



# BALKAN NEWSLETTER

## FALL EDITION 2020

### WHAT'S NEW IN BALKAN:

*-Balkan's canister/recycling site is Expanding*

*-Balkan has a new website and Facebook page*

*-Balkan has a new deputy clerk, Lisa Smith*

### THE EXPANSION OF BALKAN CANISTER AND RECYCLING SITE

You might have noticed some work being done at the Balkan Garage. We are expanding the canister site! By September 21<sup>st</sup>, you should see the difference. This project is a joint effort with the City of Chisholm. A few of the improvements to the canister/recycling site include widening the site to the west to include the current driveway to Balkan's garage. A new driveway is being installed to replace the old one just west of the current driveway. Four culverts have had to be replaced to enable this new road and the fence expansion. The fence will be expanded to

roughly double its current size, by Iron Oaks Fencing, a local company who installed the previous fence. Two new driveways will be accessible from Vlasich Road, the canister site entrance as well as the main entrance to the garage. The new entrance and exit will make the *recycling* and *garbage* site traffic one-way to improve vehicle and public safety. A new exit from the canister site will be evident from the south side of the site. The warming shack will be moved closer to the new entrance on the south side of the site. We're excited to hear what you think about the project.

### RECYCLING

We can do it better! Did you know it's illegal to throw away batteries (lithium ion batteries, car batteries, rechargeable batteries and battery packs) in Minnesota? Also, illegal to throw away: appliances, paint, tires, fluorescent bulbs, engine oil, chemicals for your lawn, and mercury thermometers. These items can harm our environment if not disposed of correctly. Here's a little helpful advice for good recycling practices:

- **Recycle CLEAN** bottles, cans, paper and cardboard.
- Keep food and liquid out of your **recycling**.

- No loose plastic bags and no bagged recyclables.

We all like clean air and water. Please keep recycling to ensure everyone's safety and our environment's beauty for many years to come.

## **KEEP FIRE NUMBERS CLEAR FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES (and deliveries too ☺)**

Keeping your fire numbers clear from debris and brush will help emergency vehicles find you faster when you need help. Doing this a few times a year is helpful for townships too. If you need to get rid of your yard waste, the yard waste site on Cemetery Road is the place to take it.

## **SNOW PLOWING IS COMING TO A TOWN NEAR YOU.**

No one wants to think of snow already. However, many of our residents want to know more about our snow plowing policy for the coming 2020-2021 winter season. We are sending out the snow plowing agreements with this newsletter to those who would like to take advantage of this service Balkan township offers. The agreement needs to be returned to Balkan no later than October 23rd, 2020. Also, please take a look at your mailbox to make sure it is the correct height so the snow plow can get under the box. From the road to the bottom of the mailbox, the height should be at least 44 inches.

## **BALKAN GRADUATES**

We would like to celebrate you by putting together a collage of 2020 Balkan graduates. If you would like to be included, please send a picture to [balkantown@gmail.com](mailto:balkantown@gmail.com) or drop off a picture in our drop box. We would like to include the collage in our next newsletter. Thank you for being part of our community.

## **BALKAN has a NEW WEBSITE and FACEBOOK page!**

Just Google Balkan township and you will see our new website. At the bottom of the website page you will find our new Facebook page link. Supervisor Jennifer Tarnowski and Clerk Misty Hendrickson enlisted W.A. Fisher's help to design the new website. Planning for this has been going on since March 2020. The Blandin Foundation in cooperation with IRRRB have approved a reimbursable grant for most of the cost of the website. New deputy Clerk, Lisa Smith, maintains and adds content to the website and the Facebook page.

The website now has Balkan's Community Center rental paperwork attached. It is even easier to rent the hall. Just print it and turn the paperwork in to the office. Rates, pictures and dimensions are on the website.

The new website has an Events Calendar, Notices to Balkan residents, and Agendas and Minutes from the Board meetings. Information about what the canister/recycling site accepts is on the canister site page. Helpful links and Balkan's recent newsletters are posted on the website also.



## IT'S TIME TO GET OUT TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 3, 2020!


Election judges are in high demand this year. It's an important service to our democracy that election judges do. If you are interested in serving your country by being an election judge, the first thing you need to do is fill out an interest form, that can be found on the Secretary of State's website. This interest form is then relayed to your county. The county will send your interest form to the town clerks, who may have a need for more judges, usually close to the potential election judge's home. That clerk will order the training for being an election judge, from the county. This year, all training is done on-line, due to COVID-19 concerns. The training goes through many situations you might encounter at the polls, best practices, COVID-19 requirements, opening and closing the polls, and election machines, to name a few. Election judges are paid at a rate that is set by the Board of Supervisors in your township. A typical election will run from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., however, the clerk will usually make two – eight hour shifts available to election judges to choose from.

Students can even be election judges in training. 16 and 17 year olds can learn how the polling process works, even though they can't vote yet. There are rules regarding family members serving together. Family members can not be on the same shift as another family member. Family members include parent, step-parent, sibling, grandparent, child or step-child.

Election judges are allowed to miss work for the election. Minnesota statute states that election judges must give their employers 20 days notice prior to the election of their intent to work at the polling place. This also means that employers must pay the potential election judge at their current working rate of pay, not a reduced rate.

Don't forget to get out and VOTE!

*Integrity*  
is choosing your  
thoughts and actions  
based on values rather  
than personal gain



## RECORD AMOUNT OF ROAD IMPROVEMENTS DONE IN 2020

So far this year, Balkan has tackled a record number of road projects. Balkan recently purchased an excavator and trailer to be of use in our upcoming and future projects.

- Culverts on Hyvarinen and Haiskanen Roads have been dug up and replaced in June and August.
- Forty-eight hundred yards of material have been hauled and added to fix our roads. There is still more to do, though.
- A new road is being made to replace the existing driveway to the Balkan Garage, due to the canister/recycling site expansion.
- Roads have been widened and material has been reclaimed from the sides of the roads in June.
- Chloride was applied to the roads at a rate of less than half what we usually spray. This was due to concerns from residents about the lasting effects of chloride. This was done in the middle of July.

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### BALKAN TOWNSHIP

PO BOX 66, 5524 Hwy. 73  
Chisholm, MN 55719

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