

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

If you own multiple properties it is fine to send a single check. It is not necessary to send a self-addressed envelope. We mail you an official receipt after we post your check. You can check the status of tax payments on line at our township website. Under Departments and Services, select Taxes. On the right hand side of the tax page you will find a paid/ unpaid alphabetical list. The tax info on the website is updated every Wednesday. You can also send address changes and inquires to me thru my email, listed at the top of this page. I will get back to you, again usually on Wednesday.

The Treasurer's office will be closed on Wednesday, December 25, 2013 and January 1, 2014. We will be open on Monday, December 30 from 10 – 1. February 14 falls on a Friday this year so the office will be open that day also. You may hand deliver your check to the hall anytime the hall is open or use the drop box.

All taxes are due by February 14, 2014. If you pay after February 14th you will incur a 3% penalty. February 28, 2014 is the last day I will accept payments. Any payments received after February 28 will be forwarded to the County Treasurer. 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 Treasurer's office, 231-258-3310.

Activities At the Township Hall

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

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.

Trash Millage Reduction

At the June 2013 meeting the Township Board decided to reduce the millage for Trash Collection from the voter approved 0.5 mills to 0.4 mills. This is the fourth year that a Trash Tax reduction appears on the Tax Bill you received with this newsletter.

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. In September the Board approved a proposal from American Waste to continue to pick up our trash for the next 3 years. 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 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM and Saturday's 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Call 258-3369 for further information.

Large Item Pickup

You can 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. 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.

Planning Commission

In November the Board approved a recommendation from the Planning Commission to change the Greenbelt portion in our Zoning ordinance. This change now allows some removal of trees in the Greenbelt (a strip of land 25 feet up from the high water mark) if approved by the Zoning Administrator and a permit is issued. Contact Administrator Blair Shearer (587-5698) for any questions.

Fire Department

The Fire Department is in need of volunteers, this could be you. If you are looking for a way to give back to the Township, make a little extra spending money, become a trained fire fighter and have interesting times with the Fire 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.

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

COLI Communications has provided high speed internet access to most of the Township. They have a line of sight system that can be blocked by high trees so COLI has installed repeaters on the many of 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. Satellite and Cell Phone based systems may also be available at some locations within the Township.

The Township also maintains a Public Access WiFi system at the Township Hall using the COLI system. If you have a compatible computer you can use it in and around the Township Hall to access the Internet.

Community Police Officer

In July our Community Officer Eric Johnson was assigned to new responsibilities within the Sheriff's department and a new Officer was appointed to Blue Lake. Brian Peacock is our new Community Officer. Brian has been with the Sheriff's department as a traffic officer for many years and is familiar with our Township. He will perform regular road patrol within the Township and any other law enforcement service that is required. 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. 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".

Road Paving

This summer we had a top coating of asphalt put on Twin Lake Rd. between Sunset Trail and the west township line. The cost to the Township was \$67,636. Coldspring Township did the rest of Twin Lake Rd. to Barnhart Rd. Next summer we are working with the Road Commission to pave a portion of Eagle Lake Dr. and Eagle Lane. In the last 15 years we have paved or repaved Starvation Lake, Blue Lake, Twin Lake, North Twin Lake, Squaw Lake, Gedmen, and Birch Drive. Because of your tax dollars we have some of the best roads in the County. 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.

Taxable Value Capping Change

Starting on January 1, 2014 the transfer of residential property is not a transfer of ownership if the transferee is related to the transferor by blood or affinity to the first degree and use does not change. "Affinity" to the first degree includes spouse, father or mother, father or mother of spouse, son or daughter, including adopted children. Normally when a transfer of ownership occurs the taxable value becomes uncapped and is set equal to the assessed value, this almost always results in increased taxes. This new property transfer policy by the State Tax Commission could substantially reduce the taxes that your son or daughter will pay if you transfer the property to them. Contact the Assessor Dave Grimm at 231-331-6370 for any questions.

Blue Lake – Coldsprings Civic Association

The Blue Lake – Coldsprings Civic Association was formed in 1971 as an informal and voluntary association of riparian property owners in Blue Lake and Coldsprings Townships. Its purpose is to monitor the health of our inland lakes and to be an educational resource to the residents of these townships; the association is open to any resident. The association regularly presents educational programs on other issues affecting our natural landscape including resent presentations on caterpillar infestations and Fracking.

The Association is a member the Cooperative Lake Monitoring Program (CLMP) in partnership with Michigan State University and the DEQ. As its name implies, CLMP monitors the water quality of inland lakes and looks for the presence of invasive species so that corrective measures can be taken while still manageable. Monitoring is accomplished by trained representatives on each lake who commit to doing certain simple tests and observations throughout the summer.

The Association has two public meetings annually on the Saturdays of Memorial Day and Labor Day week-ends at the Blue Lake Township Hall at 9:00 AM. Make a point to attend the next meeting on Saturday May 24th 2014, and find out what is happening on your lake and in your back yard. Bob Barr: Association President, 231-587-8711