

AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Summer 2015

Vol. XX No. 2

Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in the 1st quarter of 2015.

Newspaper	31.02	#1 PET	4.91
Cardboard	15.51	#2 HDPE	5.43
Mixed Paper	12.41	#2 - #7 Plastic Mixed	2.07
Steel Cans	2.59	Aseptic Containers	0.52
Alum. Cans	1.03	Residuals	10.34
Mixed Glass	17.58	Total	103.40

* Above quantities are all listed in tons.

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

-----There were no dumpster days in the first quarter, therefore no scrap metal.

For questions concerning the "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:

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.

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

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, & 10 pm. All airings are subject to change.

2015 Amherst Township Road Levy

At the April 28, 2015 Board of Trustees meeting the Board passed a resolution for the Amherst Township Road District declaring it necessary to levy a tax in excess of the 10-mill limitation per ORC 5705.19, .26.

Over the past several months a Finance Committee composed of eight Amherst Township residents and business owners has studied and analyzed the finances and needs of Amherst Township. Their goal was 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.

Based on this analysis and the recommendation from the Finance Committee, the Board of Trustees unanimously passed a resolution to place an additional 3.9-mil, 5-year levy on the ballot at the November 3, 2015 General Election. This 5-year levy would cost the owner of a \$100,000 home \$11.38 per month. These funds would strictly be used for the general construction, reconstruction, resurfacing and repair of streets, roads and bridges in the Amherst Township Road District.

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 Amherst Township Board of Trustees would like to thank the Finance Committee for their time and effort given to this difficult task. The members of this Finance Committee included Ron Yacobozzi, Jim Yorks, Tom Hupman, Marcie Jaworski, John Polansky, Howard Dulmage, Ron Friend and Bill Poplar.

If a majority of the electors vote in favor of this road levy, it will be placed on the tax list and duplicate for the current tax year, beginning in 2015, first due in calendar year 2016 continuing for a period of 5 years.

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.

Clean Water Rule: Streams and Wetlands Matter

Clean water is vital to our health, communities, and economy. People depend on clean water for their health: About 117 million Americans – one in three people – get their drinking water from streams protected by the Clean Water Rule. Our cherished way of life depends on clean water: healthy ecosystems provide wildlife habitat and places to fish, paddle, surf, and swim. Our economy depends on clean water: manufacturing, farming, tourism, recreation, energy production and other major economic sectors need clean water to function and flourish.

We are protecting the streams and wetlands that form the foundation of our nation's water resources. We need clean water upstream to have healthy communities downstream. The health of rivers, lakes, bays, and coastal waters depend on the streams and wetlands where they begin. Streams and wetlands provide so many benefits to communities by trapping floodwaters, recharging groundwater supplies, filtering pollution, and providing habitat for fish and wildlife.

Science shows us the most important waters to protect. In developing the Clean Water Rule, the EPA and U.S. Army Corp of Engineers utilized the latest science, including a report summarizing more than 1,200 peer-reviewed, published scientific studies which showed that small streams and wetlands play an important role in the health of larger downstream waterways like rivers and lakes.

Climate change makes protection of water resources even more essential. Impacts from climate change like drought, sea level rise, stronger storms, and warmer temperatures threaten the quantity and quality of America's water. Streams and wetlands help provide the clean and reliable water that our communities and businesses need. Adaptation to climate change includes protecting our water.

To read more about the Clean Water Rule visit:

www.epa.gov/cleanwaterrule

In Memory of Mary Torma

Amherst Township has lost a valuable employee, community leader and friend. Zoning Commission member, Mary Torma, passed away on Saturday, June 6, 2015 after a short illness. Mary was a Zoning Commission member for 19 accumulative years and at various times held positions as chairperson, vice-chairperson and secretary. As a Zoning Commission member, she made decisions on rezoning, handled special requests from individuals on rezoning, and reviewed "Site Plan Reviews", signs, and text changes to the Zoning Resolution.

Mary was born and raised in Lorain County and had lived here most of her life, with time out for college. She graduated from Lorain Catholic High School. Mary's extensive college career included a B.A. in Psychology from St. Mary's College in Notre Dame, an M.B.A. from Baldwin-Wallace College, and a Juris Doctor from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. She was also licensed to practice law in the State of Ohio by the Ohio Supreme Court. Mary continued her studies toward a PhD at the Case Western Reserve University School of Business.

Mary was a tenured Professor at Lorain County Community College where she taught courses in law, entrepreneurship, human resources, and management. Mary had her own private law practice.

Mary was a member of the Lorain County Bar Association, the Ohio State Bar Association, and the American Bar Association. She had served as a Vice-Chair of an American Bar Association committee and had been trained in mediation by the Lorain County Bar Association. She was also a member of the United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship.



Mary was a member of the Church of St. Peter in Lorain and was involved in several church committees. Over the years she has served on many boards in various leadership capacities including president of Common Ground in Oberlin, member of the 1985 class of Leadership Lorain County, chairman of the Lorain County Woman of Achievement Luncheon, president of the Lorain YWCA, president of the Northeast Ohio Hospital Systems Society, president of Altrusa, member of the Lorain Catholic High School Foundation Board, and secretary of the St. Joseph Hospital Foundation Board. Mary was a recipient of the "Woman of Achievement Award".

We will miss Mary's contribution to our township and the community and we would like to extend our sincerest sympathy to Mary's husband, Jerry, her children Stephen and Katie, her grandchildren Marcus and Andrew, her parents Stephen and Georgine Muzilla and the rest of Mary's family.



Discharge of Firearms in Townships

Over the last few months, the Association has fielded a high number of calls from township officials, residents and legislators regarding the discharge of firearms in townships and the ability of township officials to regulate such action. Townships are creatures of statute and may only do those things expressly granted or inherently implied in the Ohio Revised Code. The ORC does not expressly permit, nor inherently imply, that a township may regulate the discharge of a firearm. Furthermore, townships that enact limited home rule are expressly prohibited in RC §505.04(B)(6) from establishing regulations affecting the use of firearms. Cities in Ohio do have the authority to ban or regulate the discharge of firearms within their jurisdictions.

While townships, unlike municipalities, are not permitted to regulate the discharge of a firearm, there are several sections of the Code that address discharging of a firearm in general. For example, shooting ranges are regulated pursuant to RC §1533.84.

“The chief of the division of wildlife...shall adopt rules establishing generally accepted standards for shooting ranges. These rules shall be no more stringent than national rifle association standards, and include standards for the limitation and suppression of noise, standards for the hours of operation of shooting ranges of the various types and at the various locations of ranges, and standards for public safety... Nothing in this section limits the authority of a township board of zoning appeals to issue or deny conditional zoning certificates for the reconstruction, enlargement, remodeling, or repair of an existing shooting range pursuant to division (C) of section 519.14 of the Revised Code or the authority of a board of township trustees relating to the completion, restoration, reconstruction, extension, or substitution of nonconforming uses pursuant to 518.19 of the Revised Code. At the time of its establishment, a shooting range shall comply with all existing local ordinances, regulations, or laws.”

Clearly, this statute requires a new shooting range to comply with the township zoning resolution, if it is to be opened in a township that has zoning. If the zoning resolution contains standards for the reconstruction, enlargement, remodeling, or repair of structures or facilities generally, those standards also apply to existing shooting ranges that are considering such changes to their structure or facilities. However, any such township zoning provisions that are tailored to existing shooting ranges specifically would likely be unenforceable.

Furthermore, pursuant to RC §1533.85(C), if a shooting range owner's or operator's actions or omissions are the subject of a nuisance complaint and “substantially complied with the chief's noise rules or the chief's public safety rules,” a court shall not grant injunctive relief under Chapter 3767 (nuisances), regardless if a township has placed nuisance provisions in their zoning resolution. (State

ex rel. Fischer v. Middleton Twp. Bd. of Trustees, (Ohio 2004)). In other words, to obtain injunctive relief against a shooting range in a nuisance lawsuit, you must be able to prove that the operation of the shooting range did not comply with the noise or safety rules of the Chief of the Division of Wildlife.

The standards or rules for shooting ranges may be found in Ohio Administrative Code 1501:31-29-03. The rules, like RC §1533.84, reference the National Rifle Association Range Source Book as the basis for guidelines or standards. The Range Source Book provides recommendations for covered backstops, overhead ground and side baffles, etc. The Book also states that projectiles must be confined to the property.

Title 29 of the Ohio Revised Code addresses the actions of individuals related to the discharge of a firearm. RC §2923.161(A)(1) states no person shall knowingly discharge a firearm at or into an occupied structure that is permanent or temporary habitation of any individual. Additionally, RC §2923.162 prohibits a person from (1) discharging a firearm upon or over a cemetery or within 199 yards without permission (except if the person owns the land), (2) discharging a firearm on a lawn, park, pleasure ground, orchard, or other ground appurtenant to a schoolhouse, church, or inhabited dwelling, the property of another, or a charitable institution (except if the person owns any type of property just described and discharges firearm while on said property) or (3) discharging a firearm upon or over a public road or highway (no exceptions).

Due to the increased interest in this issue by members, the OTA has once again included language in its legislative priorities on this matter. Specifically, the Association is requesting permissive authority for townships to adopt discharge of firearm regulations in areas with high population density. Here is what is included in the OTA's 131st General Assembly priorities:

Ohio's landscape is changing and the rural areas are fast becoming the center of the population shift in Ohio. There are approximately 20 townships in Ohio that have populations above 25,000 people in the unincorporated area and 50 townships with populations above 10,000. These population figures demonstrate that townships are not just the rural areas of vacant farmlands as they once were. Many Ohio townships have zoning regulations that permit up to two homes per acre, thus creating major safety concerns when a firearm is discharged. The OTA proposes legislation that would put townships on equal footing as municipalities with language that would permit the adoption of firearm discharge regulations based upon population and density within the township.

This article reprinted from the “Grassroots Clippings”, a Monthly Newsletter of the Ohio Township Association. April 2013

F.A.C.E. Fundraiser

The 5th Annual Wine Tasting Party fundraising event was once again successful. It was a fun and enjoyable evening. Proceeds from this fundraising event will be used for Amherst Township Park improvements which include a flowerbed along the newer portion of the park trail, near Workshop Players. They also hope to purchase more picnic tables through a recycling grant. We would like to thank the businesses and individuals that donated to this event, as well as all those who attended.



Thank You!!

Amherst Township would like to thank Joe and Donna Azok for all the work they did cleaning up the gardens in the Amherst Township Middle Ridge Road Park. The gardens were weeded, trimmed and fertilized!! New perennials were planted where needed.

Amherst Township would also like to thank Thome Farms for the two beautiful hanging geranium baskets that were donated to the township for Pride Day.



“SHRED EVENT” held on Saturday during the April “Dumpster Days”

Yard Waste Recycling Center Extended Summer Hours

As a reminder to residents, the “Yard Waste Pile” that is located on Oberlin Road, directly across from the Township Hall/Garage, will be open until 8pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, which coincides with the Trustees Meeting nights. These extended hours will continue through the summer and early fall.

The yard waste pile is for disposing of your limbs, brush, lawn clippings, and leaves. Residents are reminded to please place your empty plastic bags in the 55-gallon drum at the center, or take bags with you.



Notice from the Sheriff's Office:

On Wednesday, June 3, 2015, the Lorain County Sheriff's Office became aware of a phone scam, in which the caller claims to be a Deputy from this office. During the call he tells the victim that a warrant has been issued for their arrest and they can post a bond over the phone to avoid arrest.

The Lorain County Sheriff's Office does not call on the phone to demand a bond be posted in lieu of an existing warrant. Anyone who receives a call like this should not provide any information. If you have any doubt, contact the Lorain County Sheriff's Office directly at 440-329-3710. We will continue to investigate the matter and attempt to identify the subject(s) involved in this phone scam.

Lt. Daniel Ashdown

6/3/15

PERMITS REQUIRED

Residents are reminded that permits are needed for:

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

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.

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 them 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

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LORAIN, OHIO

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

Senior GAZETTE

Summer 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**.

SUMMER SAFETY TIPS

Although we enjoy the summer sun and heat, some medications may make seniors more susceptible to sunburn and dehydration. Please keep these simple tips in mind when going outside:

- Hydrate, drink plenty of water especially on really warm and humid days.
- Protect your skin from the sun with a sun hat, long sleeves, and/or a good sunscreen.
- Tend to yard work in the early morning or evening hours. Avoid being out between 10 am and 2 pm when the sun is the hottest.
- Take frequent breaks. Go in the house or sit in the shade and drink some water.

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

Phone: 988-5894 – Ext. 101

Email: amhersttwpseniors@oh.rr.com

MEDICARE UPDATES

Medicare will be removing clients’ Social Security Numbers from their ID cards as an extra protection for those on Medicare.

In moving to halt the practice, Congress was motivated by the proliferation of electronic health records and a rash of recent cyber attacks, including a data breach at Anthem.

Medicare officials have up to four years to start issuing cards with new identifiers. They have four more years to reissue cards held by current beneficiaries. They intend to replace the Social Security number with “a randomly generated Medicare beneficiary identifier”. Changing to another number will be a humongous job. The details are still being worked out.

In the meantime, please remember to guard your personal information at all times, especially your Social Security number.



THANK YOU



I would like to sincerely thank Daisy Girl Scout Troop 50146. The girls, under the direction of Katy Andrijowych, lovingly created a beautiful planter for each senior citizen who is participating in our meal program. These Girl Scout “Green Containers” were planted with cilantro, basil, and various flowers. The seniors were delighted by the heartfelt gesture from these young girls. This is the second time that our meal participants have been blessed by the generosity and thoughtfulness of Mrs. Andrijowych’s troop. **THANK YOU!**

FARMERS' MARKET COUPONS

Any Lorain County resident who is 60 years or older and has an annual income up to 185% of the Federal poverty level, can apply to receive \$50.00 worth of coupons to be used at local Farmers' Markets.

Household income includes not only all wages and salaries, but items such as unemployment insurance, disability payment, retirement checks, rental receipts, and any other form of income. The annual income limit for a one-person household is \$21,775 or less and for a two-person household is \$29,471 or less.

Applications are being accepted from June 23, 2015 through October 2, 2015 (or until supplies are exhausted). To apply, please visit the "**Lorain County Office on Aging**" at 320 North Gateway Blvd., 2nd Floor, Elyria, Ohio, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. For questions contact the LCOOA by phone at **326-4800**.

BENEFITS ASSISTANCE

If you are over 18 with a disability or over 60, "**Lorain County Office on Aging**" (LCOOA) offers assistance in determining what services you may be eligible to receive and can help you connect with area programs. Some of the programs available are:

- Medicaid
- Medicare
- Food Stamps/Nutrition Programs
- Home Energy Assistance Programs (HEAP)
- Telephone Discount Programs
- Prescription Drug Plans & Discounts
- Health Care Benefits

Please call LCOOA at **326-4800** for more information.

IDENTITY THEFT AND SCAMS

Identity theft happens when someone uses your personal information without your consent to commit crimes. Personal information includes your name, date of birth, Social Security number, Medicare, Insurance, credit card numbers, or bank account numbers. This information can be enough for someone to open accounts in your name, you may not realize the theft until you are contacted by a debt collector or by your bank advising you of being overdrawn.

Senior Citizens appear to be the highest targeted individuals for scams and identity theft in relation to Medicare. Guard your cards and information. Be wary of anyone telephoning you

requesting personal information like Medicare numbers, credit card numbers, bank accounts, and social security numbers. Medicare, IRS, and Social Security will send you any requests by mail. If someone calls you offering "free" service and requests your Medicare number **DO NOT** give that information to them. Hang up on anyone requesting the information.

If you suspect identity theft, or think you gave your personal information to someone you shouldn't have, call the Federal Trade Commission's ID Theft Hotline at 1-877-438-4338.

If you are in danger (someone is pressuring or intimidating you), call the Lorain County Sheriff Department.