

Blair Township News

Summer 2006

Offices Are Closed:

Tuesday, July 4, 2006 - Independence Day
(NOTE: The Township Hall is closed every Monday)

Township Board Meetings at the Township Hall

2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:00PM
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
Saturday, November 11, 2006.

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,
we will improve our lives, families, and our homes.

"TEAM" = Together Everyone Achieves More

SUPERVISOR

PATRICK R PAHL

E-mail: BlairTwpSuper@charter.net

Chum's Corners is in the mist of a big construction boom. The sewer work is continuing, and the first phase is set to be on line in May. I know this is a big inconvenience to the many businesses that are affected by this construction and I hope to keep it to a minimum. All driveways will be kept open so traffic can enter and exit.

The Township would like to welcome Northwestern Bank & Trust, Walgreens, and Wuerfel Park. We are all excited about the opening of Wuerfel Park. Northwestern Bank & Trust is moving from Glen's Market to a new building across the street.

The Township sent out postcards to let the residents know that we are exploring the option of leaving the Rural Fire Division and owning our own Fire Equipment. If this happens, you will not notice any disruptions in service, and there will not be any more cost to the residents.

We are currently paying the Rural Fire Division \$183,000 a year and the cost keeps going up. I believe we can get the same, or better, equipment to help our firefighters do their jobs and keep the decisions at the Township level.

I hope all the Township Residents have a great summer and I'll see you at the Ballpark!

We wish to welcome John Leithauser to Blair Township as our new Zoning Administrator.

He started in May of 2006.

EMS Department

Daryl Case - Medical Director

Hello to everyone. With the warm weather upon us and seeing numerous kids out riding their bikes and roller blading on the shoulder of the roadways, I would like to remind everyone of the beautiful Township Park that we have here in our Township. There is a paved walking path that kids can walk, run, roller blade or bike on. The path is almost exactly 3/4 of a mile long. As EMS providers we love to see the Park being utilized rather than the roadways.

Safety, Safety, Safety.... and let's not forget our helmets.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind parents, as well as children, to practice water safety techniques at all times when around lakes, rivers, and swimming pools. Never leave children unattended around open water no matter what the depth is. Make sure life preservers are worn at all times with people who are unable to swim.

Thanks to all of you who continue to support the Blair Township EMS Department I appreciate it as does the entire staff here.

Please feel free to stop in and have your blood pressure checked, meet the staff, or look at our equipment.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.



CLERK

BETTY A THARP

E-mail: BlairTwpClerk@charter.net

We are pleased to announce that the splitting of 2 voting precincts into 4 is now complete. All registered voters, in late December or early January, were mailed a letter with new voter identification cards. If you did not receive notice back in December/January please contact our office and we will get that information for you. Some of you may be voting now in a different location while some others were not affected. Upon Election Day if you cannot remember where you will vote please remember that your voter identification card has all that information on it. It tells you where to vote, the precinct you're in, your Township, County you reside, US Congressional District, State Senate, State Rep., County Commissioner number, and what school district you vote in. Please keep in mind you will vote in the same polling location address on your card for all elections unless you move. You may also obtain voting information on the State of Michigan website at: www.michigan.gov/sos

The splitting of precincts was a major undertaking for our office. We are very pleased to have taken part in such an event. This is a huge transition for us as well. Together we can all make this work efficiently for Blair Township. We appreciate your help and cooperation in this exciting time for Blair.

The Township is still looking for additional election workers. If you are interested please stop by our office and obtain an application. The application can also be obtained on our website at: www.BlairTownship.org.

This year there will be an August Primary Election on August 8th and the General Election is on November 7th. If you want to vote and are not registered state law requires you must be registered 30 days prior to an election. You may register at the Clerk's Office, any Secretary of State Office, by mail or any other designated voter registration agency.

Please call us with any comments or concerns you may have. Please have a safe and happy summer.

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



TREASURER

KATHY A NOWAK

E-mail: BlairTwpTreas@charter.net

Your summer tax bill now contains 2/3 of the County portion of the taxes, and your winter bill will have 1/3 of the County portion. This **does** make your summer tax bill higher, and your winter tax bill will be **reduced**.

For tax deferments, the annual income limit has been raised to \$35,000.00 from \$25,000.00. Poverty guidelines for the state have been raised as well, depending on the number living in your home.

We are all excited about the Ball Park and are looking forward to the games starting in May. Sewer will be an operating system in May as well.

We officially have a DHS office at Blair Elementary School now. If you need any help for you or your family, Melinda Gubbins is the Family Resource Advocate for the Blair community. She is a State of Michigan Department of Human Services employee whose office is located at Blair Elementary School. She can be reached at (231) 933-6487.

Any questions or comments at any time can be left on our voice mail and we will get back with you when we are in the office. You can also e-mail us with questions or comments too at any time. We would rather have you question us then guess or not know.

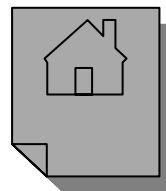
Your summer and fall are meant to be enjoyed....so do it!

- Kathy A Nowak & Roxanne R Blackford

Assessing Department

Summer is arriving!!!!

Greetings from the Assessing Department.



Aaron G Plowman

We are starting field work again for the 2007 assessment year. You may see the Assessing Department at your property for new pictures and updates to your property.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer season.

- Aaron G Plowman & Carrie H Bautzmann

Zoning Administrator

John A Leithauser

E-mail: BlairTwpZA@charter.net

Hi. My name is John Leithauser, and I am the new Blair Township Zoning Administrator. Give me a call with any of your zoning needs!

The Blair Library Task Force is Alive and Kicking

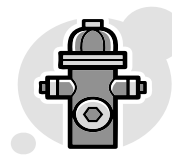


We are an excited, active group! We're proceeding and progressing. There will be a Traverse Area District Library, Blair Branch Library!



Watch for coming events and information. This is an exciting time for us. Once we build the building, we will be bringing our library property tax dollars back to work in our own Blair Branch Library.

If you have any questions please call
Dorothy Biegler Library Task Force Chair @ (231) 276-9816.



TRUSTEE

LARRY B FLEIS

Hi folks,

We have been busy working on next year's budget and will be adopting it at our June meeting. The commercial sewer project is on schedule and will be a welcome addition to the township services. We also are studying the idea of returning to having our own Fire Department instead of being involved with Rural Fire. Much work has to be done on this yet. It appears at this time, that there will be substantial savings with improved services. I would like to thank staff at the township, fire department and EMS for the good jobs that they are doing. I appreciate the opportunity to serve the residents of Blair Township. If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at 943-4074.

Sincerely, Larry B. Fleis

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/Individuals	\$6,707.72
*Cherryland Community Caring Fund	\$2,000.00
*Ronald McDonald House Charities	\$10,000.00
Of Outstate Michigan	
*Rotary Charities of Traverse City	\$30,000.00
*Fundraisers/Bake Sale	\$295.00
*Can & Bottle Drives	\$290.71
*Blair & Silver Lake Elementary Coin Drives	\$798.57
*Pantry Shelf Donation Jar	\$110.50
*Baby Reds BBQ Donation Jar	\$55.90
*Blair Elementary PTO	\$300.00
TOTAL	\$50,558.40

Well, as you can see we have had some very generous contributions to our Playground Fund Drive. I would like to express my heart-felt gratitude to all that have given to this project, whether it be in loose change or sizeable grants, it is sincerely appreciated. We will be continuing our Can/Bottle Drives through the summer. You can drop off your cans and/or bottles at the Blair Township Hall Between 9 AM and Noon on June 24, July 22, and August 19. Thank you again for your support.

So, guess what, **WE HAVE THE MONEY FOR THE FIRST PHASE!** We anticipate that we will be putting the 2-5 Year Old Play Structure in sometime mid to end of July. We will need volunteers to help in the construction of the equipment when that time comes. Please call one of the numbers below if you would like to help.

If you would like to make a tax Deductible donation, you can make the check payable to Blair Township, with a note by memo that it is for the playground equipment and send it to: Blair Township Hall, 2121 County Road 633, Grawn, MI 49637. These donations are tax deductible and you will be recognized for your contribution on a plaque at the park. Remember, you can't put a price tag on a child's smile and laughter. You can also stop in at the Township Hall and make a donation and see a picture of the playground that your donation will be helping to build. If you have any questions or 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.

TOGETHER WE CAN BUILD IT!

Brenda DeKuiper, Playground Chairperson

Battalion 5 Fire Department

James Carroll - Fire Chief

Extreme Spring Fire Danger

It is that time again where the dry weather and the lack of significant snowfall last winter have made extreme fire danger conditions. Please remember that a permit is required for any open burning such as brush and yard clippings. It is illegal to burn ANY manmade materials such as cut lumber, plywood or OSB sheeting, metal spray cans or paint cans, or any other building materials. A good resource to use when considering campfires and burn barrels is the DNR burn permit hotline. That number is 231-922-5328. Call that number after 9:30 am to learn whether they are issuing permits for that day. If they are not, it isn't a good time for campfires or burn barrels. If permits are being issued, they are only good for one day and you must call each day you intend to burn. Call the station to find out more on how to build a proper and safe campfire or burn barrel.

The fire calls in the last quarter, January thru March 2006, were down slightly from this time last year. Please keep up the good work of fire prevention!

Please feel free to stop by or call us if you have any questions or concerns. We are always available to help. 231-276-6341. Have a safe and wonderful summer!



Sheriff's Deputy

Mike Opper

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. 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. Please drive accordingly and leave for work a little early if necessary.

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!





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,

D.H.S. (at Blair Elementary): (231) 933-6487,

Commission on Aging: (231) 922-4683, or the Township Hall to find out more!

Adult **GED** classes offered!

Call Michigan Works Learning Lab

@ (231) 922-3761 for more information.

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.

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

FMS: (231) 276-9354

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