



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

**Clean-Up Day—**  
**SATURDAY—JUNE 14TH**  
**8 am to Noon**

**Sharon Pincombe (231-499-7043)**



Bear Lake Township

### 75TH Anniversary

This year marks the 75th Anniversary of Bear Lake Township. Our area was originally platted as an unorganized portion of Clearwater Township on the eastern edge of Kalkaska County.

On June 27, 1950, Bear Lake Township was formally designated to be Kalkaska Counties twelfth township. The first meeting of the newly formed local government was held on February 28, 1952, in the original Bear Lake Township Hall that was formally an old frame schoolhouse near Riverview Rd, close to the Manistee River.

On the morning of Saturday August 9, 2025, 9 am to 10 pm, a commemorative celebration will take place at the Bear Lake Township Improvement Association meeting to recognize this historic event. Association meeting will follow at 10:00 pm.

*Submitted by Jeff Shull—Jeff did a lot of research on the history of Bear Lake Township, Thank you.*

### News from Assessor

Annual property site inspections have resumed, for assessment administration purposed. The State Tax Commission recommends 20% of all parcels in the township be reviewed annually. Site inspections are exterior only. This process assures that all parcels are being assessed as accurately as possible. An inventory of the salient features of the property are noted, photographs of the exterior of all structures are taken and the sketches are reviewed for accuracy. When property owners are home, interviews are conducted and any questions the property owner(s) have are answered. When nobody is home a card is left on site, indicating the date of inspection. If the Assessor has any questions, the back of the card may read, **"PLEASE CALL."**

The Inflation Rate Multiplier (IRM) for 2025 has been determined to be 3.1%. This means that taxable values (the value against which the millages are levied) will generally increase by 3.1% this year (the maximum allowable increase is 5%). Note that new construction, transfers of ownership, and demolition may alter this calculation.

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

### Clean Energy and Clean Energy Waste Reduction Act

PUBLIC ACT 233 of 2023: Clean Energy and Clean Energy Waste Reduction Act regarding Renewable Energy Initiatives, signed into law.

In November of 2023 legislation was passed by both chambers of the legislature and signed by Governor Witmer, Statewide. This legislation was implemented on November 29, 2024.

The legislation supersedes County Zoning or Township Ordinances for the placement of Windmills, solar panels, or battery storage facilities in communities. To object to a oproject coming into a community, a formal request would go before a Public Service Commission panel of three appointed members, by the Governor.

Status of HB 4027 4028, to repeal part 8 of Act 233, giving local say over renewable energy projects.

April 30, 2025, the House of Representatives voted 58 yeas to 48 noes', (4 not voting), to move this legislation forward to the Senate.

I am monitoring this closely as it affects the pristine look of Bear Lake Township.

*Submitted by: Jim Knight, Trustee*

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### From the Clerk

August 5th, 2025 will be an election for 2 County Proposals.  
COMMISSION ON AGING—RENEWAL  
KALKASKA COUNTY TRANSIT—

NEW MILLAGE (an increase is requested.)  
This will be a 1 day only election and the polls will be open  
7 am to 8 pm.

*Dawn Dannenberg, Bear Lake Township Clerk*  
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### SENIOR LUNCH AT THE BEAR LAKE TWP. COMMUNITY CENTER

Tuesday and Thursday meals are served from 12:00-12:30 pm but you are welcome to come in early to visit and enjoy a meal with your neighbors. All meals include a vegetable, milk, fruit and bread. Meals are a suggested \$4 for seniors age 60+, guests younger than 60 are welcome. All meal sites offer CARRY-OUTS (does not include the salad bar or soup. ) Meal site coordinator is Iola @ 941-270-1549, please call to let her know your menu order and what days you will attend between 8:30 to 9:00 am. , or for information on meals.

Before you burn, please check websites for our area to make sure it is safe to burn and apply for a permit. Observe the Smokey the Bear sign in front of our Fire Barn, it is monitored and changed accordingly. **ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT A**

Sincerely, Mark A. Laskowski, Fire Chief, Bear Lake Township Fire Department  
231-384-5785

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

2024 was another banner year for the Firefighters' Association. We were able to sponsor the Community Yard Sale and the Annual Chicken BBQ once again. We will not be sponsoring a Community Yard Sale this year. Any group or person interested in doing this should contact the Township Board.

The Annual Chicken BBQ is scheduled for **Labor Day Sunday, August 31st**. This is our primary fundraiser and is essential to providing funds for needed equipment. Since 2010, the Association has donated over \$160,000 to the Fire and Rescue Department including \$15,000 in 2024, which will be used on the new brush truck.

As always, there will be a need for volunteers to help with the Chicken BBQ. 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.

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.

Sadly, we say goodbye to Linda LaMothe, a longtime member of the Association and dedicated volunteer who passed away this year.

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.

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## 2025 Notes from the Bear Lake Association

We're excited for another summer season to enjoy all the great things our township has to offer! The Association board is grateful for your ongoing interest and commitment to protecting and keeping Bear Lake beautiful and clean.

As a friendly reminder, here are a few practices that will keep the lake a place for everyone to enjoy.

- Please clean your boats and trailers before and after you launch. A new 2019 Boating Law says you can't launch or transport 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 — it helps prevent erosion.
- Do not feed the ducks or geese—they can bring swimmers' itch.
- Don't bathe yourself or pets in the lake—soap chemicals are bad for the lake life.
- Help protect our nesting loons by staying 200 feet away from them.
- 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 in the water and is toxic.
- If you fertilize, use one with ZERO phosphate—it's like steroids to aquatic plants and algae.

The Bear Lake Association keeps an eye on the water quality by doing regular testing and treating invasive plants. We appreciate any donations to the Bear Lake Association of any amount to help us keep and maybe even improve the quality of the water. You can find more information on our **website**: [www.bearlakeassoc.com](http://www.bearlakeassoc.com) or email us at: [bearlakekalkaska@gmail.com](mailto:bearlakekalkaska@gmail.com)

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## 2024 Bear Lake Township Improvement Association News

For 64 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 2024, 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 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 equipment upgrades.\*\*\* Purchased light filtering window shades for the township hall, and built a small house to protect exterior plumbing during the winter. \*\*\* Updated the laminated community cards for both Bear and Cub Lake. The community cards provide helpful local contact information and cover the best practices for keeping our lakes clean. \*\*\* Purchased interior and exterior First Aid kits for the Community Center, the Center is often locked, and the exterior First Aid kit is available for minor injuries that may occur to residents playing sports. \*\*\* In June, the BLTIA sponsored a social event at the Community Center with the purpose of bringing township residents together to visit and meet their neighbors. The afternoon gathering was well received.\*\*\* Purchased mulch which volunteers spread throughout the Community Center for a fresh and clean look.

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 2025 donation. We encourage you to contact us with projects we may consider supporting. Email your suggestions to [bearlaketwpiimprovementassoc@gmail.com](mailto:bearlaketwpiimprovementassoc@gmail.com).

Mark your calendar for our Annual Meeting on **Saturday, August 9, 2025**. The social begins at 9:00 am followed by the business meeting at 10:00 am. Details will be announced in the Bear-In-Mind newsletter. Submitted by Sharon Davis, Recording Secretary, Bear Lake Twp. Improvement Assoc.