



BALDWIN TOWNSHIP

30239 128th Street, Princeton MN 55371

June 2014 Vol. 2 No. 18



Town of Baldwin
30239—128th Street, PO Box 25
Princeton, MN 55371

Office Hours
8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Mon– Fri
Closed Daily 12:00 noon—12:30 p.m.

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TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Jay Swanson, Chair—763-856-4201
Larry Handshoe—763-389-3195
Tom Rush—763-389-8931
Jeff Holm—763-389-8931
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**

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ALMOST DONE!

The final drafting of the Comprehensive Plan is nearing its completion. The research has been completed and initially written and the Commissioners have been reviewing goals and action policies. This is nearly done and will be ready 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 which is now completed.

The Township Planner is looking at two Open Houses, possibly on a Friday evening and again on a Saturday morning in order for the community to come in and comment on all of the documents and mapping. Then the Planning Commission will hold the required Public Hearing and take comments again. Once all of this is completed, the Commission will make a recommendation to adopt the final Plan to the Town Board. When it has been adopted, then the Planning Commission will begin to work on the action plans and consider any ordinances that the Town Board authorizes them to do.

So look for the notices on the website at www.baldwintownship.govoffice.com and postings at the posting boards. It is anticipated that the Open Houses will be in the first weeks of June and the Public Hearing will be held towards the end of June. Adoption of the Comprehensive Plan would happen in the first part of July by the Town Board.

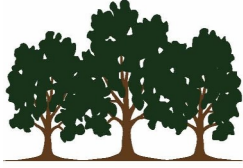
The Planning Commission will always look for your input at all of their meetings, the Open Houses and the Public Hearing, and to give comments that will **improve** the Township and direct it to a better position in the regional picture. So stay tuned....

SO WHAT IS A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?

Townships work under Minnesota Statute 462, called the Planning Statute, as their enabling legislation for planning and zoning. Cities also work under this statute while Counties use another, Minnesota Statute 394. In the beginning definitions for this statute, the following definitions are stated as such:

Comprehensive municipal plan. "Comprehensive municipal plan" means a compilation of policy statements, goals, standards, and maps for guiding the physical, social and economic development, both private and public, of the municipality and its environs, and may include, but is not limited to, the following: statements of policies, goals, standards, a land use plan, including proposed densities for development, a community facilities plan, a transportation plan, and recommendations for plan execution. A comprehensive plan represents the planning agency's recommendations for the future development of the community.

Continued page 2



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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.)

- June 2 Town Board Reg Mtg
- June 12 Planning Commission Mtg
- June 17 Town Board Reg Mtg
- June 19 Park Committee Mtg
- June 30 Baldwin Volunteer Corps Mtg
- July 4 **INDEPENDENCE DAY (Office Closed)**
- July 7 Town Board Reg Mtg
- July 10 Planning Commission Mtg
- July 15 Town Board Reg Mtg
- July 17 Park Committee Mtg
- July 28 Baldwin Volunteer Corps Mtg
- Aug 4 Town Board Reg Mtg
- Aug 12 **Primary Election**
- Aug 14 Planning Commission Mtg
- Aug 19 Town Board Reg Mtg
- Aug 21 Park Committee Mtg
- Aug 25 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 Fighters Complete Probationary Period

Baldwin Fire recently had four firefighters complete their probationary period. During this period, the firefighters put in over 200 hours of classroom time in additions to attending regular trainings. Congratulations to Nick Cole, Mike Lambrecht, Andy Walker and Shane Jacobson

New Ambulance/Rescue Vehicle

The Fire Department recently put a new ambulance/rescue vehicle into service. North Memorial donated the Ambulance to the department. This vehicle is used by the fire department to respond to medical and personal injury accidents.

GREAT NORTHERN TRAIL OPEN HOUSE

Baldwin Township June 11, 2014 from 5 to 7 p.m.

The planned pedestrian trail extends 16 miles from Elk River to Princeton along a former railroad corridor. The County is asking for public comments in selecting a preferred trail route between Princeton and Zimmerman.

COMMUNITY BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT



GREG ANDERSON AUTO

31414 125th Street NW
763-389-4275

Service is the Difference. We Get It!

Our growth and leadership in the automotive aftermarket is built on providing quality service and quality parts. Whatever superior name brand or PartsMaster part or accessory you may need, we've got it. And, you'll find skilled personnel behind our counters to help you get the job done right. While we're proud of the value and parts availability that Auto Value stands for, we're equally proud of the men and women who serve your parts needs. Auto Value the professional skills you count on, whenever you have an auto parts need.

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



Land use plan. "Land use plan" means a compilation of policy statements, goals, standards, and maps, and action programs for guiding the future development of private and public property. The term includes a plan designating types of uses for the entire municipality as well as a specialized plan showing specific areas or specific types of land uses, such as residential, commercial, industrial, public or semipublic uses or any combination of such uses. A land use plan may also include the proposed densities for development.

Baldwin Township is doing a merging of the two. Since this is the first Community Comprehensive Plan for the Township (and more detailed ones will come later), the Plan will show the community the history, and background of how the Township came into being to where the township is today with goals and policies (action plans) to help guide the community into the future in a secure and prosperous direction. The Plan will have maps, land use ideas, roadway ideas, goals and action plans to help shape the future. . While this Comprehensive Plan is a document, it is not a legally binding document and it can be amended and changed as needed. It is only a guide to understanding what has happened in the past and what will help to make a better community for the future.

When the Planning Commission work is concluded for the Plan, there will be a lot of information to review and see and the Commission encourages everyone to come in and look at what is available to build better decisions for the town's future.

FINAL SURVEY RESULTS

The Baldwin Township Planner presented the final survey results to the Town Board of Supervisors, the Baldwin Township Planning Commission and the residents at a March 13th, 2014 special meeting. In addition to the recent survey with its amendment portion, the Planner also obtained, reviewed and collated four other surveys that were done in the past. They were as follows:

- * Community Visioning Session done in 2005 / 2006
- * Business Community Survey (Business Luncheon) done in 2011
- * Business Community Survey (Business Luncheon) done in 2012
- * Community Visioning Session done in 2010

*

There was a focus with some of the surveys on the business community and general questions about Baldwin Township and how they felt. Overall, the recent survey was sent out to 2,382 parties with 698 surveys returned for a 29% response.

A **sincere thank you** to all who worked in getting the survey completed and sent out. Many hands make for lighter work and that was surely true. A short synopsis is written below.

- * The survey was completed by mostly full time residents with agricultural, seasonal, commercial and renters following next. Ownership showed the majority of residents have lived here longer than ten years meaning that the Township shows a very stable community. This was further borne out in the other surveys above and the census data to date.
- * Overall, landowners in the Township were satisfied with the quality of life in the Township. Those that were not were in the minority and their reasons were poor roads, taxes, poor development processes in the past, and Town Board procedures (finding them difficult to understand or do.)

Continued page 3

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- * Main concerns within the Township are the same as every Township such as roads, taxes, land use conflicts, business climate, not wanting change versus those that do and communication.
- * When asked about orderly annexation and/or incorporation and if they wished to know more, the community was split almost equally on this subject. More information in the future may help this to shift one way or the other. This is a difficult subject to understand. Roads were discussed and how to proceed with them. Here the community showed that they were fairly astute on the subject. They stated the following:
 - ~Leave them as they are or improve and repair more roads
 - ~If more roads are to be improved or repaired, then the Township should implement a Capital Improvement Plan or assess the landowners involved.
- * When asked about land use and permitting in the Township, the community was again split almost evenly with more in the negative than positive. Since this questions was a yes or no, understanding their concerns either way was not done.
- * The Township is very interested in keeping their parks and trails available to be used. They stated in question 9 of the survey that they would like to see the Township consider a Capital Park Improvement Plan to develop more parks and trails. The only consideration here is that the maintenance and operation would increase taxes in the Township. So the consequences would need consideration in the future.
- * Finally, the qualities important to the community of Baldwin were almost the same in all of the surveys when asked. They were in order of the highest to the lowest: a. Natural resources, b. Low crime, c. Friendly people, d. Community activities, e. Business opportunities, and f. near to public services.

Overall, the survey did reinforce that most of the Baldwin Township community is content with their life and where they live. That while there are always some nagging issues, that they can be handled. If you wish to see the full survey, a copy of the final survey with attachments will be on the website at www.baldwintownship.govoffice.com. The Survey in its entirety will also be attached as an Appendix in the Comprehensive Plan once it is completed.

BALDWIN TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

There have been some changes on the Baldwin Planning Commission this year. Most of the Commissioners that are now serving have rotating three year terms. If you have any questions or wish to express your comment to them directly, they are as follows:

Ms. Judy Thorson, Chairman for this year
 Mr. Ross Perry, Vice Chair for this year
 Ms. Peggy Patten, Commissioner
 Mr. Richard Harris, Commissioner
 Mr. Terry Carlile, Commissioner
 Ms. Cheryl Goetz Dobson, Secretary for the Commission

All of your Commissioners are out and about in the Township and would be more than happy to discuss the Plan with you and take your comments. They represent the community on the Commission. A sincere thank you to all of them for all of their hard work and efforts!