



Bear Lake Township

Summer 2024

198 E. Bear Lake Rd. NE - Kalkaska, MI 49646

Bear Lake Township
Officials

Clean-Up Day JUNE 8TH **8 am to Noon**



OFFICE: 231-258-4871

SUPERVISOR:

George "Bud" Banker Opt. 3
Cell: 231-624-1019
Hours: Monday 9 to 11 am

TOWNSHIP CLERK

Dawn Dannenberg Opt. 1
Email:
bltclerkddannenberg@yahoo.com
Hours: Wednesday 9 am to Noon

TOWNSHIP TREASURER

Shirley Havens Opt. 2
Email: shavensbltt@yahoo.com
Hours: July thru February
Tues. Wed. Thurs. 9 am to 3 pm
2nd Sat. of month 9 am to Noon
March thru June
Wed. only 9am to 1 pm

TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES:

Robert "Bob" Dixon
Cell: 989-710-0093
James "Jim" Knight
Cell: 989-513-0138

TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR

Sally Murray
231-499-7682
sallyannmurray8120@gmail.com
810 Cottageview Dr., Suite 301
Traverse City MI 49684

TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS

Meetings are held at the Bear Lake Township Community Center the second Tuesday of each month.

NEW HOURS:

All meetings begin at
4:00 pm

All other meetings or changes in the regular meeting will be posted on website and Twp. Board.

PLEASE TRY TO ATTEND!

Bear Lake Township CLEAN-UP DAY is located at the Blue Bear Trail Head, M-72 and Sunset Trail.

PROOF OF RESIDENCY REQUIRED: THIS NEWSLETTER , LAST PROPERTY TAX BILL ,

PROOF OF PROPERTY OWNERSHIP or UTILITY BILL etc.

First load is free, each additional load will be \$15.00

(a load is considered to be one (1) pickup truck, utility trailer or equivalent).

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS: Limit of two (2) major appliances, refrigerators and freezers must be tagged "FREON FREE" - furniture—chairs—couches—mattresses—carpeting (cut to 6' length and tied) - scrap metal.

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS:

Household garbage—Tires—Batteries—Hazardous chemicals—Paint—Oil—Explosives—Yard waste—Brush—Asphalt—Broken Concrete—Glass—Burn Barrels filled with trash—Hot Tubs and - Building Materials. **NO LOOSE MATERIALS.**

Just a reminder: Workers are Volunteers, so help with whatever you are able, to make things move quickly. Thank you! This is a courtesy to the property owners and to help maintain our woods from debris, your cooperation is appreciated.

RECYCLE AT THE TOWNSHIP

Bear Lake Township has 3 recycle bins located at the community Center for Homeowners. Please observe the signs on what can and cannot be placed in the recycle bins. Do not discard garbage or leave boxes etc. on the ground if they do not fit in the bin. Someone has to clean that up! Thank You!

FROM THE SUPERVISOR'S DESK

In May of 2023 your Township Board spent the last of the ARPA monies by replacing the existing roof on the Community Center and Township Hall. The cost for the total project was \$48,490.00 and included replacing the roof on our Township Sign at the intersection of M-72 and E. Bear Lake Rd. Several other large expenditures were made during the year and are covered by other departments in this newsletter, including a new vehicle for the Bear Lake Township Fire Dept.

Our contract with the Kalkaska County Sheriff Dept. for our Community Sheriff deputy increased by just over \$700.00 for fiscal year 2024 for a total of \$21,499.00. Deputy Farrier has been doing a great job keeping the Township Board up to date on all issues involving our Township and the Sheriff Department. The Community Service Program is an asset for the Township.

The Annual Township Clean-up held on the second Saturday in June was a big success. Over 130 vehicles participated. The event provides property owners a way to dispose of large items. The transfer station in Kalkaska was closed at the start of last year, making the drive to Traverse City difficult for property owners who visit their cabins on weekends. This year's clean-up will be held on **Saturday, June 8th, 2024, from 8 am to Noon.** Additional guidelines on articles you can dispose of are in this newsletter and this year's event will be

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FROM THE SUPERVISOR'S DESK (continued from page 1)

held at the Blue Bear Staging Area on M-72 near Sunset Trail.

Again, this year as last year the Kalkaska Public Transit Authority, KPTA, along with the Council on Aging will be offering free rides for residents over 65 years of age. The Transit Authority provides transportation throughout the Kalkaska area as well as trips to Munson Hospital, Meijer in Acme, the Veterans Center in Traverse City as well as hookups to the Bay Area Transit Authority. Interested individuals can call 231-258-6808 between 6:45 am and 6:00 pm Mon. thru Fri.

Kalkaska Memorial Health Center has been conducting several forums for the public this spring on the topic of Act 47 Hospitals vs. 501-C3 non-profit Hospitals. Act-47 Hospitals were created by the State in 1945 to provide emergency services to rural areas and KMHC is the last Act 47 Hospital in the state. Over the last two years the Hospital Administration and the Hospital Board of Trustees, have been researching the pros and cons of taking the issues to the public on changing over to a non-profit Hospital vs. an Act-47 Hospital, which we have been since the fifties. There are many benefits to making this change and the public needs to be informed on all issues. There will be several more forums this summer and fall and I encourage you to attend so you receive the correct information, and get your questions answered. We plan on inviting KMHC Representatives to one of our summer board meetings to also answer questions you may have. The township will post the dates and times of the summer forums at the Hospital on the bulletin Boards on the front of the Community Center.

The Bear Lake Fire and Rescue Dept. will be undergoing some changes this fall. With heavy heart the board has been notified that our fire chief, Andrei Henegariu and his wife Sarah Henegariu will be leaving us in June and moving to Texas for employment with a larger department. They both have been a big asset to Bear Lake. Sarah has written several grants that have benefitted the department and Andrei has been able to purchase much-needed equipment and scheduled additional training for our volunteers. Best wishes to you both.

I would like to thank all members of the Bear Lake Township Fire and Rescue Dept. along with the volunteers and the Fire Association, for their dedication and service. The Board of Review, Election Committee, Custodial and Ground Maintenance Staff, Iola Melvin, coordinator for the COA for our senior meal program, Sam Rahaim our web site manager, all members of the Bear Lake Township Improvement Association, the Bear and Cub Lake Associations, our Township Assessor, Sally Murray and a big thank you to the Board of Trustees.

This has been a busy year for me by being on the Kalkaska Memorial Health Center Board of Trustees, The Strategic Planning Committee, Executive Finance Committee and Hospital Nominating Committee, Kalkaska Area Transit Authority Board and Voting Member of the Upper Manistee River Natural River Act.

Wishing you a Healthy, Enjoyable and Safe 2024-2025.

Working For You, George "Bud" Banker

Be sure to get your absentee ballot , vote in the August Primary and November General Election this year.

From the Clerk

We have completed our first 9 day of early voting, that was held in February. We will have 2 more 9 day of early voting for State and Local Primary election and General election.

Primary election early voting begins on July 27th to August 4, 2024 from 7 am to 3 pm. Election day is August 6, 2024, 7 am to 8 pm.

General election early voting begins on October 26th to November 3rd, 2024 from 7 am to 3 pm. Election day is November 5th, 2024, 7 am to 8 pm.

I would like to give a big Thank you to all my election workers, for all their hard work. Dawn Dannenberg, Bear Lake Township Clerk

TAKE A LOOK! Bear Lake Township has a new sign in front of the Community Center on East Bear Lake Rd. side. *Thank you Bear Lake Improvement Association.*

News from Assessor

It is recommended that townships perform site inspections on 20% of its parcels on an annual basis. This will take place beginning in April and will likely end in December. Inspections are exterior only and provide an opportunity to assure that the property details are accurate for all record cards. If a property owner is not available, a card will be left on site. If there are no questions, the back of the card will read, "Reviewed". If there are questions, the back of the card will read, "Please call".

Please contact the assessor if you have questions regarding: property valuation or details, exemption status (principal residence; agricultural; disabled veteran; commercial forest; qualified forest; etc.), hardship exemptions, land divisions, etc.

Sally Murray, Bear Lake Township Assessor
SallyAnnMurray8120@gmail.com— 231-499-7682

TRUSTEE REPORT

Camp Grayling Expansion! We can once again say goodbye to Winter, for those that have yard signs, STOP Camp Grayling Expansion, please place those signs out stating your position on this important issue.

For those who would like to get a yard sign, there is a donation of \$6.00, please let me know if you would like one.

Citizens for Local Choice! For those that are unaware, on November 28th, 2023, Governor Witmer signed legislation called the Clean and Renewable Energy and Energy Waste Reduction Act by Public Act 233 of 2023.

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NOTES FROM THE TREASURER

Tax bills for Summer 24 will be mailed the 1st week of July , Winter 24 tax bills will be mailed the 1st week of December. After March 1st, 2025 taxes become delinquent and are sent to Kalkaska County Treasurer for collection. Please make sure we have the most up to date address for your mailing address.

Just a reminder, if you use the KMHC for medical issues, as a taxpayer in Bear Lake Twp., you are eligible to receive a discount on your bill. You need to present the billing dept. with receipts showing they are paid. If you need receipts call the office and I will be glad to send them to you or to the hospital.

We have made some changes in the office recently. We have moved the clerk's office to the back office and Treasurer , Assessor and Supervisor are in the front office. The doors are locked due to security issues, you will be buzzed in or someone will come to the door. Thanks for your patience.

You will again this year be able to pay your tax payments online by credit card , e-check , in the office, in person or by phone. Credit card payments require a 3% fee and e-checks a \$3 fee. I prefer not to accept cash, but if you pay in cash please have exact amount as we do not keep monies in the office for change.

We appreciate that taxpayers read the Treasurers tips that were sent with tax bills. Having phone numbers helps if we have questions about your bill. Have a great summer, and remember to vote in the upcoming elections. Shirley Havens, Bear Lake Twp. Treasurer

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TRUSTEES REPORT (continued)

What is in this new legislation, supercedes any local ordinance and zoning laws in County or Township having any control of placements of wind turbines or solar farms. As passed, it would be governed by the Public Service Commission, of a panel of 3 people appointed by the Governor.

It has been suggested that 200,000 acres of public land statewide would be needed.

A statewide group, Citizens for Local Choice, has a petition drive to place it on the November ballot. If successful, the language on the ballot would repeal Part 8 of the Clean and Renewable Energy and Renewable Waste Reduction Act, which would give local ordinances and zoning control over what is in their communities. To get it on the ballot a minimum of 356, 958 valid signatures are needed by May 29, 2024.

For those looking for more information, www.micitizenchoice.org.

Jim Knight, Trustee

Camp Grayling Expansion Update

On April 28th, 2023, the original request to expand Camp Graylings footprint to more than double its size, to acquire 162,000 acres of additional Public Land was denied. At the same time a Memorandum of Understanding, (MOU) was signed by the DNR and the DMVA, to use by a Special User Permit of addition 52,000 acres of Public Land. To which there is not all, but a substantial amount of acreage that is in Bear Lake Township.

On April 9th, 2024, an application for a Land Use Permit was submitted to the Department of Natural Resources, for the purpose of training soldiers in the use of electronic sensing systems. The application is under current review by DNR staff. If approved, up to two vehicles and up to eight people at a time would be permitted to engage in low impact training on eligible state forest lands between April 20th and October 31st.

A well-respected Environmental group, the Anglers of the AuSable, has stepped forward with a lawsuit against the DNR for not responding to FOIA requests. The DNR had agreed to provide an accurate map and there are discussions to resolve the case by creating a process, so the public is informed that an application by Camp Grayling be submitted and an opportunity for the public to comment. At this time, they remain in discussions.

As of this writing (4-20-2024), a map that has been released still leaves questions of where the 52,000 acres are located. Until the current environmental disaster caused by the PFAS contamination has been cleaned up, until those questions are answered and for the need for these additional lands is justified, we remain opposed to any expansion to Camp Grayling.

Our Township Board is in the process of adopting a new Resolution opposing any expansion to the Camp and will state its position clearly.

This has been amazing to see the overwhelming support from so many that oppose this. Congressman Jack Bergman stated that the opposition to this expansion is non-partisan. In fact, rare considering how polarizing politics have become.

I am still actively engaged in the opposition. I would like to thank all of you for the support you have shown by becoming active in this effort to keep northern Michigan the jewel that defines Pure Michigan. Thank you!

Jim Knight, Trustee

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BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 2024: It is the honor and privilege of the Bear Lake Township Fire Department to provide the annual report to our residents, community members, township board, and neighboring fire departments. We are incredibly grateful for the tremendous amount of support we continuously receive, and hope that this newsletter finds all of you well and ready for the upcoming spring and summer seasons.

As always, Bear Lake Township Fire Department strives to provide our community with outstanding fire and rescue services. As many, if not all of you know, we are a part-paid on call department, which means that we do not have full-time staffing and operate based on responding to call from home when alerted to an emergency.

We are proud to say that over this past year, we have seen three cadets go through the fire academy, which will reach completion at the end of April. Additionally, the department itself has undergone a significant revamping of our training schedule per new state guidelines, ensuring that all the staff is fully prepared for all emergencies. Bear Lake Township Fire Department has hosted a fire instructor course, with 2 personnel completing and obtaining their instructor certifications.

In 2024, we have seen the fire department become part of MABAS, reached an agreement for mutual aid with Camp Grayling Fire Department, order the replacement for the current failing brush truck, and replace the out-of-date air packs with new safe models. Additionally, we have been hard at work applying for grant funding, of which we have received the MI Fire Equipment Grant, DNR Grant and most recently the Firehouse Subs grant. This ensures that the department can maintain its fiscal responsibility to our citizens while still maintaining the health and safety standards that are necessary to uphold.

Bear Lake Township Fire Department looks forward to further growth and advances in 2024 and would like to say a special thanks to the personnel who commit to attending three monthly business/training meetings, additional required courses, and taking time from your family/friends to respond when the community calls.

As always, we are looking for new members to add to our roster, training will be provided to all incoming cadets by Michigan Firefighters Training Council.

Respectfully, Fire Chief Andrei Henegariu

Cell: (231) 886-0577 email: bearlaketwpfirechief@gmail.com

BEAR LAKE TWP. FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION—OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

2023 was another banner year for the Firefighters' Association. We were able to sponsor the Community Yard Sale and the Annual Chicken BBQ once again. Both events were successful and brought together our community in support of our Fire and Rescue Department.

We are planning a Community Yard Sale on Saturday, June 1st. at the Community Center parking lot. It is a great way to clear out your storage areas and make some money at the same time. There will be forms available at the Fire Department or Community Center during business hours, if you are interested in participating. Spots will fill up fast, so please don't delay. Spots are \$10 each and rental tables are available for an additional \$5.

The Annual Chicken BBQ is also scheduled for Labor Day Sunday, September 1st. This is our primary fundraiser and is essential to providing funds for needed equipment. Since 2010, the Association has donated over \$140,000 to the Fire and Rescue Department. This support has been instrumental in helping to control costs for the Township. There will be a need for new volunteers to help with each of these events. If you have any interest in helping, please contact a member of the Association or the Fire Department and we will find a job that matches your talents. Teenagers are also welcome; it is never too early or too late to start volunteering.

Prize items will also be needed as we will continue to try to ease the burden on local businesses by limiting our requests for donations. Please contact a member if you are interested in donating new items for prizes.

Our primary fundraising focus will be the new brush truck. This new truck will be replacing our current 1988 Ford F-3250 retired Department of Defense truck from McGuire Air Force Base which is well past its prime. Updates on the progress will be available throughout this year.

The Well Project brick sale resulted in a beautiful display located by the flag pole at the Community Center. Please stop by to view this growing display. It is a compilation of many family names which have helped make this township special. Bricks continue to be sold, so do not delay adding your family to the display. Please contact any member of the Association or Fire Department for details. Forms available in the Township office during business hours.

The firefighters' Association is a small but dedicated group and new people are needed to help plan and organize these events. Please consider joining us. Follow us on Facebook at Bear Lake Twp. Firefighter's Association to keep up with developments.

Thanks to you all.

2024 Notes from the Bear Lake Association

We are looking forward to another summer season to enjoy all the amenities our township has to offer. The Association board is grateful for your ongoing interest and commitment to protect and sustain the beauty and cleanliness of Bear Lake. As a friendly reminder, here are a few practices that will keep the lake a place for all to enjoy.

- Please clean your boats and trailers before and after launching. A 2019 Boating Law prohibits the launch or transport of watercraft unless they and the trailers are free of aquatic organisms.
- No high-speed boating before 11 am and after 7:30 pm. **IT'S THE LAW!** - Keep all high-speed boating far away from the shoreline— Help prevent erosion.
- Do not feed the ducks or geese—they bring swimmers' itch.— Help protect our nesting loons by staying 200 feet away from them.
- Do not bathe yourself or pets in the lake—soap chemicals are toxic to lake life.
- Septic tanks should **NOT** be "out of sight, out of mind". Keep them functioning well—have them cleaned and inspected regularly. Poor systems leak toxins into the lake.
- RAKE THE LAKE—removing organic material (e.g. leaves, twigs) helps reduce weed fertilizer and algae.
- Remove all fireworks and all debris from the water—No beach fires—the carbon remains leach into the water, which is toxic.
- If you fertilize, use one with ZERO phosphate—it's like steroids to aquatic plants and algae.

The Bear Lake Association monitors the quality of the water through regular testing and treatment of invasive plants. We appreciate donations to the Bear Lake Association of any amount to help us continue our mission to maintain and, perhaps, improve the quality of the water. **Please visit our website for much more information:** www.bearlakeassoc.com or contact us through email: bearlakekalkaska@gmail.com

2024 Bear Lake Township Improvement Association News

For 63 years, the Bear Lake Twp Improvement Association (BLTIA) has supported projects focused on the needs of the township, its residents, and the protection of our beautiful natural resources. During 2023, BLTIA supported the following programs and township services:

Paid dues for the Bear Lake and Cub Lake Associations' membership in MiCorps Cooperative Lake Management Program (CLMP). This program assists our volunteers with technical help and testing supplies used to maintain the health of our lakes. As a result, invasive species, such as phragmites and Eurasian water milfoil have been greatly reduced in Bear Lake and eliminated in Cub Lake. *** Financially supported the Bear Lake Christian Church's Share Shack. Food assistance is an ongoing need in our community due to inflation and unemployment. *** Ongoing support for our Fire Department staff and their volunteers with snacks and drinks during fire runs, donations to their annual chicken BBQ, and funding to upgrade their equipment.*** Purchased window valances for the township hall, purchased a new commercial coffeemaker for senior lunches at the community hall, improved the flower beds along the south entrance, and a purchased and installed a new sign located on East Bear Rd..

Among our other activities, we provide volunteers for the Adopt-A-Forest and Adopt-A-Highway clean-up days and manage the Little Free Library on the west side of Bear Lake Road, approximately 1.5 miles north of M-72. Feel free to stop by to take a book or leave a book for others. Publish the "Bear"-in-Mind Newsletter, May to September, to members with an e-mail address. It is a brief and informative email with timely news and a calendar of events.

In your summer tax bill, a BLTIA membership form will be enclosed. You can continue our good work through your 2024 donation. We encourage you to contact us with projects we may consider supporting. Email your suggestions to bearlaketwpimprovementassoc@gmail.com.

Mark your calendar for our Annual Meeting on Saturday, August 3, 2024. The social begins at 9:30 am followed by the business meeting at 10:00 am. Details will be announced later this summer.