

BALDWIN TOWNSHIP

30239 128th Street, Princeton MN 55371

August 2011 Vol. 3 No. 8



Northeast Sherburne Fire & Rescue Engine 3

Baldwin Fire Department's newest engine (E-3) is now in service. E-3 will give the department many advantages over the current pumper trucks. The pumper has a front bumper mount hose lay that can be deployed in seconds when needed for fires. Water supply for rural fires relies on water being shuttled to large drop tanks. The new pumper allows us to access these tanks from the rear of the truck which provides a tactical advantage when fighting fires with long narrow driveways or streets.



WELLHEAD PROTECTION UPDATE

The Princeton Public Utilities and Baldwin Township Board hosted an informational meeting about wellhead protection (WHP) on May 23rd. Approximately 20 people attended. Staff from the MN Dept of Health and Minnesota Rural Water Association explained that the goal of wellhead protect (WHP) is to proactively prevent potential contaminants from entering groundwater and drinking water supplies. The Wellhead Protection Program is required by the State to help protect the recharge area of the city wells and the groundwater resources used as the source of drinking water of the public water system. Part of the recharge area for the new Princeton Utility Wells extends in Baldwin Township. While Princeton Public Utilities is required to develop a wellhead protection plan to protect groundwater in this area, activities in the plan will benefit and help protect Baldwin Township residents and businesses protect their private wells and groundwater. A big part of WHP is educating residents and businesses about their source of drinking water and how to keep human activities from negatively impacting the quality of their groundwater and drinking water. Examples of wellhead protection (WHP) activities include properly managing and sealing wells, proper management by residents and businesses of chemicals and material that can contaminate groundwater, etc. Members of the Baldwin Township Board are participating in WHP meetings as the plan is being developed to represent citizens concerns and how the plan can help protect groundwater and drinking water resources used by everyone. If you would like more information about the program, information is available at the Township Hall or on the web at: <http://health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/shp/index.htm>. If you have further questions, please contact Jay Swanson, Chairman, Baldwin Township or Dave Thompson, Manager, Princeton Public Utilities.

Town of Baldwin

30239—128th Street, PO Box 25
Princeton, MN 55371

Office Hrs. 8:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m. Mon—Thurs.
Phone 763-389-8931 Fax: 793-389-2751
Email: baldwintwp2@qwestoffice.net

TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Jay Swanson, Chair—763-856-4201
Larry Handshoe—763-389-3195
Tom Rush—763-389-8931
Kimberly Good—763-856-3061
Randy Atwood—763-856-5722

CLERK/TREASURER

Cathy Stevens—763-389-8931
Cheryl Dobson, Deputy Clerk—763-389-8931

ANIMAL CONTROL

FIRE STATION

****EMERGENCY DIAL 911****
Mike Rademacher, Fire Chief—763-350-0378

SHERBURNE COUNTY WEB SITE:

www.co.sherburne.mn.us

BALDWIN TOWNSHIP WEB SITE:

Approved Town Board meeting minutes can be found at
<http://baldwintownship.govoffice.com>

If you send a message to BaldwinSubscribe@Gmail.com, we will have your email address for the green edition.

Healthy Communities Partnership Update

With a little more than a year passed since Baldwin's June 29, 2010 dinner with visioning session, much has been accomplished. We are now moving forward with our goals as we end the first grant period with the Initiative Foundation and enter into our second stage of the Healthy Communities Partnership program. If you have not joined up to help in one of the three task forces, you may not know that the first year is one of discovery for who we are as a community. Baldwin is the first township that has been accepted into this program, and because of this we are adjusting how the program's benefits can best be applied using available resources of our township. It is a rewarding process but can be frustrating at times as change happens slowly. But throughout the process of defining our town's needs and working to meet them, we learn more about each other, meet new neighbors and friends, and bring deeper meaning to what we all hope Baldwin can be as we continue to grow.

Won't you consider joining in on this process? With our core team well established and the new town board enthusiastically embracing this process we can use the energy and enthusiasm that only new members can bring to the work at hand. It doesn't take professional skills or a background in government to help out, only a willingness to learn more about our community and help carry through in attending meetings and keeping in touch by phone or email.

A brief summary of each task force's accomplishments follows:

Business Development Task Force: This group formed to support the needs of Baldwin businesses. They reviewed how the Initiative Foundation program could support business retention and enhancement and decided on holding the successful May 10 Business Luncheon at the Finish Line. Over 50 Baldwin business representatives gathered to offer their thoughts and ideas and fill out surveys to indicate their priorities. The town board was represented along with the other task forces to help support this group's needs.

Government Innovations Task Force: This group formed to identify ways for our township to improve the governing process. Working closely with our town board, the task force reviewed past efforts to develop a comprehensive plan. Research of current practices at neighboring townships and the committee revealed a need for the town to establish a formal Planning Commission to continue work on defining our comprehensive plan, which consultants may be engaged to write. The objectives and job description for this Planning Commission are now being finalized in preparation for accepting applications.

Parks, Environment and Social Capital: This group formed to engage community energy to improve our parks, consider community needs for meeting places, and sponsor events to help establish Baldwin's identity. This task force offered support for the town's Park Committee to help develop Young Park for use by residents. So far this task force has held two successful community events at Young park and applied for and received a State Health Improvement (S.H.I.P.) Grant to help fund the spring event, the bicycle racks, and trail signs at Young Park. We need more Baldwin residents to step forward to help plan more events and continue the work on trails, park equipment, and buildings.

MAY 15 SPRING EVENT AT YOUNG PARK



The May 15 Spring Event at Young Park was a success as young and the young-at-heart alike came out to enjoy a beautiful day in the park. Lawn games, hiking, and biking on the mowed grass trails were the main activities for participants, with healthy refreshments provided to promote socializing between activities. A scavenger hunt to find and identify different plants, animals, and trees was held with prizes for completing the challenge. With high water levels the trail access was shortened to only a fraction of what the park has to offer. See the Young Park Update story later in this newsletter to find out what is happening this summer to expand access throughout the park. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped with this event and to local businesses for their support. This event was also partially funded by Initiative Foundation and the State Health Improvement Program administered by Sherburne County Health Services.



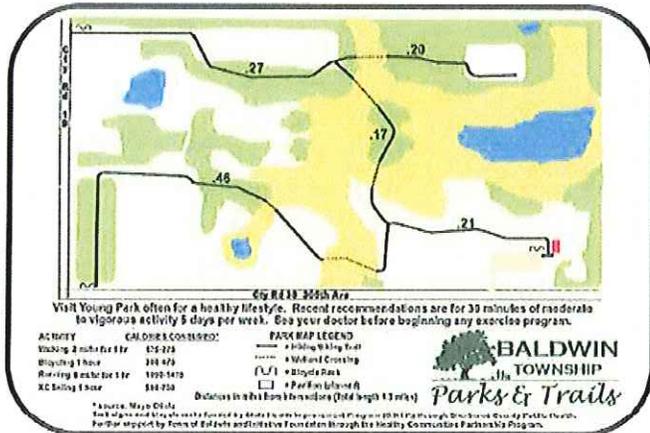
The Healthy Communities Partnership task force and your town board are enthusiastic about offering these types of events for Baldwin and neighboring residents. We hope you were able to come out to this event or the Winter Solstice event last December. As we go forward with task force objectives we welcome more residents to join us to help plan and host these community events. Please consider calling the town hall to offer your assistance for our next event.

Thanks to local businesses Subway, Coborns and Great Glaciers Water for their support of this event. Partial funding for this event also provided by the Initiative Foundation and State Health Improvement Program (S.H.I.P.) administered by the Sherburne County Health Department.

YOUNG PARK IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

Stop By To See Your Park:

With the parking lot being defined in November 2010, the development of park assets began in earnest this spring. The sign below is found at five locations through the park to help define entry points and intersections for the 1.3 mile trail that goes through woods and prairie and across five wetland sections. Due to the highest water level seen in years these wetland crossings may not be passable mowed grass trails as in the past. We encourage you to volunteer as we move toward constructing boardwalks to bridge the wetlands to the center island. This work is up for approval by the town board this summer once we receive final approval by county trail plans.



Work at the park started this year with the April 16 clean-up day. Thanks to all those who helped clear the debris left from razing of original buildings, the five deer stands in the woods, and the general clutter and litter that had accumulated. Special thanks to Terry and Lou in Baldwin's Maintenance Dept. for cleaning out the white garage. This allowed us to use it at our Spring Event and start it's usefulness as a pavilion for park activities. We have many plans in mind for how this can be refurbished and used as a park pavilion. No timeline is set for this work.

Swing sets are being evaluated and plans are being made to refurbish to place near the pavilion. Once swings are safely installed, children of all ages will be able to enjoy them. Check out the park as the summer progresses!

NOTE: The park is open for daytime use by all residents. The trails will be mowed by Baldwin Maintenance Dept. as needed. The high water levels may recede as we reach normal summer dry weather, which will let the now disconnected trails become more useful for hiking and general enjoyment of the park.

How You Can Help at Young Park

- **Wooded sections of trail:** Volunteers are needed in July/August to clear brush and hand carry lengths of timber from wooded sections of the south hiking trail (see map above noting that south edge of park is at top of map). This will involve Saturday morning commitment, 4 to 6 hours total. Please call Dean Kleinhans at 612-716-0282 if you are willing to help.
- **Boardwalk construction:** Two boardwalks are being planned to cross marsh to the center island. This area recently had a water depth of 28 inches. The boardwalks will be constructed in 8x8 foot sections, supported on steel posts, and anchored in the pond. Lengths are 140 feet and 180 feet. We are seeking volunteers to help construct/install these boardwalks. If we have enough volunteers we can complete work by late August. General experience in using hand tools is required to help with this project. These two boardwalks, along with moved grass trails, complete the trail system for use. Call Dean Kleinhans at 612-716-0282 if you would like to discuss helping on this project.
- **Firm trail surface:** Crushed granite trail surface is being planned for the park. The trails will be 6 foot wide filled wetland crossings with culverts along two north trail wetland sections. The remainder of the trail will have an 8 foot wide trail surface for hiking and biking (wide tired bikes) and cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and hiking in winter months. This project will be sent out for bids in July with approvals likely for work to begin by early September.
- **Final boardwalk section in south woods:** The south trail wetland segment will be covered with a boardwalk once the crushed granite trails are finished. Work for this should be complete in September and will take just one Saturday morning to complete.



**NOTICE
TO
RESIDENTS**

Baldwin Township is currently without an animal control officer.

The town board would appreciate you being your own pound master until this position is filled.

Baldwin Township is seeking an Healthy Communities Partnership (HCP) Coordinator to administer our HCP Grant.

Call the Town Hall Office for a job description and application. (763-389-8931)

FYI... Minnesota State Statute §97B.001, Subd. 2.

Permission required to enter agricultural land of outdoor recreation purposes.

Except as provided in subdivisions 5 and 6, a person may not enter agricultural land for outdoor recreation purposes, without first obtaining permission of the owner, occupant, or lessee.

Calendar of Events

- Aug. 1—Airport Advisory 5:30 pm
Town Board Mtg. 7:00 pm
- Aug. 2—Economic Dev. 6:00 pm
- Aug. 8—PAVC (K-Bob Café) 8:00 am
- Aug. 15—Baldwin Workshop 7:00 pm
- Aug. 16—Park Committee 7:00 pm
- Aug. 18—County Planning 6:30 pm
- Aug. 22—PAVC (K-Bob Café) 8:00 am
- Sept. 5—LABOR DAY—OFFICE CLOSED
- Sept. 6—Economic Dev. 6:00 pm

- Sept. 11—Town Board Mtg. 7:00 pm
- Sept. 15—County Planning 6:30 pm
- Sept. 20—Park Committee 7:00 pm
- Sept. 26—PAVC (K-Bob Café) 8:00 am
- Sept. 27—Steering Committee 6:00 pm

REGULATIONS OF DOGS

Baldwin Township Bylaws Section 300; Definition 5 states: "At Large" - A dog is at large when it is off the property of the person owning, harboring, or keeping said dog, and it is not under restraint.

Impounded animals are taken to the Princeton Veterinary Clinic located at 801 Rum River Drive in Princeton. Phone number 763-389-2440. The charge to reclaim your pet is \$150.00.



BALDWIN TOWNSHIP
301971187 Street, Princeton MN 55371

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