### AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Spring 2024

www.amhersttownship.us

#### **Recycling Report**

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in the 4<sup>th</sup> guarter of 2023 through curbside pickup.

bold represents yearly total.						
Newspaper	0.00	0.00	#1 PET	7.52	24.63	
Cardboard	34.59	113.29	#2 HDPE Natural	1.50	4.93	
Mixed Paper	52.63	172.40	# HDPE Color	1.50	4.93	
Steel Cans	3.01	9.85	#3 - #7 Plastic Mixed	0.00	0.00	
Alum. Cans	3.01	9.85	Residuals	25.56	83.74	
Mixed Glass	21.05	68.96	Total	150.38	492.58	

#### **Bold represents yearly total**

\*Above quantities are all listed in tons.

6.17 tons of scrap metal through the dumpster program (**11.62 tons** = Yearly Total)

There was no yard waste ground-up in 2023

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

### "2024" Dumpster Days

Amherst Township has set the following dates for "Dumpster Days" in 2024.

#### April 18, 19, 20 **October 3, 4, 5**

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

Please note: NO FREON or PROPANE TANKS! \*NO TIRES or HAZARDOUS WASTE!

\*Take these items to LC Collection Center & Tire Sites! For a list of their acceptable and prohibited items visit: www.loraincountyohio.gov

#### **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. <u>2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays</u>
- 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.

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

#### **Township Hall & Garage** 988-5894

Fax	988-5877

Fax
Fiscal Officer Ext. 104
Email: amhersttwpfo@gmail.com
Road Superintendent (garage) Ext. 111 Email: <u>amhersttwproads@gmail.com</u>
Zoning Inspector Ext. 103
Sam D'Ambrosio, Zoning Inspector
Email: <u>amhersttwpzoning@gmail.com</u>
Office Hours: <b>Mon., Wed., Fri.</b> – 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Other hours available by appointment only
<u>Trustees</u>
Dennis Abraham(cell) 213-6775
(Ambulance, Cemetery, Park, Water, Buildings/Land, NBHD Watch, Enterprise Zones, County Health Rep.)
<u>Neil Lynch</u>
<ul> <li>(Ambulance, Roads, Ditches, Sewer, Fire, Equipment, Personnel, LORCO, Facility Security, Senior Services, Phase II Storm Water/ Environmental Strategy, NIMS Primary Contact, L.C. Comm. Alliance Rep., Lorain County Joint Police District Rep.)</li> </ul>
David C. Urig
Fiscal Officer
Chris Kish (cell) 213-0659

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 Office Hours: Mon thru Fri - 8am to 12 Noon

#### **Fire Prevention Officer**

Chris Niehart.....(cell) 597-0005 Email: amhersttwpfire@gmail.com

#### LifeCare Ambulance, Inc.

Township Impact Officer: Dpt. Marialyse Fuller

Email: mfuller@loraincountysheriff.com

<u>Ohio Edison</u>	(1-888-LIGHTTS)
Automated Outage Reporting Line	1-888-544-4877

#### **TRUSTEE MEETINGS:**

 $2^{nd}$  & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month at **7:00 p.m.** 

# **2024 AMHERST TOWNSHIP GRANTS**

Amherst Township personnel continue to seek grant opportunities for the betterment of your community.

Grants are sought for improvements in your Parks, Roads, Cemeteries, Stormwater Management, Yard Waste Management, and Energy Management. Every dollar of grant money received is one less dollar of local tax money spent, allowing the township to leverage available resources.

Not all grant applications are successful, but Amherst Township personnel continue to apply for grants on your behalf.

### **LC Storm Water District:**

#### **LCSWD Community Grants**

Over the past (8) eight years, Amherst Township has applied for these grant funds to be used for the improvement of drainage to the Battenhouse and Engle Ditches. Amherst Township will not be applying for these grant funds in 2024 as they are waiting to complete projects from previous years.

#### **LCSWD Mini Grants**

For 2024, Amherst Township is waiting on approval for two Storm Water Mini Grant projects. Each grant application is for \$7500. The first project is for the repair / replacement of 5 catch basins in Hidden Valley at an estimated cost of \$16,173.28, leaving the township to pay \$8,673.28. The second project is for the repair of storm sewer mains at 744 Trails End and at 467 Oaknoll Drive. The estimated cost of this project is \$10,181, leaving the township to pay \$2,681. Both of these projects will eliminate erosion of the roadbed.

### <u>OPWC</u>

Amherst Township submitted two projects for the Ohio Public Works Commission (**OPWC**) Round 38 grant funding, with both projects being approved by OPWC District 9 Integrating Committee in November 2023. We are waiting for State approval and funds, usually announced in early July.

The two projects include "Moss Canyon Drive Concrete Replacement" and "Middle Ridge Road Resurfacing". Both projects were described in the Winter 2023 edition of this newsletter.

### NOPEC NEC & CES

Amherst Township will receive approximately \$11,661 of NOPEC Energized Community (<u>NEC</u>) grant funds in 2024. These funds will be held in escrow and must be spent by November 2026. The township has various energy saving projects to consider for the use of these funds, including an LED lighting project at the Middle Ridge Road Park.

Amherst Township received \$1500 from the 2024 NOPEC Community Event Sponsorship (<u>CES</u>) program. These funds must be used for a free event that is open to the community. Amherst Township will use these funds to help offset the cost of their "Dumpster Days" event in April.

### Lorain County Public Health

Amherst Township applied for the LCPHD's "Healthy Places Grant". The purpose of this grant is to build healthier communities through built environment changes. The township requested \$8500 out of the total \$10,000 cap to install a map that included distances of the Amherst Township Park walking trail, along with trail markers. The township was unsuccessful in obtaining this grant.

### **H2Ohio Rivers Initiative**

The new H2Ohio Rivers Program was created to be a comprehensive approach to improve the quality and the health of Ohio's rivers. Amherst Township applied for the H2Ohio Rivers Initiative "Chloride Reduction Grant" which had a \$75,000 award cap. The grant request was for \$14,831 to replace the township's 14-1/2 year old salt shed cover. The township is awaiting notification for this grant request.

### **Ohio Cemetery Grant**

The \$2500 Ohio Cemetery Grant is for local government cemeteries to defray a portion of costs for exceptional cemetery maintenance. The grant is available on a bi-yearly basis. The township will submit their application by the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline.

### **FIREWORKS LAW**

Beginning in July 2022, unless limited by local laws, Ohioans can legally discharge consumer fireworks (1.4G) on the following dates and time:

- July 3, 4, and 5, and the Friday, Saturday and Sunday immediately before and after July 4th (4 p.m.-11 p.m.)
- Labor Day weekend (4 p.m.-11 p.m.) [1st Monday of September and the Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding that Monday]
- Diwali (4 p.m.-11 p.m.)
- New Year's Eve (4 p.m.-11:59 p.m.)
- New Year's Day (12 a.m.-1 a.m.; 4 p.m.-11 p.m.)
- Chinese New Year (4 p.m.-11 p.m.)
- Cinco de Mayo (4 p.m.-11 p.m.)
- Memorial Day weekend (4 p.m.-11 p.m.) [last Monday is May and the Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding that Monday]
- Juneteenth (4 p.m.-11 p.m.) [June 19]

Consumers can discharge fireworks on their own property or on another person's property if the owner of that property has given express permission for fireworks to be discharged on their property. CAUTION: If a political subdivision has banned fireworks or restricted the dates and times that fireworks can be used, the local law controls in that area.

Following are a few of the rules as stated in Ohio Revised Code §3743.45 (as effective July 1, 2022) and Ohio Fire Code §5626 (effective July 3, 2022).

- Persons under the age of 18 cannot be within 150-ft of the discharge point of aerial fireworks.
- Aerial devices cannot be discharged within 150ft of spectators (this includes aerial shells, roman candles, cakes, and bottle rockets).
- Fireworks cannot be aimed at or discharged toward any person or object (such as buildings and houses).
- Fireworks cannot be discharged on public property, private school property, or within the public right-of-way.

In addition, relevant Revised Code provisions state that no person can use fireworks while in possession or control of, or under the influence of, any intoxicating liquor, beer, or controlled substance.

Fireworks are extremely dangerous. Fireworks start an average of 18,500 fires each year, resulting in extensive damage to structures, vehicles, and property. Only use fireworks away from people and houses.

To read the entire "Ohio's New Fireworks Law for Consumers" flyer, go to:

https://com.ohio.gov/static/documents/FireworksLaw\_ Consumer.pdf.

## **OUTDOOR FIRE LAW**

Residents are reminded that outdoor open burning, statewide in unincorporated areas, is prohibited during the months of **March, April, May, October, and November** between the hours of 6 am & 6pm. This ban includes burning of yard waste, trash, and debris, even in a proper burn barrel.

During spring, wildfire danger is high before plants have turned green, and in fall, fire danger is high due to abundant dry leaves and dead grass. Warm windy weather in both seasons also contributes to elevated fie risk. Always be sure to use a proper burn barrel when burning outdoors during legal hours.

You can read more about this law in the Ohio Revised Code, §1503.18 – Regarding Kindled Fires.

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

https://epa.ohio.gov/static/Portals/ 47/facts/openburn.pdf

# NOISE CONTROL & MORE

As summer approaches bringing about outdoor activities and open windows, residents are reminded that Amherst Township does have a "<u>Noise Control Resolution</u>". This regulation was deemed necessary to preserve the public health, safety, welfare, and peace and to ensure the enjoyment of property rights. Please be considerate of your neighbors!

This resolution can be found on the Amherst Township website at

#### www.amhersttownship.us

under the "**Resolutions**" tab, along with various other resolutions. Some of these resolutions include "Township Curfew", "Barking Dogs", "No Animals in Park", "Parking of Commercial Vehicles on Township Roads", "Mailbox and Lawn Damage Policy", "Snow Parking Ban Policy", and more.

# 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 <u>check only</u>. Cash is not accepted.** (Permit forms available on twp website.)

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 Fridays. He can be reached at **988-5894 (ext 103)**.

Pools	Patios	Porches			
Decks	Fences	Gazebos			
Ponds	Signs	Garages			
Accessory Buildings (includes Prefab)					
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.





Residents should not landscape or plant near road intersections or inside the road right-of-way. Generally, the road right-of-way is <u>30 feet</u> 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-ofway. Property owners are also responsible for removing dead branches of a tree that overhangs the road.



Mobile Food Vending Units, (aka Food Trucks) that wish to do business in Amherst Township are required to be inspected by the Amherst Township Fire Inspector, **Chris Niehart**. These permits are only good for one year and must be renewed annually.

He can be contacted by phone at **440-597-0005** or by email at **amhersttwpfire@gmail.com**.

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

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.

### Twp. Bulletin Board

Scheduled meetings and Trustee Work Sessions are regularly posted in the bulletin board at the Township Hall. These are public meetings and residents are welcome to attend.

# Lots Available

Cemetery lots are available at Kendeigh Cemetery, located at the intersection of Quarry Road and Middle Ridge Road.

Lots may be purchased by contacting the Township Road Superintendant at 988-5894 x111. Fees for 2024:

> \$497 – Resident \$829 – Non-Resident

### **RUMPKE – New Contract**

Amherst Township is one of 12 members of the Lorain County Solid Waste and Recyclables Collection Consortium. Every five years, the Lorain County Consortium member communities solicit bids for the collection, transport and disposal of residential curbside solid waste and recyclable materials. Bids for the next 5-year contracts were received in the fall of 2023, with the official opening of the bids held on November 20, 2023.

At the January 9, 2024 Board of Trustees meeting, the Trustees passed a resolution to enter into a Collection Services Agreement with Rumpke Waste & Recycling Services, as they were the low bidder. This 5-year term will be effective as of **April 1**, **2024**, with the following base bid prices for each residential unit obtaining service:

Solid Waste Container	Recyclable Materials Container	Base Price per Residential Unit per Quarter		
96-Gallons	64-Gallons	\$63.39		
64-Gallons	64-Gallons	\$57.05		
32-Gallons	64-Gallons	\$51.35		

An Administrative Fee will also be included and shown as a separate invoice item. This fee is subject to change no more than once annually during the term of the Agreement. In 2023, this fee was \$0.60 a quarter per each residential unit.

#### **Zoning Commission Board**

500

Lonnie Dillon – Chairman Jim Conrady – Vice Chair Remi Cerrone – Member Hank Harsar – Member Darryl Saladin – Member Colin Serne – Alt. I & Secretary Geno Taliano – Alternate II

#### **Board of Zoning Appeals**

Bill Latrany – Chairman Steve Ostrolencki – Vice Chair Esther Arroyo – Member Randy Haring – Member Bruce Hills – Member Jeremy Watson – Alt. I & Sec. Melissa Guelker – Alt. II

### **SJAD – New Contract**

The Sandstone Joint Ambulance District (**SJAD**) consists of Amherst Township, the City of Amherst, and the Village of South Amherst. The **SJAD** recently entered in to a new 3-year contract with LifeCare Ambulance Incorporated for emergency medical service for the residents of the Ambulance District, with one automatic 1-year extension. This new contract began on January 1, 2024.

LifeCare is owned and operated by its employees. They can be reached by calling 323-6111. To learn more about their services, visit their website at:

www.lifecareambulance.com



If residents notice a fallen tree that is impeding or blocking the roadway, they should <u>first</u> call the Sheriff's non-emergency number at 329-3710.

The Sheriff's dispatch will be able to contact the appropriate entity to address the issue, be it township, county, city, and/or utility.

township architect.

#### **Township Architect**

60

Mark Lesner recently retired as the township's architect after serving as architect for 29- years. We would like to thank Mark for his many years of service. On Feb 5<sup>th</sup> the Board of Trustees appointed **Tom Bodde** as the new

Amherst Fire Dept's	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter		2020	2021	2022	2023
Response To Amh Twp	2023		Yearly	Yearly	Yearly	Yearly
Fire Calls (N of Turnpike):	8	13.3%	55	48	54	59
Fire Calls (S of Turnpike):	4	6.7%	35	28	23	36
EMS-First Responder (N):	27	45.0%	127	170	170	120
EMS-First Responder (S): 2		35.0%	66	70	69	72
Total Calls:	60	100%	283	316	316	287
MVA's in Amherst Township (N&S):		10				51

## **LCTA Scholarship for LCCC**

The Lorain County Township Association (**LCTA**) offers a scholarship to **LCCC** for Lorain County Township residents, including Amherst Township. Students in any field of study at LCCC or its University Partnership Schools may apply. Students must have a 3.0 GPA or greater.

The scholarship application is fully online. Eligible students will need to sign in and then search for the LCTA scholarship. The application is not yet open for the Fall-2024 semester, but should be available around the end of March/beginning of April and will close around the end of June. Students should monitor the website during this timeframe to see when the Fall-2024 scholarship is available, along with the new deadline. When checking online, students can click on "preview application" to view the 2023 application and the requirements needed for this scholarship, but they will not be able to submit anything until the 2024 application is available.

### PROPERTY FRAUD "ALERTME" PROGRAM

Are you worried about property fraud? You're not alone, but it's time to separate fact from fear! Despite the scary stories, actual cases are less common than some ads make you think. And here's the good news. You **CAN** take measures for free to monitor your property interests!

When you visit the Lorain County Recorder's website, you can easily sign up and search/check records under your name. Knowledge is power, and this simple step can give you peace of mind.

PLUS, sign up for their FREE "**AlertMe**" program while you are there! Get instant text and email notifications for any activity linked to your name. It's quick, easy, and a game-changer in staying ahead of potential fraud.

The Lorain County Recorder's Office is on YOUR side. Let them help you feel more secure by utilizing their free services today! Stay informed and secure with your property by visiting their website at:

www.loraincountyrecorder.gov



It's common to see a street sign, stop sign, or construction sign in a college dorm, fraternity house, or apartment. Stealing a street sign may not seem like a big deal, but it can have very serious consequences.

Signs are posted for a reason and removing them can cause injury or death. Taking down a road sign can cause confusion for emergency vehicles. The lack of a construction zone sign can put people in harm who are unaware of the possible risks. A missing stop sign or railroad crossing can result in fatal accidents.

In the state of Ohio, street signs are public property and the theft of public property is a misdemeanor of the third degree. This charge can be increased if the theft results in an accident and you are found liable. It can then range from criminal mischief to felony manslaughter. The type of sign can also have an effect in the penalty that is sentenced.

In Ohio, the purchase, possession, and sale of road signs is illegal. Owning a stop sign in Ohio is punishable with fines and even incarceration.

The Lorain County Engineer's Office recently shared that they are having a problem with highway signs being stolen. In a recent case, both stop signs were removed at an intersection in Huntington Township, creating a very hazardous condition for drivers who were not familiar with the area. For more information, see Ohio Revised Code Section 4511.16 through 4511.18.



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.



# **HONOR WREATHS** REMEMBERING THEIR SACRAFICES. HONORING THEIR SERVICE.



**Honor Wreaths** is a local nonprofit volunteer organization whose mission is to Honor our deceased veterans. Fundraisers are held throughout the year to promote the group and collect donations to purchase wreaths for placement on graves during the holiday season.

The 2023 "Honor Wreaths" program was very successful!! Led by Kathryn Kennedy, there were 2400 wreaths placed on veteran graves at twelve different cemeteries in Lorain County! A Michigan tree farm donated 1200 wreaths. There were many volunteers, local groups and organizations that donated their time to this event. Bows were manually attached to each wreath, then counted and distributed to the head organizer for each cemetery.

Township Administrator, Lynda Ashley, was the head organizer for both Kendeigh Cemetery and Middle Ridge Cemetery. On December 9, 2023, ceremonies were performed at all 12 cemeteries. The ceremonies in Amherst Township included the pledge to the flag, singing of the national anthem, a prayer, placing a large wreath on the flag pole, and then placing 33 wreaths on the graves of veterans. The Middle Ridge ceremony was led by Lynda Ashley, along with Girl Scout Troop 50833, leaders, parents, and students from MLS. The ceremony at Kendeigh Cemetery was led by Frank Thomas, along with Boy Scout Troop 428, Girl Scout Troop 50833, leaders, parents, and other people. Much thanks to those who participated in these events!!

Plans are well underway for 2024. Wreaths will be placed on veteran graves on **December 7, 2024**. You can visit the "Honor Wreaths Lorain County" Facebook page for more information, photos, and future fundraising events. To volunteer or to sponsor a wreath, emails can be sent to Kathryn Kennedy at <u>honorwreaths@gmail.com</u>.

Amherst Township plans to hold a fundraising event to pay for 35 wreaths needed for 2024. When finalized, details of this event will be posted on the Amherst Township website as well as the "Amherst Township, Lorain County, Ohio" Facebook page.



### <u>Amherst Township</u> <u>Park Reminders</u>

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.

## **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.

### **Park Pavilion Reservations**

To avoid a scheduling conflict, please contact **Lynda Ashley**, Township Administrator, to reserve the park pavilion. Rules & Regulations as well as current reservations can be viewed on the Township's website under "Depts/Park".

A \$50.00 non-refundable permit fee per pavilion is required. Fees must be paid in full 30 days prior to reservation. Check or Money Order only made payable to Amherst Township.

**Please note** that reservations are not available for <u>Sundays</u> or <u>holidays that occur on a Monday</u>. These days are on a first-come first-serve basis.

Lynda can be reached at the township Mondays through Fridays between 8 a.m. and 12 noon by calling **988-5894** (ext 101).

# **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.

Amherst Township 7530 Oberlin Road Elyria, OH 44035 www.amhersttownship.us Printed on Recycled Paper

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