

Blair Township News

Summer 2005

Offices Are Closed:

Thursday, November 24, 2005 - Thanksgiving

Friday, November 25, 2005 - Day after Thanksgiving

(NOTE: The Township Hall is closed every Monday)

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.

Veterans' Day Services

Please join us at both cemeteries
on Friday, November 11, 2005.



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

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,

"TEAM" = Together Everyone Achieves More

SUPERVISOR



PATRICK R PAHL

The first six months have been extremely busy with a number of projects going on in the Township. We have been working on a grant for the Wild Buffalo Lodge from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. The grant is related to the fact that they will be creating at least 150 new jobs.

The sewer system for the Commercial area has been keeping all of us very busy with all the work necessary to get the project up and running for the special assessment district in the Commercial areas of US-31 and M-37.

The Township will be expecting a surge of new growth when the sewer system is completed, and we are making plans to try to handle all the anticipated growth.

I would like to thank all the employees and especially the former Supervisor, Joseph Lowe, for making the transition here as smooth as possible.

The fall cleanup for Blair residents is being held on Saturday, September 24, from 9:00A.M. to 1:00P.M. At the Township Hall with the same cost as last year.

TREASURER



KATHY A NOWAK

Thank you to all that have helped with cleaning up Vance Road and Hoosier Valley this spring. Our Township is looking better all the time, and I know we still have work to do.

Our population is growing by leaps & bounds, which is exciting and scary at the same time. With all the new businesses we will be growing even faster. This means that there will be more work to do at the Township. We ask for your patience even more than usual, so that we can still give attention to each one of you as you call or come in. We love having voice mail in our offices now; it makes it easier to get back with everyone. With everyone working together, we are able to make accomplishments in all areas around the Township.

Due to State legislation, your summer tax bill will now have 1/3 of the County tax line item that was originally all on your winter tax bill. As a result of this, your summer tax bill will be a bit higher, and your winter tax bill will be equally lower. In 2006, there will be 2/3 of the County tax on summer and 1/3 on winter. By 2007, all of the County tax line will be on your summer tax bill. Again, this is simply moving one tax item from winter tax bill to summer tax bill.

The Treasurer's office is busy keeping up with all the new growth; hooking up those who have our water, name and address changes that come in constantly, more questions on taxes, water, sewer, roads, street lights, etc. We are continuing to search for ways of improving our service and providing you with more options on things.

Blair Township has come a long way for the betterment of the community, let's keep up the good work. Thanks to all that are helping us with this.

Have a fun and safe summer & fall.

- Kathy A Nowak & Roxanne R Blackford



CLERK

BETTY A THARP

The Clerk's Office has been extremely busy with many issues. We have attended several workshops and meetings to stay up to date with the new election consolidation law, which took effect January of this year. Basically, what this means, is that Township Clerks are now in charge of school elections. The state has taken the authority from the school districts and placed all the responsibility in the hands of the city and township clerks. What this means is you will now vote for your school district where you reside at your normal Blair Township voting precinct. Ballots will be issued according to which school district you are in (Traverse City Public Schools or Kingsley Schools). If you have any questions about where you vote, check your Voter Identification Card or call the Township Clerk at 276-9263 extension 1. As we have always done in the past, Absentee Ballot Applications will be mailed out as a courtesy to anyone 60 and over. Absentee Ballots can be obtained for one of the following reasons:

I am 60 years of age or older

I expect to be absent from the community in which I am registered for the entire time the polls are open on Election Day.

I am physically unable to attend the polls without the assistance of another.

I cannot attend the polls because of the tenets of my religion.

I have been appointed an election precinct inspector in a precinct other than the precinct where I reside.

I cannot attend the polls because I am confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial.

To become a registered voter, stop by the Township Clerk's office, any Secretary of State Office, or any other designated agency, for a voter registration form. Information regarding Blair Township can be obtained online through our website at BlairTownship.org. Our schedule of meetings and agendas are also posted on this site. If you have any suggestions to improve our website please call us or send an email to BlairTwpClerk@charter.net.

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. Please have a safe and happy summer.

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

Assessing Department

Aaron G Plowman

We have finished with assessments for the 2005 year, and we are now starting to work on 2006. This means we will be out doing field work a lot this summer, so do not be surprised if we are wandering about your neighborhood.

If we are at your house, we will leave a note on your door to let you know. There is no need to call us or do any follow through, but if you have any questions, please call us at (231) 276-9263 extension 5.

Have a great summer. Keep it safe!

- Aaron G Plowman & Carrie H Bautzmann



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 sheds, decks, and fences) requires a Township Land Use Permit; there may be a fee for said permits. Please call us first at (231) 276-9263 extension 4.

Blair Township recently put into effect a new Zoning Ordinance. You can review it online at our website, www.BlairTownship.org. We appreciate all the input that we received from the community when structuring this important Ordinance.

Remember, 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 web site as it has a lot of information regarding our community. The web address is www.BlairTownship.org.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

- Marvin D Radtke Jr. and Lisa M Guerrieri

Water Department

Martin D Hisem

The third Blair Township well is online and ready for operation. This will now 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**. It is your responsibility to read them; we do not read them monthly. Reporting your meter reading every month helps to keep your bill more accurate. Feel free to call, or e-mail, in your reading so that your bill stays accurate and you do not get under or overcharged.

Do you water your lawn in the summer? Remember that a sprinkler uses 200 - 300 gallons of water per hour. Try to water early in the morning or late at night, so the water soaks into the ground and works better.



EMS Department



Daryl Case - Medical Director

With warm weather upon us, please remember to be cautious of heat related illnesses like Heat Cramps, Heat Exhaustion, and Heat Stroke. Try to stay hydrated with water and electrolyte drinks (like Gatorade), seek shade, and cool yourself with cool moist towels.

Plan ahead for family activities and outdoor work! Keep plenty of sun screen, sun block, and water on hand.

Road construction is in full swing, which adds more traffic onto our local roadways and streets. A key to safe emergency vehicle operations includes all motorists following the **Michigan Vehicle Code, Act 300 of 1949**.

257.653 Immediate approach of authorized emergency vehicle; duty of driver of another vehicle; duty of streetcar operator; violation as civil infraction.

The driver of another vehicle shall yield the right of way and shall immediately drive to a position parallel to and as close as possible to the right-hand edge or curb of the roadway, clear of an intersection, and shall stop and remain in that position until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed, except when otherwise directed by a police officer.

*** Note: This also includes moving out of the center turn lane.**

Remember you can always stop in and have your blood pressure checked for free. Have a great and safe summer.

Battalion 5 Fire Department

Gerald W Beeman Jr. - Fire Chief

Fire won't wait...PLAN your escape

Your local fire department asks that you and your family "plan your escape." In the event of a fire, your family needs a planned route of escape from your home, and a designated area where everybody meets. This meeting area should be away from any buildings, but accessible to everyone (i.e. front yard oak tree, swing set, or off road lamppost). This escape drill is recommended monthly, and it is also a great time to test your smoke detectors. Remember, fire won't wait, so **PLAN** your escape.

Have a SAFE and enjoyable summer!!



Important dates to remember:

Monday, September 12, 2005 - Red Cross & Battalion Five Blood Drive
10:00AM - 4:00PM at the Blair Township Hall

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



Deputy Sheriff

Brandon Brinks

It's summer time again, and time to start making Blair Township a cleaner place. Blair Township now has a new junk ordinance in place. If you need any information on this ordinance, or how to get rid of the extra stock piling up in your yard, please contact me at (231) 276-7641.

Also, please be patient with the Chum's Corner project going on now. We will soon have a new intersection that will help to eliminate our traffic problems at Chum's Corner. Please remember to be safe, courteous, and to DRIVE THE SPEED LIMIT, especially in construction zones.

Keep the roads safe during this time by driving responsibly. We will have to utilize a lot of different roads and some subdivisions during the Chum's Corner project. Please drive accordingly and leave for work a little early.

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!



TRUSTEE

LARRY B FLEIS

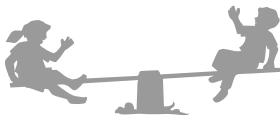
I would like to thank the residents of Blair Township from the bottom of my heart for your votes last November. I will continue to strive to do the best job possible for you.

I would like to welcome the three new trustees, Joe Lowe, Stacey Clous, and Mike Rademacher, and our new supervisor, Pat Pahl. We now have a seven member Board of Trustees instead of five as in the past, which is a result of our growing township and your votes to add two trustees.

We have been very busy working on the budget for the next fiscal year. We have also been working on the commercial sewer district, and it appears to be headed for approval.

We have several new businesses coming into the township; Menards, the Beach Bums new baseball diamond, and the Wild Buffalo Lodge, to mention a few.

If you have any comments, concerns, or issues you feel need to be addressed, please contact me at (231) 943-4074 (home) or (231) 943-4900 (work). Thanks again for your support last November.



Blair Community Playground



Have you seen the Blair Community Playground Thermometer sign on the corner of Vance Rd and County Rd 633 yet? This sign is monitoring our achievements to reaching our goal for the new playground at the Blair Township Park.

The playground will consist of play equipment for ages 2-5, 5-12, and a Fun-N-Fit area. If you would like to contribute in some way to help us reach our goal, please contact me, Brenda DeKuiper, at (231) 276-9527. We welcome any help that you, the community, can give; after all, it will be your playground.

We will be looking for helpers when it is time to install the equipment. If this is something that you would be interested in doing, please contact me at the above number, so that I can put you on a list of people to call when the time comes.

If someone hasn't knocked on your door yet, call and let me know so we can get someone to your house to collect your donation. The donations are tax deductible, and your name will go on a plaque at the entrance of the playground.

Thank you for your time and donations.

- Brenda DeKuiper

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,

E.L.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: 7:30 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 Extension 3 BlairTwpSuper@charter.net

Clerk - Betty A Tharp Extension 1 BlairTwpClerk@charter.net

Treasurer - Kathy A Nowak Extension 2 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@chartermi.net

Trustee - Michael J Rademaker (231) 943-3044