

Blue Lake Township

10599 Twin Lake Rd NE
Mancelona, MI 49659

231-587-8354 Fax 587-4066

Web Site: bluelaketwpkalkaska.org

Township Telephone Numbers you may need:
Emergency Call 911

Supervisor	Dean McCulloch	587-4836
	blsuper@torchlake.com	
Clerk	Tracy Nichol	587-9644
	blclerk@torchlake.com	
Treasurer	Christine Almose	587-9593
	bltreas@torchlake.com	
Trustee	Larry Shoemaker	587-0723
Trustee	Mary Shaw	587-8468
Township Assessor -		
	blasser@torchlake.com	
Zoning Admin. – Blair Shearer		587-5698
	blzoning@torchlake.com	

Township Hall Office Hours	
Supervisor:	Tue. 1:00 – 4:00 & Sat. 10:00 – 12:00
Clerk:	Tue. 9 – 1 & 6:30 – 8:30 Sat 11-1
Treasurer:	Wed. 10:00 – 1:00
Assessor:	2 nd & 4 th Tue. 1:00 – 3:00
Zoning Adm.	Fri. & Sat. 10:00 – 12:00
Fire Dept. (Fire Barn)	Mon. 7:00 – 9:00
Board Meetings	1 st Wednesday 7:00 pm

County Comm. Kohn Fisher	258-5178
Fire Barn	587-5148
Sheriff Department	258-8686
County Clerk	258-3300
Recycle Center	258-3369
County Road Comm.	258-2242
Animal Control	258-3309
DNR Burning Permit	866-922-2876
Kalkaska DNR	258-2711
DNR-DEQ	231-775-3960
RAP Poaching Hotline	800-292-7800
American Waste (Trash)	258-9030

Board Meetings

The Board meets the first Wednesday of every month at 7:00 PM at the Township Hall. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. We discuss local issues and have a public input time so that everyone can be involved. Please attend when you can. We would appreciate your help and input.

We also have several committees that you could serve on. If you are interested, please contact any Board member. We are always glad to talk with you.

Drop Box

The Township has a Secure Drop Box located between the office and Hall doors. For your convenience this can be used to drop off any correspondence (Voter Information, Taxes,...) whenever the office is not open.

Township Hall Available

The Township Hall is available for your personal use. It requires an application to be completed and a \$50 deposit. If the usage rules are followed and the hall is left clean, the deposit will be refunded. Call the hall at 587-8354 during office hours or visit our web site and look under "Events - Hall Rental" for further information.

Fire Department

The Department had 65 runs in 2015, slightly more than the 52 they had in 2014. Many of the calls the Fire Department receives are for Medical and Rescue Services (16). The Fire Dept. is actively seeking new members. If you are interested they meet at 7:00 PM every Monday at the Fire Barn located on Blue Lake Rd. just north of Blue Lake. They will be glad to show you around and give you details about joining the Department. You can also contact our Fire Chief Bob Barr at 587- 8711.

Fire Department Millage Renewal

At the August election the fire department will ask the voters to renew the 1.00 mill property tax that supports the Fire Department. The revenues from this tax are used to support operations and capital expenditures and are currently the only funds the Fire Dept. receives.

Summer Road Work

This summer the Township with road commission help will Chip Seal Gedman Rd., Little Twin Lake Rd and Bass Lake Rd. The Kalkaska Road Commission will also repave Starvation lake road in Coldspring Township linking up with the portion we paved several years ago.

Kalkaska Area Transit

KAT has expanded regular service to the Acme Meijers and Turtle Creek Casino with trips approximately every 2 hours on weekdays. Call KAT for more information at 258-6808.

Trash Pickup

Residential trash pickup is on Monday by American Waste with a 5 bag limit per household. If a holiday falls on Monday, pickup will be on Tuesday. Please do not put out trash that is not bagged - our contract with American is for bagged trash only.

If you put your trash out before Monday morning please have your trash in an animal proof receptacle. Dogs, cats, ravens and raccoons just love to spread your trash around. This could lead to a ticket for a nuisance violation.

Trash Pickup is on Monday

Large Item Pickup

Our contract with American Waste allows each household to have 4 large items per year picked up if they have the required sticker. Stickers can be obtained at the Township Hall during business hours. Any household item including beds, couches, washers, and refrigerators will be picked up. Refrigerators / freezers need to have the coolant removed and certified as such before it can be picked up. If you call them please identify yourself as a resident of Blue Lake Township as your individual address is not in their system. For special pick up needs or questions call American Waste at 258-9030.

New Assessor

Dave Grimm our assessor has decided to retire after serving our Township for over 15 years. We are currently in the process of choosing a new assessor. We wish Dave well.

Current DNR Watercraft Rules

Watercraft should stay 100 ft. from docks or swim rafts.

Eagle and North Crooked Lake

Slow, No Wake Speed

Bass, Indian, Little Twin, North Blue, and Squaw Lakes

No High Speed Boating or Water Skiing (Boats below Plane Speed and no towing or water skiing, Pontoons should go slowly with minimum wake)

Big Blue, Big Twin, Starvation Lake

No High Speed Boating between 6:30PM and 10:00AM.

Broadband Service

The Township maintains a Public Access Wi-Fi system at the Township Hall. If you have a compatible computer you can use it in and around the Township Hall to access the Internet. It works in the parking lot but if you are there during office hours come in and use the table inside.

Chain of Lakes Internet has a line of sight system in the Township. If you are interested in High Speed Internet service contact COLI at 888-299-0071, they may be able to connect you to their system.

From the Treasurer's Desk

Your tax bill has been mailed to you from the Kalkaska County Equalization department. Please be sure to check it over. If you should find an error please call Equalization at 231-258-3340.

The Treasurer's office will be open on Wednesday, September 14, 2016 to collect your tax payment. Our posted hours are Wednesdays 10 to 1. Don't forget you can always use the locked drop box between the doors at the township hall. Or drop your check off anytime the office is open. A receipt will be mailed to you.

Community Police Officer

Brian Peacock is our Community Officer and has been providing regular road patrol within the Township. Last year Brian reported on a total of 125 incidents within the Township a slight increase from last year's 118. These incidents range from general assistance calls, various types of accidents, animal at large incidents and others. If you have a concern or an issue you would like to discuss with Brian you can leave a detailed message for Deputy Peacock at the Sheriff's office at 258-8686. For any emergency always call 911. In an emergency other Sheriff's Department Officers may respond.

Land Splits & Divisions

All land divisions, new lot lines, and lot combinations must comply with Blue Lake Township Ordinances and the State Land Division Act. There are requirements as to road access, the size and shape of the lots, and the number of lots that can be created. An application and more information is available on the web site under "Zoning and Permits". An application fee of \$50 and a \$20 per split administration fee is required. Your completed application and fees must be submitted to the Blue Lake Township Land Division Agent, the Assessor. Until we have a new assessor please contact Blair Shearer at (231) 587-5698.

Short Term Rental Property

The Zoning Ordinance requires short term rental properties be registered with the Township, it also requires that owners post an information sheet in a conspicuous location within the property. If you rent out your property please contact the Zoning Administrator.

Campers and Trailers

Per our Township Zoning Ordinance Campers and Trailers cannot be stored or left on vacant property. This helps keep vandalism down, improves property values, and prevents that abandoned look. They can be used for vacation or weekends. Campers can be used for 15 days in a 12-month period without a permit. Upon application to the Township Zoning Administrator, a permit costing \$5.00 will be issued for an additional 30 days. A Camper can be kept on any property that has a dwelling without a permit.

Zoning Dept. Complaint Form

In order to provide better service the Zoning Department has developed a complaint form. This form available on our web site on the "Zoning and Permits" page and should be used for all complaints about possible violations of our Zoning Ordinance. Once received the Zoning Administrator will investigate and take any action that is required.

Kalkaska Memorial Health Center News

At the hospital's request the village of Kalkaska has vacated portions of two streets to provide expansion room. With a millage renewal coming up next summer the hospital has plans to add a cancer infusion clinic, patient examining rooms and rejuvenate the original Long Term Care facility. If you have any comments or questions about the Hospital, contact your representative Dean McCulloch 587-4836.

Fireworks Usage Restrictions

By ordinance fireworks cannot be used after 11:00 pm or before 11:00 am on any day that is not a Holiday or the day before or after. On Holidays the day before and the day after there are no restrictions. A fine of \$100 could be imposed if you use fireworks in the restricted time. At any time please use fireworks responsibly and with respect for you neighbors.

Zoning Permits

If you plan on building or making alterations, please check with the Zoning Administrator before you begin. Complying with the Blue Lake Township Zoning Ordinances is required. The complete Zoning ordinance is available on the web site under "Zoning and Permits". Or call the Zoning Administrator Blair Shearer 587-5698.

Lawn Fertilizer

Fertilizing your lawn can be very detrimental to the lake you live on. Excess fertilizer running into the lake can foster weed and algae growth which reduces the oxygen in the water which in turn harms fish and other wildlife. State Law (MCL 324.8512b) requires that a person shall **not** apply to turf a fertilizer labeled as containing phosphate and shall not apply any fertilizer within 15 feet of the water surface. Check any fertilizer before you buy to make sure it is lake friendly (no phosphate) and don't over apply to limit any run off. Keeping our lakes clean and healthy is everybody's responsibility; make sure you do your part.

County Recycle Center

The County Recycle center is back up and running after it burned down a year ago. The new building and drop off center located on Island Lake Rd. is open Monday through Thursdays from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM and Saturday's 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM. They are having a Free auto/truck Tire Clean Up on July 30, 2016 from 8am to noon, they will accept up to 10 tires per household until the trailer is full. Call 258-3369 for further information.