

AMHERST TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

www.amhersttownship.us

Spring 2016

Vol. XXI No. 1

Recycling Report

Amherst Township recycled the following quantities in the 4th quarter of 2015 (**bold represents yearly total**).

Newspaper	34.97	139.93	#1 PET	5.54	22.16
Cardboard	17.49	69.97	#2 HDPE	6.12	24.49
Mixed Paper	13.99	55.97	#2 - #7 Plastic Mixed	2.33	9.33
Steel Cans	2.91	11.66	Aseptic Containers	0.58	2.33
Alum. Cans	1.17	4.66	Residuals	11.66	46.64
Mixed Glass	19.82	79.29	Total	116.58	466.44

*Above quantities are all listed in tons.

0.805 tons of various paper through the "ABITIBI Paper Retriever" program (**5.11 tons** = Yearly Total)

Other Yearly Totals:

7.43 tons of scrap metal through the dumpster program
505.00 tons of yard waste ground-up and hauled away

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

"2016" Dumpster Days

Amherst Township has set the following dates for "Dumpster Days" in 2016:

April 21, 22, 23

October 13, 14, 15

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 Szefczyk 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

Email: amhersttwpfire@gmail.com

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.

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.

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	

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.



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.



PRIDE DAY



Lorain County Solid Waste Department has set Saturday, May 21st as "Pride Day 2016". As part of the county wide clean-up effort, Lorain County Solid Waste will provide one, un-manned dumpster at the Township Hall on that day to aid with yard cleanup.

Zoning Commission Board

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

Board of Zoning Appeals

Kirsten Hill – Chairman
Bill Latrany – Vice Chair
Sam D'Ambrosio – Secretary
Joan Whitman – Member
Ron Friend – Member
Rose Betchker – Alternate I
Open – Alternate II

Amherst Township would like to welcome **Jim McCann** to the Zoning Commission Board, as a Member.

We would also like to thank **Marcie Jaworski** for her 9+ years of service on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Marcie retired at the end of her term in 2015.

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

ISSUE 14

PROPOSED TAX LEVY (RENEWAL)

AMHERST TOWNSHIP ROAD DISTRICT
(UNINCORPORATED PORTION OF AMHERST TOWNSHIP)

A Majority Affirmative Vote Is Necessary For Passage.

A renewal of a tax for the benefit of Amherst Township Road District for the purpose of **the general construction, reconstruction, resurfacing, and repair of streets, roads, and bridges** at a rate not exceeding 1 mill for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to \$0.10 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for a period of 5 years, commencing in 2016, first due in calendar year 2017.

FOR THE TAX LEVY

AGAINST THE TAX LEVY

REMEMBER



TO
VOTE!

The **2016** Primary Election will be on Tuesday, **March 15th**. Polls will be open from 6:30 am to 7:30 pm. Remember to bring your identification with you to the polls. Please exercise your right to vote. The Lorain County Board of Elections is located at 1985 North Ridge Road East, in Lorain. For more information about voting you can call them at 326-5900 or visit their website at:

<http://loraincountyelections.com>



1-mil
5-year



Road Levy Renewal

A 1-mil 5-year Road and Bridge Levy renewal will appear on the March 15, 2016 Primary ballot. This levy was first approved by the residents of Amherst Township in November of 2011. Upon approval of the levy in 2011, the Amherst Township Board of Trustees reduced the collection of an existing Fire and EMS levy to ensure no tax increase would be experienced by property owners in Amherst Township.

The last time a voted levy for township services increased taxes for Amherst Township property owners was in 2001. Tax levy increases experienced by Amherst Township property owners since 2001 have generally resulted from levies approved for educational or countywide services.

Approval of this levy renewal will not increase property taxes, but will provide \$113,653 for the reconstruction, resurfacing and repair of roads and bridges in Amherst Township pursuant to Ohio Revised Cod 5705.19(G).

STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The “Lorain County Storm Water District” managed by the Lorain County Commissioners, has budgeted funds for projects related to Storm Water improvements since 2011, with \$400,000 being budgeted for 2016 projects in the unincorporated areas (townships) of Lorain County. These funds will support “Storm Water Management” projects of townships that are successful in obtaining a competitive grant award.

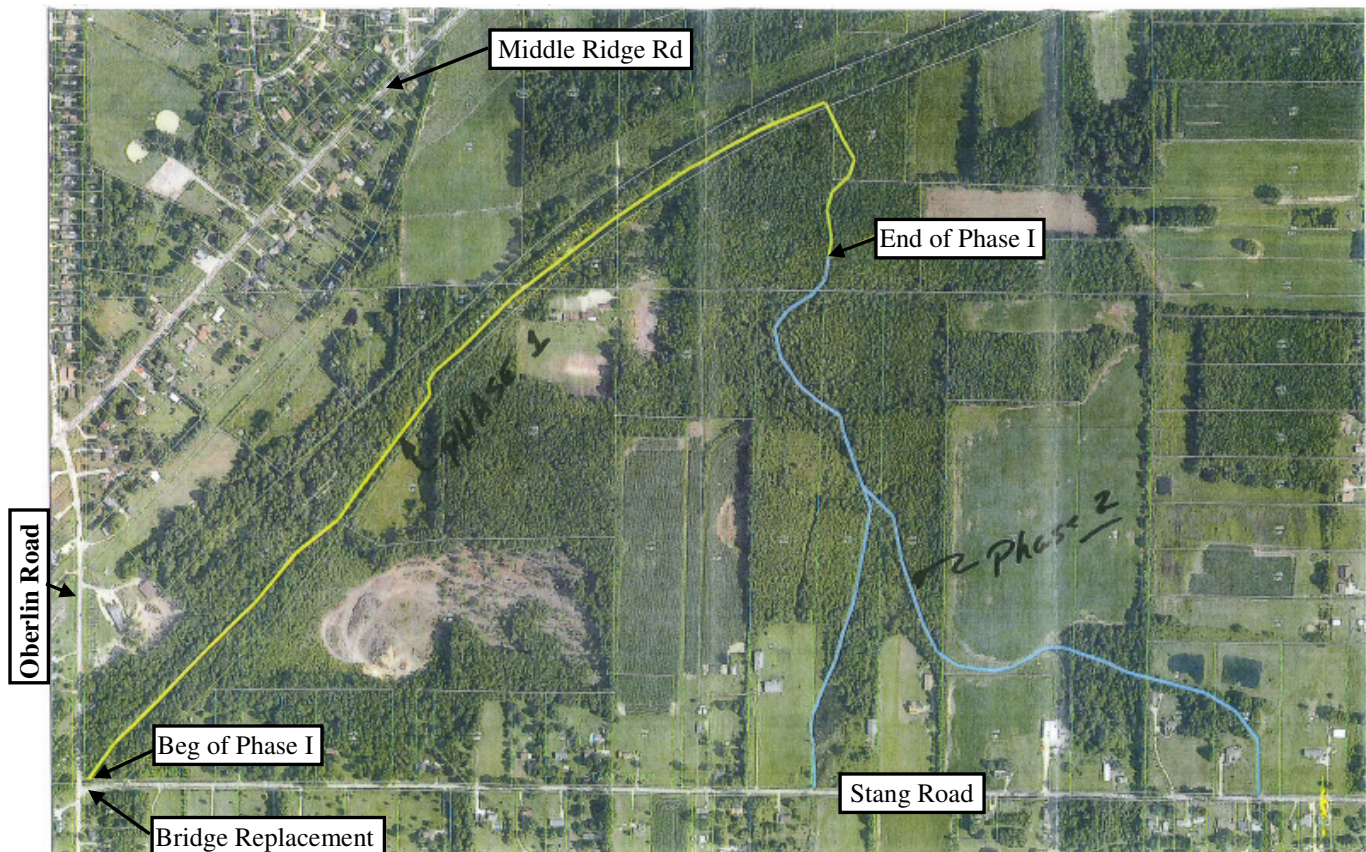
“Storm Water District” funding is the result of fees paid by all property owners in the unincorporated areas of Lorain County. Fees are listed on your semi-annual property tax bill. The minimum annual fee for a homeowner in 2015 was \$18 and appears as “SPECIAL” in the “Tax Distribution” section of your real estate tax bill. In addition, the Auditor charges 4% for collection of the fee. Annual fees will double in 2016. These fees will increase 3% annually over the next several years.

Amherst Township has established the “Engle Ditch Drainage Improvement and Flooding Abatement” project as part of their Storm Water Management Program. This project was identified because residents living in the area draining into the Engle Ditch are experiencing flooding of their properties and homes, this area is served by on-lot waste water treatment, and during heavy rain events the Engle Ditch flows over the surface of Stang and Oberlin Road, creating a hazardous condition for the

motoring public, excess erosion of the ditch embankment, erosion and sediment issues for local agricultural areas, loss of property value and health concerns.

The main channel of the Engle Ditch in Amherst Township is approximately 12,000 linear feet. The cost to improve a 2.25-mile ditch would exceed available funding, so the Lorain County Engineer recommended dividing this project into two 6,000 linear feet sections, shown as “Phase I” and “Phase II” on the map below. “Phase I” will occur over a two-year period. “Clearing and Grubbing” will be completed in 2016, and “Profiling and Installation of a concrete culvert” will be completed in 2017, at an estimated cost of \$114,205, with Amherst Township contributing \$9,000 of General Fund revenues to the project.

Amherst Township applied for funding of “Phase I” and the “Lorain County Storm Water Advisory Committee” (SWAC) recommended approval of the “Clearing and Grubbing” portion of this phase to the Lorain County Commissioners. We expect that the balance of funds required for Phase I “Profiling and Installation of a concrete culvert” will be approved in early 2017, with construction occurring soon after. Funding for “Phase II” will be applied for in 2016, but project funding is unknown at this time.



Bridge Replacement

In October 2013, Governor Kasich announced that Ohio would invest \$120M to repair or replace roughly 200 county and city-owned bridges. Thus, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) began the “**Ohio’s Bridge Partnership**” program which is an initiative designed to reduce the excess of deficient county and city bridges. Projects meeting eligibility criteria will be designed and constructed through the ODOT-Let process with 100% federal funds – no local match is required.

Due to age and wear and tear, the Engle Ditch bridge crossing on Oberlin Road (located near Stang Road) met the eligibility criteria and made the list for replacement in 2016. Bids for this project will be opened on March 3, 2016. Construction is expected to begin July 1st and run through mid-October. The project has an estimated cost of \$548,000 and will be funded 100% through the “Ohio’s Bridge Partnership” program, with no cost to Amherst Township or Lorain County.

Chip & Seal

Traditionally, the Lorain County Engineer’s Office and the individual townships solicit bids each year for a Chip and Seal Road Resurface Program on various township and county roads throughout Lorain County. Administratively and logistically, this creates additional work for the contracting community and, ultimately, may not result in the best prices for the various governmental agencies. Additionally, it is very difficult for the Lorain County Engineer’s Office to properly inspect and administer multiple contracts simultaneously.

As an alternative to past practices, the Lorain County Engineer’s Office has invited townships to include their Chip and Seal Program with the County’s annual bid. With one large county program, bids should be more competitive and the Engineer’s office will be able to provide oversight and administrative services for the entire contract with no overlap.

The Amherst Township Board of Trustees is in favor of collaborating with the Lorain County Engineer’s Office. Amherst Township roads under consideration in 2016 are Tina Lane, Rice Court, Rice Lane, Hornyak Court, and Erie Court, with an estimated resurfacing cost of \$70,000.

Oberlin Road Resurfacing

Resurfacing of Oberlin Road from the Turnpike, south to SR 113 has been approved. This project is a complete mill-and-fill paving job and will be designed and bid out by the Lorain County Engineer’s Office. Also included in this project are the raised, concrete islands to be constructed at the Oberlin Road/Hidden Valley Drive and Middle Ridge Road intersection. These raised islands would allow for the through vehicles on Middle Ridge Road to be blocked from passing the waiting left turn vehicles.

Funding will become available in July, at which time the bids will go out and soon afterwards be awarded. The resurfacing will take place in the fall of 2016 if the weather permits or the spring of 2017. The total cost of the project is expected to be \$325,835 with funding being provided from various sources. Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) “Issue I” funding will provide \$182,335 with an additional \$10,000 in loans. There will also be \$98,500 of funding provided by the “Turnpike Mitigation Program”. The remaining balance of \$34,092 will be provided by Amherst Township. The \$10,000 of loan money will be repaid by Amherst Township over the next 12-15 years.

Residents along this stretch of Oberlin Road are reminded that their driveway aprons will be completed with the same material as the road project, which is asphalt.

Middle Ridge Road Left Turn Lane

Funding for the Middle Ridge Road Turning Lane at Oberlin Road North will be available in July of 2016. This is a county project that will be sent out for bids in January of 2017 with construction to begin in the spring or summer of 2017. This project is expected to cost \$257,000 dollars. “Highway Safety Improvement Program” funds will provide for 80% of the project cost (\$205,600) with the remaining 20% (\$51,400) being provided by the Lorain County Engineer.

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.
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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 2016

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**.

AARP “FREE”

TAX ASSISTANCE

AARP Tax Aide sites are available to file your 2015 taxes now through April 15th.

Seniors with middle to low income are encouraged to take advantage of this free income tax service offered by AARP Volunteers.

This service is offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Amherst Public Library. Appointment times can be scheduled for:

9:30 AM
10:30 AM
1:00 PM
2:00 PM
3:00 PM

Please call the Amherst Public Library at **984-4230** to schedule an appointment.

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

Phone: 988-5894 – Ext. 101

Email: amhersttwpseniors@oh.rr.com

2016

MEDICARE NEWS

Are you reviewing your “*Medicare Summary Notices*” (**MSN**) carefully?

When you receive the “*Medicare Summary Notifications*” (**MSN**) it is important that you look it over very closely. Often, Medicare will deny a claim that should have been paid. If you are notified that Medicare isn’t paying for a service and you believe it is to be paid or question why it was not paid, you have a couple options:

- You can file an appeal with Medicare for redetermination of the claim. Details on how to file are on the back of the **MSN**. Please remember to pay close attention to the cut off dates in which you need to file your appeal.
- Seniors can call the Amherst Township Senior Services Office with any questions or to get assistance in determining why your claim was denied. You can also call if you would like help in filing an appeal.



VIAL OF "L.I.F.E."

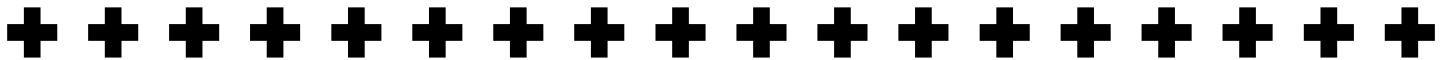


Lifesaving Information For Emergencies, (known as L.I.F.E.) is a non-profit national program in which key medical information is available to first responders in the event of an emergency.

A plastic baggie is labeled with a "Vial of L.I.F.E." sticker and contains all pertinent medical information needed, such as emergency contact, diagnoses, medications, allergies, legal designations, medical providers, and insurance information.

The "Vial of L.I.F.E." stickered baggie is placed on the outside of your refrigerator. An additional "Vial of L.I.F.E." sticker is placed on your front door or window. The sticker on the front door or window will alert first responders to look for your medical information on your refrigerator.

The Amherst Township Senior Services office is offering "kits" to all Amherst Township Senior residents. If you would like a "kit" or have any questions please feel free to call the office.



Home Energy Assistance Program



WINTER means cold temperatures! Cold weather means higher heating costs which can be burdensome and a worry to those on a fixed income.

"HEAP" is a federally funded program designed to help eligible Ohioans meet the rising cost of home heating this winter.

For questions about the program, eligibility or to apply, please contact the Lorain County Office on Aging at 440-326-4822.

PACE

PACE (Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly) is a Medicare and Medicaid program that helps people meet their health care needs in the community instead of going to a nursing home or other care facility.

PACE covers adult day primary care, dentistry, emergency services, home care, hospital care, laboratory/x-ray services, meals, medical specialty services, nursing home care, nutritional counseling, occupational therapy, physical therapy, prescription drugs, Part D covered drugs, preventive care, social services, caregiver training, support groups, respite care, social work counseling, and transportation if medically necessary.