

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 - Dave Grimm		331-6370
	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

Township Hall	587-8354
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
American Waste (Trash)	258-9030
Kalkaska DNR	258-2711
DNR-DEQ	231-775-3960
RAP Poaching Hotline	800-292-7800

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.

From The Treasurer's Desk

The Treasurer's office will be open on Wednesday, December 24, 2014 and December 31, 2014 for your tax paying convenience. You may hand deliver your check to the hall anytime the hall is open or use the drop box.

February 14 falls on a Saturday this year and Monday is President's Day so all taxes are due by Tuesday, February 17, 2015. Our office will be open on the 17th. If you pay after February 17th you will incur a 3% penalty.

February 28, 2015 falls on a Saturday this coming year. That makes Monday, March 2 is the last day I can accept tax payments for Summer and Winter of 2014. Our office will be open on the 2nd. Any payments received after March 2, 2015 will be forwarded to the County Treasurer. Once I turn taxes over to the county the tax page will not be updated. Delinquent tax information can only be accessed thru the County Treasurer's office, 231-258-3310.

You can check the status of tax payments on line at our township website. Under Departments and Services, select Taxes. On the right hand side of the tax page you will find a paid/ unpaid alphabetical list. The tax info on the website is updated every Wednesday.

Drop Box

Don't forget that 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.

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission meets the first Wednesday of the month at 9:00 am at the Township Hall. Contact the Zoning Administrator Blair Shearer (587-5698) for any questions.

Trash Millage Reduction

At the June 2014 meeting the Township Board decided to reduce the millage for Trash Collection from the voter approved 0.5 mills to 0.4 mills. This is the fifth year that a Trash Tax reduction appears on the Tax Bill you received with this newsletter.

Large Item Pickup

You can 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. Also, if you call American Waste ahead of time, it will expedite pickup. If you have additional trash pick-up needs or questions call American Waste at 258-9030.

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, and if possible use an animal proof receptacle as they just love to play in your trash. If you have additional trash pickup needs or questions, call American Waste at 258-9030. Also the Island Lake Road County Recycle center is open Monday through Thursdays from 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM and Saturday's 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Call 258-3369 for further information.

Township Hall Available

Did you know 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 in a clean state, 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 Fire Department is in need of volunteers, this could be you. If you are looking for a way to give back to the Township, make a little extra spending money, become a trained fire fighter and have interesting times with the Fire Department, 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.

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 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, David Grimm. The Land Division Committee (Assessor, Supervisor, and Zoning Administrator) will review your application. The Land Division Agent will approve or deny the application within 30 days. If you have questions about the process please feel free to contact Dave at (231) 331-6370.

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.

Broadband Service

COLI Communications has provided high speed internet access to most of the Township. They have a line of sight system that can be blocked by high trees so COLI has installed repeaters on the many of the lakes so most lake shore residents can receive the signal. 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. Satellite and Cell Phone based systems may also be available at some locations within the Township.

The Township also maintains a Public Access WiFi system at the Township Hall using the COLI system. If you have a compatible computer or device you can use it in and around the Township Hall to access the Internet.

Community Police Officer

Brian Peacock is our Community Officer and has been providing regular road patrol within the Township. He performs regular road patrol and any other law enforcement service that is required. 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. Since he works a variety of shifts, it may take a short period of time before he can get back to you. For any emergency always call 911. In an emergency other Sheriff's Department Officers may respond.

Road Paving

This summer we completed the paving of Eagle Lake Lane and Eagle Drive at a cost of \$163,472. This is the last project that we have scheduled that paves a gravel road. Over the years we have turned gravel into pavement on Blue Lake Rd, Starvation Lake Rd, Twin Lake Rd, Birch Dr, Gedman, and Eagle Lake Dr. All of our future projects will be maintenance and improvement of existing roads. Next summer we are planning to improve the gravel on several roads in the Township, and the Road Commission is planning to tar and chip the south portion of Blue Lake Road which was last paved in 1997. In the last 15 years we have spent almost \$1.5M to improve our roads and because of your tax dollars we have some of the best roads in the County. If you have any road issues to discuss, contact any Board member or the Kalkaska County Road Commission at 258-2242 or their web site kalkaskaroad.org, they are very prompt at responding to complaints received on the site.

Kalkaska Memorial Health Center News

The Hospital has a policy that allows you to use the property tax dollars you pay for hospital capital improvement as partial credit toward your Kalkaska Hospital bill. If you have a Hospital bill of over \$50 this credit may be available to you. The next time you get a bill from the hospital just contact the Hospital Billing office (number on your bill) to get the procedure details.

As of September 1, 2014 Kalkaska Family Practice (the doctor offices that are located in the south end of the Hospital) have joined the Hospital and are now known as Kalkaska Medical Associates (KMA). KMA is a wholly owned part of KMHC. If you are a patient of these doctors nothing will change you will still receive the same excellent care you always had. We welcome Dr. Ziegler, Dr. Hodgman, Dr. Long, Dr. Holmes and Dr. Frick to KMHC.

The hospital offers a free yoga class on Tuesdays at 4:30 pm in the Physical Therapy room of the hospital basement. Everyone is welcome to join with instructor Daryl Allison-Busch. If you have any comments or questions about the Hospital, contact your representative Dean McCulloch 587-4836.

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. Blair Shearer, our zoning administrator, can issue zoning permits on Friday or Saturday mornings from 10 AM to Noon at the Blue Lake Township Hall. The complete Zoning ordinance is available on the web site under "Zoning and Permits".

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.