Mission Statement – Blair Township provides a proud, proactive, progressive team committed to innovation and leadership. We pledge to enhance the quality of life in our township by bringing people, partnerships and possibilities together.

Grant Will Pay For Blair Township Community Garden

Plans for an acre-and-a-half plot near the township hall at the corner of County Road 633 and Vance Road, with children’s and adult sections with raised beds. These will make the garden accessible to people with limited mobility. A paved path will connect the garden with the rest of the township park, form a perimeter around the whole garden and lead to a circle in the center. Plans also include butterfly gardens to feed native species and a rain garden filled with plants that let rainwater soak into the ground.

Grant funds will pay for the pave path, raised beds and signs, Supervisor Blonshine said. One of the main goals in community gardening is to bring people together; working together and next to each other in relative harmony. Some basic rules have been established, one of them being, people will be responsible for attending to their own plot.

Blonshine is working on organizing a volunteer committee that will focus on the Community Garden. If you are interested please call (231) 276-9263.

Clerk’s Corner - Lynette Wolfgang 231-276-9263 ext. 100

First and foremost I would like to thank the Blair Township Board of Trustees and the residents of Blair Township for allowing me the opportunity to attend the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks’ Institute to obtain my Michigan Municipal Clerk Certification. I believe the education and support I have received from the program enables me to better perform my duties and serve the township.

Later this year every township in Grand Traverse County will be getting new election equipment in preparation for the Gubernatorial Election in 2018. The equipment will be paid for through a grant from the State of Michigan and Help America Vote Act fund. Keep an eye on our website for times and dates of a demonstration of the new equipment.

Also Board of Trustee minutes will be posted to our website once they are approved. A copy of the minutes also hangs on a bulletin board in the lobby of the township offices or a copy can be mailed to you for a small fee.

Thank you and have a great summer!
New ISO Rating, Lower Insurance Premiums for Blair Township Residents? Late in 2016, the Insurance Services Office (ISO) completed an analysis of the structural fire suppression delivery system provided by the Blair Township Fire Department for areas no more than 1000 feet from a fire hydrant. According to the Insurance Services Office, “The ISO Public Protection Classification (PPCTM) is an evaluation program that provides information on the quality of public fire protection. By classifying a community’s ability to suppress fires, the ISO helps evaluate public fire protection services. Generally, the reward for providing better fire protection is lower insurance premiums.” Source: ISO Because of the hard work of the staff, the department leaders, and the Blair Township Board of Trustees, we have earned a new rating of “5/5X”. This means the areas within 1000 feet of a fire hydrant has improved to a class “5” from a class “6”. A class “5X” applies to other areas in Blair Township beyond 1000 feet of a hydrant but within five road miles of a fire department. A Class “10” rating remains the same for all areas of Blair Township beyond five road miles from a fire department. This survey also provides the fire department benchmarks for further improvement of our PPC rating. We are currently working hard to improve this rating even more in the near future.

The Blair Township Fire Department encourages all homeowners and businesses within 1000 feet of a fire hydrant and within five road miles of the fire department to contact their insurance providers to advise them of the change in the PPC rating as the new rating may result in reduced business and homeowner insurance premiums. While the Blair Township Fire Department nor ISO can predict to what extent insurance companies will charge premiums, we would like to hear from you should you experience a reduced insurance premium. Please notify us by email at fire@blairtownship.org to let us know.

Beat the Heat

Dehydration is the most obvious summer health hazard. If you’re spending an extended period of time outside make sure to drink lots of fluids. Water is the most effective drink at hydration, while drinks containing caffeine or alcohol actually perpetuate dehydration.

Signs and symptoms of Heat Emergencies
- Rapid Onset of Fatigue
- Headache
- Nausea
- Dizziness
- Excessive Sweating
- Flushed Skin

A growing medical concern in the summer months of Northern Michigan is the increasing number of Lyme disease instances. The disease is spread through ticks so pay extra close attention to any bug bites after spending time outside in wooded areas. A red circular “bull's eye” is the typical mark of a Lyme disease infection; however the wound does not always manifest itself this way.

Lastly just keep in mind that the nice weather tends to bring out pedestrians along the road after dark. If you are going for a night time stroll it is recommended that you wear bright clothing, a reflective vest, carry a flashlight, etc. Any little detail that helps you to be more noticeable to drivers could make the difference between uneventful and tragic. If you’re driving at night we just ask that you remain alert and take it slow.

Enjoy your summer and come join us down at the splash pad to cool off this summer.
Go Green To Save Green  

* **Don't overwater!** Water your plants deeply but less frequently to encourage deep root growth and drought tolerance.  
* Adjust sprinklers to prevent overspray and runoff on non-green areas.  
  Save up to 15-20 gallons per day.  
* Don’t leave the hose running while washing your car. Get a self-closing nozzle.  
  Save up to 10 gallons per minute.

Blair Library Committee Update  

On October 20, 2016, the Traverse Area District Library Board made the decision to no longer “entertain further consideration of a Blair Township Branch Library.”  

However, this does not discourage us! We are putting our energy and enthusiasm toward creating a community gathering place that will include reading resources and a lending library. Interested in joining with us? Please contact Chairman Patrick Biegler at 302-3697-2201.
Where Do My Property Tax Dollars Go?

**SUMMER PROPERTY TAXES DUE SEPTEMBER 14, 2017**

**STEP FORWARD MICHIGAN PROGRAM**

Are you behind on your property taxes, mortgage payment or condominium fees? If so, you don’t have to struggle alone. You may qualify for an interest-free loan through the state-run Step Forward Michigan program to help you catch up on those bills.

A health emergency, a layoff, a divorce – all of these can cause a homeowner to fall behind on property tax or mortgage payments. Step Forward Michigan is dedicated to helping Michigan homeowners get back on their feet and retain ownership of their homes.

Federally funded through Michigan's Hardest Hit Fund program, Step Forward Michigan offers up to $30,000 in interest-free loans to Michigan homeowners who have fallen on hard times. To qualify for assistance, a homeowner must have experienced a hardship that caused the delinquency, such as a death in the family, divorce, medical emergency, significant home repair or job loss.

Besides being interest free, a loan through the Step Forward Michigan program requires no monthly payments and is forgivable over a five-year period. If the homeowner keeps the house as his or her principal residence for five years, the loan no longer is due.

For additional information on the Step Forward Michigan program or to see if you qualify, please contact the Grand Traverse County Treasurer’s Office at grandtraverse.org or (231)922-4735. You also can visit the Step Forward Michigan website at StepForwardMichigan.org or call (866) 946-7432.

**BLAIR TOWNSHIP’S BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Supervisor: Nicole Blonshine  
Clerk: Lynette Wolfgang  
Treasurer: Tracie Campbell  
Trustee: Carl Kucera  
Trustee: Roger Zeits  
Trustee: Dennis Fitzpatrick  
Trustee: Stacey Clous

**CHECK OUR WEBSITE & FACEBOOK PAGE FOR UPDATES ON………..**

Blair Township’s 150th Birthday Party @ Wuerfel Park on July 20, 2017.

Fall Clean Up Day @ Blair Township Hall on October 7, 2017.