



## **Blairstown Museum**

**Small Town. Big History.™**

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# **PRESS RELEASE**

## **Making History While Preserving History**

**How One Small Museum Is Having A Big Impact**



Photo: Historic Blairstown Day 2017 (Courtesy Blairstown Museum)

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**Blairstown, NJ (September 15, 2017)** — Almost one-year to their opening, the Blairstown Museum proudly announced via their Facebook page that they have been officially recognized and certified by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization. In addition, their certification has been backdated to their actual non-profit incorporation date; making all donations since September 16, 2016 tax deductible for their donors.

“After months of meticulous planning, there was very little doubt that the status would be granted. We are, of course, extremely grateful for the individuals who have already donated and also for those who have been waiting for this to become a reality.” says Jeanette Iurato, President of the Blairstown Museum’s Board of Trustees.

The announcement comes on the heels of the museum’s first annual Historic Blairstown Day, which took place Saturday August 5, 2017 in the heart of Blairstown’s Historic District. The event included street vendors, live music, contests, an antique car display and a birthday celebration for town founder John Insley Blair. Prior to the cake cutting, the museum received a Congressional Certificate of Recognition from Congressman Josh Gottheimer for their commitment to Blairstown and honoring the memory of founder John Insley Blair.

“Since July 2015, we have averaged 55 volunteer hours every week to make this museum a reality. It is certainly humbling to be recognized for our efforts.” says Jeanette. She adds, “Something magical happens when a community comes together to preserve its history. We look forward to collaborating with local, county, state and federal officials on future events, programs and preservation projects.”

The Blairstown Museum offers permanent and changing exhibitions, public programs, historic tours, family-friendly events and research assistance. Living up to its slogan “Small Town, Big History”, the Blairstown Museum packs a big punch for a small space. Guests can spend a considerable amount of time viewing exhibitions, receiving research assistance, discussing historical events, reading magazines and charging their mobile devices. There is even a Little Free Library and play area for children.

In the past when asked the cost of admission, Jeanette replied “Absolutely zero. We pride ourselves on providing impeccable exhibitions at no cost to our visitors or local taxpayers.” As the only general history and cultural 501(c)(3) non-profit museum for the Township of Blairstown, this statement is now truer than ever. The Blairstown Museum cares for thousands of items which illustrate the history of the township and its inhabitants, including former resident and founder John Insley Blair. Those wishing to make a tax-deductible donation can visit [www.blairstownmuseum.com/donate.html](http://www.blairstownmuseum.com/donate.html).

The work their volunteers do would not be possible without the public’s generosity.

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