

# AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Winter 2014

Vol. XIX No. 4

## Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2014.

Newspaper	42.14	#1 PET	6.67
Cardboard	21.07	#2 HDPE	7.37
Mixed Paper	16.86	#2 - #7 Plastic Mixed	2.81
Steel Cans	3.51	Aseptic Containers	0.70
Alum. Cans	1.40	Residuals	14.05
Mixed Glass	23.88	Total	140.47

\* Above quantities are all listed in tons.

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

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

## "2015" Dumpster Days

Amherst Township has set the following dates for "Dumpster Days" in 2015:

**April 16, 17, 18**

**"Pride Day" in May**

**October 1, 2, 3**

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

Please note: **NO TIRES!**

**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@oh.rr.com](mailto:amhersttwpfo@oh.rr.com)

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

Email: [amhersttwproads@oh.rr.com](mailto:amhersttwproads@oh.rr.com)

Office (Zoning Inspector) ..... **Ext. 103**

Office Hours for Zoning Insp.:

Mon., Wed., & Sat. – 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Voice Mail is checked daily

Email: [amhersttwpzoning@oh.rr.com](mailto:amhersttwpzoning@oh.rr.com)

Remi Cerrone, Zoning Inspector

## Trustees

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

(Ambulance, Cemetery, Park, Water, Buildings,

Land, Enterprise Zones, County Health Rep.)

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

(Zoning, Sewer, Fire, Equipment, Personnel, LORCO,

Phase II Storm Water/ Environmental Strategy,

Senior Services, Facility Security, NIMS Primary Contact,

Lorain County Community Alliance Rep,

Lorain County Joint Police District Rep.)

**David C. Urig**..... 385-0333

(Lighting, Solid Waste, Roads, Ditches)

## Fiscal Officer

Howard Akin ..... 233-7624

## Road Superintendent

John Szefcyk ..... 320-7157

## Amherst Twp Senior Services Office

Lynda Ashley ..... **Ext. 101**

Email: [amhersttwpseniors@oh.rr.com](mailto:amhersttwpseniors@oh.rr.com)

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

## Fire Prevention Officer

Wayne Eppley ..... 324-3921

## LifeCare Ambulance, Inc.

Pete or Herb de la Porte ..... 323-6111

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

## Ohio Edison

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.**

Amherst Township Trustee Meetings may be viewed on Amherst Cable Channel 12. They will air for 7 days, running Mon – Mon, following the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month. Air times are at 9 am, 4 pm, & 11 pm. All airings are subject to change.

# SNOW BAN RESOLUTION

At the November 25<sup>th</sup> Trustee Meeting, resolution 11/13/14 was passed prohibiting parking on any township street or highway during a Snow Emergency.

This resolution prohibits parking 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.**

*The resolution reads in part as follows:*

**Section 1.** The Board of Trustees of Amherst Township hereby establishes and adopts a general snow emergency authorization. This snow emergency authorization shall apply to all township streets and highways in the unincorporated portion of Amherst Township. The chairman/president of the board or the township road superintendent may issue an order declaring a snow emergency and limiting or prohibiting parking on all township streets and highways in the unincorporated portion of Amherst Township during the snow emergency. A snow emergency may be declared when snowfall exceeds 2 (two) inches or a severe snow or ice condition exists.

An order declaring a snow emergency shall become effective two hours after the chairman/president of the board or township road superintendent makes an

announcement of a snow emergency to the local news media. The chairman/president of the board or road superintendent shall request the local news media to announce that a snow emergency has been declared, the time the declaration shall go into effect, and whether the snow emergency will remain in effect for a specified period of time or indefinitely until canceled by a subsequent announcement to the local news media by the chairman/president of the board or road superintendent.

**Section 2.** Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 505.15(D) and 4521.02, a violation of this resolution shall not be considered a criminal offense for any purpose. A person who commits the violation shall not be arrested as a result of the commission of the violation. A violation of this resolution shall be handled pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 4521.02. The fine for violation of this resolution shall be fifty dollars (\$50.00) if paid within seven days of the violation, and one hundred dollars (\$100.00) if paid more than seven days but less than twenty-one days of the violation. Any monies received from violations of this resolution shall be paid into the township's general fund.

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 4521.02 (B), the Board of Trustees of Amherst Township, the chairman/president of the board, or the township road superintendent may order into storage any vehicle parked in violation of a snow emergency declaration. The owner or any leinholder of a vehicle ordered into storage may claim the vehicle upon presentation of proof of ownership, which may be evidenced by a certificate of title to the vehicle, and payment of all expenses, charges, and fines incurred as a result of the parking violation and removal and storage of the vehicle.

## Tips to Avoid Winter Fires

Wintertime brings fire concerns due to people trying to heat their homes and thaw out pipes. It is important to know what you are doing & to use the proper materials. The following are some things to be aware of.

Wood burning stoves and fireplaces should have their chimneys and flues cleaned regularly by a professional to avoid creosote build-up, which can catch fire.

Kerosene heaters bring concerns about where to store the kerosene and the refueling of these units. Special care should be taken when dealing with this fuel.

Electric space heaters should **NOT** be plugged into an extension cord, but should be directly plugged in to a wall socket. Also keep in mind that they are only intended for heating a small, specified area.

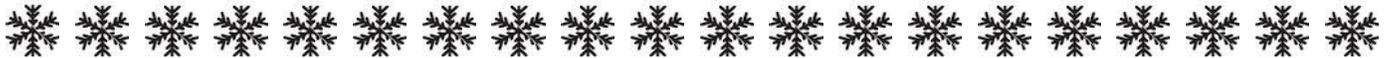
With any type of heating source, care should be taken to keep all combustibles away from them and at a safe distance. Also keep an eye on children who can be inquisitive and have toys, blankets, and other materials that can catch on fire if they get too close.

Everyone should have working smoke detectors in their house. (It is a good habit to install new batteries every year when setting the clocks back in the fall.) That gives you the best chance of survival and a better chance for the fire department to get there in rapid order, when a fire is still small. Also, if you have any of these types of heating units or heat with gas, you need to have a carbon monoxide detector in your house. Please be safe.

*Presented by A.T. Fire Inspector, Wayne Eppley*

# NEW EMPLOYEE!!

We would like to welcome Kevin Smarsh to the Amherst Township Road Department. Kevin began working for the township at the beginning of November replacing Marv Traster, who retired at the end of November. Kevin will be doing typical Road Crew work such as mowing, plowing, and various maintenance jobs. He grew up in Amherst and attended the Lorain County JVS, participating in the “Truck Mechanics” program. Kevin has worked in construction since high school. His hobbies include participating in the “Farm Stock Tractor Pull” and “wrenching” on his four 1970’s Chevy trucks. Please welcome Kevin to the township if you see him out and about.



# A VEST FOR HECTOR!

At the September 23, 2014 Trustees meeting, Detective Olen Martin and Hector stopped in to show off Hector’s new protective vest which fit him beautifully. Hector, a 2-year-old Dutch Shepherd, and his owner Detective Martin are a drug detection team certified by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Council. The funding for this vest came from Amherst Township.

Det. Martin and Hector were at an informational drug session which was sponsored by the Lorain County Farm Bureau at the JVS, early in 2014. This drug information was shared with Hidden Valley residents on Facebook and where Amherst Township resident Dawn Shuster inquired whether or not Hector had a bulletproof vest, which he did not have. Christine Winrod and Dawn then coordinated with Det. Martin and the LCSO to set up a fund to buy Hector a new vest. Township neighbors and businesses were able to gather the needed funds to purchase a new, custom-fitted vest to protect Hector while in the line of duty.

Residents who wish to continue to support our K-9 Sheriff deputy can send donations by check made payable to “Lorain County Drug Task Force – Law

Enforcement Trust Fund” with a note on the memo line saying “Hector Fund”. Donations should be mailed to: Lorain County Drug Task Force  
9896 Murray Ridge Road  
Elyria, OH 44035



Det. Martin (left), Hector in his vest, Deputy Vansant (right)

## OPWC Funds for Oberlin Road

Amherst Township has requested OPWC grant funds to help fund the resurfacing of Oberlin Road from the Turnpike overpass, north to Middle Ridge Road. This project is expected to cost **\$218,471**. The township did not make the “funded” listed for Round 29 funding, but were recently awarded a **\$139,700** grant of under-run monies from Round 28 with the township providing **\$78,771** towards this project. This project is being planned to take place in 2015.

## Possible Road Levy

The township is assembling a committee of residents to investigate road repair requirements (resurfacing, renovations, and maintenance), how to fund these repairs and what options are available. They will investigate options for a possible road levy that would include how much the levy would be, whether it is permanent or temporary, and how long a temporary levy would be for. If you are interested in being part of this decision making, please contact one of your township trustees. Contact information is on the front page.

Public meetings on this matter will be held and all residents will be welcome to attend.

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## HEALTHY HABITS FOR CLEAN WATER

As Storm Water flows over driveways, lawns and sidewalks, it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants. Storm water can flow into a storm sewer system or directly into a stream, wetland or lake. Anything that enters a storm sewer is discharged untreated into the water bodies we use for fishing, swimming and drinking. Polluted storm water runoff is the nation’s greatest threat to clean water.

By practicing healthy household habits, homeowners can keep pollutants like pesticides, pet wastes, grass clippings and automotive fluids off the ground and out of storm water. Adopt these habits and help protect our lakes, streams and wetlands.

### Vehicle and Garage:

- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface to minimize the amount of dirt and soapy water flowing into the storm drain and eventually into your local stream or lake.
- Check your car, boat, motorcycle, and other equipment for leaks and spills.
- Make repairs as soon as possible. Clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material like kitty litter or sand. **Don’t** rinse the spills into a storm drain. Properly dispose of the absorbent material.
- Recycle used oil and other automotive fluid at participating service stations. Don’t dump these

chemicals down the storm drain or dispose of them in your trash.

### Pet Care:

- When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly. Flushing pet waste is the best disposal method. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drain and eventually into Lake Erie.

### Sanitary System Use and Maintenance:

- Disposable is not Flushable but is Clog-able! Convenience wipes such as baby, hygienic, cleaning and disinfectant, as well as toilet bowl scrubbers and even paper towels might be labeled as “Disposable or Flushable” but these items should not go down the Sanitary Sewer.
- Check where your sump pump drains. If your sump pump is discharging to the sanitary sewer then your home is contributing storm water into a system not designed for it. Contact your local Sanitary Sewer Facility or Provider for information.

*This excerpt is taken from a Lorain County Storm Water Management brochure. To see this brochure in its entirety and for more information, visit their website at:*

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

# 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.



# 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 through 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 Fri., Dec 26<sup>th</sup> thru Fri., Jan 9<sup>th</sup>.**



Amherst Township's Nonprofit Organization – **F.A.C.E.** (Funding Amherst Community Enhancements) – will be holding the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Wine Tasting Fundraiser Event on Friday, April 24, 2015 at the Amherst Party Shop from 7-9 pm. Tickets will be \$25 per person. More details will be available in the "Spring" newsletter.

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

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LORAIN, OHIO

**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.

# Senior GAZETTE

Winter 2014

by Lynda Ashley, Director, Amherst Township Senior Service Office (ATSSO)

## Home-Delivered Meal Program

ATSSO provides home-delivered meals for those over 60 and disabled adults over 18, with a cost that is adjusted to your income. This nutritious, hot lunch program includes your choice of an entrée, soup & sandwich, or soup & salad. A “soup only” option is also available as a choice.

If you would like to receive a home-delivered meal, please contact the Senior Service Office at **988-5894, ext. 101**.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

ATSSO is in need of volunteer drivers to deliver meals from 10:30 - 12:00 noon. We have a vacancy on Thursdays for the months of January to April.

We are also in need of substitute drivers year round, delivering one to three times a month. Mileage is reimbursed.

Please consider volunteering, you can do as much or as little as you would like. Call the Senior Service Office if you would like to help.



For the second year in a row, “Daisy Scout Troop 50146” and “Junior Troop 50410”, under the leadership of Katy Andrijowych, have graciously prepared care packages for our seniors that participate in the Amherst Township Meal Program. Each Christmas, the girls spend time thoughtfully creating gift packages for our seniors. We are very appreciative of their kindness and willingness to give to others.

(See photo on next page)

**ATSSO OFFICE HOURS:**

**8:00 A.M. – NOON (M-F)**

**Phone: 988-5894 – Ext. 101**

Email: [amhersttwpseniors@oh.rr.com](mailto:amhersttwpseniors@oh.rr.com)

## MyCare Ohio

### Medicare “Opt-out” option

All enrolled members of “MyCare Ohio” and new enrollees have the right to have their Medicare benefits covered by their “MyCare Ohio” health plan or they can “opt-out” of the Medicare portion of “MyCare Ohio”. An individual can choose to have the same plan provide Medicare services, but it is not mandatory. Individuals will have the option to decline that enrollment and remain in either traditional Medicare “fee-for-service” or Medicare Advantage.

Participants will have until **December 31, 2014** to select a plan for their Medicare services in order to complete MyCare Ohio enrollment. Existing MyCare Ohio members will be automatically enrolled in the Medicare portion of “MyCare Ohio” unless they decide to “opt out” of their Medicare benefits. Those who do not select a plan for their Medicare services will be automatically enrolled adding Medicare to their current “MyCare Ohio” plan. Existing customers that do not want to receive their Medicaid and Medicare benefits from one “MyCareOhio” plan need to contact the Ohio Medicaid Consumer Hotline at 1-800-324-8680 or visit the enrollment website at:

<http://www.ohiomh.com>



Girl Scouts show off their receipt after shopping for the Seniors' care packages.

## Medication Safety

Please be very careful with your prescription medications, especially Narcotics that you may take to relieve pain. These are particularly appealing to persons looking for a quick “high” or to sell for cash. “Campus Impact” along with the “Amherst Community Task Force” is offering **MediSafes** to seniors that have narcotic prescription medications at home.

These safes are free of charge, however donations are accepted. The first round of **MediSafes** is being provided by the “Lorain Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board”.

If you are interested in obtaining one of these safes, please contact “Campus Impact” at **(440) 864-2011** and leave a message with your name, address, and phone number.

Your information may also be sent by email to:

[twalts@thecampusimpact.com](mailto:twalts@thecampusimpact.com)



## **HEATING BILL ASSISTANCE**

Now that the cooler weather is here, higher heating costs can be burdensome and a worry to those on a fixed income. There are federal programs available for those that are disabled or over 60. Eligibility is income based.

“Lorain County Office on Aging” offers assistance applying for the **Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)** to eligible adults that live in Lorain County. HEAP assistance is offered from September through April. Eligibility is based on income. Call LCOOA at (440) **326-4800** to see if you qualify to receive Home Energy Assistance or another program.

“Lorain County Community Action Agency” has a few programs that offer various levels of assistance with heating:

- **Percentage of Income Payment Plan Plus (PIPP)** is an extended payment arrangement for income-qualified consumers of regulated electric and natural gas utilities.
- **Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP)** is an energy efficiency program that helps consumers insulate attics, walls, and basements as well as perform other projects.

For more information on assistance programs, call the Lorain County Community Action Agency at **245-2009** or visit them at [www.lcaaa.net](http://www.lcaaa.net) or call the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel at **1-877-742-5622** or visit them at [www.pickocc.org](http://www.pickocc.org).



## **Winter Safety Tips**



It is that time of year again – ice, snow, and cold temperatures. Following are a few useful tips to avoid accidents this winter.

- Don't venture out if the temperatures are approaching zero or negative numbers.
- If you have to go out in the cold, make sure you bundle up really well. This reduces the risk of frost bite.
- Have someone keep your walks clear from ice and snow, especially if you walk to the mailbox.
- Consider asking a neighborhood teen to pick up your mail or paper and bring it to your door.
- Purchase “ice grabbers” that go on the bottom of your shoes for traction.
- Keep a cell phone with you in case you need help.
- Carry a small baggie with kitty litter to toss on icy areas for better footing.
- If you drive; carry extra blankets, cell phone, gloves, snacks, flashlight, and water with you in case your car becomes disabled.
- Stock up your pantry with canned goods and easily prepared food in case you can't get out for a few days due to weather or non delivery of meals through a Meal Program.
- Consider a system like “Life Alert”. You will have an emergency contact with you at all times.