

# Blair Township News



Summer 2004

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

## Township Board:

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

## 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.

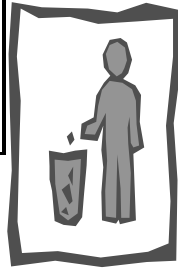
**“TEAM” = Together Everyone Achieves More**

## 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.**



## Clean Up Day is September 25, 2004

Flyers are available at the Township Hall

There is a **\$20.00** fee for **EACH** load

up to a 4’ x 8’ x 4’ (pick up size)

It is from 8:00 am - 1:00 pm at the Township Hall

Proof of Residency is Required

(there is an additional \$20.00 fee for items with freon and an additional cost for tires)

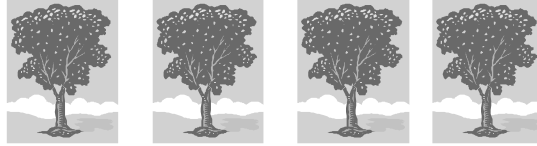
For information on **Hazardous Waste Collection dates or the Brush Drop-Off Site** (which is now open), please call (231) 941-5555, or log onto [www.GrandTraverse.org](http://www.GrandTraverse.org) and look under “departments” & “Resource Recovery”.

## Offices Are Closed:

Thursday & Friday, Nov. 25 & 26, 2004 - Thanksgiving

**(NOTE: The Township Hall is closed every Monday)**

## **SUPERVISOR**



**JOSEPH L LOWE**

### Union

Emergency Services employees have voted to be represented by a union. We are waiting for the union to contact us regarding negotiating the contract.

### Park Improvement

Jim Schmuckal has offered to donate 25-30 trees for the township park. Plans are underway to place those trees along the walking trail. The trees will be placed within the next two weeks.

### Blair Township Project

Please note the following meetings on your calendar:

There will be an informational meeting, at the Township, on July 21, 2004, at 7:00 pm concerning the proposed Blair Township Complex. Come and get answers to your questions about the proposal, the cost, and our Emergency Services.

There will be another informational meeting on July 29th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm on the same subject for those who cannot come to the July 21st meeting.

### Roads

Ewing Street is scheduled for improvement and paving this summer. The final course will be put on Nimrod Road this spring.

### Budget

The State is cutting Revenue Sharing in view of dwindling revenue. We have been cut about \$150,000 so far, and more cuts are expected. Revenue Sharing goes to pay General Fund activities such as payroll, road improvement, park and building repair, and maintenance. In 2002-2003, Revenue Sharing made up about 70% of the township's total revenue.

- Joseph L Lowe

## **TREASURER**



**KATHY A NOWAK**

We have new receipts that we will be using for Taxes and Assessments, starting in July. They are easier to read, and they will save money. We are hoping to slowly work away from using the dinosaur dot-matrix printer & only use the laser and ink jet printers.

The summer taxes are due by September 14th. The winter taxes will get to you around December 1st, and they are due by February 14th. Please note that if you have delinquent 2003 taxes to call the Grand Traverse County Treasurer's Office for information on how much is due. After March 1st of each year, we no longer have information here as to how much is owed on delinquent taxes, so please check with the County. They can be reached at (231) 922-4735.

We'd like to thank all of those who have brought in aluminum can pull tabs. They have helped many, and we encourage people to continue bringing them in at any time.

Another program that we help collect for is the Boot Program. It encompasses all of our area families, and now that they are officially a 501C3, they can take donations all year round. They provide many boots, coats, hats, mittens, etc to families every year. They do a wonderful job.

- Kathy A Nowak & Roxanne R Marciniak (Blackford)



## CLERK

## BETTY A THARP

The Clerk's Office has a very busy summer/fall schedule. We are preparing for the August 3<sup>rd</sup> Primary Election and November 2<sup>nd</sup> General Election. We have attended several workshops regarding election law changes. The Secretary of State's Office has announced adopting the precinct based optical scan as Michigan's statewide uniform voting system by 2006. Blair Township currently uses optical scan voting for its residents. In addition, Governor Granholm has signed the bill to consolidate elections. This means local clerks *will be* required to conduct all school and college elections with certain sections of the law effective September of 2004.

I would also like to mention if you are a resident of Blair Township, 18 years of age or older, and want to vote in the August 3<sup>rd</sup> Primary Election, the deadline to get registered is July 6<sup>th</sup>. The last day to register for the November General Election is October 4<sup>th</sup>. The Michigan State Law says you must be registered 30 days prior to an election to be eligible to vote. If you move outside Blair Township and move back you must re-register. If you are not sure if you are registered contact the Clerk's office at 276-9263. You will stay registered with Blair Township unless you move outside this jurisdiction. Please notify our office if you move to another address within Blair Township or have changed your name. It will help speed up the lines on election day.

The Clerk's Office would like to invite you to the [BlairTownship.org](http://BlairTownship.org) website and go into the Clerk's link. We have put together loads of information about the township cemeteries, "Maple Grove and Monroe Center" Cemeteries. If you are interested in purchasing a burial lot(s) contact the Clerk's Office. Lots are sold for \$100 each for a township resident and \$150.00 for non-residents.

The Township Board approved the purchase of all new Veteran grave markers for both cemeteries. New markers were on all of the graves on time for Memorial Weekend. These U.S. Veteran markers are left on the graves year round. If you know of a Veteran that is buried in one of the cemeteries that does not have a bronze marker, please call our office so that we can place one there.

The Clerk's Office will gladly notarize your documents with *no charge*. Please make sure you bring proper identification with you and be sure not to sign your document until a notary public witnesses you. It is your responsibility to understand the content of your document and where you need to sign and what type of Notarial Act you are presenting. Notaries cannot notarize any document that contains a blank space or is otherwise incomplete. Effective April 1<sup>st</sup> new Notary Laws are in effect.

Please feel free to stop by the clerk's office and share your ideas and concerns. As your Township Clerk I am here to serve you. I also would like to welcome all the new residents that have moved into Blair Township. We are glad to have you as a part of our wonderful community. If you are new to the area and need information or a phone number of a local or state office please call the township at 276-9263 and we will try to help you obtain it. Otherwise our email address is [BlairTwpClerk@charter.net](mailto:BlairTwpClerk@charter.net). Please have a safe and fun summer.

- Betty A Tharp & Lori L McGee

**Zoning Administrator**

**Marvin D Radtke Jr.**

Now that spring is here the construction season is coming to full swing. Please be aware that **any** construction (including fences) requires a Township Land Use Permit, there may be a fee for said permits.

Blair Township is currently working on updating the Zoning Ordinance and the draft should be ready for review in July and August of this year. Your participation is crucial in preparing this document, as it will affect you now and in the future. Many of you asked what is the purpose of Zoning? I will attempt to outline the purposes.

Zoning provides for:

Protecting property values, implementing the Master Plan, protecting Natural Resources, preventing nuisances, ensuring compatibility of uses, preventing overcrowding and preventing the overuse of the land. In essence, Zoning is the public regulation of the use of land.



Please do not forget to visit the Township website as it has a lot of information regarding our community. The web address is [www.BlairTownship.org](http://www.BlairTownship.org).

Lisa and Marvin hope you have safe and enjoyable summer.

- Marvin D Radtke Jr. and Lisa M Jolly



**Assessor**

**Aaron G Plowman**

Assessments for 2004 are now complete and we are ready to start on 2005. We are out doing field work again; this is a never ending job with the growth of Blair Township. When we are doing field work, we will be leaving a notice on your door saying that we were at your home doing our inspection. If you have any questions regarding our visit, please give us a call at the Township Hall. Enjoy your summer & have a fun safe time.

- Aaron G Plowman & Carrie H Bautzmann

**“Caring for Those Who Cared for You”  
Grand Traverse County Commission on Aging**



Grand Traverse County Commission on Aging will have two ballot proposals on the August 3, 2004, Primary Election:

1. **Continued Services:** A renewal of the previously approved millage (.03 mills) to continue to provide services to senior citizens. **If the renewal proposal does not pass, the Commission on Aging will close in 2005.**
2. **Expanded Services:** An increase of 0.2 mills to provide services to an expanding population and to provide new services (such as respite care).

Cost to taxpayer (for a \$100,000 home):

.3 mills = \$15.00 year

.5 mills = \$25.00 year

For more information on these issues, please call (231) 922-4688.

**We are looking for  
NOMINATIONS!**

Blair Township  
2121 County Rd 633  
Grawn MI 49637  
(231) 276-9263

**COMMERCIAL**

(S-04)

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)

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**RESIDENTIAL**

(S-04)

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)

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## TRUSTEE

## LARRY B FLEIS

Hello to everyone. The board has been busy with many projects over the winter, and it has come to our attention that the township could use a greeting/receptionist person in the lobby of the township hall. After much discussion, we decided to see if we could fill this position on a volunteer basis. The schedule can be very flexible. We also think this would offer the volunteers some good interaction between the township employees and residents of Blair Township. People interested in volunteering for this very important position are asked to please contact Betty or Lori in the Township Clerk's office.

As always, should you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me at (231) 943-4074 or (231) 943-4900. Thank you again for allowing me to represent you. I hope you all enjoy your summer.

## TRUSTEE

## ROGER E ZEITS

It's so hard to believe that summer has finally arrived. I would like to take this opportunity to mention that as a member of this community, and as a township elected trustee, I want to remind everyone that on the August ballot there is a proposal for a new township complex. The planning for the complex has been well put together and been looking at the most cost effective. Please plan on attending the informational meeting on the complex on July 21, 2004, at 7:00 pm at the Township Hall.

If you have access to the internet, please check out the Township's website at [www.BlairTownship.org](http://www.BlairTownship.org). You will find a lot of useful information.

I have enjoyed serving the residents of Blair Township for the last six years and being a member of the Planning Commission. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to give me a call at (231) 276-9545. We have had a lot of good reviews about the site. I will continue to work hard for the betterment of our community. Have a great summer.

## Water Department

As you should know, we have gone to a customer meter reading system to help hold down operations costs, which helps to hold down your costs and pay down the long term debt. If you are currently reading your meter, thank you. If, for whatever reason, you are not, please start doing so. If you have any questions about meter reading, or anything about the water system, please call us at (231) 276-0374 and leave a message; we will call you back.



Plans are moving forward to install a third well, next to the other two wells in the township park, for the water system. This well will insure ample water supply during peak demands in the summer if one of the other wells has to be taken out of service for any reason.



## New Medical Director

Daryl Case is now our Medical Director. Daryl, an already very familiar face, has been with us for many years, and we all wish him the best in his new position.



**EMS Department**

**Daryl Case - Medical Director**

I would like to thank everyone for their warm welcomes. I have been in the EMS field for 11 years now, and I've been a Full Time Paramedic for 6 years.

**Please note that this November there will be a ballot proposal to renew the EMS Millage at 1.5 mills for 4 years. This will be the same millage rate as in the past.**

**\*\*Safety reminders:**

Bicycle Helmets save lives! Make sure your children are wearing them when riding. If you are in need of a helmet, please contact me and I will find a way to get you one.

For those with swimming pools, please remember to secure the perimeter so that little children (and animals) cannot fall in and drown. A few minutes of work can save lives!

Feel free to stop on by for a free Blood Pressure check, or to say hi. If you have any questions/comments, you can contact me at (231) 276-9354; please leave a message if no one answers. Have a safe and wonderful summer!

**Deputy Sheriff**



**Brandon Brinks**

It's summer time, which means people (especially children) are out riding bikes on the roads. Remember, bicycles are to be ridden with the flow of traffic, so please ride on the edge of the right hand side of the road, and always wear a helmet.

Be cautious when driving this summer. Watch for children playing near/in the roads. A little more alertness can save lives.

If you have any questions or concerns about Junk Ordinance violations, please call me at (231) 276-7641 (leave a message if I'm not available). Thanks and have a great, safe summer!



**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**

Reminder to our residents that to do any open burning, except for a recreational fire, you **must** have a permit from the Michigan DNR. For information of allowed items to burn

And/or to obtain a burn permit, please call the DNR permit line at (231) 922-5328.

**Important dates to remember:**

September 11, 2004 - Red Cross & Battalion Five Blood Drive  
11:00AM - 5:00PM at the Blair Township Hall

October 31, 2004 - Annual Children's Halloween Party  
7:00PM - 9:00PM at Blair Fire Station

November 26, 2004 - Red Cross & Battalion Five Blood Drive  
10:00AM - 4:00PM at the Blair Township Hall



**Safety Tip:** Always attend to and supervise your recreational fires, being sure to completely extinguish the fire when you leave the area.



### 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.

**(Note: The hall cannot be rented for weddings)**

### Veterans' Day Services

Please join us at both cemeteries on November 11, 2004.

**Thanks to all who attended our Memorial Day ceremonies!**



### Dog Owners:

Please be considerate of others, & clean up after your pet.



### 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!

### 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!

