



2016 Township Report

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Prairie Township Board of Trustees remains committed to the improvement of communications and financial transparency. This summary report provides an overview of the Township financial information, priorities and accomplishments from 2016, as well as goals and challenges for 2017.

The Prairie Township Board of Trustees is pleased to present this brief summary of its activity during 2016. This was an important year because we celebrated the first year of the Prairie Township Community Center and the completion of construction on the West Broad Street Streetscape.

The Township continues to maintain and improve a high level of services while maintaining solid financial management. At a time when it is rolling out a top notch recreation program and facilities, the township's other services continue to be delivered at a high standard. Roads, cemeteries, parks, snow plowing, nuisance abatement, building and development services, EMS and Fire protection and more services are delivered at a level of quality that makes us a regional leader in local government services. Sound financial management allows Prairie Township to maintain these high standards while also investing in the equipment and facilities that will ensure that our staff has the best tools with which to serve you.



Elected Officials

Trustees:

Ronald Ball

Mr. Ball is currently serving his 2nd term as a Trustee, and his current term expires on December 31, 2017.

Steve Kennedy

Mr. Kennedy is currently serving his 3rd term as a Trustee, and his current term also expires December 31, 2017. Trustee Kennedy served as the Chairman in 2016.

Doug Stormont

Mr. Stormont's fourth term on the Board began on January 1, 2016 and will expire on December 31, 2019. Mr. Stormont is now serving his 4th term on the Board.

Fiscal Officer:

Dan McCardle

Mr. McCardle is serving his 3rd term in office as Prairie Township Fiscal Officer.



2016 Highlights

Community Center – The Center celebrated its one year anniversary in July of 2016. During its first year, the Community Center was able to attract many individuals and families, bringing in over 6,095 members with an average of 5,400 active members since opening in 2015. New activities have been added to the schedule including Yoga Flow, multiple Silver Sneakers classes, and more swim lessons. The Center also had another successful Summer Day Camp in the summer and Farmer’s Market in the fall. Beginning in 2017, the Community Center will offer month to month membership options and a full membership that includes classes and childcare.

Streetscape Construction – The West Broad Street Streetscape was nearly completed by the end of 2016. The Streetscape features new pavement, waterlines, storm sewers, bike lanes, sidewalks, street lights, mast arm signals, landscaped medians, and beautiful trees lining the street.

The township purchased holiday wreathes and banners that were hung on the street light poles during the winter holidays. We have received very positive feedback about the esthetic views of Broad Street.

Galloway Sports Complex – Phase I construction of the Galloway Sports Complex began in 2016. Phase I includes walking trails, picnic/shelter areas, concessions & restrooms, parking, multi-use fields and baseball/softball fields. The proposed complex includes ball fields, ball diamonds, fishing ponds, and other uses. The township was awarded \$500,000 from the State Capital Budget for use in construction Phase 1 of sports complex.

Redevelopment Study – The Prairie Township Trustees and the Prairie-Obetz Joint Economic Development Zone Board funded planning efforts by the Prairie Community Improvement Corporation. These funds will be used as incentive façade improvements and catalyst projects based on the “Prairie Township Redevelopment Study.” This study lays out an agenda for increasing private investment and development in Prairie Township.

Refinancing of 2014 Recreation Bonds – Township staff worked to refinance the 2014 Recreation bonds in an effort to save the Township money. The Township maintained its AA rating with Standard & Poors and was able to refinance the bonds, resulting in savings of \$732,896.92 over the remaining life of the bonds.

Street Tree Program – The Board of Trustees adopted a street tree program. Through this program, residents, individually or through a homeowners/neighborhood organization, and other property owners can purchase street trees and have them planted through the Cost Share Street Tree Program. Residents must obtain a permit, choose a tree, get it planted, and provide routine care for the tree.

Township Newsletters – Prairie Township began releasing bi-annual newsletters in 2016 which feature highlights and upcoming projects for each department in the township. The newsletter gets mailed to all township residents and posted to our website.



2017 Priorities

Zoning Overlay – Prairie Township is completing zoning code changes to address changes to the arrangement and appearance of new buildings in the township along the West Broad Street corridor. This also includes extending zoning to the (former) New Rome area.

Phase 1 Construction: Galloway Sport Complex – Phase 1 construction is planned to be completed in late 2017/early 2018. Currently we are working to get waterlines and storm sewers ran to the land. This will allow to high quality facilities such as concessions and restrooms. Work includes planting of fields and installation of irrigation, as well as trails and parking which will be completed as part of Phase 1.

Redevelopment Study – Implementation – Through its partnership with the Prairie Township CIC, Prairie Township is working to implement recommendations of the 2016 Prairie Township Redevelopment Study. Projects include a development infill initiative at the North East corner of West Broad Street and Pasadena Avenue, and cooperation of the local shopping center to improve the function and appearance of it parking lot.

More Flexible Community Center Membership – The Board of Trustees approved a new month-to-month membership for and beyond 2017. This option allows patrons to have full access to the facility, group exercise classes, and use of the childcare room for a flat monthly rate. There is also a new Individual and Senior Individual rate.

Compensation Study – In 2017 the township is conducting a compensation study to organize job descriptions and gather salary medians for certain positions with data from surrounding areas that have conducted compensation studies. This study is being conducted by Clemans-Nelson. We anticipate the study being complete by May.

Neighborhood Investment – With its partners at the Central Ohio Community Improvement Corporation (County, Land and Bank) and Homes on the Hill, Prairie Township is working on obtaining, and clearing where necessary, vacant properties. The goal is to build new houses and renovate existing houses in our neighborhoods. Where houses can't be constructed or renovated, Prairie Township works to provide other productive uses, such as community gardens.

West Broad Streetscape Maintenance – The West Broad Street project is transitioning from construction to maintenance. Prairie Township is prepared to keep the corridor looking great by maintaining landscaping, street sweeping, maintaining lighting and providing banners and seasonal decorations. The Township is completing the purchase of new, specialized equipment to see that West Broad Street maintenance is done safely and properly.



2017 Priorities Continued

2017 Resident Resource Guide – This year the Administrative office is creating its first online resident guide. This guide will provide information about our departments, facilities, projects, and contacts as well as community resources. This will be very useful for new residents of the township. The resident guide will be found on our website at www.prairietownship.org.

Do Not Knock Registry – Beginning March 31, 2017, residents will have the option to add their home on the townships Do Not Knock Registry. This program was created to assist residents with keeping unwanted solicitors from approaching their homes. Residents can sign up for the registry on the townships website, by calling the office at 614-878-3317 ext. 112 or stopping by the administration office. Each household registered will receive a sticker to display on their front door or window, which lets door-to- door solicitors known that they are on the registry.



Revenue Coming into the Township

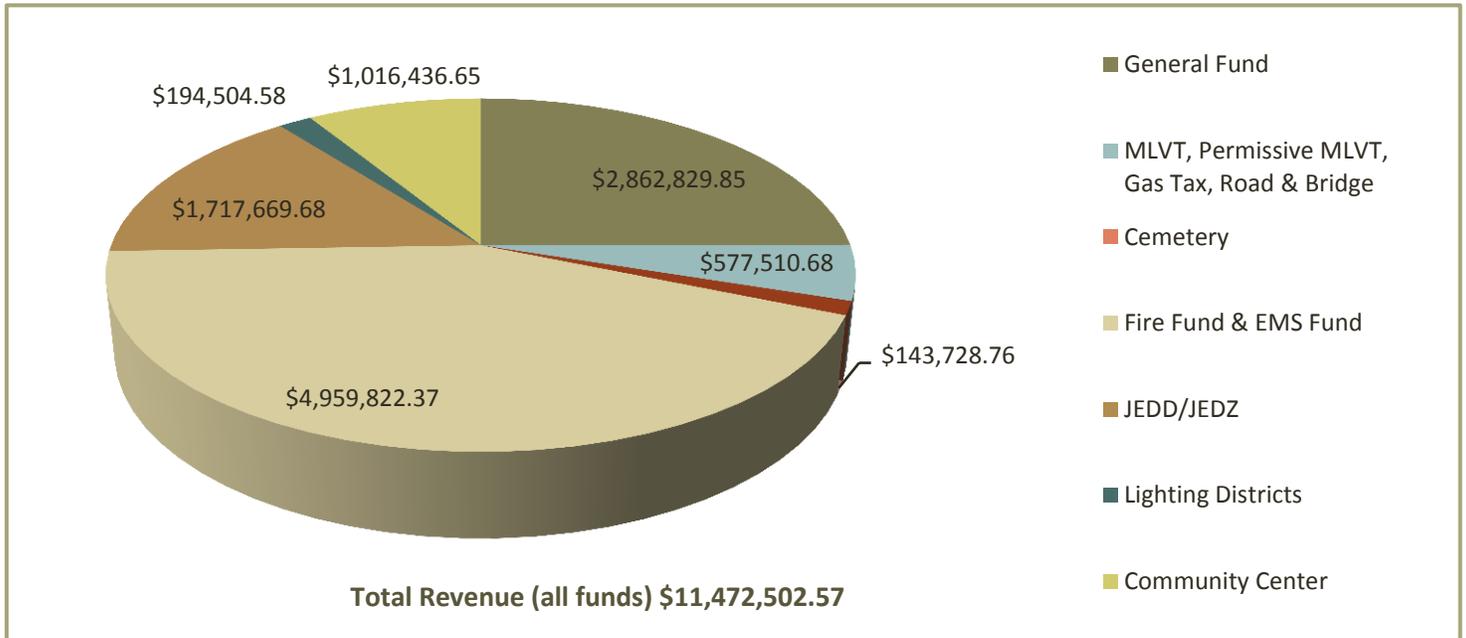


Figure 1 illustrates Prairie Township's revenue for its major operating and capital funds.

Township Funds Receiving Transfers from Other Funds	
Road District:	\$250,000.00 (General Fund)
OPWC Payments:	\$107,589.52 (General Fund)
Fire Capital:	\$256,339.01 (Fire Fund)
EMS Capital:	\$143,728.76 (EMS Fund)
Community Center:	\$530,000.00 (JEDZ, JEDD, General Funds)
Total:	\$1,287,657.29

Highlights:

- The General Fund revenue was \$251,529.85 more than the budgeted.
- Total Road, Cemetery & Parks Department Funds revenue was very close to or exceeded estimated amounts
- JEDZ revenue exceeded the budget amount by \$147,828.18.
- JEDD revenue exceeded estimated amount by \$9,841.50
- Permissive MVLV exceeded budgeted amount by about \$10,000.00
- The Community Center met 62% of the budgeted amount in its first year and a half.

Total revenue (all funds) in 2016 were \$708,916.43 (5.9%) lower than in 2015.



Expenditures (Major Funds)

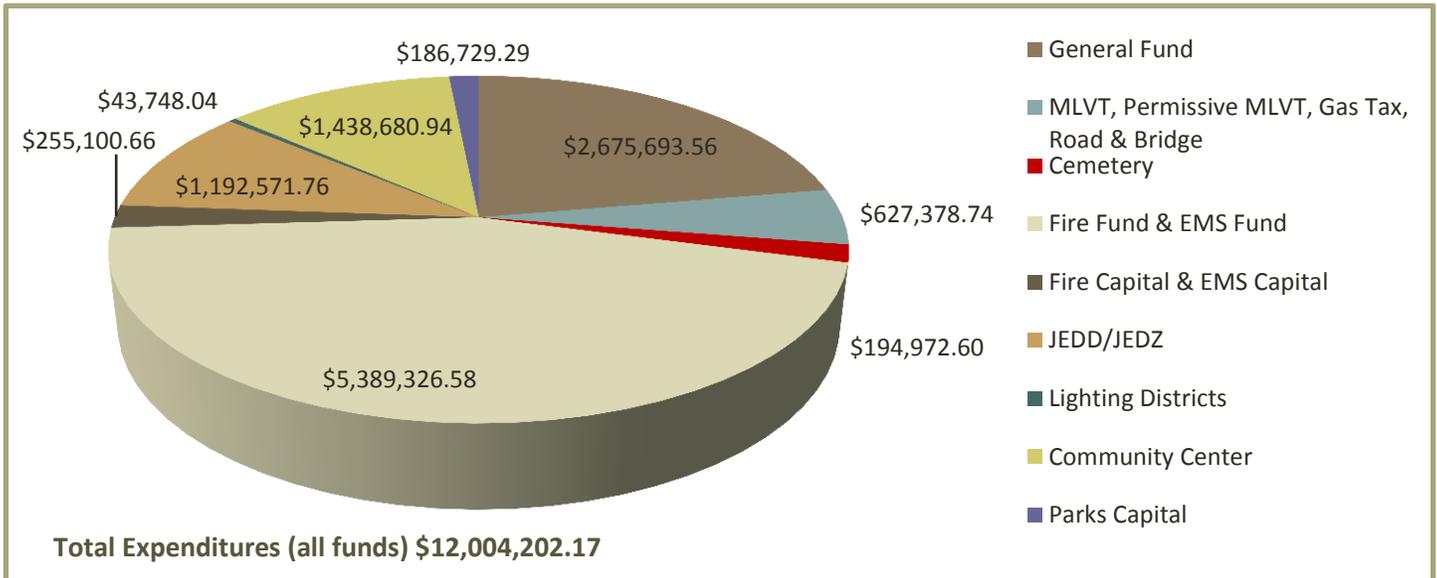


Figure 2 illustrates expenses from the townships major operating and capital funds

Highlights

- Legal expenses totaled \$155,252.08 (paid from General Fund and Fire Fund). Bond refinancing for the Community Center was a contributing factor to the high legal expenses.
- The bonds that the township issued in 2014 to pay for the Community Center construction are being repaid from the JEDZ Fund. The payments for 2015 were \$573,006.26.
- The Community Center used 82% of the budgeted appropriations for operating supplies and contracted services such as instructors for various types of fitness classes.

Expenditures for 2016 (all funds) were \$4,675,489.88 lower than in 2015.



Fund Balances

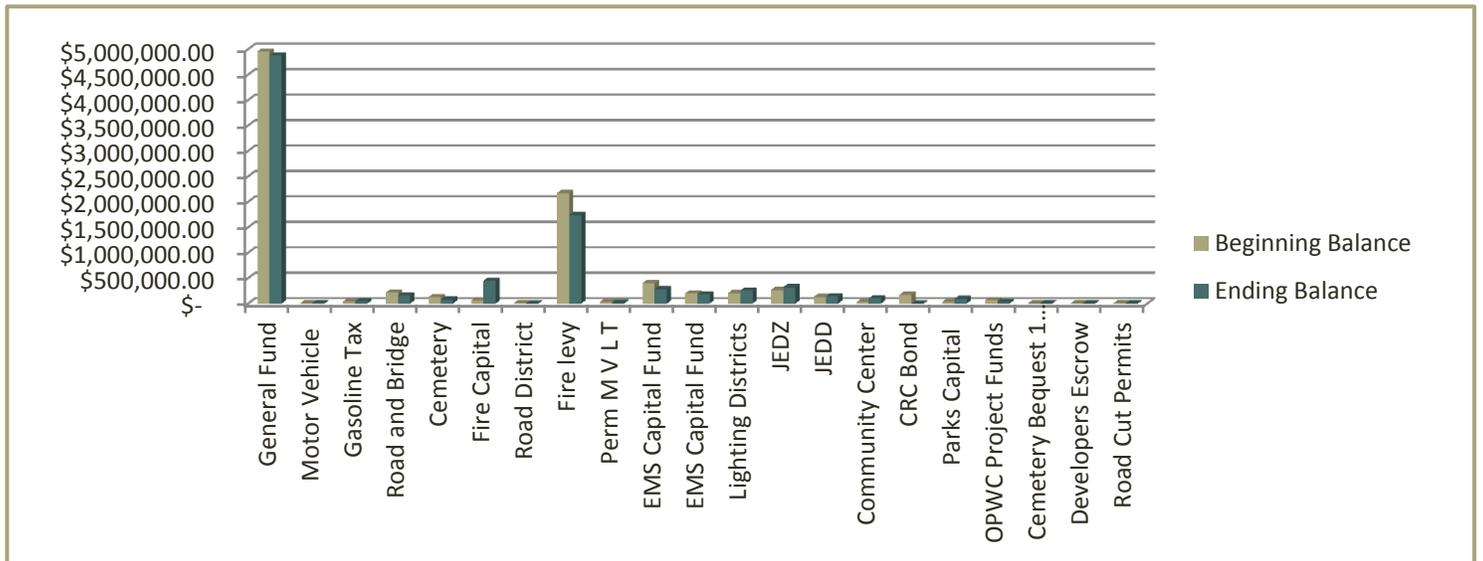
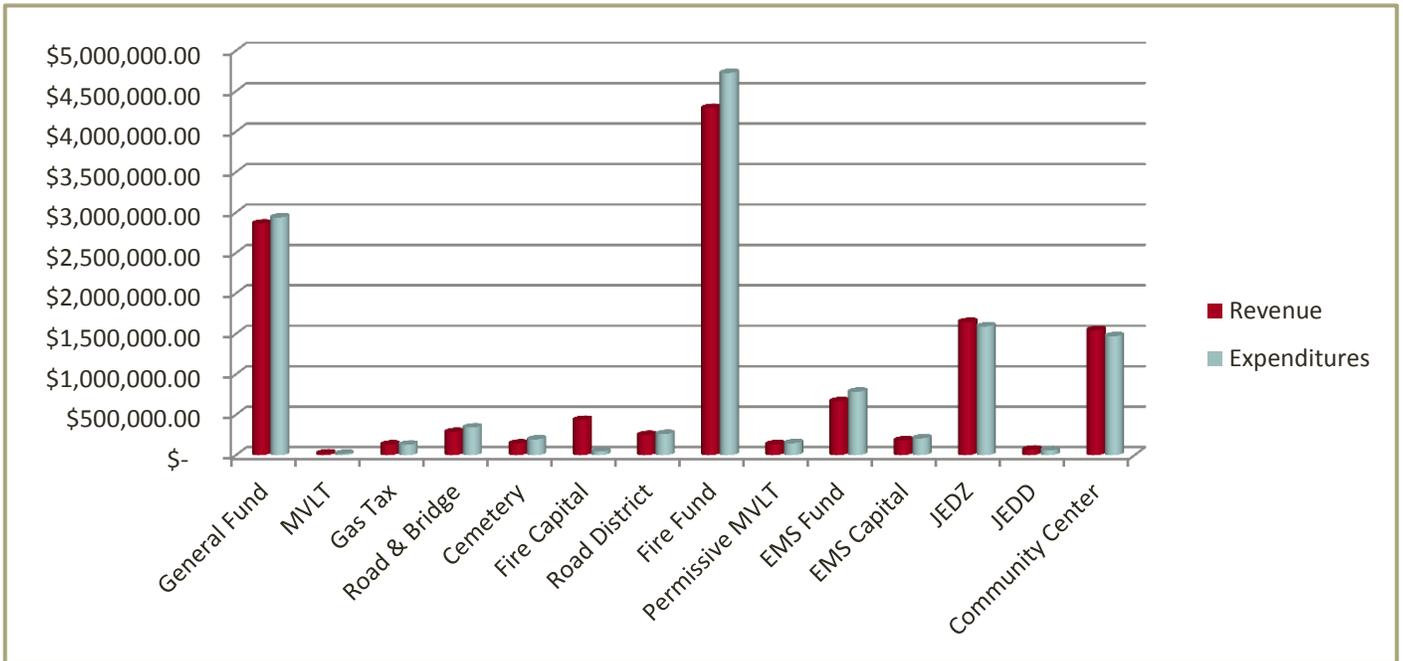


Figure 3 illustrates the beginning and ending fund balances for Prairie Township

	Beginning Balance 1/1/16	Ending Balance 12/31/16
General Fund	\$ 4,953,517.31	\$ 4,876,085.57
Motor Vehicle License Tax	\$ 4,333.34	\$ 8,415.26
Gasoline Tax	\$ 40,317.64	\$ 42,901.95
Road and Bridge	\$ 214,605.48	\$ 157,756.82
Cemetery	\$ 128,851.60	\$ 76,721.89
Fire Capital	\$ 60,473.74	\$ 450,345.80
Road District	\$ 12,245.79	\$ 0.00
Fire levy	\$ 2,171,868.82	\$ 1,737,442.30
Permissive Motor Vehicle License	\$ 31,561.66	\$ 19,207.51
Emergency Medical Services	\$ 400,513.24	\$ 283,409.34
EMS Capital Fund	\$ 201,650.39	\$ 176,807.67
Lighting Districts	\$ 207,616.59	\$ 254,998.07
JEDZ	\$ 266,435.03	\$ 322,032.55
JEDD	\$ 132,396.94	\$ 141,897.34
Community Recreation Center	\$ 29,214.34	\$ 104,029.17
CRC Bond	\$ 173,750.81	\$ 0.00
Parks Capital	\$ 31,377.73	\$ 94,648.44
OPWC Project Funds	\$ 63,772.31	\$ 29,119.49
Cemetery Bequest 1 & 2	\$ 2,035.95	\$ 2,053.12
Developers Escrow	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,600.00
Road Cut Permits	\$ 6,770.00	\$ 4,042.00



Revenue vs. Expenses



General Fund expenditures exceed revenue by \$270,145.59, which is 65% less than 2015



Zoning Department Statistics

COMMERCIAL REVENUE	\$ 43,993.73
ZONING REVENUE	\$ 32,683.25

TOTAL \$ 76,676.98

TOTAL NUISANCE CASES

Complaints Received	298
Door Hangers Placed	213
Declared by Trustees	148
Not Declared by Trustees	150
Abated by Road Dep't	67

ZONING PERMITS	256
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COMMERCIAL BUILDING PERMITS	59
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VIOLATION LETTERS	354
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GARAGE SALE PERMITS	29
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TRANSIENT VENDOR PERMITS	37
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LAND USE DISTURBANCE PERMITS	18
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TOTAL VARIANCE APPLICATIONS	9
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TOTAL COND. USE APPLICATIONS	2
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TOTAL REZONINGS	0
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TOTAL APPEALS	0
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TOTAL AMENDMENTS/E.U. MOD.	1
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2016 Spring Clean-up

(3) 30 yard trash dumpsters (At Stations 241 and 243 and Road Department)

TOTAL TRASH DUMPED: 58.19 TONS

(1) 30 yard tire sumpster (At Road Department)

TOTAL TIRES DUMPED: 26.86 TONS

TOTAL COST FOR CLEAN-UP: \$10,336.90



Fire Department Highlights

Position Appointments

In 2016 two key positions were filled. In April of 2016, Captain Rick Critchfield transitioned into the position of Fire Marshal. In July, the Assistant Chief's position was filled by Allen Scott who came to Prairie Township from the City of Whitehall, where he served as the Captain in charge of the Fire Prevention Bureau.

Fire Department Maintenance

The department purchased a new EMS vehicle, Medic 243. The truck is housed at the Hubbard Road Fire Station 243. Several maintenance projects which began in 2016 will be completed in 2017, such as painting at the Inah Ave Fire Station 241 as well as concrete work on the front apron.

Fire and EMS Runs

During 2016, Prairie Township responded to a total of 6,008 incidents. Of those, 2,030 were fire related. The total estimated fire losses for the year was \$969,353.00. Additionally, the department responded to 3,978 emergency medical incidents. The busiest time for requests for service was Friday between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Smoke Detector Program

The Prairie Township Fire Department initiated a program of door-to-door home visits to ensure that all Township homes have adequate smoke detectors. This program will continue in 2017.

Roads, Cemeteries and Parks Department Highlights

The Roads, Cemeteries and Parks Department continued with all of the services that the Township offers in 2016. These include park grounds and maintenance, street and road maintenance, storm sewer maintenance, street sweeping, leaf pick-up and chipper services.

Street Sweeping

In 2016, street sweepers cleaned all Township streets with curbs and gutters. In 2017 West Broad Street will be added to this list. These sweeps will help us maintain the great conditions of our roads and keep our Township looking its best.

Street Tree Program

The Road, Cemeteries & Parks helped to initiate the Street Tree Program in 2016. This will continue in 2017. Residents can select a tree from a large list of options and have it planted. Residents can obtain a permit (if necessary) for the tree and they must maintain the tree as it grows. This is a great opportunity for us to increase the esthetic views of the Township and also help our environment.



Community Center Highlights

The Prairie Township Community Center opened its doors in June of 2015. At the end of December 2016, the Community Center had over 7,800 members and is continuing to grow. The Center offers a wide range of classes and programs for all ages. The Community Center was also approved to be a Silver Sneakers and Silver & Fit facility and began offering military discounts in 2016. For more information on classes, special events, and membership rates visit the Community Center page at PrairieTownship.org.

Some Special Events held at the Community Center in 2016 include:

Farmers Market

The 2016 Farmer's Market featured local farmers and businesses that gathered in the Community Center parking lot. Some items for sale include beef, fruits, vegetables, flowers, baked goods, ice cream, and lemonade. The Farmer's Market is held on Mondays throughout the summer.

5K Walk & Run

The Prairie Township Community Center held its first 5k walk/run in 2016. Many participated in the festivities held at the Lincoln Village Plaza and the 5k in the neighborhoods of Lincoln Village.

Touch a Truck

This event features trucks from the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, the Prairie Township Fire Department, and the Prairie Township Road Department. Children get the opportunity to view and touch the trucks as well as interact with those who operate them.

Discover Westland

This event is held in the fall and features local businesses and restaurants. There are people there from each business to provide information and free samples. The event is free to attend.

Trick or Treat Trail

Held in October, this Halloween event allows children to follow a trail to different businesses and get treats along the way.

Tree Lighting

During the holiday season the Community Center has a tree lighting event that features an ice sculpture, hot chocolate, games and crafts, and a picture with Santa, ending with a performance from the Westland High School Choir and lighting of the tree.

