

BALDWIN TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2016

info@baldwintownship.com

10 Community Park Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15234

(412) 341-9597

COOK OUT EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Residents are invited to come out for an afternoon picnic in Armstrong Park hosted by the Baldwin Township Board of Commissioners. The event takes place on Saturday, June 18 from noon-4 pm. Enjoy live music, face painting, have a hot dog, and talk to your neighbors and elected officials! Your RSVP to (412) 341-9597 or info@baldwintownship.com before June 14 is requested so that adequate food and drinks can be provided.



CAT DETERRENT CLASS FOR RESIDENTS

Residents dealing with stray and feral cats nesting in their yards can attend this free information session to learn about deterrent methods and devices designed to repel unwanted felines. The event takes place on Wednesday, March 30 at 7 pm at the upper level of the township building. The Township's volunteer cat expert will demonstrate deterrent techniques and answer questions about managing our stray population. Please RSVP to (412) 341-9597 or info@baldwintownship.com by March 28 so adequate accommodations can be made.

NEWLY ELECTED TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONERS

The Board of Commissioners has two new members. John Allen and Cheryl Schuler will serve four year terms beginning in 2016. They replaced former Commissioners Nick Pellegrino and Robert Downey. Mr. Allen works for an insurance company and represents Baldwin Township as a board member of Medical Rescue Team South Authority (MRTSA). Ms. Schuler is a paralegal at a downtown law firm and represents the Township as a member of the South Hills Area Council of Governments (SHACOG) board of directors.

Commissioner Susan Snyder was reelected to second four year term beginning in 2016. Together, these three individuals join sitting Board President Eileen Frisoli and Vice President John Paravati to form your 2016 Township Board of Commissioners. The commissioners hold their public meeting every first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 pm. They also hold pre-agenda meetings at 7 pm on the last Monday of every month.

HALLOWEEN AND CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES PLANNED

The Township's Halloween parade is scheduled for Saturday, October 29 and runs from 1-2 pm. Participants should gather in the parking lot of the municipal building at 12:45 pm to parade to Armstrong Park.

Trick or Treat will be Monday, October 31 from 6-8 pm.

The Township Commissioners are bringing back the Breakfast with Santa scheduled for Saturday, December 3 from 10 am - noon. Bring your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews to the township building for a photo with Santa and crafts. Volunteers are needed for this event and those interested in helping out should contact the municipal office (412) 341-9597 or email info@baldwintownship.com for more information.

CODE ENFORCEMENT/BUILDING PERMITS NEEDED

Residents may be surprised to know that many home improvement jobs do not require building permits. However, fences, retaining walls, decks and sheds do. Permits ensure work is performed to national construction standards. An improperly constructed retaining wall can result in property damage, legal actions, and costly restoration work. Do yourself and your neighbors a favor- get a permit before starting work! Contact the township office for more information.

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY/TMDL AND MS4 CHALLENGES

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) are collection systems designed to transport rainwater and snow melt through a series of drains, pipes, ditches and open channels to our streams and rivers. The water that flows into the storm sewer system is called storm water runoff. Before entering the system, it becomes contaminated by oil and grease from roadways; pesticides, nitrogen, and phosphorus from lawns; sediment from construction sites; and carelessly discarded trash, such as cigarette butts, paper wrappers and plastic bottles. Storm water runoff is not treated in a separate storm sewer system. Therefore, all of the pollutants it carries flow directly into our waterways where they can contaminate drinking water supplies and interfere with the habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms. *Learn more by visiting www.3riverswetweather.org*

Baldwin Township is an MS4 community, and as a result, is subject to a federally enforced TMDL (total maximum daily load) order. The TMDL limits the volume of contaminants our storm sewer system can discharge into Saw Mill Run, which discharges into the Ohio River (our source for drinking water). Consequently, the Township has been and will continue taking actions to limit the discharge of contaminants. Actions include regular street sweeping, catch basin cleaning, installation of rain gardens and phosphorus control devices. The Township also regularly checks for illegal downspout connections into sanitary sewer lines and enforces removal of said connections. Residents are encouraged to attend the monthly public meetings to learn about TMDL reduction strategies being implemented and what role they can play in helping improve regional water quality.

RESERVED FOR ADDRESS BLOCK

TRASH COLLECTION

Trash is collected every Friday. *Trash may not be placed at the curb before 6:00 pm on the night before pick-up.*

The following holidays will affect collection: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. If one of these holidays falls on a weekday, trash collection will be delayed ONE day. That is, trash will be collected on Saturday that week. If one of these holidays falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the collection schedule will NOT be affected, and trash will be collected on Friday, the normal collection day.

Residents should contact Republic Services @ 412-429-2600 to report a missed pickup or to ask questions about accepted items.

Collection is limited to fifteen (15) bags or containers and no more than 2 bulky items including stoves, washers, dryers, and refrigerators free of refrigerant. **NO televisions, DVD players, speakers, or computers /monitors.** Containers and bags must weigh less than 50 lbs. Construction debris must be in a closed container and not weigh more than 50 lbs. Yard waste must be tied in 18" diameter bundles, can be no greater than 4' long, and weigh not more than 40 lbs.

RECYCLING

Residents who wish to recycle may now deposit their recyclable items in the dumpster located in the upper parking lot of the municipal building. Please do not place plastic bags in the dumpster. Instead, try transporting items in paper shopping bags which can be recycled.

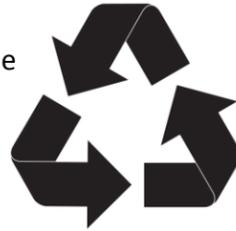
Republic Services has agreed to place this dumpster on a trial basis to determine the interest and viability of a community-wide recycling program. Because of our small population, state law precludes the Township from having a curb-side recycling program. Any program would be implemented at the discretion of the Board of Commissioners. *Please be advised that the dumpster area and parking lot are under video surveillance.*

Accepted items include:

Flattened cardboard and paperboard
Magazines, newspaper, office paper
Phone books & junk mail
Clean steel, aluminum, glass bottles & cans
Clean aluminum foil & pie plates
Clean plastic jugs & bottles #1-7

Unacceptable items:

Plastic bags
Containers with food residue
Household garbage
Electronic waste (e-waste)



ALLEGHENY COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES RESOURCES

The Allegheny County Department of Human Services (DHS) provides a variety of support and assistance services to ALL residents living in Allegheny County. DHS specialists will answer questions related to: mental health, homelessness, substance abuse, utility assistance, employment, senior services and care, and many more public health topics.

Anyone experiencing difficulties related to the above topics is strongly encouraged to call the Director's Action Line @ 1-800-862-6783 M-F, 8 am – 5 pm. A specialist will listen to your concerns and recommend options to address your difficulties.

SIGN UP FOR TOWNSHIP E-NEWS DELIVERY AND ALERTS BY VISITING WWW.BALDWINTOWNSHIP.COM

MESSAGES FROM THE BALDWIN TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

VACATION HOME CHECKS

Trips out of town and vacations are meant to be relaxing. Let the Baldwin Township Police Department know your plans and you can travel knowing a trusted friend is watching your home. Periodically, a uniformed officer will conduct extra patrols of the area and perform a walk around of the property. Anomalies are noted and the home owner is notified of the suspicious activity. To schedule, contact the police department at 412-341-5937.

In addition to the home check, residents can take a few simple steps to protect their property. Only tell those who need to know about your travel plans. Make arrangements to stop your deliveries, or have someone tend to them in your absence. Most importantly, never post vacation photos or make comments about being away from home on any social media sites or in voice mail messages; save your postings until you have arrived back home.



OVERNIGHT PARKING REQUESTS

Township residents with overnight guests may request an exemption to the overnight parking prohibition ordinance. Permission is granted at the discretion of the police department and is not guaranteed. Additional reasons like driveway maintenance or moving are unavoidable and are typically granted permission. Frequent use of this privilege, however, is cause for a request being denied. *You must call the police department's non-emergency phone line before 2 AM the night you are requesting permission and either speak to an officer OR leave a message with your name, phone number, license plate and address. The non-emergency number is 412-341-5937.*

MESSAGE FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE DAN MILLER- District 42

Coming off of a big 3rd Annual Disability & Mental Health Summit, my office is preparing a number of events for the spring and fall. Though more events will be forthcoming, here are a few dates to be sure to save!

Monday, May 2nd—Senior Bus Trip to Harrisburg, PA

For further information or to register, please call the Mt. Lebanon Recreation Department at 412-343-3409.

Saturday, May 28th—Community Shredding Event

9:00am-12:00pm at the Castle Shannon Volunteer Fire Department's parking lot (3600 Library Road). Your first 2 banker's boxes will be shredded free of charge, but a \$5/box donation is suggested for additional boxes. The proceeds will benefit our partnering organization, the Castle Shannon Revitalization Committee.

Thursday, September 29th—Senior Fair

9:00am-12:00pm at the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church (123 Gilkeson Road).

This time of year my office receives a number of inquiries regarding state taxes and the Property Tax/Rent Rebate program. Here are a few services to note that my office can assist you with:

State Tax Forms

If you need copies of state forms or instruction booklets, we have the most commonly used forms available in our office at 650 Washington Road. Feel free to stop by or give us a call at 412-343-3870 if you'd like the forms mailed to you.

Pennsylvania Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program

My office has Property Tax/Rent Rebate forms available. Seniors 65 and older, widows/widowers 50 and older, and people with disabilities may qualify for a rebate on property taxes or rent paid in 2015. Individuals with income under \$35,000 for homeowners and \$15,000 for renters (with half of SSI excluded) may be eligible. If you are in need of forms, please call or stop by my office. My office staff is also available to assist in the completion of these applications.



Representative Dan Miller
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