

AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Summer 2016

Vol. XXI No. 2

Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in the 1st quarter of 2016.

Newspaper	33.29	#1 PET	5.27
Cardboard	16.64	#2 HDPE	5.82
Mixed Paper	13.31	#2 - #7 Plastic Mixed	2.22
Steel Cans	2.77	Aseptic Containers	0.55
Alum. Cans	1.11	Residuals	11.10
Mixed Glass	18.86	Total	110.95

* Above quantities are all listed in tons.

0.685 tons of various paper through the "ABITIBI Paper Retriever" program

-----There were no dumpster days in the first quarter, therefore no scrap metal.

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

"2016" Dumpster Days

Amherst Township has set the following dates for "Dumpster Days" in 2016:

October 13, 14, 15

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

Please note: **NO TIRES!**

NO PROPANE TANKS!

Drop-Off Hours for Yard Waste!!

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

- 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Mon – Fri
 - 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Saturday
 - **8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. 2nd & 4th Tuesdays**
 - Amherst Township Residents only
 - I.D. may be checked
 - No Commercial
 - **No Plastic Bags** – place bags in 55 gal drum
- ➔ **Yard Waste Pile** is located at the far back of the property on the east side of Oberlin Road.

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

Township Hall & Garage 988-5894

Fax 988-5877

Fiscal Officer **Ext. 104**

Email: amhersttwpfo@oh.rr.com

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

Email: amhersttwproads-2@oh.rr.com (new!)

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

Office Hours for Zoning Insp.:

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

Voice Mail is checked daily

Email: amhersttwpzoning@oh.rr.com

Remi Cerrone, Zoning Inspector

Trustees

Dennis Abraham (cell) 213-6775

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

Neil Lynch 988-7681

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

David C. Urig 385-0333

(Lighting, Solid Waste, Roads, Ditches)

Fiscal Officer

Howard Akin 233-7624

Road Superintendent

Kevin Smarsh 370-5242

Amherst Twp Senior Services Office

Lynda Ashley **Ext. 101**

Email: amhersttwpseniors@oh.rr.com

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

Fire Prevention Officer

Wayne Eppley 324-3921

Email: amhersttwpfire@gmail.com

LifeCare Ambulance, Inc.

Pete or Herb de la Porte 323-6111

Sheriff's Department 329-3710

Ohio Edison

Automated Outage Reporting Line 1-888-544-4877

TRUSTEE MEETINGS:

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

Amherst Township Trustee Meetings may be viewed on Amherst Cable Channel 12. They will air for 7 days, running Mon – Mon, following the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. Air times are at 9 am, 4 pm, & 10 pm. All airings are subject to change.

Feral Cats, Responsible Pet Owners, & Good Neighbors

DID YOU KNOW?

Feral Cats are the “wild offspring of domestic cats” and are primarily the result of pet owner’s abandonment or failure to spay or neuter their animal, allowing them to breed uncontrolled. Feral cats can be found behind homes, near businesses, and in alleys, parks and abandoned buildings. Feral cats are elusive and do not trust humans.

A pair of breeding cats, which can have two or more litters per year, can produce **420,000** offspring over a seven-year period. The overpopulation problem carries a hefty price tag. Statewide, it creates a huge problem because hundreds of thousands of dollars are spent each year on animal control, shelters, and related expenses.

It is difficult to determine ownership of cats because they are not required to be registered and often do not have on collars identifying ownership.

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION, NOT THE PROBLEM!

1) SPAY OR NEUTER YOUR PETS!

Sterilizing animals is an important step in maintaining their good health. Spaying just one female cat can prevent the births of more than **57 kittens** over a two-year period.

2) DO NOT LET PETS RUN AT LARGE!

No animals should be left out to roam the neighborhood. Failure to confine pets to your premise can cause problems for you and your neighbors.

Feral cats are a problem when they form colonies in areas where they are not wanted. They damage property, spread disease and kill desirable birds and mammals. They can injure or even kill domestic pets. They create mess and smell and distress the people and animals around them.

3) DO NOT FEED THE ANIMALS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

Feeding stray cats and dogs outside invites all kinds of animals which could be dangerous and/or diseased. In addition, it creates a safe place for feral cats to congregate. One stray or feral cat will result in many more before you know it.

Identification tags and collars are helpful in reuniting domestic cats with their owners.

IF FERAL OR FREE-ROAMING CATS ARE A PROBLEM IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD:

The “Friendship Animal Protective League” of Lorain County encourages trapping the feral cats and bringing them into their facility to be spayed or neutered. They have a “trap rental program” where you can leave a \$30 deposit which will be refunded upon return of the trap. Multiple traps can be rented at one time, with a \$30 deposit for each trap. When you go to pick up the trap(s) the Friendship APL will give you more instruction and information about trapping feral cats and how to use the traps.

A trapped feral cat can then be brought in to be sterilized as well as receiving a shot for rabies at a cost of \$26.50 per cat. The feral cat’s ear is “tipped” to identify that it has been sterilized.

The Friendship APL states that while this process does take a little bit of time it does start to have a positive affect on the feral cat population.

You can contact the **Friendship APL** at:
8303 Murray Ridge Road
Elyria, OH 44035
(440) 322-4321

Safety Grant Awarded To “SJAD”

The “Sandstone Joint Ambulance District” was awarded \$108,287 from the “**Local Government Safety Capital Grant Program**”, under the “Ohio Development Services Agency”. The program was administered by the “Local Government Innovation Council”.

Grant funds were to be used for the purchase of vehicles, equipment, facilities, or systems needed to enhance public safety, with the focus being on police, fire, and EMS-related purchases. An eligible project could include more than one of these items, up to a total requested grant amount of \$100,000 for individual political subdivisions. An application submitted by multiple political subdivisions may seek a level of funding which does not exceed the total amount of funding which may be collectively awarded to those political subdivisions individually, up to \$500,000. There is \$10,000,000 available for both FY16 and FY17. Grant applications were due in March 2016, and then reviewed between March and May. Awards were made at the May 2016 Council meeting.

The “Sandstone Joint Ambulance District” (**SJAD**) consists of the City of Amherst, the Village of South Amherst, and Amherst Township and has been in existence since 2000. This district was created for the greater good and safety of the residents who are in the Ambulance District.

The “SJAD” grant requested and was approved for funding of the following items:

12 AED’s – Automated External Defibrillators are used to send a shock to the heart when a person goes into cardiac arrest. Each of the 3 entities in the SJAD will receive 4 of these AED’s. The individual entities will decide where the AED’s are placed.



2 Lucas Devices – These devices are used to automatically perform chest compressions. One unit will go to each of the two fire departments in the district, Amherst and South Amherst. This will provide use of this equipment to all of the residents in Amherst Township.



2 Power Cots – These cots raise and lower automatically. In the raised position, there are hooks that latch on to the stretcher and pull it into the ambulance. These power cots not only reduce the strain of the paramedic’s backs but also provide greater safety to the patient who is on the stretcher. These cots will be given to LifeCare to be used within the Sandstone Joint Ambulance District.



The “SJAD” employed “Gatchell Grant Writing Resources” as their grant writer and they plan to apply again for more grant funds in 2017.

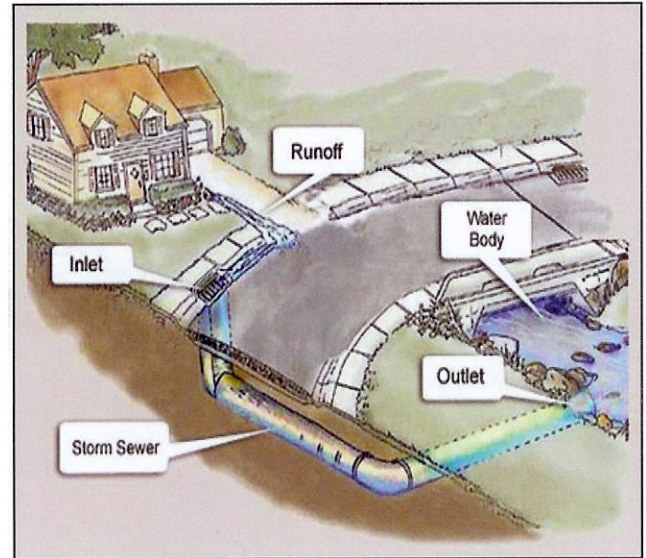
Storm Water 101: The Rundown on Runoff

What is Storm Water Runoff?

Storm water runoff is precipitation or snowmelt flowing over the land surface. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, rooftops, and streets prevent storm water from naturally soaking into the ground.

Why is Storm Water Runoff a Problem?

Storm water picks up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flows directly into the nearest water body or into a storm sewer. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the water we use for swimming, fishing, and drinking water: the Black River, Beaver Creek, and Lake Erie.



The Effects of Storm Water Runoff in Our Watershed

Lack of storm water management leads to increased flooding as areas no longer have the permeable surface to deal with the excess water flow. Flooding related to storm water is difficult to fix and costly to homeowners.

Sediment clouds the water and makes it difficult for aquatic plants to grow, clogs the gills of fish, and destroys aquatic habitats.

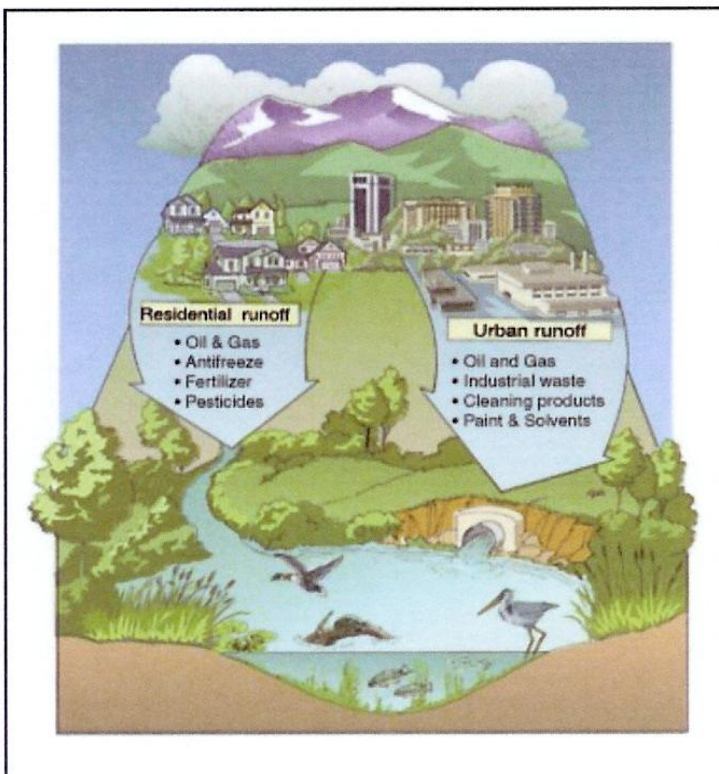
Excess nutrients from fertilizers and failing home septic systems can cause algal blooms, some of which may be toxic to humans. (Wikipedia defines algal bloom as “a rapid increase or accumulation in the population of algae [typically microscopic] in a water system”.) Decomposing algae from blooms removes oxygen from the water and can harm or kill aquatic life. Bacteria from failing septic systems and animal waste can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards.

Polluted storm water often affects drinking water sources. Lorain County communities get their drinking water mainly from Lake Erie but also from two locations in the Black River. Removing pollution from drinking water is costly, and water can only be drawn during certain times because it's too expensive to treat otherwise.

For more information visit the following websites:

www.stormwater.loraincounty.us

www.epa.state.oh.us



Thank-You

Voter Approval of the 1-mil, 5-year “Road & Bridge” Renewal Levy

The Amherst Township Board of Trustees appreciates the positive response to the recent vote on the 1-mil, 5-year “Road & Bridge” renewal levy. Residents will see no increase in their taxes, as the “Road & Bridge” levy has been offset by a reduction in the “Fire and Emergency Medical Service” levy. These levy adjustments will allow current service levels to be maintained for the township roads, bridges, fire and EMS through the year 2021.



Thank
You



The Amherst Township Board of Trustees would once again like to thank **Donna Azok** for her work on maintaining the corner gardens in the Amherst Township Park located on Middle Ridge Road. She refreshed these gardens with new plantings, fertilized and added weed prevention. These corner gardens continue to enhance the appearance of the park landscape.

Fire Contract

The Village of South Amherst has provided fire service to the unincorporated area of Amherst Township south of the Ohio Turnpike on a contractual basis for many years.

At the February 9, 2016 meeting, the Amherst Township Board of Trustees entered into an agreement with the Village of South Amherst for the provision of fire protection and “First Responder” emergency medical service for the unincorporated area of the township south of the Ohio Turnpike, and such other township area as specified in the contract, for a term of twelve months, beginning January 1, 2016 and ending December 31, 2016.

SCAM Information

If you are concerned that something may be a scam, you would like to report a scam, or you would like to research a business, the Ohio Attorney General, Mike DeWine, has a website that you can visit at:

www.OhioProtects.org

Their mission is “To protect Ohio’s consumers and businesses by ensuring a strong, fair marketplace through education, dispute resolution, and the enforcement of consumer laws”.

Along with many various links to information, this website includes tips on:

- Auto
- Credit Repairs
- Debt Collection
- Foreclosure
- Home Improvement
- Identity Theft
- Job & Business Opportunities
- SCAMS

The Ohio Attorney General hopes that this website will serve to educate Ohioans on scams and bad business practices, as well as provide easy access to file consumer complaints.

You can also contact the Ohio Attorney General’s Office by calling **1-800-282-0515**.

F.A.C.E. Fundraiser

The 6th Annual Wine Tasting Party fundraising event was once again successful. It was a fun and enjoyable evening. Proceeds from this fundraising event will be used for Amherst Township Park improvements. The Amherst Township Board of Trustees would like to thank the F.A.C.E.



Board Members who planned this event along with the businesses and individuals that donated to this event. Also thanks to all those who attended.

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, 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.**

Please contact Remi Cerrone, Amherst Township Zoning Inspector for these permits. Office hours for the Zoning Inspector are from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. He can be reached at 988-5894. Voice Mail is checked daily.

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.

LIFECARE

Amherst Township, as a member of the Sandstone Joint Ambulance District, has chosen "LifeCare" to be their ambulance provider. President Pete de la Porte and Vice-President Herb de la Porte own and operate LifeCare. They can be reached at 323-6111. To learn more about their services, visit them at:

www.lifecareambulance.com

Contact Sheriff's Dept.

Residents are reminded that they can help deter crime by keeping home and car doors locked, as well as keeping garage doors closed. If residents know of, or see, any suspicious activity in the township or at the Amherst Township Park, please contact the Sheriff's Dept. at **329-3710**. To contact the sheriff's dispatch from your cell phone without being charged, call **323-1212**. These are not "911" emergency lines.

Curfew

Please be aware that a curfew exists in Amherst Township for minors age 16 and under between the hours of Midnight and 5 a.m. This curfew will be enforced by the Lorain County Sheriff's Dept.

Printed on Recycled Paper

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

PRESORTED STD.
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO.179
LORAIN, OHIO

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

Senior GAZETTE

Summer 2016

by Lynda Ashley, Director, Amherst Township Senior Service Office (ATSSO)



Home-Delivered Meal Program



ATSSO provides home-delivered meals for those over 60 and disabled adults over 18, with a cost that is adjusted to your income. This nutritious, hot lunch program includes your choice of an entrée, soup & sandwich, or soup & salad. A “soup only” option is also available as a choice.

If you would like to receive a home-delivered meal, please contact the Senior Service Office at **988-5894, ext. 101**.

Meals can be provided for short term coverage for vacations if needed. Please call the office to inquire.



THANK YOU!!



To **Thome's Greenhouse** for providing beautiful hanging baskets to the Amherst Township Hall!!

A very heartfelt “**Thank You!!**” to Mrs. Sally Jones for providing 30 beautiful, handmade greeting cards to the Amherst Township Senior Service Office. These greeting cards will be sent out to our seniors as needed.

**ATSSO OFFICE HOURS:
8:00 A.M. – NOON (M-F)**

Phone: 988-5894 – Ext. 101

Email: amhersttwpseniors@oh.rr.com

2016 MEDICARE NEWS

Are you reviewing your “*Medicare Summary Notices*” (**MSN**) carefully?

When you receive the “*Medicare Summary Notifications*” (**MSN**) it is important that you look it over very closely. Often, Medicare will deny a claim that should have been paid. If you are notified that Medicare isn't paying for a service and you believe it is to be paid or question why it was not paid, you have a couple options:

- You can file an appeal with Medicare for redetermination of the claim. Details on how to file are on the back of the **MSN**. Please remember to pay close attention to the cut off dates in which you need to file your appeal.
- Seniors can call the Amherst Township Senior Services Office with any questions or to get assistance in determining why your claim was denied. You can also call if you would like help in filing an appeal.

SUMMER SAFETY TIPS

Although we enjoy the summer sun and heat, some medications may make seniors more susceptible to sunburn and dehydration. Please keep these simple tips in mind when going outside:

- Hydrate! Drink plenty of water especially on hot and humid days.
- Protect your skin from the sun with a good sun hat, long sleeves, and sunscreen.
- Plan to do yard work in the early morning or evening hours. Avoid being out between 10 am and 2 pm when the sun is at its hottest.
- Take frequent breaks. Go in the house or sit in the shade and drink some water.
- Consider asking a neighborhood teen to mow your yard or help with the weeding/planting.
- Carry a cell phone with you at all times in case of emergencies.

Considering “Early” Retirement?

Did you know that if you retire before your “full retirement age” there are limits to the amount of income you can earn without having a reduction in your benefits?

If you are younger than full retirement age: \$1 in benefits will be deducted for each \$2 you earn above the annual limit. For 2016, that limit is \$15,720.

In the year you reach your full retirement age: \$1 in benefits will be deducted for each \$3 you earn above a different limit, but Social Security counts only earnings before the month you reach full retirement age. For 2016, this limit is \$41,880.

Starting with the month you reach full retirement age: you will get your benefits with no limit on your earnings.

To find your full retirement age, please visit:

www.ssa.gov/pubs/ageincrease.htm



VIAL OF “L.I.F.E.”

Lifesaving Information For Emergencies, (known as L.I.F.E.) is a non-profit national program in which key medical information is available to first responders in the event of an emergency.

A plastic baggie is labeled with a “Vial of L.I.F.E.” sticker and contains all pertinent medical information needed, such as emergency contact, diagnoses, medications, allergies, legal designations, medical providers, and insurance information.

The “Vial of L.I.F.E.” stickered baggie is placed on the outside of your refrigerator. An additional “Vial of L.I.F.E.” sticker is placed on your front door or window. The sticker on the front door or window will alert first responders to look for your medical information on your refrigerator.

The Amherst Township Senior Services office is offering “kits” to all Amherst Township Senior residents. If you would like a “kit” or have any questions please feel free to call the office.