

# BALDWIN TOWNSHIP

PO BOX 25, 30239 128TH STREET, PRINCETON, MN 55371

January 2019 Vol. 12 No. 31



**Town of Baldwin**  
30239 128th Street  
PO Box 25  
Princeton, MN 55371

**Office Hours**

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mon—Fri  
Closed Daily 12:00 noon to 12:30 p.m.

Phone 763-389-8931 Fax 763-389-2751  
Email: baldwintwp2@qwestoffice.net

**TOWNSHIP BOARD  
OF SUPERVISORS**

Jay Swanson, Chair —763-856-4201  
Tom Rush—763-389-8931  
Bryan Lawrence—763-389-8931  
Larry Handshoe—612-961-7020

**CLERK / TREASURER**

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

**ANIMAL CONTROL**

Craig Hilburn—612-501-7814

**FIRE STATION**

**\*\*EMERGENCY DIAL 911\*\***  
Scott Case, Fire Chief  
763-389-7976

**MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT**

Zachary Good, Maintenance  
763-389-0036

**SHERBURNE COUNTY WEBSITE:**

[www.co.sherburne.mn.us](http://www.co.sherburne.mn.us)

**BALDWIN TOWNSHIP WEBSITE:**

<http://baldwintownship.govoffice.com>

Burning Permits at the town hall or  
online at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us.burningpermits>

## ANNUAL MEETING

**BALDWIN**

**TOWNSHIP**

### AND ELECTION IS MARCH 12, 2019

Polls open at 10:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m.

Precinct 1 & 2 will be combined and

Voting will be held in the Town Hall

The Annual Meeting starts at 8:01 p.m.

The Annual Meeting will be held in the Maintenance Shop  
right after the polls close.

Positions open for Supervisor 'A', Supervisor 'B' and Supervisor 'D'.

#### Why You Should Attend

- Elect Supervisors for a 2-year and 3-year term.
- Learn how the 2020 levy is proposed to be spent
- Electors approve proposed levy. Levy is certified to Sherburne County by September 15.
- Authorize actions by the Town Board for the next year.

This is **your** Election, **your** Annual Meeting, **your** opportunity to determine how **your** local tax dollars will be spent.

**Township Government is the only level of Government in which people can participate in this way!**

#### ALL PRECINCTS VOTE AT THE BALDWIN TOWN HALL

**Polls open at 10:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m.** Voters waiting in line at closing time are allowed to register/vote. Those who arrive after the closing hour are not allowed to vote.

#### POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Supervisor 'A' - 2 Term Position  
Supervisor 'D' - 3 Term Position  
Supervisor 'B' - 3 Term Position

To be eligible to vote, a person must be 18 years of age or older the day of the election, a US citizen, and have maintained residence in MN for 20 days preceding the election.

**Baldwin Township is seeking Park Committee volunteers. If interested contact the Baldwin Town Hall for an application.**

## MORE ABOUT ANNUAL MEETINGS

Information taken from Minnesota Township News

The Annual Township Meeting is held on the second Tuesday in March unless bad weather requires that it be postponed. The Meeting is then held the third Tuesday in March. If bad weather forces cancellation again, the Town Board must set another date for the Meeting within 39 days of the third Tuesday. A 10 day published notice of the date and time of the Meeting is required.

The Town Clerk is charged with convening the meeting and taking official minutes. The Deputy Clerk acts in her absence; if neither is available, the electors (Town residents) appoint someone to take the minutes. The electors appoint a moderator to oversee the meeting. The Meeting is a meeting of the people, not the Town Board. Supervisors can participate as citizens and can provide information so the electors can make informed decisions; the Board does not run the Meeting.

Any person may attend and speak at the Annual Meeting, but only those eligible to vote in the Township Election may cast a vote at the meeting. The moderator determines the outcome of any vote. A person's eligibility to vote may be challenged by any resident. The validity of the challenge is to be determined by the election judges appointed for the Township Election. A vote at the meeting may occur in any manner decided by the residents. No formal paper ballot is required; however to allow for any issue for which a vote may be taken at the annual meeting to instead be submitted as a formal ballot question at the Town's Election.

Minnesota Statute 365.431, with very limited exceptions, prohibits the Town Board from certifying a levy in excess of the amount approved at the Annual Meeting. However the electors may opt to continue the meeting to a later date such as August so the levy can reflect any statutory changes that may be adopted during the legislative session.

Other issues that can be dealt with at the Meeting are: authorization for expenditures for a new town hall, authorize nuisance ordinances to be adopted by the Town Board, authorization to proceed with road vacations, set the location for the next year's Annual Meeting.

Most of the actions taken at the Annual Meeting simply authorize the Town Board to take action and are not binding on the Board. Actions such as setting monthly meeting schedule, designating a posting place and official newsletter, and similar actions should occur at the first meeting following the taking of the oath of office of all new supervisors—this is commonly known as the organizational meeting. Preferences of the electors can be discussed at the Annual Meeting, but only the Board can take official action on these matters. The electors cannot authorize the Town Board to do something otherwise prohibited by law or which the Township lacks the authority to do. For example the electors cannot authorize the Town Board to ignore the Open Meeting Law or operate a municipal liquor store.

### Calendar of Events

(Unless otherwise noted, all meetings start at 7:00 p.m.)

February 4	Town Board Regular Meeting
February 18	<b>PRESIDENTS DAY</b> (Office Closed)
February 25	Baldwin Volunteer Corps Meeting
February 27	Planning Commission Meeting
March 4	Town Board Regular Meeting
March 12	<b>ANNUAL ELECTION</b> <b>ANNUAL TOWNSHIP MEETING</b> (The Annual Meeting starts at 8:01 p.m. after the polls close)
March 18	Town Board Regular Meeting
March 25	Baldwin Volunteer Corps Meeting
March 27	Planning Commission Meeting
April 1	Town Board Regular Meeting
April 15	Town Board Regular Meeting
April 22	Baldwin Volunteer Corps Meeting
April 24	Planning Commission Meeting

**Winter Parking:** The winter parking ordinance is in effect November 1 through April 15. During that time no person shall park any motor vehicle on any township road 24 hours a day. The purpose is to provide safe and efficient snow removal throughout the township. Any vehicle parked in violation will be authorized to be towed by any employee or independent contractor of the township.

The township is not responsible for any orange markers placed in the township road right of way.

Baldwin Township would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the election judges who worked during the Midterm Elections on November 6, 2018.

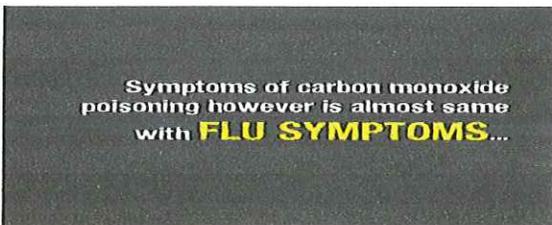
Thank you to Cathy Stevens, Joyce Mueller, Sharon Matz, Carolyn Lewis, Kimberly Good, Sharon Nelson, Robert Sorenson, James Cichy, Linda Alexander, Pat Brown, Cheryl Goetz Dobson, Jerry Mueller, Nancy Dorweiler, Linda Massey, Connie Cichy, Steve Denardo, Roger Lewis and Debbie Guy.

*Thank You!*

Although the popularity of carbon monoxide (CO) alarms has been growing in recent years, it cannot be assumed that everyone is familiar with the hazards of carbon monoxide poisoning in the home.

Often called the invisible killer, carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel are potential sources of carbon monoxide. Vehicles or generators running in an attached garage can also produce dangerous levels of carbon monoxide.

- The dangers of CO exposure depend on a number of variables, including the victim's health and activity level. Infants, pregnant women, and people with physical conditions that limit their body's ability to use oxygen (i.e. emphysema, asthma, heart disease) can be more severely affected by lower concentrations of CO than healthy adults would be.
- A person can be poisoned by a small amount of CO over a longer period of time or by a large amount of CO



## GOOSE LAKE PARK

Baldwin Township has owned the property around Goose Lake for about six years but has recently cranked up its efforts to develop the land as recreational space.

Board Supervisor Tom Rush chairs the Baldwin Parks committee and said efforts to plan and develop a new Goose Lake Park are now possible since the group has nearly finished with work at Young Park, which sits a few miles east of Highway 169.

The new Goose Lake Park will be located north of Zimmerman, a mile and a half west of Highway 169 on County Road 87. The park consists of 37 acres and 32 of those are water.

Right now, passersby see only a raw driveway and some piles of gravel at the site. Beyond those are wooded acreage and the water. So far the township has removed some trees for the creation of a driveway and begun coordination with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the county and adjacent property owners.

Plans for the park include two trails, a parking area with 10-12 spaces, benches, garbage cans and a security light. The development will take a while, since there are many regulations to negotiate, such as shoreland ordinances and other development rules that apply. Also planned is getting a fishing pier and a canoe rack.

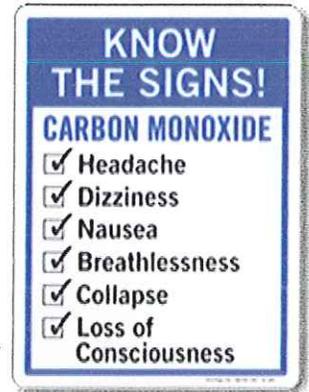
Sherburne County donated the land to Baldwin, and the township has been talking about how to develop Goose Lake Park since then. The trails at Goose Lake Park may meander but will lead to the water.

Another factor that affects parks development is the township committee that does the work. Rush said it needs another member to help with such things as the planning of Goose Lake Park and the formation of a comprehensive parks plan for the township.

Baldwin's comprehensive parks plan is about 20 years old, and the current efforts look at things in a whole new light. Rush said the decisions include where the township should develop recreational facilities — in other words, how it should distribute available green space. Article by Debbie Griffith

## Safety tips

- CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home and in other locations where required by applicable laws, codes or standards. For the best protection, interconnect all CO alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.
- Test CO alarms at least once a month; replace them according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- If the audible trouble signal sounds, check for low batteries. If the battery is low, replace it. If it still sounds, call the fire department.
- If the CO alarm sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door. Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for. Call for help from a fresh air location and stay there until emergency personnel.
- If you need to warm a vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. Do not run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor indoors, even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not covered with snow.
- During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- A generator should be used in a well-ventilated location outdoors away from windows, doors and vent openings.
- Gas or charcoal grills can produce CO — only use outside.



## COMMUNITY BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT



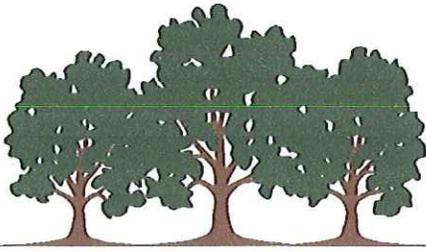
Thunder Blades Roller Rink opened in the fall of 2002 wanting to provide a place for kids, adults and families to have a good time and create memories that last a lifetime.

The hours opened to the public are mostly on the weekends, but Thunder Blades Roller Rink is open when Princeton and the area schools don't have school for the fall, winter and spring. We also have all-night lock-in's filled with games, dancing and prizes.

In addition to having open skating, Thunder Blades Roller Rink does offer birthday party packages. Cost would include admission, skate rental, table, balloons, food and of course entertainment! What better way to celebrate a birthday with family and friends.

31516 125th St. NW  
Princeton, MN 55371  
[events@thunderblades.com](mailto:events@thunderblades.com)  
Telephone: 763-631-7655  
Cell/Text: 612-388-2900

If you're a local business and would like to be featured in our next newsletter, please contact us.



# BALDWIN TOWNSHIP

30239 128<sup>th</sup> Street, Princeton MN 55371

US POSTAGE PAID  
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Zip Code 55371



## FIRE SAFETY AND PREVENTION

### To give you early warning you need a Smoke Alarm

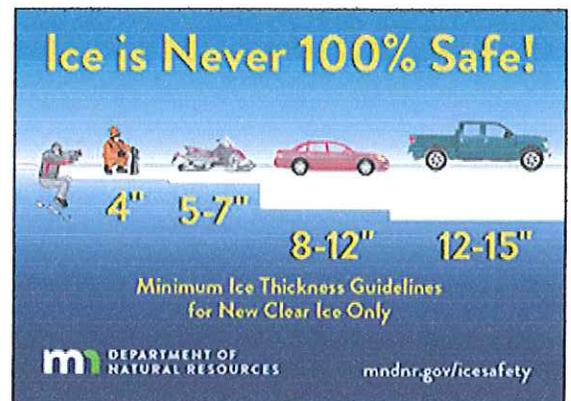
- Have them installed outside the sleeping areas on every level of your home.
- Test them at least once a month by pushing the test button.
- Make sure that everyone in the home can hear the alarm, even with the doors shut.

### Have an escape plan and practice it

- Know two ways out of every room in your home.
- Make sure that you can open windows and doors easily.
- Keep a spare key near your doors to help you get out easier.
- Once outside call 9-1-1.
- Once outside, Stay Outside — do not go back inside.

### Know your abilities

- Plan your escape around your abilities.
- Have a telephone in your bedroom in case you are trapped by the fire.



### For new, clear ice only

**Under 4" - STAY OFF**

**4" - Ice fishing or other activities on foot**

**5" - 7" - Snowmobile or ATV**

**8" - 12" - Car or small pickup**

**12" - 15" - Medium truck**

**Many factors other than thickness can cause ice to be unsafe.**

White ice or "snow ice" is only about half as strong as new clear ice. Double the above thickness guidelines when traveling on white ice.