

AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Spring 2019

Vol. XXIV No. 1

Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in the 4th quarter of 2018 (**bold represents yearly total**).

Newspaper	11.28	71.45	#1 PET	2.48	13.70
Cardboard	17.74	77.52	#2 HDPE	1.37	10.43
Mixed Paper	36.19	137.96	#2 - #7 Plastic Mixed	1.28	6.60
Steel Cans	1.89	9.23	Aseptic Containers	0.47	2.16
Alum. Cans	0.26	1.98	Residuals	12.66	54.56
Mixed Glass	13.79	66.03	Total	99.41	451.61

*Above quantities are all listed in tons.

2.75 tons of various paper through the "ABITIBI Paper Retriever" program (**12.66 tons = Yearly Total**)

4.88 tons of scrap metal through the dumpster program (**9.33 tons = Yearly Total**)

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

"2019" Dumpster Days

Amherst Township has set the following dates for "Dumpster Days" in 2019:

April 11, 12, 13
October 3, 4, 5

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.

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**

Remi Cerrone, Zoning Inspector

Office Hours for Zoning Insp.:

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

Voice Mail is checked daily

Email: amhersttwpzoning@gmail.com

Trustees

Dennis Abraham (cell) 213-6775

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

Neil Lynch988-7681

(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, Zoning,)

Fiscal Officer

Chris Kish (cell) 213-0659

Road Superintendent

Kevin Smarsh.....370-5242

Amherst Twp Senior Services Office

Lynda Ashley **Ext. 101**

Email: amhersttwpseniors@gmail.com

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

Fire Prevention Officer

Wayne Eppley324-3921

Email: amhersttwpfire@gmail.com

LifeCare Ambulance, Inc.

Pete or Herb de la Porte323-6111

Sheriff's Department329-3710

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 are no longer being shown on Spectrum due to the City of Amherst pulling out of the cable studio. Amherst Township is investigating alternative methods of broadcasting the Trustee Meetings.

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.

Solid Waste and Recyclables Collection News – Past & Future

Amherst Township is a member of the Lorain County Solid Waste and Recyclables Collection Consortium. The Consortium of twelve Lorain County communities was formed in 2013. These communities recognized that their residents were paying too much for residential waste collection, hauling and disposal when benchmarked against the cost paid by other communities for similar services in the region. The residents of the Consortium communities had been serviced by the same waste hauler for many years without significant competition for the provision of residential curbside recycling and waste collection services.

The purpose of the Consortium is to provide a collective competitive bidding opportunity to political subdivisions for securing solid waste and recyclable material collection and disposal services. Ohio Revised Code section 505.27 provides the lawful authority for the Amherst Township Board of Trustees to select an independent contractor to be the exclusive provider of residential curbside recycling and waste collection services.

In late 2013, the Amherst Township Board of Trustees selected Rumpke Waste and Recycling Services as the lowest and best Bidder for the collection, transportation and delivery for disposal or processing of residential solid waste and recycling materials for the five-year period from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2018. Rumpke’s 2013 bid included the provision of 96-gallon solid waste and 64-gallon recyclable materials collection containers for all participating residents at a cost of \$53.25 per quarter, plus a \$1.26 per quarter Consortium administrative fee. Residents that did not generate a lot of waste could choose a smaller 64-gallon or 32-gallon solid waste collection container at a quarterly savings of \$5.46 and \$10.35 respectively.

The 2013 agreement between the Township and Rumpke included a fuel price adjustment formula, which would adjust when the “*Weekly On-highway Retail Fuel Price, All Types for the Midwest Region,*” as published by the United States Department of

Energy, changed by an average amount during the preceding quarter of at least \$0.25 per gallon from a base price established in the bid specifications. The 2013 base fuel price was \$3.967 per gallon. As diesel fuel prices have declined since 2013, residents currently receive a fuel surcharge credit on their quarterly invoice.

Because of the difficulties encountered when changing residential curbside recycling and waste collection service contractors during the coldest month of the winter season, the Amherst Township Board of Trustees extended their contract with Rumpke an additional three months, through March 31, 2019, ensuring any future change of collection service contractor would occur under slightly warmer conditions.

The Consortium solicited bids for the 5-year contract period from April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2024. Kimble, Republic and Rumpke provided bids for the contract period. On January 8, 2019, the Amherst Township Board of Trustees agreed to award the bid to **Rumpke Waste and Recycling Services** as the lowest and best Bidder. The estimated quarterly cost per residential unit is displayed in the chart below. The 2018 base fuel price is \$3.018 per gallon.

Amherst Township’s participation in the Consortium has proved to be a success for township residents. Average annual savings per residential unit amounted to \$120, or more than \$200,000 annually for all Amherst Township residential units. In addition, the Township saved over \$6,000 annually in the disposal of Township solid waste, money better spent on the maintenance of township roads. Over the previous 63-month contract period, Amherst Township residents have saved over \$1-million dollars! An added benefit resulting from the introduction of competition for solid waste and recyclable material collection services in Lorain County was a price reduction to non-Consortium members.

The curbside solid waste and recyclable collection pricing for the next five-year contract period has gone up, but these prices are still less than we paid in 2013!



Residential Curbside Solid Waste and Recyclable Collection Cost				
April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2024				
Solid Waste Container Size (Gallons)	Recyclable Materials Container Size (Gallons)	Base Bid Price per Residential Unit per Quarter	Consortium Administrative Fee	Total Quarterly Cost
96	64	\$59.25	\$1.27	\$60.52
64	64	\$53.33	\$1.27	\$54.60
32	64	\$47.99	\$1.27	\$49.26

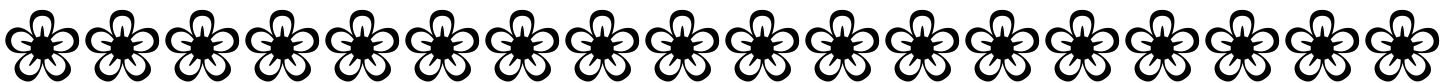
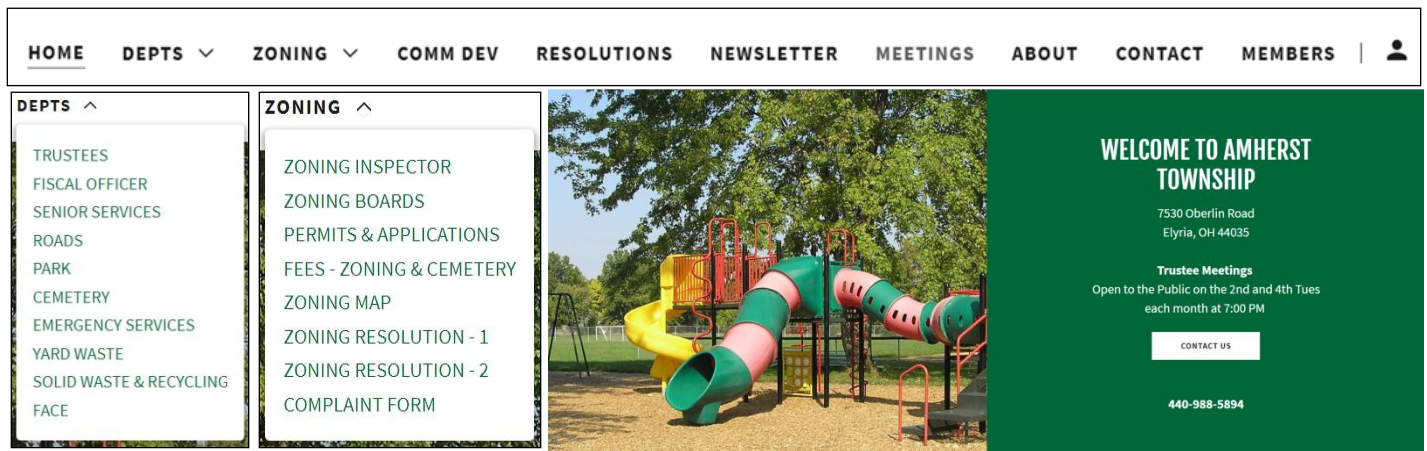


UPDATED “AMHERST TOWNSHIP” WEBSITE

Amherst Township recently updated their website which is now being hosted by “Go Daddy”. While the content remains the same it has been slightly rearranged. Among some of the information available online, under the “Zoning” section residents can view and download Applications for Zoning Permits, Zoning & Cemetery Fees, and Complaint forms. They can also view the Amherst Township Zoning Resolution and Zoning Map. Under “Resolutions” residents can view township resolutions that receive the most inquiries from residents, such as Barking Dogs, Noise Control, and Mailbox & Lawn Damage Policy to name a few.

The updated website also has some new features. The “Home” page now has a “Township Notices” section where current information will be posted in a timely manner. A calendar listing meeting dates and times is also included on the “Home” page and a list of “Pavilion Reservations” is located in the “Depts/Park” section. Photos of your township employees have also been added. While it is currently under construction, a “Meetings” page has been added where you will be able view Trustee meetings sometime in the near future. The “About” page and the “Contact” page are also new. The “Contact” page contains phone numbers and email addresses for Township employees as well as a “Drop Us a line!” section.

www.amhersttownship.us



2019 Amherst Township Zoning Boards

Zoning Commission Board

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

Board of Zoning Appeals

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

Amherst Township would like to welcome **Geno Taliano** to the Zoning Commission, 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.



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.

Lorain SWCD

The Lorain Soil & Water Conservation District (**LSWCD**) is having their **4th Annual Big Tree Contest**. This year they are looking for Lorain County's biggest Eastern Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*). Each tree will receive a score based on trunk circumference, crown spread, and total height to determine the winner.

The annual National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) **Poster Contest** for 2019 is open for submissions for public, private, and home schooled students in grades K-12. The contest starts at the local level, moving to the state, and then to national competition. Cash awards will be given for 1st (\$30) and 2nd (\$20) place in the following categories: K-1, 2-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. Winners at the local level will be sent on to the State contest. The top three posters in each grade category in the National contest win monetary prizes of up to \$200! For more information on the competition, please contact the LSWCD office at **326-5800**.

LSWCD is also holding a 1st annual **Photo Contest**. This year's categories are landscapes and wildlife. All entries must be submitted by August 9, 2019.

A **Pond Management Clinic** will be held on Thursday, April 25th from 5:30-7:30 pm at the Lorain County Agricultural Center located at 42110 Russia Road, Elyria. Pizza and drinks will be provided. Reservations are required with a registration fee of \$5.00 (cash or check only). To RSVP for the clinic, contact the office at **326-5800**.

The LSWCD **Spring Fish Sale** is underway. They are now taking orders for fingerling-size fish for stocking ponds. Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Hybrid Bluegill, Channel Catfish, Yellow Perch, Redear Sunfish (Shellcrackers), Fathead minnows, Japanese Koi, and Triploid White Amur are all available. Order deadline is May 6, 2019.

The 2019 **Seedling Sale** is underway and includes a variety of Evergreens, Hardwood Species, Shrubs, and Perennials. Order pick up date is on one day only, April 12th.

2018 Plat Books are available for purchase through the LSWCD at a cost of \$25.00.

For more information and order forms, please visit the LSWCD facebook page or go to their website at:

www.lorainswcd.com

LCSWD COMMUNITY GRANT

The Lorain County Storm Water Advisory Committee (SWAC), representing 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 2019 projects in the unincorporated areas of Lorain County.

Amherst Township has established the “Engle Ditch Drainage Improvement and Flooding Abatement” project as part of their Storm Water Management Program. Due to the high cost of this project, it has been divided into two Phases.

Amherst Township has been awarded \$64,410 as part of the 2019 LCSWD Community Grant to be used towards the “Engle Ditch Drainage Restoration Project – Phase Two”. Total cost of the project is estimated to be \$111,035 with Amherst Township being responsible for the remaining \$46,625.

The “Engle Ditch Drainage Restoration Project – Phase Two” will include dipping, cleaning, hauling away the spoils, seeding and mulching of a 25-foot easement along a portion of approximately 4,500-feet of the Engle Ditch, beginning at the northeasterly ending point of “Phase One” of the project, extending in a northeasterly direction, then turning in a southeasterly direction toward Stang Road. The Phase Two project will also include a ditch crossing.

This project is expected to be bid out in May, with work anticipated to begin August of 2019.

NOPEC Grant

Amherst Township is receiving a NOPEC (Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council) Energized Community grant in the amount of \$16,756.00 for 2019. NOPEC and NextEra value our community’s membership and are awarding this grant to help our community achieve even greater savings. These grants are offered to help implement energy efficiency or energy infrastructure projects that will benefit our community for years to come.

2019 Road Projects

“Chip & Seal” Program

For the 4th year, the Lorain County Engineer’s Office is once again offering all townships the opportunity to participate in the 2019 county-wide “Chip & Seal” bid program. Amherst Township has chosen to participate in this program and has submitted their request to have **Bechtel Road** (between Albrecht Road and SR 113) 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 Bechtel Road project to cost \$19,770 for the “Chip & Seal” finish layer. Cost estimate for any base repair and pre-leveling will be determined if this preparatory work is determined to be required.

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.

OPWC ROUND-33

Amherst Township has been awarded financial assistance for two road projects in 2019 from the OPWC Round-33 funding program.

The two projects include concrete replacement of approximately 510 feet of roadway on Hidden Tree Lane and the repaving of approximately half of Stang Road. The Stang Road repaving project will be done as a joint project with the county and will include replacement of a bridge on Stang Road.

These projects are expected to be bid out in April, with work anticipated to begin after July of 2019.

FIRE SERVICE CONTRACT

Amherst Township has signed a 3-year Fire and EMS First Responder Service Agreement with the City of Amherst, who will provide fire protection and “First Responder” emergency medical service for the unincorporated area of the township north of the Ohio Turnpike. This 3-year term began on January 1, 2019 and will end on December 31, 2022.

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 Senior Service Director, **Lynda Ashley**, to reserve the park pavilion. Current reservations can be viewed on the Township's website under "Depts/Park".

Lynda can be reached at the township Mondays through Fridays between 8 a.m. and 12 noon by calling **988-5894 (ext 101)**.

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

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

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LORAIN, OHIO

Monthly Meeting
Dates & Times:

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

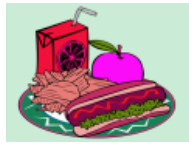
Senior GAZETTE

Spring 2019

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. There is no minimum amount you need to order, the schedule is flexible.

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**.

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 1st through April 17th.

Reservations are required by calling **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@gmail.com



Exercise & Your Brain



Studies have shown exercise and a healthy diet may increase mental sharpness and reduce mental decline due to aging. Growing evidence indicates that people can reduce their risk of cognitive decline by adopting key lifestyle habits. It's never too late to incorporate healthy habits.

Exercise can be as easy as walking 20 minutes, three times a week or riding a stationary bike for 30 minutes three times a week. If you are at a risk for falls due to medication, vertigo, or weakness; you can purchase a stationary pedal exerciser that you can use from a chair or use table top to strengthen your arms.

Seniors, who exercise regularly, three times a week, saw improvements in their brain's ability to pay attention, regulate behavior, get organized and achieve goals.

The seniors who adopted exercise and healthy diet changes, including eating more fruits and vegetables, showed somewhat larger gains cognitively.

Prescription Assistance Program

Do you or someone you care for need prescription medications, but find it difficult to pay for them? The Lorain County "Prescription Assistance Program" can help!

The "Prescription Assistance Program" is available to Lorain County residents who have no or limited medication insurance coverage and provides medications at low or no cost to those in financial need.

To apply for the "Prescription Assistance Program", visit their website at:

www.loraincountyhealth.com

At the home page, click on the "**P**" on the "A-Z Index Bar" and then click on "Prescription Assistance Program".

There you will find information on how to apply for the program which includes links to the Prescription Assistance:

- Overview letter
- Fax Cover Sheet
- Screening Tool

For more information regarding program details, guidelines, and prescription availability, call the "Prescription Assistance Hotline" at:

440-284-3064

or the "Drug Repository Program" at:

419-627-2800

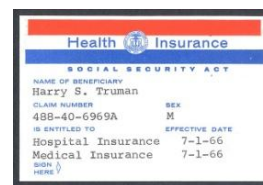
For additional information about other programs, services, community collaborations, and education, visit:

loraincountyhealth.com/adult-health

OSHIIP PHONE SURVEY

"Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program" (**OSHIIP**) is currently conducting a customer satisfaction survey. If you have come to the Senior Service Office for Medicare assistance with Part A, B, D, or Advantage Plans, you may receive a phone call in the next week or two asking about your satisfaction with the help you've received from my office. The number associated with this survey is (435)-558-2553, and the caller ID will read "Utah." If you're contacted, you'll only be asked about your experience with this counseling session and won't have to provide any sensitive personal information. The caller will also give you an "OMB Control Number" (0985-0057), which will let you know that it's a legitimate survey.

You're Getting a New MEDICARE CARD!



The last batch of new unique Medicare Cards will be arriving soon! Medicare is removing Social Security numbers from all Medicare cards and mailing each person a new card. This will help keep your information more secure and help protect your identity. The new card won't change your coverage or benefits. If you do not receive your new card by **May 15, 2019**, please call Medicare's toll-free number at 800-633-4227.