

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

Summer tax bills must be paid by September 14. A 1% penalty begins on September 15th.

When paying your taxes please make checks payable to **Blue Lake Township**. Office hours for the Treasurer are Wednesdays 10-4. 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.

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 Meeting Day

The Planning Commission has changed its meeting day to better allow property owners to attend. Meetings are now held on the Third Saturday of each month at 9:00 am at the Township Hall. Please come and let your thoughts be known.

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 Department had 43 runs in 2012, about normal for most years. Many of the calls the Fire Department receives are for Medical and Rescue Services (26). 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.

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**

If you put your trash out before Monday morning please put 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.

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.

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.

Campers and Trailers

Per our Township Zoning Ordinance Campers and Trailers cannot be stored or left on vacant property but they can be used for vacation use. 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 can be kept on any property that has a dwelling.

Community Police Officer

Eric Johnson is our Community Officer and has been providing regular road patrol within the Township. Last year Eric reported on a total of 119 incidents within the Township a decrease from last year. 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 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.

Road Paving

This summer the Township will contract with the County Road Commission to repave Twin Lake Rd West of Sunset trail. Cost is estimated at \$70,000 and will be paid using the Road Improvement Millage Funds. Congratulations to Mike Allen a township resident who has been appointed to the County Road Commission.

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".

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

The Hospital is investigating a proposal to add 20 new Long Term Care beds with the addition of 2 new exterior units. We would then begin redesigning and building the older unit (built in the 60's and 70's) for more single patient rooms. This would be a major project lasting several years and costing millions of dollars. If you have any comments or questions, contact your hospital representative Dean McCulloch 587-4836.

Lake Public Road Ends - State Law

A new State 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. A civil law prohibits lounging, sunbathing, picnicking or camping. Additionally, since 2002, Blue Lake Township has a Road End Usage Ordinance. You can view the entire Ordinance on our website, bluelaketwpkalkaska.org.

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. For information contact the Zoning Administrator Blair Shearer at 587-5698

Current Watercraft Rules

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 (Boat below Plane Speed and no towing)

Big Blue, Big Twin, Starvation Lake

No High Speed Boating between 7:30 PM and 11:00 AM.