

# AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Fall 2020

Vol. XXV No. 3

## Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020 through curbside pickup.

Newspaper	14.46	#1 PET	3.17
Cardboard	22.74	#2 HDPE	1.76
Mixed Paper	46.36	#2 - #7 Plastic Mixed	1.64
Steel Cans	2.42	Aseptic Containers	0.60
Alum. Cans	0.33	Residuals	16.23
Mixed Glass	17.67	Total	127.37

\* Above quantities are all listed in tons.

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

-----There were no dumpster days in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter due to COVID-19, 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. See inside article for restrictions due to COVID-19!!

**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..... (work cell) 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.....(cell) 597-0005

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

## 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.**

• **NEW!!**: Trustee Meetings are viewable online on the "Meetings" page of the Township website or through the "Amherst Township" channel on YouTube.



# Stormwater Awareness Week

October 18-24, 2020

Help us improve water quality in our local streams and lakes by adopting one of these activities during stormwater awareness week!

1. Only rain down the drain: Storm drains carry rain water directly into our streams. Stormwater also picks up trash, fertilizers, and other contaminants resulting in the degradation of water quality. Reduce pollutants entering our water bodies by keeping storm drains free of chemicals, trash, and debris. This will also help with flooding!
2. Reduce the amount of stormwater leaving your property: Install a rain barrel, rain garden, or establish native plants and trees to soak up stormwater and filter out pollutants.
3. Responsible Fertilizing: Get a soil test to determine the correct amount of fertilizer to apply to your lawn, check the weather for heavy rain before fertilizing, and sweep any fertilizer that ends up on the driveway or sidewalk during application back into the lawn.

For more information including the Fall Fish Sale, the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Big Tree Contest (Sugar Maple), and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Photo Contest, visit the Lorain Soil and Water Conservation website at:

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



## 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 contact Amherst Township's Fire Prevention Officer Chris Niehart of the Amherst City Fire Department by cell at:

**440-597-0005**

**\*\*\*New phone number\*\*\***

**for "Amherst Fire Prevention Bureau"**

or by email at [amhersttwfire@gmail.com](mailto:amhersttwfire@gmail.com) 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.

For more information about Ohio's Open Burning Regulations, read the Ohio EPA's brochure at:

[www.epa.state.oh.us/portals/47/facts/openburn.pdf](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/portals/47/facts/openburn.pdf)



### NEW ROOFS FOR DUGOUTS



Volunteers from the "Ohio Rebels" Softball and Baseball organizations received donations to make improvements to the ball field dugouts at the Amherst Township Middle Ridge Road Park. The existing roofs were replaced on the dugouts of the small ball field and new roofs will be built on to the dugouts of the larger ball field.

These roofs were made possible by donations made from the following: P.J. Sanitation, Ron Yacobozzi, Paul Sliman, Richard Rice, Tom Oster, and Denny Abraham. Amherst Township would like to thank all those that donated!!

# Dumpster Days and Coronavirus (COVID-19)

October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of 2020, 7:00am to 3:30pm

The Spring Dumpster Days were cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness caused by a virus called SARS-CoV-2. Symptoms often include cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell. Our understanding of how the virus spreads is evolving as we learn more about it, so check the CDC website for the latest information. The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.

Based upon current information provided by the CDC and Lorain County Public Health, the Trustees have decided to hold the Fall 2020 Dumpster Days event, but have implemented some safety precaution rules to protect the health and safety of our employees, contractors and you.

## 2020 Fall Dumpster Days Coronavirus Safety Precaution Rules:

1. Stay home if you are sick or have any of the above listed symptoms.
2. Pack materials in your truck bed, car trunk, or on a trailer.
3. Do not place scrap items next to personal belongings.
4. Provide proof of Amherst Township Residency if requested (Ohio ID, Utility Bill, etc.).
5. Maintain 6-foot social distance from workers at drop-off location.
6. Face coverings are recommended.
7. Separate yard waste from bulk items.

As always, the following items are prohibited during the Dumpster Days event: appliances with Freon, fuel tanks, motor oil, fuel drums, household hazardous waste, antifreeze, paint thinners, pesticides, pool chemicals, commercial waste or electronics, and tires.

If disposing of household appliances, please ensure they are empty of their contents and wiped clean; remove glass trays from microwaves; and secure the doors with tape before dropping them off at the dumpster location

A contractor has been selected to operate the 2020 Fall Dumpster Days event to minimize exposure of Amherst Township employees. Your cooperation in following these common sense rules, and any verbal commands provided by the contractor, will help protect the health and safety of our employees, contractors and you.

## 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.

## LORAIN COUNTY COLLECTION CENTER

The Lorain County Commissioners are pleased to announce the continued operation of the Collection Center and Tire Sites with restrictions due to COVID-19 for **September 2020**. The Lorain County Collection Center located at 540 S. Abbe Rd., Elyria will continue limited operations on Wednesdays from 12pm to 6pm and Saturdays from 9am-3pm. The Lorain Tire Site, located at 114 E 35th Street, Lorain will be open on Tuesdays from 9am to 1pm. The Grafton Tire Site located at 17109 Avon Belden Rd, Grafton will be open on Saturdays from 9am to 1pm. All hours are subject to change for all sites; please check the website for the most up-to-date hours. When packing your vehicle, all

materials to be dropped off should be in the rear compartment or truck bed of the vehicle (no materials in the front or rear seat) and do not place other personal items by items to be dropped off. Once at the Collection Center or tire sites, participants must remain in their vehicles at all times and facial coverings are required to be serviced. Staff at the Collection Center or tire sites will request to visually see your ID to prove Lorain County residency. Wait times may be longer than usual, so please plan accordingly. Future operating schedules will be evaluated by the end of September. For more information call (440) 329-5111 or visit their website at:

[www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste](http://www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste)



Back in 2017, Pete and Herb de la Porte and Dave Richards started on a journey to begin to discuss the next chapter in the story called “LifeCare”. Both Pete and Herb were wanting to focus on other things in their lives, and it was time to figure out how LifeCare could sustain itself as they (Pete and Herb) transitioned out.

The trio all agreed that they needed to find a way forward that allowed LifeCare to keep its culture and identity intact. They explored many options, and ultimately landed on going with an “employee owned” model called an ESOP (Employee Stock Option Plan).

This would allow the company over time to use its profits to pay the value out to Pete and Herb as well as to allow the ownership group (the employees) to retain and have gains on the value that they would create together.

The trio set a “go live” date of January 1, 2019. However, they had a couple bumps along the way but managed to put the ESOP in place on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2019.

LifeCare has been in this model now for over 14 months.

Each person at LifeCare now earns their shares in LifeCare on a “year-to-year” basis based on the proportion that they work at LifeCare. Those shares have a value that can go up or down based on the value of the company, very similar to publicly traded stocks, with one difference, only “employed” LifeCare employees can own shares in LifeCare. When a person leaves LifeCare, their vested shares in LifeCare are paid out to them. The average employee will earn \$50,000-\$75,000 over the course of 20 years. That assumes that value of LifeCare shares will stay the same. If the value of LifeCare goes up over those years, then the value that the ownership group (the employees) create is also given at the time of retirement.

LifeCare can be reached by calling 323-6111. To learn more about their services, visit them at:

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

Amherst Fire Dept’s Response To Amherst Township	2nd Quarter 2020	
Fire Calls (N of Turnpike):	19	26%
Fire Calls (S of Turnpike):	10	13%
EMS-First Responder (N):	33	45%
EMS-First Responder (S):	12	16%
<b>Total Calls:</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 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.

## Trustee Meetings Now Online

Amherst Township Trustee Meetings are now available to view online starting with the August 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. They can be viewed on the Amherst Township website under the “Meetings” tab at:

[www.amhersttownship.us](http://www.amhersttownship.us)

Meeting videos can also be found on “You Tube” at the Amherst Township channel. Subscribe to the channel to be notified when a new meeting has been posted.



## 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.



## REMEMBER TO VOTE!



- This year’s general election will be on Tuesday, **November 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Polls will be open from 6:30 am to 7:30 pm. Please remember to bring your identification with you to the polls.
- In-person Absentee voting begins on Tuesday, **October 6<sup>th</sup>**. This type of voting is done at the Lorain County Board of Elections (LCBOE) located at 1985 North Ridge Road East, Lorain. Dates and hours for this type of voting can be found by going to the LCBOE website and selecting the “Office Hours” tab and scrolling down to the October/November 2020 calendar.
- Mail-In Absentee voting is a two-step process. You must first complete an “Absentee Ballot Request Form” and return it to the LCBOE. If you did not receive this request form in the mail, it can be found on the LCBOE website. After receiving and processing your absentee request, the LCBOE will mail a “Voted Absentee Ballot” to you. Completed “Absentee Ballot Request Forms” and “Voted Absentee Ballots” can be:
  - Mailed to the LCBOE;
  - Dropped off at the LCBOE office; or
  - Placed in Lorain County’s drop box located just off of the parking lot on the north side of the Board of Elections building. The drop box is available 24/7 and is monitored by video surveillance.

“Absentee Ballot Request Forms” can be completed and turned in at any time. “Voted Absentee Ballots” will be mailed out starting Tuesday, **October 6<sup>th</sup>**. If you return your “Voted Absentee Ballot” by mail, it must be postmarked no later than the day before Election Day and received by your county board of elections no later than 10 days after the election.

Please exercise your right to vote. The LCBOE 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 new website at:

[www.voteloraincountyohio.gov](http://www.voteloraincountyohio.gov)

The website includes various information including Register/Update Your Registration; Voter Registration Status; Absentee Ballot Status; Polling Place Lookup; Sample Ballot; Issue Text; and Absentee Ballot Request Form.



# TRICK OR TREAT



“Trick-or-Treat” in Amherst Township will be held on **Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 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 Township.

The City of Amherst Fire Department has cancelled the “Costume Contest” and “Halloween Parade” this year.

## HALLOWEEN SAFETY

Tips for a safe Halloween during COVID-19 from your local health department, L.C. Public Health.

### FOR PARENTS:

- Have children wash hands before eating treats.
- Bring hand sanitizer and a flashlight.
- Eat only factory-wrapped treats. Avoid homemade treats made by strangers.

**GET CREATIVE:** If you don’t feel comfortable trick-or-treating this year, host a virtual costume party instead.

### FOR TRICK-OR-TREATERS:

- Design and wear a cloth face covering.
- Trick-or-treat with only your household instead of with a large group this year.
- Wear reflective clothing.
- Only walk on sidewalks, or on the far edge of the road facing traffic.

### IF GIVING OUT TREATS:

- Wash hands or use hand sanitizer often – even if you’re wearing gloves.
- Wear a cloth face covering over your nose and mouth.
- Keep your distance when giving out treats.
- Avoid having kids grab treats from a bowl.

**GET CREATIVE:** For a fun way to keep your distance, build a candy slide with PVC pipes to give out treats.

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Amherst Township  
7530 Oberlin Road  
Elyria, OH 44035  
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.

## MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT

This year, Open Enrollment for the 2021 plan year starts October 15<sup>th</sup> and ends December 7<sup>th</sup>.

During open enrollment time, seniors are encouraged to compare their present prescription plan with plans offered for 2021, however, all “face to face” Medicare counseling is cancelled through the end of the year per the Ohio Department of Insurance. The Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program (**OSHIIP**), a division of the Department of Insurance, will conduct virtual “Medicare Check-Up Day Webinars” prior to the start of Open Enrollment.

Webinars will be held Monday through Thursday, September 14 through October 14. Sessions are available at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. each day with an additional 6:00 p.m. session on Wednesdays.

**\*Monday webinars will focus on “MyCare Ohio” plans.**

To view a complete listing of “Medicare Check-Up Day Webinars”, visit OSHIIP's Registration page at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/4987248812118591502>

➤ **Participants will need a computer, reliable internet, and a phone.**

**ATSSO OFFICE HOURS:**

**8:00 A.M. – NOON (M-F)**

**Phone: 988-5894 – Ext. 101**

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

Medicare beneficiaries may also schedule a one-on-one counseling virtual session with an OSHIIP representative through Medicare's online scheduling portal at:

<https://ohiomedicarecounseling.as.me>

or by calling Lynda Ashley at the Amherst Township Senior Service Office at 988-5894 Ext. 101.

### **During Medicare's annual Open Enrollment, Ohioans 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. “Part D” and “Medicare Advantage” plans can change every year. The plan that was best for you in 2020 may not be the best plan for you in 2021. (**\*This is the first open enrollment period that people with “End-Stage Kidney Failure” [ESRD] may enroll into a “Medicare Advantage” plan for 2021.**)

- Determine if their existing coverage will continue to meet their health insurance needs.
- Learn more about recent Medicare updates and financial assistance programs that help pay prescription drug costs and “Part B” premiums by attending a virtual “Medicare Check-Up Day Webinar”.

Those unable to attend a “Medicare Check-Up Day Webinar” can contact OSHIIP at: **1-800-686-1578**

Mon. thru Fri. – 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.,  
or

Medicare at **1-800-MEDICARE** (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Information, including specific plan details, is available at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).

## Protecting against Fraud and Identity Theft

During open enrollment, Department of Insurance Interim Director Tynesian Dorsey advises Ohioans to be aware of predatory sales practices and Medicare scams, such as unsolicited calls from scammers asking for personal information, such as your Social Security number or Medicare number. If consumers suspect wrongdoing, they should call the department's “Fraud and Enforcement Hotline” at:

**1-800-686-1527**

or the “Senior Medicare Patrol” at:

**1-800-488-6070**

For more insurance tips and information, visit [www.insurance.ohio.gov](http://www.insurance.ohio.gov) or call the “Department of Insurance” at:

**1-800-686-1526**

Mon. thru Fri. – 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., to speak to a representative.

For additional information, follow the department on **Facebook** and **Twitter**.

*\*\*taken from Ohio Department of Insurance’s Press Release on September 8, 2020 titled “Virtual Medicare Check-Up Days”*

## SEASONAL FLU

Get your flu shot each year for your best protection through the peak flu season in Northeast Ohio. To make an appointment for a flu shot in November, call LCPH vaccine clinics at **440-284-3206**.

For more information about Lorain County Public Health Vaccine Clinics visit their website at:

[www.loraincounyhealth.com/vaccines](http://www.loraincounyhealth.com/vaccines)

The Lorain County Health Department is located at 9880 South Murray Ridge Road, Elyria. Their phone number is **440-322-6367** and hours of operation are Mon. thru Fri. from 8 am to 4:30 pm.

## 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 fridge 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, but, there is a waiting list. For more details or to enroll please call 440-277-8269 ext 6214.