

# AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Fall 2019

Vol. XXIV No. 3

## Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2019 through curbside pickup.

Newspaper	13.17	#1 PET	2.89
Cardboard	20.72	#2 HDPE	1.60
Mixed Paper	42.25	#2 - #7 Plastic Mixed	1.50
Steel Cans	2.21	Aseptic Containers	0.55
Alum. Cans	0.30	Residuals	14.79
Mixed Glass	16.10	Total	116.08

\* Above quantities are all listed in tons.

- 2.07 tons of various paper through the “ABITIBI Paper Retriever” program
- 3.57 tons of scrap metal through the dumpster program
- **2,500 cu/yds** of yard waste ground-up and hauled away

For questions concerning the “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. 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: [amhersttwpfo@gmail.com](mailto:amhersttwpfo@gmail.com)

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

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

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

Remi Cerrone, Zoning Inspector

Email: [amhersttwpzoning@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:amhersttwpseniors@gmail.com)

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

## Fire Prevention Officer

To be Determined ..... xxx-xxxx

Email: [amhersttwpfire@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:mlawson@loraincountysheriff.com)

## 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.**

•**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.

## **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.

## **2019**

## **FLU SHOT CLINICS**

November is the best time to get your flu shot in northeast Ohio. A flu shot in November offers you the best protection through the peak flu season in Northeast Ohio.

Lorain County Public Health's (LCPH) Seasonal Flu Shot Clinics for 2019 will be held from:

**Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> to Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>**

For Amherst Township residents, the nearest clinic will be held on **Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Old Stone Evangelical Church located at 553 S. Main Street in Amherst.**

Come to flu shot clinics prepared. Registration forms can be downloaded from the website. Bring a photo ID and your insurance card. LCPH accepts most private insurances, Medicare Part B, and Medicaid. No one will be turned away for inability to pay.

For a complete list of dates, times and locations of all flu clinics, visit their website at:

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

To get flu information by phone, contact them at:

**440-284-3206**

Beginning Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, LCPH will accept walk-ins for flu shots between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. They are located at 9880 S. Murray Ridge Road, Elyria.

### **Attention!**

#### **Hidden Valley Residents**

As a reminder, please do not rake leaves onto the street as it restricts water flow into the catch basins when it rains, causing drainage problems for you and your neighbors! The township does not pick up leaves. However, you can bring leaves and other yard waste to the Township Yard Waste Recycling Center, located across the road from the Township garage, for disposal.

## **Preparing for Winter**

- As a safety issue, please do not pile snow around fire hydrants. It is best to keep hydrants clear of any snow, excess mounding of soil, or plants.
- Also, when cleaning your driveways, do not plow or shovel snow onto the streets after the Township/County has plowed.
- Mailboxes should be inspected to make sure the posts are in good condition before the winter snowplowing begins.
- Be aware that the bridge decks freeze before the pavement does, causing them to be slippery even when the roads are clear.

## **REMEMBER TO VOTE!**



This year's general election will be on Tuesday, **November 5<sup>th</sup>**. Polls will be open from 6:30 am to 7:30 pm. In office absentee voting begins on Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>. Remember to bring your identification with you to the polls or the office.

Please exercise your right to vote. The Lorain County Board of Elections is located at 1985 North Ridge Road East, in Lorain. For more information about voting you can call them at 326-5900 or visit their website at:

<https://loraincountyelections.com>

On the website you can view the entire list of Candidates and Issues, a video showing how to use the **new** voting machines, and your specific ballot (see "Sample Ballot" in left column).

# FIRE PREVENTION OFFICER

In early September, Wayne Eppley resigned as Amherst Township's Fire Prevention Officer.

Wayne has enjoyed working with the township trustees and other employees during his many years with the township. He is now looking forward to having more personal time with his family.

Wayne says that now is the perfect time to leave this position to allow Amherst Fire Department to take over all fire prevention duties in the township. In past years the township has had fire protection contracts with both Amherst Fire Department and South Amherst Fire Department. Wayne was appointed by the trustees in 1991 to provide fire prevention services for the entire township and coordinate this with both fire departments. Wayne has received much support from the fire departments and all Amherst Township employees past and present.

We would like to thank Wayne for his many years of service to our township. The trustees are actively working on the appointment of a new Fire Prevention Officer. More details to follow.



\*\*\*\*\*

## RAINFALL REPORTERS NEEDED

Lorain Soil & Water Conservation District (LSWCD) is in need of people in the Amherst area who would be interested in tracking rainfall during the months of April through September. This is a daily task usually done at the same time every morning. LSWCD will provide monthly postcards for you to fill out. Please contact **Lynne Parsh** at the District office if you are interested. She can be reached at **326-5800**. They are also looking for rainfall reporters in Brighton, Eaton, Penfield, and Wellington.

*In other news from LSWCD...*

Winners of the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Big Tree Contest for the biggest Eastern Cottonwood came from Pittsfield Township (1<sup>st</sup>), Elyria, (2<sup>nd</sup>), and Avon (3<sup>rd</sup>).

The Fall Fish Sale will be on Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. For more details and other information visit their website at:

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

Amherst Township would like to welcome **Steve Ostrolencki** 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.

## NOPEC

Amherst Township is a member of NOPEC's natural gas and electric aggregation programs. NOPEC is a nonprofit group of over 235 Ohio communities that negotiates lower utility rates. As Ohio's largest governmental energy aggregator, NOPEC buys gas and electricity in bulk to help lower your utility bills. Since 2001, NOPEC has saved residents and businesses over \$300 million.

For more information about NOPEC, go to [nopec.org](http://nopec.org) or call their customer service line at 855-667-3201.

# “ATV” USE ON PUBLIC ROADS

You may wonder what regulations the Ohio Revised Code (O.R.C.) contains regarding all-terrain vehicles (ATV's). Generally, ATV's are considered "All-Purpose Vehicles" under the Ohio Revised Code and are regulated as such (ref O.R.C. §4519.01(B)). This category also covers all season vehicles, mini-bikes, and trail bikes.

O.R.C. §4519.40 describes where an operator is prohibited from driving all-purpose vehicles, off-highway motorcycles, and snowmobiles, including:

- On limited access highways, freeways, or their rights-of-way;
- On any private property without permission of the owner;
- On state lands or waters (i.e. parks, recreational areas, campgrounds, etc.), unless a sign has been posted permitting usage;
- On any railroad tracks or rights-of-way;
- While transporting a firearm or bow that is not unloaded and securely encased;
- For the purpose of chasing, pursuing, capturing, or killing any animal or wild fowl; and
- From sunset to sunrise, unless lights are displayed.

A violation of this section is a fine not less than \$50 and not more than \$500 and/or imprisonment for not less than 3 days and not more than 30 days.

Under O.R.C. §4519.41, an operator of an all-purpose vehicle may travel to cross a highway (other than a limited access highway), on a county

or township highway whenever the local authority permits, alongside a street or highway for a limited distance to a riding area, or on the berm of a highway (other than a limited access highway) when it can be done safely.

A local authority cannot require the registration or licensing of any all-purpose vehicle (or snowmobile or off-highway motorcycle) as those items are required to be registered with the registrar of motor vehicles subject to certain exceptions under O.R.C. §4519.02. Those exceptions include, for example, a snowmobile or off-highway motorcycle that is operated exclusively on the owner's property or an all-purpose vehicle that is used primarily for agricultural purposes when the owner qualifies for the CAUV tax credit. For more information on registration, visit the Bureau of Motor Vehicles website at:

<https://bmv.ohio.gov/vr-other-avp.aspx>

While ATV registration and licensing falls under the state, townships do have the ability to regulate all-purpose vehicles on streets, highways, public property under its jurisdiction, and within the reasonable exercise of police power (O.R.C. §4519.48). Signage may be posted in townships to help owners understand where they can and cannot operate an ATV.

*\*\*\*Article taken and revised From July 2019 Grassroots Clippings, "Did You Know? ..."  
a publication of the Ohio Township Association*

If residents notice a violation or have any questions or concerns they can contact the Sheriff's Department non-emergency number at **329-3710**.



## TOWNSHIP CRIME



Deputy Matt Lawson, our Community Policing Officer, recently notified the township of an increase of thefts and break-ins around Stang Road, Oberlin Road, and the Hidden Valley area. He would like to remind residents that they should secure their exterior barns, cars, and houses. Be proactive and preventative! If you see or hear anything suspicious please call the Sheriff on the non-emergency number at **329-3710**.



## DOWNED TREES



If residents notice a fallen tree that is impeding or blocking the roadway, they should first call the Sheriff's non-emergency number at **329-3710**.

The Sheriff's dispatch will be able to contact the appropriate entity to address the issue, be it township, county, city, and/or utility.



# FUNDING AMHERST COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENTS



F.A.C.E. is looking for new board members that have a vision and passion for our community. Members must live, work, or own property in Amherst Township. The Board normally meets 4 times a year for a short meeting. If you are interested in being a part of this non-profit organization, please contact one of the Amherst Township Trustees. Phone numbers are located on the first page of this newsletter.

Funding Amherst Community Enhancements (F.A.C.E.) is a non-profit corporation created by the Amherst Township Trustees to seek donations, grants, and volunteers to work on projects to enrich the lives of all citizens in Amherst Township and the surrounding communities.

F.A.C.E. was formed in late 2004. They had their first board meeting on February 15, 2005 and by mid-summer they received acknowledgement from the IRS that they could accept donations that would allow the donor to take a tax deduction.

Over the years F.A.C.E. has held 8 “Wine Tasting Events” and 2 “Amherst Township Lake Erie Crushers Day” in Avon in order to raise funds. They were also involved with the “Township Open House and Silent Auction” for the newly renovated Township Hall in 2010. This event alone raised over \$2800 for park improvements. They also worked with grant writer Malcolm Peel to apply for

several grants for the additional walking path in the Middle Ridge Road Township Park.

The donations that F.A.C.E. raised have been used for many various Township Park improvements including picnic tables, park benches, flower beds, mulch, and a TOT swing set with two TOT swings. They also paid for the “Veterans War Memorial” that is on display in the Township Hall as well as contributing \$500 towards the lighting of the “Veterans Mural” in downtown Amherst.

This summer FACE paid \$470 towards the labor and material to stain the pavilion in the Amherst Township Park located on Middle Ridge Road.

See the below photo in color on the township’s website newsletter and also under “Dept’s / Parks”.



## STANG ROAD CLOSURE

Lorain County Engineer Ken Carney announced the closure of Stang Road, between Oberlin Road and West Ridge Road, for the replacement and resurfacing of bridge #0038.

The cost of the project is \$319,450, with 89% funding from the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) and the remaining 11% funded by Lorain County Motor Vehicle Tax monies and Amherst Township. The work is being completed by Denes Concrete of Wellington, Ohio.

The work began on Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, and is expected to be completed by Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting.

Local traffic will be maintained. Detour signs will be posted. Your cooperation during construction is greatly appreciated.

## Safety Tip

When walking or riding along roadways, always wear something reflective during the early morning, dusk and evening hours. **Don't assume that drivers can see you!** Carrying a flashlight will also make you more visible to drivers. For added safety, when a vehicle is passing you, move over to the edge of the road or onto the lawn.



# TRICK OR TREAT



# Burning Prohibited



The burning of leaves, grass clippings, brush, and limbs is prohibited in the township. Unnecessary tax dollars are spent when the fire department responds to a fire call that is not a true emergency.

If you have any questions, please call the Amherst Fire Department, at **988-4117**, or contact one of your township trustees. Yard waste may be brought to the Amherst Township Garage for disposal. For drop-off times, days, and location, see the front page of this newsletter.

“Trick-or-Treat” in Amherst Township will be held on **Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.** Residents that wish to pass out candy should turn on their outside lights. This newsletter will be the only notification given by Amherst Twp.

Also on Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, the City of Amherst Fire Department will be sponsoring a “Costume Contest” with registration starting at 3:00 p.m. at the Sans Springs Building, located at 480 Park Ave. in Amherst. Judging for the contest will start promptly at 4:00 p.m.

The annual “Halloween Parade” will follow, from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. In case of inclement weather, the parade will be cancelled and the “Costume Contest” will be held at the Amherst Fire Department located at 414 Church St. in Amherst.

Please note that residents of Westwood Mobile Home Park will be observing “Trick-or-Treat” on Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. They should check with management for the time. Residents of Amherst Trail Mobile Home Park will be notified by management of their date and time.

**Yard Waste Recycling Center**  
**Extended Fall Hours**

The Amherst Township Yard Waste Recycling Center will be open for extended hours in the Fall to accommodate the recycling of leaves and other yard waste. Beginning **October 15<sup>th</sup>**, and continuing through **December 1<sup>st</sup>**, the Yard Waste Recycling Center will open at 8:00 am and close at sunset. The Yard Waste Recycling Center is a self-service operation. Please place your empty plastic bags in the 55-gal drum at the center or take bags with you.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

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:** 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

Fall 2019

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

## MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT

Open enrollment begins October 15th and runs thru December 7, 2019.

**During Medicare's annual open enrollment, seniors can:**

- Stay on Original Medicare and shop for a stand-alone "Part D" prescription drug plan. Select a Medicare Advantage Plan, which provides comprehensive health benefits, typically including prescription drug coverage.
- Determine if existing coverage will continue to meet health insurance needs.

If you would like to have a comparison done or discuss your options, please call the office at 988-5894 ext. 101 for an appointment.

## LOW-INCOME SUBSIDY

Low Income Subsidy (**LIS**) is a Medicare program for individuals with limited income. This program helps to pay for your Medicare "Part D" prescription plan's premium, deductible, and co-pays.

You will automatically qualify for "Extra Help" if you have one of the following:

- Medicare "Part B" premium help from the state
- Medicare and Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Medicare and Medicaid

If you already receive **LIS** please be aware that if your income or resources change, you may not automatically qualify for help next year.

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

**Phone: 988-5894 – Ext. 101**

Email: [amhersttwpseniors@gmail.com](mailto:amhersttwpseniors@gmail.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 "**Friday**" drivers. The routes are approximately 16 miles long and take about 45 minutes to complete, anytime between the hours of 10:30 a.m. and Noon. Mileage is reimbursed at \$0.58 per mile. If you are interested in volunteering, please call the office.

# MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAMS

There are 4 programs available to those with low income and low assets to help pay for health care coverage.

- **QMB** – Qualified Medicare Beneficiary:
  - Works as a free Medicare supplement policy
- **SLMB** – Specified Low Income Medicare Beneficiary:
  - Pays the Medicare “Part B” premium
  - Retroactive “Part B” premium amounts for each of the last 3 months
- **QI** – Qualified Individual:
  - Pays the Medicare “Part B” premium
- **QDWI** – Qualified Disabled and Working Individuals:
  - Helps pay the “Part A” premium if you are under 65, disabled, and no longer entitled to free “Part A” solely because you returned to work

“Resources” include money in a checking or savings account, stocks, bonds, home, car, life insurance policies, IRA’s, household income, burial plot, or burial expenses up to \$1500 per person.

The following table lists the income and asset limits for each program:

	For 1 Person		For 2 Persons	
	<b>INCOME</b>	<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>INCOME</b>	<b>ASSETS</b>
QMB	\$1,025	\$7390	\$1,374	\$11,090
SLMB	\$1,226	\$7390	\$1,644	\$11,090
QI	\$1,377	\$7390	\$1,847	\$11,090
QDWI	\$2,030	\$7390	\$2,727	\$11,090

If you think you may qualify, please call the Senior Service Office for further information or visit Medicare’s website at: [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).

# FRAUD & IDENTITY THEFT PROTECTION

During Medicare open enrollment, seniors need to be aware of predatory sales practices and Medicare scams. These scams come in the form of unsolicited calls asking for personal information, such as your Social Security number or Medicare number. Please remember to **never** give out any personal information over the phone including your address, credit card or banking information.

Another recent scam involves offering you “free” genetic tests. Scammers claim Medicare will cover the test in order to get your Medicare Number and

then use it to commit fraud and identity theft. They’re targeting people through telemarketing calls, health fairs and even knocking on doors.

Only a doctor you know and trust should order and approve any requests for genetic testing. If you get a genetic testing kit in the mail, refuse the delivery or return to sender unless your doctor ordered it.

If you suspect any wrongdoing, please call the Medicare Fraud & Enforcement hotline at **1-800-686-1527** or the Senior Medicare Patrol at **1-800-488-6070**.