

Blair Township News



Winter 2004

Offices Are Closed:
Friday, December 24, 2004 - Christmas Eve
(NOTE: The Township Hall is closed every Monday)



Memorial Day Services

Please join us at both cemeteries on Monday, May 30, 2005.

Thanks to all who attended our Veterans' Day ceremonies!



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 and online.

NOTE: July's meeting will be at 2:00 P.M.

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)



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



PREVIOUS SUPERVISOR

Ball Park

Perhaps you have heard the news of the Ballpark that will be built next summer. We are delighted to have this excellent recreational activity so near to Blair Township residents. The Stadium will seat approximately 3,500 people. It will be located in Chums Village on the West side of US 31/M 37 behind the Case Dealership. They will play 46 home games. They expect to play ball in the spring of 2006. Their website address is: www.TraverseCityBeachBums.com. Give it a look!

I thank Marvin Radtke Jr. who was instrumental in coordinating this project. He has provided a valuable service to our residents. He has additional information on the Ballpark that I am sure that he will be glad to share with you.

Stop Light at M 37 and Vance Rd

MDOT will commence work in the Spring at Vance and M 37, preparing the junction for traffic signals. This junction is well known for the accidents that have happened there. The residents who drive Vance and M 37 daily are looking forward to this improvement.

This is part of their plan to revamp Chum's Corners. Left and right turn lanes will be increased to two. Traffic will be detoured down Rennie School Rd and Williams Rd while the work is being done; both Rennie School Rd and Williams Rd will be paved by that time. The North and South route through the corner will remain open during construction, so that businesses can remain open during that period.

Menards

As you drive through Chum's Corners, you can see the construction of Menards is progressing. The plan is to have the building complete in December and to be open for business in February.

- Joseph L Lowe



JOSEPH L LOWE



TREASURER

KATHY A NOWAK

Remember that we collect pull tabs from cans to give to the American Legion. They use them to help with dialysis equipment and other related aids for those in need.

We will also be collecting new coats, hats, mittens, boots, socks, etc, in conjunction with the "Boot Program" to help those in our area through the cold winter months.

Campbell's labels will be collected here as well. The VFW uses them to help families in need of places to stay, and the local schools collect them for their uses as well.

Please check out our website at www.BlairTownship.org. We try to have answers to many of the most commonly asked questions on there. If you think of anything else that we could see about putting on the website to be more helpful, please let us know and we will see what we can do.

Have a wonderful holiday season and a fun and safe winter; stay warm.

- Kathy A Nowak & Roxanne R Blackford



CLERK

BETTY A THARP

The Clerk's Office has a very busy fall/winter schedule. Now that the General Election is over, we can focus our attention on various other projects in the office. Because of the increased growth in the township, we will be re-districting the voting precincts from 2 to 3. What this means to our residents is that voting may be at a different polling location. But don't worry, we will send out new Voter Identification cards if the change affects you. Your Voter Identification card tells you where your new polling location is. The new polling location for precinct 3 has yet to be determined. You will be notified if changes affect you. This re-districting will take some time to change. Due to the population increase we must stay compliant with state election laws.

The Clerk's Office would like to invite you to the BlairTownship.org website and click 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 for non-residents. You can also browse through the Township Board Minutes and stay up to date with the happenings in our community. The township board agendas are also posted online at least a week before the Board of Trustee meeting. Please use our website BlairTownship.org as a tool if you are unable to attend meetings.

I would also like to mention if you are a resident of Blair Township and 18 years of age or older you may register to vote in the Clerk's office, Secretary of State Office, or any designated voter registration agency. Your registered address must be the same as the address on your Michigan Drivers License or State of Michigan I.D. Card. This is law. 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 will gladly notarize your documents with no charge. Please make sure you bring proper identification with you, and do not 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 1st, 2004 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 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 Please have a safe and happy winter.

Betty A Tharp / Township Clerk
Lori L McGee / Deputy Clerk

ASSESSMENT CHANGE NOTICES

Some property owners & business owners ignore the ASSESSMENT CHANGE NOTICE they receive in the mail around the middle of February informing them of their opportunity to APPEAL to the March Board of Review. March Board of Review will meet on the following dates for appeals:

Monday, March 14, 2005, from 1:00pm - 5:00pm & 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Tuesday, March 15, 2005, from 9:00am - Noon & 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Many property owners & business owners take no action until they receive their tax bill.

WHEN THE TAX BILL ARRIVES, IT IS TOO LATE TO PROTEST.

Section 30.2 of the General Property Tax Act says that: If sufficient cause is shown, the MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW shall correct the assessed value or tentative taxable value of the property in a manner that will make the valuation of the property relatively just and proper under this act.

Protest at the MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW is necessary to protect your right to further appeals to the Michigan Tax Tribunal for valuation and exemption appeals and/or to the State Tax Commission for classification appeals.

Property Owners need to review their Assessment Change Notice to see if property was Uncapped, Percentage for Homeowner Principal Residence Exemption or Qualified Agricultural Exemption.

If a property owner/business owner does not protest to the March Board of Review either in person or by letter before March Board of Review adjourns, they have forfeited all rights to change any part of their assessed and/or tentative value.

There will be NO CHANGES made in either the July or December Board of Reviews.

- Aaron G Plowman & Carrie H Bautzmann



Zoning Administrator

Marvin D Radtke Jr.

We do hope you enjoyed the Summer. Did we have one? As you may have notice there is a large building going in at the Southwest corner of Chums Corner, that structure will be a home improvement store known as "Menards". Blair Township will also be Home to the "Traverse City Beach Bums", which is a Frontier Professional Baseball Team established by John and Leslie Wuerfel. The spring opener is planned for May of 2006, and the Ball Park will be located near Blair Township's water tower.

Please be advised that the Michigan Department of Transportation will be working on the intersection of Vance and M-37 S in the Spring of 2005, and later in the Summer will be widening Chum's Corner. Details of the detour will be forthcoming.

Please remember, prior to building check with us to see if a Land Use Permit is required.

Do not forget to visit the Township website, it has a lot of information regarding our community. The web address is www.BlairTownship.org

Lisa and Marvin hope you have wonderful winter.

- Marvin D Radtke Jr and Lisa M Jolly



Deputy Sheriff

Brandon Brinks

It's that time of year again! There are many holidays to celebrate, and we want them to be safe and enjoyable for all. Remember to be responsible; don't drink and drive.

Help us prevent crime in your neighborhood. Report suspicious activity by calling 911, if you need an immediate response, or you can call me at (231) 276-7641 to pass on any information. Please leave a message if I am not available.

Also, if you notice young children walking alone late at night, or playing in the roadway in a way that could be dangerous, please call!

Please call me at (231) 276-7641 if you have any questions. Have a great winter!

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!





EMS Department

Daryl Case - Medical Director

Reminders: Winter is upon us, please drive safely. With accumulating snow, it is important to keep walkways and porches clear for safety and for access of Emergency Services, and also keep address numbers clear so we are able to quickly find your home.

Feel free to stop into the station for a Blood Pressure check and to meet the staff.

Be aware of the increased danger of a heart attack while attempting to remove snow.

Common symptoms to watch out for are: chest pressure or pain, sweating, nausea, difficulty breathing, and denial (Yes, a heart attack can happen to you). If you experience symptoms like these you should phone 911 or seek immediate medical attention.

If you have a group that needs CPR or First Aid classes, please feel free to contact me for assistance. You can always call me at (231) 276-9354 if you have any questions or comments. Have a safe winter!

Battalion 5 Fire Department

Gerald W Beeman Jr. - Fire Chief

New Addition:

Our newest addition to Battalion Five is a 55-foot Tower Ladder fire engine. This truck comes refurbished from the Metro Division, and it will serve us well. Stop on by and see our Tower Ladder!

New Firefighters:

Any resident 18 years old or older who would like to serve their communities as a firefighter can contact me at the station at (231) 276-6341 or e-mail at gtchiefbud@wmconnect.com. We offer to school you in return for your commitment to the service.

Important dates to remember:

March 25, 2005 - Red Cross & Battalion Five Blood Drive
10:00AM - 4:00PM at the Blair Township Hall



Safety Tip: A professionally cleaned chimney is the best defense against a devastating chimney fire.



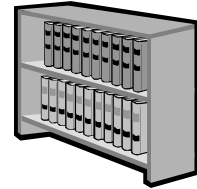
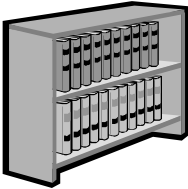
Water Department

Martin D Hisem

The third Blair Township well will be online and ready for operation by the first of the year. This will help to alleviate capacity issues during summer months when there is a higher water demand.

For those that are hooked to the system, please remember to **read your meters**. This helps to keep your bill more accurate, since the reads calculated by the computer can be higher than what was actually used and cause your bill to go up accordingly. Feel free to call, or e-mail, in your reading so that your bill stays accurate and you do not get under or overcharged.

During the winter months, your water meter and pipes get chilly too! Please remember to winterize your water meter and pipes. Remember, frozen water lines can cause lots of damage.



A Thank You From the Blair Library Committee

We would like to thank all of the residents who voted on the proposal to build a branch library in Blair Township. The proposal was to build a branch library, a community center, and new Township Offices. The current Township Offices would then be used for enlarging our emergency services area. Even though the proposal was defeated in the Primary last August, the Library Committee wants you to know we have not given up on our community having a branch library one day. We will continue to work toward this and will keep you informed as we have new information. Never give up!

Dorothy Biegler, Chair

Pull Tabs from beverage cans
We are accepting pull tabs to help people
have dialysis equipment
and other related aid.



Box tops, UPC codes, and labels

Call your local elementary schools
to see how you can help by donating!
You can also give them
to the VFW for their causes.



Assistance for All



There are many 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!

Adult **GED** classes offered!



Call Michigan Works Learning Lab



@ (231) 922-3761 for more information.

Blair Township

2121 County Rd 633
Grawn, MI 49637

Phone: (231) 276-9263 • Fax: (231) 276-5111

www.BlairTownship.org

Office Hours:

***** **Tuesdays - Fridays: 8:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.** *****

(**24 hr.** Mail Drop Slot located on bottom right side of front doors)

Deputy Sheriff: (231) 276-7641

EMS: (231) 276-9354

Fire: (231) 276-6341

Township Board:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| ◆ Supervisor - Patrick R Pahl | | BlairTwpSuper@charter.net |
| ◆ Clerk - Betty A Tharp | | BlairTwpClerk@charter.net |
| ◆ Treasurer - Kathy A Nowak | | BlairTwpTreas@charter.net |
| ◆ Trustee - Stacey E Clous | (231) 263-5992 | |
| ◆ Trustee - Larry B Fleis | (231) 943-4074 | |
| ◆ Trustee - Joseph L Lowe | (231) 943-4354 | JandSTC@charter.net |
| ◆ Trustee - Michael J Rademaker | (231) 943-3044 | |