



BLAIR TOWNSHIP

website: www.blairtownship.org

Spring Newsletter 2008

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Marilyn Fleis	Supervisor
Betty a. Tharp	Clerk
Brenda DeKuiper	Treasurer
Stacey Clous	Trustee
Mike Rademaker	Trustee
Roger Zeits	Trustee
Joe Lowe	Trustee

MEETINGS

Township Board
2nd Tuesday of every month at 6:00 pm (except July 2:00 pm)

Planning Commission
1st Wednesday of every month at 6:00 pm

Zoning Board of Appeals
2nd Wednesday of every month at 6:00 pm

ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday - Friday
7:30 am - 6:00 pm

Closed
Mondays & Weekends

TOWNSHIP STAFF

Lori L. McGee	Deputy Clerk
Lynette Ferman	Deputy Treasurer
Aaron Flouman	Assessor
Carrie Bautzmann	Assessing Secretary
Marvel Mallory	Field Assessor
Sara Kopriva	Zoning Administrator
Lisa Guerierra	Water /Zoning Asst.
Carl Bearinger	Maintenance
Daryl Case	Medical Director
Jim Carroll	Fire Chief

BLAIR TOWNSHIP NEWS

Blair Township Happenings



Meeting our needs

Here we go again for another exciting summer season of serving the community. All township departments are gearing up for a busy season issuing building permits, water and sewer hook-ups, field work for 2009 assessments, collecting taxes, conducting the Presidential Primary and General Elections, providing Medical, Fire and Police Protection Services for our residents and so much more. Our office staff is here to serve you and answer any of your questions.

If you have stopped by the township recently you may have noticed many new improvements. The township offices are being given a facelift and some have relocated to different rooms in the building. The changes have given certain departments much needed space and a better functioning environment.

We also would like to mention that you may have noticed inmates from the Grand Traverse County Jail working on the township grounds including the park, township hall and grounds, and cemeteries for the last few years. The township is in agreement with the county Sheriff's Dept. to utilize this free manpower to help out in much needed areas. The inmates are not a threat to society and are given work release from the county jail to come here and work in our community for free. They work with limited supervision and have proven to be a huge asset for the community. They are happy to be able to work off their time in jail doing hard work here during the week. Most have been convicted of drunk driving convictions. The township will in no way nor the Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Dept. would release and place dangerous criminals amongst our residents. The inmates have helped in remodeling the township offices, constructing the playground, mowing the grass, etc.

Money is continuing to be raised to complete the 2nd phase of the new playground structure in the township park. We have many citizens who have volunteered many hours assembling and putting together the playground structures. What a great community we have with so much to offer. Not only do we have a huge variety of businesses we also have many caring citizens. Consider enjoying some outdoor recreation this summer and take your family on a picnic outing and enjoy the rivers, lakes and wildlife that is so abundant to our area. Make it a day and take the kids to the new township playground which is also handicap accessible. Blair Township's handicap accessible playground is the only one north of Grand Rapids. Enjoy a family picnic in the park or if you have a large family gathering consider renting the Pavilion.

Have a fun and safe summer.

PAVILION RENTAL

The Pavilion in the Blair Township Park is available for rental through the Township Treasurers Office. The cost of the rental is \$50 and a \$25 deposit. The deposit is refundable. Tables, restrooms and electricity are available in the Pavilion. If you would like to rent the Pavilion please call the Treasurer's Office at 276-9263 ext. 2 .

DUST CONTROL

April showers bring May flowers, but where are the showers? While waiting for the rains to come (and they will come), gravel roads are becoming dry. Dust control will begin in Grand Traverse County in the second half of May, with the second application due in early to mid-August. With township approval and financial participation, all gravel non-seasonal county roads will receive dust control.

CAMPFIRE & OUT DOOR BURN PERMITS

Campfires



Always follow safe campfire practices to prevent them from starting a wildfire. Remember, you can be held responsible for the cost of putting the fire out if it escapes and for any property damage.

Burn Permits

Open burning permits are required by law to burn natural materials whenever the ground is not snow covered. Permits are issued for grass clippings, brush, stumps, and other natural materials of any kind may not be burned under this permit system. To obtain burning permits:

Web site:
WWW.michigan.gov/burnpermit

Toll Free: 866-922-2876 or
866-922-BURN

Burn permits are NOT required:

- Cooking or recreational campfires
- Anytime there is continuous snow cover adjacent to your fire

**Brush Drop-off
Site is Open**

Located at 2571 N. Keystone Rd., 1/2 mile south of S. Airport Rd. This increasingly popular site is open on Tuesday from noon to 7 PM, Thursday and Saturday, 9-3 PM. Acceptable materials include: brush, branches, grass clippings, leaves-\$5.00/cubic yard or \$1.00/bag. Untreated construction wood-\$8.00 cubic yard, Pallets-\$1.00 each, stumps .50/inch diameter up to 24".



Traverse City Senior Center

If you are 50 years and over you can join the Senior Center at a reduced membership if you are a Blair Township resident only \$15 annually. Contact: 922-4911

TOWNSHIP CEMETERIES

Please follow the posted Cemetery Rules with respect to flower, shrub or tree planting. We would appreciate your observance of these rules.

RIDE B.A.T.A.

Consider BATA, the Bay Area Transportation Authority. BATA is a two-county authority, serving Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties 365 days a year, providing mobility throughout the area and to Grand Traverse County's regional center for employment, education, services and retailing.

HOURS: Mon-Fri 6am to 6 pm
Regular \$2.00

THE FATE OF THE BOARDMAN RIVER DAMS

**Boardman River Dams
Project Mission:**

"To engage all interests in assessing and recommending the fate of the dams ...based upon a thorough analysis of options, including long and short-term economic, social, environmental, aesthetic, transportation and ecological impacts upon the community, individuals and riparian owners."

The Boardman River Dams Project engages all interests to recommend the fate of four dams (e.g. retain, remove, modify, etc.) on the Boardman River in Grand Traverse and Kalkaska counties. The Project is entering its final year, and the Committee will be requiring input from as many community members as possible for its recommendation to be completed by December 2008. This is an extremely important issue that will have great effects throughout the entire area. The Boardman River Dams Committee meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month from 6:00 until 8:00 pm at the Grand Traverse County Civic Center; everyone is welcome to attend.

For more information and to get involved in the Boardman River Dams Project, please visit www.theboardman.org

EMS DEPARTMENT

The summer months brings out more people trying to stay fit and enjoying the weather. Please watch out for pedestrians, bicyclists as well as children playing and don't forget about our beautiful Township Park that offers a paved walking and biking path, ball fields, playground, basketball courts, tennis courts and pavilion.

The EMS department has welcomed some new members recently and we are preparing for a busy summer, we are also training on new equipment purchased including CPAP and EZ IO.

Have a fun and safe summer. Make sure to stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water. Always wear your protective safety gear when biking, rollerblading or skate boarding. Wear your life jacket when boating and don't leave children unattended near the water.

The EMS Millage renewal proposal is on the ballot for the November General Election, this is the 3rd renewal of the EMS millage that was approved in 1996 to establish and support the Advanced Life Support (Paramedic) services.

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

Daryl Case – Medical Director

SERVICES FOR SENIORS

An informational free of charge publication is available to residents 60 years and over at the township clerk's office. Residents may call or stop by our office during normal business hours to obtain this publication. Inside this publication includes areas covered from taxation issues and tax credits, medicaid and medicare, nursing homes and other long-term care options, consumer protection, housing, transportation, employment, and senior discount programs. The booklet also contains a list of agencies that serve as focal points for community services and programs for senior citizens. The information provided was prepared by the Michigan Legislature and is free to Michigan citizens. Please call Lori in the clerk's office at 276-9263 ext. #1 or stop by to obtain your free copy.

BATTALION 5 FIRE DEPARTMENT

We are well into summer. Thankfully, our wildfire season was short this year with the cooler weather and moist spring. The danger is still present whenever we have periods with no rain. A great guide as to whether you should have that campfire is the DNR burn permit line. If the danger is high, they will not be issuing permits. It may be wise to consider not having the campfire until conditions improve.

Our smoke detectors are often "out of sight, out of mind." One way to remember to test them once a month and change the batteries twice a year is to use your calendar. Pick the same day each month and mark it as a "test" day. Pick two dates six months apart and mark them as "change" days. This will help you remember to maintain your most valuable safety device. If you decide to buy new detectors, find the photoelectric style, they detect most fires sooner.

Please remember, it is always safer to wear helmets when using bicycles, skates, roller blades, and scooters. It doesn't take great force to do great damage. Another safety recommendation is to wear bright, reflective clothing when cycling or walking. It is very difficult to see a pedestrian or cyclist on a dark and/or rainy night without bright or reflective clothing.

If you ever have any questions, please call the station at 231-276-6341 or stop by, we would be very happy to be of service.

Please be safe! Chief Jim Carroll



RECYCLE HOTLINE

231-941-5555

The new drop-off recycling site is now open at 3770 Blair Townhall Rd nearby the Northwestern MI Fairgrounds. The site is open 24/7 and is part of the other 7 drop-off sites located throughout Grand Traverse County. A list of accepted and non-acceptable items is available at the Township Office.



Household Hazardous Waste

The next Household Hazardous Waste and Electronic Waste collection for Grand Traverse County will be Thursday, July 31 2008 from 1-7 pm. Appointments are required and will begin being accepted on June 30. If you would like to dispose of materials at our collection, you will need to schedule an appointment beginning June 30, 2008, by completing the on-line appointment form or calling the Recycle Hotline at 941.5555. Appointments do fill quickly.

IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES

July 7, 2008	Last Day to register for August Primary
Aug 5, 2008	State Primary Election
Oct 6, 2008	Last Day to register for Nov General Election
Nov 4, 2008	State General Election

NEW STATE LAW

NEW STATE LAW now requires proof of ID prior to voting at the polls. The following are acceptable:

- Drivers License
- Federal or State Government-Issued Photo ID
- U.S. Passport
- Military ID Card with photo
- Student ID with photo
- Tribal ID card with photo

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Absentee Ballot Applications are available from the Clerk's Office or the Township website at www.blairtownship.org

A recent challenge to MCL 168.759 in Detroit, at the Court of Appeals level, has resulted in an interpretation which no longer will allow us to automatically send Absentee Voter Ballot Applications to those 60 + years of age. If you would like to be on our list

Trustee Zeits

It seemed like an extraordinary long cold winter as well as a typical Michigan April and May. Temperatures have stretched from pleasant highs to brisk lows. Hopefully our weather will even out now so our residents can get outside and enjoy this beautiful area.

Best wishes to all Blair Township residents in the hope for an active and enjoyable spring/summer with family and friends.

Trustee, Roger Zeits

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Lori L. McGee, Deputy Clerk
deputyclerk@blairtownship.org

What Do You Think ?

We want to make this newsletter as informative as possible. Please let us know what information you would like to see included. You may provide your comments by sending an e-mail to:

DeputyClerk@blairtownship.org

or by calling Lori McGee in the Clerk's Office at 231-276-9263 ext. 1.

Digital Television Transition

Concerned about your TV and the change in 2009 to digital broadcasting?

On February 17, 2009 all full power transmitters for analog signals will be shut down in the United States. If you have a paid service for your TV you really don't have to worry. But, if you use an antenna or rabbit ears to get your signal over the airways you will need to get a converter box if you want to keep your TV.

Currently the Federal Government is providing \$40.00 coupons to those households who wish to purchase a converter. To get your coupon you can call 1-800-388-2009 or visit the website <http://dtv2009.gov>.

WELCOME

A big welcome to new businesses opened since January 2008 in Blair Township.

Coffee Bean Cafe
3985 Beitner Rd

Great Lakes Pet Memorial
1783 Perry's Loop

Jet's Pizza
3985 Beitner Rd

Wilderness Crossings
1355 Silver Lake Crossings Blvd

Zeroed In
1299 Silver Lake Crossings Blvd

The Top Ten Business S.E.V. Taxpayers in the Township in NO particular order

- 1) Menards
- 2) Cherryland Electric Coop
- 3) Directional Drilling
- 4) MichCon
- 5) H. Cox & Son Inc.
- 6) Walgreens
- 7) Wuerfel Sports Development LLC)
- 8) U.B.C.
- 9) Glens Market
- 10) State of Michigan

SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

Hello to everyone. Things are going quite well here at the Township. The playground is almost complete thanks to a small group of people who have volunteered. We are happy to see the park getting so much use now. There are lots of walkers on the walking trail. Please remember that dogs are welcome as long as they are on a leash and you bring a bag to clean up if they leave any droppings. One sad thing is that there has been some vandalism in the park. We would like to see an end to this. We are looking forward to a productive summer. I hope you can enjoy the good weather. If you have any concerns please feel free to call me here at the Township 276-9263 ext. 3 or my home 943-4074.

Marilyn A. Fleis, Township Supervisor

TREASURER'S OFFICE

We hope everyone survived the long, hard winter and are ready to enjoy the summer. We have been busy preparing the tax bills, closing out the fiscal year, and installing the surfacing on the 2nd phase of the playground. We had many inquiries this spring regarding "Spring Clean-up". Because of the cuts in revenue sharing, due to the state's economy, the township has not held a "Clean-up" day in recent years. If you would like to know more about revenue sharing, please go to our website, www.blairtownship.org and click on the treasurer's link.

If you are 62 years of age or older, you may be eligible to defer your summer taxes. If you did not receive a deferment application with your tax bill and would like to find out if you are eligible, our website also has information about this. You may also print the deferment application from the website. If you do not have internet access, please call us.

*Just a reminder –Yearly Water Assessment installment was due without penalty June 30, 2008. If you have not paid your yearly installment, 1% penalty will apply for July and August. If installment remains unpaid as of September 1, 2008 a 6% penalty applies. As of November 1, 2008, any unpaid installments, including interest and penalties will be rolled onto the winter tax bill.

Brenda DeKuiper
Treasurer

Lynette Ferman
Deputy Treasurer

ZONING OFFICE

Now that the weather has warmed up building projects will begin. Remember that all structures need a land use permit. This includes all decks, sheds, garages, porches and fences. The land use permit application is available on the Planning and Zoning page of the website, www.blairtownship.org, or in the office. If you have any questions about permits or zoning, feel free to contact the zoning office at 231.276.9263 ext. 4.

Sara Kopriva, Zoning Administrator

CLERK'S OFFICE

We are gearing up for a very busy year for elections. Please make sure you are registered to vote in Blair Township if you haven't already. Michigan Election Law stipulates you must be a registered voter 30 days prior to an election in order to vote. Our office is here to serve you or you may register at any designated state agency. You can find a link online through the clerk's webpage to register and fill out and return to our office.

Our office recently was remodeled and moved into the old zoning office. We have more room for keeping records and we are using the old assessing office as our storage area for election equipment and supplies.

We have added a new friendly face to our office as well. Please stop in and welcome Iva Lewis. Iva is doing voter registrations and also learning about election laws to assist on election days. Iva has been a life long resident of Blair Township and we are proud to have her on board.

If you will be out of town during the Primary or General Election you may request an absentee application for ballot. It can be obtained through our office or online. Have a wonderful summer !

Betty A. Tharp, Clerk

Lori L. McGee, Deputy Clerk

Iva Lewis, Election Assistant

ASSESSING OFFICE

Summer is here !!!

Greetings from the Assessing Department. The Assessing Department is starting field work for the 2009 Assessment Year. You may see personnel from the Assessing Department at your property for new pictures and updates to your property. If you have any questions or concerns, please call (231) 276-9263 ext. 5 for the Assessing Department. Have a safe and enjoyable summer season.

Aaron G. Plowman, Assessor

Carrrie H. Bautzmann, Secretary

Marvel J. Mallory, Field Work Inspector

PLAYGROUND UPDATE

We hope everyone has had a chance to check out and enjoy the new playground structure at the Blair Township Park on the corner of Vance Road and County Road 633. It is handicap accessible and has a lot to do on it. Remember, there is also a tennis court, basketball court, ¾ mile paved pathway; four ball diamonds and a pavilion with bathrooms.

We are still planning to add more to the playground. We want to add a Fun and Fit area, which is climbing and overhead things and also a Sway Fun Glider, which is a totally inclusive glider for all ages and abilities. We need to continue to receive donations from you in order to do these though. If you and your children have been enjoying the playground please consider giving to this project so we can continue to improve and add more things for the children to grow physically and socially.

You can send your tax deductible donation to:

Blair Township

2121 County Road 633- Grawn, MI 49637

In the memo line please put for playground project.

If you have any questions please give me a call at, 276-9263 ext. 102, or e-mail me at, treasurer@blairtownship.org.

Brenda DeKuiper

Township Treasurer & Playground Chairperson