

Council Corner

By Council Member Jeff Holm

Many Baldwin residents are familiar with Young Park, named after Kermit Young, who donated the land in 2005. Kermit and his wife, Margritte, purchased their 80-acre homestead from his parents, William and Cora Young, along with an additional 120-acre tract. They farmed the land and enjoyed daily walks, cross-country skiing, and hunting—especially around what the family called the “Big Pond,” a tradition that continues today.

During the platting process of the 120-acre tract, it was discovered that the Big Pond was classified by the Minnesota DNR as unnamed lake #71003400, a “natural environment” lake. These lakes are typically shallow and marshy, with stricter development setbacks. When I jokingly told Kermit it was officially a lake and suggested naming it, he quickly replied, “Lake Margritte.” What began as a joke soon became a mission.

The naming process required a petition with at least 15 county signatures. I canvassed nearby residents and also sought support from the Baldwin Township Board. In January 2006, I presented the idea to honor Margritte Young, who passed away in 1998. The board approved the measure and later adopted a formal resolution recognizing her



contributions, including her 40 years of service as a fire warden and her role in the community.

With the petition and resolution in place, I presented the request to the Sherburne County Board of Commissioners. With support from the Minnesota DNR, the proposal passed and was forwarded to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names. By June 2006, Lake Margritte was officially recognized. It took time for maps to update, but today it can be found on Google Maps.

The lake is surrounded by private property with no public access, but it plays an important role in the ecosystem. It serves as a feeding and resting area for migrating waterfowl and is home to trumpeter swans, muskrats, and occasional loons. Bald eagles are also frequent visitors. This type of shallow lake adds valuable diversity to Baldwin’s wildlife and is worth protecting for future generations.

Continues on Page 3

WHAT’S COVERED IN THIS ISSUE

- PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNIZED
- FIRE CHIEF ANNOUNCEMENT
- GARGAGE SALES JULY 15-17
- ELECTION JUDGES

JUNE 2026

Upcoming City Calendar

- June 3: City Council Meeting**

June 10: Special Planning Commission

June 17: City Council Meeting

June 18: Park Committee Meeting

June 19: City Hall closed in observance of Juneteenth

June 24: Planning Commission Meeting

July 1: City Council Meeting

July 3: City Hall closed in Observance of Independence Day

July 8: Special Planning Commission Meeting

July 15: City Council Meeting/Audit Presentation

July 16: Park Committee Meeting

July 22: Planning Commission Meeting

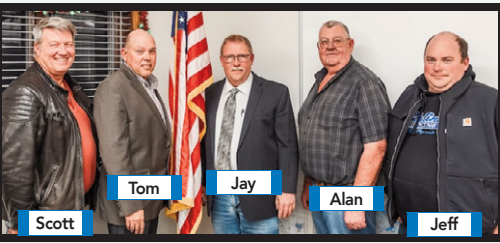
— City Council meetings start at 7:00pm unless otherwise noted.

CITY OF BALDWIN OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY-THURSDAY – 8-4:30PM

CLOSED FOR LUNCH – 12:30PM-1:00PM

FRIDAY – 8-12:00PM



BALDWIN CITY COUNCIL

Jay Swanson, Mayor — 763-631-8545 — mayor@baldwinmn.gov

Jeff Holm — 763-389-8931 — CouncilmemberA@baldwinmn.gov

Scott Case — 763-389-8931 — CouncilmemberB@baldwinmn.gov

Alan Walker — 763-389-8931 — CouncilmemberC@baldwinmn.gov

Tom Rush — 763-389-8931 — CouncilmemberD@baldwinmn.gov

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BALDWIN CITY STAFF

Joan Heinen Clerk/Treasurer — city.clerk@baldwinmn.gov

Kayla Nielsen Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

Fire Chief — 763-350-0374

Zachary Good — Public Works Supervisor

Phil Fadden — Maintenance Technician

***** Lester Kriesel Recognized *****

The City of Baldwin would like to thank Lester Kriesel for his dedication to Baldwin in various capacities for over 50 years.

Lester began his service in 1975, serving for over 20 years as a Town Board Supervisor. At that time, there were only three supervisors on the Town Board and approximately 500 people in the township. During his time on the Town Board, Lester witnessed a lot of growth in our community’s population. Lester then became the Baldwin Township Cemetery Sexton on November 3, 1997, a role his grandfather held before him. Lester has been a faithful member of the Park Committee for the last 30 years and he played a crucial role in the development of Young Park.

Lester is a man of many talents. In his youth, he worked on a farm until he joined the Air Force in 1951 where he served in the Korean War as a tail gunner on a Boeing B-29. He also served in the Air Force for 4 years. After Lester was discharged from the military, he purchased his parents’ home in Baldwin, got married, and had three children. He worked at Hoffman Engineering for 30 years and loves to tinker with tractors and ride motorcycles.

On May 9, 2026, the City Council presented Lester with an Outstanding Public Service award in recognition of his many years of dedicated service and exceptional commitment to Baldwin Township and the City of Baldwin. Thank you Lester, for serving Baldwin with pride! *B*



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Fire Department Report «by Chief Scott Case



To the citizens of the city of Baldwin and Blue Hill township, June 9th, 2026, will mark the end of my fire service career. As a wide-eyed recruit at the St. Paul Fire academy to my last day as the Baldwin Fire chief, I have enjoyed the chance to help my fellow citizens and the on-going camaraderie of my fellow firefighters. I have seen many challenges to get through and thankfully made it through intact. While there are things yet unfinished, I will leave those to the ones who come after me. Having been in public safety for 40 years, I have seen things both good and bad that will stay with me for the rest of my life. I have had the pleasure of being the Baldwin Fire Chief for 9 plus years and know the firefighters I have led are well trained and dedicated to the welfare of the people they serve. Thank you for the honor of being your fire chief. To my firefighters, stay safe and good luck.

Scott F. Case - Fire Chief (retired) ^B



THANK YOU FOR
THE HONOR OF BEING
YOUR FIRE CHIEF.



As Chief Case steps away from his role after 9 1/2 years as Fire Chief and 15 1/2 years of service with Baldwin, the members of Baldwin Fire would like to recognize and thank him for his dedication, leadership and commitment he has given our department and community.

During his time as Chief, our department has seen significant growth, progress, and positive change. Through his leadership, Baldwin Fire has continued to strengthen its training, professionalism, equipment, and sense of teamwork while keeping the safety of both firefighters and the community at the forefront.

The role of Chief often comes with long hours, difficult decisions and tremendous responsibility behind the scenes. Chief Case carried those responsibilities with pride and deep commitment to serving others. He has played an important role in mentoring firefighters, supporting the next generation, and helping guide Baldwin Fire forward.

We thank him for over nine years of leadership, sacrifice, and service to the City of Baldwin as Fire Chief. We wish him nothing but the best in retirement and in the next chapter ahead.

On behalf of the Baldwin Fire Department
Thank You...Chief!



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Illustration of a teddy bear and a fire hydrant

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Upcoming Baldwin Area Events

Baldwin Fire Pancake Breakfast
– June 28, 2026

Baldwin Fire Garage Sale
– July 15, 2026 through July 17, 2026

Baldwin Fire Department 2nd Annual Fire Dance
– August 29, 2026

Baldwin Fire Department Open House
– September 12, 2026

16th Annual Baldwin FUNFEST & Car Show
– September 19, 2026

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BALDWIN
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city.clerk@baldwinmn.gov. ^B



Council Corner *Continued from page 1*

Kermit and Margritte lived remarkable lives. They farmed with horses, served as fire wardens for over 40 years, planted Norway pines, and raised Christmas trees. Margritte worked as a telephone operator in Princeton and shared her musical talents in the community. The couple welcomed neighbors to their home, especially during Halloween, and Kermit was known for taking nearly everyone fishing at least once.

Today, Young Park reflects their legacy. Its trails follow the paths they once walked, and it has become a place where families gather and memories are made. I enjoy seeing people use the park and recognizing its beauty in photos. My hope is that its popularity continues and Kermit’s vision is cherished for generations to come.

This is a summary of Council Member Holm’s full detailed article. Please read the entire article at www.baldwinmn.gov/baldwin-city-newspaper *B*

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Building Permits
Regarding Baldwin Permit Information

Residents and businesses planning new buildings or rehab and improvement projects for existing buildings should check with the Building Department about building permit requirements.

Rum River Consultants (RRC) is Baldwin's designated Building Official providing building permit administration and inspection services. Staff at RRC are available six days per week to assist owners and contractors with questions and site inspections. They look forward to working with you!

Information regarding building projects and permit requirements are available at the link below. People can also complete a building permit application, submit plans, and make payments online.

<https://baldwinmn.gov/building-department/> - Contact the Building Official with all of your building permit and inspection questions at 763.331.7722. *B*

Ordinance Spotlight

Regarding Baldwin Fences - Ordinance No. 900

The Baldwin Zoning Ordinance establishes regulations for fences constructed on properties within the City.

Construction of fences that are less than 7 feet in height require an administrative permit, whereas fences that are 7 feet in height or greater require a building permit for residential and business purposes. Qualifying farms are not required to obtain a fence permit.

Fences must be located entirely within property lines and property owners are responsible for verifying the property lines. Fences located within drainage and utility easements require approval of the City Engineer and no fences are allowed in public rights-of-way or roadway easements.

Fences are required to be constructed of weather resistant materials with the “face” of the fence visible from outside of the enclosed property. Use of barbed wire or electric fences are only allowed for qualifying farm purposes, including for keeping of farm animals on residential properties as allowed by this ordinance, or for business security purposes.

Fences on residential properties are limited to a maximum height of 7 feet, whereas the maximum height for business uses is 12 feet. There are additional height and visibility requirements for fences in yards along public streets.

For more information regarding fence regulations or to obtain a permit application, visit the Planning and Zoning Department page of the City website at the link below:

<https://baldwinmn.gov/planning-and-zoning/> *B*



Election Judges

Election Judges play a vital role in conducting voting activities for local, state, and federal elections. The City of Baldwin is looking for individuals to join this proud team working to ensure the election process is fair and in accordance with our laws.

- To be an election judge, you must be:
- Eligible to vote in Minnesota
 - Able to read, write, and speak English
 - Appointed by the City Council

An election judge cannot be a candidate in the election or closely related to a candidate. Also, election judges cannot be closely related to another election judge in the same precinct.

Election judges are required to complete election judge paid training through the Sherburne County Auditor/Treasurer's Office.

If you are interested in serving as an election judge, you can find the Election Judge Application on the City's website at baldwinmn.gov under Election Information, or by contacting the City Clerk/Treasurer Joan Heinen at 763-389-8931 or at city.clerk@baldwinmn.gov. *B*

★★★★★

WE'RE HIRING

ELECTION JUDGES

SPOTS AVAILABLE FOR BOTH PRIMARY & GENERAL ELECTION

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Ordinance Spotlight

Regarding Baldwin Headwalls - Ordinance No. 100

Baldwin has adopted a Right-of-Way Ordinance for management of public rights-of-way and roadway easements within the City.

The Right-of-Way Ordinance establishes standards for construction of driveway access to properties off of public streets. These standards include that the driveway be paved within the right-of-way or easement (the Zoning Ordinance establishes additional requirements), minimum and maximum width requirements for driveways, slope limits, and specifications for a culvert to maintain drainage through the ditch adjacent to public streets. A permit is required to construct a new driveway from a City street. Access from Sherburne County roads is subject to approval of the Sherburne County Highway Department.

RIGHT-OF-WAY ORDINANCE PROHIBITS PLACEMENT OF HEADWALLS WITHIN THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY OR ROADWAY EASEMENT

Additionally, the Right-of-Way Ordinance prohibits placement of headwalls within the public right-of-way or roadway easement. Headwalls are small, decorative retaining walls placed on either side of a driveway at the culvert ends. Headwalls are considered a hazardous obstruction for use of the public right-of-way or easement due to potential increased damages to vehicles leaving the public street or other right-of-way users, such as snowmobiles, that may collide with the structure.

Public Works staff will identify headwalls during regular roadway maintenance and inspections. Headwalls that are identified are subject to enforcement action to cause removal and restoration of the public right-of-way or roadway easements, including administrative fines or court orders.

The Right-of-Way Ordinance is available for review at the link below:

<https://baldwinmn.gov/ordinances/> *B*



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Cemetery Gravestone Cleaning

Information provided by Becky Rittenour

Becky Rittenour's roots in Baldwin go back to 1971, when her parents, Dale and Elly Rittenour, moved to the farm just north of Baldwin Cemetery. One of the family's very first visits came from neighbors Kermit and Margarite Young, who arrived carrying an apple pie. Margarite was also known for hosting what many local children considered the best Halloween house around, complete with haunted tunnels made from blankets draped over tables, along with popcorn balls, candied apples, and home-baked cookies handed out to excited visitors.

Those kinds of gestures were common in Baldwin during those years. It was the sort of community where neighbors quietly stepped in whenever help was needed. When Dale Rittenour passed away in 1996, women from the neighborhood simply arrived and took over the post-funeral luncheon without being asked. Lillian Ismil, Louise Hass, and others filled the home with sandwiches, salads, baked goods, and gallons of coffee for the crowd gathering after the burial at Baldwin Cemetery. Afterward, they stayed to clean up as well. Similar acts of kindness played out repeatedly throughout the township over the years, creating a culture where families cared for one another in both joyful and difficult seasons alike.

Today, Becky lives in Milaca after a career in education, while her mother continues to reside in Baldwin and previously served as a Baldwin Supervisor in the early 2000s. Yet Baldwin Cemetery remains deeply connected to family history and memory. Among its stones are the names of the mothers and fathers who raised generations of local families and lifelong friends. Far from feeling unsettling, the cemetery carries a sense of familiarity, peace, and connection to the people who helped shape the community.

For the past several years, headstone cleaning has become part of Becky's participation in National Park Day, which conveniently falls about a month before Memorial Day. Across the country, Park Day projects often focus on preserving cemeteries and honoring veterans through restoration and cleanup efforts.

Historic stone preservation requires far more care than many people realize. Common household cleaners such as vinegar, bleach, lemon juice, and dish soap can permanently damage or stain old stone surfaces. Instead, preservationists recommend specialized non-toxic cleaning solutions designed specifically for historic markers. After gentle scrubbing, years of lichen and buildup gradually break down, often revealing inscriptions and details that had nearly disappeared with time. The work is vigorous work, but it's enormously satisfying.

The process also opens a remarkable window into Baldwin's history. One striking discovery has been the number of local residents who served in the military. Baldwin was never a large town, but rather a small farming township with a modest population. Even so, Baldwin Cemetery alone contains the graves of at least three Civil War veterans — a powerful reminder of how deeply military service reached into rural Minnesota communities...just Incredible.

In many ways, caring for the cemetery reflects the same quiet spirit of service once demonstrated by the neighborhood women who faithfully prepared funeral luncheons for grieving families year after year. Small acts of care, often done without recognition, become part of the thread that ties generations together. For Becky Rittenour, preserving the stones of Baldwin Cemetery is one small way to honor both family roots and the legacy of the many neighbors and veterans who came before.



Before cleaning and after cleaning. This stone will continue to whiten. ^B



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Volunteer Opportunities ^{by Mary Larson}

Dear Resident of the City of Baldwin Minnesota,

I'm writing to invite you to volunteer with the City of Baldwin. Volunteers help us deliver exciting activities for our community and develop new activities. We have several upcoming opportunities that can fit a variety of schedules and interests. We held our 1st Annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 21, 2026 with approximately 150 plus kids attending. Our next scheduled event is the 16th Annual Baldwin FunFest on September 19, 2026. These events are growing and we need more volunteers to help continue these traditions and bring new ideas to the committee.

Whether you prefer working directly with participants, helping behind the scenes, or supporting a one-time event, your time and efforts make an immediate impact. Many opportunities require no experience—only a positive attitude and willingness to help.



Current volunteer opportunities include:

- **Event Support:** Set-up, check-in, greeting attendees, and clean up.
- **Activity Support:** Being present and assisting where needed the day of the event.
- **Administrative Support:** Organize supplies, filing, assembling packets, and other office tasks.
- **Donation:** Seek donations with local businesses, sort donations, and prepare materials for distribution.
- **Outreach Ambassador:** Help share flyers, post on community boards, or represent us at partner events.

Volunteer shifts are available on weekdays and weekends, with both one-time and ongoing opportunities.

If you're interested, please contact Mary Larson, directly at (507) 108-1053 or bubbles8421@gmail.com or contact City Hall at 763-389-8931. We are happy to answer questions and help match you with an opportunity that fits your availability.

Thank you for considering supporting the City of Baldwin. We appreciate your time and your commitment to strengthening our community.

Sincerely, Mary Larson
Volunteer Event Coordinator
City of Baldwin Minnesota ^B

