

AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Spring 2015

Vol. XX No. 1

Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in the 4th quarter of 2014 (**bold represents yearly total**).

Newspaper	39.98	144.82	#1 PET	6.33	25.34
Cardboard	19.99	72.41	#2 HDPE	7.00	9.66
Mixed Paper	15.99	57.93	#2 - #7 Plastic Mixed	2.67	2.42
Steel Cans	3.33	12.07	Aseptic Containers	0.67	82.07
Alum. Cans	1.33	4.82	Residuals	13.33	48.28
Mixed Glass	22.66	22.92	Total	133.28	482.74

*Above quantities are all listed in tons.

3.20 tons of various paper through the "ABITIBI Paper Retriever" program (**10.25 tons** = Yearly Total)

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

May 16 (Pride Day)

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. 2nd & 4th 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@oh.rr.com

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

Email: 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

Remi Cerrone, Zoning Inspector

Trustees

Dennis Abraham (cell) 213-6775

(Ambulance, Cemetery, Park, Water, Buildings, Land, Zoning, 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, 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

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:

2nd & 4th 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 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. Air times are at 9 am, 4 pm, & 11 pm. All airings are subject to change.

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.

LORAIN COUNTY EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

At the February 10, 2015 Amherst Township Trustees meeting, the trustees passed a resolution to participate in and access the “L. C. Emergency Notification System” by signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Lorain County Board of Commissioners that will apply for the next 3 years.

This Countywide Emergency Notification System will enable the County as well as individual jurisdictions within the county to notify residents of pertinent information such as weather alerts, evacuation warnings and missing child/adult/Amber alerts by way of voice, text, email, pager, and social media.

The County has selected the “Wireless Emergency Notification System” (WENS), operated by Inspiron Logistics, an Ohio based company, to provide this

service. To sign up for this service and to choose the alerts you want, go to the website listed below.

Here you will need to enter your first and last name. You will then enter your phone number(s) and choose whether you want a “Text” or “Voice” message alert, or both. You may also choose to receive alerts my email. Then you can select any city(s), village(s), or township(s) that you would like to receive alerts from, as well as choosing which type(s) of weather alerts(s) you would like to receive. Below these options there is an option to “unsubscribe” and to “report mobile number error”.

Please note that Avon Lake, LaGrange Village, Oberlin and Sheffield Village have their own systems in place and are not part of this system at this time.

https://entry.inspironlogistics.com/lorain_oh/wens.cfm



“SHREDDING EVENT” – AT APRIL DUMPSTER DAY

On Saturday, April 18, 2015, during the “Dumpster Day”, Nationwide Insurance will be sponsoring a “**Shredding Event**” that will be available between the hours of 10 am and 1 pm. Please note that the “Dumpster Day” event will be held at its normal hours of 7:00 am to 3:30 pm.

Courtesy of Nationwide Insurance, and licensed consultant Chris Hibsman, they have partnered with Amherst Township for delivering a complimentary ‘shredding service’ for the residents of Amherst Township. This service will safely destroy both sensitive and private information in a live environment, allowing residents to witness their contents being destroyed in person. Representatives from Gateway Records Management of Medina will provide the service in a controlled environment on the Township Hall premises. Residents will directly hand contents to Gateway Records Management while watching their contents being uploaded into the ‘shredder’.

Thank you to Steve Ostrolencki, Jr., of Nationwide Insurance, for arranging this event. Steve grew up in Amherst Township, where his parents still reside.



Date: Saturday, April 18, 2015
Time: 10 am to 1 pm

2015 Amherst Township Road Levy

Amherst Township Board of Trustees are in the process of developing a long-term capital improvement plan for the purpose of general construction, reconstruction, resurfacing and repair of streets, roads and bridges throughout the Township. In order to effectively accomplish this difficult task, the Board of Trustees have engaged the following individuals to serve on a finance committee: Ron Yacobozzi, Jim Yorks, Tom Hupman, Marcie Jaworski, John Polansky, Howard Dulmage, Ron Friend and Bill Poplar.

The task of the finance committee is to evaluate current road and bridge finances, determine what is needed in order to implement an effective capital improvement plan and recommend to the Board of Trustees an amount to be placed on the general election ballot in November of 2015.

The last time Amherst Township residents experienced an increase in their property taxes, as a result of a levy specific to the Township, was approximately 14 years ago. Any and all tax increases since 2001 were due to school, county and/or state issues.

The finance committee and Board of Trustees will continue working together to develop an effective and "long overdue" capital improvement plan and all township residents are encouraged to call any member of the Board of Trustees or any member of the finance committee with any question and/or concern relative to this matter. Additionally, everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend any Board of Trustees meetings, held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at the Amherst Township Hall on Oberlin Road.



A Note from the Sheriff:

Deputy M. Bungard/Deputy Vansant



As some of you are aware we are having an issue with snowmobiles damaging yards and winter crops. Every year we battle this issue and lose. It is extremely hard to catch these riders because they take off as soon as we try to stop them. Some of the snowmobile operators ride over 100 miles during their ride. With the various different tracks and terrain, and distance it is not even feasible to track the offenders, since the only means we have right now is by foot.

Most riders are law abiding and respectful of others' property. However, many do not know that farmers' fields are often prepped before winter arrives, and sometimes they are planted as well.

Operators of snowmobiles and 4-wheelers are reminded that they need permission to be on private property, and that sometimes they unintentionally cause thousands of dollars worth of damage to fields.

Some criminal laws that may be charged under this negligence are:

- Criminal Damaging (Ohio Revised Code 2911.21) possible penalty is double the fines;
- Vandalism (O.R.C. 2909.05) Felony of the 5th degree or higher;
- Prohibited Acts (O.R.C. 4519.40) punishable of a fine from \$50 to \$500.00 and 3 to 30 days in jail.

We are currently making a small booklet to place at gas stations and other gathering areas of riders. This booklet will contain the above laws and a few others. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. We can be reached by calling the "Community Policing Officer" Office at 329-3749. Please leave a message stating your name and a return number where you can be reached. This number is not monitored 24 hours a day. You may also contact Deputy Vansant by email at:

rvansant@loraincountysheriff.com

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 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 (ext 103)**. Voice Mail is checked daily.

- | | |
|---------------------|--------|
| Pools | Decks |
| Porches | Patios |
| Gazebos | Fences |
| Garages | Ponds |
| Driveways | Signs |
| New Construction | |
| Building Additions | |
| Accessory Buildings | |



Planting in Road Right-of-Way



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





MARCH MOWING / MARCH MADNESS



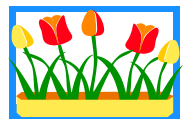
- Get your lawn mower ready for the busy season ahead.
 - Sharpen mower blades
 - Check filters and replace if necessary
 - Clean spark plugs and replace if necessary
 - Clean the deck
 - Set the blades at 3 or 4 inches
- Every 3 years, soil test in spring (or late fall) to determine what nutrients need to be added to the soil. Testing saves money, time and prevents over application of nutrients. Contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District or Cooperative Extension offices to learn how you may purchase a Kit.
- Lightly rake the lawn to remove compacted grass and snow mold caused by excess moisture.

- Start a compost pile with the first grass clippings of the season. Subsequent clippings should be left on the lawn as nature's fertilizer.

Did You Know? Studies show mowing your lawn to a height of 4 inches prevents crabgrass as effectively as a chemical herbicide.



PRIDE DAY



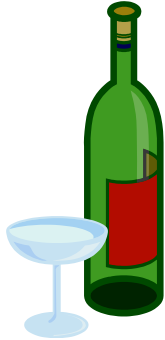
Lorain County Solid Waste Department has set Saturday, May 16th as "Pride Day 2015". As part of the county wide clean-up effort, Amherst Township will have a dumpster available on that day.



F.A.C.E. Fundraiser



“Funding Amherst Community Enhancement” will be holding their 5th Annual Wine Tasting Party fundraising event. Proceeds from this event will support Amherst Township Park Projects.



WINE TASTING PARTY

When: Friday, April 24th
from 7-9 pm

Where: Amherst Party Shop
275 S. Main St.

Cost: \$25 per person



Ticket cost includes wine/beer samples, food, and Hors d’oeuvres. This event will once again be held upstairs in the wine tasting room, the *Villa D’Vino*. Help support the Amherst Township Park while enjoying a casual and fun evening with your friends and neighbors.

Tickets may be purchased by contacting:

- Amherst Party Shop at **988-4132**
- Tom Hupman at **988-9877**
- David Marr at **752-0757**
- Lynda Ashley, Senior Service Director,
Mon- Fri (8am-noon) at **988-5894 – Ext. 101**

The F.A.C.E. board includes Tom Hupman (president), Jim Kantola, Bill Poplar, Richard Rice, David Marr, and Bob Cole, with one seat being open. If you would like to serve in a voluntary capacity on this board, please contact Tom Hupman at 988-9877



The F.A.C.E. group is currently raising funds to purchase new picnic tables for the Amherst Township Park on Middle Ridge Road. Funds will also be used to landscape the garden area of the retaining wall that is located on the walking path near the Workshop Players Theatre. F.A.C.E. will be working with the Boys Scouts to plant this area later this year.

Zoning Commission Board

Glenn Thome – Chairman
 Mary Torma – Vice Chair
 Hank Harsar – Secretary
 Jim Conrady – Member
 Darryl Saladin – Member
 Ron Sleasman – Alternate I
 Open – Alternate II

Board of Zoning Appeals

Kirsten Hill – Chairman
 Joan Whitman – Vice Chair
 Marcie Jaworski – Secretary
 Rose Betchker – Member
 Ron Friend – Member
 Bill Latrany – Alternate I
 Sam D’Ambrosio – Alt. II

Amherst Township would like to welcome **Sam D’Ambrosio** to the Board of Zoning Appeals, as an Alternate.

Please contact an Amherst Township Trustee or Zoning Board Member if you are interested in serving on one of these boards.

AMHERST TOWNSHIP **PARK REMINDERS**

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.

Park Pavilion Reservations

To avoid a scheduling conflict, please contact Amherst Township Road Superintendent, John Szefcyk, to reserve the park pavilion.

He can be reached at the township during the weekdays by calling **988-5894 (ext 111)**.

LIFECARE

Amherst Township, as a member of the Sandstone Joint Ambulance District, has chosen "LifeCare" to be their ambulance provider. President Pete de la Porte and Vice-President Herb de la Porte own and operate LifeCare. They can be reached at 323-6111. To learn more about their services, visit their website at:

www.lifecareambulance.com

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.

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.

Printed on Recycled Paper

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

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

Monthly Meeting
Dates & Times:

Trustees: 2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.
Zoning Commission: 1st Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Senior GAZETTE

Spring 2015

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**.

**ATSSO OFFICE HOURS:
8:00 A.M. – NOON (M-F)**

Phone: 988-5894 – Ext. 101

Email: amhersttwpseniors@oh.rr.com

FINANCIAL HELP FOR MEDICATIONS OR PART D PREMIUMS

If you receive Medicare benefits and have limited income, you may qualify for “Low-Income Subsidy”, also known as “**Extra Help**”.

“**Extra Help**” can reduce your out of pocket amounts for your monthly Part D premium, all or most of your copayments, and all or most of your annual deductible.

To qualify, there are limitations on your income and resources. Currently the limits are:

	<u>Individual</u>	<u>Married</u>
Income (monthly)	1,458.00	1,966.00
Resources	13,440.00	26,800.00

Income includes money from Social Security, pensions, employment, interest, and more.

Resources include money in a checking or savings account, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and IRA's. Resources do NOT include your home, car, household items, burial plots, up to \$1500.00 for burial expenses, or life insurance policies.

To apply for “**Extra Help**”, contact the Social Security Administration by phone at **1-800-772-1213** or visit their website at: www.socialsecurity.gov

Other Programs Available for Help with Medicare Part B Premiums:

QMB – Qualified Medicare Beneficiary acts like a free Medicare Supplement policy. QMB pays for all deductibles and coinsurance that Medicare doesn't. It will also pay for the Medicare Part B premium of \$104.90.

SLMB – Specified Low Income Medicare Beneficiary pays the Medicare Part B premium of \$104.90.

QI – Qualified Individual program also pays the Medicare Part B premium. These benefits are limited and you have to apply annually.

All the above programs are based on income. Please feel free to call our Senior Service Office if you have any questions or would like more information on any of these programs.

FREE TAX PREPARATION

AARP Tax Aide sites are available to file your 2014 taxes now through April 15, 2015. Seniors and medium to low income taxpayers are encouraged to take advantage of this free income tax service offered by AARP volunteers.

Local sites are:

The Amherst Public Library

221 Spring Street, Amherst

Phone: 988-4230

Tue and Thur: 10:30 am – 3:00 pm

Please call the library to make an appointment.

The Lorain County Office on Aging

320 N. Gateway Blvd., Elyria

Phone: 326-4800

Tue and Thur: 8:30am – 1:00 pm

Please call LCOOA to make an appointment.

Medication Safety

The Amherst Community Task Force continues to offer “med safes” to residents that have narcotic prescription medications at home. (Ref article in the Winter 2014 edition of the Sr. Gazette.)

These safes are free of charge. Donations are being accepted



to purchase additional safes. The first round of “med safes” is being provided by the “Lorain Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board”.

Please note that the contact information has changed. If you are interested in obtaining a “med safe” or would like additional information, please contact Jim or Kathy Loos at **(440) 823-6177**.



Spring Safety Tips



Below are a few useful tips to avoid accidents this spring.

- Be cautious of ice, even though the calendar says spring, early morning and evenings can be cold. What was water during the day can quickly become ice.
- Don't climb a ladder to clean your gutters or windows. Ask a family member or neighbor for assistance. You may also contact the LCOOA at **326-4800** and inquire about “Chore Service”.
- Keep a cell phone with you in case you need help, even if you are only out in the yard.
- Wear sturdy shoes if you are going out of the house.
- Wet surfaces and mud may cause you to slip. Be sure to walk on paved surfaces until the ground is firm and dry.
- Wear a hat and sunscreen. Sunburns can occur in spring, especially the first few times you are out for prolonged periods.
- Consider a system like “Life Alert”. You will have an emergency contact with you at all times.

