Waste!!

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

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

- Amherst Township Residents only
- I.D. may be checked
- No Commercial
- **No Plastic Bags** – place bags in 55 gal drum
- ➔ **Yard Waste Pile** is located at the far back of the property on the east side of Oberlin Road.

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

## Township Hall & Garage 988-5894

Fax..... 988-5877

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

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

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

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

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

Sam D’Ambrosio, Zoning Inspector

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

**\*NEW\* Office Hours:**

**Mon. & Fri. – 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

Other hours available by appointment only

## Trustees

Dennis Abraham .....(cell) 213-6775

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

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,)

## Fiscal Officer

Chris Kish .....(cell) 213-0659

## Road Superintendent

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

## Twp Administrator/Senior Service Office

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

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

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

## Fire Prevention Officer

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

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

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



# Community Shredding Event



Community Document Shredding is provided by the Lorain County Board of Commissioners, free of charge to residents of Lorain County and residents of Vermilion City.

Amherst Township will host a shredding event for their residents in conjunction with Spring "Dumpster Days". Please note that materials from businesses or organizations will not be accepted during this Community Shredding Event.

This event will be hosted on:

**Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> from 9am to Noon** (\*or when truck is full)

Please check to make sure that there are no unwanted items being mixed in with your documents, including but not limited to: binder clips, paper clips, plastic binding.

Examples of Materials Accepted:

- Bank account statements and canceled checks.
- Wage/Salary statements and other income records.
- Income tax returns, property tax bills, credit cards receipt and statements.
- Legal documents (Wills, Trust Agreements, Contacts)
- School transcripts, resumes or other paper documents with sensitive personal information.



The truck will be located on the **EAST** side of Oberlin Road, across from the Amherst Township Hall/Garage.

# 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.** (Permit forms are available on the township's website.)

Please contact Sam D'Ambrosio, Amherst Township Zoning Inspector for these permits. Office hours for the Zoning Inspector are on **Mondays & Fridays** from **8am to 12:30 pm**.

He can be reached at **988-5894 (ext 103)**.

- Pools      Patios      Porches
- Decks      Fences      Gazebos
- Ponds      Signs      Garages
- Accessory Buildings (includes Prefab)
- 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.

# New Hours for Zoning Insp.

There are new office hours for the Amherst Township Zoning Inspector. Sam D'Ambrosio will be holding office hours on **Mondays & Fridays** from **8am to 12:30 pm**. Please call for an appointment to ensure the Zoning Inspector is in the office. Additional times may be available by appointment only. The Zoning Inspector can be reached by phone at **440-988-5894, ext 103** or by email at [amhersttwpzoning@gmail.com](mailto:amhersttwpzoning@gmail.com).

Permits require **5-7 business days** for processing. Please make sure you apply in advance of your need.

During off hours, Permits & Applications may be left in the "Green Box" to the LEFT of the Office Entrance. Personal items or sensitive information should be left in the "Black Secure Drop Box" to the RIGHT of the Office Entrance.



## Site Plan Reviews & Variance Hearings

Effective January 15, 2025, any fees incurred from the Fire Inspector or Architect greater than 2 hours will be the applicant's responsibility along with any Zoning Permit Fees. Fees must be paid prior to receiving a Zoning Permit.

### **2025 Zoning Boards**

#### **Zoning Commission Board**

Lonnie Dillon – Chairman  
Jim Conrady – Vice Chair  
Remi Cerrone – Member  
Hank Harsar – Member  
Darryl Saladin – Member  
Colin Serne – Alt. I & Secretary  
Geno Taliano – Alternate II


#### **Board of Zoning Appeals**

Bill Latrany – Chairman  
Steve Ostrolencki – Vice Chair  
Esther Arroyo – Member  
Randy Haring – Member  
Bruce Hills – Member  
Melissa Guelker – Alt. I  
Nancy Wryst – Alt. II & Sec.

## LCTA Scholarship for LCCC


The Lorain County Township Association (LCTA) offers a scholarship to LCCC for Lorain County Township residents, including Amherst Township. Students in any field of study at LCCC or its University Partnership Schools may apply. Students must have a 3.0 GPA or greater.

The scholarship application is fully online. Eligible students will need to sign in and then search for the LCTA scholarship. The application is not yet open for the Fall-2025 semester, but should be available around the end of March/beginning of April and will close around the end of June. Students should monitor the website during this timeframe to see when the Fall-2025 scholarship is available, along with the new deadline. When checking online, students can click on “preview application” to view the 2024 application and the requirements needed for this scholarship, but they will not be able to submit anything until the 2025 application is available.



### REMEMBER

### TO VOTE!



This year’s primary/special election will be on Tuesday, **May 6<sup>th</sup>**. Early voting begins April 8<sup>th</sup>. Polls will be open from 6:30 am to 7:30 pm. 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>

Primary voting ballots for all Amherst Township residents will contain State Issue 2 (State Issued Bonds for OPWC funds) and one Primary race for Democratic ballots only. See Winter 2024 edition for article about OPWC Program.

### Amherst Township

### Senior Service Office Hours:

### 8:00 A.M. – NOON (M-F)

### Ph: 440-988-5894 – Ext. 101

### Lynda Ashley, Director

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

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



Mobile Food Vending Units, (aka Food Trucks) that wish to do business in Amherst Township are required to be inspected by the Amherst Township Fire Inspector, **Chris Niehart**. These permits are only good for one year and must be renewed annually.

He can be contacted by phone at **440-597-0005** or by email at [amhersttwpfire@gmail.com](mailto:amhersttwpfire@gmail.com).

### Lots Available

Cemetery lots are available at Kendeigh Cemetery, located at the intersection of Quarry Road and Middle Ridge Road.

Lots may be purchased by contacting the Township Road Superintendent at 988-5894 x111. 2025 Fees:

**\$497 – Resident**

**\$829 – Non-Resident**

Amherst Fire Dept’s Response To Amh Twp	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter 2024		2020 Yearly	2021 Yearly	2022 Yearly	2023 Yearly	2024 Yearly
Fire Calls (N of Turnpike):	12	27.3%	55	48	54	59	59
Fire Calls (S of Turnpike):	7	15.9%	35	28	23	36	26
EMS-First Responder (N):	17	38.6%	127	170	170	120	94
EMS-First Responder (S):	8	18.2%	66	70	69	72	53
<b>Total Calls:</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>232</b>
MVA’s in Amherst Township (N&S):	<b>15</b>		----	----	----	51	63



## **FIREWORKS LAW**

Beginning in July 2022, unless limited by local laws, Ohioans can legally discharge consumer fireworks (1.4G) on the following dates and time:

- **July 3, 4, and 5, and the Friday, Saturday and Sunday immediately before and after July 4th (4 p.m.-11 p.m.)**
- **Labor Day weekend (4 p.m.-11 p.m.) [1st Monday of September and the Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding that Monday]**
- **Diwali (4 p.m.-11 p.m.)**
- **New Year's Eve (4 p.m.-11:59 p.m.)**
- **New Year's Day (12 a.m.-1 a.m.; 4 p.m.-11 p.m.)**
- **Chinese New Year (4 p.m.-11 p.m.)**
- **Cinco de Mayo (4 p.m.-11 p.m.)**
- **Memorial Day weekend (4 p.m.-11 p.m.) [last Monday in May and the Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding that Monday]**
- **Juneteenth (4 p.m.-11 p.m.) [June 19]**

Consumers can discharge fireworks on their own property or on another person's property if the owner of that property has given express permission for fireworks to be discharged on their property. CAUTION: If a political subdivision has banned fireworks or restricted the dates and times that fireworks can be used, the local law controls in that area.

Following are a few of the rules as stated in Ohio Revised Code §3743.45 (as effective July 1, 2022) and Ohio Fire Code §5626 (effective July 3, 2022).

- Persons under the age of 18 cannot be within 150-ft of the discharge point of aerial fireworks.
- Aerial devices cannot be discharged within 150ft of spectators (this includes aerial shells, roman candles, cakes, and bottle rockets).
- Fireworks cannot be aimed at or discharged toward any person or object (such as buildings and houses).
- Fireworks cannot be discharged on public property, private school property, or within the public right-of-way.

In addition, relevant Revised Code provisions state that no person can use fireworks while in possession or control of, or under the influence of, any intoxicating liquor, beer, or controlled substance.

Fireworks are extremely dangerous. Fireworks start an average of 18,500 fires each year, resulting in extensive damage to structures, vehicles, and property. Only use fireworks away from people and houses.

To read the entire "Ohio's New Fireworks Law for Consumers" flyer, [search](#) for:

**"SFM\_fireworks\_flyer\_2024.pdf"**

## **OUTDOOR FIRE LAW**

Residents are reminded that outdoor open burning, statewide in unincorporated areas, is prohibited during the months of **March, April, May, October, and November** between the hours of 6 am & 6pm. This ban includes burning of yard waste, trash, and debris, even in a proper burn barrel.

During spring, wildfire danger is high before plants have turned green, and in fall, fire danger is high due to abundant dry leaves and dead grass. Warm windy weather in both seasons also contributes to elevated fire risk. Always be sure to use a proper burn barrel when burning outdoors during legal hours.

You can read more about this law in the Ohio Revised Code, §1503.18 – Regarding Kindled Fires.

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>

## **NOISE CONTROL & MORE**

As summer approaches bringing about outdoor activities and open windows, residents are reminded that Amherst Township does have a "Noise Control Resolution". This regulation was deemed necessary to preserve the public health, safety, welfare, and peace and to ensure the enjoyment of property rights. Please be considerate of your neighbors!

This resolution can be found on the Amherst Township website at:

[www.amhersttownship.us](http://www.amhersttownship.us)

under the "**Resolutions**" tab, along with various other resolutions. Some of these resolutions include "Township Curfew", "Barking Dogs", "No Animals in Park", "Parking of Commercial Vehicles on Township Roads", "Mailbox and Lawn Damage Policy", "Snow Parking Ban Policy", and more.

# NEW PUBLIC NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

(Adapted from "Understanding House Bill 315" published in the "Ohio Township News" March/April 2025, an OTA Publication)

Ohio law requires townships to publish public notices in a newspaper of general circulation within the township. Previously, using a printed newspaper may have been the best way to inform residents of what was happening in a community. That is no longer the case today, as many daily newspapers have folded or have reduced the frequency of their publications. These factors, combined with the high cost of placing notices in print, have made it increasingly difficult for townships to communicate effectively with residents.

The changes in **HB 315** modernize public notice requirements for townships. They now have three options for publishing required public notices.

1. Publish notices on the township's website and social media account. A township is not required to create a social media account; however, if they do utilize social media accounts, public notices shall be posted on them.
2. Publish notices in the digital version of a newspaper of general circulation in the township. Most newspapers have a website and online advertising.
3. Continue to publish notices in the print version of a newspaper of general circulation.

This change, which mirrors township law with municipal law, will increase accessibility and reduce costs for townships while ensuring that residents remain informed about important issues and decisions.



As Amherst Township has both a website and a Facebook page, we will be utilizing option "1" starting on April 3, 2025. The website can be found at <https://amhersttownship.us>. Public notices will be placed on the "Home" page, immediately after "Welcome to Amherst Township". They will also be posted on the "Zoning/Zoning Boards" page for Public Hearings that are held by the "Zoning Commission" or the "Board of Zoning Appeals" (BZA). Public Hearings held by the Trustees will also be posted on the "Depts/Trustees" page.

The Facebook page is called "**Amherst Township, Lorain County, Ohio**". Residents who have a Facebook account can "Follow" this page. Once on the page you can select "Following" settings and select the News Feed setting you prefer:

*Default* – You'll see all posts in their usual order.

*Favorites* – You'll see posts higher in your Feed.

*Unfollow* – You won't see the Page's post in your feed.



## Safety Tip

When walking or riding along roadways, always wear something reflective during the early morning, dusk and evening hours.

**Don't assume that drivers can see you!**

Carrying a flashlight will also make you more visible to drivers. For added safety, when a vehicle is passing you, move over to the edge of the road or onto the lawn.



## DOWNED TREES



If residents notice a fallen tree that is impeding or blocking the roadway, they should first call the Sheriff's non-emergency number at **329-3710**.

The Sheriff's dispatch will be able to contact the appropriate entity to address the issue, be it township, county, city, and/or utility.

# TOWNSHIP TIF's & NEW DEVELOPMENTS

A “Tax Increment Financing” (TIF) District is a designated area where property tax increases resulting from redevelopment or improvements are temporarily diverted to fund the infrastructure supporting the new development, rather than going to traditional public services. Taxes that were previously collected in the TIF Districts prior to the new development will still be collected at the “pre-development” tax rate. The increased Property Taxes will be funding the TIF for the duration of the TIF agreement period.

The Lorain County Board of Commissioners have created three (3) TIF Districts within Amherst Township since 2019. There are two (2) districts within the Sandstone development and one (1) district in Hampshire Farms.

## Sandstone Development

The Sandstone County TIFs are 100% for 30-years. A \$30-million property value improvement within each TIF District will trigger the start of collection of “Payments in lieu of Taxes” (PILOT) to service the debt of infrastructure supporting the Sandstone development. Compensation agreements between the Lorain County Board of Commissioners, Amherst Exempted Village Schools (AEVSD) and the Amherst Township Board of Trustees (ATBOT) were approved in February 2023.

Service payments received by the County derived from the Incentive Districts for years one (1) thru twenty (20) of the TIF Term shall be provided to the Township, AEVSD and LCJVS in an amount equal to 65% of the amount the Township and Schools would have received in the absence of the TIF Exemption.

In payment years twenty-one (21) thru thirty (30) of the TIF term, payment to the Township, AEVSD and LCJVS will be in an amount equal to 100% of the amount the Township, AEVSD and LCJVS would have received in the absence of the TIF Exemption shall be provided by the County.

1) **Sandstone TIF District 1** – This district consists of the Redwood Property. They are building the property in 2 phases. The first phase consists of 152 units and 54 in the second phase. In 2025, 127 of the first phase units are projected to be complete and the other 25 units in the first phase in Q1 of 2026.

The second phase is dependent on the lease up rate of the first phase.

To date, Redwood completed (5) units in Jan, 2025 (10) in Feb and project the completion of (10) in Mar; (14) in Apr; (12) in May, June, July, and Aug; (8) in Sept and Oct; (12) in Nov and Dec for a total of 127 completed units in 2025. The Redwood property is expected to have 205 to 207 total units when both phases are completed.

2) **Sandstone TIF District 2** – This district will consist of 194 single-family homes by Ryan Homes and 264 age-restricted homes by K. Hovnanian “Four Seasons” when all phases are completed. To date:

Ryan Homes has sold 22 homes for completion in 2025 and estimate another 30 homes to be sold this year, with 14 of those 30 homes to be completed in 2025 for a total of 36 homes completed by year end.

K. Hovnanian has sold 23 homes for completion in 2025 and project another 30 homes to be sold this year, with 21 of those 30 homes to be completed in 2025 for a total of 44 homes completed by year end.

That makes a total of 80 homes that are projected to be completed in 2025. Each builder is contracted to purchase 40 lots per year, so the projections are 80 homes per year in 2026, 80 in 2027 and so on.

## Hampshire Farms

The Hampshire Farms TIF is 75% for 10-years to cover the debt for sanitary infrastructure extension. For this TIF, the County receives 75% towards the debt and the Township and Amherst Schools collect 25%. “Payments in lieu of Taxes” (PILOT) in the amount of \$87,891 were collected in 2024 for 2023 property tax.

3) **Hampshire Farms** – All 51 homes have been completed and sold with the last home completed in April 2024.

## **Twp. Bulletin Board**

Scheduled meetings and Trustee Work Sessions are regularly posted in the bulletin board at the Township Hall. These are public meetings and residents are welcome to attend.



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

PRESORTED  
STD.  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO.810

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

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**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.

**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.

**Park Pavilion Reservations**

To avoid a scheduling conflict, please contact **Lynda Ashley**, Township Administrator, to reserve the park pavilion. Rules & Regulations as well as current reservations can be viewed on the Township's website under "Depts/Park".

**A \$50.00 non-refundable permit fee per pavilion is required.** Fees must be paid in full 30 days prior to reservation. Check or Money Order only made payable to Amherst Township.

**Please note** that reservations are not available for Sundays or holidays that occur on a Monday. These days are on a first-come first-serve basis.

Lynda can be reached at the township Mondays through Fridays between 8 a.m. and 12 noon by calling **988-5894 (ext 101)**.

**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.