

AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Winter 2017

Vol. XXII No. 4

Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in the 3rd quarter of 2017.

Newspaper	32.61	#1 PET	5.16
Cardboard	16.30	#2 HDPE	5.71
Mixed Paper	13.04	#2 - #7 Plastic Mixed	2.17
Steel Cans	2.72	Aseptic Containers	0.54
Alum. Cans	1.09	Residuals	10.87
Mixed Glass	18.48	Total	108.69

* Above quantities are all listed in tons.

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

-----There were no dumpster days in the 3rd quarter, therefore no scrap metal.

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

"2018" Dumpster Days

Amherst Township has set the following dates for "Dumpster Days" in 2018:

**April 26, 27, 28
October 11, 12, 13**

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!!

Christmas Trees, 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.

Township Hall & Garage **988-5894**

Fax 988-5877

Fiscal Officer **Ext. 104**

Email: amherstwpfo@oh.rr.com

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

Email: 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

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

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

Fire Prevention Officer

Wayne Eppley 324-3921

Email: 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:

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.

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.

AMHERST TOWNSHIP VETERANS MEMORIAL

Funding Amherst Community Enhancements (FACE), in conjunction with Amherst Township has created a memorial to honor the fallen heroes of the military and to express deep gratitude to all our veterans past and present. This memorial is on permanent display in the Township Hall.

A battlefield cross, or “Fallen Soldier Battle Cross”, is a symbolic replacement of a cross. The cross is made by standing the soldier's boots upright, perching the rifle in the boots, and hanging the helmet from the rifle's upright stock. If dog tags are included, they are typically draped from the rifle. The purpose is to show honor and respect for the dead at the battle site, allowing the soldier's comrades to pay their respects and to begin to process the loss.

The practice of erecting the battlefield cross appears to have started during the American Civil War. In the Civil War, when soldiers began to be sent home for burial, people would move through the battlefield to mark the bodies that needed to be removed. The most convenient marker would have been the soldier's rifle with his helmet or hat

balanced on top, and over time, this image came to be associated with military loss. Today, it is a means of showing respect for the dead among the still living members of the troop.

On the display there are two “Fallen Soldier Battle Crosses”, the one on the left reflecting the Vietnam Era, the one on the right reflects our current struggle in Iraq and Afghanistan. In between the two fallen soldier crosses is the memorial rock for the POW – MIA. This is to bring honor to those “Prisoners of War” and “Missing In Action”, whose bodies were never recovered.

Below these memorials are the insignias representing each of the five services. Military protocol calls for these to be arranged in the following order: Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard. The representations of these five memorials are to honor ALL veterans past and present who have served our country in one of these branches.

With a grateful heart we salute all veterans and pray that we never forget our fallen.



New Community Policing Officer

We would like to introduce Deputy Nathaniel Krueger as the new Amherst Township Community Policing Officer. Nathaniel replaces Deputy Damian Rodriguez who has moved to the Detective Bureau.

Deputy Krueger grew up in Erie County and attended Firelands High School. He then went on to attend college at LCCC, graduating with three 2-year degrees in Associates of Arts, Science, and Police Science. After LCCC he attended Cleveland Heights Police Academy.

In November of 2013 Deputy Krueger was hired onto the Lorain County Sheriff's Department as a full time Deputy where he primarily worked in the Road Patrol division. He additionally spent 9 months at the Lorain County Court House as court security and prisoner transport. He is a recent addition to the Lorain County Bomb Squad and in October of this year accepted a position on the Township Impact Unit. Deputy Krueger is currently serving in the U.S. Army Ohio National Guard and has a completed two years of service there. He plans to return to school and graduate with a Bachelor in Criminal Justice.



Please welcome Deputy Krueger to our community. He can be contacted by email at nkrueger@loraincountysheriff.com.



Reminder From the Sheriff

Operators of snowmobiles and 4-wheelers are reminded that they need permission to be on private property. Most riders are law abiding and respectful of others' property. However, many do not know that farmers' fields are often prepped before winter arrives, and sometimes they are planted as well. Some criminal laws that may be charged under this negligence are Criminal Damaging, Vandalism, or Prohibited Acts.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Sheriff by calling the "Community Policing Officer" Office at 329-3749. Please leave a message stating your name and a return number where you can be reached. This number is not monitored 24 hours a day. You may also contact Deputy Krueger by email at: nkrueger@loraincountysheriff.com.

Speed Trailer

Residents occasionally express concerns about high incidents of speeding in their neighborhoods. The Lorain County Sheriff's Office has offered to provide a speed trailer anywhere in the township at the request of the Board of Trustees. Residents should be aware of road speed limits as local law enforcement will strictly enforce the speed limits through citations of the offending drivers. If you would like a speed trailer positioned on your road and will authorize the Lorain County Sheriff's Office to locate the speed trailer on your property, contact the Amherst Township Board of Trustees.

HELP PREVENT FLOODING!

Residents are encouraged to keep catch basins and road side ditches in front of their property clear of debris and leaves. This will allow the rainwater to drain quickly and efficiently off the road as well as to keep the storm sewers clean and flowing properly. Residents should also keep any yard drains clean and clear as well.

The township road crew regularly checks catch basins and road side ditches for obstructions, but yard waste and litter can quickly overwhelm the township's water conveyance system.

A storm sewer system clogged with debris can cause negative impacts of reduced safety on flooded roads, property damage from water backup, increased public maintenance cost if the obstruction occurs underground, and reduced efficiency of on-lot and public sanitary sewer systems.

With a small amount of effort, you can make a positive impact on your community. Help yourself, your neighbors and your community by clearing debris from catch basins, road side ditches, and yard drains.

The township road crew would like to thank the residents that do an excellent job of clearing yard waste and litter from the storm sewer system, but they are asking for more help.

ROAD FUNDING

OPWC (Ohio Public Works Commission) District 9 integrating committee has selected two "Round-32" proposed projects submitted by Amherst Township for recommendation to the OPWC. These two proposed projects, along with 29 other District 9 proposed projects, will be sent to the OPWC in Columbus for approval. Communities are then notified of "tentatively approved" projects in March through June, at which time the projects can be sent out for bid. On July 1st, approved project agreements are released to the local communities by the OPWC, at which time the projects can be awarded to a bidder.

The proposed Amherst Township projects include Hidden Valley concrete replacement for 2018 and Rice Road resurfacing. Funding for these projects is as follows:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>AmhTwp Loan</u>	<u>AmhTwp Match</u>
HV Concrete	\$50,000	\$19,500	\$10,000	\$20,500
Rice Road	\$107,000	\$85,000	\$10,000	\$12,000

The "Loan" portion of these projects is at 0% interest rate with a 20-year payoff period for the Hidden Valley Concrete project and a 12-year payoff period for the Rice Road resurfacing project.

STORM PREPARATION TIPS

During severe weather, Ohio Edison customers who are without power are encouraged to call **1-888-LIGHTSS** to report their outage (**1-888-544-4877**). Amherst Utility customers should call the Utility Department at **988-4224**. If it is after hours they should contact the Amherst Police Department by calling **988-2625** or sending a text message to **988-4422**.

Follow these tips to be prepared for outages before they happen:

- Keep electronic devices such as cell phones, laptops and tablet computers fully charged to be ready for any emergencies. Mobile phones can be charged in your vehicle using a car charger when the power is out.
- Keep a flashlight, portable radio and extra batteries handy in the event a power interruption occurs.
- Stock an emergency supply of convenience foods that do not require cooking.

• Gather extra blankets or a sleeping bag for each person. Do not use gas stoves, kerosene heaters or other open-flame heat sources to prevent deadly carbon monoxide gas from building up in your home.

• Never use a portable generator inside the house or a closed garage in the event of a power outage. When operating a generator, the power coming into the home should always be disconnected. Otherwise, power from the generator could be sent back onto the utility lines, creating a hazardous situation for utility workers.

Immediately report downed wires to your electric company or your local police or fire department. Never go near a downed power line, even if you think it's no longer carrying electricity. Extra caution should be exercised in areas where downed wires may be tangled in downed tree branches or other debris.

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.

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

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Christmas Tree Disposal



Amherst Township residents may bring their live Christmas Trees 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) Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Residents may also leave live trees on their lawn near the road. The township road crew will be picking up these trees Tue., Dec 26th thru Fri., Jan 19th.



SNOW BAN



Parking is prohibited on all township streets and highways in Amherst Township during a snow emergency, which may be declared when snowfall exceeds 2 inches or severe snow or ice condition exists.

A fine for violation of this resolution will be **\$50** if paid within seven days of the violation and **\$100** if paid more than seven days of the violation.

**To avoid having your vehicle towed or ticketed,
residents are asked not to park on the street
when the snow exceeds 2 inches.**

**Monthly Meeting
Dates & Times:**

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

Senior GAZETTE

Winter 2017

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

NEW MEDICARE NUMBERS BEGIN IN 2018

The “Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act” (MACRA) is a law passed by Congress requiring the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to implement a plan to assign every Medicare beneficiary a new identifier that is NOT tied to a Social Security Number. These new numbers are random and are 11-characters long, being a mix of letters and numbers. The change in the number will NOT affect your benefits. Beginning April 2018, CMS will start mailing the new cards.

Watch out for scams! CMS will NOT call and ask for information. ***Everything coming from Medicare will come by mail.*** If you receive a phone call requesting information, please hang up. Unfortunately, scammers are trying to take advantage of the confusion over these new cards.

2018 MEDICARE CHANGES

Medicare Part A and B deductibles will increase beginning January 2018.

Part:		For 2018
A	Inpatient deductible	\$1340.00 per benefit period
Hospital Co Pay:	61-90 days	\$335.00/day
	90-150 days	\$670.00/day
B	*Premium:	\$134.00*
	Deductible:	\$183.00
	Co pays:	20%
Skilled Nursing Co pay:	Days 21-100	\$167.50/day

*Part B premium is based on income, some may pay more.

ATSSO OFFICE HOURS:

8:00 A.M. – NOON (M-F)

Phone: 988-5894 – Ext. 101

Email: amhersttwpseniors@oh.rr.com



Home-Delivered



Meal Program

ATSSO provides home-delivered meals for those over 60 and disabled adults over 18, with a cost that is adjusted according to your income. This nutritious, hot lunch program includes your choice of an entrée, soup & sandwich, soup & salad, or soup. If you would like to receive a home-delivered meal or need more information, please contact the Senior Service Office at 988-5894, ext101.



VOLUNTEERS

NEEDED

Can you spare 1 hour a week or a month to help your senior neighbors? Our meal program is in need of volunteers to deliver meals to township senior residents. We have an immediate need for **Thursday** drivers. Routes are approximately 16 miles long and take about an hour to complete, anytime between the hours of 10:30 a.m. and Noon. Mileage is reimbursed at \$0.45 per mile. If you are interested in volunteering, please call the office.

Home Weatherization Assistance Program

The Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP) provides eligible Ohioans with assistance to improve the energy efficiency of their homes and reduce their energy costs. Ohioans participating in the HWAP will receive a home inspection to identify the services necessary to improve their home's energy efficiency. Services are provided through local agencies in each county.

Ohioans with a household income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines are eligible for the program.

Priority is given to Ohioans who are older than age of 60, those with disabilities, those with children in the home, and

households with a high energy usage and/or burden. All families who have received assistance any time during the last 12 months under:

- Supplemental Security Income (SSI);
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); or
- Home Energy Assistance (HEAP) (*does not include Emergency HEAP*)

are automatically income eligible for weatherization services. Please remember an application must be submitted in order to apply for services.*

**Article copied from the Ohio Development Services website at:*

https://development.ohio.gov/is/is_hwap.htm



WINTER SAFETY TIPS



It's that time of year again – ice, snow, and cold temperatures. The following are useful tips to avoid accidents this winter:

- Do not attempt to go outside if there is ice on your porch or walkway.
- Have a family member or neighbor keep your walks and drive clear.
- Ask the post office to deliver your mail to your door.
- Ask the newspaper carrier to deliver to your door.
- Stock up your pantry with canned goods and easily prepared food in case you can't get out for a few day due to weather.
- Wear shoes/boots with good traction.
- Always cover exposed skin, do not venture out if temperatures are approaching zero.
- Stay current with Flu and Pneumonia vaccines*.

- Keep a cell phone with you in case you need help.
- If you drive, carry extra blankets, flashlight, phone, gloves, snacks, and water in case you become stranded.

VACCINATIONS

Are you aware that Medicare Part B covers Pneumococcal Vaccines and Influenza Vaccines? As a Medicare Part B covered senior, you are entitled to one vaccine of each per year from a health care provider. You pay nothing for a flu or pneumonia shot if the doctor or other qualified health care provider accepts assignment for giving the shot.

The Lorain County General Health District, located at 9880 South Murray Ridge Road in Elyria, has the following vaccine clinics available in December:

- Mondays, Tuesdays, & Fridays
8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 27
8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

ELDER FRAUD – Look Out for Scams! (Part III)

Con artists and scammers often target older citizens. Learn to recognize the signs of a scam and how to protect yourself. Following are a few current scams to watch for.

Phony Charities

Someone pretending to represent a charity calls or sends you a letter asking you to make a charitable donation. Always ask how much of your donation would actually go to the charity. Charitable organizations must register with the Ohio Attorney General's Office. Before you donate, verify that the charity is legitimate by calling the Attorney General's Help Center at 800-282-0515.

Veterans' Benefits Misinformation

Some companies will offer information about veterans' benefits to gain your trust. They may falsely imply that they work for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), make exaggerated claims about your benefits, or

encourage you to buy financial products you don't need. For reliable information about VA benefits, contact your County Veterans Service Office.

The Lorain County Veterans Service Office is located at 1230 N. Abbe Rd. in Elyria. They can be contacted by phone at 440-284-4625 or visit their website at:

www.loraincountyveterans.com

This information was taken from the Ohio Attorney General's website at:

www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov

To read more information about scams, view the entire brochure online by selecting “Individuals and Families”; then “Seniors”; then “Publications”; and finally click on “Elder Fraud Brochure (PDF)”. We will share more information from this educational brochure in future editions of the Senior Gazette.

“Scam Alert” from the Lorain County Sheriff’s Office

Lorain County Sheriff, Phil Stammitti would like to make the citizens of Lorain County aware of a recent phone scam involving a male, identifying himself as Deputy Sheriff, Sgt. **Larry Clark**, employed with the Lorain County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Stammitti advised there is no Larry Clark presently employed with the Sheriff's Office.

This subject identifies himself as Deputy Sheriff and calls residences of Lorain County advising them they have failed to appear for Jury Duty, and is issuing a warrant for their arrest. In lieu of arrest, the subject advised them they can pay a fine by purchasing money/gift cards. This subject gives detailed instructions of what types of gift/money cards to purchase and request the individual to call him back after the purchase is made.

The phone number being used is 440-290-4368. This number is to an unidentified voicemail box. This is not a phone number used by the Lorain County Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Stammitti would like the residences of Lorain County to know that the Sheriff's Office does not contact the public regarding warrants over the telephone and suggests that if you need to verify any of the Lorain County Deputy Sheriffs employment status, please contact their Communications Office at 440-329-3710.

Lorain County Sheriff's Office encourages citizens to notify their local law enforcement agency if they receive any kind of scam call, and make them aware of the situation.

Press Release posted by Lt. Daniel Ashdown on 11/29/17.