

BALKAN TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Fall 2024 edition

PIE SOCIALS ...

will begin October 12th. One slice of pie with ice cream, coffee and water will be offered at \$5. Bring your sweet tooth!

Saturday, October 12th, 2024

Saturday, November 16th, 2024

Saturday, January 25th, 2025

Saturday, February 22nd, 2025

Saturday, March 15th, 2025



Pie Socials at the Balkan Community Center

THANKFUL

As the leaves start to fall and you watch them dance across the lawn, you realize fall is fast approaching and the holidays are near. As I reflect on the holidays, I can't help but think of Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on things we are all thankful for. As a member of Balkan Township, I am thankful for all the great members we have in our community. I am thankful for all the activities that take place at our community center and for all the volunteers that help to orchestrate them. We have community members that volunteer their equipment to use or bring their animals or goodies to the fair. We have community members that help set-up and clean-up after the functions. And we have community members who are very talented and donate their homemade crafts or other things to these functions. We also have people who come out and support these functions, which is so much appreciated! It is so wonderful to meet all the members of our township, whether it be at a pancake feed, pie social or other function. All the above are giving up of their time, talents and whatever they can. It is great to get to know our fellow township members. We as a township are so blessed! And I am truly thankful for being a member of Balkan Township! Thank you each and every one of you! We are truly blessed! – Deb VerSteege

~ Practice kindness: give your full attention, use your manners, smile at a stranger, and practice random acts of kindness ~

PAUL BUNYAN BROADBAND UPDATE ...

Good news! Paul Bunyan Communications signed the MN Border-to-Border round 8 (Low-density grant) contract with the state of Minnesota in August. They are starting the permit application process for the local, state and federal agencies. Locations within the grant area are being built in their record systems. Soon residents will be able to submit their applications for services they wish to subscribe to. This can be completed online, over the phone or in person at one of Paul Bunyan Communications offices. There is a potential of scheduling a sign-up day at the Balkan Community Center.

Once Paul Bunyan's behind-the-scenes work is finished, our contact Patti Horazuk, will contact the township office to share information specific to this project. Paul Bunyan Communications expects to start construction in the spring of 2025, with services operational to residents by the end of 2025.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR...

The Balkan Holiday Bazaar will be held at the community center on December 7th, 2024, from 9am – 3pm. Homemade baked goods, ornaments, holiday gift ideas and hand-crafted items will be available during the sale. Bring a friend and enjoy coffee and cookies. Please contact Judy Briski for table rental prices and details.

COMING NEXT YEAR ... THE NEW PLAYGROUND...

The Chisholm School Board along with Mike Fredeen and the superintendent, Mike Morrison, voted to donate the Third Street Playground that was removed for the new school project to Balkan Township to be put up at the Community Center. Thank you, Chisholm School Board!

This will be a big project to prepare the ground and install the new playground. The Board is thinking of ideas on how to put it up. Should we ask for volunteers to help put up the playground (to save money)? Should we look for a grant to hire a firm to put up the playground (need to begin the grant process)? There is lots to consider. We hope to start the playground project next year.

SNOWPLOW AGREEMENT FOR 2024 – 2025 SEASON...

The question was brought up whether to discontinue the snowplowing service Balkan provides to residents. Costs are rising everywhere...due to inflation, increased gas prices, higher cost of tires, higher labor costs and more. Currently, St Louis County provides snowplowing service to residents who have not let their service lapse starting at \$593 per driveway. This snowplowing season the cost of the service has been increased by \$50 after much discussion. The 2024-2025 Snowplowing season will now cost residents \$350.00. The snowplowing agreement is enclosed in this newsletter below.



BALKAN TOWNSHIP
APPLICATION AND AGREEMENT FOR
PRIVATE DRIVEWAY SNOWPLOWING
2024 - 2025 Season

For Office Use Only

Date _____
Received: _____
—

Name of Applicant(s): _____

Applicant Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Plow Address (if different): _____

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 **2024 - 2025** winter season subject to the following conditions and provisions:

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 1. BALKAN TOWNSHIP IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY DAMAGES CAUSED BY PLOWING TO ANYONE'S PROPERTY.**
2. 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 DISCRETION OF THE BALKAN TOWN BOARD.**
3. Applications for plow service must be received by **October 31st** of said winter season and must be accompanied by the fee of **\$350.00**. NO ONE is exempt from this fee.
4. Non-owner applications (rental property or other non-owner occupant) **MUST** be signed by both the renter and the property owner.
5. Private Driveways will not be plowed until there is a minimum accumulation of four (4") inches of snow.
- 6. 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 12 feet*.
2. Driveway must be clear of obstructions *at least 12 feet* on either side of its centerline (must have a MINIMUM of 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. Residents are strongly encouraged to prepare the surfaces to be plowed, and the areas surrounding them, to freeze by driving over them before and after the first few snowfalls. This will push the frost into the ground and pack down the snow which will reduce damage to driveways and lawns that can be caused by heavy equipment.
8. This application will be rejected if, in the opinion of the inspector from Balkan Township, the above requirements are not met.
9. 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.

1	How would you rate your community as a place for people to live as they age?
<input type="checkbox"/>	very good
<input type="checkbox"/>	good
<input type="checkbox"/>	fair
<input type="checkbox"/>	poor
1	When you think about community as a place for people to live as they age, which of the following areas are important to you? List preferences with 1 being the most important and 10 being less important.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Outdoor spaces and public buildings
<input type="checkbox"/>	opportunities for civic participation and/or volunteering for older adults
<input type="checkbox"/>	employment opportunities, or vocational/educational training for older adults
<input type="checkbox"/>	communication and information that everyone can access
<input type="checkbox"/>	housing
<input type="checkbox"/>	transportation
<input type="checkbox"/>	social connections
<input type="checkbox"/>	access to healthcare
<input type="checkbox"/>	access to community supports
<input type="checkbox"/>	emergency preparedness
2	Do you feel socially connected and supported in your community? If not, what can be done? If yes, what is working? Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	no
3	Transportation, housing, access to public spaces are important. What makes you feel connected in your community?
4	How do you prefer to get your information? Select all that apply.
<input type="checkbox"/>	TV
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family & Friends
<input type="checkbox"/>	The newspaper
<input type="checkbox"/>	Radio
<input type="checkbox"/>	Community Events
<input type="checkbox"/>	Podcasts
<input type="checkbox"/>	Internet
<input type="checkbox"/>	E-Newsletters
<input type="checkbox"/>	Postcard announcements in the mail
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____
5	What would you like to see added to your community?
<input type="checkbox"/>	A Pool
<input type="checkbox"/>	Easy transportation
<input type="checkbox"/>	A pickle ball court
<input type="checkbox"/>	A monthly potluck dinner or lunch
<input type="checkbox"/>	An exercise circuit
<input type="checkbox"/>	a new idea? _____

Thank You! Enjoy your day!

AGE FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES ...

Balkan Township recognizes encouraging age friendly activities in the area is essential to keeping seniors in their homes longer. The Balkan Township Health and Wellness Club - Age Friendly Committee has put together three 1½ hour learning sessions for seniors and anyone interested to meet at the Balkan Community Center. Bring a bag lunch, coffee and water will be provided.

The first class, **Medicare 101 and Open Enrollment presented by Senior Linkage**, will be offered on October 25th, 2024, from 11 am to 12:30 pm at the Balkan Community Center. The Senior Linkage representatives will help you understand the basics of Medicare. The open enrollment time is a good time to revisit your healthcare selections.

The second class, **Medical Assistance for Long-Term Care presented by the St Louis County Dept. of Health**, can teach you how to get care in your home, get help paying for living in assisted living or help to pay for a nursing home. This class is scheduled for November 15th, 2024, from 11 am to 12:30 pm.

The third class, **Preventing Frauds and Scams is presented by Senior Linkage** on December 13th, 2024, from 11 am to 12:30 pm at the Balkan Community Center.



Health & Wellness Club at the Balkan Community Center Tuesdays 10:30-11:30am

Seniors are being targeted by scammers. Learn about what you can do to stay safe and keep your personal information private.

An age-friendly survey is included in this newsletter. Balkan Township is using this survey to improve the activities and events offered. Please fill out the survey, anonymously, and return it to the township office, in the drop box, when you go into town. Thank you!

HEALTH AND WELLNESS CLUB...

FREE strength training mixed with a little cardio is being offered at the community center on Tuesdays from 10:30 am to 11:30 am. This class is taught by Angela Tresemer. Come join the fun and have a healthy snack and coffee with us after class.

Check us out on Facebook (administered by Amy L. Tanko) at: Balkan Township, Minnesota or the website at: www.balkantownship.com.

BALKAN TOWNSHIP

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Balkan Township Resident