



2021 Summer Newsletter

10599 Twin Lake Rd. NE Mancelona MI 49659

Phone (231)587-8354 . Fax (231)587-4066

www.bluelaketwpkalkaska.org

Township Hall Office Hours

Supervisor: Thurs 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Sat 10:00 AM – Noon
Clerk: Tues 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Treasurer: Wed 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Assessor: 2nd & 4th Sat. 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Zoning Dept: Fri & Sat 10:00 AM – Noon



Township Telephone Numbers You May Need: (In an Emergency Call 911)

Supervisor	Blair Shearer	Home: 231-587-5698	blsuper@torchlake.com
Clerk	Tracy Nichol	Home: 231-587-9644	blclerk@torchlake.com
Treasurer	Christine Almose	Home: 231-587-9593	bltreas@torchlake.com
Trustee	Mary Shaw	Home: 231-587-8468	maryshaw@torchlake.com
Trustee	Larry Shoemaker	Home: 231-587-0723	gladysshoemaker90@yahoo.com
Township Assessor	Tom Sheneman	Home: 231-499-5039	blasser@torchlake.com
Zoning Admin	Kathy Campbell	Home: 231-384-6147	blzoning@torchlake.com
Blue Lake Fire Dept.	Chief Greg Brierley	Home: 734-216-9137	bluelakefirechief@att.net

	Phone Number	Other County Numbers of Interest:	Phone Number
American Waste (Trash)	231-258-9030	Kalkaska County Road Comm.	231-258-2242
Kalkaska County Comm. Kohn Fisher	231-258-5178	Kalkaska Animal Control	231-258-3309
Kalkaska Sheriff Department	231-258-8686	DNR Burning Permit http://www.dnr.state.mi.us.burnpermits	866-922-2876
Kalkaska County Clerk	231-258-3300	EGLE (formally DEQ) Theresa Sherwood	989-619-3740
Kalkaska Recycle Center	231-384-1304	RAP Poaching Hotline	800-292-7800

Township Meetings

The Township Board meets the first Wednesday of every month at 7:00PM at the township Hall.

The Planning Commission usually meets the first Wednesday of every month at 9:00 AM at the township Hall. Once a year they have a Saturday meeting and an evening meeting. Their schedule is posted on our website. The Fire Department meets every Monday evening at 7 PM at the fire barn located on Blue Lake Road.

Doing Business A Little Differently Since COVID-19

We still want to answer your questions, get your garbage stickers for you, take your absentee ballots, and help you in any other way we can. But we are doing things a little differently. When you come to the township hall you will find signs on the doors. We are keeping the door to the offices locked. We have the door to the meeting room open. If you come into the meeting room you will see a sign asking, "How can I help you?" There is a bell to ring to get our attention. There will be a Plexiglas panel between us. We are trying to limit the personal contact exposure for you and ourselves.

Fire Department

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 Greg Brierley at 734-216- 9137 for a personal appointment.

Burn Permits

Please add the following web site to your phone/computer to gain information on whether it is legal to burn:

www.2.dnr.state.mi.us/burnpermits. The website is continuously updated. If you touch the County of Kalkaska on the map of Michigan, it will show each township in the county and if burning is authorized. Sometimes burning is only allowed at special times of the day. You can only burn the following: leaves, grass, limbs, brush, stumps, and evergreen needles. No building materials, plastic, rubber, foam, chemical treated wood, textiles, electronics, chemicals, or hazardous materials may be burned. Notice to those who choose to burn: You are responsible for fire, smoke, or odors created from open burning.... And for damage that results from your fire. It is a citable offense if you are not in attendance during the burn. It is also a citable offense if you are burning without a permit.

Camp Fires

Be sure your camp fire is out before you leave it unattended. Recently a camp fire from the night before, rekindled and caused a couple of acres to burn the next day. No one was home. There was a burning ban on and the DNR airplane spotted the smoke and called the fire in to 911. The damage potential is huge. Take your time to be sure the fire is out. Save yourself the cost of the fine and repairing the damage. For fire prevention tips go to the DNR website.

Wave Boats/High Water

ATTENTION BOATERS! As lake levels are high, please be courteous of the erosion caused to our shorelines, seawalls, and homes from high speed boat wake action.

DNR watercraft rules require that boating activity stay a minimum of 100 feet away from stationary structures "i.e.: docks, swim rafts or shorelines". Please travel counterclockwise around lake.

The DNR boat launch on Big Twin Lake is still CLOSED due to high water levels. Currently the DNR is making improvements and we look forward to the boat launch to re-open July 1, 2021 with improvements!!

Eagle and North Crooked Lake – slow, no wake.

Bass, Indian, Little Twin, North Blue and Squaw Lakes – No high-speed boating or water skiing or towing. Boats and Pontoons should go slowly with minimum wake.

Big Twin, Big Blue, Starvation Lakes – No high-speed boating between 7:30 PM – 11:00 AM

In the Michigan laws and responsibilities boating handbook, section 324.80158 states the owner of any vessel operated upon the waters of this state is personally responsible for any damage to life or property resulting from a wake or swell created by the negligent operation or propulsion of the vessel, if the vessel is being operated with his or her consent.

Any property damage should be reported to the Kalkaska Sheriff department.



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 (for example: voter information or taxes).

From the Treasurer's Desk

Summer Tax Bills are to be paid by Tuesday, September 14, 2021. We will be open on September 14, 2021 to accept tax payments from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Payments thru the mail must be post marked by September 14th. Any payments received after that will be late and a penalty will be applied.

Zoning Department Complaint Form

To provide better service, the Zoning Department has developed a complaint form. This form is 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. No alterations to the original form will be accepted.

Zoning Permits

Zoning permits must be applied for through Kathy Campbell, BLT Zoning Administrator. All structures must be staked on the ground for BLT Zoning Administrator's approval **prior** to the issuance of the Zoning Permit. A Blue Lake Zoning Permit must be issued before applying for other necessary permits that **may** be required by Kalkaska County Construction Codes including well and septic system approvals and Kalkaska County Soil Erosion. Well & Septic permits are acquired through (MDHHS #10) Michigan Department Health & Human Services #10.

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 are just some of the critters who love to spread trash around. FYI: scattered trash violates the nuisance ordinance and a ticket may be issued.

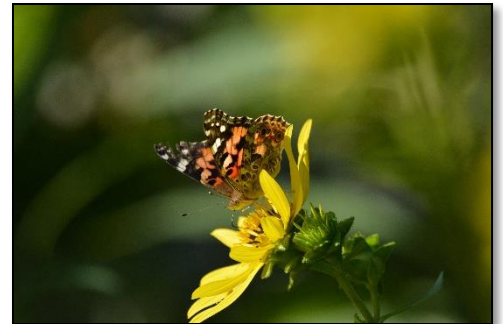
Appliance Recycling - Ready to upgrade or get rid of an old refrigerator or freezer? Call Energy Optimization at 877-296-4319 to schedule an appointment to pick your old **working** refrigerator or freezer. You can also receive a \$50.00 cash incentive for having purchased your new energy star appliance. If your old refrigerator or freezer is no longer working, you can call American waste for pick up at 231-258-9030. However, they will not pick up your old appliance unless the Freon has been removed and has a sticker documenting the removal. According to American Waste the closest company that deals with Freon removal is B & T Electric in Traverse City at 231-947-0465.

Community Police Officer

Ashley VanSloten is our Community Officer and has been providing regular road patrol within the Township. If you have a concern or an issue you would like to discuss with Deputy VanSloten, you can leave a detailed message for her at the Sheriff's office at 231-258-8686. **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 are 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, Tom Sheneman.



Short Term Rental Property

The Zoning Ordinance requires short term rental properties be registered with the Blue Lake Township Zoning Administrator. It also requires that owners post an information sheet in a conspicuous location within the property which should include trash pickup, lake regulations etc. Applications can be found at the township hall or through the Zoning Administrator.

Trash Millage

The present millage of .6 of a mill will expire at the end of 2021. In the November 2, 2021 election we will be asking for .9 of a mill due to an increase in costs in doing business with American Waste. In January of 2020, our contract increased from \$4,045 to \$7,000 per month thus an increase is necessary. The township contracting with American Waste is more cost effective than an individual homeowner contracting for refuse pick-up.

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. 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 may be kept on any property that has a dwelling without a permit.

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 231-587-8354 during office hours or visit our web site and look under "Events - Hall Rental" for further information.

Have A Great Summer!

New Assessor

Dave Grimm has chosen to retire, effective August 1, 2021. The township board has hired Tom Sheneman to replace Dave. Dave and Tom have been working together for the last several months to insure a smooth transition. We appreciate Dave's many years of service and wish him and his family well in their retirement. We welcome Tom and his experience in assessing.

Township Planning Commission

On April 17 of 2021, the township Planning Commission invited residents living around Starvation Lake to a meeting to discuss whether the township should request from the DNR a temporary local watercraft control (TLWC) for Starvation Lake. A notification was sent to 112 residents and posted in the newspaper for 2 weeks prior to the meeting. There was a tremendous response from the residents as we had 72 residents either attend the meeting or send an email for their input. The feedback received from those who participated was that over 75% did not favor a TLWC at this time. Based on this feedback, the planning commission voted 6/0 that the TLWC would not be requested. We appreciate the participation by the residents and for providing valuable input to help us determine the needs for those who live on Starvation Lake.

Road Committee

In November 2019, our local Road Millage expired. As a result, a Road Millage request will be on the November 2, 2021, ballot. Even though Kalkaska County does the work, Blue Lake Township pays most of the cost for our roads. A citizens committee was formed to develop a 10-year plan. The committee concluded and recommended to the board that 1.5 mill would be needed to maintain the roads on that 10-year cycle. The previous millage was 1.2 mill, the increase to 1.5 mill is driven by the increased cost of labor and materials. A home with the market value of 200K would pay \$150.00 a year, previously this cost was \$120.00 per year. The board recognizes that maintaining our roads system is important for both the safety of the drivers and the property value of our homes.

Broadband Service

The township maintains a Public Access Wi-Fi system at the Township Hall. You can use it in the parking lot or if you are here during office hours you are welcome to come in and use a table inside.

County Recycle Center

The County Recycle center is located at 904 Island Lake Road. Hours are Monday-Thursday from 8:00AM – 4:30 PM and Saturday 8:00AM – Noon. Call 231-384-1304 for tire information.

Kalkaska Public Transit Authority

Starting January 1, 2020 all Kalkaska County Residents 60 years of age and older will ride free of charge on all KPTA buses. This Senior Ride Free program is provided through a contract between Kalkaska Public Transit Authority and Kalkaska County Commission on Aging. Currently the service is for transportation within Kalkaska County only and does not apply to trips going into Grand Traverse County. If anyone would like additional information regarding this service, please feel free to contact KPTA at 231-258-6808 or the COA at 231-258-5030.



(Photos courtesy of Susan George)

**Thank you to Blue Lake Township residents
for approving the new millage for
our Fire & Rescue Department.
Your continued support is appreciated!**

Visit our website www.bluelaketwpkalkaska.org for more township information