

Baden Borough's Front Porch News



SPRING 2026



Why Are Water Rates Increasing?

Providing reliable, clean water to every home in the borough is our most critical service. However, maintaining that service has become increasingly difficult as our infrastructure ages. Over the past five years, the frequency of waterline breaks has risen significantly, indicating that our system is failing and requires immediate intervention.

Low-Interest Loans

To address these issues without causing sudden financial distress, the Borough has secured two major low-interest loans for infrastructure replacement:

- **2022 USDA Loan:** A \$1.9 million loan at a 1.25% interest rate. The annual payment is \$61,000, spanning 38 years.
- **2026 PennVest Loan:** A \$3.2 million loan with a 20-year payback period. The interest rate is just 1% for the first five years (increasing to 1.743% for years 6–20). The annual payment is \$176,000.

Combined, these annual debt payments total **\$237,000**.

Previously, the Borough did not increase rates to cover the 2022 loan, but with the addition of the 2026 infrastructure project, a rate adjustment is now necessary.

Rising Cost of Water Service

Beyond infrastructure repairs, the cost of the water itself is rising. Currently, we pay approximately \$454,000 per year to purchase water from the Ambridge Water Authority.

Our contract with them ends this year, and while new rates have not yet been established, we must prepare for potential increases.

Did You Know?

The Water Department operates as a self-sustaining fund. This means it is totally separate from the General Fund. By law, your tax dollars cannot be used for water department expenses; the system must be funded entirely by the revenue generated through water rates.

TO CONTINUE READING, HEAD TO PG 3!

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE...

BOROUGH GARBAGE RATES, PG.3 • MESSAGE FROM BVRPD CHIEF, PG. 10

Contacting The Borough

Borough Office:
(724) 869-3700

**Water Billing, Garbage Service and
Municipal Authority:**
(724) 869-3701

**Community Room Rental, Dye Tests,
Liens, Accounts Payable:**
(724) 869-3702

Borough Manager:
(724) 869-3703

Police Department:
(724) 869-9530

Fire Department:
(724) 869-3706

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday 8AM to 4PM

Emergency: Call 911

**Non-Emergency (including water
breaks, road conditions, etc.):**
please call (724) 869-2813

Mayor:
Andy Gall

President of Council:
Dave Trzcianka

Council Members:
Joe Bosh, Becky Gallagher,
Shannon Reynolds, Dawn Singleton,
John Shelkons, & Tom Turney

STORM SEWERS ARE FOR STORM WATER

The Department of Environmental Protection MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) requires the minimization of pollutants from entering the waterways. Proper waste disposal prevents storm water contamination. As a homeowner, make sure you:

- Never dump oil, paint, chemicals, or other hazardous materials down storm drains.
- Pick up pet waste and dispose of it properly.
- Sweep up yard debris like leaves and grass clippings before they can be washed into storm drains. Pick up litter and debris and dispose of it properly.

**COMING SOON: Starting July 1,
2026 you will be able to view Baden
Borough's annual water quality
report online at:**

badenborough.com/document/ccr

This report contains important information about the source and quality of your drinking water. Please call (724) 869-3700 if you would like a paper report delivered to your home.

WHEN ARE THE WATER BILLS DUE?

Need to budget your finances for your quarterly water bill?

Meter Reading	Bill Mailed	Payment Due
DEC	JAN	FEB
MARCH	APRIL	MAY
JUNE	JULY	AUG
SEPT	OCT	NOV

Please note this is subject to change for unexpected reason.



Borough Garbage Rates

Many residents have asked whether garbage rates will increase next year. We have some important updates regarding our contract with Waste Management and what you can expect on your upcoming bills. The Good News for 2027 is the Borough has officially extended our contract with Waste Management for one additional year. While Waste Management has increased their rates for 2027, the Borough has decided not to pass that increase on to residents.

Your rate will remain at \$56.25 per quarter for the duration of 2027. We are proud to maintain this rate, as it remains significantly lower than the regional average of over \$75.00 per quarter.

While rates are frozen for the upcoming year, we must prepare for changes starting January 1, 2028. To ensure we continue receiving reliable service, the Borough will be bidding out a brand-new garbage contract in 2027. Because regional costs for waste disposal are rising, rates will increase in 2028, we just don't know by how much.

Our goal is to keep your costs as low as possible. As we prepare for the 2028 – 2032 contract, the Borough is exploring several cost-saving options, including moving from “unlimited” service to a specific limit on the number of cans or bags allowed per week.

We are committed to transparency and will keep the community informed as the bidding process begins spring of next year.

Front cover continued

Understanding the Water Budget

Our total water budget is \$1,143,660. It is important to note that:

- 60% of the budget (\$691,000) is for loan payments and purchasing water from Ambridge Water Authority.
- 40% of the budget (approx. \$452,000) covers all other operations, including weekly water testing, utilities, water tank communication system, required DEP Permits, new water meters, water quality reports and labor costs.

Water Maintenance Fund

The \$10 that is paid quarterly for water maintenance is a separate account used primarily for maintaining our 5 water tanks.

We understand that rate increases are never welcome news. However, these investments are the only way to move away from “emergency fixes” and toward a reliable, modern system that will serve our community for decades to come.



COMMUNITY YARD SALE

The Baden Community Yard Sale will take place on **Saturday, June 6, 2026**. The map of participating houses will be posted prior to the event on the Baden Borough Website and Facebook page. In case of inclement weather, the rain date will be Saturday, June 20, 2026.



A MESSAGE FROM CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

-Submitted by Pastor Jill McGregor

The church located directly across from the United States Post Office on State Street has served Baden Borough since 1858. That is now about seven generations.

Our life together is guided by the Lutheran understanding of Christianity. Lutherans are “Jesus people”. Our faith seeks to follow Jesus as the Author, Savior and Sustainer of life. This is lived in relationships that are individual and as a family. Our faith in Jesus Christ revealed in the Holy Bible and lived practicing the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion. We are sinners who are united by redeeming faith received as a gift. All persons are invited to be transformed by the Gospel received as a merciful gift from the crucified and risen Lord Jesus. Anyone is seeking to learn more about deepening faith in Jesus Christ,

please come to worship or contact us for a personal visit. The office phone 724-869-7635 (please leave a message) or email christbaden@gmail.com.

We are also on Facebook at Christ Lutheran Church – Baden.

Residents and neighbors are invited to these special events:

June 6, 2026 we support the Baden Community Yard Sale with many wonderful items donated by members. Our restrooms are open to the public and the facility is air-conditioned. Many neighbors take a break from shopping yard sales in our welcoming downstairs space.

The family of faith at Christ Lutheran loves Baden Borough and her citizens. Let us pray together for our leaders, civil servants and citizens:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we lift before you all who govern and serve the community of Baden. May those elected, to office understand that it is trust from you to be stewarded wisely, not for personal glory or profit, but for the services of your people. Drive from us cynicism, selfishness, and corruption, grant in your mercy just and honest government; and give us grace to live together in unity and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Baden Memorial Library

The Friends of The Baden Memorial Library will be holding their annual Wine and Cheese event this year on:

October 24, 2026, from 4:00 – 7:00 PM.

In addition to wonderful appetizers, cheese and wine there will be raffles, games, music and more.

If you would like to donate a basket, wine or gift cards to help with the funding of this event you can contact the Baden Memorial Library at 724-869-3960.

We would like to thank everyone who attended last two years and donated the many baskets on display. We hope to see you all again this year.

More details on ticket sales is coming soon.

Also our tentative date for our "Lady's Day Out" Craft show will be November 14, 2026.

If you would like to become a vendor you can contact Lesabeth at 724-624-1437 for more information.

Wine and Cheese Event



All proceeds from this event go toward programs held for children and adults at the Baden Memorial Library. For hours and program schedule, you can visit their website at: <https://www.beaverlibraries.org/libraries/baden>

BADEN MEMORIAL LIBRARY UPDATES

There's always something for everyone at our Library and this summer is no exception. Check your calendar, make a date, and enjoy our lineup of fun and interesting events. Space is limited, so please call 724-869-3960 or stop by to reserve your spot.

America 250 Community Art Project - stop by the library for your 4X4 canvas to create your own artwork to be included in the community mosaic. All art pieces are due back to the library by Friday, June 19. The completed mosaic will be unveiled on July 3.

For Adults:

- June 4, 11, and 25th – 5pm to 7pm – Medicine Making Series with Cutting Root Farms

For Everyone:

- June 6th – Annual Book Sale

Especially for Kids:

- Summer Reading Program – June 13th thru August 8th – The theme is Unearth a Story. We are planning a lot more fun events featuring Archeology, Anthropology, and Paleontology.
- June 18 - 2PM - Drone Program with Davey Wagner - Fly Like a Pterosaur
- Vision to Learn – July 7th – 11am to 4:30pm – Conducting eye exams and providing glasses for children ages 4 to 18.
- June 13th – 1pm – Stuffed Animal Workshop – Dinosaur
- July 11th – 1pm – Stuffed Animal Workshop – Eagle
- August 1st – 1pm – Stuffed Animal Workshop - Beaver

Baden Memorial Library is a great learning source for all ages. Our collection includes books, audio, DVDs, large print, and so much more. Come join us and CHECK IT OUT!

Supporting Your Volunteer Fire Department



Volunteer fire departments across Pennsylvania—including here in our borough—are facing growing challenges in providing the level of service our communities depend on. While we remain committed to answering every call, today’s fire service is more demanding than ever.

Departments statewide are experiencing declining membership, as work schedules, family commitments, and increased training requirements make it harder to recruit and retain volunteers. At the same time, emergency call volumes continue to rise, placing added strain on those who serve.

Operating costs have also increased significantly. Modern apparatus, equipment, protective gear, and training come at a high price, and many departments rely heavily on fundraising and community support to meet these needs.

Because of these challenges, mutual aid is more critical than ever. No single department can do it alone. Working alongside neighboring departments ensures adequate staffing and resources are available to protect our community and our firefighters.

These issues are being felt across the state, and they raise important questions about the future of emergency services.

Despite this, our volunteers remain dedicated to serving with pride. We ask for your continued support—whether through volunteering, attending fundraisers, or helping spread awareness.

Your support helps ensure that your fire department is always ready when you need us most.

In Service to Our Community,

Dennis C Baker Jr
Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer

Baden Borough Notification Service

Baden Borough uses OnSolve’s CodeRED platform to send notifications to residents, including emergency and time-sensitive alerts. We strongly encourage residents to enroll in the program to stay updated on important matters affecting your health safety. You can find more information and sign up at <https://badenborough.com/alerts/>



2026 CURBSIDE PICKUP FOR YARD TRIMMINGS

We are offering curbside pickup of small tree/yard trimmings to the residents of Baden. Cost is \$25 per pile measuring no larger than 9’ long, 3’ high and 4’ deep • Branches no larger than 6 inches in diameter, branches cut into 3’ sections • Trimmings must be curbside for easy access for the borough employees to park the truck and chipper.

Scheduled dates for pickup:

- June 11th
- June 25th
- July 9th
- July 23rd
- August 13th
- August 27th
- September 10th
- September 24th
- October 8th
- October 22nd
- November 12th

In the event of inclement weather or emergency, pickup will occur the following day. Pickups will occur between 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM.

How to schedule a pickup: Prior to the scheduled dates listed, stop by the Borough Office to sign up and make your payment. You may also call the office at 724-869-3700 to schedule your pick up; however, payment must be received prior to your scheduled pickup date.

THANK YOU FOR RECYCLING!

Last year Baden recycled over 747,000 pounds of waste. Household curbside waste pickup weighed 11,000 pounds. This included paints, oils, flammable liquids/gasses, and electronics (TVs, computers, printers, etc.) Curbside recycling poicked up by Waste Management was 237,300 pounds. Cardboard recycling (dumpster drop-off and businesses) was 347,000 pounds. Mixed paper (dumpster drop-off and businesses) was 62,400 pounds.

In case you didn’t know, your recycling not only protects our environment, but Baden Borough gets annual grant money based upon the total weight of our community recycling program.

If you need to dispose of a computer, TV, DVD, VCR, vehicle battery, paint, chemicals, flammable & combustible materials, mercury... Call Waste Management at 1-800-449-7587 to schedule a pickup.

Please continue and thank you for recycling!

Spring into Safety: Code Enforcement Reminders for the Season

As we head into the spring and summer months, the Borough would like to remind residents and property owners of the important role Code Enforcement plays in keeping our community safe, clean, and well-maintained. Warmer weather often brings increased outdoor activity, property improvements, and seasonal upkeep—making it an ideal time to ensure all properties are in compliance with local ordinances.

Residents are encouraged to take this opportunity to address common concerns such as high grass and weeds, accumulation of trash or debris, and general property maintenance. Staying proactive helps preserve neighborhood appearance, supports property values, and promotes public safety.

Additionally, all commercial property owners are reminded that annual fire safety and property maintenance inspections are required. These inspections are essential to ensure compliance with fire codes and safety regulations, helping to protect employees, customers, and the community as a whole. If you have not yet scheduled your inspection, please do so promptly to avoid potential violations.

Your cooperation is appreciated as we work together to maintain a safe and attractive borough for everyone. If you have any questions regarding Code Enforcement requirements or inspection scheduling, please contact us.

Respectfully,

Dennis C Baker Jr
Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer

Did You Know?

Even small leaks can waste up to 20 gallons of water per day! Turning off your water system while on vacation is not only a wise move for preventing flooding but also conserves water, making it an eco-friendly choice.

Baden Methodist Church

420 Dippold Ave., Baden, PA 15005

724-869-2720

www.badenmc.org

We want you to know that Jesus Loves You.

Each Sunday at 10:30 AM we gather for worship characterized by a mix of contemporary songs, old hymns, and biblical preaching. We provide age specific activities for adult, youth, and children but we also recognize the importance for multigenerational worship to best reflect the Kingdom of God. Community involvement is in our DNA as seen through ministries such as We Care Food Distribution and community events such as the Egg Hunt and Trunk or Treat. We'd love to have you join us in this journey to serve Christ, care for each other and share God's love with the world. Check out our website for more information.

Coming in June!



Vacation Bible School

June 8-12, 6:00 to 8:30 PM

VBS Program: June 14, 10:30 AM

Use this QR code to register you child for VBS.
(Preschool through 6th grade)



BADEN BOROUGH

PAST ★ PRESENT ★ FUTURE

★ AMERICA 250 YEARS ★



SATURDAY
JUNE 20
10:00AM - 6:00PM

BADEN BOROUGH COMPLEX
149 STATE STREET
BADEN, PA 15005

**PETTING ZOO - FOOD TRUCKS - FACE PAINTING ANTIQUE FARM EQUIPMENT
EXHIBITS - CRAFTS DEMONSTRATIONS - FUN GAMES - SHRINER CLOWNS - HAY
RIDES - MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT - MINIATURE RAILROAD DISPLAY
AND MUCH MORE!**

WHO DO I CALL? WHEN YOU NEED THE POLICE FOR A NON- EMERGENCY OR HAVE A GENERAL QUESTION

Under the direction of the police department, non-emergency police matters need to be directed to the non-emergency 911 Center where the dispatcher will document your issue with the date, time of your call and notification to the police department. For general police department questions such as filing or obtaining a police report, call the police department directly. Please do not call the borough office for police service.

- **Beaver Valley Regional Police Station: 724-869-9530**
- **911 Center Non-Emergency Police: 724-869-2813**



A MESSAGE FROM BEAVER VALLEY REGIONAL POLICE CHIEF, MICHAEL PRIOLO

A regional police department has been a concept that is not new and has been talked about in this area for decades. The concept of the Beaver Valley Regional Police Department started years before the date when we consolidated and started the new police department. All of the behind-the-scenes work was done by the officers and community leaders; initially from Baden Borough, Conway Borough and Freedom Borough. When the Beaver Valley Regional Police Department officially started on June 1, 2023, we had 11 full-time police officers and about 6 part-time police officers. In September 2023, Rochester Township voted and was accepted into the Regional Police Department; bringing their 3 full-time police officers.

Since that time, we have grown to an all-full-time police department with 19 full time police officers, a police K-9 and a part-time police secretary; one of the bigger police departments in Beaver County. This could not have been accomplished without all of the communities initial and continued support.

With the help of Representative Matzie, we have received a \$300,000 grant to purchase new patrol vehicles. Within the coming months and years, we're going to be using this money to begin a replacement cycle for the patrol cars. We would not be able to be as successful as we are if it were not for you, the members of the community.

Thank you,
Michael Priolo, Chief of Police



Your Baden Woman's Club is always working to help your community in need.

The General Federation of Women's Club was founded in 1895 and is part of a national volunteer service organization that focuses on civic, educational, and philanthropic initiatives. There are presently 78 local clubs in PA with over 2500 members and nationally 2,300 clubs that include more than 60,000 members.

Last year the Baden Woman's Club not only continued to fill the library boxes that you see on Virginia and State Street with books but we set up a food pantry that stands in front of the Baden Memorial Library for our community to share. In addition to the members of our team, the community has also been wonderful in making sure the food pantry remains full.



This year we were quite busy... our group donated to and was visited by the BC therapy dog "Oscar" and his friend Sgt Luca one of our BC K-9 officers. We had a guest speaker from Servo Project whose vision is to end human trafficking through intervention, education, and protection. We donated over \$700 worth of items such as underwear, socks, and toiletries to the Adoption Connection who works at getting foster children a home. We provided a donation toward the homeless shelter "The Corner Stone Of Beaver County" who spoke to our group about how they provide emergency housing, basic needs, and resources for individuals and families in Beaver County who are experiencing homelessness or housing-related crises and their vision is to end homelessness in Beaver County.

We made over 200 treats for the Veterans at the CCBC Veterans Breakfast ...delivered 60 Christmas trees for residents to decorate at the McGuire Home...Made gifts and brought cookies for residents to decorate at Concordia/St Joseph on Christmas and on Valentines Day. Not to mention the Art contests for the schools being a huge success.

We brought the Kindness Program in partnership with the "I Love you More Foundation" to all three Ambridge Area Elementary Schools where a total of 72 children participated performing close to 1200 acts of kindness in one week. It is nice to see the next generation practicing such kindness.

And we ended our programs this year at Bella's Wishes where our group painted terra cotta pots and added succulents. (PHOTO) Bella's Wishes is a creative art center. They not only sell student's and local artist's art work (of which their youngest is age 5), but they also hold classes. A wonderful treasure right here in Beaver County.

OH WAIT! We can't forget to mention that each September we hold a bus trip to Seneca Niagara Casino which is our biggest fund raiser. You can visit the casino or take a short walk and see the beauty of Niagara Falls. All of the profits from this trip help us to do these amazing things for our community. Everyone is welcome to hop on the bus September 13-14 2026. Visit our Facebook page for more information as it arrives.

If you would like to be a part of the GFWC Baden Woman's Club, we would love to have you. We are accepting memberships for the 2026-2027 year. Membership is only \$35 for the year and meetings are held starting in September at the Baden Community Room the first Tuesday of every month through May.

Visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/badenwomen> Hope to see you at our September 8th meeting!

DIRT DAY!



Celebrate World Environment Day

Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden - 1020 W. State St.

- Free & Open to All!
- Food Trucks
- Live Music
- Meet the Chickens
- Kids' Activities
- Nature Walks
- Lawn Games
- And More!



Come learn & play in our backyard!



Saturday, June 6  10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



1 DAY ONLY! Lebanese Food Festival

Saint Teresa of Calcutta Maronite Catholic Church



Serving

- Stuffed Grape Leaves
- Grilled Lamb
- Grilled Chicken
- Kibbee
Raw & Cooked
- Lebanese Rice
w/ Meat Sauce
or Green Bean Sauce
- Gyros
- Spinach Pies
- Tabouli
- Hummus
- Lebanese Bread
- Baklava
- ...and more!

June 6, 2026

12:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Enjoy the tastes of Lebanon!

Dine In • Take Out

375 Linmore Avenue • Baden, PA



StTeresaMaronite.org



@StTeresaMaronite

Looking for Adventure, Camping & FUN Join SCOUTING in BADEN

- * To build new friendships!
- * Explore the outdoors!
- * Build character!
- * Encourage teamwork!
- * Develop new skills!



Scout Troop



BADEN SCOUT TROOP 405

bsatroup405badenpa@gmail.com

Meeting - Baden Lions Club
Every Wednesday 7PM



Your Baden American Legion

You know us, if you live in or around Baden, you've probably driven by our home on State Street, the Baden American Legion. And make no mistake, it is a home. While it's not open 24/7 and it's not open to the general public, it is a home, a gathering place for veterans and their families. A place where veterans can share experiences with others who can understand what they may have gone through.

It is made up of post members (the veterans), spouses (Auxiliary members, sons and grandsons of veterans (Sons of the American Legion) and daughters and granddaughters (Junior Auxiliary), all working together to support veterans and their families. Contrary to popular belief, it is NOT a "local" bar with a flag out front!

But we are also a member of the Baden community, and very proud of that fact. We support the community we are part of and are appreciative of the support the community of Baden gives us and our veterans.

A Little of the American Legion's History

The American Legion was established in 1919 by a group of WWI veterans who realized that returning GIs would need help re-integrating from war back to civilian life. Congress chartered the American Legion in September of that same year. Over time the American Legion grew to be one of the nation's largest non profit groups dedicated to serving veterans, and by extension, their families. Today the American Legion has 1.5 million members, with over 12,000 posts spread across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico and the Philippines. Past members of the American Legion include Humphrey Bogart, Clark Gable

and Theodore Roosevelt. (There are other well-known individuals who were members of the American Legion, but I just listed these 3 because we all know these names!).

The American Legion was founded on the premise of 4 major core beliefs, known to legion members as the Four Pillars: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children and Youth.

Pillar One-Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. This is exactly what it sounds like, working with government to ensure veterans receive the health care they need. Their areas of focus are: VA Claims Backlog, Access to VA Health Care, Network of Service Officers, VA Vet Centers, Health-care Funding Formula, Veterans with Special Needs, Volunteering, Final Respects, Heroes to Hometowns, Careers for Veterans, Homelessness and GI Bill Benefits.

Pillar 2-National Security.

The American Legion has a preamble and states "FOR GOD AND COUNTRY WE ASSOCIATE OURSELVES TOGETHER FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America." Within this pillar the focus is on: Support for the Troops, Size of the Armed Forces, Quality of Life, Homeland Security, POW/MIAs, and Operation Comfort Warriors.

Pillar 3-Americanism.

This pillar encompasses all things focused on education, the community and youth on the following: Flag Protection, Illegal Immigration, Voter Registration and Participation, Boy Scouts of America, The Pledge of Allegiance, Establishment-Clause Lawsuits, Legacy Run, Boys Nation, and American Legion Baseball.

Regarding American Legion Baseball, this is a great opportunity for those kids who love baseball but can't afford traveling ball, which can be difficult for many families to afford, especially in today's world.

Pillar 4—Children and Youth.

This pillar is self-explanatory but covers a multitude of areas, including: Catastrophic Illness, Intellectual Disabilities, Family Integrity, Immunization, Media Violence, Drug Abuse, Child Sexual Exploitation, Family Support Network, Temporary Financial Assistance, Samsung Scholarship, and the Child Welfare Foundation.

I do want to emphasize the scholarship aspect of the American Legion. There are several scholarships available to children and grandchildren of veterans/American Legion members. However, there are also a few available to any child/teen that qualifies outside of the American Legion, military, or veteran families.

One thing that should be mentioned especially in today's climate. **The American Legion is apolitical.** We don't take political sides-these pillars were decided on in 1919 with the formation of the American Legion. Our ONLY focus is doing everything we can in the service of veterans and their families.

What Does Your Baden American Legion Do?

Okay, now that you (hopefully) know a little bit about the history of the American Legion, let me share with you what your Baden American Legion does.

We do host fundraisers throughout the year, including our Friday Fish Frys, put on by our American Legion Auxiliary members (best fish around, in my opinion!); Wednesday wing nights, hosted by the canteen staff; and Thursday night BINGO, hosted by the Post members. We also have a dinner in January to raise funds specifically for Homeless Veterans. This year our post was able to donate \$6000 thanks to the strong support of you, the community, along with all the members of the Baden American Legion. On various dates throughout the year, especially Memorial Day and Veterans Day, you will see our veterans out with those red poppies, the flower of remembrance to honor our fallen and support the living who have worn our nation's uniform with honor.

On those special holidays like Easter and Thanksgiving, there is a meal available for those veterans who are alone for the holiday. We host a Christmas party for the children of our American Legion "family", always with a special visit from Santa and his bag of gifts for all the children. Every Christmas we put together Christmas gift bags for veterans that are spending the Christmas holiday in a nursing home, assisted living, or personal care home. The number varies from year to year, depending on how many veterans are in facilities, but we average between 160 and 200 each year. In early spring, the auxiliary

puts together boxes of goodies to send to military members stationed overseas.

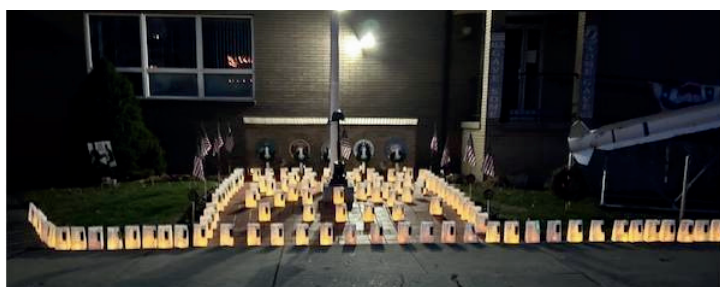
Our junior auxiliary members make gifts to give out at Christmas, placed in the Christmas gift bags mentioned above; last year they raised funds to purchase a new dedicated bench in front of the post. They also help with the adult auxiliary members in the fish frys and other activities.

If you've driven past our post, you may have seen the memorial "The Cost of Freedom", surrounded by red bricks. The bricks are donated to the SAL in a military member's name. They can be active duty, a veteran, or, one of those who never came home.

According to the U. S. Code, the American flag is to be disposed of in a specific manner, by cremating it. And no, that doesn't mean burning it in your backyard fire pit, or the local brush burn. There are many locations that collect worn, tattered American flags for disposal, and the Baden American Legion is one of them. Out in front of our post is a flag depository box and due to the number of flags we receive, we now have a flag retirement ceremony at least 3 times a year, once in the spring and fall and once every year on Flag Day, June 14.

I'm sure you are all familiar with the legion motorcycle riders, which raises money for veterans' causes. Our particular post has a "Legacy Alive" chapter, which raises funds for Goldstar families. A Goldstar family is the immediate family of a U.S. military member who died in the line of duty. When these motorcycles gather at the post for a bike run, it's an unbelievably awesome sight to see.

his past Christmas, our auxiliary had a luminary lighting on Christmas Eve, with each luminary representing an active-duty military member or a veteran. Each luminary was donated by a family/family member. It was beautiful and we hope to continue this each Christmas.



This year we are excited to be a part of Baden's community celebration activities honoring the nation's 250th birthday. One of our major events will be a Wing Cook-Off, hosted by the Baden American Legion, to be held on August 22, 2026. It will be open to both amateur and professional wing "cookers", and we will have a bike cruise, a car cruise, some bands for music. Just a lot of great food and friends, and funds raised will go to veterans. For more information, visit <http://badenlegionwingcookoff.com/>.

To see what's going on with the Baden American Legion, you can follow us on Facebook, at, go to our post website at www.badenpost641.org or follow us on Instagram at www.instagram.com/badenamericanlegion641 You can see our monthly calendar or take time to read through the monthly newsletter we put out. If you have any questions about anything you've read in this article, please feel free to contact our post via email, phone or just talk to a legion member.

To all of you who support our military, its veterans, and their families, we deeply appreciate you and thank you.

BADEN LEGION
AMERICA
250

WING COOK-OFF
& FREEDOM FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2026

CAR & BIKE CRUISE STARTS AT 10:00 AM

WING COOK-OFF STARTS AT 12:00 PM

WING COOK-OFF ★ LIVE MUSIC ★ FOOD & DRINKS ★ FAMILY FUN
★ CAR & BIKE CRUISE

SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS & COMMUNITY
BENEFITTING THE BADEN LEGION AND OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

BADEN LEGION POST 641 ★ 271 STATE ST., BADEN, PA

For more information or to register visit.
badenlegionwingcookoff.com

