

# AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Winter 2022

Vol. XXVII No. 4

## Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2022 through curbside pickup.

Newspaper	0.00	#1 PET	6.69
Cardboard	30.76	#2 HDPE Natural	1.34
Mixed Paper	46.81	# HDPE Color	1.34
Steel Cans	2.68	#3 - #7 Plastic Mixed	0.00
Alum. Cans	2.68	Residuals	22.74
Mixed Glass	18.73	Total	133.75

\* Above quantities are all listed in tons.

- 2.617 tons of various paper through the Royal Oak Recycling “Paper Retriever” bin
- There were no dumpster days in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, therefore no scrap metal.

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

## “2023” Dumpster Days

Amherst Township has set the following dates for “Dumpster Days” in 2023.

**April 20, 21, 22**

**October 19, 20, 21**

Hours are from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Please note: **NO FREON or PROPANE TANKS!**

**\*NO TIRES or HAZARDOUS WASTE!**

\*Tires and Hazardous Waste are not accepted. Please take these items to LC Collection Center & Tire Sites! For a list of their acceptable and prohibited items visit: [www.loraincountyohio.gov](http://www.loraincountyohio.gov) (Government/Departments/Solid Waste Management District/Lorain County Collection Center)

## 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.

## 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 ..... **Ext. 103**  
Sam D’Ambrosio, 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

## Twp Administrator/Senior Service Office

Lynda Ashley ..... **Ext. 101**  
Email: [amhersttwp@gmail.com](mailto:amhersttwp@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.

Kim Mason or Michelle Skinner..... 323-6111

## Sheriff’s Department ..... 329-3710

A.T. Community Policing Officer: **Brandon Bargaheiser**  
Dpt. Bargaheiser’s Non-Emergency/Voicemail .... 329-3752  
Email: [bbargaheiser@loraincountysheriff.com](mailto:bbargaheiser@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.**

•Trustee Meetings are viewable online on the “Meetings” page of the Township website or through the “Amherst Township” channel on YouTube.

# RAILROAD QUIET ZONE

Did you know approximately 80 trains travel through Amherst and Amherst Township on the Norfolk Southern railroad tracks every day? Federal regulation requires that locomotive horns begin sounding 15–20 seconds before entering public highway-rail grade crossings, no more than one-quarter mile in advance. Train horns must be sounded in a standardized pattern of 2 long, 1 short and 1 long blasts. The pattern must be repeated or prolonged until the lead locomotive or lead cab car occupies the grade crossing. Federal regulations mandate the maximum volume level for the train horn is 110-decibels and the minimum sound level remains 96-decibels at 100-foot distance from the track along the quarter mile horn blast corridor, exceeding the 85-decibel(A) EPA and OSHA exposure limit.

Residents in Amherst and Amherst Township, along with neighboring communities, have approached their elected leaders for relief from the frequent and loud train horns, requesting the establishment of a Quiet Zone. The City of Amherst hired “Quiet Zone Consulting, LLC” from Wisconsin to help establish a Railroad Quiet Zone. It became apparent that to have an effective Quiet Zone in the City of Amherst, the City would require the cooperation of Brownhelm Township and Amherst Township, as the Cooper-Foster Crossing in Brownhelm Township and the Dewey and Oberlin Road crossings in Amherst Township impact the City. For a Quiet Zone to be effective in Amherst Township, the Township required the cooperation of the City of Elyria and the Lorain County Engineer to implement supplemental safety measures at the West Ridge Road Crossing. The City of Elyria would like to extend the Quiet Zone throughout the City, which necessitates the cooperation of Elyria Township at the Murray Ridge crossing, but has some additional hurdles at the Abbe Road crossing that must be addressed first. These six political entities decided to work cooperatively in creating a 10.1-mile, 8-Crossing Quiet Zone from Brownhelm Township through the City of Elyria, impacting approximately 25,000 people within the 1-mile train horn sounding lane. Because changes at the Abbe Road crossing require significantly more time in evaluating various solutions, the consultant recommended creating two Quiet Zones, a 5.4-mile, 5-crossing Quiet Zone from Cooper-Foster to West Ridge Road, and a 4.7-mile, 3-crossing Quiet Zone from West Ridge to Abbe Road. Upon determining the best solution for the Abbe Road crossing, the City

of Elyria will apply for a Quiet Zone, resulting in a continuous railroad Quiet Zone from Brownhelm Township to Olmstead Falls.

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is the only entity that has the ability to approve quiet zones, and the public authorities of the communities are the only entities that can petition the FRA for a quiet zone. A quiet zone must be at least 0.5 miles long and each crossing must be equipped with:

- Lights and Gates
- Power Out indicator on bungalow
- Constant Warning Time.

There are five (5) grade-level crossings where the train horns are impacting the quality of life for residents in the City of Amherst and Amherst Township; Cooper-Foster, Crosse, Dewey, Oberlin and West Ridge Roads. All of these crossings are equipped with the items listed above.

The FRA train horn rule provides localities nationwide with the opportunity to establish quiet zones. To qualify, communities wishing to establish quiet zones must equip proposed grade crossings with adequate additional safety measures (Supplemental Safety Measures or “SSM’s”) to overcome the decrease in safety created by silencing the train horns. Based upon Motor Vehicle Traffic counts, Motor Vehicle Accident experience and the type of SSM selected, the FRA provides a calculation for a Quiet Zone Risk Index (QZRI). If the QZRI with SSM is better than the QZRI with train horns, the FRA should approve a community Quiet Zone. The SSM’s selected by the communities indicate a significantly improved QZRI.

All Quiet Zone Declaration information was sent certified mail to the Federal Rail Administration and Norfolk Southern on November 18, 2022. The consultant has indicated the FRA is dealing with a backlog of Quiet Zone request, so it is unknown when the FRA will make a decision, but we are hopeful the train horns will cease early in 2023.

Many thanks are due to the cooperation of the communities of Amherst, Brownhelm and Elyria Townships, the Lorain County Engineer, and the Cities of Amherst and Elyria. A special thank you to all the residents whose persistence, help and patience in ushering this Quiet Zone project through the process will improve the quality of life for their friends, neighbors and families.

## OPWC “ROUND 37”

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, the OPWC (Ohio Public Works Commission) District 9 Integrating Committee announced their approval for “Round 37” projects.

Amherst Township submitted two projects for OPWC “Round 37” Grant assistance, but only got approval for one of their projects. The “Moss Canyon Drive Concrete Replacement” is now on the “unfunded list” and in all likelihood will not be funded in 2023.

The “Oberlin Road Resurfacing – Middle Ridge Road to North Ridge Road” project was approved. This project includes approximately 5,100 feet of roadway at an estimated cost of \$246,000 with **\$121,800** in grant funds, **\$23,200** in a 0% interest 12-year term OPWC loan, and **\$101,000** in local funds. The township has applied for ARPA Grant funds from the Lorain County Commissioners who have committed to provide funding to assist the township in matching funds for the repaving of Oberlin Road.

The process now moves to the State where they generally follow District 9 Integrating Committee’s recommendations as long as the funds are available. State approval and funds are usually announced in early July. The township will then accept bids for this project. Construction of this project should happen in 2023.

\*\*\*\*\*

## POWER OUTAGES

Customers should always let FirstEnergy know if they are experiencing an outage, even if a neighbor has already reported it. Report your outage and stay informed throughout the restoration process using any of these methods:

- Online by logging into your online account to view the status of a reported outage, or to view the outage map.
- Text **OUT** to 544487 (LIGHTS) to report an outage via text message. Text **STAT** to 544487 to receive an update for your reported outage. If you’re not enrolled in text messaging, text **REG** to 544487 to get started.
- By phone, call 1-888-LIGHTSS (1-888-544-4877)

Call 911 immediately if you see a downed power line. Assume all downed lines are energized and dangerous. Downed power lines can energize the ground and nearby objects. Stay at least 30 feet away from any downed or low-hanging power line and any other object that could be energized.

## NEW ROAD CREW EMPLOYEE



Amherst Township would like to welcome Russell Rittenour to the Road Crew. Russell began working for the township near the end of October. Township residents will see Russell out plowing streets, filling potholes, and maintaining the park, cemeteries, and roadside ditches. Please welcome Russell to the township if you see him out and about.

## Permit Fees To Increase

We’ve all experienced the affect of inflation. As costs have increased to the township, the Board of Trustees will be evaluating adjustments to permit fees at the 2023 Organizational Meeting. Although fee adjustments and effective dates have not yet been finalized, you might wish to apply for your permit sooner, rather than later, if you plan to install a fence, pool, accessory building or other item requiring a zoning permit within the next three months. This will ensure you pay the current permit fee versus the future increased fees.



THE OHIO TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION

# 2023 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The OTA is excited to announce the 2023 OTA Scholarship Application will open September 15, 2022! This year, **we will be awarding five high school seniors \$1,500 each** for their future education. Since 2005, the scholarship has provided support to high school seniors residing in Ohio's townships and show excellence in their communities and schools.

In addition to the four scholarship opportunities, this year we are excited to introduce a brand-new scholarship for a student who plans to attend a trade or vocational school in Ohio for their career.

#### Eligibility:

- Must be a high school senior;
- Have at least a "B" average (cumulative) or equivalent overall GPA;
- Be a U.S. citizen and a resident of a township in Ohio; and
- Must plan to attend a university, training program, or vocational school in Ohio.

*If you have any questions, please reach out to Nicole Ganim, Director of Communications, at [ganim@ohiotownships.org](mailto:ganim@ohiotownships.org). The scholarship review panel only selects winners and cannot answer questions regarding the scholarship or application process.*

## 2023 OTA Scholarship Options

**Academic Achievement (2):** For a student who excels academically. To qualify, a student must have a cumulative "B" average and at least a 22 ACT or 1000 SAT.

**Local Government Achievement (2):** For a student who demonstrates outstanding citizenship through service and participation in community activities.

**\*NEW\* Trade School Scholarship (1):** For an excellent student who is choosing to attend a vocational or trade school. To qualify, a student must have a cumulative "B" average and complete the scholarship questionnaire.

## Application Process

#### For all scholarship applications:

- Complete the online application form
- Submit a state of activities, honors, and leadership accomplishments
- Submit official copy of your transcript, including any ACT/SAT test scores (test scores optional for trade scholarship application)
- Two letters of recommendation from teachers and/or community leaders
- Applicants must attend at least one official meeting of township officials and complete the attendance form with signatures from at least two elected officials

#### Additional requirements:

##### Academic Achievement:

Write a 500 word (max) essay describing the importance of local government.

##### Local Government:

Write a 500 word (max) essay describing a community project/event that made an impact on your life.

##### Trade School:

Complete the questionnaire to be submitted with your application.

**Scholarship application period will run from September 1<sup>st</sup> - January 31<sup>st</sup>.  
Go to [www.ohiotownships.org/scholarship-program](http://www.ohiotownships.org/scholarship-program) to learn more and apply!**

**Amherst Township  
Senior Service Office Hours:  
8:00 A.M. – NOON (M-F)  
Ph: 440-988-5894 – Ext. 101  
Lynda Ashley, Director**

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

Callers are strongly encouraged to leave a message with your name, number, and a brief description of the reason for the call. All messages will receive a call back.



**Fall “Dumpster Days” Mascot**

## **2023 MEDICARE CHANGES**

Medicare Part A and B deductibles will increase beginning January 2023.

Part:		For 2023	
<b>A</b>	Inpatient deductible	\$1600.00 per benefit period	
	Hospital Co Pay:	61-90 days	\$400.00/day
		90-150 days	\$800.00/day
<b>B</b>	*Premium:	\$164.90*	
	Deductible:	\$226.00	
	Co-insurance:	20%	
Skilled Nursing Co pay:	Days 21-100	\$200.00/day	

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



Amherst Fire Dept’s Response To Amherst Township	3rd Quarter 2022	
<b>Fire Calls (N of Turnpike):</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13.5%</b>
<b>Fire Calls (S of Turnpike):</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5.4%</b>
<b>EMS-First Responder (N):</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>50.0%</b>
<b>EMS-First Responder (S):</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>31.1%</b>
<b>Total Calls:</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>MVA’s in Amherst Township (N&amp;S):</b>	<b>16</b>	

## **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.

## **Mailbox Preparation**

Before the snow falls and the plows are out, residents should check their **mailbox posts**. Rotted posts will cause the mailbox to break if the snow becomes too heavy.

While the township’s plow drivers take every precaution to avoid broken mailboxes, sometimes it does occur. Please note, IF the mailbox is broken due to the township plowing the road AND there is NO evidence of a rotted post, the township will replace the mailbox with a standard-type box. IF the post is rotted OR it is hit by a vehicle or any other damage not sustained from our plows, Amherst Township is NOT responsible for replacement.

If you live on a County or State owned road, you should contact the County or ODOT concerning your mailbox. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the township office at 988-5894 ext. 101.

# 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 Sam D'Ambrosio, 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.

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.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

Printed on Recycled Paper

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



# 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 27<sup>th</sup> thru Mon., Jan 20<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.**

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