

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.

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.

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 clean, 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 58 runs in 2013, higher than the 43 they had in 2012. Many of the calls the Fire Department receives are for Medical and Rescue Services (33). 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.

Road Paving

This summer the Township will contract with the County Road Commission to pave Eagle Lake Drive and Eagle Lane. Cost is estimated at \$175,000 and will be paid for using the Road Improvement Millage Funds.

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 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.

Trash Pickup is on Monday

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 picked up. If you have additional trash pick-up needs or questions call American Waste at 258-9030.

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.

Chain of Lakes Internet has a line of sight system in the Township. 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.

From the Treasurer's Desk

Do you have an escrow account that your mortgage company pays your taxes from? In the past, we have sent your tax bills to your mortgage company. You didn't see anything regarding your property taxes until your mortgage company paid your bill and we sent you a receipt. Beginning with this July's tax bill, we are sending the original bill to the property owner. At the same time, we will be sending a copy of your tax bill to your mortgage company. This will allow you the opportunity to correct any errors.

Every time you receive your tax bill, you need to be sure all the information is correct. Do you have a Principal Residence Exemption or did you lose your PRE? Is your taxable value correct? You must bring the errors to the attention of our Assessor Dave Grimm. If he finds there is an error, it can be corrected at the July Board of Review.

Address changes should be brought to our attention as soon as you move. Not giving us your correct address could result in a delay receiving your tax bill. When we receive your new address we also forward it to the County of Kalkaska Equalization department (they print your tax bills) and to our Assessor.

Our office will be open on Monday, September 15, 2014 to collect your tax payment since the 14th falls on a Sunday. Our posted hours are 10 to 1. Don't forget you can always use the locked drop box next to the doors at the township hall. Or drop your check off anytime the office is open.

Jo Hughes resigned from the deputy treasurer position at the end of February. While we all will miss Jo, I would like you to welcome Janet Gruley as the new deputy treasurer. Janet has been busy learning the details of the job and has proven to be a valuable asset already. Janet and Dave live on Big Twin.

Community Police Officer

Brian Peacock is our Community Officer and has been providing regular road patrol within the Township. Last year Brian reported on a total of 103 incidents within the Township a decrease from last year's 119. 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 Brian you can leave a detailed message for Deputy Peacock at the Sheriff's office at 258-8686. For any emergency always call 911. In an emergency other Sheriff's Department Officers may respond.

Smart 911

Kalkaska County 911 system is now offering Smart 911, a voluntary web based service where you can provide vital information to our Emergency Responders before they get to your house. This information can include anything you think First Responder should know, how many people are in the home, do they use oxygen or insulin, where bedrooms are located, even photos of children. It's free to you and the information can only be accessed if you have an emergency and call 911. You can go to www.smart911.com to get more information and signup or contact Pat Whiteford at 231-564-0000 for more information.

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. The complete Zoning ordinance is available on the web site under "Zoning and Permits". Or call the Zoning Administrator Blair Shearer 587-5698.

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 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 application will be approved or denied within 30 days. If you have questions about the process please contact Dave at (231) 331-6370.

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.

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.

Kalkaska Memorial Health Center News

In February the Hospital hired a new Administrator / CEO. His name is Kevin Rogols, he has been a CEO for several hospitals in the past and has also worked in the Munson System in the late 80's. Kevin is very energetic and will lead the hospital into the Affordable Care Act future.

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.

Current DNR 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 or water skiing)

Big Blue, Big Twin, Starvation Lake

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