

SEE ENCLOSED:

- What's in a Website?
- West End Purchase
- New Deputy on Duty
- Airport Improvements

Township Hours:

Mon—Thur

10am-3pm

There is an answering machine set up if we are out or on the phone, so please leave a message and we will return your call.

**Or... e-mail us at:
Diane—
bbiclerk@tds.net**

**Anne—
annekenndy@tds.net**

TOWNSHIP NEWS

What's in a Website??

Have you been out to the township website recently? If not, you may not be aware of recent changes we've made. One of the goals of this township board is to better communicate with the residents, property owners and visitors to our island community. That was part of the reason for the initial development of the newsletter.

Residing in an area with no "local" newspaper or radio, ease of communication becomes both problematic and costly. Thanks to some hard work and dedication from resident Tom Bach, we've made some improvements to help you find more information and find it easier.

If you visit boisblancisland.org, you will find an "auto" contact us

link. These inquiries are taken very seriously. We strive to respond within 2 business days. There are now more documents and forms available on line and we've linked to additional sites like the Mackinac County GIS for Bois Blanc Island and the Mackinac County Treasurer. Soon the township newsletter will be available on line as well. Due to the costs to print and mail, we will be moving to a digital version available on our website. Don't do computers?? No problem! Just let us know you wish to be added to a mailing list for the newsletter. We'll send you a hard copy. Digital distribution will not only save us money, but may allow for us to do newsletters more often! See you on the Web!

NEW DEPUTY ON DUTY!

Please join us in welcoming our new Deputy, Joe Fitzgerald, to the BBI community. Joe comes to us with over 30 years of law enforcement experience. Originally from Sault St Marie, Joe served on the Police Dept in Gaylord until retiring as Police Chief in 2012. He has since held many interim positions and even worked with the DNR for 2 years. Joe enjoys hunting and fishing and just interacting with the people and getting to know the community. He can be seen meeting most boats and believes in a positive presence in the community. His focus is education and safety. He even made a visit to the school bringing safety materials and a Halloween treat. Though he got started late in the year, he's looking forward to being back in April and enjoying a whole summer of Island Life! As a reminder, for emergencies please dial 911.



Picture Courtesy of Michelle Satchell

Year in Review

As we prepare for winter it seems a good time to reflect on some of the highlights from this year.

- March 2019 the Township closed on the Cheboygan River property allowing us to start planning for a future ferry terminal on the mainland.
- July started the groundwork on the much needed Equipment Building at the airport. (see enclosed article)
- Record high water levels have caused a number of issues for the marina, road commission and property owners alike.
- In Sept, after over two years of negotiations, the township closed on property on the West End (see enclosed article) which will now allow a park area and dock/launch site for future generations.



Do you have a suggestion for a Newsletter topic? E-mail it to us at bbiclerk@tds.net!

Let's talk trash!

If you haven't already heard, there is a new transfer station program this year. A review of the last 3 years costs for trash removal prompted the township board, with the help of the transfer station manager to look at the way we had been handling garbage services and alternatives. For 2019 we shifted to a township bag program. The township bags are printed and light green in color, making it clearly defined for the station atten-

dants. Bags are 1.5 mil in thickness and 33 gallons in capacity. The free truckload program was eliminated, but we allowed each taxpayer 10 free bags (that could be picked up at the township hall). Cost for the township bags are \$3. Should you choose to use your own bags of the same size, it is \$4. Any oversized bags will be billed accordingly by the transfer station attendant.

Going to the township bags ensures consistency in size and a fair distribution of charges. Those using the transfer station for disposal of large and small household items can still do so at the rates posted. The township board is considering other ways to be more efficient in the future including the possibility of a trash compaction system. For the items that our transfer station cannot take, we have a list of possible sources for disposal on the mainland available on the website and at the township hall.

Airport Improvements

The much awaited SRE building (Snow Removal Equipment) is finally completed just in time for another winter season for Bois Blanc Airport. Once the ferry stops running, the airport is our lifeline for the mainland. Any transportation for doctors, mail, groceries or emergencies is dependent on our airport being ready and clear for

The Western Star used to plow the runway was purchased in 20??, but we had no building large enough to actually house it. Working on it, if necessary, was difficult as you were always exposed to the weather. Well, this year the 2 old hangers closest to the runway were removed and the new building large enough to house the plow and the future planned snow blower was built in the clearing to the east side of the airport



BBI EMISSARY

Township Purchases 3.5 acres of West End Property

For many years now the residents and visitors of Bois Blanc Island have enjoyed the western most point of the island for viewing the bridge at night, the fireworks on the 4th of July and summer sunsets. A few years ago this property was sold, and even though the Douglas and Van Horn families have been extremely gracious and accommodating to the community, they had plans for a home on that property. After 2 years of negotiations, we were finally able to close on a piece of that property that will allow all parties to move forward. The purchase allowed the township and citizens some legal clarification on easements and access to roads in that area. It includes the site of the old dock that was utilized to ship logs off the island in the past and will allow us to work with Engineers and DNR/DEQ/USACE in the future to put in a day use pier and landing place for emergency access/evacuation. We have had to utilize Mackinac Marine Rescue in the past, and when doing so they need to meet our rescue vehicle at the marina on the south side of the island. A pick up here on the west end could save 45 minutes in getting someone to treatment. That can be life saving! This land will also accommodate a park where people can have access to the water and still view the bridge or fireworks. There are currently temporary plans to be developed further to allow for raised nonintrusive wetlands viewing walkways and perhaps a gazebo for bird watching/wildlife viewing or just peaceful meditation. Development is viewed as being in phases. The first will be the infrastructure of a road for access to the lake, and a pier or place for emergency boats to land. Right now, we ask that you please patiently await the development and respect the private property owners on both sides. We would also like to hear from you on suggestions for a name for our new park. Please send suggestions to bbiclerk@tds.net, or call the township office.