



COUNTY OF AMHERST



Public Information Officer

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

TELEPHONE (434) 946-9400
FACSIMILE (434) 946-9370

For Immediate Release

May 19, 2022

Board Makes Changes to Refuse and Weed Ordinance

At their May 17, 2022 meeting, the Amherst County Board of Supervisors amended the County's Refuse and Weeds Abatement ordinance to provide staff with additional methods of code enforcement.

The County continues to see an increase of complaints from the community on the issue of weeds and litter. To address this issue more effectively, both the Sheriff and the Director of Public Works now have the ability to issue notices of code violations to property owners. Civil penalties have been added in addition to potential criminal penalties.

Property owners who violate this ordinance can now be subject to a minimum civil penalty of \$50.00. Depending on the severity of the violation, more aggressive remedies may be pursued. Additional violations within 12 consecutive months will result in escalating fines. If three separate civil penalties are issued within 24 months, future violations may be charged as a class 3 misdemeanor.

In cooperation with Building Inspections and Public Safety, the Public Works Department recently facilitated community cleanup days in Olde Town Madison Heights to help residents bring their properties into compliance with code regulations. These efforts are an important part of an initiative by Amherst County's government to nurture a vibrant and healthy community through transparent and fiscally responsible leadership and quality public services.

[The full ordinance can be found on the county webpage.](#)

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