

BALKAN TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Spring 2024 edition

Come join us for a Pancake Breakfast with Sausage from

8:30 am to 11 am.

Orange juice, coffee, milk and water are included.

Cost: \$5/person, 5 and under are free.

- May 18th, 2024
- June 22nd, 2024
- July 20th, 2024
- August 17th, 2024
- September 21st, 2024



Pancake Breakfast at Balkan Township

THE ROADS

The roads are Balkan Township's priority. Two plow trucks were found to have cracked frames in November of last year. With the snow season coming soon, Supervisor VerSteege and Steve Johnson, Balkan's full-time operator, scrambled to find a couple of trucks to plow the township before the major snow comes. Luckily, there wasn't much snow this snow season. Two older plow trucks were purchased to replace the two with cracked frames that were not able to be DOT'd in December 2023. One of the trucks with the cracked frame was sold on Do-Bid in February 2024 and the other will be sold later. These newer trucks should last Balkan quite a while.

A 1999 Kenworth T800 tandem truck will be purchased in May. This purchase should reduce Balkan's need for hiring big semis to haul gravel. This will be a cost savings for the township in the future.

TOWNSHIP ELECTION RECAP

The township election was held on March 12th, 2024, with the annual meeting following at 8:15pm. The levy recommendation from the supervisors remained at \$344,760.00 for 2025, with no change. Brad Strgar was re-elected as Supervisor. Misty Hendrickson was re-elected as clerk.

Thank you to all the election judges who worked the two elections in March. If anyone is interested in becoming an election judge for Balkan Township, please call the office at 218-254-3967 to get started. The pay for election judges currently is \$13.37 per hour and for head judges the rate is \$15.16 per hour. There is paid training.

2024 EVENTS

2024 Balkan Township Events		
All events will be held at the Balkan Community Center		
Event:	Date:	Time:
Bunco Club	1st Friday of the month	12 noon - 3:30 PM
Fitness Club - Zumba and Chair Yoga	Tuesdays until May 28th, 2024	10:30am-11:30am Everyone is welcome!
May Pancake Breakfast	Saturday, May 18th, 2024	8:30am-11am
June Pancake Breakfast	Saturday, June 22nd, 2024	8:30am-11am
July Pancake Breakfast	Saturday, July 20th, 2024	8:30am-11am
National Night Out 2024	Tuesday, August 6th, 2024	4:30pm - 7 pm
State Primary Election	Tuesday, August 13th, 2024	Polls open: 7am-8pm
Balkan-Wide 3rd Annual Rummage Sales	Saturday, August 17th & 18th, 2024	9am to ?
August Pancake Breakfast	Saturday, August 17th, 2024	8:30am-11am
FREE Zumba, Chair Yoga & Strengthening	Tuesdays starting Sept. 3rd, 2024	10:30am-11:30am Everyone is welcome!
Balkan Animal Fair	Saturday, September 7th, 2024	12 noon - 4 PM
Balkan Animal Fair (Raindate)	Saturday, September 14th, 2024	12 noon - 4 PM
September Pancake Breakfast	Saturday, September 21st, 2024	8:30am-11am
Bocce Ball Halloween Potluck	Tuesday, October 1st, 2024	5:00 PM
Presidential Election	Tuesday, November 5th, 2024	Polls open: 7am-8pm
Balkan Christmas Party	Sunday, December 8th, 2024	1-3PM

VOLUNTEERING

Balkan Township needs more people to volunteer for various events. We have great volunteers now but to put on events, more volunteers are needed. They bring experience and new ideas for what we all would like to see in the area. We have openings for helping at Pancake Breakfasts one Saturday a month in the summer from 8am – 11:30am.

BROADBAND UPDATE

Paul Bunyan Communications is still working through some of the Minnesota Border to Border Grant contract reporting requirements and challenges they present. Once that is completed, the grant contract will be signed.

Unfortunately, it is unlikely that much construction for the Broadband project will take place in 2024 unless Paul Bunyan Communications gets the permits soon. Permits for other projects continue to be delayed. However, the grant construction must be completed by December 31, 2025, so it will be done by then at the latest.

ZUMBA, CHAIR YOGA, AND STRENGTH TRAINING FOR THE HEALTH AND WELLNESS CLASS

Balkan is offering a free exercise class for everyone. There's cardio, strengthening and balance building. The class is offered at the community center on Tuesdays from 10:30am to 11:30am. Come join the fun! Balkan Township asks that a liability waiver be signed.



The class will start again Tuesday, September 3rd, 2024, at 10:30am to 11:30am, after taking a break for the summer.

VETERAN'S PLAQUE

We received many new names for the Veterans' Plaque at the community center. Thank you for sending us names to include. This is a work in progress. We received the completed name plates from Bark Design and hope to work on adding the names to the plaque.

COMING SOON... DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE TO BE OFFERED AT BALKAN COMMUNITY CENTER

The Defensive Driving Course that could save you 10% off your auto insurance is coming to Balkan Township. Activity Director, Deb VerSteege, is coordinating offering this class with the Minnesota State Patrol's help. Once all details are available, a postcard will be sent to residents announcing dates and times to attend.

Contact Us

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Balkan Township Resident