Spring 2023

Baldwin Township

NEWSLETTER

ARMSTRONG PARK

This spring, Baldwin Township Public Works will begin working on some exciting changes in Armstrong Park! A gaga ball pit will be installed in the playground area and the long-anticipated volleyball court and rain garden project will finally come to fruition! Lastly, keep an eye on the Township Facebook page for an upcoming kids-only opportunity to help decide what kind of playground equipment should replace some of the old equipment.

Gaga Ball Pit

Plant Swap
Date and time TBA

Volleyball Court

In addition to receiving a physical copy via USPS, Baldwin Township will now offer email copies of the newsletter.

If you would like to receive an email version of the newsletter, please contact the Township Secretary, Charla Pfeil at charla.pfeil@baldwintownship.com.

MESSAGE FROM 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.

MESSAGE FROM CASTLE SHANNON FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF, BILL REFFNER JR.

Hello and Happy Spring Friends,

As the Winter months begin to fade, we turn our attention to Spring – a time of hope and promise, a time of renewal, a time for a new beginning. And what better way to start a new, than with SPRING CLEAN-UP in your home.

As part of your Spring Clean Up routine – removing dirt, debris and clutter from rooms, hallways, stairways, and your garage -- I challenge each of you to check, maintain, and/or replace the smoke detectors in your home. And if you don't have smoke detectors throughout your home, now is the time to add them.

In the United States, an average of eight people die in house fires every day. Tragically, half of these deaths could have been prevented but nearly 75% of smoke detectors fail to operate due to missing, disconnected or dead batteries. And in some cases, smoke detectors are more than 10 years old and beyond their useful life.

By properly installing and maintaining smoke detectors throughout your home, you can provide an early warning of a potentially deadly fire. And minutes matter. A smoke detector warning can be the difference between life and death for you and your family.

Tips for Installation of Smoke Detectors:

- Place one in every bedroom.
- Outside the sleeping area.
- On every level of your home, including basement.
- On levels without bedrooms: install in living room, den, or family room.
- Install near stairways leading to upper levels.
- Install smoke alarms 10 feet from cooking appliances to minimize false alarms.
- Mount smoke alarms high on walls or ceilings (remember, smoke rises). Wall-mounted alarms should be installed not more than 12 inches away from the ceiling (to the top of the alarm).
- Use interconnected smoke alarms for additional safety and early warning.
- Do not install near windows, doors, or ducts.
- And never Paint Smoke Alarms.

Lastly, the Castle Shannon Volunteer Fire Department is partnering with the NiSource Foundation and Columbia Gas to provide Smoke Detectors (and CO Detectors) to those in need.

If you are resident of Baldwin Township, we would be happy to provide a free smoke detector and install it along with any other detectors that you already have.

If you are interested in this free service, please call the fire department at 412-884-7913

Remember to:

- Test smoke alarms monthly
- Change smoke alarm batteries yearly.
- Replace smoke alarms every 10 years.

WILL YOU ANSWER THE CALL?

MEMBERS NEEDED NOW

All Ages

All Backgrounds

Accountants Mechanics
Electricians Retail Workers
Truck Drivers Cooks
Retiree's Students*

NO EXPEREINCE NEEDED

We Offer Several Different Membership Levels

Firefighter
(Interior or Exterior)
Associate
Junior (14-17yo)

Benefits of Membership

FREE TRAINING
FREE LIFE INSURANCE
HALL RENTAL DISCOUNTS
USE OF FITNESS CENTER
FREE UNIFORMS/APPAREL
FREE PARKING @ LRT LOT

*FREE TUITION THROUGH CCAC'S FireVest PROGRAM

CONTACT US TODAY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT BECOMING A MEMBER OF YOUR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

412-884-7913
recruitment@csvfd.org
www.csvfd.org/join

LITHIUM-ION BATTERY SAFETY

We all rely on batteries to help with our daily lives. From operating our TV remotes, flashlights, and clocks, to mention a few examples, the alkaline battery has been for years the battery of choice that is designed to be used once and discarded that we are all most familiar, with many of us not giving any thought of their potential danger these batteries inherently contain when misused.

The next step in battery technology in the last decade is the LITHIUM-ION BATTERY. Unlike the alkaline battery, the lithium-ion battery can be recharged to provide continued use. Lithium-ion batteries are designed to store a larger amount of energy in a small amount of space. Lithium-ion batteries supply power to devices including smartphones, laptops, e-bikes, toys, e-cigarettes, power tools, and even in the fast-growing field of electric vehicles.

While both types of batteries need to be handled in a safe matter, the lithium-ion battery with its ability to store a large amount of energy is prone to fire and explosions which can result in injuries and fires.

The following are just a few safety tips related to lithium-ion batteries.

- ALWAYS follow the manufacturer's instructions related to the battery, charger, and device being used with the battery.
- Only use the battery that is designed for the device.
- Never keep lithium-ion batteries near heat sources or in high temperatures, such as in direct sunlight, or radiators.
- Do not charge a device under your pillow, on your bed, or a couch.
- Do not keep charging the battery after it is fully charged.
- Purchase and use batteries that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Stop using the battery if you notice these problems: change of shape, leaking, odor, too much heat, change of color, or odd noises. If any of these conditions exist and if the device can be done in a safe matter, move the device away from anything that can catch fire.

E-BIKE CHARGING

These mobile devices are becoming very popular and the safety precautions concerning the care and charging of these devices are no different than any other device we use. One important thing the fire service has come to realize is that many times people will place their e-bike at the point of egress where there may be a convent location to recharge the battery. This is most common when it comes to apartment buildings where the tenant does not have a basement or garage to place the e-bike for storage and charging. This is where the hazard lies, if you live in an area with only one way out of your living space such as an apartment and your e-bike develops a problem to the point you are not able to leave your space because of smoke, fire, or explosion then the possibility of being trapped in your residence greatly increases. DO NOT place your e-bike near your only emergency exit.

BATTERY DISPOSAL

Do not throw lithium-ion batteries in the trash. While your lithium-ion battery may not be able to serve you as it once did, or you don't need it anymore placing it in the trash can create a fire hazard and injure the personnel that needs to handle your waste. Recycling also prevents environmental pollution. Always recycle your batteries.

If you develop a problem with a lithium-ion battery, call 911.

These are only a few safety tips related to lithium-ion batteries. Again, the most important thing that can be done is to follow the manufacturers' instructions that accompany your device.

Bob Sutton, President of the CSVFD

State Representative

Dan Miller

42nd Legislative District

Democratic Majority Whip

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Mt. Lebanon, PA 15228
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RepDanMiller42

Updates to Senior ConnectCards

My office has been helping seniors ages 65 and older obtain free Senior Citizen ConnectCards since the updated card program launched in 2019. These cards allow seniors to ride public transit vehicles for free across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

We've recently learned that Senior Citizen ConnectCards issued in 2019 by Pittsburgh Regional Transit (PRT), formerly known as the Port Authority, will expire this year. The ConnectCard renewal period is every four years from issuance and is based on the cardholder's birth month. You can check what year your card was issued in by looking at the back of the card. PRT will send out postcards 45 days before the ConnectCard is set to expire, along with instructions about how to renew. The good news is that we can help you easily renew your card in our office! If you have any questions about your card, the expiration date, or the renewal process, give my office a call and we can help.

If you are 65 or older and do not yet have a free PRT Senior Citizen ConnectCard, we can assist you in getting one. Come by our office with a form of identification indicating your birthday and we'll process your application with PRT. My office can also assist you with applying for the PA Property Tax or Rent Rebate program if you qualify. Call or stop in to find out more!

Help for Residents with PENNSYLVANIA 211

Dial 211 or 1-888-553-5778 or text your zip code to 898-211 for immediate assistance day and night.

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.

PENNSYLVANIA 2-1-1 Southwest

United Way

State Senator
JIM BREWSTER
will have

SATELLITE OFFICE HOURS

WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

Senator Brewster's office will provide assistance with Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications, Prescription Assistance Program applications, Port Authority Senior ConnectCard applications, finding Unclaimed Property, PennDOT forms, along with other state-related issues.

1st Monday of Every Month
10 am - 2 pm
Baldwin Township Municipal Building
10 Community Park Dr. • Baldwin Township

For more information, contact Senator Brewster's Office at 412.380.2242.

Baldwin Township
10 Community Park Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15234

USEFUL CONTACTS AND PHONE NUMBERS

Non-Emergency Phone Numbers:

Baldwin Township Police	412-341-5937
Overnight Parking Request	412-341-5937
Castle Shannon VFD	412-884-7913
MRTSA	412-343-5111
Baldwin Township Office	412-341-9597
Jordan Tax Service	412-835-5243
Waste Management	800-866-4460

State Officials:

Sen. James R. Brewster	412-380-2242
Rep. Dan Miller	412-343-3870

Federal Officials:

Sen. Robert Casey	412-803-7370
Sen John Fetterman	717-782-3951

TOWNSHIP OFFICE HOURS:
8:30 AM – 4:00 PM M-F

Building permits and code enforcement issues are handled by the Building Inspector on
Thursdays 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM