

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
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.

From The Treasurer's Desk

For your tax paying convenience I will be in the office on Wednesday, December 26, 2012 and Thursday February 14, 2013 from 10 – 1. If your taxes are not paid by February 14, 2013 a 3% penalty will be levied. I will also be in office on Thursday, February 28, 2013 after which taxes become delinquent and are turned over to the Treasurer of Kalkaska County, who then adds another 5% to your tax bill.

You can check the status of tax payments on line at our township website under Departments and Services, click on "Taxes". Once you are on the taxes page in the far right hand column you will find tax payment information. 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. Their number is 231-258-3310.

When paying your taxes, please make checks payable to **Blue Lake Township**.

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.

Fire Department

If you are interested in joining the Fire and Rescue 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.

Trash Millage Reduction

At the July 2012 meeting the Township Board decided to reduce the millage for Trash Collection from 0.6 to 0.3 mills. This is the third year that this Tax reduction appears on the Tax Bill you received with this newsletter. At the August election the voters approved a millage of 0.5 mills for the years 2013 through 2018. This will only be assessed at its full rate if required.

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.

**Trash Pickup
is on Monday**

Please put your trash in an animal proof receptacle when you put it out for pickup. Dogs, cats, ravens and raccoons just love to spread your trash around. This could lead to a ticket for a nuisance violation. If possible, trash should not be placed out for pick up before Monday morning.

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 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM and Saturday's 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Call 258-3369 for further information.

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 removed. 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.

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.

Broadband Service

The Township board and COLI Communications have teamed up to get Broadband Internet service into the Township. Three towers located on Township Property are being used by COLI to provide high speed internet access to most of the Township. This is a line of sight system and can be blocked by high trees so COLI has installed additional repeaters on 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.

The Township also maintains a Public Access WiFi 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.

Activities At the Township Hall

On Monday's you are invited to join the Blue Lake Quilters, which meet from 1 to 3 PM.

Community Police Officer

Eric Johnson 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 Eric you can leave a detailed message for Deputy Johnson 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.

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 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". Also the Planning Commission is planning a public hearing on a Saturday next June. Keep your eyes open for more info regarding date & proposed Ordinance changes.

A Greenbelt ordinance (Section 3.07 of our Zoning Ord.) limits what can be done on the strip of land measuring 25 feet from the high water line. Trees, shrubs and native vegetation should be in this area to protect the bank from eroding. If in doubt about what you can do near the water's edge, please call the Zoning Administrator Blair Shearer 587-5698.

Kalkaska Memorial Health Center News

With 65% of its revenue coming from Medicare and Medicaid the hospital is preparing for revenue reductions from the Federal Government created by the new Health Care Act. By reducing costs now while maintaining quality of patient care we hope to prevent financial difficulties in the future. If you have any comments or questions, contact your hospital representative Dean McCulloch 587-4836.

Road Paving

This summer we paved the gravel portion of Twin Lake road costing the Township \$414,000. Next year we are planning to top coat with asphalt the remainder of Twin Lake road. For the summer of 2014 we are planning to pave a portion of Eagle Lake Dr. and Eagle Lane. 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.

New Public Road Ends at Lakes State Law

In March 2012 MCL 324.3011b was signed. The new law applies to three uses or activities at Public Road Ends:

1. Private docks, piers, boat cradles are prohibited.
2. No boat or watercraft can be kept, stored or moored at a public road end between midnight and sunrise.
3. No one can engage in any use or activity at a public road end that would obstruct ingress or egress.

Violation of the New Law will result in a criminal misdemeanor offense, rather than a municipal civil infraction. That is significant because being convicted of a criminal misdemeanor gives a person convicted a criminal record.

The common law still prohibits lounging, sunbathing, picnicking or camping, which are activities that are all prohibited civilly. Additionally, since 2002, Blue Lake Township has a Road End Usage Ordinance. You can view the entire Ordinance on our website, bluelaketwpkalkaska.org.

Walking / Mountain Bike Trail

About 9 miles of the North Country walking trail (a trail that goes from New York to North Dakota) goes right through Blue Lake Township. This trail can be accessed at 612 near Sunset trail and continues to Starvation Lake Road near Sand Lake Rd. In its journey across the Township, it crosses Kenel, Papoose Lake and Twin Lake Roads. This is a cleared pathway maintained by the North Country Trail Association. If you have a couple of hours and would like a nice walk through the woods, try it out.