

# AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Winter 2019

Vol. XXIV No. 4

## Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2019 through curbside pickup.

Newspaper	13.35	#1 PET	2.93
Cardboard	20.99	#2 HDPE	1.62
Mixed Paper	42.80	#2 - #7 Plastic Mixed	1.52
Steel Cans	2.23	Aseptic Containers	0.55
Alum. Cans	0.31	Residuals	14.98
Mixed Glass	16.31	Total	117.59

\* Above quantities are all listed in tons.

- 1.51 tons of various paper through the “ABITIBI Paper Retriever” program
- 3.51 tons of scrap metal through the dumpster program

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

## “2020” Dumpster Days

Amherst Township has set the following dates for “Dumpster Days” in 2020:

**April 23, 24, 25**

**October 1, 2, 3**

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!!

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. 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays**
  - Amherst Township Residents only
  - I.D. may be checked
  - No Commercial
  - **No Plastic Bags** – place bags in 55 gal drum
- ➔ Yard Waste Pile is located at the far back of the property on the east side of Oberlin Road.

**Have a problem?** Complaint forms are available at the Township Hall, inside the white bulletin board, or they may be downloaded from the Township’s website.

## Township Hall & Garage 988-5894

Fax..... 988-5877

Fiscal Officer ..... **Ext. 104**

Email: [amherstwpfo@gmail.com](mailto:amherstwpfo@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

Chris Niehart..... 988-4117

Email: [amhersttwpfire@gmail.com](mailto:amhersttwpfire@gmail.com) (**Ext. 509**)

## 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.

# STORMWATER: SPREAD IT OUT – SINK IT IN

## What is Stormwater?

It's any natural precipitation that doesn't soak into the ground where it falls. When rain hits the hard, impervious surfaces associated with modern life (driveways, sidewalks, streets, rooftops, parking lots) it is channeled toward stormwater drainage systems or streams.

## Stormwater Runoff Problems

- Large volumes of water can overwhelm storm drains and cause localized flooding.
- Runoff gathers sediment and pollutants, which can wind up in natural waterways.
- Water that doesn't soak into soil can't recharge local groundwater sources.

The EPA mantra for stormwater runoff management is: *slow it down, spread it out, soak it in.*

## Don't Drip and Drive

Fix car leaks to keep oil and gas from entering storm drains and flowing into our streams, rivers, and Lake Erie.

## Gas Stain Removal

If the stains are fresh, pour an absorbent material on them, such as clay-type cat litter, sand, baking soda, or commercial absorbents found at auto-supply stores.

Carefully remove and dispose of the gas or oil-soaked material in an old coffee can with a lid.

Scrub any remaining stains with a paste of liquid or powdered dishwasher detergent and water, let stand for a few minutes, then rinse.



*This article taken from a flyer provided by:*

## Public Involvement Public Education

Educating the public on our impact on Lake Erie

# NEW REGULATIONS FOR ON-LOT “SEPTIC SYSTEMS”

Beginning in 2022, **all** household sewage treatment systems (or “septic systems”) will be required to obtain an “Operation Permit” through Lorain County Public Health (LCPH) as part of the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Program required by the State of Ohio. The O&M program protects local water quality by tracking and monitoring the proper operation and maintenance of these sewage treatment systems. The Operation Permit fee (currently \$25.00 annually) covers water sampling activities, homeowner education, response to sewage nuisances in the community, tracking of pumping and service record data, quality assurance of local contractors, and the administration of the program.

Some sewage treatment systems are already enrolled in this program (new, replaced, altered, and inspected systems), and remaining existing systems will receive an “Operation Permit” application in the

mail in 2022. Homeowners with a household sewage treatment system, or septic system, not connected to a municipal sewer are required to complete the application and submit the fee. Longer permit periods and electronic billing and permitting are being researched to make this process easier. Town hall meetings will be offered in locations across Lorain County in 2020 and 2021 prior to the full implementation of this program.

If you have questions regarding the O&M Program or the “Operation Permit”, please call Lorain County Public Health at (440)-322-6367.

Visit their website at:

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

Contact them by e-mail at:

[contact@loraincountyhealth.com](mailto:contact@loraincountyhealth.com)

# NEW FIRE PREVENTION OFFICER

The Amherst Township Board of Trustees has approved the appointment of Chris Niehart, a member of the Amherst City Fire Department, as the Amherst Township Fire Prevention Officer (**FPO**). Because the township has contracted with the City of Amherst to provide firefighting services, the Trustees deemed it prudent to have an employee of the Amherst City Fire Department act as Fire Prevention Officer for the township.

The Ohio Revised Code requires townships to appoint a Fire Prevention Officer. An FPO must have fire safety knowledge, be available to answer resident's questions and perform fire safety inspections of businesses, group homes, foster homes, etc. Duties of an FPO encompass those of a fire chief and include fire protection services.

As the Township's Fire Prevention Officer, Chris is able to regulate acceptable open burning that is allowable by the Ohio EPA and Ohio Fire Codes. Many types of allowable fires in the past are now banned by those two agencies. It is best to contact Chris if in doubt. Illegal burning can be very expensive to the township due to fire department responses. Chris can inspect new and existing commercial construction and remodeling to assist if proper code regulations are being followed. He also assists in the investigation of fires in the township, when needed.



We would like to welcome Chris to the township. For any fire safety related questions, please feel free to contact him by phone at the Amherst Fire Department at:

**988-4117 (Ext. 509)**

or by using the township's FPO email at:

[amhersttwfire@gmail.com](mailto:amhersttwfire@gmail.com)



## **A Note from Sr. Service Director, Lynda Ashley...**

In reference to the Sr. Gazette article about "Social Security Scams", I receive the most phone calls on this very issue, asking "if it's true" or "if it's a scam". They are repetitive calls and the elderly get scared.

If you receive any phone call requesting your information, no matter how basic – DO NOT divulge any information over the phone UNLESS

you have initiated the call to your physician, insurance company, or pharmacy.

Please do not call back numbers left on a phone message from solicitors, even those that claim to be from Social Security or the IRS. These numbers are NOT the numbers associated with the actual IRS or Social Security.

# STANG ROAD

## “BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PICS

Many thanks to Amherst Township Road Superintendent Kevin Smarsh for taking these photos during the Stang Road Bridge Replacement Project!! The new bridge will improve the flow of storm water, minimize localized erosion and improve safety for those that travel over this bridge.

Watch for next quarter’s newsletter that will have an article about the bridge replacement and resurfacing of Stang Road.



# HOLIDAY RECYCLING GUIDE

Not all paper belongs in your recycling bin. Paper towels, napkins, plates, and cups should be disposed of in trash cans.

Placing the wrong items in recycling is a big problem. It prevents the correct material from being recycled and increases maintenance, downtime, and landfill disposal, driving up the cost of recycling.

Acceptable items for Rumpke's home recycling service include Plastic Bottles & Jugs, Glass Bottles & Jars, Aluminum & Steel Cans, Cartons, and Paper & Cardboard.

Recent audits at Rumpke recycling facilities show that nearly one out of every four items placed in recycling containers isn't accepted in Rumpke's

recycling programs. For information about Rumpke and their recycling service, visit their website at:

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

Also see the article "Tips to Better Recycling" in the Summer 2018 edition of the Amherst Township Newsletter. Previous newsletters can be viewed on the Amherst Township website.

The following "*Holiday Recycling Guide*" was taken from the Lorain County Solid Waste Consortium December Newsletter. The Lorain County Trash and Recycling Consortium is a group of twelve (12) communities that work together to keep trash, recycling, and yard waste services affordable and fair to both residents and their communities. Amherst Township is part of this Consortium.

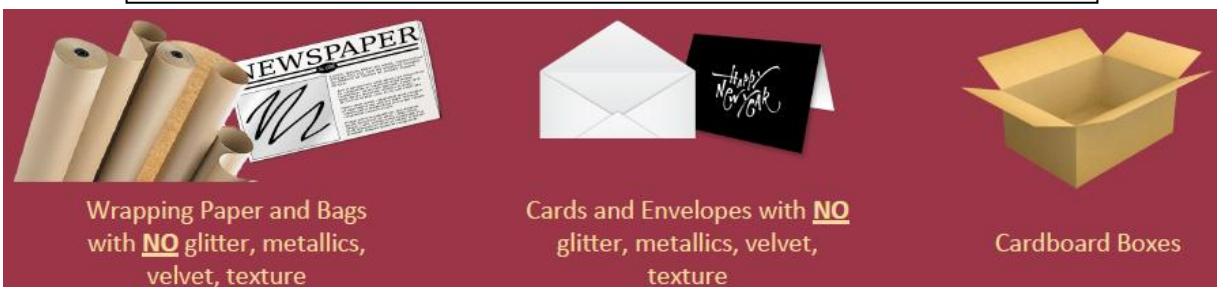
## Reuse or Donate (or Trash)



## Trash



## Recycle



# 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.



# 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 **Thur., Dec 26<sup>th</sup> thru Fri., Jan 17<sup>th</sup>**.



## 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.**

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Printed on Recycled Paper

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

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

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

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

# Senior GAZETTE

Winter 2019

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

## Clarification on Reissuance of Medicare Numbers

Many of you have heard that a group of Medicare beneficiaries recently received new Medicare numbers from CMS because of a “breach” of some sort. **This was not a breach of data.** It was actually a proactive step that CMS took after recent enforcement actions and a great example of the benefit we gain from the new cards. It is nice to see CMS using their ability to issue new cards in a proactive manner such as this. Here is the note from CMS providing more details:

“As the result of recent fraud takedowns, CMS identified a group of beneficiaries whose Medicare numbers were being fraudulently used to bill Medicare for unnecessary medical equipment and services. To protect them from Medicare fraud, they received new cards with new Medicare number with an accompanying letter that explained the situation and next steps.”

The majority of beneficiaries should have received their new cards by the end of last week. This should not impact their access to care or ability to enroll in Medicare plans during Open Enrollment. People who have concerns or experience a problem should call **1-800-MEDICARE** for assistance.

When people with Medicare receive their new card in the mail, it is important that they:

- Securely destroy their old card with the compromised Medicare number.
- Share their new Medicare number with their health care providers.
- Start using their new Medicare card right away.
- Protect their Medicare number just like a credit card.

*Taken from OSHIIP News This Week December 6, 2019*

**ATSSO OFFICE HOURS:  
8:00 A.M. – NOON (M-F)  
Phone: 988-5894 – Ext. 101**

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

## 2020 MEDICARE CHANGES

Medicare Part A and B deductibles will increase beginning January 2020.

Part:		For 2020	
<b>A</b>	Inpatient deductible	\$1408.00 per benefit period	
	Hospital Co Pay:	61-90 days	\$352.00/day
		90-150 days	\$704.00/day
<b>B</b>	*Premium:	\$144.60*	
	Deductible:	\$198.00	
	Co pays:	20%	
Skilled Nursing Co pay:	Days 21-100	\$176.00/day	

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



## 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 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.

# Beware of Social Security Scams!!

Social Security phone scams are the #1 type of fraud reported to the Federal Trade Commission and Social Security. Over the past year, these scams — misleading victims into making cash or gift card payments to avoid arrest for Social Security number problems — have skyrocketed. Social Security encourages you to use the new online form (*see box*) to report Social Security phone scams to disrupt the scammers and help us reduce this type of fraud, and reduce the number of victims.

“We are taking action to raise awareness and prevent scammers from harming Americans,” said Andrew Saul, Commissioner of Social Security. “I am deeply troubled that our country has not been able to stop these crooks from deceiving some of the most vulnerable members of our society.”

Social Security employees will occasionally contact you by telephone or mail for business purposes if you have ongoing business with the agency. However, Social Security employees will not:

- Tell you that your Social Security number has been suspended.
- Contact you to demand an immediate payment.
- Ask you for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- Require a specific means of debt repayment, like a prepaid debit card, a retail gift card, or cash.

- Demand that you pay a Social Security debt without the ability to appeal the amount you owe.
- Promise a Social Security benefit approval, or increase, in exchange for information or money.

Remember that Social Security employees will never threaten you. If there's a problem with your Social Security record, Social Security will mail you a letter. If Social Security needs you to submit payments, the agency will provide instructions in the letter, including options to make those payments

“Awareness is our best hope to thwart the scammers,” said Gail Ennis, Inspector General for Social Security. “Tell your friends and family about them and report them to us when you receive them, but most importantly, just hang up and ignore the call and protect their Medicare number just like a credit card.

Posted on November 19, 2019 by Mike Korbey, Deputy Commissioner for Communications

To report a Social Security phone scam go to the “Office of the Inspector General’s” website at:

[www.oig.ssa.gov](http://www.oig.ssa.gov)

Once there look under:

**“Report Fraud, Waste, or Abuse”**

Then select “Submit a Report” and click on the box that says:

**Report Social Security Phone Scams**