

BALKAN TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Spring 2021 Edition - Larger Font

Pancake Breakfast Dates:

April 24th
May 22nd
June 26th
July 31st
August 28th
September 25th

Please come and enjoy the breakfasts offered for \$5 per person and the community camaraderie!

IT'S BACK!

After a year's hiatus due to COVID, **Pancake breakfasts** are returning! After many years serving as the

host of our monthly pancake breakfasts, Ken and Jonelle Kallio have passed the baton to Gerry and Ann

Palmquist. If you have never come before, you're missing out on a nice time and big opportunity to get to know your neighbors.

Breakfast is served from 8:30 AM – 11 AM at the Balkan Community Center. Breakfast includes: all you can eat pancakes, sausage, served with coffee, juice, or milk. The cost is \$5, kids 5 and under eat free. Proceeds go to support our community center.

What does the word Minnesota mean?

Answer: Cloudy Water

Balkan Road Report

The wet season is upon us and the potholes are here. Balkan must wait to grade the roads because they need to be dry to grade. Otherwise, the roads will be a muddy mess. There will be a major push to get our roads in shape once it stops raining.

We also have a major beaver problem on some of our roads. We are currently working on getting a handle on this.

We will have our new road packer out this summer to pack the roads which will help to eliminate some of the issues we have had in the past. The proposed summer projects include:

Beaver facts



Avg. length: 3 to 4 feet **Avg. weight:** 50 to 100 pounds

Teeth: They have two pair of large incisors that grow continuously.

Behavior and diet: Beavers are known for their building skills. They will build a lodge from sticks and mud with an underwater entrance for protection from predators and harsh winter conditions. The lodge also is used to store food consisting of bark, twigs, leaves and roots of deciduous trees and water plants.

Coat: They have a double coat of brown fur with a soft, dense insulating undercoat and long, coarse guard hair that keeps the undercoat dry. Oil in the coat makes it waterproof and buoyant.

Tail: It is used as a rudder for swimming and is used to warn other beavers of danger by slapping it on the surface of the water.

Feet: Webbed feet help make them adept swimmers.

Sources: Detroit Almanac; Wildlife Explorer; www.enature.com; Detroit Free Press file graphic; Beaver photo courtesy of Michigan Department of Natural Resources, www.michigan.gov/dnr

Beavers can cause big road problems!

- Add class 5 to the canister site to eliminate the low spots and get rid of the water.
- Roadside brushing
- Various road lifts on Johnson Road, Franti Road, Colombe Road, Salo and Laitala Road.
- Reclaim high shoulders on all roads
- Ditching
- Culverts as needed
- Soft spot / failed road bed repair as needed
- Starting in July, we will be road-side mowing.
- Chloride application
- Cemetery road corner will be widened for safety and winter plowing

If you or your children are driving on the Balkan roads with any motorized vehicle (car, truck, scooter, ATV or any motorized vehicle), please be considerate and not tear up the roads by spinning wheelies, causing ruts or other driving which will rip up our roads. Everyone likes to have fun but please do not tear up our roads by doing so.

Balkan Township Election and Annual Meeting 2021

The Balkan Annual Township Meeting on March 9th, 2021 was conducted in-person *and* virtually this year. Three people joined the annual meeting virtually, while 19 people were present in-person. Thank you all who attended the annual meeting! Thank you, Supervisor Jennifer Tarnowski, for bringing tech to the town, hosting the annual meeting virtually!

The board of supervisors did not recommend a levy increase for 2022. The 2022 tax levy remained the same as 2021, at \$331,500.00.

The township election had a smaller turn-out than the previous year with only 81 people voting. Supervisor Brad Strgar (incumbent) and Garth Wilson vied for the supervisor position. Brad Strgar received 52 votes out of 81. Garth Wilson received 29 votes out of 81. Brad Strgar won the position for another three years! Kent Fredeen ran for the treasurer's position unopposed. He received 74 out of 81 votes. Kent Fredeen will serve another two years as Balkan's treasurer. He thanks everyone for their support as this will be his 39th and 40th years of being Balkan's treasurer. That equates to more than 1/3 of Balkan's organized life (from 1912 – 2021)! Congratulations!

Thank you to all of the election judges who served: Linda Salo, Linda Sutton, Joann Zgonc, Gloria Godec, Joleen Hendrickson, Carol Sever, Lisa Smith and Amy Tanko!

Also, thank you to Ann Palmquist for setting up the microphone and helping out at the annual meeting. Thank you to Gerry Palmquist for moderating the meeting.

Balkan Canister site:

St Louis County's 2021 Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Community Collection is scheduled for **July 7th, 2021 from 10am-1pm**. This is a mobile collection site available annually, free to households.

Allowable items include:

- paint and paint product
- automotive fluids and greases
- deep fat fryer and other cooking oils
- pesticides
- aerosol products
- rechargeable batteries
- caustic or corrosive products
- other household chemicals and cleaners
- fluorescent tubes, CFLs, and ballasts
- mercury
- adhesives
- lead sinkers and other lead items

Be careful handling Household Hazardous Waste:

- Transport in containers that don't leak.
- Keep in original packaging if possible. If not, label the container with content ingredients.
- Secure fluorescent lights and glass containers so they do not break and release hazardous vapors in your vehicle.

What's happening in your area, it's time to get involved with your Community Center:

- **AA Meetings – Balkan Community Center - Sunday nights at 8 PM.** If you would like more information, please call the Balkan office at 254-3967.
- **Karate/exercise class – Mondays and Wednesdays 10 AM to 11 AM.** The cost is \$20. Enjoy a cardio-vascular workout, improve your balance, increase your endurance and learn how to fall properly. You will learn tips on personal safety and self-defense and have a great time. Exercises modified to fit individual's strengths and abilities. Wear modest, loose-fitting clothing and bring a pair of tennis shoes to change into. For more information, call Darlene at 254-5681.

- **Women's Bocce Ball** – starts **May 4th at 5 PM at the Community Center**. Games will be every Tuesday at 5 PM throughout the summer. For more information, please contact Connie at 218-254-5652.
- **4H Meeting at the Community Center** – **Sunday, May 9th, June 27th, & July 25th**. For more information, please contact Karen at 969-6936.
- **Balkan Saddle Club** – *Play days start at 10 AM, May 9th, June 27th, & July 25th. Club members' potluck will be September 12th at 10 AM. For more information about the Saddle Club please contact Karen at 969-6936.*
- **Game Night** at the Community Center - **Monday, May 10th, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM**
Fun for all ages! Join us for card games, board games and puzzles.
- **Bonfire** at the Community Center – **Saturday, June 5th, 7 PM to ???**
Join us for S'mores, a bonfire, singing and fun. Please bring your own chair and beverages.
- **Pig Roast and Bean Bag Tournament** (Pork and Beans) at the Community Center – **Saturday, July 31st, 2 PM - ?? (Don't forget to come to the pancake feed in the morning!)**
- **National Night Out at the Community Center** – **August 3rd, 5-7 PM**. This is a nation-wide event focused on building neighborhood camaraderie and promoting the police-community partnerships. Food and Fun for the whole family.
- **Hayride in the Fall** – Come check out the fall colors and take a family-friendly ride. Hot cocoa and coffee will be available. A sign-up sheet will be provided to those who wish to take a hay ride. The date and time will be determined later.

Fun Minnesota Trivia – Did you know....

What is the state fish of Minnesota?

A: Walleye

What is the population of Minnesota?

A: 5.68 million

When did Minnesota become a state?

A.: May 11th, 1858

How much shoreline does Minnesota have?

A: Minnesota has 90,000 miles of shoreline, more than California, Florida and Hawaii combined.



Broadband – Lack of Interest or Lack of Action?

In February, we asked residents to go to our webpage, balkantownship.com, and complete two short surveys crucial to getting high-speed internet services in Balkan. To date, we have only received an **11%** response rate. **IF YOU DO NOT COMPLETE THE SURVEY INDICATING IF YOU WOULD CONSIDER GETTING BROADBAND, INSTALLATION PLANS**

MAY NOT INCLUDE YOUR ROAD!

The funding Balkan will receive through the American Rescue Act magnifies the urgency to complete these surveys. Balkan will receive **\$90,000**. But we don't get to keep these funds; if they are not spent by 12/31/2024, they must be returned to Uncle Sam. Furthermore, there are restrictions on how the money can be spent. Since we can't use it to purchase new road equipment, it is in our best interest to invest in broadband. Even if you are not interested in getting broadband, we need **EVERYONE** to go to balkantownship.org and **get it done!**

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