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2021 Winter 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 10:00 AM – Noon

**Zoning Dept:**  Fri & Sat 10:00 AM – Noon

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

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Supervisor | Blair Shearer | Home: 231-587-5698 | [blsuper@torchlake.com](about:blank) |
| Clerk | Tracy Nichol | Home: 231-587-9644 | [blclerk@torchlake.com](about:blank) |
| Treasurer | Christine Almose | Home: 231-587-9593 | [bltreas@torchlake.com](about:blank) |
| 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: 231-587-8354 | [blassessor@torchlake.com](about:blank) |
| Zoning Admin | Kathy Campbell | Home: 231-384-6147 | [blzoning@torchlake.com](about:blank) |
| Blue Lake Fire Dept. | Chief Greg Brierley | Home: 734-216-9137 | bluelakefirechief@att.net |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Phone Number** | **Other County Numbers of Interest:** | **Phone Number** |
| GFL Environmental (Trash) | 231-258-9030 | Kalkaska County Road Commission | 231-258-2242 |
| Kalkaska County  Commissioner: 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 Office Building | 231-258-3300 | EGLE (formally DEQ)  Theresa Sherwood | 989-619-3740 |
|  |  | RAP Poaching Hotline | 800-292-7800 |

**Township Meetings**

The Board meets the first Wednesday of every month at 7:00 PM at the township Hall. The January 2022 board meeting will meet Wednesday, January 5th. We welcome everyone to attend.

**December Board of Review Meeting**

The ***Board of Review*** will meet Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at the township hall located at 10599 Twin Lake Road NE, Mancelona, MI 49659 for the purpose of correcting omission’s and errors of fact to the 2021 assessment roll. The time of the meeting will be at 1:30 PM. No property valuation appeals are heard at the meeting.

**Fire and Rescue Department**

We are staffed with volunteers and are always seeking new members. Volunteers are paid for their time coming to meetings, taking classes, and during runs. Please feel free to call Fire Chief, Greg Brierely at 734-216-9137 or simply stop by the fire barn on Monday evenings. We meet every Monday evening at 7:00 PM. We would be happy to meet with you and talk about your options.

**Natural Gas Expansion**

Thanks to the efforts of Todd Fletemier, DTE is expanding Natural Gas availability to more residents in Blue Lake Township. DTE will be available to all properties between the Fire Barn to Indian Lake and everyone one in between. Todd has been working with an expansion rep from DTE for the past year and a half trying to make this happen. There will be a cost to hook up, it is $2755 per household. The below mentioned reps will be visiting your home soon. If you are not home, they will leave a door hanger with your rep’s information. DTE has all the property owners addresses.

All the field work by DTE is completed and they are expected to begin putting in the necessary ground work in the spring of 2022 with project expected completion by fall of 2022. The route is down Sunset Trail from CR 612 to Papoose Lake Road to Twin Lake Road and then out from there.

Recently all property owners in the expansion area received a flyer from DTE explaining the process. If you overlooked the flyer here are informative videos to watch and DTE contact information:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qzkxCLQfm\_s

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tMiboioHcCQ](about:blank)

DTE sales associates for this area:

Vern Hartman 989-878-0695 Chris Hunter 989-209-4342

Cheryl Hartman 989-878-0696 Esteban Rivera 989-745-1756

**DID YOU KNOW? ...**

**…that our Assessor will inspect 20% of township properties every yea**r? Additionally, after each house sale or building permit is completed your property will also be inspected. The Assessor will leave a business card and a door hanger on your door so you will know he was there inspecting.

**…you can apply what you paid in your Winter Tax Bill to KMHC (Kalkaska Memorial Health Center) toward services received at KMHC?** Simply provide copies of your paid tax receipts for the last 5 years of your WINTER tax bills to Laura, KMHC Patient Accounts 231-258-7614 to get started. If you need copies of your paid tax receipts, you can contact the Treasurer’s office at bltreas@torchlake.com or the Kalkaska County Treasurer’s office 231-258-3311. Some restrictions apply.

**…you can look up what you owe in property taxes by going to our website** [www.bluelaketwpkalkakaska.org](about:blank) Under DEPARTMENTS & SERVICES click on TAXES, in the far right-hand column is a PAID/UNPAID list in alphabetical order by last name.

**…you can print out an Absentee Voter Application request from our website.** Under DEPARTMENTS and Services click on ELECTIONS and under Absentee Voting you can click on the link to print the form and mail it, drop it off, fax it, or email it to the Clerk at the township hall.

**…that a copy of our Zoning Ordinance and Permits is also available** online at our website under DEPARTMENTS and SERVICES click on ZONING and PERMITS you will find these on the right-hand side of the page.

**From the Treasurer’s Desk**

Winter taxes and past due summer taxes are due by Monday, February 14, 2022. The treasurer’s office will be open that day to collect payments. The township will collect taxes through February 28, 2022. If your payment arrives to Blue Lake Township via US Postal Service and is post marked on or before February 14, 2022, your payment will be accepted as paid in full. If post marked, hand delivered or put in the drop box after February 14th, you will be billed an additional penalty of 3%.

As of March 1, 2022, all taxes are turned in to the County Treasurer. The County will add an additional interest fee to your bill.

**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).

**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 required. No alterations to the original form will be accepted.

**Zoning Permits**

A Zoning Permit shall not be issued until all other necessary permits required by State, County, or Local regulations, including well and septic system approvals have been obtained or waived with exception of those permits issued by the Kalkaska County Building Department and County Soil Erosion, Sedimentation, and Storm Water Runoff Control Office. The location of the property boundaries and all structures shall be staked on the ground for Zoning Administrator approval prior to the issuance of the Zoning Permit. Zoning Ordinance and Permits are also available online at our website under: DEPARTMENTS and SERVICES, click on Zoning and Permits. You will find these on the right-hand side of the page.

### Trash Pickup

**Residential trash pickup is on Monday by GFL Environmental with a 5-bag limit per household.** Boxes of garbage or large items that do not have a sticker on them will not be picked up. Household items only, no construction material will be collected. If a holiday falls on Monday, pickup will be on Tuesday. Please do not put out trash that is not bagged - our contract with GFL Environmental 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.

**If your old refrigerator or freezer is no longer working**, you can call GFL Environmental 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 GFL Environmental the closest company that deals with freon removal is B & T Electric on Woodmere in Traverse City.

They charge $25.00 to drop off your old appliance to have the freon removed and appliance recycled. B & T Electric’s phone number is: 231-947-0465.

**Tire Recycling –** You can take your old tires into a tire store to get rid of them. Upper Lakes tire in Grayling - 989-732-9432 will take your old tires for $2.50 per tire. Express Tire in Kalkaska - 231-258-2300 will accept them for $5.00 per tire. Just call ahead and let them know what type of tire and how many you will be bringing in.

Large items require a sticker for pick-up and are available at the township hall.

**Community Police Officer**

Jennifer Lister 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 Lister, 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. (Photo courtesy of Ellen Whitehead)

**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.

**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.

**County Recycle Center**

The County Recycle Center is located at 904 Island Lake Road. The facility itself has closed but the County of Kalkaska has recently completed a contract with GFL Environmental to provide 3 large recycle bins outside at the Recycle Center. Bins will be emptied by GFL every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

**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. For additional information regarding this service, please feel free to contact KPTA at 231-258-6808 or the COA at 231-258-5030.

**Kalkaska Memorial Health Center**

Kalkaska Memorial Hospital has 24/7 emergency services that are available with new physicians and extended services. Located at 419 S Coral Street. Visit their website [www.munsonhealthcare.org/kmhc](about:blank) for more information. KMHC has also opened a Walk-in Care Clinic attached to the Medical Associates Offices. The first check-in window is dedicated to walk-in registration. No appointments are necessary. All patients are welcome and served on a first come first served basis. The clinic is open Monday thru Friday Noon - 8 PM. Saturday from 8 AM - Noon. They are closed on Sunday. Office call pricing will be charged for each visit.

**Road Millage Passed**

The results from the November 2, 2021 Road Millage election were: 93 YES and 50 NO votes. The millage is 1.5 for 5 years. The Road Committee has developed a 10 year road improvement plan for Blue Lake Township. The Township Board has recently given the plan to Kalkaska County Road Commission manager John Rogers. At this time, the Road Commisssion plans to chipseal a portion of Blue Lake Road and to overlay a portion of Starvation Lake and Blue Lake Roads for 2022. Our priority was to gravel the sides of the roads to prevent continued degradation. The gravel was not mentioned in the county’s Road Project Plan.

Their plan states Blue Lake’s portion of the projects will be $363,567.00 and their portion will be $90,891.00. We are in the process of confirming that our road side gravel will be done. We have not yet received a formal quote from the Road Commission on any project.

May your days this holiday be Happy & Bright!

**Visit our website** [**www.bluelaketwpkalkaska.org**](about:blank)

**for more township information**