



COUNTY OF AMHERST



Public Information Officer

AMHERST COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
153 WASHINGTON STREET
P. O. Box 390
AMHERST, VIRGINIA 24521

TELEPHONE (434) 946-9420
FACSIMILE (434) 946-9370

For Immediate Release

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Business 29 Property Maintenance Follow-up

In February 2018, the Amherst County Building Safety and Inspections Department responded to a citizen complaint regarding a vacant structure at 4171 South Amherst Highway that was in violation of County Code. The State Property Maintenance Code allows counties to enforce a minimum safety standard and work with property owners to remedy code violations. County officials inspected the property multiple times and worked with the property owners to create a reasonable abatement process and timeline that would bring the property back into compliance.

Rather than renovate the building, the owners chose to remove the vacant structure and make the property safe. Demolition began in September 2019 as part of that agreement. Multiple inspections of the property through the months that have followed showed little to no signs of progress toward compliance.

Follow up inspections done in conjunction with the Amherst County Sheriff's Office in January and February 2020 revealed unlawful dumping of construction debris on the property. In light of this new code violation, arrest warrants were issued for the property owners in accordance with [Chapter 13](#) of the Amherst County Code of Ordinances.

Building Safety and Inspections are continuing to work with the property owners to ensure the safe disposal of the debris and stabilization of the site. All county officials are working hard to address the issue of trash and litter in our community. Enforcing the codes that keep our county safe, healthy, and beautiful is an important part of this process.

The Amherst County Code is available at the Amherst County Administrators office and can be viewed online at: https://library.municode.com/va/amherst_county/codes/code_of_ordinances.



Additional information may be obtained from Joy Niehaus at jlniehaus@countyofamherst.com or (434)-946-9400.