

# BALKAN TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Winter 2021 edition

## 2022 PANCAKE BREAKFAST DATES

February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 –  
Valentines special  
breakfast

April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022

May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022

June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022

July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022

August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022

September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022

October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022

## FILING FOR CANDIDACY FOR BALKAN TOWN OFFICES BEGINS DEC. 28<sup>TH</sup> AND LASTS UNTIL JAN. 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2022.

It's time to think about supporting your community. Would you like to be the clerk or a supervisor in Balkan? The town board is getting ready for the March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022 annual township election. You could learn how grass-roots government works.

The Clerk position, a 2-year term, and one Supervisor position, a 3-year term are up for election in 2022. Filing for candidacy starts on December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and ends on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 5pm. The cost to file for candidacy is \$2. This will get your name on the ballot for the March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022 town election.

## SANTA TIME IN BALKAN – Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> 2-4 pm

The Christmas season is here! The Balkan community committee wishes to invite you to come visit Santa's open house at the Balkan Community Center on December 19<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 pm. There will be hot chocolate, hot cider, coffee and cookies available. Candy canes for the kids! Christmas karaoke will be playing in the background to get you in the mood to celebrate. Merry Christmas to all!



## BALKAN BROADBAND UPDATE

The Balkan town board and some concerned residents have been working on bringing Paul Bunyan Broadband to our area for a few years. Getting broadband has been a lengthy process consisting of many years and layers of applications and funding hoops to jump through. You have to learn the game before you can play it. What has the Town of Balkan done to get through the layers of red tape (a timeline):

- There was a broadband feasibility study done in a previous year.
- 2020-2021: About 25% of Balkan residents completed the Paul Bunyan survey the township put on their website and mailed to residents. This helped Balkan get Paul Bunyan interested in putting fiber in our area.
- June 2021: Committed township funds to broadband and some ARPA money with board approval.
- Summer 2021: Meetings with Whitney Ridlon, IRRRB Broadband, Paul Bunyan Communications IT Manager, Steve Howard, the Blandin Foundation's Bill Coleman, St Louis County Commissioners Paul MacDonald and Mike Jugovich. The St Louis County commissioners told us to apply for the planning grant.
- August 2021: Paul Bunyan's Steve Howard gave the Balkan town board a map of the areas that need broadband in Balkan and gave an estimate of the cost for our area to install fiber...\$4.2 to \$7 million. Paul Bunyan will provide fiber to those areas who have had previous funding (RDOF areas, previously federally funded) at their cost of approximately \$500,000. Whitney Ridlon, from IRRRB-Broadband, said this was a big step to be told a cost estimate, given a map by a provider, and a match to provide for RDOF areas.
- The broadband committee is working with CTC and the City of Hibbing to extend broadband service along Highway 5.
- 9/2021: Applied for the Direct Congressional Spending (earmarks) for \$4.2-\$7 million for broadband funding. The earmarks are currently in the appropriation committee process.
- 9/2021: Balkan applied for a planning grant from St Louis County to fund grant writing, funding research, grant research and funding activities. Balkan was awarded the planning grant from St Louis County. The SLC planning grant will be a 1:1 match up to \$25,000.

If you wish to get involved and help Balkan with the broadband project and learn about the process, please contact the Balkan office at 218-254-3967.

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*DO GOOD AND GOOD WILL COME TO YOU! ~ Aman Mehndiratta*

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## **THE BALKAN CANISTER SITE...**

The Balkan Canister Site has been busy in 2020 through to 2021. Balkan township and the city of Chisholm jointly expanded the site in 2020, increased the hours of operation from 7:30 am - 4 pm, and added more site attendants to reflect the increase in volume.

We all have to work together to keep our recycling free to the public. The Balkan Canister site accepts only #1 and #2 plastics, with no lids on. Please look at the bottom of your plastic containers to ensure only appropriate plastics are put in the recycling. Currently, our canister site attendants have to dig through the recycling containers to remove plastic containers that are *not* #1 or #2. Please prepare your recyclable materials at home for easy emptying when you get to the Balkan Canister site.

St Louis County's policy on salvaging items out of their sites is NO salvaging. This is due to COVID-19 concerns and personal safety. We ask that no one take anything outside of the canister site at this time. As you know, it only takes one incident to ruin it for all others. Please remember to be kind!

St Louis County garbage tickets are going up to \$2 per punch January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. The price of a 5-punch ticket will be \$10, currently the price is \$7.50 per 5-punch ticket. This is an increase of \$0.50 per large black bag. St Louis County plans on honoring current tickets bought at the \$1.50 per punch price until they run out. So, plan ahead, purchase more garbage tickets at the \$1.50 per punch price before January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. Garbage tickets can be purchased at Jubilee, Keyboard Liquor, and Casey's Do It Best Hardware in Chisholm.

## **ELECTION JUDGES**

There will be three elections in 2022. Elections take a lot of planning. The most important parts of an election are the voters and the election judges. The election judges are tasked with helping people vote, keeping an accurate account of the proceedings of the election, and following the rules. They have specific training to do the job. The training is offered to you on-line and you can train in your own time. If you would like to be an election judge in Balkan, please contact the clerk at 218-254-3967 or by email at [balkantown@gmail.com](mailto:balkantown@gmail.com) to learn more.



1. **Q: Who is often called the father of the computer?**  
A: Charles Babbage designed the first computing engines. He invented the computer but failed to build it, he is still considered the father of the computer.
2. **Q: Who invented the scissors?**  
A: Leonardo Da Vinci invented lots of things, the scissors is one of them.
3. **Q: A tick bite can make you allergic to what food?**  
A: Red meat. Alpha-gal syndrome is a recently identified type of food allergy to red meat and other products made from mammals.
4. **Q: How many teeth are there in an adult's mouth?**  
A: 32, consisting of incisors, canines, pre-molars and molars.
5. **Q: How many eyes does a bee have?**  
A: 5 to help the bee detect light and movement. The two large eyes on the side of the head are known as the compound eye, to detect movement. The other three eyes detect light.
6. **Q: What year was the very first model of the Iphone released?**  
A: 2007, the price of the Iphone was \$499.
7. **Q: Who used the word "Hello" first on the telephone?**  
A: Thomas Edison urged the people who used his phone to say "hello" when answering. He was probably the first person to enjoy using a landline phone, as well.
8. **Q: How many phases does the moon have?**  
A: 8, the new moon, the waxing crescent moon, the first quarter moon, the waxing gibbous moon, the full moon, the waning gibbous moon, the third quarter moon, and the waning crescent moon. (Waxing means the moon is getting bigger, waning means the moon is getting smaller.)
9. **Q: What is the smallest country in the world?**  
A: Vatican City measures 0.2 square miles.

We're on the Web!

*See us at:*

[www.balkantownship.com](http://www.balkantownship.com)

Check out the events, community messages, details for renting the community center and much more...

Our email is:

[balkantown@gmail.com](mailto:balkantown@gmail.com)

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