

Blair Township News



Winter 2003

Blair Township
Office Hrs:
Tuesdays - Fridays
8:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.
Blair Township
2121 County Rd 633
Crawn, MI 49637
(231) 276-9263
Fax: (231) 276-5111
Deputy: (231) 276-7641
EMS: (231) 276-9354
Fire: (231) 276-6341
TDD: (231) 276-6571
www.BlairTownship.org
BlairTwpSuper@charter.n
BlairTwpTreas@charter.n
BlairTwpClerk@charter.n

The Vision of Blair Township

Our vision is to maintain a superior township, preserve a high quality of life, ensure quick responses to your needs, and protect our township and residents.
We are a growing township and by combining our efforts as residents, we will improve our lives, families, and our homes.

“TEAM” = Together Everyone Achieves More

Blair Township Website: www.BlairTownship.org
We are now online! Click on and see us!

Township Board Meetings at the Township Hall
2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00PM
Copies of the meeting schedules are available at the Township Hall.
NOTE: July's meeting will be at 2:00 P.M.

Township Board:

- ◆ Supervisor — Joseph L Lowe
- ◆ Clerk — Betty A Tharp
- ◆ Treasurer — Kathy A Nowak
- ◆ Trustee — Larry B Fleis
- ◆ Trustee — Roger E Zeits

* Blair Township Logo Contest *

If you send in your logo idea, you just may win!
For more details, call Larry Fleis at
943-4900 or 943-4074.



Offices Are Closed:

Wednesday & Thursday, Dec. 24 & 25, 2003 - Christmas
Thursday, January 1, 2004 - New Year's Day

(NOTE: The Township Hall is closed every Monday)

Editor: R R M

SUPERVISOR

JOSEPH L LOWE

The Township recently launched a Blair Township website; the address is www.BlairTownship.org. We have included information on the services the township provides and the person to contact for additional information. You will find information on Emergency Services (Fire & Ambulance), Zoning, Assessing, Township Officials, etc. Please review the website and e-mail your comments to me.

We have recently installed fence poles around the parking lots of the park. They are intended to prevent driving on the ball fields, protect the sprinkler heads, and avoid accidents involving walkers and joggers. **Please take the opportunity to come and enjoy the park.**

The Feasibility Committee has been meeting regularly and discussing the possibility of putting the question of a township complex with attached library on the ballot in August 2004. Emergency Services are in desperate need of additional space, and a new complex would allow them to expand into the present building. The Township Board will make the final decision about placing the issue on the ballot, and the voters will make the ultimate decision about the project. You will be getting much more information about this project in the newsletters to come.

Nimrod Road has been paved. The mile long road was paved by funds raised through a special assessment that was approved by the property owners. The initial course and the final course (to be applied in the spring) cost approximately \$68,000. Residents have been looking forward to this improvement for some time.

Ewing Street was scheduled for improvement and paving this summer, but the Road Commission could not complete the project this fall. I believe it is scheduled for completion in the spring.

- Joseph L Lowe

Assessor

Aaron G Plowman

Effective January 1, 2004, the name "Homestead Exemption" will be changed to "Homeowner's Principal Residence Exemption." Persons currently claiming a Homestead Exemption will **not** be required to file a new form.

The forms are available in our office. Remember, the filing date to qualify for the Homeowners Principal Residence Exemption, for new home owners, is currently December 31, 2003, (subject to change) for the 2004 tax year. Have a safe & enjoyable 2004!

- Aaron G Plowman & Carrie H Bautzmann

Zoning Administrator

Marvin D Radtke Jr.

Once again Blair Township had a busy summer as we worked on, and completed, our Master Plan, which is a snap shot of how we want to have Blair Township look in 20 years. We are now working on updating our Zoning Ordinance to accommodate our Master Plan.

Please remember that prior to building, or even moving a structure, no matter the size, or even if it is temporarily detached from your house, to contact Blair Township Zoning Department to see if permits are required. There is no such thing as a dumb question, except for the one not asked!!!

Just a side note, as of October 16, 2003, Carl's Retreading site has been 98% cleaned up! We are very excited to see such progress.

Lisa and Marvin are wishing you and your family a safe and happy holiday season and new year!

- Marvin D Radtke Jr. and Lisa M Jolly



CLERK



BETTY A THARP

The Clerk's Office has been very busy this past season selling cemetery lots in our newly completed sections of both Maple Grove and Monroe Center cemeteries. If you are interested in purchasing a lot(s), contact the Clerk's Office. Lots are sold for \$100.00 each for a township resident and \$150.00 for non residents.

We have run 2 elections this past spring/summer. We have been attending meetings for election law changes and are already starting to prepare for next year's August 3, 2004, Primary Election and the November 2, 2004, Presidential Election. We are also looking for a few new election inspectors to work the elections. You must meet certain requirements, such as: be a registered voter in Grand Traverse County, preferably Blair Township, be certified and trained as an election inspector, and you must declare a party affiliation. If you are interested, contact the Clerk's Office for an election inspector application.

Our office will gladly notarize your documents with no charge to the township residents. Please make sure you bring identification with you, and be sure **not** to sign your document until you are witnessed by a notary public.

Blair Township now has a website! The Clerk's Office is pleased to offer information resources under the "Clerk" link to keep you best informed. On our website, you can obtain plenty of information regarding voter registration, questions on voting, and how to obtain an absentee ballot. You can also read the Township Board minutes and check out the meeting schedules. There is information regarding renting the hall, cemeteries, and a link to the Secretary of State website. You can access our website at: www.BlairTownship.org and click on the "Clerk" button. Feel free to e-mail us with any concerns or questions at BlairTwpClerk@charter.net. Thank you and have a safe and happy winter!

- Betty A Tharp & Lori L McGee

TREASURER



KATHY A NOWAK

The Treasurer's Office has been busy as usual, but never too busy to assist you. We are encouraging all tax payments be made sooner from all escrow companies. We will see how it works.

Please take time to visit our website for Township information. If you have any suggestions for our website, please let us know.

We are continually striving to improve the way bills and payments are handled, in and out, so that we are more efficient and helpful to all. Please let us know your ideas for improvements and we will see what we can do. Thank goodness for Roxanne and her computer skills/knowledge!

We wish to congratulate the Wagner Farm at becoming Blair Township's 3rd Centennial Farm. Way to go with all the hard work to achieve that honor!

Reminder - Any board member can help you with a problem. If one is not available, feel free to ask to speak with another board member.

Have a great holiday season and a wonderful new year!

- Kathy A Nowak & Roxanne R Marciniak

Blair Township

2121 County Rd 633
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Kathy A Nowak – Treasurer
Roxanne R Marciniak – Deputy Treasurer

DIRECT PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION FORM

Customer Name _____

Bill Type (Circle one) Taxes / Yearly Water Assessment / Monthly Water Bill

Service Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Daytime Phone Number _____

Acct/Property Number _____

Name of Financial Institution _____

ABA/Routing Number _____

Account Number _____

Checking or Savings **(circle one)**

I hereby authorize Blair Township to debit my payment from my account, as listed above, **on the _____ of each month**, or the business day closest to, or as indicated on my monthly invoice. I also authorize any necessary adjustments that may be needed. This _____ authorization will remain in effect until I cancel it in writing to the Blair Township _____ Treasurer's office.

Signed _____

Date _____



We are looking for NOMINATIONS!

Blair Township
2121 County Rd 633
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(231) 276-9263

COMMERCIAL

(W-03)

The Township is asking Blair residents to nominate a local business that deserves to be recognized for its contributions toward the betterment of our community.

Examples: Landscaping, Building Design, Environmental, etc.

Your Name (Optional) _____

Name of Nominee _____

Reasons For Nomination (Details Required)

RESIDENTIAL

(W-03)

The Township is asking Blair residents to nominate an individual who gives of himself/herself for the enrichment of our community.

Examples: Volunteering, Donations, Citizenship, etc.

Your Name (Optional) _____

Name of Nominee _____

Reasons For Nomination (Details Required)

TRUSTEE

LARRY B FLEIS

Hello to everyone! I hope you all had a good summer. The Building & Grounds Feasibility Committee has come up with a plan that would be one building housing the Township offices, community center hall, and a library. The reason for this is that the Fire and EMS departments desperately need more space, and they could use all of the existing Township building. We will be presenting this to you for your approval and hopefully a positive small millage vote in 2004.

If you have any questions or comments, please call me at (231) 943-4900 or (231) 943-4074. Have a snowy winter!



TRUSTEE

ROGER E ZEITS

It is a pleasure serving the residents of Blair Township. I have talked and met with many residents regarding issues facing the township. I am available for anyone who wishes to discuss township business. I am at the Township Hall frequently. I am a member of the Blair Township Planning Commission. We have been working very hard to update the Township Master Plan. With an increase of growth in the area, it has everyone concerned.

Please drive cautiously and be safe. Blair Township is a very busy corridor to Traverse City. I will continue keeping up with the many issues facing Blair Township, and I welcome your questions and concerns. Please feel free to contact me at (231) 276-9545.



Water Coordinator



Carl A Bearinger

Remember to read your water meters! Please put the reading **and date** read on the water bill stub (the small portion) you return with payment, or you can call your reading in!
This winter, make sure water lines & meters are insulated and sheltered From the wind!
(We are not responsible for frozen lines)



EMS Department

Dominic A Foster - Medical Director

Greetings! Let me introduce myself. My name is Dominic Foster. I was appointed as the new Medical Director for EMS, and I began my duties on October 9, 2003. I am a Paramedic Instructor/Coordinator, and I have been involved in emergency medicine since 1993.

I look forward to serving the residents of Blair Township.

Please feel free to stop by to meet our staff, have your blood pressure checked, or to just say 'hi'. Don't forget to bundle up and dress for the weather.

It's beginning to get chilly out there!

New Deputy Sheriff for Blair Township!

We wish to say a fond farewell to Deputy Amy Newingham & welcome Deputy Brandon Brinks to our community. We hope they both do well in their new locations.



Deputy Sheriff



Brandon Brinks

With our holiday season quickly approaching, we must remember to drive safely. A change in Michigan Law this year puts the drunk driving standard at .08 blood alcohol content rather than the .10 that it was previously.

Approximately 36% of traffic fatalities in Michigan involve alcohol and/or drugs. 1,482 people died in fatal traffic crashes involving alcohol and/or drugs from the year 2000 to 2002. During this holiday season, please drink responsibly and do not make this season a tragic one.



Report Crimes Anonymously!

Call the Grand Traverse Silent Observer at 947-TIPS (8477) if you have any information on a crime. They offer rewards of up to \$2,500!



Battalion 5 Fire Department

Gerald W Beeman Jr. - Fire Chief

Be sure to visit our new **Township website!** Click on the "Fire Department" link to see your department in action. There are links to other fire related web pages you may find informative.



Important dates to remember:

March 19, 2004 - Red Cross & Battalion Five Blood Drive

11:00AM - 5:00PM at the Blair Township Hall

May 22, 2004 - Blair Township Emergency Services Annual Open House

1:00PM - 4:00PM at Blair Fire Station

All township residents are invited!!!!

Safety Tip: To prevent disaster, have your wood stove chimney cleaned and maintained often during the winter heating season. Have a safe winter!



Park

April 1st - October 31st from dawn until dusk.
Restrooms are available from April 15th - October 15th!
There is an entrance on the West side that is open all year.
You can rent the park/Pavilion for \$25.00 with a \$25.00 refundable deposit.



Hall

The Township Hall can also be rented, NOT with the park, for \$50.00 with a \$500.00 refundable deposit and security guard at \$8.00 per hour.

Memorial Day Services



Please join us at both cemeteries on May 31, 2004.
Thanks to all who attended our Veterans' Day ceremonies!

A big THANK YOU to Dale Williams for his many years of dedicated service on our Board of Review!

Blair Township Clean-Up Day



Call us in late spring to find out date and time!

Pull Tabs from beverage cans

We are accepting pull tabs to help people purchase dialysis equipment.



Box tops, UPC codes, and labels For Schools

Call your local elementary schools to see how you can help by donating!

* Reminder * There is no hunting on Public School property

This includes East of Blair Elementary. Please check with the Township, or County, **FIRST** to see if property is private or State land if you are unsure.

Assistance for All



Adult GED classes offered!

Call Jennifer Cogle @ (231) 933-3662 for info!

There are programs throughout the county to aid those in need;
from young to young at heart!

If you need assistance, please call T.C.A.P.S.: (231) 933-8995,
F.I.A.: (231) 941-3900, Commission on Aging: (231) 922-4688,
or the Township Hall to find out more!