

Blair Township News

Winter 2005

Offices are Closed:

Tuesday, July 4, 2006 - Independence Day

(NOTE: The Township Hall is closed every Monday)



Memorial Day Services

Please join us at both cemeteries
on Monday, May 29, 2006.

**Thanks to all who attended our
Veterans' Day ceremonies!**

Township Board Meetings at the Township Hall

Meetings are held on the
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 PM.**



Clean Up Day

Please call us in the early spring for details on
any upcoming clean up days.

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.

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

Supervisor

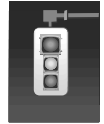
Patrick R Pahl

My first year as Supervisor has kept me very busy.

I invite all the residents to attend the monthly meetings, so that they will be informed of the issues facing the Township. If I can be of any help or answer any questions please give me a call.

The construction at Chum's Corners should be complete by November 23, 2005, according to MDOT. The traffic lights that were installed for the detour will be taken down after the project is completed. The light at Rennie School Rd and US 31 will remain for up to two weeks after the construction is completed. MDOT will then do a traffic study to see if these lights will be installed in the future.

The Sewer Project in the Commercial District is currently under way. The work from the Bridge on M-37 to Garfield Township is the first phase. The Sewer pipe will tie into a manhole just North of Meadow Lane Mobile Home Park in Garfield Township. The work on the Sewer Project will continue all winter as the weather allows.



Treasurer's Office



Kathy A Nowak, CPFA

We owe each of you a big thank you for all your cooperation, timeliness, and courtesy when you work with us. We try to take time with each of you, whether it is on the phone or in person, with whatever is necessary to assist you. We really appreciate the patience you display until we can help you.

It has been a busy and exciting year in the Treasurer's office. The new parcel splits and residential building in the area have kept us hopping on keeping up with all the changes and new information. It has been very helpful when a payment is sent in with a name or address correction on it from you. We pass along those changes to the Assessing office, and they then correct all information for future mailings.

Within the Commercial corridor, we currently have 143 parcels in the new sewer district that had assessments for a sewer special assessment. This in itself will encourage even more growth to the area in the future.

We hope your winter and spring are very good with many learning opportunities and memorable experiences.

- Kathy A Nowak, CPFA & Roxanne R Blackford



Clerk

Betty A Tharp

The Clerk's Office is very busy keeping up with the continual growth of our Township. This past summer has been our biggest challenge with the new commercial sewer district and finalizing the splitting of voting precincts.

If all is approved from the Township, County, and State Bureau of Elections, our 2 new voting precincts will be at the Grand Traverse County Fire Department Training Center on Nimrod Road. This will bring us to 4 precincts. Please don't worry about where you vote. We will be issuing new voter identification cards and doing a mailing explaining where you will vote.

With the additional precincts, Blair Township will be taking applications for election inspectors. State law requires that you must be a registered voter to be an election inspector. To fill out an application, please come to the Clerk's Office. Mandatory training is required. Election days can be very long, but they are very rewarding.

I would like to welcome any new residents to Blair Township. We are glad to have you as part of our wonderful community.

Please feel free to stop by if you have any questions. We are always here to serve. Please have a safe and warm winter.

- Betty A. Tharp / Township Clerk & Lori L. McGee / Deputy Clerk



Zoning and Planning Office

Marvin D Radtke Jr

Lisa and I do hope you had a safe and enjoyable summer. As always, it went by quickly, too quickly.

As of this writing, the Township's new Zoning Ordinance has been in effect for 5 months, and it seems to be working out better than expected. Blair Township would like to thank all of you that took the time to voice your comments at the meetings when we were revising the Zoning Ordinance. You can view the finished document on Blair Township's web site at www.BlairTownship.org.

Enjoy the winter wonderland that this area has to offer. Be safe at home, in the car, and everywhere you go.

- Marvin D Radtke Jr & Lisa M Guerrieri



Assessing Department

Aaron G Plowman

Just a little reminder, in mid February, your **2006 assessment change notices** will be in the mail. Please review the notice, and if you find what you think is an error, mark your calendar for March Board of Review so you may appeal and have any problems taken care of at that time.

If you would like an estimate for your 2006 taxes, please give us a call after the middle of March 2006; we should know the millage for the township by then.

Have a safe and wonderful winter season. We will be out in the spring inspecting property again!
Aaron G Plowman & Carrie H Bautzmann



Cemetery News

Maple Grove Cemetery

Monroe Center Cemetery

Operated by the Township of Blair

Blair Township would like to remind you that Maple Grove and Monroe Center Cemeteries are maintained by the Township. Cemetery plots are \$150 for residents and \$450 for non-residents. All cemetery handlings are done through the Township Clerk's Office.

Hours of Visitation: Dawn to Dusk

In the interest of maintaining the appearance and use of the Cemetery, the following practices are strictly prohibited unless permission is received from the Township:

- The planting of any plants, trees, shrubs, flowers, or vegetation of any type
- The grading, leveling, or excavating upon a burial site

The following shall be strictly prohibited—no exceptions:

- Mounds or displays that interfere with mowing or maintenance
- Any surface other than sod or earth on burial sites
- Unauthorized burials

The Township shall have the right to trim or remove any trees, shrubs, or plants located within the cemetery. The Township shall have the right to remove and dispose of any and all growth, emblems, displays, or containers that have become unsightly or that interfere with maintaining the proper appearance or use of the cemetery.



Water Department

Martin D Hisem

On October 19, 2005, the Blair Township Water Tower was cleaned and inspected. After all test results came back clean, it was put back into service on Sunday, October 23rd.

Crimson Ranch, South of Blair Townhall Rd, and the 2nd phase of Northern Estates, South of Vance Rd, are 2 of the developments currently going on in Blair Township, with a 3rd new development soon to begin.

Have a great and safe winter season!

New Blair Township Community Police Officer

We would like to welcome our new Blair Township Sheriff's Deputy, Mike Opper. He's been doing a great job so far and we are glad to have him.



Sheriff's Deputy



Mike Opper

Hello! I would like to introduce myself; I am Deputy Opper with the Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Department. Please feel free to stop in and see me if I'm here. You can also call me at (231) 276-7641 if you have any issues or questions.

Thank you to all who have helped to get my job here off to a good start. I appreciate all the tips and suggestions from the residents. I also look forward to working with friends and co-workers on the Fire and EMS departments.

The holiday season is upon us, so please remember to be responsible for a safe and memorable winter. Have a great winter season!

Report Crimes Anonymously!

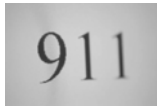
Call the Grand Traverse Silent Observer at 947-TIPS (8477) if you have any information on a crime. They offer rewards of up to \$2,500!



Change of Chiefs



Chief Gerry Beeman has retired as the Battalion 5 Fire Chief. We wish him well in his retirement. Jim Carroll is now our new Battalion 5 Fire Chief. We welcome him and wish him well in his new position.



EMS Department

Daryl Case - Medical Director / Paramedic Assistant Battalion Chief

Reminder: 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. Also, keep address numbers clear, so that we are able to find your home quickly.

Starting January 2, 2006, Grand Traverse Central Dispatch (911) will be utilizing "Prioritized Dispatch" for Emergency Medical Services. Dispatchers will be obtaining more information from callers to make sure that the appropriate resources are sent. 911 Dispatchers will also be giving pre-arrival instructions to the callers: i.e. instructions to control bleeding, the steps of CPR, etc. Prioritized dispatching also means that EMS/Fire units will not be responding with their lights and sirens on to all emergencies.

Feel free to stop into the station for a Blood Pressure check and to meet the staff. Have a warm and safe winter!



Battalion 5 Fire Department

James Carroll - Fire Chief

Your former Fire Chief, Gerry Beeman, retired from service in June of 2005, and I was asked to take his place. This decision was easy to make, because Mr. Beeman worked very hard to make a great station for me to inherit. We wish him well in his retirement, and we know his children and grandchildren will receive the greatest benefit; they will get to spend more time with him.

Fire prevention week has come and gone. The theme this year was Candle Fire Safety. The number of fatal fires throughout the nation is on the decline, but the number of candle caused fires is increasing. I teach children that lighters, matches, and candles are not toys—they are tools to be used by adults; all three should be kept out of their reach (you know the old saying: "out of sight, out of mind"). Candles remain safe and beneficial when we remain with them, but the second we leave them alone they can create bad fires and cause devastation.

Also, with the season change comes the need for heating devices. Several fires in the area have been attributed to clamp lamp fixtures and heat lamps. Please follow the manufacturers' directions, use Underwriters Laboratory listed devices, use the proper bulbs for the fixtures, and keep flammables and combustibles away from any heat source.

Our phones and doors are open to you. Please pay a visit or call me at (231) 276-6341 with any questions or concerns.

Blair Community Playground Update

Hello everyone! I just wanted to give you an update so far on contributions for our new proposed playground. Contributions are as follows:

Businesses	\$2,700.00
Individuals	\$30.00
Foundations and/or Funds	\$2,000.00
Fundraisers/Bake Sale	\$295.00
TOTAL	\$5,025.00



There are foundation grants that we have submitted applications for and are waiting to hear if we will be awarded any monies or not. We will be submitting to other foundations when they are accepting applications.

I am talking with area schools about a pop can/bottle drive as a fundraiser. This will get the children involved with the project and, I am hoping, a great number of parents and other family members.

We are trying to raise \$37,000.00 by December 31, 2005, so the estimate that we were given for the equipment will be good through 2006. We all know how the petroleum has been going up and these costs will affect the pricing of the playground equipment as well as the cost for delivering it. If we can get each resident to give a minimum of \$10.00 and a business to donate a minimum of \$100.00, we would probably be able to put all of the equipment in next year; wouldn't that be *awesome!* These donations are tax deductible, and you will be recognized for your contribution by having your name placed on a plaque at the park. Remember, you can't put a price tag on a child's smile and laughter.

I cannot stress enough how important this project is for this community. It will give all children and residents in the area a safe and fun place to play. Please help; we need your contributions.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation, you can make the check payable to Blair Township, with a note in the memo that it is for the playground equipment, and send it to: Blair Township Hall, 2121 County Rd 633, Grawn, MI 49637. You can also stop in at the Township Hall and make a donation, where you can see a picture of the playground that your donation will be helping to build. If you have any questions, or if you would like to help in any way, please feel free to contact Brenda DeKuiper at (231) 276-9527 or Betty Tharp at (231) 276-9263 ext. 100.

I would also like to give a big THANK YOU to all of those who have helped with the project so far—monetarily or with their time.

Brenda DeKuiper, Playground Chairperson

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, or more information, please call one of the following:

TCAPS: (231) 933-8995

DHS: (231) 941-3900

Commission on Aging: (231) 922-4688

Township Hall

Adult **GED** classes offered!

Call Michigan Works Learning Lab at (231) 922-3761 for more information.



New Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit



The new benefit will be available on January 1, 2006. Enrollment starts November 15, 2005.

For more information please contact a Social Security Representative.

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 AM - 6:00 PM *******

(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

ext. 3

BlairTwpSuper@charter.net

Clerk - Betty A Tharp

ext. 1

BlairTwpClerk@charter.net

Treasurer - Kathy A Nowak

ext. 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@charter.net

Trustee - Michael J Rademaker

(231) 943-3044