



BALDWIN TOWNSHIP

30239 128th Street, Princeton MN 55371

February 2014 Vol. 1 No. 17



Baldwin Township Annual Meeting and Election is March 11, 2014.

Polls open at 10:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m.

Precinct 1 & 2 will be combined and voting will be held in the Town Hall

The Annual Meeting starts at 8:01 p.m.

The Annual Meeting will be held in the Maintenance Shop

On the Ballot for Supervisor 'C' for a 3-year term are Kimberly Good, Jeff Holm, Tim Kane and Chuck Nagle

Town of Baldwin
30239—128th Street, PO Box 25
Princeton, MN 55371
Office Hours
8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Mon– Wed and Fri
8:00 a.m.—6:30 p.m. Thursday
Closed Daily 12:00 noon—12:30 p.m.
Phone 763-389-8931 Fax: 763-389-2751
Email: baldwintwp2@qwestoffice.net

TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Jay Swanson, Chair—763-856-4201
Larry Handshoe—763-389-3195
Tom Rush—763-389-8931
Kimberly Good—763-856-3061
Randy Atwood—763-856-5722

CLERK/TREASURER

Cathy Stevens—763-389-8931
Cheryl Dobson, Deputy Clerk—
763-389-8931

ANIMAL CONTROL

Craig Hilburn—612-501-7814

FIRE STATION

****EMERGENCY DIAL 911****
Mike Rademacher, Fire Chief—
763-350-0378

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

763-389-0036

SHERBURNE COUNTY WEB SITE:

www.co.sherburne.mn.us

BALDWIN TOWNSHIP WEB SITE:

Approved Town Board meeting minutes can be found at
<http://baldwintownship.govoffice.com>

Burning Permits at the town hall or online at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us.burningpermits>

SNOW PLOWING RULES PROMOTE EFFICIENCY

Not only does complying with Baldwin Township's rules about its snowplowing policies increase its ability to quickly clear township roads resulting from accumulating snow and ice—it also strives to provide safe and accident free roadways. Baldwin's maintenance crews ask for your cooperation.

Our township staff is keenly aware of the importance of keeping its roads clear in a timely manner. It's goal is getting in and out as soon as possible, recognizing many of our residents are commuting to jobs outside of the township. In addition, the crew attempts to complete its work in a cost-effective method.

Remember the township is only responsible for township roads. If you live on a state or county road, please contact the state or county departments.

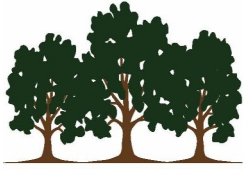
The **BALDWIN VOLUNTEER CORPS** is partnering with the University of Minnesota Extension to help encourage the success of local businesses through grants obtained from Connexus Energy and the Initiative Foundation.

COMMUNITY LEADER'S BUSINESS RETENTION AND EXPANSION PROGRAM (BR&E)

A healthy and vibrant local economy depends on the well-being of a community's existing businesses. Efforts to help local business survive and grow in the local community are key to successful economic development. The community benefits because:

- Researchers estimate that existing businesses create 31 to 86 percent of all new jobs
- Businesses that stay competitive are more likely to remain in the community—and possibly expand.
- Keeping an existing business is often easier and less costly than recruiting a new business.
- Businesses considering coming to the community will talk to existing businesses. Odds for attracting new businesses are better if existing ones are happy with the community.

Needed are interested volunteers to help implement this program. Contact the town hall at 763-389-8931 or at baldwintwp2@qwestoffice.net.



BALDWIN TOWNSHIP
30239 128th Street, Princeton MN 55371

U.S POSTAGE
PAID
Princeton, MN
PERMIT NO. 30
Zip Code 55371

Return Service Requested

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Unless otherwise noted, all meetings start at 7:00 p.m.)

- Feb 3 Town Board Reg Mtg
- Feb 13 Planning Commission Mtg
- Feb 17 **Presidents Day (Office Closed)**
- Feb 18 Town Board Reg Mtg
- Feb 20 Park Committee Mtg
- Feb 24 Baldwin Volunteer Corps Mtg
- Mar 3 Town Board Reg Mtg
- Mar 11 **ELECTION AND ANNUAL MEETING**
(Cast your ballots from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.)
Annual Meeting starts at 8:01 p.m.
- Mar 13 Planning Commission Mtg
- Mar 18 Town Board Reg Mtg
- Mar 20 Park Committee Mtg
- Mar 24 Baldwin Volunteer Corps Mtg
- Apr 7 Town Board Reg Mtg
- Apr 10 Planning Commission Mtg
- Apr 15 Town Board Reg Mtg
- Apr 17 Park Committee Mtg
- Apr 28 Baldwin Volunteer Corps Mtg

LET'S GO GREEN!
To save money on paper and postage
If you send a message to
cheryl.dobson30239@gmail.com,
we will have your email address for the green
edition of the newsletter.



Fire Fighter Retirements

The entire Baldwin Fire Department would like to give a big thanks to Don Larson and Jim Oliver for the service they have put in over the past years. Don and Jim both retired from the fire department as of January 1st.

Don was an original member of the department from when it first started. Don also served multiple terms as a captain on the fire department. Jim has been on the fire department for 9 years. Jim has served as treasurer for the fire department's relief association for the past 5 years.

Both will be greatly missed for the dedication they have given the department over the years.

2013 Call Totals

2013 was one of the busiest years ever for the Baldwin Fire Department. During the 2013 year, the fire department responded to 232 calls. This was up about 20 calls from 2012.

New Officers

The Fire Department has two new officers. Brian Torborg and Justin Sucket started their two-year captain terms on January 1st.

Brian has been on the department since it started in 2003 and has previously served as an officer. Justin has been on the fire department since 2007.

COMMUNITY BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT



The Little Red Wagon Child Care Center located in Baldwin Township prides itself on making sure that we provide our children with a safe and healthy environment along with quality, friendly staff. Our staff will teach each child the skills necessary for them to be successful learners, and we will try to help each child succeed in life with a positive attitude and the highest self esteem possible. All children at Little Red Wagon will be provided with love and care. Safety is a priority of ours here at Little Red Wagon and we take it very seriously. Our location has a secured entrance where a code is required and we also have fenced-in play areas for each age group along with nurse visits once a month.

Our center is licensed to hold 103 children between the ages of 6 weeks to 12 years of age. We also have an educational preschool program at our center called Little Tigers Den. You can find out more information about the program by clicking on the link at our home page.

The Little Red Wagon is open from 5:45 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, 12 months a year.

If you're a local business and would like to be featured in our next newsletter, please contact us.

The Baldwin Township newsletter is a quarterly publication



UPDATE ON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:

The Baldwin Township Planning Commission took some time off from completing the Township's Comprehensive Plan in order to send out a survey to the residents of the Township. This has taken up a period of about two months and is now in the final stages of completion. When it has been presented to the Township Board and Planning Commission, it is the intent of the Planning Commission to have it made available to the Township for reading.

The drafting of the Comprehensive Plan is nearing its completion. The research has been completed and initially written and the Commissioners have been reviewing those sections that they have been involved in putting together. The next steps have been to write goals and action policies to help direct the Township in the future to a better community. This is nearly done and for review. Finally, we have been fortunate in that a local artist, Ms. Sharma Wolff has generously given her time to put together the front cover of the Plan.

Finally, the Planner is looking at a possible number of Open Houses and a required Public Hearing in the next months of March and/or April. So look for the notices on the website at www.baldwintownship.govoffice.com and postings at the posting boards. There may be an opportunity to do one more newsletter prior to the Public Hearing. The Planning Commission looks forward to your input at all of their meetings and to give comments that will improve the Township.

2014 BALDWIN TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE:

The Baldwin Township Planning Commission will meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. located at the Baldwin Town Hall. The meeting dates are posted at the Town Hall and on the Baldwin Township Website.

If a regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting must be cancelled, a posting will be done on the posting boards with the new rescheduled date along with the agenda. If a special or joint meeting with the Town Board is called, it will be posted on the posting boards with the stated agenda as per the prescribed time. A quorum of the Baldwin Town Board may be in attendance at the meeting. The public is cordially invited to attend.



Terry Carlile pictured with Planner Bridget Chard was sworn in as a Baldwin Township Commissioner at its November 2013 meeting. Carlile will be concentrating on the Transportation and Capital Improvement portions of the Comprehensive Plan.

NOTE FROM THE BALDWIN FIRE CHIEF ON CO2 DETECTORS:

The Baldwin Fire Department would like to remind residents to replace the batteries in their CO2 detectors regularly. We also recommend replacing CO2 detectors every 2-3 years. The majority of CO2 calls that the Baldwin Fire responds to are the result of a faulty detector or bad batteries.

If your detector does alert you that the house has high levels of CO2, residents are encouraged to call 911 and evacuate the house immediately. Do not stay to try to determine if the detector is not working correctly.

MORE ABOUT ANNUAL MEETINGS

Information taken from Minnesota Township News

The Annual Township Meeting is held on the second Tuesday in March unless bad weather requires that it be postponed. The Meeting is then held the third Tuesday in March. If bad weather forces cancellation again, the Town Board must set another date for the Meeting within 39 days of the third Tuesday. A 10 day published notice of the date and time of the Meeting is required.

The Town Clerk is charged with convening the meeting and taking official minutes. The Deputy Clerk acts in her absence; if neither is available, the electors (Town residents) appoint someone to take minutes. The electors appoint a moderator to oversee the meeting. The Meeting is a meeting of the people, not the Town Board. Supervisors can participate as citizens and can provide information so the electors can make informed decisions; the Board does not run the Meeting.

Any person may attend and speak at the Annual Meeting, but only those eligible to vote in the Township Election may cast a vote at the meeting. The moderator determines the outcome of any vote. A person's eligibility to vote may be challenged by any resident. The validity of the challenge is to be determined by the election judges appointed for the Township Election. A vote at the meeting may occur in any manner decided by the residents. No formal paper ballot is required; however to allow for any issue for which a vote may be taken at the annual meeting to instead be submitted as a formal ballot question at the Town's Election .

Minnesota Statute 365.431, with very limited exceptions, prohibits the Town Board from certifying a levy in excess of the amount approved at the Annual Meeting. However the electors may opt to continue the March meeting to a later date such as August so the levy can reflect any statutory changes that may be adopted during the legislative session.

Other issues that can be dealt with at the Meeting are: authorization for expenditures for a new town hall, authorize nuisance ordinances to be adopted by the Town Board, authorization to proceed with road vacations, set the location for the next year's Annual Meeting.

Most of the actions taken at the Annual Meeting simply authorize the Town Board to take action and are not binding on the Board. Actions such as setting monthly meeting schedule, designating a posting place and official newspaper, and similar actions should occur at the first meeting following the taking of the oath of office of all new supervisors—this is commonly known as the reorganization meeting. Preferences of the electors can be discussed at the Annual Meeting, but only the Board can take official action on these matters. The electors cannot authorize the Town Board to do something otherwise prohibited by law or which the Township lacks the authority to do. For example the electors cannot authorize the Town Board to ignore the Open Meeting Law or operate a municipal liquor store.