

# AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Summer 2024

Vol. XXIX No. 2

## Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2024 through curbside pickup.

Newspaper	0.00	#1 PET	5.33
Cardboard	24.51	#2 HDPE Natural	1.07
Mixed Paper	37.29	# HDPE Color	1.07
Steel Cans	2.13	#3 - #7 Plastic Mixed	0.00
Alum. Cans	2.13	Residuals	18.11
Mixed Glass	14.92	Total	106.55

\* Above quantities are all listed in tons.

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

**3,450 cu/yds** of yard waste ground-up and hauled away

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.

**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](http://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. 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.

- 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

Fiscal Officer ..... **Ext. 104**

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

Road Superintendent (garage)..... **Ext. 111**

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

Zoning Inspector ..... **Ext. 103**

Sam D’Ambrosio, Zoning Inspector

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

Office Hours: **Mon., Wed., Fri.** – 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Other hours available by appointment only

## Trustees

**Dennis Abraham** .....(cell) 213-6775

(Cemetery, Park, Water, Buildings/Land, NBHD Watch, Enterprise Zones, County Health Rep.)

**Neil Lynch** ..... 988-7681

(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.)

**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: [amherstwp@gmail.com](mailto:amherstwp@gmail.com)

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

## Fire Prevention Officer

Chris Niehart.....(cell) 597-0005

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

## LifeCare Ambulance, Inc.

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

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

Township Impact Officer: **Dpt. Marialyse Fuller**

Dpt. Fuller’s Non-Emergency/Voicemail..... 329-3800

Email: [mfuller@loraincountysheriff.com](mailto:mfuller@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.**

# Township Road Responsibility & Cost

Amherst Township has a little under 21 linear miles of roadway that must be maintained. The roadways are constructed of three main types of materials:

## **Hotmix Asphalt Chip & Seal Concrete**

The road widths vary from 17-feet to 28-feet. Amherst Township only maintains a 12-foot width of Fowl Road, as the other 12-foot lane is the responsibility of Elyria Township. Other roads in the township are maintained by the county and the state.

The type of road material and original construction method determines the general replacement / resurface plan.

- **Concrete** roads constructed prior to 2003 have a useful life of 25 to 35 years. It is hoped that concrete roads constructed to the current standards will have a useful life of 35 to 50 years.
- The **Hotmix Asphalt** roads have a useful life of 12 years, but some Hotmix roads can exceed 15 years of life prior to a need for base repair and full resurfacing.
- **Chip and Seal** roads are resurfaced every 6 years.

Amherst Township resurfaces all Hotmix Asphalt roads on a rotating 12-year cycle. The Hotmix roads in Amherst Township generally see the highest traffic and are eligible for grant funding. Base repair and resurfacing of Chip & Seal and Concrete roads are generally funded 100% with local tax dollars. While the Chip & Seal Roads are resurfaced on an approximately 6-year cycle, it is difficult to predict the replacement of concrete roads. The township road personnel perform regular routine maintenance of the concrete roads. If routine maintenance cannot safely restore a concrete road, the Township Road Superintendent will recommend full depth base repair.

Full depth repair will occur on a section of Moss Canyon in 2024. Amherst Township applied for Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) grant and loan funding for the Moss Canyon project. It is rare to receive OPWC funding for minor roads, but Amherst Township was very fortunate to receive partial funding in this latest grant cycle application.

## OPWC RND 38 Update

The “**Moss Canyon project**” will involve a 241 Ft Long x 28 Ft Width x 7-In Thick, 753 SqYd concrete replacement between 843 and 851 Moss Canyon. Also included is 30 SqYd of 6" thick concrete driveway apron replacement. Total project cost estimate is \$126,140. Funding will include \$95,867 from Amherst Township and \$30,273 from OPWC. The OPWC funding will consist of \$7,265 in grant funds and \$23,008 20-year 0% loan funds.

Amherst Township also applied for funding for the resurfacing of a portion of Middle Ridge Road. The “**Middle Ridge Road project**” involves milling off 1.5" of asphalt along a 3,635' length x 21' wide section from the Brownhelm Township line to Quarry Road and laying down a replacement 1.5" thick surface of new hotmix asphalt, including the intersection. Pavement repair to 6" depth will occur if required, along with linear berm grading.

Amherst Township was the only Lorain County Township to have two projects awarded OPWC Round 38 project funding by the District 9 integrating committee.

Bid opening for these two projects was held at the April 23<sup>rd</sup> Trustee Meeting. OPWC has approved both projects. *Project agreements are released the beginning of July.* Bids cannot be awarded nor construction started until the project agreements have been fully executed. Once this is complete, the project will be awarded and construction scheduled.

## OTARMA “MORE” GRANT

The Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA) provides risk management, liability, and property coverage to Ohio townships. Since 2013 they have offered the MORE (Managing Ohio Risk Exposure) Grant to assist Ohio townships in reducing or preventing risk exposures that lead to liability claims and property losses.

This year Amherst Township received **\$1000** to be used towards the repairs/upgrades to existing lights at the township facility.

# Increased Cost of Yard Waste

The cost of yard waste management continues to increase! With the L.C. Solid Waste Management District's "Community Incentive Grant" no longer being offered as of 2023, the cost to manage the yard waste is being paid 100% with taxpayers' money from the township's "General Fund".

<u>Year</u>	<u>Qtr</u>	<u>Cubic/ Yards</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>	<u>Cost per Cu/Yd</u>	<u>Inc from Prev Yr</u>	<u>% Inc</u>
2018	1 <sup>st</sup>	2700	\$5,624	\$2.08		
2019	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3000	\$8,700	\$2.90	\$0.82	39%
2021	4 <sup>th</sup>	4300	\$14,500	\$3.37	\$0.47	16%
2022	4 <sup>th</sup>	3200	\$17,900	\$5.59	\$2.22	66%
2024	1 <sup>st</sup>	3450	\$18,600	\$5.39	-\$0.20	-4%

The Amherst Township Yard Waste collection and recycling area is provided to minimize illicit disposal of yard waste in township fields, woods, and drainage areas, and reduces incidents of blockage in our storm sewer system by keeping leaves and debris out of our street gutters and storm drains. These outlets drain directly to lake, streams, rivers, and wetlands. An additional benefit of the recycling center is reduced consumption of limited landfill space.

In 2020, a surveillance system was installed (using Coronavirus "CARES" Relief Funds) to allow for non-contact monitoring of the Yard Waste Drop Off

area. Cameras are equipped with a sound system to facilitate verbal communication as well as visual observation. This system aids in stopping non-township residents and commercial contractors from using the Yard Waste site.

## 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, 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.

Please, **YARD WASTE ONLY!!!**

The yard waste pile is for disposing of your limbs, brush, lawn clippings, and leaves, **only!**

Prohibited items would include siding, wood, stone, junk, and construction material as well as any other material that does not grow in your yard.

Residents are reminded to please place your empty plastic bags in the 55-gallon drum at the center, or take bags with you.

## SANDSTONE JOINT AMBULANCE DISTRICT BOARD

The Sandstone Joint Ambulance District (SJAD) recently modified their bylaws, increasing the number of board members for Amherst Township from two (2) to three (3) representatives. Board members shall serve for a term of 4 years and may be reappointed by the appointing authority. Alternates may be designated for each Board of Director's positions by the appointing authorities.

Amherst Township resident David Freeman was recently appointed to the SJAD Board, with his term beginning on February 1, 2024.

Previous Amherst Township board representative, Linda Horvath, has resigned from the SJAD Board. We would like to thank Linda for her years of service. Beginning on January 1, 2024, Trustee Neil Lynch was appointed to fill this board vacancy.

The SJAD is a joint ambulance district formed pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 505.71 and includes all the territory incorporated into the City of Amherst, Amherst Township, and the Village of South Amherst. Each territory has 3 representatives on the board. Alternates may be designated for each Board of Director's positions by the appointing authorities.

The mission of the SJAD is to manage the provision of emergency medical services within the district in such a way as to insure quality and reduce the response time – the time between a call for assistance and the arrival of trained emergency medical personnel on the scene of an accident or medical emergency.

Meetings are held quarterly or at the call of the President of the board and are open to the public.

**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.



Amherst Fire Dept's Response To Amherst Township	1st Quarter 2024	
Fire Calls (N of Turnpike):	14	24.56%
Fire Calls (S of Turnpike):	4	7.02%
EMS-First Responder (N):	25	43.86%
EMS-First Responder (S):	14	24.56%
Total Calls:	57	100%
MVA's in Amherst Township (N&S):	9	

## FOOD TRUCKS



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 [amhersttwfire@gmail.com](mailto:amhersttwfire@gmail.com).

## LC AUDITOR GIS Mobile

Introducing the Lorain County Auditor's GIS (Geographic Information System) Mobile site that is compatible with mobile and tablet devices (Android and iPhone). It has same look and setup as the desktop GIS Website, but made specifically for handheld devices. No installation is required; just bookmark the address to access Lorain County real estate records with a small-screen friendly interface.

You can search by Owner name, Address, and Permanent Parcel Number (PPN) to find any parcel within Lorain County. On the search bar, choose the drop down arrow and select which field you want to search by. You can read more details by tapping on the "About" (letter i) widget.

Use this QR code to access the Lorain County mobile-friendly website:



## POWER OUTAGES

Ohio Edison 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.



# MIDDLE RIDGE ROAD TOWNSHIP PARK

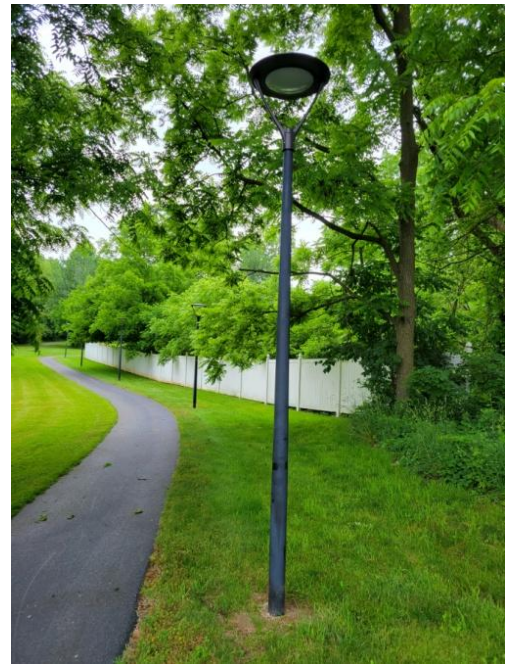
The “Lorain County 200<sup>th</sup> Bicentennial Committee” has given each municipality a Bicentennial tree to commemorate the 200 years that Lorain County has existed. They selected the **Kousa Dogwood** which will be approximately 30 feet tall when it matures. Working with Don Mould’s Plantation, these trees were planted in the spring. There will also be a plaque designating the tree as a Bicentennial tree planted in 2024 for posterity. There is no cost to the municipality for planting the tree.

Amherst Township selected the Middle Ridge Road Park as their planting location. The tree is located along the section of the trail that connects the parking lot to Workshop Players.



In 2010, a 2,000-foot trail extension was constructed in the Middle Ridge Road Park, providing access to the conservation area of the park. Lighting was provided along approximately 400-feet of the trail linking the parking lots between the park and Workshop Players Theater, providing safety for customers walking between the two parking lots.

It was recently reported that only 2 of the 10 lamp posts were lit during the evening. Along with the needed repairs and the reduction in LED lamp cost, the Township decided that it was a good time to convert the standard bulbs to LED. NOPEC NEC grant funds were used to help fund the replacement of these lamp posts.



## 2024 MIDDLE RIDGE ROAD LIGHT UPGRADE

The Lorain County Engineer was successful in obtaining grant funding for the resurfacing of Middle Ridge Road, with construction having been started on June 5<sup>th</sup> of this year. This funding also included lighting upgrades and safety improvements at five intersections along Middle Ridge Road. The lights will be changed from the current 100W HPS to 50W LED, as an increased safety measure and to combat common crash types along this corridor. The improved safety with the lighting upgrade improved the scoring criteria for the funding application submitted by the Lorain County Engineer for the resurfacing of Middle Ridge Road.

The streetlight upgrade will cost \$210 each, or \$1,050 total, and the monthly fee will increase from \$7.70/month per HPS fixture to \$10.00/month per LED fixture, for a total annual increase of \$138. As the streetlight agreement in the unincorporated portion of Amherst Township is between the Board of Trustees and Ohio Edison, the County Engineer required cooperation from the Trustees prior to submitting a funding application. The Engineer agreed to reimburse the \$1,050 conversion cost, and the Trustees agreed to cover the increased monthly use cost.

## **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/sheds (includes Prefab), 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.** (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 **440-988-5894, ext. 103**.

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.

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Amherst Township  
7530 Oberlin Road  
Elyria, OH 44035  
www.amhersttownship.us

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## **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 Sundays or holidays that occur on a Monday. 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)**.

## **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.

**PRESORTED STD.  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO.810  
CLEVELAND, OHIO**

**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.