



TOWNSHIP TWITTER

Blair Township Winter 2009

MEMO

We now accept credit and debit cards for the payment of taxes, water bills, water and sewer assessments, and EMS bills. You can go to our website, www.blairtownship.org, come into the office, or call us with your credit card information and we will process your payment.

There is a convenience fee that will show up as a separate line item on your statement. The fee is 2.5% of the total transaction for property tax payments, and 3% of the total transaction for all other bills. If you have any questions regarding this new service, please call Lynette or Brenda in the Treasurer's Office, ext 2.



FAMILY FUN DAY

The 4th Annual Family Fun Day and Connecting People with Resources and Information was a huge success. The weather was great, the food was delicious, the music was wonderful, and there was something for everyone to do. We would again like to thank the area



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

SUPERVISOR:

Patrick Pahl

CLERK:

Betty Tharp

CLERK:

Betty Tharp

TREASURER:

Brenda DeKuiper

TRUSTEES:

Stacey Clous

Joe Lowe

Mike Rademaker

Roger Zeits

TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETS
THE SECOND TUESDAY OF
THE MONTH AT 6:00 PM

PUBLIC WELCOME

TOWNSHIP STAFF

Emily Weller	<i>Deputy Clerk</i>
Iva Lewis	<i>Election Assistant</i>
Lynette Ferman	<i>Deputy Treasurer</i>
Aaron Plowman	<i>Assessor</i>
Marvel Mallory	<i>Assessing Assistant</i>
Sara Kopriva	<i>Zoning Administrator</i>
Lisa Guerrieri	<i>Water Coordinator</i>
Carl Bearinger	<i>Maintenance</i>
Daryl Case	<i>Medical Director</i>
Jim Carroll	<i>Fire Chief</i>

everyone to do. We would again like to thank the area businesses for their donations, the volunteers for their help, the agencies for representation, and everyone for attending. We are already starting to plan for next year's event which will be held on Saturday, September 11, so write the date on your calendar and plan to attend. We are always in need of donations and volunteers, so if you are interested please give us a call at 276-9263 ext. 2.



JOUSTING ARENA

THE FAMILY FUN DAY COMMITTEE



**DON'T DROP
THE WATER BALLOON!**

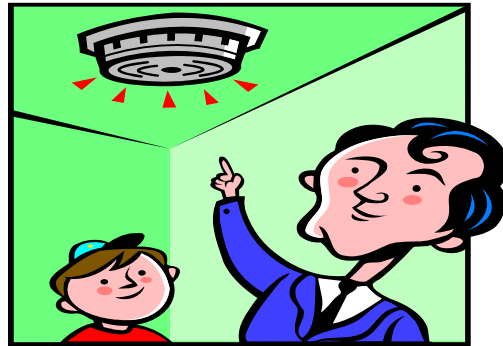


2121 County Rd. 633 Grawn, MI 49637 Phone: 231-276-9263 web address: www.blairtownship.org

BLAIR LIBRARY COMMITTEE PLANNING 2ND USED BOOK SALE

The Blair Library Committee's Used Book Sale, held under one the tents at the September 12th Family Fun Day at the township park, sold over \$430.00 in books, CD's and movies. The committee is again collecting all kinds of books, good used audio books, VHS movies, DVD's and music CD's for next year's sale. Proceeds will go toward the library building fund. You may drop off any of the above items at either of two sites: the entryway of the Blair Township Hall, or at Lark Lawn & Garden, Inc. at the corner of M-37 and Norton Rd. Watch for the box marked "Blair

FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT



Hello from your Blair Township Fire Department. You may be aware of the efforts by some fire sprinkler coalitions and fire departments to require fire sprinklers in new homes. Those in favor of this initiative cite the life safety benefits of fire sprinklers. The average home owner will not likely have a house fire in their lifetime. The average fire fighter will experience many, many house fires in their career so the safety of the lives of fire fighters is also at stake. Those in opposition cite the cost as one of the reasons they should not be required. They state that smoke detectors save more lives than fire sprinklers. Whether this

ZONING DEPARTMENT

The Planning Commission has finished updating the Master Plan and the approved document is available on the Township Website. Although building has halted for the winter months, remember to get a land use permit for all your spring and summer projects. All decks, sheds and fences need permits no matter what size and even if they do not require a County Building Permit. Applications are available in the office or on the website.

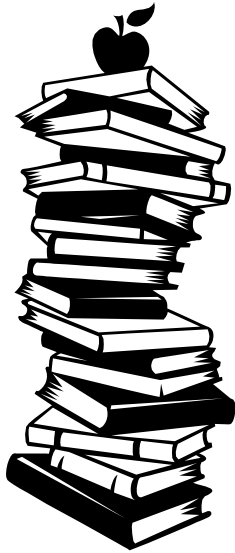
Sara Kopriva

Zoning Administrator ext. 4

Welcome

corner of M-37 and Norton Rd.
Watch for the box marked "Blair
Library Donations". Thank you
in advance for your donation.
For more information call
Dorothy Beigler at 231-276-9816.

Gloria VanHoose, Secretary
Blair Library Committee



reasons they should not be required. They state that smoke detectors save more lives than fire sprinklers. Whether this initiative someday becomes a reality or not, smoke detectors do save lives but only if they are working. So please, give yourselves the maximum protection readily available by having the appropriate number of WORKING smoke detectors. We can help. Just give us a call and we can guide you to achieve that goal.

Another important detector is a Carbon Monoxide detector. CO is generated every time a gas-fueled appliance is used. Ovens, furnaces, fire places, wood stoves, and kerosene and propane heaters are common appliances that produce CO. Under normal working conditions, all of these appliances are very safe to use. It is when they malfunction that they are dangerous. CO is colorless, odorless, and tasteless and cannot be detected by humans until it is too late. Having at least one of these detectors in your home is necessary. Place it near the rooms that have the appliances in them and near the floor.

If you have a fire hydrant in or near your yard or driveway, we would be grateful if you could keep the snow cleared around it so it is easily accessed during a fire. Also, keeping all your exterior doors free and clear from snow and ice is important for your safety as well as ours.

You are welcome to stop by the station any time you have questions or concerns.

Fire Chief
Jim Carroll

We would like to welcome the
following new businesses to our
township:

KEYSTONE AUTO

**CREATIVE
EXPRESSIONS**

SUBIE SPECIALIST

**OWEN'S SOFT
WATER**

BREZIN ELECTRIC

A & E SIGNS

TREASURER'S OFFICE

Because February 14th, 2010 falls on a Sunday, and the township offices are closed on Mondays, you will have through Tuesday, February 16 to pay taxes without penalty (The same is true for commercial sewer assessments that are due on February 14). Postmarks of February 14th will be accepted. As of February 17, 1% interest will be added. Again, we will not be sending out receipts unless you request one. You can go to our website, www.blairtownship.org and print your own. As of March 1, 2010, any unpaid real property taxes will be turned over to the Grand Traverse County Treasurer. Water assessment installment bills will go out on April 1, 2010 and are due June 30. This is the 13th installment of 25. Don't forget to mark your calendar for the 5th Annual Family Fun Day, Saturday, September 11, 2010! Have a joyous Holiday Season.

Brenda DeKuiper—Treasurer

Lynette Ferman—Deputy Treasurer

ext. 2

FROM THE SUPERVISOR

Blair Township continues to be a very busy place , with many things going on. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who worked on the Hoosier Valley clean up on Saturday, August 8th.. It turned out to be a rainy day, but that didn't stop the volunteers that signed up to help. The clean up was mainly centered on the shooting ranges that are set up in Hoosier Valley. The DNR paid for a 40 yard dumpster and we almost filled it. If you use the shooting ranges please take your targets and shell casings with you when you are done.. The community police officer will be writing citations for violations. A big thank you goes out to: Aaron Plowman, Lynette Ferman, Lisa Guerrieri, Brenda, Cassidy and Sam DeKuiper, Dave Cook, Mike Triplett, Harold Olson, Kim Smith, Ed Rosinski, and the Boy Scouts of Troop 37. I have had many complaints from neighbors about abandoned mobile homes and houses that they would like to see cleaned up. The township has few options on these abandoned structures so I am working on a Dangerous Building Ordinance to address the problem.. If I can be of any help or answer any questions, please give me a call at 231-276-9263, ext 3.

Pat Pahl—Supervisor



HOOSIER VALLEY CLEAN UP

Township Assessor Aaron Plowman, Township Supervisor Pat Pahl, Senator Jason Allen, Township Treasurer Brenda DeKuiper, Sam & Cassidy DeKuiper, Dave Cook, Ed Rosinski, and Boy Scout Troop #37.

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

The Assessing Department has the responsibility of maintaining current record cards for each parcel in the township. We have been out all year updating pictures and reviewing anything that has changed on the property. If you have any questions about what may have been done on your property, please stop by the office to review your record card. Happy Holidays and have a great winter.

Aaron Plowman—Assessor

Marvel Mallory—Assessing Assistant

CLERK'S OFFICE

At this time we do not have any elections scheduled until August 2010. Remember you can register to vote at the Township Clerk's Office during regular business hours. If you have any questions about the Blair Township cemeteries please feel free to stop by or call. Have a wonderful, safe Holiday Season, and a very Happy New Year.

Betty A. Tharp

Emily Weller

Iva Lewis

Clerk

Deputy Clerk

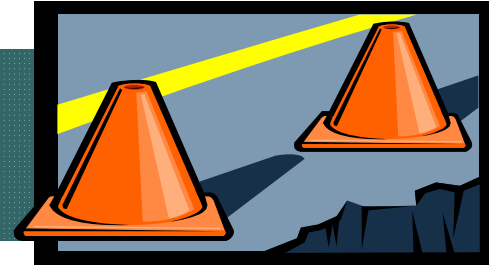
Election Assistant

EMS DEPARTMENT

News: The Emergency Medical Services Department is currently implementing electronic documentation into the department, patient care records will now be documented paperlessly. We are also working with Grand Traverse County Central Dispatch (911) on the development of MDT (mobile data terminals); Central Dispatch will be able to send pertinent information in regards to the emergency that we are responding to; via the Ambulance's computer. Special Thank You to everyone that contributed to the Jon Brief benefit. Jon Brief is a Part-Time/ Paid on call EMT/ Firefighter with Blair Township, Jon is also a Blair Township resident. He was recently diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma; Jon is currently receiving chemotherapy and will undergo radiation treatment. Due to the physical and mental strength required to perform his duties as an EMT/ Firefighter Jon has taken a medical leave of absence. If you are interested in contributing to Jon's fund you can make a donation by sending it to Blair Emergency Services Association C/O Jon Brief 2121 County Road 633 Grawn, MI 49637. 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

Who is driving the decisions on local road projects and maintenance?



As you're taking a leisurely drive on a lovely fall day in Michigan, you may have experienced a rough patch of road or questioned why the speed limit is the rate it is for that particular stretch of road. Although the road may be located within a township, did you know that the township does not have authority over that road?

Most residents do not realize that local roads, including construction and maintenance of these roads, are under the jurisdiction of the county where the road is located. Since the 1930s, townships have had little road authority, and they receive no transportation funding (Public Act 51 of 1951). However, over 95% of townships in Michigan *do* contribute money to the road commission in the county in which their township is situated. In fact, it is common for counties to strongly urge townships to contribute to roads at a high level of matching funds.

About 10 years ago, many counties requested a 50-50 match from townships for construction, repair and maintenance of local roads. Due to changes in funding over the last decade, it is now common for counties to ask townships to pick up 75% of the cost in order to receive a 25% funding match from the county. In some cases, counties require that 100% of the cost of the project be funded by the township.

Although the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 has provided significant funding for roads, that money is primarily being spent on federal highways and roads under state jurisdiction, rather than local roads. Meanwhile, transportation funding at the state level has not increased, and there has been a sharp decrease in state shared revenue to local units of government. The result? Local roads are being shortchanged.

While funding of roads at the local level is likely to be an ongoing issue for Michigan for some time to come, it is important for residents to be aware of the township's limited role in road projects and maintenance. Issues related to local roads are best addressed by the county road commission, which has both the authority and responsibility to handle these matters. For more information, contact the Grand Traverse County Road Commission at (231)922-4848.