

# Bear Lake Township

# Summer 2022

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



## Clean-Up Day 8 am to Noon

Bear Lake Township CLEAN-UP DAY is scheduled for June 11th from 8 am to Noon. Located at the Blue Bear Trail Head, M-72 and Sunset Trail.

**PROOF OF RESIDENCY REQUIRED: THIS NEWLETTER, LAST PROPERTY TAX BILL, PROOF OF PROPERTY OWNERSHIP or UTILITY BILL, etc.**

First load is free, each additional load will be \$10.00

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

PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE OF WORKERS AND TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEERS.

### 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.

### Yearly Recycle

Bear Lake Township also 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!



### Smokey the Bear Fire Burn Alerts

Smokey the Bear stands tall on the lawn of the Fire Station, giving you FIRE BURN ALERTS for the area.

It is updated as needed due to fire danger warnings. It is a good tool for the community as when it is safe to burn and when it is not.

*Stay Safe! Stay Alert!*

**Smokey says: "Only You can Prevent Fires" Check him out as you drive by!**

Bear Lake Township

OFFICE: 231-258-4871

### SUPERVISOR:

George "Bud" Banker Dpt. 3  
Cell: 231-624-1019

Hours: Monday 9 to 11 am

### TOWNSHIP CLERK

Dawn Dannenberg Dpt. 1

Email:

[bltclerkddannenberg@yahoo.com](mailto:bltclerkddannenberg@yahoo.com)

Hours: Wednesday 9 am to Noon

### TOWNSHIP TREASURER

Shirley Havens Dpt. 2

Email: [shavensbltt@yahoo.com](mailto: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@yahoo.com](mailto:sallyannmurray8120@yahoo.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.

### SUMMER MEETINGS:

April—September 7 pm

### WINTER MEETINGS:

October—March 4 pm

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

PLEASE TRY TO ATTEND!

**NEWS FROM THE ASSESSING DEPARTMENT**

The Principal Residence Exemption can offer significant savings on a property tax bill. Formerly referred to as the "homestead" exemption, the "PRE" exempts a residence from the school operating tax (up to 18 mills). Section 211.7cc and 211.7dd of the General Property Tax Act (Public Act 206 of 1893) details the administration of this exemption.

The filing deadline for PRE is June 1st in the year in which the claim is to begin. The form (Form 2368-Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) Affidavit) can be found online and should be submitted to the local assessor's office. To be eligible for the PRE exemption, one must own AND occupy the home as the principal residence. In order to verify a claim for PRE, the Department of Treasury will accept various documents. Primary examples include a driver's license and voter registration card. You may claim an exemption on a contiguous property as long as it is unoccupied and classified as residential or timber cut-over. A separate affidavit is required for each property. An LLC is not eligible to receive the PRE exemption. Valid retroactive exemptions can be granted by the July and December boards of review.

Property owners are generally allowed only one PRE, except in very special circumstances (involving a conditional rescission and the sale of a Michigan home previously exempt as one's PRE). Contact your local assessor directly if you have questions.

The PRE exemptions are monitored annually by the local municipality, the county equalization office and the Michigan Department of Treasury. Each has the authority to deny exemptions for the current year—and immediately preceding three (3) years. Additional taxes are subject to interest and penalty. If you receive any communications involving the denial of a PRE, it is important to communicate with the sender immediately.

Contact the assessor if you have any questions about the PRE.

Sally Murray, Bear Lake Twp. Assessor

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**TREASURER REPORT:**

Office Hours of the Treasurer will be changing to Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9 am to 3 pm for the 2022 tax season. We are seeing more and more taxpayers visiting our office and decided to increase the hours to accommodate those that work. Office will still be open the 2nd Saturday of the month from 9 am to Noon.

Summer tax bills will be mailed the 1st week of July so if you have changed addresses, anything needs to be changed on your tax bills or if you have questions please call the office and let us know. You can leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as I am in the office. Winter tax bills are mailed the 1st week of December. If you do not receive your bill please give us a call. The mail delivery has been a little uncertain this past year and we had some bills that did not reach their destination. We will be glad to send out new bills or email them to you.

We have a new face in the Treasurers Office. Deputy Treasurer Syndie Case. I am very excited to have her onboard and looking forward to working with her.

Shirley Havens Bear Lake Twp. Treasurer

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**NOTES FROM THE CLERK:** Delanna David resigned her position as Township Clerk effective April 30, 2022 and as her deputy for the past year I was appointed by the board as Township Clerk for the remainder of her term. We will be having an election on August 2nd and are in need of election workers, if you are interested please give me a call at the office. I am in the office on Wednesday 9 am to Noon.

Dawn Dannerberg, Bear Lake Township Clerk

**TRUSTEES CORNER**

**GYPSEY MOTH UPDATE**

from Jim Knight Bear Lake Twp. Trustee

By the time you are reading this, the Spongy Moth Caterpillars, formerly known as Gypsy Moth, have emerged from egg masses laid last summer. For any questions or concerns, regarding current regional outbreaks—CONTACT: Cheryl Nelson @ 231-287-1714 or Joanne Foreman at 517-284-5814 of the DNR.

INFO also available from MSU Extension—Kaikaska, 890 Island Lake Rd., Kaikaska, MI 49646

Email: MSUE.Kaikaska@county.MSU.edu  
Or Call: 231-258-3320

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Dear Bear Lake Twp. Resident

First off, I would like to introduce myself. I am Robert Dixon, Bear Lake Twp. Trustee. I would like to tell you a little bit about myself, and our beautiful Township.

I have lived in Northern Michigan for over forty years. I came from the Lansing area with a construction background and I relocated in the Grayling/Bear Lake area. I have lived in Bear Lake Township for thirty-two years, with my wife Tena, where we brought up our three kids. I love my community and am so glad, my wife and I, could raise our family here.

I feel very honored and blessed to have served Grayling Charter Township, for twenty years, as their Building Official and Zoning Administrator (appointed position), for four years, on the Bear Lake Township Board of Review (appointed position) and the Bear Lake Township Board for six years, as a Trustee (elected position). Well, that's enough about me.

Now, I would like to tell you a little about Bear Lake Township. It is a great place to live, work, and play, whether you are fishing, hunting, walking in the woods, riding off road on your ORV, or relaxing in the quiet and beautiful surroundings of the great outdoors. We have beautiful lakes and rivers, where we can swim and fish, and woods we can walk in or hunt in, right outside your front door.

Trustees Corner continued on page 3

**TRUSTEES CORNER** (continued)

I am humbled, honored and blessed, to be on Bear Lake Township Board, as a Trustee. Whether it's taking care of Township business, attending meetings at the County, Road Commission, MTA County meetings, volunteering at Bear Lake Township Fire Dept. Chicken BBQ, or helping with the clean-up day for Bear Lake Township, I'm proud to be a part of such an amazing community, that has proven time and time again, that we truly live in a special place. It's a great place to live and bring up your family. Therefore, have fun, stay safe this summer and enjoy your family and friends, whether you live here or vacation here. After all, we are ONE BIG HAPPY FAMILY

Sincerely,

Robert "Bob" Dixon, Bear Lake Twp. Trustee



**2022 Bear Lake Township Improvement Association News**

For 61 years, the Bear Lake township Improvement Association has supported projects focused on the needs of the township, its residents, and the protection of our beautiful natural resources.

Although the COVID virus became manageable through vaccinations and social distancing, the need for food staples provided by the Bear Lake Christian Church's Share Shack was identified as an ongoing need among township families. In response BLTIA continued its financial support.

BLTIA provided the Fire Department with snacks and drinks for the firefighters, donations to their annual chicken BBQ and funding to upgrade their equipment.

Annually our board also works with the township staff to identify projects to improve the facility. This past year we

**2022 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.
- Do not bathe yourself or pets in the lake—soap chemicals are toxic to lake life.
- **AND** help protect our nesting loons by staying 200 feet away from them

**IF YOU LIVE ON THE LAKE:**

- 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](http://www.bearlakeassoc.com) or contact us through email: [bearlake@kalkaska@gmail.com](mailto:bearlake@kalkaska@gmail.com)

**Improvement Association News** (continued)

purchased and installed LED lighting in both rooms of the Community Center.

Among our other activities, we provided volunteers for the Adopt-A-Forest and Adopt-a-Highway clean-up days and managed the Little Free Library on West Bear Lake Rd. For those who were snow-bound during the winter, it was an easy and accessible way to obtain a book or leave a book for others.

In your summer tax bill, a BLTIA membership form will be enclosed. You can continue our good work through your 2022 donation. We encourage you to contact us with projects we may consider supporting. Email your suggestions to [bearlake@wpimprovementassoc@gmail.com](mailto:bearlake@wpimprovementassoc@gmail.com)

Mark your calendar for the Annual Meeting on **Saturday, August 6, 2022**. The social begins at 9:30 am followed by the business meeting at 10:00 am. Details will be announced later this summer.

**REMEMBER THESE DATES**

**JUNE 11TH**



**JUNE 18TH**



**SEPTEMBER 4TH**

**Chicken BBQ**



### FIRE DEPARTMENT MILLAGE INCREASE, RENEWAL?

Our most important asset and strength is our people. I just want to take the time to give our staff the credit and thank them for all they do for our fire department, our township and visitors. Our amazing staff of firefighters and emergency medical providers have an incredible amount of combined professional experience they bring when they come to serve you and your emergency needs. Currently we have eleven members, up two from last year's newsletter. We have nine fully trained firefighters and two probationary firefighters. We currently have on our staff a Michigan Firefighter Training Council approved firefighting instructor, two paramedics, one emergency medical technician, one registered nurse, one doctor, two master divers, three veterans, three emergency medical responders, two master mechanics, and one EMS instructor coordinator!

The following paragraph was taken from last year's fire department newsletter. We have reached the point after 26 years of very diligent use of taxpayer funding and the funding we receive from the Bear Lake Township Firefighters' Association, that we are going to have to ask the taxpayers for a millage increase in 2022, which is up for renewal. These are some of the reasons we have been able to operate for so long without an increase; staying under budget for several years and being able to apply that left-over funding to our fund balance, as well as the funds we received from selling our old tanker, trailer, and the jaws of life. We also have participated in grants when possible, and have received funds from the firefighters' association. Lastly, your donations and the support we receive at our fundraisers have been a tremendous help.

Currently the Bear Lake Fire Department has a fire millage that is one mill (\$62,000) and a rescue millage that is .3 mills (\$21,000). This along with the 1.2 mills for the fire engine millage that is set to be paid off after it runs it's seven year course which is 2015 through 2022. That totals 2.5 mills for the fire department. On the ballot this fall, you will see what is a new millage that has been restructured by its wording but is the same amount you are paying now and have been over the last seven years.

What are we changing? We are planning to combine the rescue millage into the fire millage. The rescue millage pays for the medical first response unit and supplies. The way this is currently structured creates more work for everyone involved in this budget process and it is unnecessary. We need to keep the 1.2 mills for the fire engine that has been on all of our taxes for the last seven years. This 1.2 mills that we are asking the taxpayers to keep would be the new increase that would stay in the millage. This is in order for us to continue operating with increasing costs for supplies and services that are needed for the fire department. We will provide more information to the taxpayers at the township meetings and I encourage you to call me with any questions or concerns. Please remember it is not an increase of more than what you have been paying for the last seven years. We are and have been a progressive, forward thinking and fiscally responsible fire department. We have a vested interest and the same concerns as to how our tax dollars are spent. We are not only firefighters we are taxpayers as well.

There will be **NO** increase in your taxes when you vote **YES** on the fire millage. Thank you for your continued support.  
Bear Lake Township Fire Chief Mark Laskowski—231-384-5785



#### BEAR LAKE TWP. FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION

**OUR YEAR IN REVIEW:** 2021 was a return to normalcy for the Firefighters' Association. We were able to once again sponsor the Community Yard Sale and the Annual Chicken BBQ. 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 18th 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 are 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.

The Annual Chicken BBQ is also scheduled for Labor Day Sunday, September 4th. This is our primary fundraiser and is essential to providing funds for needed equipment. Since 2010, the Association has donated over \$120,000.00 to the Fire and Rescue Department. This support has been instrumental in helping to control costs for the Township.

There will definitely be a need for new volunteers to help with both 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 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 prizes.

The well project brick sale resulted in a beautiful display located by the flagpole at the Community Center. Please stop by to view this (once the snow is gone). 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 in need of new people to help plan and organize these events. Please consider joining us, as we could use some help. Please follow us on Facebook at Bear Lake Twp. Firefighters' Association to keep up with developments. Thanks to you all.