

BALDWIN TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

FALL 2016

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10 Community Park Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15234

(412) 341-9597

COMMUNITY DAY WRAP UP

The Board of Commissioners would like to thank all of the residents and guests who attended the Community Meet and Greet in Armstrong Park on June 18. The event was very successful with almost 100 of your neighbors stopping by to grab a snack and interact with fellow residents and board members. A special thanks to the Castle Shannon Volunteer Fire Company and Chief Bill Reffner for graciously providing fire truck rides to all of the children in attendance. Look for information regarding the 2017 Meet and greet in the spring newsletter.

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. A big 'THANK YOU' to Mike Miller's Auto for donating the Halloween candy used in the parade and passed out by the police department.

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

The Township Commissioners are planning a Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 3 from 10 am - noon. Bring your camera and children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews to the township building for a photo with Santa. Please contact the municipal office (412) 341-9597 or email: info@baldwintownship.com with your RSVP by November 30 and if you would like to volunteer-they are needed!

RESERVED FOR ADDRESS BLOCK



RECYCLING DUMPSTER USE

Residents are reminded that those who wish to recycle may now deposit their recyclable items in the dumpster located in the upper parking lot of the municipal building. Residents are also reminded to respect this complementary service and not abuse this privilege. Kindly take any items that will not fit into the dumpster back to your house and set them out for regular curbside collection. **DO NOT PLACE ITEMS IN FRONT OF OR BESIDE THE DUMPSTER.** This creates a two-fold problem; the truck cannot empty the dumpster when the front is blocked, and loose items blow all over the parking lot and into Armstrong Park harming the environment. The unsightly mess pictured to the left demonstrates how good intentions can quickly backfire. Township Public Works employees completely filled a second dumpster with all of the items carelessly left in front of the dumpster.

The Board of Commissioners agreed to place the dumpster on a trial basis to determine the interest and viability of a community-wide recycling program. Continued abuse will result in the dumpster being removed.

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)

LED STREETLIGHT RETROFITS

The Township has been replacing a majority of its streetlights with modern LED lights that consume approximately 50% less energy and have a much longer lifespan than a conventional sodium vapor bulb. This retrofit program is offered by Duquesne Light and will reduce our street lighting costs every year. The longer lifespan also means fewer service interruptions. Every light will be retrofitted over several years.

WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION AND DETECTION

-When it rains, it drains!

Each rainfall event produces runoff that enters the Township's separated storm sewer system. This system eventually drains into the Ohio River where it mixes with water from other communities and then siphoned off for use as drinking water. Introducing pollutants, chemicals, pesticides, and fertilizers into this system harms water quality and effects both human and aquatic life.

Storm drains are not garbage cans! Residents are encouraged to report anyone tampering with or dumping unknown substances into a storm drain by contacting the Township office at (412) 341-9597. Please do not throw animal waste, empty bottles, cigarette butts, motor oil, or other items into the drains. These items clog the drains and pollute our waterways. The additional unscheduled cleaning of clogged storm drains diverts time and tax dollars away from other township public works projects.



IMPORTANT MESSAGES FROM THE BALDWIN TOWNSHIP POLICE:

Recently there has been a rash of vehicle entries in several South Hills communities. The entries happen late at night and involve **UNLOCKED** vehicles. Items taken from **UNLOCKED** vehicles include purses, tools, wallets, loose change, electronics, and even firearms. The officers of the Baldwin Township Police Department take pride in patrolling our neighborhood and is why we we'll stop to remind you to close your garage door or ask why your vehicles' interior light is turned on. Despite our best efforts, we cannot be on every street at the same time. You can greatly enhance our patrol activities by always **LOCKING** your doors and **REMOVING** all valuables when parking your vehicle for the night. As always, please dial 911 immediately if you see or hear anything unusually during the night.



These are crimes of opportunity. Not much effort is needed to open a car door. Likewise, not much effort is needed to lock a car door. The second it takes to click a lock button is a bigger deterrent than you would realize. **LOCK YOUR CAR DOORS!** Talk to your neighbors, turn on porch lights, and don't ever hesitate to call 911 if you think you see or hear something suspicious, especially in the middle of the night. Let's work together on this! By taking simple precautions and just a few moments to remove valuable items from your car you can significantly reduce your chances of becoming a victim of this type of crime. **IF THEY CAN SEE IT THEY CAN STEAL IT!**

UNOCCUPIED DAYTIME HOME BURGLARIES OCCURRING IN THE SOUTH HILLS COMMUNITIES THIS MONTH!

Keep em' out!!

Most criminals who burglarize homes are looking for an easy hit; a house that they can break into quickly, take something of value, and leave without being detected. There are professional burglars who can gain entry into almost any home if they choose. However, most criminals who break into homes are lucky opportunists who find an open window or unlocked door. There's no fail-proof way to keep out a burglar but every little bit of deterrence helps. Even if you can't afford a security system, you can take a few minutes to make your home a little safer.

Once a burglar has selected a home to burglarize, most will spend no more than a minute trying to break in and less than five minutes while inside. Most residential burglaries occur on the first or ground floor. The point of entry is usually made at the rear or by a side door; the second most common access is removing a window air conditioner unit. Most burglaries occur during daytime hours when our residents are at work and their homes are empty. Make sure bushes and shrubs are trimmed to avoid easy cover from view from the street; this gives them more time to defeat a barrier without being visible.

Another common technique seen recently in some neighboring communities is the use of distraction techniques. This usually involves two or more individuals going door to door asking to check on things around your house or perform work very cheaply. DO NOT walk anywhere with them or allow them into your residence. If for some reason you do exit your residence to speak with them make sure you lock your doors behind you as you exit. The technique involves one individual speaking with you while the other surreptitiously gains entry into your home and quickly steals cash, jewelry or anything small enough to conceal upon exit that you would not likely detect. Unfortunately, trusting elderly residents are the most common target in this type of crime. Distraction activity is a long term problem in residential areas where thieves try to take advantage of your sense of security in your own home. If you don't see a valid permit or have any reason to doubt, err on the side of caution and call 911. We can identify the individuals and determine if they are permitted by to legally solicit in the Township.

With winter and shorter daylight just around the corner, please make sure that your house numbers are highly visible from the street. Plain, simple text or numerals are best. Fancy decorative scripts may look nice through the day, but can be difficult to read after dark. This greatly increases our response time in locating your house when you call 911.

A FEW FRIENDLY REMINDERS FROM THE BALDWIN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

TREES

Baldwin Township has an abundance of older established trees that provide plenty of shade and beautiful fall foliage. They're also a vital ally in managing storm water runoff. However, for all of their benefits, some trees can be potentially harmful if left unmanaged. The Township previously identified a number of trees located on private property that presented a safety hazard to vehicles and pedestrians and worked with the residents to trim or remove the trees. These trees had large limbs overhanging the roadway, interfered with sight lines at intersections, or posed a hazard to pedestrians.

As we enter the start of the dormant pruning season, the Township would like to remind residents that preventative trimming can increase your tree's ability to withstand severe weather and extend its life by promoting new growth and removing dying limbs. Trimming tree limbs that overhang public streets ensures a safe trip for motorists and pedestrians. By law, residents cannot plant new trees, especially those with deep roots like willows, poplars, or maples, within 50 feet of any street or sewer line. Root systems can severely damage both public and private sewer lines and other infrastructure. If you do plant a new tree you should always contact PA One Call by dialing 811 before digging.

The Township is always monitoring tree growth along its public streets and will enforce the provisions of our tree ordinance as necessary to ensure public safety. All of Baldwin Township's ordinances are available for inspection at www.baldwintownship.com/ordinances.

LEAVES AND GRASS CLIPPINGS

Residents are reminded that it is illegal to blow, sweep, or otherwise cause grass clippings to be placed on Township streets. This restriction also applies to leaves. Residents may dispose of these yard debris through our weekly curbside garbage collection or compost on site for spring fertilizer. Once in the street, leaves and grass clippings enter and clog our storm water catch basins during heavy rains and negatively affect water quality.



SNOW

Like grass clippings and leaves, residents are reminded that shoveling snow into the public street is illegal and subject to enforcement. Placing snow in the street creates a hazardous situation for motorists and emergency vehicles. Lastly, please refrain from parking on the street when snow is forecast and when crews are plowing. Navigating around parked vehicles slows down snow removal operations and creates hazards for emergency vehicles.

SNOW SHOVELLING TIP: stand facing your house and shovel snow to the LEFT. This keeps your freshly shoveled snow from being pushed back into your driveway by the Township plow and passing vehicles.

DYE TESTS AND STORM WATER MANAGEMENT

Any person selling a house or property in Baldwin Township must have a dye test performed by a licensed plumber. The test is done to detect illegal connections between the sanitary sewer system and residential storm drains, downspouts, sump pumps. These connections overwhelm our sanitary sewer system and create the potential for sewage backups. If a connection is found it must be corrected before the sale can occur. Anyone planning to sell their home should contact the township office at (412) 341-9597 for more information on this process.

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