

# AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Summer 2026

Vol. XXXI No. 2

## Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2026 through curbside pickup.

Newspaper	0.00	#1 PET	7.23
Cardboard	33.25	#2 HDPE Natural	1.45
Mixed Paper	50.59	# HDPE Color	1.45
Steel Cans	2.89	#3 - #7 Plastic Mixed	0.00
Alum. Cans	2.89	Residuals	24.57
Mixed Glass	20.24	Total	144.55

\* Above quantities are all listed in tons.

There were no dumpster days in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, therefore no scrap metal.

3000 cu/yd yard waste collected in 2025/ground-up in 2026

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](http://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. 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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: [amherstwpfo@gmail.com](mailto:amherstwpfo@gmail.com)

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

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

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

Ryan Valentin, Zoning Inspector

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

# AMHERST TOWNSHIP'S ROAD DEPARTMENT

Your Amherst Township Road Department works hard for the township residents. They are a lean and efficient crew. The department is made up of one supervisor (Kevin Smarsh) and one full-time employee (Russell Rittenour). Seasonal help is also used to help with the mowing and trimming, pot hole repairs, park maintenance, and various tasks as assigned by the supervisor. Some of the many services provided by the Road Department are as follows:

**Road Maintenance:** This includes snow plowing and salting, filling pot holes, crack & seal, street sign repair/replacement, and upkeep of road side berms.

**Storm Water Management:** This includes the clearing, maintenance, and repair of catch basins, as well as the drainage of roadside ditches. Also, storm sewer drains that need to be jetted and vacuumed.

**Mowing & Trimming:** This includes the Middle Ridge Road Park, two township cemeteries, all township property, as well as roadside mowing.

**Tree Trimming:** Constant trimming in order to maintain visibility and clearance of the roadways, parks, and cemeteries.

**Township Equipment:** Service and maintain all of the township's equipment and vehicles, keeping it clean and in good repair. They do a lot of in-house repairs whenever possible to avoid the high cost of outside repairs.

**Facility Maintenance:** They keep the township garage and equipment clean and organized. They also take care of many needed repairs and upkeep to the facility, just like you would take care of your house. Things like repairs to doors, windows, and roofs, replacing a water heater, fixing plumbing issues, and much more.

**Trash Pick-Up:** From May to September, trash bins are emptied 3-times weekly at the Middle Ridge Road park. They collect garbage and trash along the roadsides on a monthly basis. Recently, they collected 5 bags of trash along Oberlin Road. This is a service that is not visible because of the ongoing maintenance.

**Middle Ridge Road Park Inspections:** The township's insurance provider, OTARMA, requires documented inspections of the park equipment.

**General Inspections:** Signs and roads are continually inspected. Pre-trip inspections are preformed daily on all trucks before they go out.

**Yard Waste Collection Center:** See entire article on the next page.

**Dumpster Days:** Twice a year they oversee the drop off of bulky or excess trash that residents bring to the township facility. Trash is sorted and placed in dumpsters obtained specifically for this event, which runs for 3 consecutive days. The supervisor works with the township's trash hauler to obtain the dumpsters needed for this event.

**Grant Applications:** Identify needs that are applicable to various grants (OPWC, NOPEC, LCSWD ditch projects and mini-grants, etc.) and work with the Township Administrator to complete the application forms.

**Complaints:** Investigate and resolve various complaints as they relate to the abilities and responsibilities of the road department.

**On call 24/7:** They can be called out by the sheriff at any time on any day to deal with issues such as flooding, a fallen tree or a hit deer on the roadway.

**Supervisor Duties:** The supervisor must oversee the duties and work of the Road Crew personnel as well as maintain all of the required paperwork that is involved with the department. He is also continually looking for ways to save money for the township.

If you see these guys, let them know they are appreciated for all they do for the township!!



Russell (left) & Kevin (right)

# YARD WASTE COLLECTION CENTER

Amherst Township’s Yard Waste collection site is designated as a Class IV Composting Facility by the Ohio EPA. This classification requires Amherst Township to maintain compliance with all applicable provisions of Chapter 3745-27 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC).

To ensure compliance, the road department is required to conduct daily inspections, removing any bags or unacceptable material, recording the amount of new waste material received, and compacting the pile. Other ongoing maintenance requires them to mow and trim around the retaining barrier area, maintain the roadway going back to the drop off area, and annually meet with the Health Department on behalf of the EPA to verify and review the daily Inspection Reports.

The road department commits a minimum of **112 hours** annually to the yard waste collection site in order to provide this invaluable service to Amherst Township residents. This time does not account for the efforts involved in obtaining and evaluating estimates for the grinding and disposal of the yard waste. Moreover, grinding typically requires two days, followed by a week for the waste pile to be transported.

Furthermore, the costs associated with grinding and removing yard waste have consistently risen over the years. On average, approximately 3,000 to 3,500 cubic yards of yard waste is gathered for about a year before being processed and disposed of between the December to February time frame.

The township obtained three bids for the grinding and removal of the yard waste collected in 2025, with the lowest bid awarded to **Rathlin Soils** at a cost of \$10,000 for 3,000 cubic yards of yard waste. The other two bids for the 2025 waste collection were \$14,500 and \$17,500. This competitive bidding process significantly lowered the cost compared to the previous year’s cost of \$16,750 for the same volume of yard waste.

The security cameras remain operational allowing for non-contact monitoring of the yard waste site. The cameras are equipped with a sound system to facilitate verbal communication as well as visual observation. This system aids in stopping non-township residents and commercial contractors from using the yard waste site.

## Yard Waste Recycling Center Extended Summer Hours

As a reminder to residents, the “Yard Waste Pile” that is located on the east side of Oberlin Road, directly across from the Township Hall, will be open until 8pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month, which coincides with the Trustees Meeting nights. These extended hours will continue through the summer and early fall.

Please, **YARD WASTE ONLY!!!**

The yard waste pile is for disposing of your limbs, brush, lawn clippings, and leaves, **ONLY!** Acceptable limb size is **6” max.** diameter.

### **NO TREE STUMPS!**

Prohibited items would include siding, wood, stone, junk, and construction material as well as any other material that does not grow in your yard.

Residents are reminded to please place your empty plastic bags in the 55-gallon drum at the center, or take bags with you.

The Amherst Township Yard Waste collection and recycling area is provided to minimize illicit disposal of yard waste in township fields, woods, and drainage areas, and reduces incidents of blockage in our storm sewer system by keeping leaves and debris out of our street gutters and storm drains. These outlets drain directly to lake, streams, rivers, and wetlands. An additional benefit of the recycling center is reduced consumption of limited landfill space.

With the grant funds no longer being available since 2023, the cost to manage the yard waste collection site is being paid 100% with taxpayers’ money from the township’s “General Fund”.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Qtr</u>	<u>Cubic/ Yards</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>	<u>Cost per Cu/Yd</u>	<u>Inc from prev yr</u>	<u>% Inc</u>
2018	1 <sup>st</sup>	2700	\$5,624	\$2.08		
2019	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3000	\$8,700	\$2.90	\$0.82	39%
2021	4 <sup>th</sup>	4300	\$14,500	\$3.37	\$0.47	16%
2022	4 <sup>th</sup>	3200	\$17,900	\$5.59	\$2.22	66%
2023	Annual	3450	\$18,600	\$5.39	-\$0.20	-4%
2024	Annual	3000	\$16,750	\$5.58	\$0.19	4%
2025	Annual	3000	\$10,000	\$3.33	-\$2.25	-40%

# A.T. MIDDLE RIDGE RD. PARK – BALLFIELD RENOVATIONS



The above 4 drone photos are courtesy of township resident, **Ben Langford**, showing various stages of the ballfield renovation project. Top left is of the “large field” prior to any work being done. The other three photos show various stages of the “small field”. Below are various pictures as the work was being done by Lewis Landscaping out of Copley, Ohio.



# Playball!

It's done!! Finally, after a few weeks of rain that would have made Noah proud, our field renovation project has been completed. With coaches chomping at the bit to get on the fields with their teams, we were proud to turn them loose on some nice, new infields over the last couple of weeks. The crew at **Lewis Landscape and Nursery** did a phenomenal job taking our sandy dirt infields and making them look like a million bucks and the surfaces now have everyone excited for their turn on the diamond.

This completes one of the biggest projects the Association has been a part of since the lights were installed at AJH years ago. I hope everyone will enjoy these improvements and take advantage of it when they can. Not just the kids playing baseball and softball but even those playing for fun. A project like this has been a long time coming over several iterations of leadership and we couldn't be more excited to start talking about what is next.

Ben Butkowski  
Amherst Athletic Association



**\*\*\*More Photos and Videos shown on the Amherst Township website under DEPTS/Park\*\*\***



# CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!



Buried utilities are marked with flags, paint, or stakes using distinct colors for each utility type based on the American Public Works Association (APWA) Uniform Color Code shown below.

Flags and/or other stake markings can be removed upon completion of your excavation project. If you notice, however, that flags or stakes were placed on your property or in the public right-of-way (usually 30 ft. from the roadway centerline) for another excavation project, **do not remove or destroy these markings without first verifying with the excavator that their project is complete.**

To see excavations that are planned around your home, you can download the OHIO811 mobile app and click on the "Near Ticket" feature. This free service is provided by OHIO811 and will show

planned excavations within a 1,000-foot radius of your GPS location. You can also contact OHIO811 at either 8-1-1 or 800-362-2764.

**Removing Ohio Utilities Protection Service (OUPS) flags before excavation is finished** can cause safety hazards, service disruptions (water, gas, internet), and costly repair liability for you. If you remove them, you must notify the utility through the protection service to have them remark the area. Flags should typically remain until excavation is done or for 20 days.

It's crucial to preserve and maintain the location of flags. Obscured or displaced markings may lead to accidental damage. You shouldn't mow over, or remove the flags, especially if you value your water, sewer, gas, internet, phone, and other services.

American Public Works Association (APWA) Uniform Color Code Chart	
White	Proposed Excavation
Pink	Temporary Survey Markings
Red	Electric Power Lines, Cables, Conduit, and Lighting Cables
Yellow	Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum, or Gaseous Materials
Orange	Communication, Alarm or Signal Lines, Cables, or Conduit
Blue	Potable Water
Purple	Reclaimed Water, Irrigation, and Slurry Lines
Green	Sewers and Drain Lines

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## T-Fiber / Lumos Installation

T-Fiber / Lumos has started installing a 100% fiber-optic network in Amherst Township. Here's what you should know:

- Work will take place in the public right-of-way (usually 30-ft from the roadway centerline) on weekdays during township-approved work hours, with minimal impacts on nights and weekends
- Prior to installation, underground utilities will be identified and marked with temporary paint or colored flags.
- All work areas will be restored when installation is complete.

For construction questions or concerns, please contact T-Fiber Construction Support Mon – Fri, between 8am and 5pm at **800-905-9017**.

### Amherst Township residents:

Please contact the township if you have a gas line hit by Lumos Fiber/T Fiber during the installation of the underground fiber optic cable. You will need to provide your address, what utility was hit, the date, and if the Amherst Fire Department was dispatched to the scene. Please call **440-988-5894 ext. 101** and leave a detailed message with this information. To speak with an office employee directly please call Mon-Fri, 8am to 12 noon. Thank you for your cooperation.

# TOWNSHIP TAXES

Amherst Township residents benefit from paying lower taxes compared to cities, towns, and villages. The main revenue source for the township is 3-mils of inside millage based on the assessed value of a property along with 3 voter approved levies:

- 0.5-mil Ambulance levy (continuing)
- 1.8-mil Fire & EMS levy\* (continuing)
- 1.0-mil Road & Bridge levy (5-year)

\*The Fire & EMS levy was administratively reduced in 2011 when voters approved the first 5-yr/1-mil Road & Bridge levy, which resulted in no increase to the amount of taxes they were paying to the township.

Residents can easily find out the exact amount of their property taxes that go to the township by visiting the Lorain County Auditor’s website at:

<https://loraincountyauditor.gov>

After locating your specific property, select the “Levy Distribution” option. This will display a pie chart showing how all property taxes are allocated for public services. To view the exact tax amounts, move the slider bar to the right to the “Show Amounts” setting.

## “Chip & Seal” Program

Amherst Township has chosen to participate in the “Lorain County Engineer’s 2026 Chip & Seal” county-wide program.

Amherst Township submitted their request to have **Tina Lane, Rice Court, Erie Court, and Hornyak Road** to be included as part of the bid. By combining projects from various communities, the engineer is able to get a lower base price due to the increased volume.

The Lorain County Engineer has estimated the total improvement project cost to be about \$15,914.00 for four roads totaling about .72 miles of the “Chip & Seal” finish layer.

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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 [amhersttwfire@gmail.com](mailto:amhersttwfire@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](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.

Amherst Township would like to welcome Rick Romeo as an alternate member to the Board of Zoning Appeals, filling a vacant position.

If you would be interested in serving on either the Zoning Commission or the Board of Zoning Appeals, please submit your name and contact information to Township Administrator, Lynda Ashley.



Amherst Fire Dept’s Response To Amherst Township	1st Quarter 2026	
<b>Fire Calls (N of Turnpike):</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>26.23%</b>
<b>Fire Calls (S of Turnpike):</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13.94%</b>
<b>EMS-First Responder (N):</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>43.44%</b>
<b>EMS-First Responder (S):</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>16.39%</b>
<b>Total Calls:</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>MVA’s in Amherst Township (N&amp;S):</b>	<b>19</b>	



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

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

**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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## 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 available on twp’s website.)

Please contact Ryan Valentin, Amherst Township Zoning Inspector for these permits. Office hours for the Zoning Inspector are from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. Verify office hours on twp’s website as summer hours may vary. He can be reached at **440-988-5894, ext. 103.**

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.

**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)**.

### **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.