



Blackman Township Summer Newsletter 2023

Township Supervisor: Summer is here and the road work continues with updated reports from JCDOT (Jackson County Department of Transportation) are posted on the Blackman Township website. Just a reminder that any work done on the road right of way requires a permit from JCDOT which includes driveway replacement of the portion that is in the JCDOT right of way. Please keep the culvert tube under your driveway clear so that water can flow freely. Ditches in the right of way cannot be filled in or altered without contacting JCDOT. The JCDOT number is (517) 788-4230. Keeping up with our lawns is another summer duty, please be kind and assist neighbors who may have difficulty keeping their lawns maintained. If there is a property in your area that needs attention and no one is attending it, please call the Public Safety Ordinance Officer.



Blackman Township would like to introduce our newest part-time Administrative Assistant, Debbie Branham. Debbie is married to Ralph Branham and they have 3 children and 2 grandchildren. Debbie worked previously for Arthur-Day Funeral Home and Leoni Township. Debbie loves the lake life and traveling. We look forward to having Debbie as a part of our administrative team!

Public Safety: We would like to congratulate Scott Grajewski (Right) on his promotion to Director of Public Safety. Grajewski started as a Public Safety Officer in 1995. He was promoted to Sergeant in 2012. Then in 2016, he became the Deputy Director of Operations before being promoted to Director. We would also like to congratulate Darin McIntosh (Left) for being promoted to Deputy Director of Operations. McIntosh started his career with Blackman in 2009 as a Public Safety Officer before becoming Sergeant in 2018. Both men will bring great things to the Department of Public Safety in their new roles.



If you are interested in becoming an Officer with Blackman-Leoni, Public Safety is accepting applications certified as either a Police Officer or Firefighter I & II. Please send in Cover sheet and your resume to Blackman-Leoni Public Safety, Attn: Deputy Director McIntosh, 1996 W. Parnall Road, Jackson, Michigan, 49201.

Building: Building permits are still high in volume this year as many residents are working on small and big projects. The contractor registration fee has been lowered to \$15.00 and inspection fees have been raised to \$70.00.

Clerk's Office: Blackman Township will have another election on August 8, 2023, for the Northwest Community Schools Bond Proposal. Only those who live in the school district will be eligible to vote. Please feel free to contact our office with any questions.

We are also undergoing many changes in the Clerk's Office. With Proposal 2022-02 passing in November of last year, you may have noticed some changes to our election processes. In May, the absent voter applications that went out to permanent absentee voters allowed residents to participate in what we call the Permanent Ballot List. This list allows voters to automatically receive a ballot for every election they qualify for while we retain the application. Voters are still able to join the Permanent Application list, which allows voters to automatically receive the application for an absent voter ballot, as well. Other changes, including early voting prior to election day, will be implemented starting in 2024 for the Presidential Elections.

Stay tuned for more information regarding early voting and other changes in procedures regarding Proposal 2022-02.



Thank you to Sexton Rob Wells and Cub Scout Pack 339 on their work in preparing Fifield Cemetery for Memorial Day.



Blackman Township would like to give a warm welcome to our new Township Clerk, David Elwell. David has lived in Blackman Township since late 1978. He enjoys spending time with his children, grandchildren, and traveling with his wife. Before being appointed as Clerk, David served the community as a Detective-Sergeant for Blackman-Leoni Public Safety before becoming the Chief of Police for Columbia Township. He has also served as the County Commissioner, representing Blackman Township for 18 years. David now looks forward to serving the community in his role as Clerk.

Property Taxes: As summer is here, so are the summer scams. Please be aware that letters are being sent out through the postal service for delinquent taxes. We do not give anyone access to delinquent taxes. Blackman has its own color of paper we send our delinquent taxes on with our phone number to speak with us directly. The city, State and Blackman all have our own letterhead and colors of letters. Do not be scammed! If you are not sure, call us. **If you need assistance with delinquent taxes, please visit the Michigan assistance program at www.michigan.gov/mihaf and contact Community Action Agency at (517) 784-4800.**

Common mistakes which prevent us from processing your payment include:

1. The dollar amount written does not match the dollar amount printed
2. Check to make sure it is dated and signed
3. **Do not combine your tax and utility bill in one check.** These payments must be separate due to going to two different banks

Utility Department: The sewer bill was raised \$7.00 per month **(the first raise in over 14 years)**. Blackman has remained well below other municipalities in the county. Operation and maintenance fees have risen as well. The sewer system maintenance requires special equipment which has driven our cost up to maintain the system. Delinquent sewer bills not paid by August 31st will be placed on the Winter Tax Statement. The cost for a single-family resident is \$66.00 per quarter or \$264.00 annually.

We will be switching to a new software program for online payments and office payments between June and September. We will be switching from Magic Wrighter to Point & Pay. This is a more user-friendly program that you will be able to set up your own account and maintain.

Due dates for paying sewer bills are as follows: **1st Quarter – March 15, 2023** **2nd Quarter – June 15, 2023**
3rd Quarter – September 15, 2023 **4th Quarter – December 15, 2023**

Assessing Department: The Board of Review will meet on July 18, 2023 for correction of clerical errors. **Please remember that applications for Disabled Veteran’s Exemptions and Poverty Exemptions must be filed each year.** Applications are available on our website (www.blackmantwp.com, **Assessing Department, Forms**). The Assessing Department is conducting field inspections of property in Blackman Township to inspect property to update appraisal record cards, inspect & measure new construction and take photos. These field inspections are required by the State of Michigan. Personnel will be driving a vehicle with the Township emblem on the side. The Inflation Rate Multiplier for 2023 is 5.0% or, expressed as a multiplier, is 1.05. This number is utilized to produce your 2023 taxable value. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the Township at (517) 788-4345 and ask for the Assessing Department.

Parks and Recreation: Rod Mills Park

The new playground is up and being enjoyed. We are continuing to look for smaller improvements to Rod Mills Park and the Township properties. Enhancements include improved security cameras, and updating/increasing the power for the pavilions. We are now looking into enhancing recreation at the Township property on Parnall, the old Marino & B&H machine. Two major steps to begin include removal of the B&H by demolition (it is in bad shape), and utilizing the Marino building for Public Safety. **Input for the future can be provided on the Survey included with the Newsletter.**

Have a great summer!



PARK SURVEY

Parks & Recreation: Blackman is ready for Public Input on our Plans for the Next Five Years. Below is a survey of thoughts & ideas for you to provide input for consideration. Please feel free to add comments at the end, or to add suggestions. **Please mark and return to the Township office, drop in our 24hr drop box on right side of building or email your comments to ppreston@blackmantwp.com.**

	Item	Comment	Ranking 1-5 (5 being high)
1.	Continue support for the State Trail connecting from Cooper / Parnall to the city?	In the works, may include a trail head in Blackman. Within 2 years.	
2.	Walking trail /path around the property on Parnall Road?	Could be 5,000 feet in length. At Marino's Park.	
3.	Walking trail/path with exercise stations?	At Marino's Park.	
4.	More of a nature trail around Rod Mill's Park	At Rod Mill's Park.	
5.	Bathrooms like at Rod Mill's?	At Marino's Park.	
6.	Pickleball courts? (2 courts)	Located south east corner of Marino Park property on Parnall Road.	
7.	Pavilions with power?	At Marino's Park.	
8.	Food Truck events?	At Marino's Park.	
9.	Drinking fountains?	At Each Park.	
10.	Improve the ball fields?	At Rod Mill's Park.	
11.	Add a Picnic area?	At Marino's Park.	
12.	Work with the County Parks to create canoe/kayak launch at confluence of the Grand River and Portage Rivers?	North side of Blackman Township, off 106.	
13.	Add a Picnic area?	At Marino's Park.	
14.	Continue control of Marino's soccer fields for sports teams?	Fields are maintained by Soccer clubs, not Township.	
15.	Security Cameras?	At Rod Mill's & Marino's Parks.	
16.	Disc golf?	Either at Rod Mill's or Marino's Park.	
17.	Sponsor events at the Parks? Rod Mills Park and / or Marino's Park.	Community tire disposal day, etc. Pick one or add one! -flea market / swap day -kite flying day – -Public Safety Day -Food Truck Day -a mini marathon around a 5000 ft path	Circle or Rank
18.	What would you like to see in the Parks or in Blackman Township for recreation opportunities?		