

AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Summer 2019

Vol. XXIV No. 2

Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in the 1st quarter of 2019.

Newspaper	10.12	#1 PET	2.22
Cardboard	15.91	#2 HDPE	1.23
Mixed Paper	32.44	#2 - #7 Plastic Mixed	1.15
Steel Cans	1.69	Aseptic Containers	0.42
Alum. Cans	0.23	Residuals	11.36
Mixed Glass	12.36	Total	89.13

* Above quantities are all listed in tons.

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

-----There were no dumpster days in the 1st quarter, therefore no scrap metal.

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:

October 3, 4, 5

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

Please note: **NO TIRES!**

NO FREON!

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@gmail.com

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

Email: amhersttwproads@gmail.com

Zoning Inspector (Voicemail checked daily) **Ext. 103**

Remi Cerrone, Zoning Inspector

Email: amhersttwpzoning@gmail.com

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

Trustees

Dennis Abraham(cell) 213-6775

(Ambulance, Cemetery, Park, Water, Buildings, Land, Roads, Ditches, 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, 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 Eppley 324-3921

Email: amhersttwpfire@gmail.com

LifeCare Ambulance, Inc.

Pete or Herb de la Porte 323-6111

Sheriff's Department 329-3710

A.T. Community Policing Officer: **Matthew Lawson**

Dpt Lawson's Non-Emergency/Voicemail 329-3752

Email: mlawson@loraincountysheriff.com

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.**

•**COMING SOON:** Amherst Township Trustee Meetings will be viewable online on the "Meetings" page of the Amherst Township website or through the "Amherst Township" channel on YouTube.

Public Right-of-Ways & Easements

As spring turns to summer, a frequent question asked is “What is the responsibility of the township to keep the rights-of-way clear and what is the responsibility of the property owner?”

To answer this question, we must start with clarifying what is meant by right-of-way. Included in the definition of right-of-way is the pavement (or other road type), curbs, berms, side drainage, ditches, slopes, guard rail, sidewalks and easements.

Easements are needed for such projects that may include: bridges, road realignment, safety improvement, drainage projects, guardrail installation, culvert extensions and ditch widening. Easements are typically listed on a property deed that is filed with the county recorder or on county tax maps. An easement right-of-way conveys, in perpetuity, the right to construct and maintain a highway facility or utility on the land of the property owner. The property owner would still own the land.

A right-of-way by dedication would grant an abutting property owner access up to the right-of-way. The abutting property owner would not own the land, like with an easement right-of-way.

Should an existing easement not exist, pursuant to R.C. §§163.04, 5549.04 and 5579.01, a board of township trustees may enter into an agreement with a landowner for a temporary easement necessary for improvement of a township road.

A board of trustees may order the removal of any obstructions in the right-of-way (R.C. §5571.14). If a property owner refuses or neglects to comply with an order by the board of trustees to remove such obstruction, the township shall have the obstruction removed at the property owner’s expense. An obstruction could include: a fence, post, pole, athletic or recreational apparatus, rock or berm, vegetation, or any other object interfering with or obstructing the township road.

A board of township trustees does not have to obtain consent from the abutting land owners to remove trees or shrubs in the right-of-way that are in such a condition that they interfere with traffic (R.C. §5543.14). Consent of the abutting land owner would need to be obtained if the trees and shrubs do not interfere with traffic (see *Ohio Bell Tel. Co. v. Watson Co.*, 112 Ohio St. 385 (1925)).

When a township Road Superintendent, upon learning of any obstruction of any ditch or drain, or the diversion of water from adjacent lands upon a township highway, shall notify the trustees of such issue (R.C. §5589.06). The trustees shall give notice to said property owner and require the obstruction or diversion to be removed within five days. If the obstruction is not removed within five days, the township road superintendent may remove such obstruction. The expense for removal shall be collected from the property owner by civil action.

The board of township trustees may trim or remove any and all trees, shrubs, and other vegetation growing in or encroaching onto the right-of-way of the township roads, as is necessary in the board’s judgment to facilitate the right of the public to improvement and maintenance of, and uninterrupted travel on township roads (R.C. §5543.14). This could include the obstruction of road signs and sight lines for safe turns onto or off of the road. Pursuant to the Revised Code, a board of township trustees is not required to compensate the abutting land owner for trimming or removing the vegetation.

A board of township trustees may not remove vegetation not in the right-of-way easement but on private property unless the growth physically impedes or physically overhangs the road in such a way as to cause a dangerous condition to users of the road (see Auditor of State’s Township Handbook, pg. M-58).

Should a tree located on private property adjacent to the right-of-way have dead branches that overhang a township road, the property owner has the primary duty to remove the dead branches (see Auditor of State’s Township Handbook, pg. M-59). If a property owner refuses or neglects to comply with an order by the board of trustees to remove such obstruction, the township shall have the obstruction removed at the property owner’s expense.

A board of township trustees may, by a permit in writing, authorize the owners of property, at their own expense, to locate and plant trees and shrubs along township highways, subject to the board’s approval as to the kind, size, and location (R.C. §5529.11).

*Reprinted from “Grassroots Clipping” – June 2018
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Zoning Permit Updates

Are you planning a significant improvement to your home? **Lorain County Public Health** (LCPH) wants you to consider your sewage treatment system first. Property improvements, including but not limited to additions, in-law suites, pools, and decks/patios, can have a significant impact on the operation and accessibility of your household sewage treatment system (“septic system”).

To help protect your system during property improvements and prevent exceeding its loading capacity, **LCPH** offers a “Property Improvement Application” to homeowners with a household sewage treatment system. This review process and homeowner education is at no charge.

For more information and to print this application form, visit their website at:

www.LorainCountyPublicHealth.com

In the search box type in “property improvement application” to quickly locate this form.

- You can also call **440-322-6367** and ask to speak with a sanitarian.

This “Property Improvement Application” form has also become part of the process when applying for a permit and applies only to those with an existing sewage treatment system. All zoning permit applications can be viewed and downloaded from the **Amherst Township Website**, under “Zoning” then “Permits & Applications”. A link to this application form is also located below the zoning permit forms.

LCSWD MINI-GRANT

For the third year Amherst Township applied for and received \$5000 from the Lorain County Storm Water District (LCSWD) Mini-Grant. This funding is awarded on a “First-Come-First-Serve” basis for qualified storm water management projects and requires a 20% minimum financial match from the township.

Amherst Township will be using this funding towards the repair/replacement of catch basins on Balsam, Rustic Hill, Allandale, Trails End, and Cobblestone. Total cost of this project is about \$7500. Work should start at the end of June and be completed in two weeks, weather permitting.

From the Sheriff's Office

Amherst Township’s current Community Policing Officer is Deputy Matthew Lawson. His contact information is now listed on the front page and is for non-emergency communications. (This contact information is also on the township’s website under Depts/Emergency Services.) Residents can send an email or leave a voice mail for Deputy Lawson to report issues or problem areas in your community. Sharing of this information may have an impact in solving some of their open cases. If you prefer anonymity, you can leave a message for Deputy Lawson by calling his office voicemail at 329-3752.

Please note that if you need immediate police response you should dial “911”. You can contact the sheriff’s dispatch at 329-3710 or call 323-1212 from your cell phone without being charged for the call.

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 329-3752. 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 Lawson by email at:

mlawson@loraincountysheriff.com

FIRE SERVICE

Effective April 1st of this year, the Amherst Fire Department has expanded fire service to Amherst Township and will be providing service to the entire township. This includes the township area south of the Turnpike which was previously serviced by the South Amherst Fire Department.

Lorain County Scrap Tire Collection Sites

Residents are reminded that Amherst Township does not collect scrap tires, including during “Dumpster Days” events.

Lorain County Solid Waste Management District offers 3 locations for the **free** disposition of tires. Tires may be dropped off at any of the locations listed below, during the times and days listed.

During open hours, staff members are available to assist with unloading at all locations.

Scrap Tire Collections Are Provided To The Residents Of Lorain County By:

The Lorain County Solid Waste Management District

Information Line: **440-329-5440**

Website: www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste

A Department Of:

The Lorain County Board Of Commissioners



The Following Rules Apply To All Sites, At All Times:

- Driver’s License or other acceptable proof of residency is required
- Tire Collections are provided for the use of Lorain County Residents Only
- Tires may be “On-The-Rim” or “Off-The-Rim”
- NOTE: By State Law, you may not transport more than 10 (ten) scrap tires at one time without a special license
- **Acceptable** – Small Equipment / Passenger Car / SUV / Minivan / Non-Commercial Van & Pickup Truck Tires – Up To 20” Rim Diameter, And All Bicycle / Motorcycle Tires
- **Not Acceptable** – Racing Tires, Semi Truck and Trailer Tires, Farm Equipment Tires, and Any Tires Resulting From the Operation of a Commercial Business or Farm
- Drop-off of tires at any times other than those listed is strictly prohibited; all sites are under video surveillance; violators will be prosecuted

County Collection Center

Location:

540 South Abbe Road, Elyria
(between Taylor St. & East Broad St.)

Hours of Operation:

Mondays: Noon to 4 PM
Wednesdays: Noon to 6 PM
Saturdays: 9 AM to 3 PM

Lorain City Service Garage

Location:

114 East 35th Street
(corner of Broadway & East 35th St.)

Hours of Operation:

Tuesdays & Thursdays: 9 AM to 1 PM

Grafton Township Hall

Location:

17109 Avon-Beldon Road
(corner of State Routes 83 & 303)

Hours of Operation:

Tuesdays & Saturdays: 9 AM to 1 PM



Pictured on this page are photos of the Battenhouse Ditch Reach which is part of the multi-year “Engle Ditch Drainage Restoration Project”. This section of the ditch runs to the west of the Oberlin Road bridge near Stang Road (see map in the Spring 2017 edition, available on website).

Photos to the left show removal of the log jam. Photos below show the dipping and cleaning of the ditch as well as the 20-foot grading for ongoing maintenance, which is the most visually notable improvement.

This project is part of the township’s Storm Water Management Program and is partially funded with “Community Grants” through the Lorain County Storm Water District.



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.

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)**.

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
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A portion of the cost to print and mail the Amherst Township Newsletter is paid for with funds received from the Lorain County Solid Waste Management District Community Incentive Grant Funding provided through the Lorain County Commissioners.



**Monthly Meeting
Dates & Times:**

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

Senior GAZETTE

Summer 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

“ANONYMOUS CALL”

BLOCKING

If you are bothered by telemarketer phone calls and have a land line (home phone) there is a free service offered to block those “anonymous” and “private” numbers.

After lifting or turning on your handset:

- Press ***77** to block, and
- Press ***87** to deactivate it anytime.

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

Phone: 988-5894 – Ext. 101

Email: amhersttwpseniors@gmail.com



SUMMER SAFETY TIPS

Summer is here and with it comes the hot weather. Temperatures can reach highs in the 80’s and 90’s.

It is important that seniors take steps to stay safe this summer. Drinking water frequently, remaining in the shade as much as possible, taking frequent breaks, going inside to cool off, and avoiding over exertion are great examples of ways to protect oneself from the heat and sun.

Another added protection is to do outside yard work in the early morning or late evening as to avoid the intense midday sun and heat.

Some medications and medical conditions require avoidance of the sun. Seniors should discuss medication instructions thoroughly with their physician.



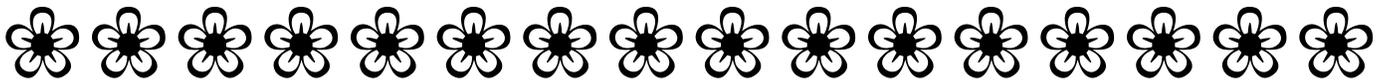
POWER OF ATTORNEY

A “Power of Attorney” (**POA**) is a legal document that appoints a “representative” the power to act on another person’s behalf. It is used to designate a person to manage financial and or medical affairs, if, because of health issues, an individual becomes unable.

A Financial POA makes an individual a financial agent for another. The designated person can pay bills and manage finances. It does not allow the financial agent to change a will, make decisions after death, or change/transfer the POA to someone else.

A Medical POA makes one individual a healthcare agent for another. With this you can direct the medical care that someone needs should they be incapacitated.

It is advisable that all persons over 18 have both a “Medical” and “Financial” Power of Attorney in place for emergencies. It is best to consult an experienced local attorney to make sure you are obtaining the proper power of attorney paperwork according to Ohio state laws.



UTILITY COST HELP

Utility costs can be higher in the summer due to air conditioning. Keeping your home cool is important. The “Public Utilities Commission of Ohio” (PUCO) offers an income-based program called the “**Home Energy Assistance Program**” (**HEAP**) for those needing help with their electric bills.

The “**Summer Crisis Program**” offers a one-time benefit to be put toward the purchase of an air conditioning unit or fan or the payment of an electric bill. This program is offered starting on July 1st and runs through August 31st. The program is for those with medical conditions and low-income elderly households. For more information or to apply for assistance please contact the Lorain County Community Action Agency at:

1-855-806-9620

LEGAL DOCUMENTS

If you or a loved one were to pass away suddenly or become very ill, is your family aware of the location of your will, life insurance papers, power of attorney, and/or deed to your home?

Investing in a fire proof box or a small safe that will fit your legal papers along with letting a family member know the location is something we should all do in preparation of an emergency.