



### Prairie Township Hall

23 Maple Drive  
Columbus, OH 43228  
614-878-3317



- Cathy Schmelzer, 2020 Chairwoman 614-679-9485
- Doug Stormont, Vice Chair 614-209-9122
- Steve Kennedy, Trustee 614-260-5090
- Rob Peters, Administrator 614-982-2181
- Randi Good, HR/Operations 614-982-2182
- Connie Swisher, Zoning Inspector 614-982-2193
- Dave McAninch, Service Director 614-878-3316  
614-402-2745 (Cell)
- Allen Scott, Fire Chief 614-982-2152
- Michael Pollack, Recreation Director 614-982-2126



Township Trustee Meetings are held bi-weekly on Wednesdays  
at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Hall  
23 Maple Drive

## Stormwater Pollution Prevention What You Can Do...

### About Cleaning

Water from outdoor cleaning of items such as kitchen mats, grease traps, trash cans, paint brushes, cars, etc. must not enter a storm drain. It should be contained or directed to a sanitary sewer, possibly with pre-treatment.

Use a broom instead of a hose to clean sidewalks and parking lots. Use absorbents to soak up spills.

Create a spill plan, post it somewhere visible and communicate it to your employees. Have spill absorbing products stored ready to use in a marked location.

### About Cars

Contain all leaking fluids from cars and store separately in labeled containers to send to a recycling facility.

Work done outside must be on a hard surface (not soil or gravel) with a drain to pre-treatment and a sanitary sewer system or another containment and collection system.

### About Landscaping

Blow leaves or lawn clippings from sidewalks and roads back onto the lawn or bag them for recycling.

Cover areas of bare soil with gravel, mulch or plants to keep soil from being washed into storm drains. Soil is the biggest pollutant in Ohio's streams.

Consider using a rain garden to control some of your property's rain water runoff.

# PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP Ohio

ISSUE 9 SPRING/SUMMER 2020

### WATER UPDATE

In late 2018, the Township hired Confluence Consulting to evaluate the water utility options for the Township areas served by the Franklin County Sanitary Engineers. Frank Davis of Confluence presented the goals of the study and took public input at the 4/24/19 Trustee Meeting. Confluence worked with the City of Columbus, Franklin County Sanitary Engineers staff and Township leadership to complete a report with recommendations. The draft of this report was presented to the Trustees in August and Option 1 was the best long-term option for resident water rates. This option would have Prairie Township water users become customers of the City of Columbus at the non-contract rate.

After this option was identified, all of the organizations discussed a mutual goal of transitioning the Township to a Columbus water customer by 4/1/20. As of the date of this publishing, it does not appear this goal will be met but all parties continue to work toward this transition. The agreement for transferring the water system is being worked through by Franklin County and the City of Columbus.

Our Township residents served by Aqua Ohio will see lower water and sewer bills. On 12/18/19, the PUCO issued a press release stating that it had authorized Aqua Ohio to establish a credit on customer bills to reflect the impact of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 on their rates. Aqua Ohio will credit both water and sewer customers the amount the utilities have over collected, plus interest, since 1/1/18 under the previous corporate tax rate. The combined \$4.8 million credit will be passed back to all customers over a 12-month period.

Aqua Ohio will return to customers an additional \$2.5 million annually, which reflects the remaining tax savings not currently accounted for in rates, on a going-forward basis, until the Commission approves updated rates through a distribution rate case. A residential sewer customer will see a bill reduction of approximately 16% per month for the first year and a 6.1% reduction in years two and beyond. A residential water customer will see a bill reduction of approximately 11.8% per month for the first year and a 6% reduction in years two and beyond.

### MODCON LIVING

ModCon Living is a non-profit organization dedicated to sustaining homes and neighborhoods by providing reliable, affordable home repairs and modifications.

In addition to their vast array of home improvement programs, ModCon also has a "Tool Library" with over 4,000 hand and power tool available for residential use.

For more information on ModCon programs as well as the Tool Library, please visit their website at [www.modconliving.org](http://www.modconliving.org)



### HOMETOWN HERO BANNERS

We are proud to bring back the Hometown Hero Banner program for the 3rd year.

The banners will be displayed along West Broad Street from Memorial Day through Veterans Day and the cost per banner is \$100.

Additional information along with program guidelines, application form and release statement can be found on our website at [www.prairietownship.org](http://www.prairietownship.org)

Completed forms with payment can be submitted to the Prairie Township Administration Office at 23 Maple Drive. Applications must be received by April 1, 2020.

### Upcoming Events

#### Community Center

- Muffins with Mom  
May 7, 2020
- Touch –a-Truck  
May 1, 2020

#### Fire Department

- Flower Sale  
May 8 thru May 10  
Station 241 and Station 243
- Annual Fish Fry  
June 26 and June 27, 2020  
11 a.m. to 10 p.m.  
Station 241 123 Inah Avenue

#### Roads, Cemeteries, and Parks Department

- Memorial Day Services  
May 25, 2020  
Galloway Cemetery 9:30 a.m.  
Alton Cemetery 12:00 p.m.  
(Subject to Change)

#### Zoning Department

- 2020 Spring Clean Up  
April 30 thru May 2 and  
May 7 thru May 9  
6725 Alkire Road Galloway, Ohio 43119  
(see next page for details)

## COMMUNITY CENTER

### Touch a Truck

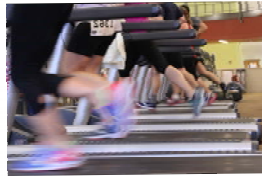
On May 16, 2020 from 12 p.m.—2 p.m., the Community Center will be hosting its annual Touch a Truck event. This event features various vehicles and family activities. Some vehicles include the Franklin County Sheriffs Department, the Prairie Township Fire Department and Road Department.

### Gardening 101

Come take part in Gardening 101, led by local Master Gardeners. We'll cover a variety of topics including, seeds vs. plants, what to grow, pollinators, watering, harvesting, maintenance practices, soil and plant health, and more. Class is 10:30-11:30 a.m. Saturday, May 9. \$5 per person.

### Indoor Duathlon

Come join us for a 15 minute run, 25 minute bike & 20 minute run all indoors at the Community Center! Race begins at 7:30 a.m. on March 22, 2020. Please visit our website or call at 614-907-7990 to register.



### 2020 Farmers Market

One of our favorite summer events is returning! The farmers market will kick off June 29, 2020 from 4-7 p.m. and will continue thru September 28, 2020. There are several event days throughout the summer that will feature live music, food trucks, and activities for the kids! The market also accepts SNAP and WIC. Please contact the Community Center at 614-907-7990 or submit a vender application available on our website if you are interested in participating in the Farmers Market.



### 2020 Summer Camp

The 2020 Summer Camp Program will run from June 1-August 7, 2020. Camp operates Monday thru Fridays from 7:15 a.m.-5:45 p.m. each day. Campers must be between the ages of 6 to 12 years old. For additional information and to register online please visit <http://prairietownship.org/208/Summer-Day-Camp> or register in person at the Community Center. Please contact Matt McCallum, the Recreation Supervisor at 614-982-2126 or [mmcallum@prairietownship.org](mailto:mmcallum@prairietownship.org) for any questions.

A complete activity brochure is available on our website at [www.prairietownship.org](http://www.prairietownship.org)

## COMMERCIAL BUILDING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

### Nuisance and Zoning Complaints

For all nuisance complaints (trash/debris, grass/weeds) please call Cassady Critchfield directly at 614-982-2194

For all zoning complaints (everything other than nuisance) please call Alicia Armentrout directly at 614-982-2192

Or go to our website at [www.prairietownship.org](http://www.prairietownship.org) to file a complaint.

### Don't Forget

-Zoning permits are required for roofs, siding, windows, sheds, decks, pools, room additions, driveway replacements and extensions. Please call the Building and Zoning Office at 614-982-2190 for assistance.

-Place all trash, garbage, solid waste in an enclosed container with tight fitting lids (not bags). Containers may not be placed at the road right-of-way more than (24) hours before regularly scheduled trash pick up.

-When remodeling or renovating your home, please keep all materials in a dumpster and not on the ground.

-If you see rat activity in your neighborhood contact Franklin Public Health 614-525-4762 or <http://bit.ly/ReportRats>

### 2020 Spring Clean-Up

The 2020 Prairie Township Annual Spring Clean-Up will be held at the **Prairie Township Road Dept. 6725 Alkire Road, Galloway, Ohio 43119** for Township residents only. Residents will be asked to provide proof of residence, so have your photo ID with current address ready at the gate. There will be dumpsters available for trash and tires - unlimited trash, limit of 8 tires per day, no businesses.

#### Hours of Operation:

Thu. April 30, 10am-8pm	Thu. May 7, 10am-8pm
Fri. May 1, 10am-8pm	Fri. May 8, 10am-8pm
Sat. May 2, 10am-4pm	Sat. May 9, 10am-4pm

### Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District Tree Sale!

2020 Annual Spring Tree & Plant Sale Dates

Online Ordering Begins: January 10th

Order by: March 29th

Pick Up: April 17th & 18th

Order online at

[www.franklinswcd.org/products](http://www.franklinswcd.org/products)

Or fill out & mail order form to:

1404 Goodale Blvd., Ste. 100, Columbus, OH 43212

For a complete tree & plant list, along with a detailed description visit:

[www.franklinswcd.org/tree-and-plant-sale](http://www.franklinswcd.org/tree-and-plant-sale)

## ROADS, CEMETERIES & PARKS

### Street Sweeping in the Township

Contract Sweepers and Equipment will be conducting multiple street sweeps again this year. The street sweeps for curb and gutter streets are currently scheduled for the week of April 6th and the week of September 8th (weather permitting). Sweepings on West Broad Street are scheduled for April 6, May 4, June 1, July 6, August 3, September 8, October 5 and November 2. West Broad Street includes the area between the I-270 interchange and Hilliard Rome Road. These sweepings are extremely important in keeping our township streets maintained properly.



### 2020 Sidewalk Program

The 2020 Sidewalk Program will be starting soon. If you are interested in participating in this years' program, please contact the Road Department at 614-878-3316, or [dmcaninch@prairietownship.org](mailto:dmcaninch@prairietownship.org). The program allows residents the option to have their sidewalks replaced and the costs assessed to their property tax bill, payable over 10 years, interest free.

### Memorial Day Services

Memorial Day is May 25, 2020. There will be services at both Galloway and Alton cemeteries.

### Road Resurfacing

Roads included in the Franklin County Engineers road resurfacing program have not been determined at this time. Upon determination, postcards will be sent to residents in the affected areas.

### Curbside Chipping

Residents can contact the Road, Cemeteries and Parks Department at 614-878-3316 year round to schedule curbside chipping.

The guidelines for curbside chipping are available on the townships website, or by calling the Department.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

From Chief Allen Scott:

In October 2019, Chief Chris Snyder announced his retirement from service. I was promoted and proud to become the 8<sup>th</sup> Prairie Township Fire Chief on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. It is a true privilege to serve you.



First, I wanted to report some statistics regarding our activity in 2019. PTFD took 5,338 total runs, 73% of which were EMS, and 27% were fire. Station 241 in the east took over 87% of the total runs, which matches our population density. There were 6 structure fires in Prairie Township last year.

PTFD, in conjunction with several other local departments, will be implementing a new cardiac arrest protocol. This new set of procedures, developed in Rialto, CA and Lincoln, NE, has proven to greatly increase the survival rates of cardiac arrest victims. Crews have been training for several months and expect to begin using the new skills on the street in early March. We are very excited to be one of the pioneering departments in Ohio.

Finally, please save the date for two of our most popular public programs. Our Firefighters Association annual Mother's Day Weekend Flower Sale will occur May 8-10 at both stations, and our annual Fish Fry will be June 26-27 at Station 241, 123 Inah Ave.

As always, we greatly appreciate our community's support of our first responders. If there is anything I can do to be of service to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.