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on the cover Is spring near? A rodent meteorologist will offer the answer on Groundhog Day, Feb. 2. If the groundhog emerges from hibernation and sees his shadow on that day – sunny conditions – he'll retreat to his hole for six more weeks of winter. If the weather is overcast, spring is near. Phil, the groundhog from Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania's ceremony, is probably the most famous symbol of this North American weather lore, but there are other forecasting marmots across the continent, from Birmingham Bill to Staten Island Chuck to Shubenacadie Sam in Canada. Graphic design by Andrew Kleidon.



Existing housing stock sold quickly once it was on the market during the past two years, causing many buyers to scoop up land and go the route of building their own, such as this home under construction on Bay Shore Drive in Sevastopol. Photo by D.A. Fitzgerald.

DOOR COUNTY

Broadband Coordinator Position Advanced

The next look at ARPA project funding happens Feb. 16 at Finance Committee

by DEBRA FITZGERALD
debra.fitz@pappulse.com

What's considered a critical first step in the overall coordination of a Door County broadband, fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP) initiative called FiberNet Door County was taken Tuesday when the Door County Board of Supervisors allocated money for a broadband coordinator position. The resolution allocated \$152,000 for 2022, which includes \$111,129 for the new hire's salary and benefits, and the remainder reserved for the position's start-up costs. The coordinator's primary responsibilities will be the overall coordination of the FiberNet initiative as laid out in the broadband assessment report issued late last year.

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'Insane Explosion' of Real Estate Sales in 2021

Median home price in Door County has climbed from \$220,000 in 2019, to \$279,000 in 2020, to \$315,000 in 2021

by BOB DOLAN

The real estate market in Door County, largely because of the continuing presence and impact of COVID-19, has tested positive for the second consecutive year. In fact, realtors say the 2021 sales figures go far beyond positive – they are unprecedented. "The only time period even close to what we've experienced these last two years occurred in the 1970s,"

said Dennis Starr, managing broker at Starr Realty and a real estate professional in Door County for more than 50 years. "Back then, banks were not lending very often, so when that practice reversed in the middle of the decade, the market exploded. But even that era pales in comparison to what we've seen in both 2020 and again in 2021 since the start of COVID."

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DOOR COUNTY HALF MARATHON & NICOLET BAY 5K

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MAY 7, 2022

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