

BALKAN TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Fall 2021

2021 PANCAKE BREAKFASTS SUCCESS

September 25th, 2021 was the last Balkan pancake breakfast scheduled for 2021. Thank you to all who came to the pancake breakfasts! Thanks to all of Balkan's breakfast volunteers for your help putting on this community event. Also, a big thanks to Ann and Gerry Palmquist for hosting the pancake breakfasts!

If anyone would like to volunteer to help with the pancake breakfasts, please call the office at 254-3967.

SNOW PLOWING 2021- 2022

No one wants to think of snow already! However, many residents want to know more about our snow plowing policy for the coming 2021 – 2022 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 cost is \$300 for snowplowing, which remains unchanged. The agreement needs to be returned to Balkan no later than November 1st, 2021.

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.

“Smart people learn from everything and everyone, average people from their experiences, stupid people already have all the answers.” – Socrates

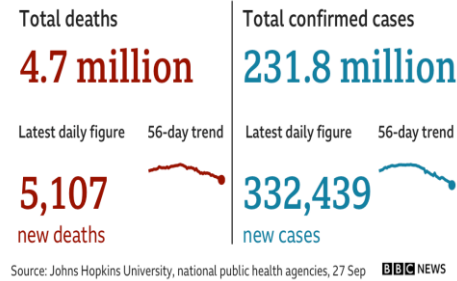


BALKAN COMMUNITY-WIDE RUMMAGE SALES

The Balkan Community-Wide Rummage sales were a great success this year! Thank you to all of you who participated. Balkan hopes to make this an annual event for people to look forward to. We have heard from residents asking for the list of addresses to be put on Balkan's website or given out at Lucky Seven in

Chisholm. A map of Balkan will be made available as well. If you have any suggestions

Coronavirus around the world



on how to make the community-wide rummage sales better, please email balkantown@gmail.com or call the office at 254-3967.

WHAT WAS HAPPENING 100 YEARS AGO, IN 1920...

Similar to today, people were recovering from a health pandemic, the Spanish Flu (H1N1). Over 27% of the world was infected and at least 50 million people died from that pandemic. The COVID pandemic has since caused 4.7 million deaths world-wide since 2019.

Life expectancy was twenty-five years shorter than today, 100 years ago... men's average life expectancy were 53.6 years and women's life expectancy were 54.6 years, according to familysearch.org website. Today, life expectancy is 78.93 years! We have

Balkan Township
5524 HWY 73, PO BOX 66,
Chisholm, MN 55719

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Chisholm, MN

Permit No. 50

Balkan Resident

improved!

The automobile industry was moving forward and was behind the big push for steel production in 1920. When automobiles became more prevalent, the need for highways and roads followed. Production line jobs were created and more women were hired to do these jobs. Today, we are also producing automobiles, however, now they are electric automobiles.

Prohibition was the 18th Amendment to the constitution in 1920. This ban on production and consumption of alcohol was suspected to have spurred on illegal activities, such as bootlegging, speakeasies, and other organized crime. Today, the pandemic has caused an increase in the use of alcohol which has caused more traffic related fatalities.

The 19th Amendment to the constitution came in August of 1920. Women finally have the right to vote!

Radios were a main source of news and entertainment for those who could afford it. Families gathered around the radio for a program after dinner. Similarly, we gather around the television to watch our favorite shows after dinner today also.

Hats were a social status. Everyone wore hats! Everyone dressed for the occasion. Men's styles loosened a little to include V-necked sweaters and less business suits. A lady would always have a hat and gloves on. Women's hair styles showed that more women preferred a short bob style. Now, people rarely wear hats. Hats are mostly used to cover hair loss or promote baseball.

More people lived on farms in 1920 than now. However, Balkan still has some farms today.

Balkan Kids Fair – Saturday, October 16th, 2021!

Balkan is planning a community get-together for the entire family! This event will have animals to pet, ponies to ride in the paddock, pumpkins to decorate and harvest items to show off or swap. Hot cider or hot chocolate, water, cookies and bars will be available for everyone. A door prize will be drawn for a donated basket of fun, prepared by Linda Salo. **Save the date: Saturday, October 16th, 2021, 1 pm to 3 pm.**



BALKAN TOWNSHIP
APPLICATION AND AGREEMENT FOR
PRIVATE DRIVEWAY SNOWPLOWING
2021 - 2022 Season

For Office Use Only

Date _____
Received: _____
—

Name of Applicant: _____ Phone: _____

Applicant Address: _____

Plow Address (If different): _____

Section: _____ Township: _____ Range: _____ Road Name: _____

The above-named applicant hereby requests that the designated driveway located on the above-described tract of land be plowed by BALKAN TOWNSHIP for the 2021 - 2022 winter season subject to the following conditions and provisions:

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. No township snow-removal equipment shall be used on private roadways until all public roadways are clear of snow. DRIVEWAYS WILL BE PLOWED ONLY AT THE DESCRETION OF THE BALKAN TOWN BOARD.
2. Applications for plow service must be received by **November 1st** of said winter season and must be accompanied by the fee of **\$300.00**. NO ONE is exempt from this fee.
3. Non-owner applications (rental property or other non-owner occupant) **MUST** be signed by both the renter and the property owner.
4. Private Driveways will not be plowed until there is a minimum accumulation of four (4") inches of snow.
5. **This is a basic agreement, not a custom plowing service. Driveway and turn-around only will be plowed. Owner/Renter is responsible for clearing the yard, walkways, in front of buildings and doorways, around mailboxes, etc.**

II. SPECIAL PROVISIONS REGARDING DRIVEWAY

1. Driveway must have a reasonably smooth driving surface and surface width must be a *minimum of 15 feet*.
2. Driveway must be clear of obstructions *at least 12.5 feet* on either side of its centerline (must have a 25-foot clear zone).
3. A turnaround area will be a minimum of 30' X 60' and free of obstacles to allow ample room to turn the plow unit.
4. Gates or barricades must be open to allow unimpeded ingress and egress of plow unit.
5. Road gradients and curves must allow snowplow units easy maneuvering and safe passage.
6. Driveway length will be verified at the time of inspection.
7. This application will be rejected if, in the opinion of the inspector from Balkan Township, the above requirements are not met.
8. If there is a change in circumstance during the snowplowing season which in the opinion of the snowplow operator makes plowing the driveway unsafe or impractical to plow, this agreement will be terminated. Prior to termination the applicant will be notified of the change in circumstance and given reasonable time, not to exceed two (2) weeks to return the driveway to compliance.

III. RATES

1. Regular plowing rates shall be a flat rate charge in accordance with the rate schedule set at \$300.00.
2. The appropriate fee will be paid in full at the time a person makes application for private driveway snowplowing services.

3. If the private driveway snowplowing application is rejected, the applicable fee from the rate schedule will be refunded to the applicant.
4. NO APPLICATION WILL BE PROCESSED WITHOUT TOTAL PAYMENT
5. No portion of the fee payment will be refunded once the application has been accepted.
6. Exceptional circumstances requiring special equipment shall be charged at the rental rate of the equipment and the operator's time.

I acknowledge that I have read and understand this entire agreement.

DATE: _____
Applicant's Signature

I certify that I am the non-occupant owner of the described property. I have read this agreement and thereby give my permission to permit the applicant/occupant to enter into this agreement.

DATE: _____
Owners Signature (if different than applicant)

Balkan Township, having inspected and approved the above-described driveway, hereby agrees to provide plow service for the applicant subject to the terms and provisions above defined. Failure of the applicant to meet any of the provisions above described shall be considered a breach of this agreement and grounds for immediate termination of services by Balkan Township. Balkan Township reserves the right to cancel this agreement should it be determined that the driveway is unsafe for equipment or employees.

Inspector's Signature Township Supervisor's Signature

Return completed form with payment to the drop box at the township office, or by mailing completed forms to:

**Town of Balkan
P.O. Box 66
Chisholm, MN 55719**