

BALDWIN TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

info@baldwintownship.com

10 Community Park Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15234

412- 341-9597

Spring 2020

Coronavirus: Staying Healthy, Keeping Calm

By now, you have probably heard quite a bit about Coronavirus (or COVID-19). Events have been canceled, vacations rescheduled and college campuses shut down. When measures of this magnitude are taken, it can be easy to panic. Please know that although warnings regarding Coronavirus should be taken seriously, it is very important to remain calm. While all of these steps are being taken to avoid the spread and future contamination of the virus, there are smaller steps that members of the community can take to keep themselves and those around them healthy. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the following actions to prevent the spread of Coronavirus:

Clean your hands often

- **Wash your hands** often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, **use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol**. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth** with unwashed hands.



Avoid close contact

- **Avoid close contact** with people who are sick
- Put **distance between yourself and other people** if COVID-19 is spreading in your community. This is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.



Stay home if you're sick

- **Stay home** if you are sick, except to get medical care. Learn what to do if you are sick.

Cover coughs and sneezes

- **Cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- **Throw used tissues** in the trash.
- Immediately **wash your hands** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



Clean and disinfect

- **Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily**. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.
- **If surfaces are dirty, clean them**: Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.



For more information, please visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)

If you have an **URGENT** question about COVID-19, you may contact the Allegheny County Health Department at: 412-687-2243.

Content source: [National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases \(NCIRD\)](https://www.cdc.gov), [Division of Viral Diseases](https://www.cdc.gov)

Baldwin Township Statement on COVID-19

Even with thorough planning and preparation, I am not sure any of us could have anticipated the situation at hand. Although there are still many uncertainties, Baldwin Township continues to closely monitor the issues surrounding COVID-19, making and shifting plans as needed.

Following State and CDC guidelines, the Township is taking the following steps to limit the spread of COVID-19:

1. The Township administration building will be “closed” to visitors for the next two weeks. At the end of this period, we will reevaluate the situation and take appropriate action.
 - a. Manager and Assistant will periodically be physically in the office. Mail will be checked daily. Banking will be done regularly. Phones will be forwarded as needed and messages responded to in a timely manner.
 - b. We ask that all non-emergency issues be handled via phone or email.
 - c. An overnight drop box has been installed outside of the administration building. This box will be locked at all times and has a slot small enough to only drop letters or payments.
 - d. The Community Room will be closed to the public through March 31.
2. The Public Works Department will work staggered hours
 - a. All current appointments will be kept as deemed appropriate (including dye tests).
 - b. Unless absolutely necessary, only one employee will be on duty at a time to complete essential duties around the Township.
 - c. No sewer work will be done at this time.
 - d. No work that puts employees in direct, close contact with others will be done at this time.
3. The Police Department will handle as many **non-emergency** issues over the phone as possible.
 - a. Police Officers will not be accompanying **non-life-threatening** medical calls at this time.
 - b. If possible, reports will be taken over the phone

Again, we will continue to monitor the situation and make necessary changes based on CDC and State/Local guidelines. Updates will be posted on the Township website and Facebook page as often as we are able.

Stay well!!



For the most up-to-date information on COVID-19, please visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)

If you have an URGENT question about COVID-19, you may contact the Allegheny County Health Department at: 412-687-2243.

What You Need to Know About PA Drone Laws

Pennsylvania has a new vehicle for crime: drones.

Drone use has drastically increased in recent years, which catalyzed the Pennsylvania Legislature's passing of Act 78. This Act makes it a crime for anyone to use a drone intentionally or knowingly to **1) conduct surveillance of another person in a private place or 2) operate in a manner that places another person in reasonable fear of bodily injury.** Outside of this statute, drone users are also susceptible to other charges ranging from disorderly conduct to ecoterrorism.



As attorneys face new criminal statutes, the first question they ask themselves is: How hard will it be to get a conviction? The truth is, at this point, attorneys can only make predictions based on their interpretation of the Act 78 language and by taking current legal proceedings and subsequent decisions in stride with that language.

The passage of Act 78 and these premier cases are indicative of the not-so-distant future of drone law challenges in Pennsylvania. Drones and the regulations regarding their use are something that Pennsylvania criminal defense lawyers are going to need to understand, including what charges to expect, how to address the underlying issues and how to prove their client's defense.



This is a legal update from your Solicitor, GTNlaw, based on an article written by two of our associates, Corey A. Bauer & Victor S. Kustra, with the invaluable contributions of my Assistant, Megan Henderson. To learn more or to access the full article online, you can visit <https://www.facebook.com/GTNlawPC/>.

Building Permits

Residents may be surprised to know that many home improvements do not require building permits – particularly replacement projects or indoor improvements. However, many outdoor projects such as fences, retaining walls, decks and sheds **DO** require proper permitting from the Township. Proper permitting ensures that 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- inquire about permits before starting work! The Township currently utilizes BIU for all permitting needs. To schedule a meeting with the Township Building Inspector, please call the Administration Office at 412.341.9597.

Help for Residents with PENNSYLVANIA 211

Residents can dial 2-1-1 for assistance with everything from paying utility bills to health care, substance abuse and job placement. This one-stop health and human services resource can assist you with everyday needs and in crisis situations. Dial 211 or 1-888-553-5778 or text your zip code to 898-211 for immediate assistance day and night.



A Few Reminders about Overnight Parking
(Ord. #272)

Township Ordinance #272 prohibits any on street parking within Baldwin Township between the hours of 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. on all dates. The fine for this violation is \$15.00 and must be paid within 72 hours by mail or in person to the Township. If the fine is not received within 72 hours, the citation will be forwarded to District Justice David Barton's office for processing. Court costs will be added to the original \$15 fine.



Residents may request temporary permission (24 hours or less) to park on the street under certain circumstances. Permission requests must be made before the start time of the ordinance enforcement period of 2:00 a.m. on all dates. If a request is received at or after 2:00 a.m., permission will NOT be granted and will result in a parking violation tag being issued to the vehicle owner.

To request temporary overnight parking permission, please contact the Baldwin Township Police Department at 412-341-9597. To ensure proper permission is given, please include the following information:

- *Your full name with return telephone number*
- *The address where the vehicle will be located.*
- *The vehicle description to include the license plate, state of issuance, make, model and color.*
- *The reason for your request. Examples include: (temporary out of town guests with not enough driveway space to accommodate their vehicles and yours, driveway repairs or construction which prohibit use, and vehicles that are temporarily disabled.)*

Permission requests longer than 24 hours (extended permission) must be discussed with the Chief of Police in advance and are authorized on a case by case basis.

Please note: Vehicles should be parked on the street and close to (but not on) the curb so as to not inhibit the flow of traffic. No permission will be granted for on street parking in Baldwin Township during periods of emergency or hazardous weather conditions. Additional state traffic citations can be issued for any other observed violations such as a vehicle facing the wrong way against the flow of traffic, blocking a private driveway, parking within 15 feet of a fire hydrant, parking within 20 feet of an intersection, or parking within 30 feet of a stop sign, parking in a posted no parking area, or parking on a lawn (a violation of Ordinance #331).

Upcoming Events in Baldwin Township

Saturday, May 23, 2020 10:00 – 1:00

Plant Swap and Nature Day

Have extra plants or seedlings? Bring them to the Baldwin Township Plant Swap and Nature Day! Chat with Master Gardeners and local experts, learn how to build your own rain barrel, and help plant trees and clean up the greenspace throughout Armstrong Park and around the Township Municipal Building.



Tuesday, July 7, 2020 – 4:00 – 7:00

Food Trucks in Armstrong Park!

Tuesday, August 4, 2020 – 4:00 – 7:00 (or later)

National Night Out! Join us for food trucks and fun at Armstrong park and/or the Municipal Building parking lot! To participate, all you need to do is turn on your porch light!



Saturday, September 12, 2020 – 3:00

Baldwin Township Community Day at Armstrong Park

Join us for an afternoon of fun, games, food, vendors, raffles, music and more!

If you are a vendor and would like a table in the vendor tent, please call the Tow

Saturday, October 24, 2020 – 12:00

Registration will take place from October 1st – October 23rd at the Township Building

Treat bags will be handed out at the end of the parade – you must have a registration number to receive a treat bag! Prizes given to the top 3 costumes!



Saturday, October 31, 2020 – 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Happy Halloween! Trick-or-Treat takes place in the Township Halloween Night from 6:00-8:00 pm. Please drive safely and follow safe trick-or-treating practices!

Tuesday, November 3, 2020

Election Day!



Saturday, December 12, 2020 – 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Breakfast with Santa at the Township Building

Join Santa and Mrs. Claus for a jolly, holiday brunch – photo opportunities will be available! Please pre-register by calling the Township at 412-341-9597 or email info@baldwintownship.com

USEFUL CONTACTS AND PHONE NUMBERS

Non-Emergency Phone Numbers:

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Baldwin Twp. Police | (412) 341-5937 |
| Overnight Parking Request: | (412) 341-5937 |
| Castle Shannon VFD | (412) 884-7913 |
| MRTSA | (412) 343-5111 |
| Baldwin Twp. Office | (412) 341-9597 |
| Jordan Tax Service | (412) 835-5243 |
| Waste Management | (800) 866-4460 |
| State Officials: | |
| Sen. Wayne D. Fontana | (412) 344-2551 |
| Rep. Dan Miller | (412) 343-3870 |
| Federal Officials: | |
| Sen. Robert Casey | (412) 803-7370 |
| Sen. Pat Toomey | (412) 803-3501 |

TOWNSHIP OFFICE HOURS: 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. M-F.

Building permits and code enforcement issues are handled by the Building Inspector on Wednesdays 1:00 p.m. – 4:00p.m.