

# AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Summer 2020

Vol. XXV No. 2

## Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2020 through curbside pickup.

Newspaper	12.05	#1 PET	2.64
Cardboard	18.96	#2 HDPE	1.47
Mixed Paper	38.66	#2 - #7 Plastic Mixed	1.37
Steel Cans	2.02	Aseptic Containers	0.50
Alum. Cans	0.28	Residuals	13.53
Mixed Glass	14.73	Total	106.21

\* Above quantities are all listed in tons.

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

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

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:

**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. 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

Chris Niehart..... 988-4117

Email: [amhersttwpfire@gmail.com](mailto: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/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 Flooding, Backup, and Cleanliness**

Several entities are responsible for the Storm Water drainage system in Amherst Township. The Amherst Township Road Crew is responsible for maintaining over 20-miles of storm water drainage along township roads, parks and cemeteries; the Lorain County Engineer is responsible for the storm system along County Roads; the Ohio Department of Transportation is responsible for drainage along State Roads; the Ohio Turnpike Commission takes care of Turnpike drainage; and residents and businesses are responsible for drainage on their private property.

The Road Crew regularly inspects the Township drainage system for problem areas, identifying tiles clogged with tree roots and debris, failed drainage tiles, and open ditches that must be cleared and profiled. During heavy rain events, the Road Crew can be found clearing catch basins of surface debris and placing “Road Closed” signs in flooded areas. Even with regular inspection of the drainage system, sometimes there is no fix to rain events that overwhelm the storm water system. Sometimes, Mother Nature just wreaks havoc.

In the past month, the Township Road Crew has jetted through the storm sewer on Hidden Valley Drive between Briar Court and Moss Canyon. Phase Two of the Engle Ditch Restoration project is currently in process to reduce the incidence of flooding along Stang and Oberlin Roads.

Residents can help alleviate storm water flooding issues and improve the quality of storm water flowing to Lake Erie. Consider the following:

- Call 440-988-5894 to report flooding along Township roads or in your basement
- Pick up non-biodegradable trash, particularly plastics
- Clean roadside curbs in front of your home
- Clear rear yard drain grates if present on your property
- Direct roof runoff to your lawn surface versus township roadside drainage
- Recycle automotive fluids at local retail outlets that accept the fluids
- Pick up pet waste when walking your dog
- Do not drive around “Road Closed” signs

## **Yard Waste Recycling Center & Extended Summer Hours**

As a reminder to residents, the “Yard Waste Pile” that is located on the east side of Oberlin Road, directly across from the Township Hall/Garage, will be open until 8pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month, which coincides with the Trustees Meeting nights. These extended hours will continue through the summer and early fall.

The yard waste pile is for disposing of your limbs, brush, lawn clippings, and leaves. Residents are reminded to please place your empty plastic bags in the 55-gallon drum at the center, or take bags with you.

The Amherst Township Board of Trustees provides the “Yard Waste Recycling Center” service because it feels that there is a significant need for it in the township. This is not a mandated service that the township must provide.

The township has limited resources so it staffs and maintains the site as best that it can. The hours Monday through Friday correspond to the hours

when the Road Department is working. Saturday hours correspond to the hours when the Zoning Inspector is at the Township Hall. The extended hours on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays correspond to nights when there are Trustee Meetings. At these times there is someone available to open and shut the yard waste site and to watch who enters. The township lacks the resources to staff the site independently for additional hours. Furthermore, the Saturday morning and Tuesday evening hours were added by the Trustees in recognition that many residents would have difficulty with the Monday thru Friday daytime schedule.

This service is not free. The township spends thousands of dollars each year to have the yard waste ground and hauled away. This is in addition to the wages paid to the Road Department to supervise the site, sort and pile the waste, and otherwise maintain the site. The hours the Road Department spends on the yard waste are hours spent away from the roads.

# Ohio's Laws on Noxious Weeds

“Noxious weeds” are plants that can injure agricultural crops and livestock due to their invasiveness, toxicity and other harmful characteristics. They can also negatively impact people and ecosystems. Like most states, Ohio has established processes for minimizing the negative impacts of noxious weeds.

## ***Designation of noxious weeds***

The director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture conducts rulemaking to designate a plant as a prohibited noxious weed. The list of plants formally designated as “prohibited noxious weeds” is in the Ohio Administrative Code and can be viewed at:

<http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/901:5-37-01>

A helpful OSU identification guide of Ohio noxious weeds is available at:

<https://osu.pb.unizin.org/ohionoxiousweeds>

## ***Noxious weeds along public roadways***

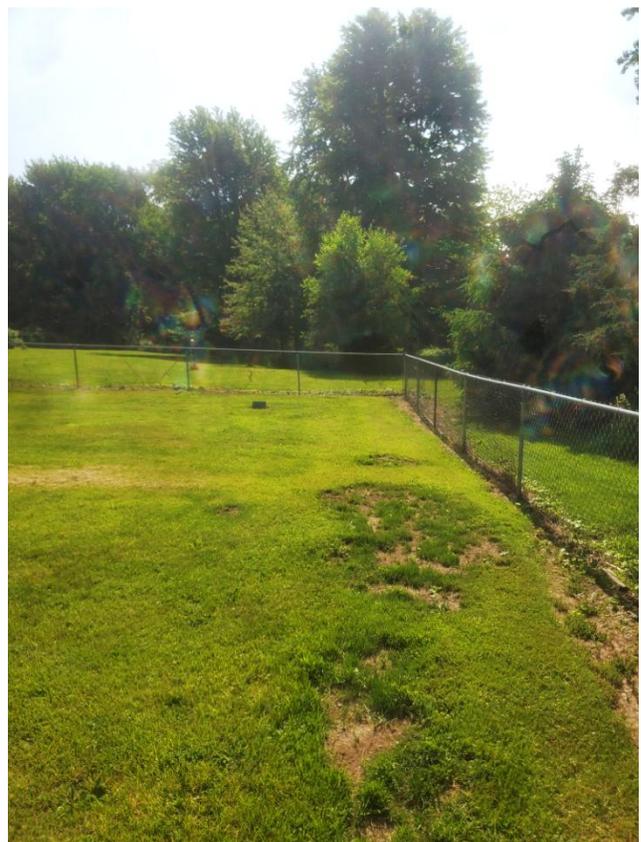
Ohio law requires counties, townships, and municipalities to cut or destroy all noxious weeds, brush, briars, burrs, and vines growing along roads and streets within their jurisdictions. Cutting of the vegetation must occur every year between June 1 and 20, August 1 and 20, and if necessary, September 1 and 20, or whenever it's necessary to destroy the vegetation to prevent or eliminate a safety hazard.

All expenses incurred for cutting or destroying the weeds shall be paid for by the entity that owns the roadway. The “Township Road Fund” pays for all township roads.

(see ORC §5579.04 and ORC§5579.08)

The Amherst Township Road Crew attempts to complete roadside mowing of noxious weeds just prior to Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day, with additional mowing as required.

(Adapted from “Ohio Township News”, May/June 2019)



The Amherst Township Road Department does regular roadside mowing to control noxious weeds in the township. They recently removed weeds at Kendeigh Cemetery as shown in the before and after photos above.

## **RESIDENTIAL PARKING**

Township roads are not intended to be a parking lot.

We understand that residents are going to have visitors and there may not be enough spots in their driveway. This occasional parking on the street is acceptable. But there are too many people who are parking their vehicles on the street on a regular, daily basis. This makes it difficult for neighbors trying to back out of their drives and it restricts the free flow of traffic. It is of great concern when this restriction inhibits the movement of emergency vehicles as well as township vehicles that are trying to plow snow, salt, or patch the streets.

There has been discussion about putting in “limited / no parking” regulations to insure that the streets are clear. However, at this point the trustees are reluctant to adopt such regulations, which would be enforced by the Sheriff Department by the fining of township residents. The Trustees ask residents to voluntarily comply.

The preference is that people would park in the driveways, which most people do.

We appreciate your understanding and efforts to comply.

## **COMMERCIAL VEHICLE PARKING ON RESIDENTIAL STREETS PROHIBITED**

On February 22, 2011, the Amherst Township Trustees passed a Resolution prohibiting the parking of commercial vehicles with a gross vehicle weight of 10,000 lbs. or greater on all Designated Roads. The list of designated roads can be viewed on the Township’s website under the “Resolutions” section.

With public safety in mind, the Board of Trustees determined that it was necessary to prohibit Commercial Vehicle parking in order to reduce the mingling of commercial traffic with pedestrian traffic on streets without street lights and sidewalks. Further, it will eliminate the physical obstruction and the obstruction of view on township roads that is caused by parking these commercial vehicles on the roads. The Board of Trustees also wishes to limit truck traffic in residential neighborhoods, excessive wear and tear on township roads, and the loss of residential character, all caused by the traveling to park and the parking of commercial vehicles on those roads.

Violation of these regulations is a minor misdemeanor. The fines that are levied and collected under these regulations shall be paid into the township general fund.

## **Sheriff’s Office Joins “Neighbors by Ring” App**

Lorain County Sheriff Phil Stammitti announced his office has joined the “Neighbors by Ring” app in efforts to reduce crime in the county.

The app will allow the Sheriff’s Office to inform the community of real-time crime and safety events. It allows the user to “see something, share something” directly with the Sheriff’s Office.

The user has to provide permission to the Sheriff’s Office through the app for the video. At no time will the Sheriff’s Office be able to monitor live feeds from the users’ device.

You do not need “Ring” devices to participate; anyone with any camera system can upload content to the “Neighbors by Ring” app. Lorain County residents are encouraged to spread the word and may download the app on mobile phones by texting “**stay safe**” to **555888**.

Crime or suspicious activity may be reported at any time by calling the Lorain County Sheriff’s Office at 440-329-3709 or 911 only in an emergency.

Further questions about the app may be directed to Lt. Robert Vansant at 440-329-3880.

*(Article from the Chronicle Telegram)*

## **LCSWD MINI-GRANT**

For the fourth 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 six catch basins in Hidden Valley; two are located at 910 & 911 Moonstone Drive, two at 7270 Hidden Glenn, and two at the intersection of Deer Run and Hidden Glenn. Total estimated cost of this project is \$9200.

Deteriorating catch basins are causing erosion issues for adjoining properties and streets, allowing sediment to wash into the storm sewer system draining to the Beaver Creek watershed, causing loss of value and environmental concerns.

# GRANT APPROVED

Amherst Township continues to apply for “Community Grants” through the Lorain County Storm Water District to help fund the township’s Storm Water Management Program projects. These grants are offered each year to townships through a competitive application process to fix stormwater issues. The projects help protect and preserve stormwater control infrastructure as well as reduce the frequency and severity of flooding.

The Lorain County Commissioners recently approved six “Community Grants” which included the Storm Water Management Project for Amherst Township. This year’s project is designated as “Engle Ditch Phase 3 Restoration Project”.



Amherst Fire Dept’s Response to Amherst Township	1st Quarter 2020	
<b>EMS-First Responder:</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>66%</b>
<b>Fire Calls:</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>EMS-MVA:</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>Total Calls:</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100%</b>



## Message Etiquette



When leaving a voice message with the township staff and/or trustees, please remember to state your name and phone number clearly and slowly. While you may be familiar with your name and number and can rattle-it-off quickly, others are not. Your call cannot be returned if this information cannot be understood.

When leaving a message, you should first state your name and number, then a brief description of why you are calling, followed by repeating your name and number. This will help ensure that your call is returned.

# A “Special” Parade for Colton



Amherst Township resident Colton Nicoloff turned 4 years old on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Colton is a “wish kid” in the “A Special Wish Foundation”, which works to make dreams come true for kids with life-threatening illnesses. To celebrate his special birthday, over 110 cars, trucks, motorcycles, and emergency vehicles lined up to drive by his home and wish him a “Happy Birthday”. The Chronicle Telegram ran an extensive article about Colton in their April 5<sup>th</sup> edition.



# 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.

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Amherst Township  
7530 Oberlin Road  
Elyria, OH 44035  
[www.amhersttownship.us](http://www.amhersttownship.us)

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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:** 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.

## 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.

## "Welcome to Medicare" Webinars

Turning 65? New to Medicare? Join OSHIIP (*Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program*) for a "Welcome to Medicare" webinar. Webinars are offered on several dates and times throughout 2020. Select the one that works best for you. The dates and times can be found by logging into the website below:

<https://insurance.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odi/consumers>

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

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

## TELEHEALTH

"Telehealth" is the practice of treating patients via technology. Appointments can be completed by phone or computer; in person appointments are not necessary.

Medicare recently expanded coverage for beneficiaries to include "Telehealth" services from their providers. However, as "Telehealth" expands, so does the exposure to fraud.

Following are a few ways to protect yourself from "Telehealth" fraud:

- Call YOUR provider to schedule your "Telehealth" appointment.
- If you receive a phone call from someone offering you free testing, treatment, or supplies – It's a SCAM! Hang up!
- Protect your Medicare Card: Do not give out your Medicare number to anyone other than your doctor or health care provider.
- Review your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) for improper billing and items that appear that you didn't order or receive.

# Fraud Protection Tips: Facts Vs. Fiction

The economy may be shut down, but business is booming in the fraud arena. Americans are finding themselves at war with fraudsters. The following are just a few of the current frauds related to the COVID-19 pandemic according to the North Dakota's Senior Medicare Patrol (**SMP**):

## • COVID-19 Prevention Pill and Cure:

This scam solicits investments in a company that pushes pills and cures, claiming they can cure patients within two to three days. A scammer posted a video on an "Instagram account showing himself taking the pill and then walking into an area with COVID-infected individuals stating that he would not get the virus.

## • Coronavirus Medical Kit:

Operators of a fraud scheme, as published on their website, offered consumers access to World Health Organization (WHO) vaccine kits in exchange for a shipping charge of \$4.95, which consumers paid by entering credit card information on the website. Understandably, Americans are desperate to find solutions to keep their families safe and healthy. Fraudsters are seeking to profit from fear and uncertainty by defrauding consumers and committing identity theft.

## • Virus Pesticide:

A company claimed that it could reduce the risk of COVID-19 infections in public spaces with the new generation of fungicide which reduces transmissions by 90%. Upon investigation, it was

found that the fungicide was being imported from Japan and was illegal to distribute in the U.S.

## • Covid19/Genetic Testing:

A company marketing medically unnecessary genetic testing schemes saw the pandemic as an opportunity to expand on the existing scam, capitalizing on people's fears and using the national emergency for financial gain. The tests were bundled with expensive respiratory pathogen panels with the company receiving kick-backs on a per-test basis. The company marketed the hard to obtain COVID-19 tests, conspiring to bilk citizens of a valuable resource that was in high demand by the medical community.

*Posted By: Steve Urness, May 12, 2020  
BISMARCK, N.D. (NewsDakota.com)*

## Protect Yourself From COVID-19 Scams

Scams related to the coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, are rapidly increasing as the public health emergency develops.

If you believe you have been scammed by a COVID-19 scam, contact the Ohio "Senior Medicare Patrol" (**Ohio SMP**) by calling:

**1-800-488-6070** (ask for Lisa)  
or 513-458-5515.

You can also "Report Fraud Scams" and find more information by visiting their website at: "[ohiosmp.org](http://ohiosmp.org)".