



# 2017 Township Report

Prairie Township, Franklin County, Ohio

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's financial information, priorities and accomplishments from 2017, as well as goals and challenges for 2018.

# 2017 Township Report

Prairie Township, Franklin County, Ohio

## Township Trustees:

### Steve Kennedy

Mr. Kennedy was elected to his 4<sup>th</sup> term as a Trustee in November 2017. His current term expires on December 31, 2021. He is serving as Chairman in 2018.

### Cathy Schmelzer

Mrs. Schmelzer is serving her first term as a Township Trustee in 2018. Her current term expires on December 31, 2021

### Doug Stormont

Mr. Stormont is currently serving his 4<sup>th</sup> term on the Board. His current term expires on December 31, 2019. He served as Chairman in 2017.

### Ron Ball

Mr. Ball served two terms as a Trustee. His final term expired on December 31, 2017.

## Fiscal Officer:

### Dan McCardle

Mr. McCardle is serving his 3<sup>rd</sup> term in office as Prairie Township Fiscal Officer. His current term expires on March 31, 2020.

## 2017 Highlights

**Zoning Overlay** – Prairie Township completed zoning code changes intended to provide a minimum standard for the design, placement and appearance of new buildings along the Township’s West Broad Street corridor. Other changes include extending zoning to the (former) New Rome area. Adoption of these changes was finalized in early 2018.

**Redevelopment Study – Implementation** – Through its partnership with the Prairie Township CIC, Prairie Township continued working to implement recommendations of the 2016 Prairie Township Redevelopment Study. Through this and other work the PTCIC seeks to increase investment and business activity in the community.

**Community Center Membership Changes** – 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. These changes have increased access to this flagship facility.

**Neighborhood Investment** – With its partners at the Central Ohio Community Improvement Corporation (County, Land and Bank) and Homes on the Hill, Prairie Township began 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. The groundwork for our Rebuilding Healthy Neighborhoods was also put into place.

**Do Not Knock Registry** – The Township’s Do No Knock registry was a huge success in 2017. Launching in March, the Township gathered over 650 addresses for residents who applied for the registry. The goal of this program is to assist residents with keeping unwanted solicitors from approaching their homes. The registry will continue to be available in 2018. Residents can sign up for the registry on [prairietownship.org](http://prairietownship.org), calling the Administration Office at 614-878-3317 or stopping in at 23 Maple Drive. Each household registered receives a sticker to display on their front door or window. This lets solicitors know that the household is on the list. Please contact the Non-Emergency Sheriff’s number 614-525-3333 to report a solicitor violating the registry. A solicitor must possess a transient vendor license given by the Township in order to go door-to-door.

**West Broad Street Banners** – After completing construction in 2016, the Township worked with a company to create community-oriented banners for the poles on West Broad Street. Prairie Township has created holiday banners, township welcome banners, and Farmer’s Market banners for the Community Center. Most recently, Prairie Township worked with Westland High School to design banners for every sports team, band, and collar guard Westland has to offer. These banners have brought Prairie Township a greater sense of community by supporting our local schools.

**Regional Fiber Optics and Dispatch Cooperation** – Prairie Township, along with Jackson and Pleasant Townships as well as South Western City School District and Southwest Public Libraries, worked with Grove City to put a fiber optics network in place for southwestern Franklin County. This was accompanied by consolidation of Prairie Township’s Fire Department dispatch with other area departments at the Grove City Police Facility. We thank Grove City for their efforts on these regional efforts to improve productivity and efficiency.

**Galloway Sport Complex Construction** – Phase 1 construction was underway during 2017. The work included waterline and storm sewer installation, paving parking lots and trails, and beginning construction of the concession stands and restrooms. Other items that are part of Phase 1 include planting of fields and installation of irrigation.



## 2018 Priorities

**Galloway Sports Complex Construction** – The Township is moving forward with its construction efforts in completing the Sports Complex. Phase I is expected to be completed in 2018. Construction is currently being done on the concession stand and restroom facilities. Planning for Phase II has started and our state senators and representatives have led the way in securing \$500,000.00 for this project.

**Military Hometown Hero Banner Program** – This program is a way for the community to recognize and honor Prairie Township residents who are serving or are veterans who have served our country in the United States Armed Forces. Each banner will honor a specific Prairie Township service person and will include their name, branch of service and photo. The banners will be displayed on street lamps along West Broad St. from May through August. Please contact the Administration Department if you would like to participate in this program.

**Shared Services through Agreements with Grove City** – As a follow-up to the fiber optics and dispatching efforts with Grove City, Prairie Township is contracted with Grove City for IT service beginning in 2018. This new opportunity allows Prairie Township to make some upgrades among its departments as well as maintain our technology assistance for smooth day to day operations.

**Rebuilding a Healthy Neighborhood** – Rebuilding Together and Prairie Township have teamed up to help revitalize the Little Farms neighborhood. Volunteers will begin working May 5, 2018 to make improvement to homes, focusing on those of seniors. Contractors and volunteers will conduct work such as building ramps, landscaping, and safety issues around the home. The project's goal is to improve the quality, safety and appearance of the neighborhood. Trustees have approved \$50,000.00 in funding to put towards the project with Rebuilding Together estimating that at least \$400,000.00 worth of funding, labor and materials that will go into the project this year. Volunteers will also be cleaning up litter and graffiti as well as distributing safety kits to 100 households. Rebuilding Together and Prairie Township plan for this to be the first of three years that we will conduct such a project.

**Prairie Community Fund** – The Township plans to get the Prairie Community Fund up and running in 2018. Eight members have been appointed to serve three-year terms as charter members of the fund's board of directors. This fund will allow area residents and others to make financial contributions to projects that benefit the community. The fund will work with the Columbus Foundation to manage the fund.

## Revenue Coming into the Township

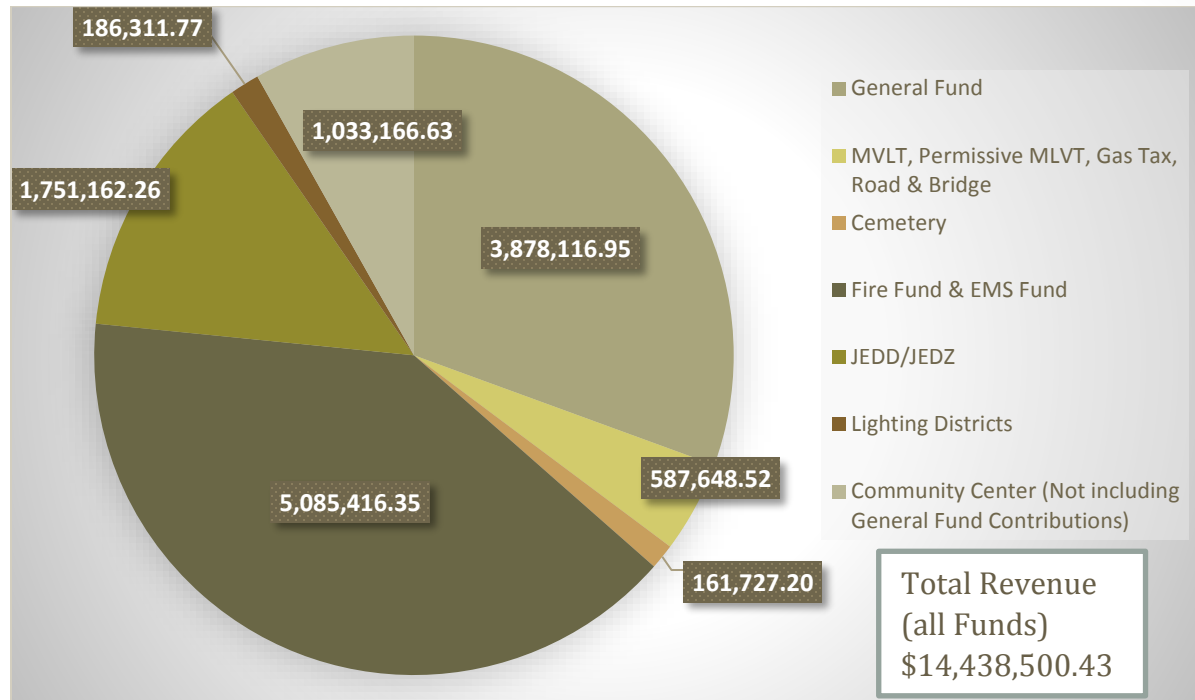


Figure 1 illustrates Prairie Township's 2017 revenue from outside sources for its major operating funds.

Revenue in 2017 was \$2,965,997.86 (approx. 25.9%) higher than 2016.

### Highlights:

- The General Fund revenue totals were as estimated for 2017.
- JEDD revenue exceeded the expected amount by \$26,460.44.
- The Community Center revenue met 97.47% of the expected amount in 2017.
- All Fire and EMS Funds exceeded the estimated amount.
- Total Road, Cemetery & Parks Department Funds revenue was very close to or exceeded estimated amounts.

State Capital Funding  
And Trail Grant Funding for the  
Galloway Sports Complex is reflected  
in the Parks Capital Revenue totaling  
\$1,912,977.98

Township Funds Receiving  
Transfers from Other Funds

Road District:	\$267,000.00 (General Fund)
OPWC Payments:	\$82,939.92 (General Fund)
Fire Capital:	\$411,790.00 (Fire Fund)
EMS Capital:	\$88,840.00 (EMS Fund)
Community Center:	\$560,000.00 (JEDZ, JEDD, General Funds)
<b>Total: \$1,410,569.92</b>	

## Expenditures (Major Funds)

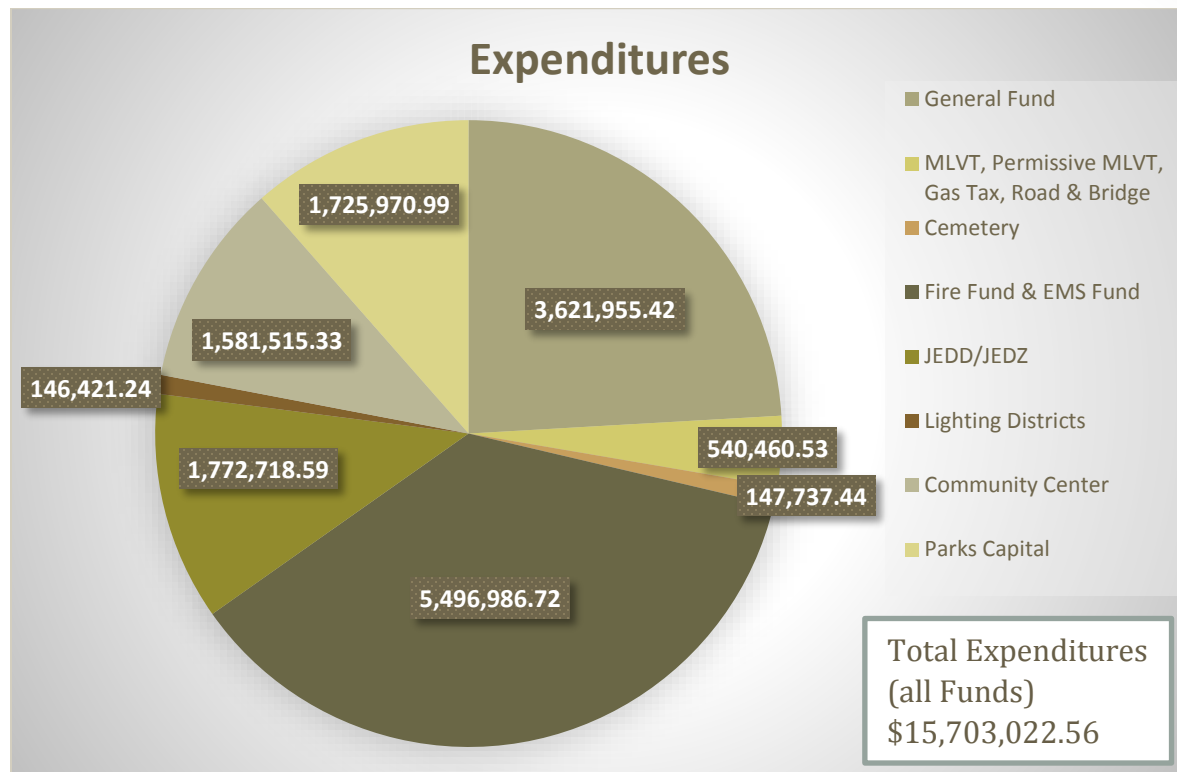


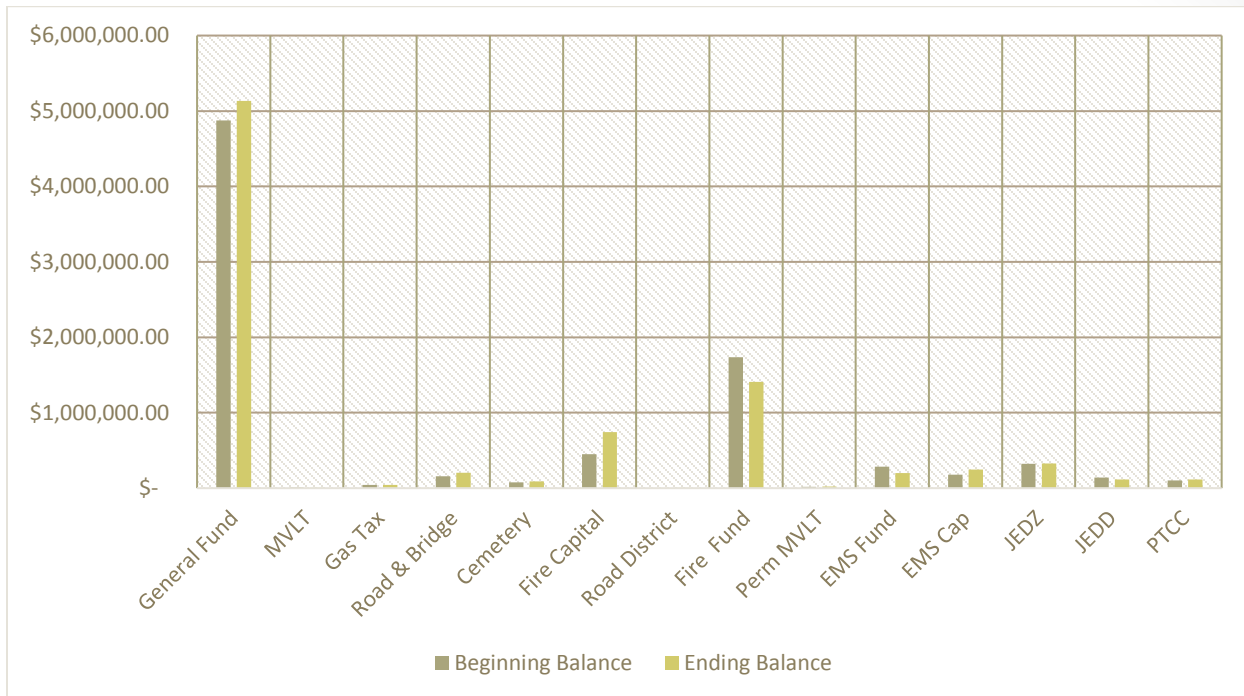
Figure 2 illustrates expenses from the townships major operating and capital funds

### Highlights:

- Franklin County Sheriff's Contract totaled \$858,550.06 and was split between the General Fund (16%) and the JEDZ Fund (84%).
- Legal expenses totaled \$155,095.33 (paid from General Fund, Fire Fund and Community Center Fund).
- The Community Center used 89% of the budgeted appropriations for Contracted Services and Operating Supplies totaling \$196,706.58. These funds are used for services including instructors for fitness courses and supplies to maintain, upgrade and advance the Community Center

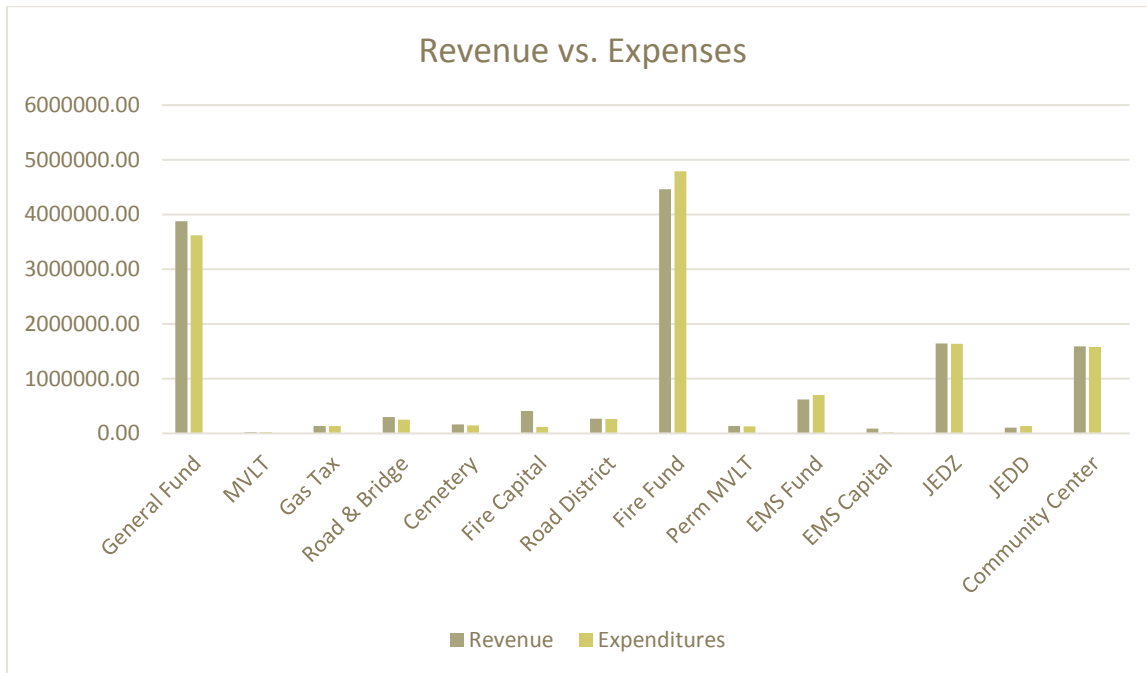
Expenditures for 2017 (all funds) were \$3,698,820.39 higher than in 2016. The majority of this increase comes from the Parks Capital Fund for construction of the Galloway Sports Complex through state capital funding and trail grant funding.

# Fund Balances

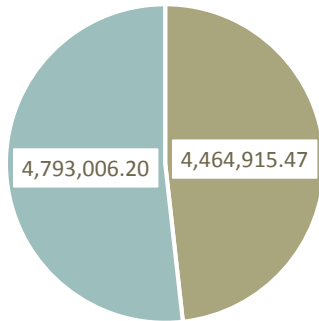


Fund Balances	Beginning Balance	Ending Balance
General Fund	4,876,085.57	5,132,247.10
Motor Vehicle License Tax	8,415.26	5,419.33
Gasoline Tax	42,901.95	41,969.26
Road and Bridge	157,756.82	204,883.84
Cemetery	76,721.89	90,711.65
Fire Capital	450,345.80	743,991.71
Road District	0.00	825.00
Fire Levy	1,737,442.30	1,409,351.57
Permissive Motor Vehicle License	19,207.51	23,197.10
Emergency Medical Services	283,409.34	199,929.70
EMS Capital Fund	176,807.67	248,706.15
Lighting Districts	254,998.07	294,888.60
JEDZ	322,032.55	328,401.38
JEDD	141,897.34	113,972.18
Community Recreation Center	104,029.17	115,680.47
CRC Bond	0.00	0.00
Parks Capital	94,648.44	281,655.43
OPWC Project Funds	29,119.49	14,853.71
Cemetery Bequest 1 & 2	2,053.12	2,054.59
Developers Escrow	3,600.00	3,600.00
Road Cut Permits	4,042.00	1,944.00
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>8,785,514.29</b>	<b>9,258,520.79</b>

# Revenue vs. Expenses

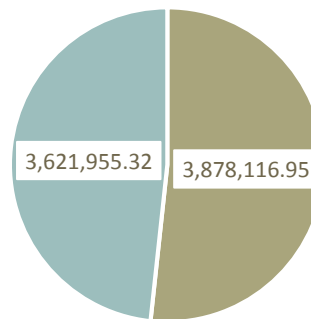


Fire Fund



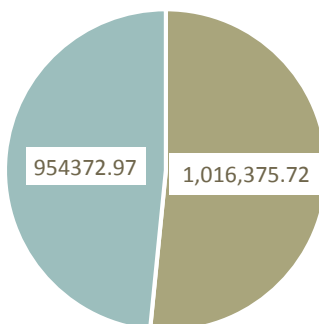
Revenue Expenditures

General Fund



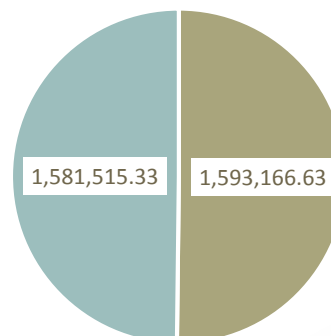
Revenue Expenditures

Road Dept Funds



Revenue Expenditures

PTCC Fund



Revenue Expenditures



# Zoning Department Statistics

COMMERCIAL REVENUE	\$ 74,009.67
ZONING REVENUE	\$ 36,711.96
	TOTAL \$ 110,721.63
TOTAL NUISANCE CASES	
Complaints Received	728
Door Hangers Placed	300
Declared by Trustees	158
Not Declared by Trustees	245
Abated by Road Dep't	49
ZONING PERMITS	286
COMMERCIAL BUILDING PERMITS	87
VIOLATION LETTERS	563
GARAGE SALE PERMITS	26
TRANSIENT VENDOR PERMITS	12
LAND USE DISTURBANCE PERMITS	23
TOTAL VARIANCE APPLICATIONS	11
TOTAL COND. USE APPLICATIONS	2
TOTAL REZONINGS	0
TOTAL APPEALS	0
TOTAL AMENDMENTS/E.U. MOD.	3

## 2017 Spring Clean-Up

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

TOTAL TRASH DUMPED: 20.34 TONS

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

TOTAL TIRES DUMPED: 10.85 TONS

TOTAL COST FOR CLEAN-UP: \$5,682.03



## Fire Department Highlights

### Dispatching Services

In May 2017, the Board of Trustees approved an agreement with the City of Grove City for dispatching services. The Township's dispatching equipment was out of date so it was in the best interest of the fire department to work with Grove City to fulfill such services. Each dispatcher that worked for Prairie Township was honored with a resolution at the first trustee meeting in 2018.

### Food Truck and Fire Prevention Festival

The Fire Department hosted its first Food Truck and Fire Prevention Festival in 2017. Delicious food was served from trucks such as Schmidt's Sausage House and Taquitos Taco Truck. Children were also able to enjoy fire prevention and safety activities.

### 2017 Fire and EMS Runs

During 2017, Prairie Township responded to a total of 6,112 incidents. Of those, 2,226 were fire related. The total estimated fire losses for the year was \$596,400.00, \$372,953 less than 2016. Additionally, the department responded to 3,886 emergency medical incidents. The busiest time for requests for service was Thursday between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m.

## Roads, Cemeteries and Parks Department Highlights

### Street Sweeping

Prairie Township continued its contract with Contract Sweepers and Equipment for two street sweepings in 2017 for the township roads that have curbs and gutters. The Service Director believes this is a valuable service to the residents as upkeep of their neighborhoods and maintenance of township storm sewer systems. West Broad Street also received eight sweepings in 2017 from April through November. Street sweeping will also be conducted in 2018.

### 2017 Sidewalk Program

The 2017 Sidewalk Program assisted over 80 homes in repairing and reconstructing the sidewalks. This program allows for safety and assistance with maintenance of our Township sidewalks. Participants were a mix of residents who were required to participate because of the poor condition of their sidewalks and residents who chose to participate.

### Curbside Leaf Pickup and Chipping

The Road, Cemeteries and Parks Department continued picking up leaves, tree and shrub trimmings in 2017. This is a great opportunity for residents to keep the landscapes maintained. Leaves are picked up from mid-October to early December.

### Beacon Hill Street Trees

In 2017, the RCP Department purchased 94 trees and installed them along Beacon Hill Road between Rome-Hilliard Road and Buena Vista Avenue. Trees species include tatarian maple, frontier elm, japanese lilac and prairie fire crabapple trees.



# Community Center Highlights

## First annual Dash & Dine 5k

The Community Center held its first Dash N Dine 5k in Lincoln Village North. This event offered a 5k run/walk as well as a kid’s dash, followed by a dinner on North Murray Hill. 24 runners participated in this event as well as numerous staff from the Community Center.



## Painting Township Snowplows

During Summer Camp and the 2017 Touch a Truck event, children were able to paint the plows that plow the snow on Township roads. These paintings were a fun activity and were enjoyed by many in the Township.

## Summer Camp

Hosted at the Community Center in 2017, Summer Camp had another successful run with 55 kids in attendance over the course of the summer. With the help of camp staff, kids ages 6-12 were able to participate in activities such as swimming, gym games and crafts. Summer Camp will be held at Darby Woods Elementary in 2018.

## Swim Lessons

Swim lessons are also extremely popular at the Community Center. With seasonal lessons for all ages, swim lessons have been one of the top revenues for 2017. The Community Center is committed to having certified, trained, and experienced teachers that help patrons exceed in their swimming skills.

## Classes

Classes such as Arthritis Foundation Aquatic Exercise, Deep Water Fitness, and Silver Sneakers Circuit are becoming increasingly popular at the Community Center. Signups for drop in classes increased from 5,537 in 2016 to 10,449 in 2017.

Community Center Revenue

