The Connection

December, 2016

www.baldwincity.org

COMMUNITY EVENTS

For more information about events visit:

www.baldwincitychamber.com

City Phone #'s:

City Hall:
785-594-6427

Public Works:
785-594-6907

Court:
785-594-6821

Utilities:
785-594-6427

Non-Emergency:

Police:
785-594-3850

Fire:
785-594–3678

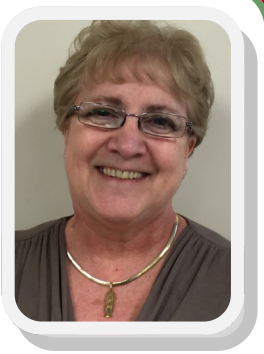
City Meeting Dates:

City Council meets the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Library located at 800 7th Street. (1st and 3rd Tuesday starting in January.)

Planning Commission meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Library located at 800 7th Street.

Agendas for City Council are posted at City Hall and are available online at the City's website:
www.baldwincity.org

From the Mayor's Desk:



After years of discussion regarding the conflict of meeting times between the City and the school district, the City Council has taken the initiative to move our meeting days to the first and third Tuesday of each month. This change will begin with the first meeting of January, 2017. Hopefully now, more citizens will be able to attend both meetings to remain informed on City and School District issues.

Enjoy the holiday and never forget the reason for the season.

Electricity not all the same:

Did you know that Baldwin City currently serves approximately 18% of its electric load by renewable resources?

In March 2016, Baldwin began taking energy from a new wind facility in Marshall County Kansas. The Marshall County Wind Farm is made up of 36 wind turbines producing 2 megawatts each. Marshall provides Baldwin with 1 megawatt of wind energy or approximately 12% of our annual usage. This power purchase agreement runs through 2035. Baldwin also has renewable resources produced from hydroelectric sources:

The Western Area Power Administration provides Baldwin with 520 kilowatts of hydroelectricity. Baldwin began taking this energy in 2012 and will continue thru 2054. The Southwest Power Administration (SPA) provides Baldwin with 100 kilowatts of hydroelectricity. Baldwin began taking energy from this project in 2012 as well and will continue thru 2018. Baldwin is in negotiations with SPA on an extension for this resource.

While there is no current legislation requiring a renewable portfolio standard for Municipal Owned Utilities, Baldwin is being proactive by procuring long term, sustainable energy contracts to ensure our energy needs would be met both today and tomorrow, as cost effectively as possible.

Trash/Recycling Pick-up:

Please be aware that regardless of the day your trash or recycling is collected, trash/recycling **must be curbside by 8:00 a.m.** on the pickup day. Even if it has been picked up later in the day in the past, truck routes and scheduling may change from week to week.

Holiday Light Safety :

December is just around the corner here in Baldwin City and with that comes many different ways that folks will choose to brighten the holiday season with holiday lighting arrangements.

More than 86% of Americans decorate their homes as part of their winter holiday celebrations and almost two-thirds use electric lights in their indoor decorating scheme, while more than half use lighted decorations outside their homes. However, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), holiday lights and lighting arrangements are involved in an estimated average of 160 home structure fires each year which caused an average of nine civilian deaths, 13 civilian injuries, and $9 million in direct property damage. Electrical failures or malfunctions were factors in two-thirds of those fires. In addition, 12% of home candle fires occurred in December; 1.5 times the monthly average.

Many of these fires and safety incidents can be prevented. When deciding how you're going to implement your lighting, it's important to consider these lighting safety tips that may reduce the risk to you and your household:

- Before decorating, determine how many outlets are available and where they are located. Plan your displays accordingly.
- Carefully inspect each electrical decoration. Cracked or damaged sockets, loose or bare wires, and loose connections may cause a serious shock or start a fire.
- Follow the manufacturer's use and care instructions that accompany electrical decorations.
- Avoid overloading electrical outlets with too many decorations or electrical devices. They can overheat and cause a fire.
- Consider purchasing LED lights, which use less energy and run cooler than traditional incandescent lights. LEDs are made with epoxy lenses, not glass and are much more durable.
- Never drape anything over a light bulb or lamp shade.
- Avoid using candles when possible. Consider using battery-operated candles in place of traditional candles. Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens.
- Always purchase electrical decorations and lights from reputable retailers.
- Use lights approved for safe use by a nationally recognized testing laboratory, and never connect more than three strands of incandescent lights together.
- Make sure that cords are not pinched in doors, windows, or under heavy furniture, which could damage the cord's insulation and do not mount or support light strings in a way that might damage the cord's insulation.
- Turn off all indoor and outdoor holiday lighting and extinguish all candles before leaving the house or going to bed.

While holiday decorating is all about adding fun, sparkle and warmth to a very special season, it's important to remember that many of our decorations carry the risk of fire or electrical injury if not used carefully. Don't let a preventable accident take the enjoyment out of your holidays – whether you're excitedly preparing for Christmas, Hanukkah, or Kwanzaa! Stay safe, Baldwin City!

("ESFI Holiday Decorating Safety." ESFI. Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI), n.d. Web. 29 Nov. 2016.)

City Departments and their Functions…

This article is the first in a series of articles addressing the roles and functions of different City departments. The first in this series is City Clerk. Clerks from across the country serve in many roles, all unique to their City. Staff will be offering a series of articles to be included in the newsletter that addresses the many roles of a City Clerk . Each article will address specifically what the City Clerk in the City of Baldwin City is responsible for. This month, staff will begin with one of those roles.

Permits and Licenses come in several ways; Special Events, Fireworks Stand, Cereal Malt Beverage Licenses, Liquor Licenses, Drinking Establishment Licenses. There are different applications for each of these that a person would need to complete. Each has different guidelines and forms to complete. I am in the process of getting all these applications on our website to make it easier for patrons to apply. You would still need to come by to pay the fee. Not sure if you need a special event permit? Give me a call and I will gladly help you through the process. Laura Hartman at 785-594-6427.

There are other permits/licenses required by the City of Baldwin City, but may fall under other departments, such as building permits or burning permits to name a couple. If in doubt what you might need, you can always call City Hall and get your answers.

City Hall – Important Dates:

December 13th — Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m. Baldwin Library
December 19th – Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Baldwin Library
December 23rd and 26th – City Hall Closed for Christmas
December 27th – Utility bills due by 5:00 p.m.
January 1st — City Hall Closed for New Year's Day
January 3rd – Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Baldwin Library
January 3rd – Municipal Court, 9:00 a.m. American Legion Hall
January 16th—City Hall Closed for Martin Luther King Day
January 17th –Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Baldwin Library

Emergency Snow Routes

This is a reminder that the City has an existing ordinance for emergency snow routes. The following streets are declared to be emergency snow routes and motor vehicles are prohibited from parking or remaining on the routes until the snow has been removed, if the snow accumulates to a depth of two inches.

The emergency snow routes are as follows:

East-West Streets:

- Chapel Street, 10th to 1st Street (must be four feet from traveled portion of roadway);
- High Street; and
- Lawrence Street to 1st Street (must be four feet from traveled portion of the roadway from Lawrence Street to 9th Street. "No Parking" curb to curb from 9th Street to 5th Street. There must be four feet from traveled portion of roadway from 5th Street to 1st Street.

North-South Streets:

- 10th Street, Ames to Orange Street (must be four feet from the traveled portion of roadway); and
- 8th Street, Ames to Orange Street (must be four feet from traveled portion of roadway), Ames to Dearborn. "No Parking" curb to curb Dearborn to Monroe Street. Four feet from traveled portion of the roadway Monroe Street to Orange Street) 6th Street, Ames to Orange Street, (must be four feet from traveled portion of roadway, Ames to Dearborn. "No Parking" curb to curb Dearborn Street to Indiana Street. Must be four feet from traveled portion of roadway Indiana Street to Orange Street.) 3rd Street, Ames Street to Orange Street, (must be four feet from traveled portion of roadway).

Any person found upon conviction to have violated any provision of this section shall be subject to the general penalties as provided in the Standard Traffic Ordinance as incorporated by reference into the Code of the city. (Ord. 771, Secs. 1:2)