

AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Spring 2020

Vol. XXV No. 1

Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in the 4th quarter of 2019 through curbside pickup.

Bold represents yearly total.

Newspaper	13.93	50.57	#1 PET	3.06	11.09
Cardboard	21.91	79.53	#2 HDPE	1.69	6.15
Mixed Paper	44.68	162.17	#2 - #7 Plastic Mixed	1.58	5.75
Steel Cans	2.33	8.47	Aseptic Containers	0.58	2.09
Alum. Cans	0.32	1.16	Residuals	15.64	56.76
Mixed Glass	17.02	61.80	Total	122.74	445.53

*Above quantities are all listed in tons.

2.96 tons of various paper through the "ABITIBI Paper Retriever" program (**9.04 tons** = Yearly Total)

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

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!!

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

Chris Niehart..... 988-4117

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

LifeCare Ambulance, Inc.

Dave Richards..... 323-6111

Sheriff's Department 329-3710

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

Dpt Lawson's Non-Emergency/Voicemail329-3752

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.

Stang Road Resurfacing & Bridge Replacement Project

Mistake Becomes Opportunity

Amherst Township and the Lorain County Engineer planned a joint 2019 project for Stang Road. The work included the removal and replacement of the Stang Road Bridge, along with the repair and resurfacing of Stang Road from Oberlin Road easterly approximately 3300 linear feet. Only half of Stang Road was to be resurfaced in 2019, as the Township did not have the funds to complete the full length of Stang Road.

The total estimated cost of the project was estimated to be \$344,000. Amherst Township was successful in obtaining an Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) grant in the amount of \$306,160 to cover 89% of the estimated project cost. After a public bid, a construction contract in the amount of \$319,448.75 was awarded to Denes Concrete in the summer of 2019.

With the 2019 paving season quickly coming to an end, Plas Paving, who was working as a subcontractor to Denes, completed the milling of Stang Road in October. Unfortunately, they were apparently not clear on the paving limits and proceeded to mill the entire length of Stang Road from Oberlin to West Ridge, well beyond the 3300 linear feet as described in the project scope.

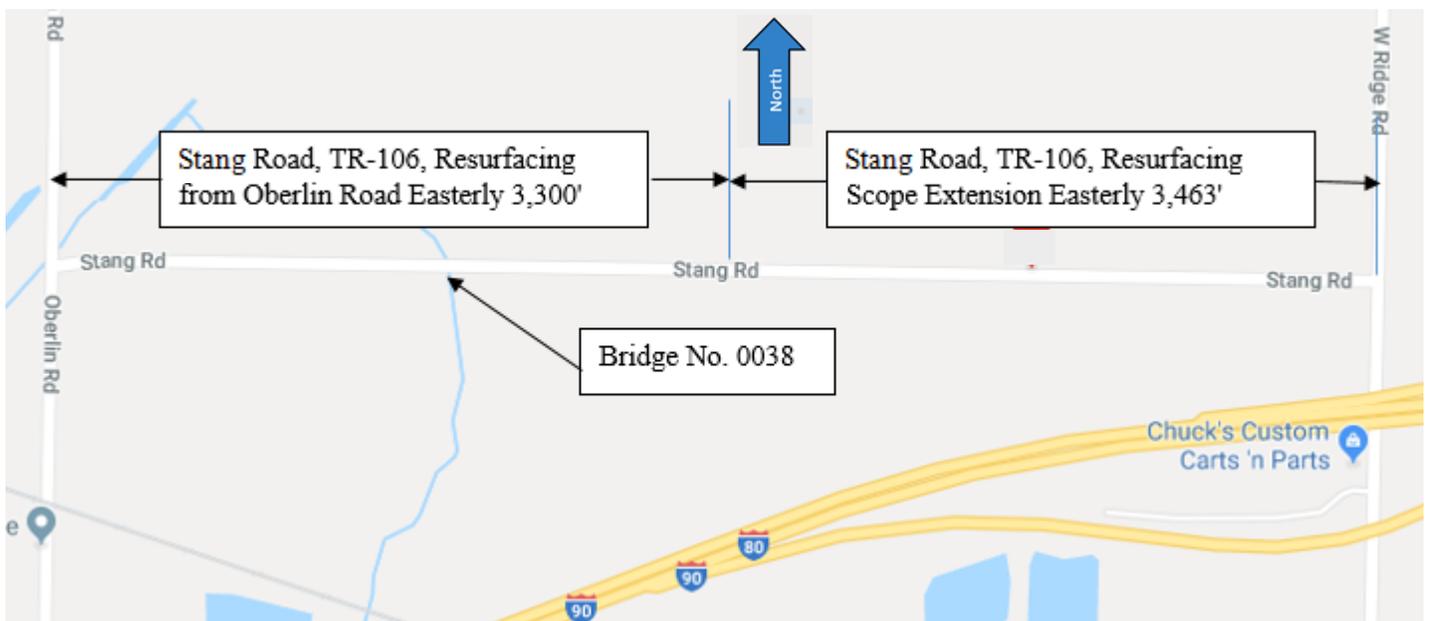
Although Plas was well aware that the error was theirs alone, the Amherst Township Board of Trustees elected to work with them to complete the

additional 3,463-ft long by 22-ft wide section of Stang Road, as the Trustees had planned to resurface this easterly section of Stang Road in 2020, depending upon available funding. The Lorain County Engineer had provided an estimate of \$132,400 to resurface this 3,463-ft section of Stang Road with a 1.5-inch overlay.

Plas agreed to pave the additional length for the materials cost only, and the Township was agreeable if the following conditions were met; 1) the OPWC District-9 Integrating Committee Agreed to the project scope expansion and agreed to provide the full 2019 grant award to Amherst Township, 2) the Township would pay only for paving materials at a cost not to exceed \$30,690.75, and 3) Plas, as a subcontractor to Denes Concrete, would not receive payment until after the Township received their first half property tax payment in 2020, so the Township could meet payroll and cash flow requirements.

All parties reached agreement, the net effect being that Amherst Township had a \$132,400 project completed at a cost of \$30,691.

The Amherst Township Board of Trustees would like to thank the Lorain County Engineer, Denes Concrete, Plas Paving, and the OPWC District-9 Integrating Committee for their cooperation in turning this mistake into an opportunity.



2020
Amherst Township
Zoning Boards

Zoning Commission Board

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

Board of Zoning Appeals

Bill Latrany – Chairman
Kirsten Hill – Vice Chair
Tari Reph – Secretary
Ron Friend – Member
Joan Whitman – Member
Rose Betchker – Alternate I
Steve Ostrolencki – Alternate II

NEW ROAD
CREW EMPLOYEE



Amherst Township would like to welcome Eddie Gonzalez to the Road Crew. Township residents will see Eddie out plowing streets, filling potholes, and maintaining the park, cemeteries, and roadside ditches.

Zoning Forms Now Online

Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) “Conditional Use” and “Variance” (Use and Area) application forms are now available to view or download online on the township’s website at www.amhersttownship.us.

After completing the form and collecting other required documentation, you are required to meet with the Zoning Inspector to verify completion and accuracy of your request. Payment is also due at that time. Checks should be made out to “Amherst Township”. Cash or credit is not accepted.

The “Fee” list can be viewed under “Zoning”. Other Permit forms available to view and download on the Township’s website include:

- Residential – Building & Additions
- Commercial – Building & Additions
- Accessory, Building, Porch, Garage, Deck, Patio, Pool, Fence, & Pond
- Signs
- Twp Roads – Ditch Enclosure & Driveway Approach Application & Permit

Please contact the Zoning Inspector, Remi Cerrone, with any questions. His office hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. He can be reached by phone at **988-5894, ext 103**. Voice Mail is checked daily.

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 **5th Annual Big Tree Contest**. This year they are looking for Lorain County's biggest Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*). Each tree will receive a score based on trunk circumference, crown spread, and total height to determine the winner.

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 4, 2020.

The 2020 **Seedling Sale** is underway and includes a variety of Evergreens, Hardwood Species, Shrubs and Perennial Wildflowers. Order pick up date is on one day only, April 17th at Grobe Fruit Farm.

The LSWCD also sells Bluebird, Wren, and Bat boxes. The boxes are built by Roger Atkinson of Grafton. The bird boxes are \$15.00 each and the bat boxes are \$20.00. They are available at the LSWCD office located at 42110 Russia Road, Elyria. They will also have stock for sale at the Seedling Sale pickup at Grobe Fruit Farm.

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

www.lorainswcd.com



In January Amherst Township had 3,000 cu/yd of yard waste ground-up and hauled away by Barnes Nursery, at a cost of \$8,700.

Internet & Cable TV Providers

Several residents have requested the Amherst Township Board of Trustees to authorize “WOW” Cable and Internet service in the Township.

The Amherst Township Board of Trustees has no authority to authorize, restrict, or regulate the cable or satellite internet and video service providers that can operate in the township.

The Ohio Department of Commerce has some authority to authorize video service in an area, as specified in Ohio Revised Code Section 1332.24.

The Township has the authority to set a video service provider (VSP) fee, defined in ORC Section 1323.32, but this fee must be applicable to all VSPs authorized to operate in an area by the Department of Commerce.

“WOW” chose to operate in the City of Amherst. Because “WOW” utilized city utility poles, they required the city’s approval for the use of the utility poles. It is possible that township residents mistakenly believe a video or internet service provider must obtain local permission to operate in an area, as they become familiar with the negotiation that occurred between the City of Amherst and “WOW” for use of city owned utility poles.

If residents desire another option for a cable or internet provider, they are encouraged to write that provider and request their service. If enough people are interested, another provider may find it worth the investment to branch out into our township.



Amherst Fire Dept’s Response to Amherst Township	4th Quarter 2019	
EMS-First Responder:	39	53%
Fire Calls:	21	28%
EMS-MVA:	14	19%
Total Calls:	74	100%

2020 CENSUS

The 2020 census is easy. The questions are simple. The questionnaire will take about 10 minutes to complete.

Responses to census questions provide a snapshot of the nation. Census results affect your voice in government, how much funding your community receives, and how your community plans for the future.

Responding is easy. To complete the census, answer a handful of questions:

- Online
- By Phone
- By Mail

Choose the option that works best for you. Responding is safe. Your personal information is kept confidential by law.

Every Person Counts! Whether it’s funding in communities across the state or helping determine the number of seats our state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives – every count makes an equal impact.

You will be asked how many people are living at your address on **Census Day, April 1, 2020**. You will be asked whether the home is rented or owned. You will be asked for a phone number in case they need to contact you. Your number will never be shared and you will only be contacted if needed for official Census Bureau business. Other items that you will be asked include name, sex, age and date of birth, Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin, Race, whether a person lives or stays somewhere else, and relationship.

When you fill out the census, you help:

- Determine how many seats your state gets in Congress.
- Inform how more than **\$675 Billion** in federal funding is distributed to states and communities each year.
- Create jobs, provide housing, prepare for emergencies, and build schools, roads, and hospitals.

For more information, visit:

2020CENSUS.GOV

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. LifeCare is now owned and operated by its employees with Dave Richards as President. They can be reached by calling 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

**PRESORTED STD.
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO.179
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 2020

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

Ways to protect yourself from Medicare errors, Fraud and Abuse

It is imperative that seniors treat their Medicare card and Social Security card like they would any other credit card. One should never give out the account numbers, especially to a solicitor on the telephone. You can also guard your card/account by not carrying it in your wallet or have the numbers written on a piece of paper and carried with you.

If you have given your Medicare or Social Security number to a caller, please contact Ohio Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) and follow the instructions at www.IdentityTheft.gov to report potential identity theft.

Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) or Explanation of Benefits (EOB) will arrive in the mail every three months and should be looked over carefully to make sure that the services charged were indeed for services rendered. Also check for double charges or items you didn't receive.

If you see any charge on your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) or Explanation of Benefits (EOB) for services you did not receive – or, for something your doctor did not order – please **call your provider** to ask for an explanation of these charges.

If the provider's explanation does not resolve your concern, please call Ohio Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) at:

1-800-488-6070

or complete the "Contact Ohio SMP" form.

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

Email: amhersttwpseniors@gmail.com

MEAL PROGRAM OPTIONS

Amherst Township's meal program ended February 28, 2020. If you are a senior citizen and would like to receive home delivered meals, below are a few organizations that service our area:

- "Amherst Office on Aging" offers a daily meal delivery. For more information or to enroll please call 440-988-2817.
- "Simply EZ" offers daily meals delivered once a week. These are vacuum sealed, ready to heat meals; just keep in the refrigerator until you want to eat. For more information or to enroll please call 1-800-800-9929.
- "Neighborhood Alliance" offers a daily meal delivery. Cost is based on income, however, there is a waiting list. For more details or to enroll please call 440-277-8269 ext 6214.

NEW TO MEDICARE?

People with Medicare Part B can get a "Welcome to Medicare" visit within the first 12 months of having Part B or a yearly "Wellness" visit if they've had Part B for longer than 12 months. For details about these visits, go to:

www.medicare.gov

SOCIAL SECURITY WEBSITE

Did you know Social Security has a website with many tools to help you navigate the system? Are you approaching retirement age? Did you know you can apply for Social Security benefits online? Do you have to pay taxes on Social Security benefits? How do you apply for Social Security retirement benefits? What is your full retirement age? The information on the social security website is abundant.

On www.ssa.gov you will find answers to the above questions and a sample of additional, available information is listed below:

- The Retirement Estimator, the Life Expectancy Calculator, and the Early or Late Retirement Calculator.
- You can apply for Social Security benefits online. This is the fastest, most convenient way to apply for retirement, disability, or Medicare benefits without visiting a local office.
- You will find information on how to get a new, replacement, or corrected card.
- Your annual earnings and review estimates of your future Social Security benefits. You will need to access your Social Security Statement located on the website.
- A Frequently Asked Questions page with answers to the most common questions those new to Social Security may have.

ILLNESS PREVENTION

It's cold and flu season again. Did you know that prevention is the BEST defense against colds and flu? What do we mean by prevention? Below we have listed some easy but important steps to preventing illness:

- Hand Washing is the #1 preventative way to keep you from getting sick. Wash your hands with soap and water for approximately 20 seconds; sing a round of Happy Birthday or the ABC's while washing.
- Use Hand Sanitizer if you can't get to soap and water immediately. Keep a small bottle in your car and or your purse. Make it a habit to use it as soon as you get in your car from shopping, pumping gas, touching public door handles, handling money, etc.
- When out shopping, use the sanitizing cart wipes before placing your hands on the handle. Wash or sanitize your hands when you are finished.
- Don't touch your face. Most of us touch our face hundreds of times throughout the day.
- Get the flu shot yearly, especially if you have any underlying medical condition that may cause you to become hospitalized should you get the flu.
- Avoid shaking hands. Either fist bump or elbow bump when you greet someone.