

**VILLAGE OF BALDWINSVILLE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
NEWSLETTER - YEAR 2010**

The Department of Public Works receives numerous calls each year with questions on various items. In an effort to keep Village taxpayers better informed and answer some of the questions, an annual newsletter will be provided.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
1963 West Genesee Street Road
Baldwinsville, NY 13027
Office Phone: 635-9665
After Hours Phone: 247-3362
Stormwater Hotline: 635-6141

VILLAGE CLERK'S OFFICE
16 West Genesee Street
Baldwinsville, NY 13027
Office Phone: 635-3521
Website: <http://www.baldwinsville.org>

PLEASE TAKE SPECIAL NOTICE THAT DUE TO THE GROWTH WITHIN THE VILLAGE THE YARD WASTE PICKUP DAYS HAVE BEEN ADJUSTED TO INSURE THAT PICKUP FOR THE ENTIRE VILLAGE CAN BE COMPLETED WEEKLY.

The topics this newsletter covers includes:

- Child Safety
- Yard waste Pickup
- Park-a-Truck Program
- Meadow Street Dump Site
- Sidewalk Maintenance, Repair & Snow Removal
- Sidewalk Restoration Program
- Mailboxes
- Snow Removal from Village streets
- Snow Removal from private property (driveways)
- Plow Damage
- Water-Sewer Department Information
- Street Lights
- Water Information
- Water System Security
- Swimming Pools
- Recycling Bins
- Trees
- Parks Department Information
- Invisible Fence in Street Right-Of-Way
- Crosswalks
- Sewer Blockages
- Code Information
- West Nile Virus Preventive Measures
- Stormwater
- OCRRA Household Hazardous Waste Collection

1) CHILD SAFETY

The Department of Public Works is greatly concerned with the safety of the residents of Baldwinsville, and in particular, the children of the community. **PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW** your children to play in snow banks along the street. Since their presence within these banks is unknown to plow operators (DPW & Private), plowing operations can displace and collapse these banks onto an unsuspecting child or the child could be struck with the plow apparatus. Likewise, children should not be allowed to play in street-side leaf piles, where they can be exposed to a similar danger.

2) YARDWASTE PICKUP

The only items that are picked up by the DPW are yard waste such as: garden vines, leaves, tree limbs, shrubbery, etc. The following items **will not** be picked up: **building materials, furniture, tires, rocks, stones, dirt, gravel, sod, lumber, appliances**, etc. There is no annual refuse pickup. Call your trash hauler for removal of such items. We encourage homeowners to utilize a compost pit, particularly for grass clippings.

Grass clippings will only be picked up if they are containerized in a covered garbage can, which weighs less than 50 pounds. Such containers shall be marked "Grass" to distinguish them from trashcans.

- All brush should be limited to six (6') feet in length.
- For large piles we encourage the use of the Park-A-Truck program listed below.
- Your pickup day is as follows:

MONDAY PICKUP – North of the Seneca River, east of Oswego Street

WEDNESDAY PICKUP – North side of the Seneca River, west of Oswego Street

FRIDAY PICKUP – All portions of the Village south of the Seneca River

NORMAL PICKUP SCHEDULE – There is one pickup weekly from March 29th (weather permitting) through May 14th. We then move to the Summer Pickup Schedule (see below). Normal pickup resumes September 13th until inclement weather (snow) prohibits operations.

SUMMER 2009 PICKUP SCHEDULE is as follows with the weeks beginning:

June 7th & June 21st

July 5th & July 19th

August 2nd & August 16th

There will be longer intervals between pickups when switching from the normal pickup schedule into and out of the summer pickup schedule to allow village forces to catch up on required maintenance work.

PLEASE NOTE THAT DUE TO SEVERE STORMS OR DURING LEAF SEASON SOME DEVIATION FROM THESE SCHEDULES ARE NECESSARY.

Please note the Village yard waste pickup program is not intended for use as a cleanup service for tree contractors. If you have a tree, which requires the services of a tree contractor or the expertise of someone other than yourself for the tree removal, then the cost of loading and hauling away the tree debris should be covered at the property owner's expense.

We request that property owners place their yard waste items at the curb a reasonable amount of time prior to pickup. This will help keep the streets looking neater and cleaner.

To improve pick up efficiency it is suggested that neighbors utilize a common yard waste pile for pickup at or near a property line. This would reduce the number of piles and residual debris.

During leaf pickup season, generally starting in October until the snow flies, we request that brush be placed in a separate pile from the leaves as the leaves are taken to a different composting location.

When possible the street sweeper will follow the brush pickup crews to collect any residual debris that may be present.

3) PARK-A-TRUCK PROGRAM

The Village DPW will place a stake-rack truck on your property for your loading of yard waste materials as listed above. The truck will be removed the following workday. Normally, trucks are delivered by 3 p.m. on the scheduled day. Users must reserve the trucks through Village Hall and a property owner must sign the necessary paperwork. Users should refer to #2 above as to what cannot be loaded onto the truck. If any items included in this list are found on the truck the entire load will be returned to the address on the permit.

We have two (2) trucks available for this program on a first come, first serve basis. All trucks must be parked off the street.

4) SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE, REPAIRS & SNOW REMOVAL

By Village Code, the adjacent property owner(s) is responsible for the maintenance and repair or replacement of sidewalks. Also the property owner is responsible for SNOW REMOVAL on their sidewalk(s).

If you are planning to repair or replace your sidewalk(s) please contact the Public Work's Office at 635-9665 for sidewalk specifications. The DPW has a truck available for homeowner use to dispose of sidewalk debris generated from sidewalk repairs or replacement within the street right-of-way. Users must sign-up for the truck at Village Hall.

SIDEWALK RESTORATION PROGRAM: The Village of Baldwinsville has initiated a village-wide sidewalk restoration program. The first target area has been completed and second target area work is underway. Completion is expected in the spring of 2010. The village anticipates the selection of the third target area in the near future.

5) MAILBOXES

In an effort to keep our streets adequately cleared of snow and encroaching snow banks, Village plow crews sometimes inadvertently damage mailboxes. The following are some guidelines to keep in mind regarding your mailboxes:

- Keep your mailbox shoveled or cleared. This includes an area before and after your mailbox. This also aids your mailman.
- When heavy snows occur, place a flag or reflector in or on the snow bank to delineate your mailbox.
- Mailboxes exist within the street right-of-way usually without a permit.
- Do not place newspaper tubes or boxes under your regular mailbox; the snowplow wing frequently hits them.
- The U.S. Postal service has strict guidelines for proper erection of mailboxes, which reduces snowplowing problems. Minimum height from ground to base of the mailbox must be at least 42 inches.

THE VILLAGE POLICY ON MAILBOX REPAIRS/REPLACEMENT IS AS FOLLOWS:

If a Village DPW plow inadvertently strikes your mailbox the Village will repair or replace the box. Often times the mere movement of the snow against the box or the post will cause damage. It is the homeowner's responsibility to keep their mailboxes and post in good condition. Rotted or decayed post cannot be expected to withstand the rigors of a C.N.Y. winter. If rotted and decayed post are involved the Village will not replace them. Replacement boxes will be standard, generic type mailboxes.

6) SNOW REMOVAL FROM VILLAGE STREETS

We reside in a climate that brings us snow; and sometimes lots of snow, for extended periods. The Village DPW strives to keep the Village streets in the best condition possible, given the circumstances we are dealt by Mother Nature. This requires the snow that falls on the streets to be plowed off, unfortunately, usually into someone's driveway, which draws unpleasant thoughts from those who must remove the snow. Please keep in mind snowplow operators have nowhere else to put the snow. Please be advised we are now using pure salt instead of the salt/sand mixture used previously.

GARBAGE CANS AND RECYCLING BINS ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE HOMEOWNER. THEY SHOULD NOT IMPEDE THE PLOWING OF THE STREETS AND SHOULD BE SET BACK OFF THE ROAD OR INTO THE DRIVEWAY.

In addition, please remember the overnight parking ban, which prohibits parking on Village streets from 1:30 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. from November 15 – April 15.

7) SNOW REMOVAL FROM PRIVATE PROPERTY (DRIVEWAYS & SIDEWALKS)

It is illegal by Village Code and New York State Vehicle and Traffic Laws to deposit snow on any street or road during the clearing of driveways or sidewalks, by plows, shoveling or blowers. It is further illegal by Village Code to deposit snow on the property of another without their permission. This includes shoveling, plowing or blowing SNOW ACROSS or INTO the street. Please review your personal methods of snow removal and those of your snow removal contractor to ensure you are in compliance with existing laws and codes.

8) PLOW DAMAGE

If lawn damage occurs due to snow removal operations the Village will perform lawn repairs the following spring. Please contact 635-9665 if this should occur.

9) WATER-SEWER DEPARTMENT

The Village Water and Sewer Department is part of the Department of Public Works (DPW). The utility nature of their services often times requires manpower and equipment responses after normal business hours. The Water and Sewer Department can be reached at 635-3631.

After hours and on holidays our personnel can be reached by calling the Baldwinsville Public Works emergency phone number which is 247-3362. For questions on billing matters please call 635-3521 or 635-1410. The billing department hours are 8:30 am – 4:30 pm Monday through Friday.

10) STREETLIGHTS

Please call the Public Works Department at 635-9665 with any streetlight problems that you may notice. Please have the following information ready when you call with the **nearest street address to the light in question and the National Grid pole number if any.**

11) WATER INFORMATION

The Baldwinsville Water Department will mail its Annual Water Quality Statement for 2009 in April of 2010 to all its customers as required. This report includes information on source and quality of your drinking water and how the water department works to protect public health. If you do not receive a copy by the end of May, or if you have questions about the quality of drinking water in Baldwinsville please call 635-9665 for information.

We receive many calls each year regarding the hardness of our water in anticipation of the purchase of water softening equipment. We have two well sources. Canton Street Well serves the Southside of the village and registers a 380 mg/l. total hardness. Doan Well serves the north side of the village with a total hardness of 320 mg/l. The measurements are taken by EPA method 130.2. We are also often questioned on the sodium content, which is 9.98 mg/l for Canton Street Well and 14.3 mg/l for Doan Well.

Please be advised that any delinquent balance on your water bill as of November 30th will be added to March property taxes.

If you plan to sell your property please remember to contact Village Hall at 635-3521 for a final reading.

12) WATER SYSTEM SECURITY

The events of 9/11/01 have prompted the water supply industry to re-evaluate water system security. The Village of Baldwinsville Water Department has increased preventive security measures to protect our water supplies and distribution system.

We request that you, as customers of the Village of Baldwinsville Water Department, aid us in the protection of our water supplies and distribution system. If you see **any** suspicious activity involving the water system, i.e. hydrant or valve tampering, please contact the Baldwinsville Police Department at 635-3131 or the Water Department at 635-3631 or 635-9665.

13) SWIMMING POOLS

There is a **one time per year** sewer credit issued when you fill or top off your pool. **You must take a meter reading immediately before starting and immediately upon completion.** **You must call 635-3521 to report the beginning and ending meter readings and the date/dates the pool was filled.** You must follow this procedure in order to be issued the sewer credit. If you have any questions about this process please contact the water billing clerk at 635-3521.

14) RECYCLING BINS

If your recycling bin has been damaged or is missing or if you are new to the area, please call 635-9665 and a bin will be delivered, or if you prefer, you can pick one up at the DPW garage at 1963 West Genesee Street Road, just west of Route 690.

15) TREES

Baldwinsville has for many years been certified as a Tree City-USA. This designation shows that the Village has spent at least \$2.00 per capita on caring for its tree population annually, a level which has been established by the National Arbor Day Foundation as an acceptable level for proper tree care.

The village asks that newly planted trees be watered by residents as follows:

- ◇ Please water with approximately 15 gallons of water every third day or when dry.
- ◇ Check your tree to see if you are watering enough or you are watering too much. Move the mulch and stick your finger in the soil and determine if it is dry or wet. The soil should not be allowed to totally dry out. Do not over water as trees can drown. During the spring or fall rainy season less watering may be required. In the summer you may need a little more water. This will help the tree to survive and flourish.
- ◇ A positive indicator would be if your grass needs watering to stay green so do the trees.

We request that mulch placed around the bases of village trees be kept to a minimum depth and not touch the trunk in order to prevent rot at the base of the tree trunk. NO VOLCANO MULCHING.

The Village performs annual tree inspections with the help of our tree committee and a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Forester. If you have any questions or concerns regarding trees within the street right-of-way or are seeking advice on private trees please contact 635-9665.

16) PARKS DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

The Village is fortunate to have several recreational areas available. Many Village residents are not aware of our parks and trail locations. As of August 3, 2007 private parties will not be able to reserve any area of McHarrie and Mercer Parks. Small gatherings at either location are still permitted but on a first-come, first served basis.

- **Mercer Park** - sits on the Seneca River at Charlotte and North Streets. It has restrooms, picnic tables, a modular play structure, swings, benches, a gazebo, a pavilion, basketball courts, and a boat launch for boats 18' or less.
- **McHarrie Park** is located on Canton Street between Downer Street and Mildred Avenue. This is a small neighborhood park with lighted walkways and picnic tables, swings, a modular play structure and the Shacksboro Schoolhouse Museum.
- **Lions Park** is located off Rt. 48 south of the Village. This is a large wooded park with restrooms, softball fields, large picnic areas, nature trails, and a boat launch on the Seneca River. The village will soon begin construction on a new restroom facility with a \$50,000 Grant from Onondaga County Community Development.
- **The South Shore West Trail** offers a quiet river and canal side area for a walk or pleasant respite. The trail also offers boat dockage, benches, picnic tables and an outstanding view of the canal and river.
- **Paper Mill Island** holds an amphitheater, lighted walkways, benches, picnic areas, and restrooms and also has a great view of the canal, lock operations and the river, with a full slate of summertime concerts and activities.
- **South Shore East Trail:** The Village has received a \$264,000 grant to aid in the construction of this trail, which will run from Water Street to Community Park. Construction of the new trail is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2010.
- **The Yevich Trail:** This lighted trail has benches and runs along the river from Denio Street to Lock Street.

17) INVISIBLE FENCE IN STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY

Often times people want to place items within the street right-of-way such as trees, shrubs and landscaping. One item we are encountering more frequently is the “invisible fence” which is buried underground. These types of fences **shall not be installed within the street right-of-way** since they are subject to dig-ups by the cable, phone, gas, electric and water utilities. These utilities have no way of knowing or dealing with your private “fence” within the public right-of-way. If you are contemplating the installation of such a fence, or other items please contact the Public Works office and we can roughly layout the edge of the right-of-way to help prevent these problems. A permit is required to install an invisible fence, as well as any other fences.

18) CROSSWALKS

Crosswalks, not at intersections, have been placed in the Village. Currently, there are such crosswalks located on East Genesee Street at Curtis Avenue, Ford Street at Gale Place, Syracuse Street @ Marble Street and on East Genesee Street between the Baldwinsville Public Library and the U.S. Post Office.

The law very simply is, that it is the operator's responsibility to observe the crosswalk and when pedestrians are in the crosswalk, vehicles must slow or stop to allow the crossing to be completed safely. As of the 1st of January 2003, the law was amended to read; "when a pedestrian is in a crosswalk" eliminating that portion which says that "opposite portion" of the crosswalk, changing the meaning to when a pedestrian is in a crosswalk (any portion) a vehicle must yield.

The law further admonishes pedestrians not to rush to get into the crosswalk when vehicles are approaching and the crossing cannot be made safely. Pedestrians, in exercising right-of-way, are required to use due care in light of all of the circumstances and heed any danger confronting them; one cannot, to the exclusion of everyone and everything around them, rely solely on their right-of-way.

Safety is a key responsibility of law enforcement and traffic safety is a community wide concern. Your police department is doing its part but we need your help. Vehicle operators and pedestrians alike must accept their responsibility and we all move along in safety.

19) SEWER BLOCKAGES

The Sewer Department responds to many calls for blocked or plugged sewers each year. Sewer plugs can occur within the house lateral, which is the property owner's responsibility, or within the sewer main, which is the Village's responsibility. Sewer Department procedures calls for employees to check the sewer main and to jet clean it, if circumstances warrant it. As a courtesy employees can advise and in some cases try to plunge the sewer vent to relieve the blockage. We urge all property owners who experience blockages in their laterals to investigate the causes and make the necessary repairs. These problems do not go away, but usually get worse.

20) CODE INFORMATION

Permits are required for all interior and exterior construction and renovations with the exception of normal repair and maintenance. Also permits are required for sheds, swimming pools, decks, fences (includes invisible fencing), woodstove-solid fuel conversions, standby electric generators and demolition projects. If you are unsure whether your project requires a permit, call the Code Enforcement Office at 635-2481.

Other important Village Code issues homeowners and/or tenants need to be aware of are: high grass, garbage/debris and unlicensed vehicles cannot accumulate on the property. Snow/ice must be removed from sidewalks & fire hydrants within 24 hours of snowfall.

21) FIGHT THE BITE – WEST NILE VIRUS PREVENTIVE MEASURES

It is important to use preventive measures to control the mosquito population around your home. You can help reduce the mosquito population in your home and yard by taking the following steps:

- Fix broken screens
- Get rid of all discarded tires, cut tall grass
- Clean clogged gutters
- Empty wading pools, pool covers, clean and chlorinate swimming pools & saunas
- Remove leaf debris and all potential water holding containers

22) STORMWATER AWARENESS

The Village is located within the Syracuse Urban area we are required to participate in the EPA Phase II Stormwater Program, which is administered by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The Village performs several tasks annually to help improve the quality of our stormwater. These include educating the public on stormwater impacts, involving the public in the program, detecting and eliminating illicit discharges, controlling construction site stormwater runoff, insuring post construction stormwater management in new development and redevelopment, and pollution prevention through proper municipal operations. To accomplish this, many varied best management practices are employed in complying with the permit requirements, which includes new ordinances and codes, complete mapping of our stormwater system, education, training, operational changes and additions. Please check the village website at www.baldwinsville.org for the Annual Stormwater Report, and other stormwater related programs the village offers to its residents.

The Village now accepts used motor oil at the PUBLIC WORKS garage at 1963 West Genesee Street Road in an effort to keep the oil from the stormwater system.

If you have any questions or would like to participate in the stormwater program please contact 635-9665.

Stormwater Information Links:

Syracuse Urban Area Stormwater Phase II Program

<http://www.cnyrpdb.org/stormwater-phase2/>

New York Department of Environmental Conservation

<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dow/mainpage.htm>

United States Environmental Protection Agency

<http://www.epa.gov/npdes/>

23) OCRRA HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

The Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency holds an annual household hazardous waste special collection day. Please check the OCCRA website (<http://www.ocrra.org>) for the 2009 dates. We urge all residents of Baldwinsville to take advantage of this program in order to reduce stormwater pollution.

The following household hazardous waste items are accepted at OCRRA's Household Hazardous Waste Collection days:

- ◇ **Automotive products** such as transmission or brake fluid, engine degreaser, anti-freeze, diesel fuel and contaminated gasoline.
- ◇ **Painting supplies**, including all types of paints (up to 50 cans), stains, or finishes, paint thinner, turpentine, brush cleaner, paint stripper, and wood preservatives.
NOTE: Place **empty** oil-based, latex or aerosol paint cans in your trash. To dispose of small amounts of leftover **latex** paint, leave the container in a well ventilated place until the paint is completely dried out, and then deposit the entire container in the trash.
- ◇ **Garden supplies and pesticides.**
- ◇ **Cleaning supplies**, such as oven cleaner, drain cleaner, lye, toilet bowl cleaner, floor and furniture polish, mothballs and products containing petroleum or ammonia.
- ◇ **Miscellaneous products**, such as fluorescent light bulbs, lighter fluid, household batteries, kerosene, driveway sealer, small propane cylinders (camp stove type) under 20 lb. size, nail polish remover, and any product whose label has descriptions such as *toxic, flammable, poison, corrosive*. Loose asbestos that has been double bagged (NO ASBESTOS PIPES).
- ◇ **Can't wait until OCRRA's next household hazardous waste collection?**
Environmental Products and Services,* a local provider of environmental services, offers a year-round drop-off operation for household hazardous waste.

Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency

AUTOMATED HOTLINE: 315-453-2870

PHONE: 315-453-2866

The DPW consistently strives to deliver its services in a professional, responsive and effective manner with planning and oversight through the Public Works Committee. If you have any questions, comments or concerns please feel free to contact the Public Works Department at 635-9665, Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Tim Baker
Village Engineer