

# AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Spring 2017

Vol. XXII No. 1

## Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2016 (**bold represents yearly total**).

Newspaper	34.69	<b>138.52</b>	#1 PET	5.49	<b>21.93</b>
Cardboard	17.35	<b>69.26</b>	#2 HDPE	6.09	<b>24.24</b>
Mixed Paper	13.88	<b>55.41</b>	#2 - #7 Plastic Mixed	2.31	<b>9.23</b>
Steel Cans	2.89	<b>11.54</b>	Aseptic Containers	0.58	<b>2.31</b>
Alum. Cans	1.16	<b>4.62</b>	Residuals	11.56	<b>46.17</b>
Mixed Glass	19.66	<b>78.49</b>	Total	115.64	<b>461.73</b>

\*Above quantities are all listed in tons.

0.875 tons of various paper through the “ABITIBI Paper Retriever” program (**3.535 tons** = Yearly Total)

5.88 tons of scrap metal through the dumpster program (**10.62 tons** = Yearly Total)

**190 cu. yards** of yard waste ground-up and hauled away

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

## “2017” Dumpster Days

Amherst Township has set the following dates for “Dumpster Days” in 2017:

**April 27, 28, 29**

**October 12, 13, 14**

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. 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.

**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: [amherstwpfo@oh.rr.com](mailto:amherstwpfo@oh.rr.com)

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

Email: [amherstwproads-2@oh.rr.com](mailto:amherstwproads-2@oh.rr.com)

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: [amherstwpzoning@oh.rr.com](mailto:amherstwpzoning@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: [amherstwpSeniors@oh.rr.com](mailto:amherstwpSeniors@oh.rr.com)

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

## Fire Prevention Officer

Wayne Eppley ..... 324-3921

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

## LifeCare Ambulance, Inc.

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

# **2017 Amherst Township Road Repair Projects**

In 2017, Amherst Township will have the largest amount of road repair activity to ever happen in the township. There are 5 projects spread throughout the township that are expected to be completed this year at a cost exceeding \$800,000, which includes about \$152,000 of township funds.

## **Oberlin Road Resurfacing:**

This project is a complete mill-and-fill paving job of Oberlin Road from the Turnpike overpass, south to SR 113, and will be designed and bid out by the Lorain County Engineer's Office. Project cost is estimated to be \$340,835. Also included in this project are the raised, concrete islands to be constructed at the Oberlin Road/Hidden Valley Drive and Middle Ridge Road intersection. These raised islands would allow for the through vehicles on Middle Ridge Road to be blocked from passing the waiting left turn vehicles. Details of these projects were printed in the "Spring 2016" and "Winter 2015" editions of this newsletter and may be viewed on the Amherst Township website.

## **Middle Ridge Road–Left Turn Lane:**

The Lorain County Engineer will add a left turn lane in the eastbound direction of Middle Ridge Road at the Oberlin Road, north, intersection is expected to begin in the spring or summer of 2017. This project is expected to cost \$257,000 dollars. "Highway Safety Improvement Program" funds will provide for 80% of the project cost (\$205,600) with the remaining 20% (\$51,400) being provided by the Lorain County Engineer.

This is the last improvement project that was recommended due to a traffic study that was completed on June 14, 2005...twelve years ago! This study looked at the traffic safety, efficiency, capacity and flow along Middle Ridge Road between SR2 and SR58. It included the intersections of Oberlin Road north, Oberlin Road / Hidden Valley Drive, Eddystone, Dewey Road, and Nordson Drive, as well as the Amherst Township Park entrance. The study recommended three changes, two of which have been completed. A left turn lane was added to the eastbound lane of Middle Ridge Road at Eddystone and traffic light changes were made to the Oberlin Road / Hidden Valley Drive intersection.

## **Middle Ridge Road–Resurfacing:**

This is a joint project with the City of Amherst for the resurfacing of Middle Ridge Road between Quarry Road and Pyle-South Amherst Road. The Township is the lead agency, responsible for the bidding and awarding of this project. Total project cost is estimated at \$128,140, which will be funded with \$75,000 in OPWC grant funds, and the balance from a Township / City local match, split 88.85% / 11.15% respectively. Bid opening for this project will be at the May 23, 2017 Trustee meeting.

## **H.V. Area Concrete Replacement:**

Concrete replacement / repair will be made to Aspen Drive and sections of Deepwood Lane in Hidden Valley. Total project cost is estimated at \$50,000 which will be funded with \$12,000 in OPWC grant funds, \$12,000 in an OPWC 20-year loan at 0% interest, and the remaining \$26,000 balance from the township. Bid opening for this project will also be at the May 23, 2017 Trustee meeting.

## **"Chip and Seal" Project:**

This year Amherst Township will be participating in the Lorain County's "Chip and Seal" program. Townships were encouraged to submit a list of roads that they wanted to be included in this program, and then the County would bid out all the roads as one project, thus getting a reduction in cost due to the larger size of the project.

Amherst Township has submitted 4 roads for this project; Hornyak Road, Rice Court, Tina Lane, and Erie Court. The Lorain County Engineer has estimated the cost of this project to be \$27,193 for the base repair and pre-leveling and \$11,199 for the "Chip and Seal" for a total estimated cost to Amherst Township of \$38,392.

It is the goal of the County Engineer to have the bid document ready by early April so that a notice to proceed can be issued in June to the successful contractor. Amherst Township Road Department will begin the base repair and pre-leveling immediately, as weather permits, so that the roads will be ready when the contract is awarded.

# STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Lorain County Storm Water District (LCSWD) managed by the Lorain County Commissioners, has budgeted funds for projects related to Storm Water improvements since 2011, with \$400,000 being budgeted for 2017 projects in the unincorporated areas (townships) of Lorain County. These funds support “Storm Water Management” projects of townships that are successful in obtaining a competitive grant award.

Amherst Township has established the “Engle Ditch Drainage Improvement and Flooding Abatement” project as part of their Storm Water Management Program. The main channel of the Engle Ditch in Amherst Township is approximately 12,000 linear feet. The cost to improve a 2.25-mile ditch would exceed available funding, so the Lorain County Engineer recommended dividing this project into two 6,000 linear feet sections, shown as “Phase I” and “Phase II”. Furthermore, “Phase I” was divided

into two parts, with “Part A” being completed in 2016. (See article in the Spring 2016 Newsletter.)

The township planned to complete “Phase I/Part B” in 2017 with a total project cost of \$96,750 and requested \$87,750 in LCSWD Grant Funds. In February the township was notified that it would only receive \$50,000 in grant funds. Due to the reduction of grant funds, the L. C. Engineer recommended changing the project scope to the drainage section where the Engle Ditch outlets into the Batten-House ditch. This section will include improvement (clearing, grubbing, and profiling) of about 490 feet of the Batten-House ditch extending from the western side of the bridge at the intersection of Stang Road and Oberlin Road to the culvert passing under the Lakeshore Railway (as shown in the photo below). Profiling of the ditch will continue on the eastern side of the bridge until the grant funds have been exhausted.



# LORAIN COUNTY EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

Amherst Township residents can receive Lorain County Emergency Alerts and Public Service Announcements. This Countywide Emergency Notification System enables the County as well as individual jurisdictions within the county to notify residents of pertinent information such as weather alerts, evacuation warnings and missing child, adult, or Amber alerts by way of voice, text, email, pager, and social media.

The County has selected the “Wireless Emergency Notification System” (WENS), operated by Inspiron Logistics, an Ohio based company, to provide this service. To sign up for this service and to choose the alerts you want, go to the website listed below.

[https://entry.inspironlogistics.com/lorain\\_oh/wens.cfm](https://entry.inspironlogistics.com/lorain_oh/wens.cfm)

Here you will need to enter your first and last name. You will then enter your phone number(s) and choose whether you want a “Text” or “Voice” message alert, or both. You may also choose to receive alerts my email. Then you can select any city(s), village(s), or township(s) that you would like to receive alerts from, as well as choosing which type(s) of weather alerts(s) you would like to receive. Below these options there is an option to “unsubscribe” and to “report mobile number error”.

Because township residents receive utilities from a variety of providers, you may want to select cities that correspond to where you receive your utilities, or your Lorain County work location if applicable.



## F.A.C.E. Fundraiser



“Funding Amherst Community Enhancement” will be holding their 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Wine Tasting Party fundraising event. Proceeds from this event will support Amherst Township Park Projects.

### WINE TASTING PARTY

**When:** Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>  
from 7-9 pm

**Where:** Amherst Party Shop  
275 S. Main St.

**Cost:** \$25 per person

Ticket cost includes wine/beer samples, food, and Hors d’oeuvres. This event will once again be held upstairs in the wine tasting room, the *Villa D’Vino*. Help support the Amherst Township Park while enjoying a casual and fun evening with your friends and neighbors.



Tickets may be purchased by contacting:

- Amherst Party Shop at **988-4132**
- Tom Hupman at **988-9877**
- David Marr at **752-0757**
- Lynda Ashley, Senior Service Director, Mon- Fri (8am-noon) at **988-5894 – Ext. 101**



### Zoning Commission Board

- Glenn Thome – Chairman
- Darryl Saladin – Vice Chair
- Jim McCann – Secretary
- Jim Conrady – Member
- Hank Harsar – Member
- Lonnie Dillon – Alternate I
- Open – Alternate II

### Board of Zoning Appeals

- Kirsten Hill – Chairman
- Bill Latrany – Vice Chair
- Sam D’Ambrosio – Secretary
- Ron Friend – Member
- Joan Whitman – Member
- Rose Betchker – Alternate I
- Tari Reph – Alternate II

Amherst Township would like to welcome **Tari Reph** to the Board of Zoning Appeals, as an Alternate.

Please contact an Amherst Township Trustee or Zoning Board Member if you are interested in serving on one of these boards.

# 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.**

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 (ext 103)**. Voice Mail is checked daily.

- |                     |                  |         |
|---------------------|------------------|---------|
| Pools               | Patios           | Porches |
| Decks               | Fences           | Gazebos |
| Ponds               | Signs            | Garages |
| Accessory Buildings | 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.

## STREET LIGHT OUTAGE

All lighting in Hidden Valley is serviced by First Energy. The Amherst Township Board of Trustees has an agreement with First Energy for the street light electrical cost and maintenance. The “Automated Outage Reporting” number is **1-888-544-4877** and is printed on the first page of every newsletter. Any resident in Hidden Valley may report a non-functioning street light in the Valley by calling this number. A caller will be requested to provide their First Energy/Ohio Edison account number, or phone number associated with their account, during the outage reporting. An easy way to remember the phone number is 1-888-LIGHTTS.

Residents should look on their electric bill to see who their provider is. For those residents who receive their electric from the City of Amherst, please contact their Utility Department during normal business hours at 988-4224.

## DRAINAGE RESPONSIBILITY

Residents should be aware that the township is only responsible for a drainage system that is for the drainage of the roads. If the drainage is simply for draining the rear yards of resident, the Board of Trustees’ authority is limited, and the individual property owners may be required to make the necessary diagnosis and repair.



## 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.



## GARDENERS NEEDED



Amherst Township is looking for volunteers to help maintain two of the four corner gardens in the Amherst Township Park. This maintenance would include trimming the perennials, fertilizing the plants, weeding the beds, and continual watering. The township will provide new perennials and material as needed. One of these gardens is located on the east side of the walking path and the other is located at the southern end, near the parking lot.

The garden on the south/west corner will be maintained by Donna Azok who has generously taken care of all 4 corner gardens in previous years. Adele Govoni and Connie Ahrens have volunteered to take care of the north/west corner garden.

This may be a good activity for a scouting or community group to take on, or just someone in the neighborhood who is able to volunteer. If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, please contact one of the township trustees or contact Lynda Ashley, Senior Service Director. Lynda is at the township hall on Mon – Fri from 8am to noon.

# **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.

## **Park Pavilion Reservations**

To avoid a scheduling conflict, please contact Amherst Township Road Superintendent, Kevin Smarsh, to reserve the park pavilion.

He can be reached at the township during the weekdays by calling **988-5894 (ext 111)**.

# **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 their website at:

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

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

**Monthly Meeting**  
**Dates & Times:**

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

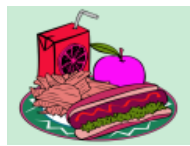
# Senior GAZETTE

Spring 2017

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, soup & salad, or sandwich and salad. A "soup only" option is also available as a choice.

If you would like to receive a home-delivered meal, or need more information, 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.

## **FREE TAX HELP**



**For  
SENIORS**



IRS-trained and certified volunteers will be available to prepare Federal, State, and Local tax returns free-of-charge for middle to low income seniors.

Amherst Public Library, located at 221 Spring Street, will host the volunteers every Tuesday and Thursday beginning February 2 through April 13.

Reservations are required by calling the library at **988-4230**. Call early, spaces are filling fast.

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

**Phone: 988-5894 – Ext. 101**

Email: [amhersttwpseniors@oh.rr.com](mailto:amhersttwpseniors@oh.rr.com)

## **WHY YOU SHOULD GET YOUR FREE CREDIT REPORT YEARLY**

Everyone is entitled to receive a free credit report each year from the three major credit reporting companies:

**Equifax  
Experian  
TransUnion**

The credit report contains all your information; where you live, how you pay your bills, and if you have filed bankruptcy.

It is important that the information in your report is accurate because it can adversely affect your ability to get credit, a loan, or refinancing of your home. Credit scores, loan rates and terms are based on your credit report.


You can order all three reports at the same time. However, it is suggested that you stagger your requests and get a report from a different company every four months or so to keep a better eye on errors.

You can obtain these reports either by phone at **1-877-322-8228** or via the internet at:

[www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com)

# PREVENT FALLS

Falls are the leading cause of injury-related ER visits, hospitalizations and deaths for older Ohioans. However, falling is NOT a normal part of aging, and most falls can be prevented. The “**STEADY U**” Ohio initiative, a statewide prevention effort from the Ohio Department of Aging, offers simple steps you can take to ensure that wet and slippery conditions don't send you to the ground:

- Maintain regular physical activity for strength and balance. Ask your doctor or physical therapist about indoor exercises.
- Wear boots and shoes that fit properly and have soles with good traction. Keep shoes, canes and walkers dry and free of dirt and mud.
- Keep sidewalks and stairs outside your home clean of ice. Carry a small bag or shaker of rock salt, sand or kitty litter in your pocket or purse for traction on unexpectedly icy paths.
- When walking on surfaces that may be icy, shorten your stride and walk with feet pointed out slightly and knees gently bent to improve traction and balance.  
Walk like a penguin! 
- Let loved ones know when you are leaving the house and when you expect to be back. Carry a cell phone with you and call them after you return home.
- Improve lighting around your home with extra lamps and night lights, especially around doorways and stairs. Use the highest-wattage bulbs recommended for your fixtures.
- Keep space heaters, cords and blankets out of walkways. If you must use throw rugs on cold floors, secure them to the floor with tape.

Visit [www.steadyu.ohio.gov](http://www.steadyu.ohio.gov) for more fall prevention tips.

\*Information copied from Ohio Department of Aging, Feb. 3, 2017 News Release

## Falls Prevention Education

Public health nurses from the “Lorain County General Health District” will be in our community to discuss risk factors, ways to help prevent falls, and to answer any questions that you may have. Sessions are open to all adults 55 and older in Lorain County at no cost.

Nurses will be at The Old Stone Church located at 553 S. Main St., Amherst on April 7th and 21st. Sessions are at 9 am, 11am, & 2pm. Walk-ins are welcome.

For more information on Adult Health Services, contact the Lorain County General Health District at **322-6367**, or visit their website at:

[www.LorainCountyHealth.com](http://www.LorainCountyHealth.com)