

AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Spring 2026

Vol. XXXI No. 1

Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in the 4th quarter of 2025 through curbside pickup.

Bold represents yearly total.

Newspaper	0.00	0.00	#1 PET	7.06	27.25
Cardboard	32.46	125.32	#2 HDPE Natural	1.41	5.45
Mixed Paper	49.40	190.72	# HDPE Color	1.41	5.45
Steel Cans	2.82	10.89	#3 - #7 Plastic Mixed	0.00	0.00
Alum. Cans	2.82	10.89	Residuals	24.00	92.64
Mixed Glass	19.76	76.29	Total	141.14	544.90

*Above quantities are all listed in tons.

6.18 tons of scrap metal through the dumpster program
(**10.92 tons** = Yearly Total)

3000 cu/yd yard waste collected in 2024/ground-up in 2025

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.

April 16, 17, 18

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

Fax..... 988-5877

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

Office Hours:

Mon. Tue. Wed. – 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Other hours available by appointment only

2026 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

Lynda Ashley **Ext. 101**

Email: amhersttwp@gmail.com

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

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.**



FIRST ENERGY – SMART METERS

(Adapted from FirstEnergy's "GENERAL OVERVIEW" Fact Sheet about their Smart Meter)



FirstEnergy's Ohio electric companies - Ohio Edison, Toledo Edison and The Illuminating Company – are continuing to install smart meters as part of an ongoing investment, approved by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, to modernize the electric distribution system. This step toward a more modernized electric system will enable automated meter readings and may enhance our ability to respond to outages faster and more efficiently.

With a smart meter, you will have access to more detailed energy information, including through our online Home Energy Analyzer tool that will help you better understand your electricity use – which means you can then make informed decisions on how to manage and control your electricity consumption.

Please take a look at some of these Frequently Asked Questions for more information about our Smart Meter Program:

Q | What is a smart meter?

A | A smart meter is a digital electric meter that collects electricity usage information and sends that data to the local utility through a secure telecommunications connection.

Q | How does a smart meter work?

A | Our smart meters send readings electronically to a network of receivers that are installed on poles. Energy consumption data for utility billing purposes is collected and transmitted a few times a day using short, extremely low-power radio transmissions through a wireless network system. These electronic transmissions nearly eliminate the need for meter readers to record your meter's usage because the readings are automated.

Q | How will a smart meter benefit me?

A | Since the company can read the meters remotely, meter readings will be automated. Once your meter has passed FirstEnergy's bill-certification procedure, you will have access to more detailed energy information through our online Home Energy Analyzer tool that will help you better understand your electricity use – which means you can then make informed decisions on how to manage and control your electricity consumption.

Q | Will I be notified when I am receiving the smart meter?

A | Approximately one month before your meter is exchanged, you will receive a brochure in the mail to provide you with information about the meter and the installation process. A few weeks prior to the actual

installation date, residential customers will receive a letter that will give you the time period when we will be in your area to exchange your meter. On the day of the installation, an installer will come to your door to let you know they are installing your meter. If no one is home, we will leave a door hanger either indicating that the meter has been changed or asking you to contact us to schedule an appointment to change your meter.

Q | How can I tell if my meter is a smart meter?

A | Smart meters are digital, so they will display numbers instead of dials. In addition, our smart meters have a blue stripe across the face.

Q | What is the cost of the smart meter technology?

A | This effort is part of a 4-year investment approved by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio to modernize the electric distribution system in Ohio. These costs are part of the Customer Charge, which includes a number of the company's costs to do business, such as billing, equipment and maintenance.

Q | Will you limit the amount of electricity I am allowed to use?

A | No. The company will not limit the amount of power you can use. As a benefit to you, the smart meter will allow you to monitor your own electric use using our online Home Energy Analyzer tool.

Q | What if I don't want a smart meter?

A | Please call us at **855-344-3400** (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.) to discuss your options. We would like to answer questions that you have regarding our smart meter program and address any concerns about the installation of the new meter.

Q | If the power goes out, do I still have to call the company?

A | Yes, for the time being. If your power goes out, please call 888-LIGHTSS (888-544-4877) to report it so we can identify the problem and respond promptly. However, in the future, we expect that the smart meter technology will help us detect power outages and restore power more efficiently.

For more information, please visit our website at:

firstenergycorp.com/Ohiosmartmeter

or call us at **855-344-3400** (Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 6:00 pm). **Amherst Township** customers can anticipate smart meter installations to begin starting in March 2026 through February 2027.

ISSUE 2

PROPOSED TAX LEVY (RENEWAL)

AMHERST TOWNSHIP ROAD DISTRICT (UNINCORPORATED PORTION OF AMHERST TOWNSHIP)

A Majority Affirmative Vote Is Necessary For Passage.

A renewal of a tax for the benefit of Amherst Township Road District for the purpose of **the general construction, reconstruction, resurfacing, and repair of streets, roads, and bridges** that the county auditor estimates will collect \$131,074 annually, at a rate not exceeding 1 mill for each \$1 of taxable value, which amounts to \$21 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor's market value, for 5 years, commencing in 2026, first due in calendar year 2022.

FOR THE TAX LEVY

AGAINST THE TAX LEVY



REMEMBER TO VOTE!

This year's primary/special election will be on Tuesday, **May 5th**. Early voting begins **April 7th**. 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:

<http://voteloraincountyohio.gov>

The website includes various information including:

- Register/Update Your Registration
- Voter Registration Status
- Absentee Ballot Status
- Polling Place Lookup
- Sample Ballot
- Issue Text
- Absentee Ballot Request Form



1-mil
5-year



Road Levy Renewal

A 1-mil 5-year Road and Bridge Levy renewal will appear on the May 5, 2026 Primary ballot. This levy was first approved by the residents of Amherst Twp. in November of 2011 and again in 2016 and 2021. Upon approval of the levy in 2011, the Amherst Township Board of Trustees reduced the collection of an existing Fire and EMS levy to ensure no tax increase would be experienced by property owners in Amherst Township.

The last time a voted levy for township services increased taxes for Amherst Township property owners was in 2001. Tax levy increases experienced by Amherst Township property owners since 2001 have generally resulted from levies approved for educational or countywide services.

Approval of this levy renewal will not increase property taxes, but will provide \$131,074 for the reconstruction, resurfacing and repair of roads and bridges in Amherst Township pursuant to Ohio Revised Cod 5705.19(G).

A.T. PARK PAVILION RULES AND REGULATIONS

- **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 contact Lynda for reservations, questions, or to pay the permit fee. **440-988-5894 Ext 101**
- Pavilion capacity not to exceed 50 persons per pavilion.
- Pavilions are on a first come first served basis when not reserved. Others must yield the use of a pavilion to groups holding a permit.
- The named person on the permit assumes personal liability for damage, destruction, or removal of park property and must be present for the duration of the function.
- Issued permit is not transferable to another individual or group.
- No nails, tacks, or similar devices may be used to hang decorations. Tape may be used but must be removed by end of rental period.
- No utilities are provided. No grills are permitted.
- Music must be kept at a reasonable volume level at all times.
- Park hours are dawn to sunset. No persons are to be in the park pavilion past dark.
- No pets permitted in the park.
- No fireworks, sparklers, Japanese floating lanterns, or similar items are permitted to be used in the park.
- All trash must be placed in designated trash receptacles. No trash to be left on tables or elsewhere in the park.
- No vehicles may be driven or parked on the grass. All vehicles must be placed in designated parking areas.
- The park is open to the public at all times and you are renting only the specified site area.
- **AMHERST TOWNSHIP IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR INJURIES**

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"

A.T. MIDDLE RIDGE RD. PARK – BALL FIELD RENOVATIONS

The Amherst Township Board of Trustees has approved the planned Middle Ridge Road Park baseball and softball infield renovations proposed by the Amherst Athletic Association (AAA).

The AAA has a 3-year lease agreement with the township that started July 15, 2025 and runs through July 14, 2028. The terms of the lease agreement indicate that in exchange for priority use of the Ballfields and other considerations, the AAA agree to be responsible for maintaining the Fields in good condition and repair. The ball fields have been fabulously maintained by a small group of volunteers. However, AAA would like to improve the playing surface of the fields. They would like to see the grading put back to where it needs to be as well as having improved drainage. These upgrades will reduce the maintenance costs, extend the life of

the fields, and protect the township's investment and in the end, increases the aesthetics of the park in general.

Lewis Landscaping & Nursery provided quotes totaling \$32,146 for the requested improvements of a complete infield renovation and conditioning of the baseball and softball fields. Lewis Landscaping has been installing, renovating, and maintaining all types of athletic fields since 1989. This project will be fully funded by the AAA, which was a multi-year build of saving the funds to support this project. Their revenue is based on registration and sponsorships as.

For more information about the Amherst Athletic Association, visit their website at:

<https://amherstball.com>



Large, Baseball Field



Small, Softball Field

A Message from Ben Butkowski, Amherst Athletic Association (AAA):

Part I:

As we inch closer to the Amherst Athletic Association's 75th anniversary, we are very happy to announce our biggest community project yet.

Because of our ever-expanding school system our league has grown twice as big in numbers over the last 10 years. Growth, while awesome to read and hear about, brings new challenges along with it. The biggest challenge is always, "Where do we put all these kids?" Behind the blessing of our newest partnership with the Amherst Township Board of Trustees (ATBT), we are undertaking our biggest project yet to update. We will be renovating the playing surfaces of the ballfields at our own Amherst Township Park.

This is a project years in the making with several volunteers over time pitching this kind of an idea and lots of time at the table trying to figure out how to make such a task like this possible. I can't stress the word "Volunteers" enough as this organization, 74-years young now, has been able to survive because of the time, talent, and dedication of all those past and present. It's hard to verbalize the appreciation of those who have worked to continuously hand over a program to the next group looking to carry on the responsibility and trust to put together a program that the kids would get excited about every year and their parents would have the confidence in to return year over year. The phrase, "Many hands make light work" has never rung truer". **Part II:** coming soon...

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 and available at <https://myscholarships.lorainccc.edu>. Eligible students will need to sign in and then search for the LCTA scholarship. The application is not yet open for the Fall-2026 semester, but it is typically available around mid-April and will close around the end of June. Students should monitor the website during this timeframe to see when the Fall-2026 scholarship is available, along with the new deadline date. When checking online, students can click on “preview application” to view the 2025 application and the requirements needed for this scholarship, but they will not be able to submit anything until the 2026 application is available.



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.

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. **2026 Fees:**

\$527 – Resident

\$880 – Non-Resident

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 Ryan Valentin, Amherst Township Zoning Inspector for these permits. Office hours for the Zoning Inspector are on **Mondays, Tuesdays, & Wednesdays** from **9:30 am to 1:30 pm**. He can also be reached at **440-988-5894 (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.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Amherst Township would like to announce the promotion of Morgan Orozco as of January 2026. Morgan started in July 2023 as a “Seasonal Part Time Administrative Assistant II” and has been promoted to “Part Time Administrative Assistant II & Media Assistant”. Morgan has demonstrated professional skills and the ability to take on additional responsibilities, including researching and applying for grants, assisting the Zoning Inspector, responding to complaints and preparing meeting documentation. She has been learning all aspects of the township office and is going through OSHIIP Training which will certify her to be able to do Medicare counseling during Medicare open enrollment. She has also learned how to operate the township’s video equipment and helps with recording meetings.

Morgan has been a great asset to the township and we welcome her as a permanent employee.

FOOD TRUCKS



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.

He can be contacted by phone at 440-597-0005 or by email at amhersttwpfire@gmail.com.

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

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.

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
 Nancy Wryst – Alt. I & Sec.
 Vacant – Alt. II

Amherst Fire Dept's Response To Amh Twp	4 th Quarter 2025		2020 Yearly	2021 Yearly	2022 Yearly	2023 Yearly	2024 Yearly	2025 Yearly
Fire Calls (N of Turnpike):	12	18.5%	55	48	54	59	59	59
Fire Calls (S of Turnpike):	15	23.0%	35	28	23	36	26	40
EMS-First Responder (N):	25	38.5%	127	170	170	120	94	127
EMS-First Responder (S):	13	20.0%	66	70	69	72	53	62
Total Calls:	65	100%	283	316	316	287	232	288
MVA's in Amherst Township (N&S):	10		----	----	----	51	63	51



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

PRESORTED STD.
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO.810
CLEVELAND, OHIO

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

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.