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Administration and Building & Zoning (614) 878-3317
 Fire Department (614) 878-7100
 Road, Cemeteries & Parks (614) 878-3316
 Community Center (614)907-7990
 www.prairietownship.org

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



PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP *Ohio*

ISSUE 4 FALL 2017/WINTER 2018

AQUA OHIO RATES CONTINUE TO BE HIGH, BUT THE INCREASES HAVE SLOWED

In our last issue, we talked about steps the Township Trustees have taken to address the cost of water and sewer in areas served by the Franklin County Sanitary Engineer. Go to www.prairietownship.org/DocumentCenter/Home/View/2313 to see that article.

Lake Darby Estates and Westpoint are served by Aqua Ohio, which is a private utility. In Ohio, private utilities are governed by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO). This includes oversight of rate increase requests. The PUCO approves rate requests so long as the utility can show that the increase is required to recover funds invested in facility improvements and includes a fair

profit. Profits, along with the expense of property taxes, are costs that impact the rates of private utilities such as Aqua Ohio, but not public utilities.

Ohio American Water purchased the Lake Darby plant from Citizens Utilities in 2002. At the time, the facility was in disrepair and required work beyond regular maintenance and upgrades. During the time that Ohio American owned the plant, from 2002 to 2012, it sought and received four double digit percentage rate increases. Notably, the 2009/2010 request was for 28% water and 19% sewer, as well as a commitment to future increases that would add up to 240%. Prairie Township and other Central Ohio communities

organized to fight this increase, forming “Fight the Hike Ohio.” This effort held the increase down to 11% water and 4% sewer and no commitment to future increases.

Aqua Ohio took over the plant at the end of 2012. While water and sewer rates remain high in the Lake Darby/Westpoint area, rate increase requests have been limited to two increases totaling a 10.5% jump in water rates and a 3% jump in sewer rates. Currently, Aqua Ohio forecasts that the next increase request will be in 2021. In light of this and ongoing improvements at the plant, the Board of Trustees sees a relative improvement in the situation in the Lake Darby/Westpoint area.

An important water and sewer bill savings reminder for Aqua Ohio customers:
 Your summer month bills (May-September) may be based on your average winter month usage if that usage is less than your actual summer amount. Average winter monthly usage is determined by adding your usage from the last December – February period and dividing it by three. Contact Aqua Ohio for details.



Upcoming Events

Trick or Treat

Oct. 31, 2017 6-8p p.m.

Community Center

Pumpkin Swim

Oct. 15, 2017 2-3 p.m. or 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Trick or Treat Trail

Oct. 27, 2017 6-8 p.m.

Santa’s Mailbox

Nov. 27– Dec. 17, 2017

Elf on the Shelf

Nov. 25–Dec. 17, 2017

Tree Lighting

Dec. 3, 2017 4-6 p.m.

Father/Daughter Date Night

Feb. 3, 2018 6-8 p.m.

Fire Department

Fire Department Food Truck Festival

Oct. 15, 2017 4-8 p.m.

Road, Cemeteries, and Parks Department

Christmas Tree Pickup

Dec. 28, 2017, Jan. 4, Jan. 11, 2018

Curbside Leaf Program

Begins Oct. 10, 2017

COMMUNITY CENTER

FALL BROCHURE



The Prairie Township Community Center just released its Fall Activity Brochure. The brochure features information regarding facility hours, membership rates, special events, classes, and more. Some new features for this year are the Cardboard Boat Challenge, Gym Class Heroes that features after school gym games for students, and Yogailates which combines yoga flow and pilates. Please visit our website at <https://recreation.prairietownship.org/WEB/Fall2017ActivityBrochure/mobile/index.html#p=1> to view our interactive brochure.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Trick or Treat Trail

This popular event is returning on October 27th from 6-8 p.m. Wear your Halloween costume to this FREE event and follow the trail of sweet treats from your local businesses.

Santa's Mailbox

Santa's mailbox will be open for business from November 27th to December 17th. Children can deliver their letters to the mailbox. The letters are sent to the North Pole and they will receive a reply from Santa himself! Please include the child's full name, complete address and postage.

Holiday Tree Lighting

Bundle up for the annual Tree Lighting that will take place on December 3rd from 4-6 p.m. at the Community Center. Festivities include holiday music and caroling by local school choirs, visits with Santa, lighting of the tree, and more.

COMMERCIAL BUILDING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

West Broad Street Corridor Overlay District

The Prairie Township Zoning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals and the Building and Zoning Department Staff have worked closely this year with MKSK on developing what will be proposed as The West Broad Street Corridor Overlay District. The purpose of this district will be to bring people to Prairie Township by helping to create a positive identity in the corridor. It will help to increase investments made in the area, and, more importantly, help create a sense of community that will bring people together. The Corridor along West Broad Street contains the area between I-270 and Hilliard Rome Road. The Corridor will be separated into four categories: Commercial Gateway Sub-District, Central Transition Sub-District, Medical Campus Sub-District, and Western Gateway Sub-District. Along with all the recent upgrades to this area, the Overlay will provide the framework necessary to ensure a high quality of future commercial development along West Broad Street in the heart of Prairie Township.

Trash Collection

Did you know that you can choose your own trash collection company? There are several to choose from! These include Alpha (614-859-9394), Cumberlander (614-836-1464), Local Waste Services (614-409-9375), Republic Waste Service (800-601-1867), Rumpke (888-786-7531), and Waste Management (800-343-6047). Remember to set your trash cans out no earlier than 24 hours before your regularly scheduled pickup and to store them in an enclosed structure concealed from view.

Volunteer for the Board!

The Prairie Township Board of Trustees is accepting letters of interest from Prairie Township Residents for board appointments on the Prairie Township Board of Zoning Appeals and the Prairie Township Zoning Commission. Volunteers should submit letters of interest to: Prairie Township Building and Zoning Office, 25 Maple Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43228. Application letters should be received no later than December 1, 2017.

ROADS, CEMETERIES & PARKS

2017 Sidewalk Program

This year's sidewalk program was extremely successful. With over eighty properties included in this year's program, the Township was able to make a significant improvement to its sidewalks for residents. If you would like to participate in next year's program please contact Dave McAninch, Service Director, at (614) 878-3316.

Christmas Tree Pick up

The Roads, Cemetery and Parks department will collect your Christmas tree. Dates for automatic pickup will be Dec. 28, 2017, Jan. 4, 2018 and Jan. 11, 2018. Otherwise please schedule pickup with the Roads, Cemetery, and Parks Department by calling 614-878-3316. Prairie township is committed to recycling and waste diversion programs to increase environmental protection in our area. Please remove all decorations and remove any wrapping paper or bags. The trees must be placed at the curb for collection.

Curbside Leaf Program

The Prairie Township Trustees are happy to announce that the RCP staff will be collecting your leaves starting October 10, 2017. Please rake leaves to the green space between the curb and sidewalk, if you have one. If you do not have a sidewalk, rake leaves to the edge of the road berm. Do not place leaves in the roadway or pile them around parked cars or fire hydrants.



Curbside Chipping

Please contact the Road, Cemeteries and Parks Department at 614-878-3316 to schedule curbside chipping. This service is offered year round.

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

2017 Snow Removal

Prairie Township Roads, Cemeteries and Parks staff make snow plowing a top priority. In an effort to help get the roads cleared and salted, please move your vehicles off of the roads when possible. Also, please keep your sidewalks shoveled, as to provide a safe walking route for pedestrians.

FIRE DEPARTMENT



Reading with a Firefighter

The Fire Department held five weekly Read with a Firefighter events this summer. Children of all ages and their parents got to enjoy many stories read to them by their own Township firemen and got to participate in different activities that included exploring the fire trucks, spraying hoses, and much more! Participants also painted rocks to go along with the story *Only One You* with the help of Summer Day Camp staff. Please join us next year for this exciting event.



FOOD TRUCK AND FIRE PREVENTION FESTIVAL

The Prairie Township Fire Department will host its first Food Truck and Fire Prevention Festival on October 15, 2017 from 4:00-8:00 p.m. at Station 241, 123 Inah Avenue. Come out and explore different foods from Schmidt's Sausage Truck, Taquitos Taco Truck, and many more vendors. Fire prevention and safety activities for children will also be included in the festivities.