





**Bear Lake Township**

**From the Clerk**

I've hired a new Deputy, Stew Petko. He has been busy with election classes and learning the Clerk's day to day work.

**Election Reminder:**

Primary Election is August 4th, 7am to 8pm  
Early Voting is July 25th thru August 2nd, 7am to 3pm  
General Election is November 3rd, 7am to 8pm  
Early Voting is October 24th thru November 1st, 7am to 3pm  
Please note: AV Ballots or any election mail will NOT be forwarded by the post office.  
Please contact my office or email me at bltclerkddannenber@yahoo.com, if you are going away with an alternate address to send them out to you, so you can vote. I am always in need of election workers, please contact me if you are interested.

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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.

**FUN ACTIVITIES:**

Don't forget to check out Pickleball play and Yoga Classes at the township hall!

**News from Assessor**

The assessor routinely performs site inspections of all properties in the township. All site inspections are **EXTERIOR** only. If nobody is available, a business card will be left in the door. The assessor will be outfitted in high visibility gear with the words "TWP STAFF".

Sally Murray, MAOO  
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**BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT**

In 2025 our firefighters responded to 138 calls for emergency service. Our firefighters had a safe year with no reportable injuries. Your firefighters are very dedicated to the department and the job they do protecting & serving the residents and visitors of our township. I would like to thank each and every one of them for their commitment, service & dedication to all of us!

This time last year, we were waiting for the arrival of our new 2023 Dodge Ram truck that is now in service and is used to fight wildland, grass and brush fires. This truck was custom built for our department by CSI Emergency Apparatus in Grayling. We are very pleased with the build of this truck and it will serve our township for many years.

We receive a lot of questions regarding burn permits in the spring/summer. Our Smokey Bear sign at the fire department is kept current with the fire danger level for the day. When we display the large yellow sign that says "No Open Burning", that means burning of yard waste, leaves and debris is not allowed that day & no burn permits are being issued (there is no actual burn permit). The fact that you check the website or call the number to see if burning is allowed in that county that day is the "permit". You are still allowed to have a small campfire with common sense towards safety even when there is no open burning. The only time there are NO campfires is when the Governor declares a burning ban which is always advertised on the news, radio and social media. When the large yellow sign is not displayed and you want to burn yard waste, like leaves & debris, you need to go to [Michigan.gov/BurnPermit](http://Michigan.gov/BurnPermit) or by calling 866-922-2876 and see if burning is allowed in the county you are in. There is also FAQ page for more information. Burning of dimensional lumber & construction waste is NEVER allowed.

This year, in 2026 our Fire Department millage is up for renewal. There is no increase, only a renewal. We are asking for your continued support at the polls. We are very fortunate to have the support we do in our township from our residents. We **thank you** for your continued support of our department & fundraising activities.

We are always looking for more volunteers for our fire department & firefighters association. The fire department has weekly meetings every Wednesday night at 7pm. If you are or know of anyone interested in more information, please contact myself or Assistant Chief Pat Bird.

Have a safe and happy summer! We look forward to seeing you at our annual chicken BBQ, on Labor Day Sunday! For more information, please contact: Fire Chief Mark Laskowski at 231-384-5785 or Assistant Chief Pat Bird at 517-260-0165.



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

2025 was another banner year for the Firefighters' Association! We were able to sponsor the Annual Chicken BBQ. We will also be sponsoring a Community Yard Sale this year. It will be held on Saturday, June 20th in the Community Center parking lot. Registration forms will be available at the Township office during business hours.

The Annual Chicken BBQ is scheduled for **Labor Day Sunday, September 6th**. This is our primary fundraiser and is essential to providing funds for needed equipment. Since 2010, the Association has donated over \$178,000 to the Fire and Rescue Department including \$14,000 in 2025.

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.

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



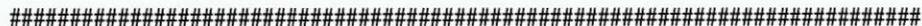
**2026 Notes from the Bear Lake Association**

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. Come to the annual Meeting the weekend of Memorial Day. We have good news to report about the lake.

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.
- If you see something, say something. Your board or PLM can't always find every patch of milfoil or purple loosestrife. Early treatment is very effective.
- No high-speed boating before 11 am and after 7:30 pm. **IT'S THE LAW!**
- Keep all high-speed boating and wake 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 and their nests.
- 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)



**2025-26 Bear Lake Township Improvement Association News**

For 65 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 2025-26 fiscal year, the BLTIA supported the following programs and township services:

Financially supported the Bear Lake Christian Church's Share Shack. Food assistance is an ongoing need in our community due to inflation & unemployment.

Ongoing support for our Bear Lake Fire Dept staff & the volunteers with snacks & drinks during fire runs, donations to the annual Chicken BBQ & equipmt upgrades. Last year was the 75th anniversary of Bear Lake Township. The BLTIA hosted a festive celebration with decorations, custom cake, imprinted coasters and M&M's. Jeff Shull introduced & distributed his book, Bear Impressions, covering the history and development of Bear Lake Twp. This celebration was well received.

At the request of the Bear Lake Supervisor, the BLTIA refurbished the flagpoles with fresh paint, new halyards & capped off the flagpoles with bright gold balls.

Provided volunteers for the Adopt-a-Forest and Adopt a Highway cleanup days.

Published the "Bear"-in-Mind newsletter, May to September, to members with email addresses. It is a brief & informative email with timely township news & a calendar of events.

Mark your calendar for our Annual Meeting on **Saturday, August 8, 2026**. The social begins at 9:30 am followed by the business meeting at 10:00 am. Details will be announced in the Bear-In-Mind newsletter.