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2023 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

**And starting 1/1/24 2nd & 4th Sat 9AM-11AM (or by appointment)**

**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](mailto:blsuper@torchlake.com) |
| Clerk | Tracy Nichol | Home: 231-587-9644 | [blclerk@torchlake.com](mailto:blclerk@torchlake.com) |
| Treasurer | Christine Almose | Home: 231-587-9593 | [bltreas@torchlake.com](mailto:bltreas@torchlake.com) |
| 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: 231-499-5039 | [blassessor@torchlake.com](mailto:blassessor@torchlake.com) |
| Zoning Admin | Jonna Schuhart | Home: 231-564-1341 | [blzoning@torchlake.com](mailto:blzoning@torchlake.com) |
| 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) | 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 2024 board meeting will meet Wednesday, January 3rd. We welcome everyone to attend.

**December Board of Review Meeting**

The ***Board of Review*** will meet Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at the township hall located at 10599 Twin Lake Road NE, Mancelona, MI 49659 for the purpose of correcting omissions and errors of fact to the 2023 assessment roll. The time of the meeting will be 2:30 PM. No property valuation appeals are heard at the meeting.

**From the Treasurer’s Desk**

Winter taxes and past due summer taxes are due by Wednesday, February 14, 2024. The treasurer’s office will be open that day to collect payments. The township will collect taxes through February 29, 2024. If your payment arrives to Blue Lake Township via US Postal Service and is post marked on or before February 14, 2024, 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, 2024, all taxes are turned in to the County Treasurer. The County will add an additional interest fee to your bill.

In addition to online credit card payments, you can now pay your tax bill by ACH for a fee of $3.00 (credit card payments incur a fee of 3% of your total bill amount). Electronic payments are available on the TAX PAGE of our township website. The additional fees are paid to Point N Pay and not to the township.

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

**From the Clerk’s Desk**

Michigan Secretary of State has moved the 2024 Presidential Primary election to the 4th Tuesday of the month, February 27, 2024. The General Election will remain the same, the first Tuesday of November, November 5, 2024. Michigan’s Proposal 2 passed in 2022 will alter elections to add early in person voting nine days before State and Federal elections only. As more information becomes available it will be posted on our website

You can also 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.

**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).

**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.

**Sheriff Property Check Requests**

The Kalkaska County Sheriff’s Department provides a service to have random checks on your property while you are away. You can fill out the form on their website: [www.kalkaskasheriff.net](http://www.kalkaskasheriff.net) Under FORMS click on PROPERTY CHECK REQUEST to fill out the form, click submit and it will be directly submitted to the Sheriff’s Department. Forms are also available at the township office.

It’s always a good reminder to keep your outbuildings locked and secured when away.

**Community Police Officer**

Deputy Ray Farrier is our new Community Officer and will be providing regular road patrol within the Township. If you have a concern or an issue you would like to discuss with Deputy Farrier, you can leave a detailed message for him 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.

**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.

**Zoning Permits**

A **zoning permit** shall not be issued by the township until a site plan has been approved by the Zoning Administrator. 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 A zoning permit shall not be issued until all other necessary permits required by federal, state, county or local regulations, including well and septic systems approvals have been obtained or waived with the exception of those permits issued by the Kalkaska County Building Department and County Soil Erosion, Sedimentation and Stormwater Runoff Office. You can view the Zoning Ordinance and Permits requirements 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. Large items require a sticker for pick-up and are available at the township hall.

**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.

**Blue Lake Township Road Improvements**

Improvements are scheduled for 2024 on Blue Lake Rd. from the culvert north to the intersection at Bell Avenue. The County will be chip sealing this section at their expense. New shoulders with Afton stone will also be installed at Blue Lake Townships expense. This is great unexpected news as the township was slated to pay for the chip sealing but now can apply those funds to repair other roads. The volunteer Road Committee members are going to meet to adjust the 10-year plan.

**Planning Commission Updates**

The Township Planning Commission met in November to discuss how the recent court decisions regarding Short Term Rental will affect Blue Lake Township. And in July, they presented proposed changes to several Ordinances: Nonconformities, Short Term Rental, Shipping Containers, Accessory Building Size & Height, Kennels, and a new Noise Ordinance, to the township board. The township board approved the proposed changes at their meeting on July 12, 2023. A complete list of the changes can be found on the website. The next meeting is Tuesday, January 30, 2024, at 7PM.

**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.

**Township Recycle Locations**

GFL Recycle bins are available at CETA Hall and behind the Kaliseum. Bins will be emptied by GFL every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

**Visit our website** [**www.bluelaketwpkalkaska.org**](http://www.bluelaketwpkalkaska.org) **for more township information**

May your days this holiday be Happy & Bright!