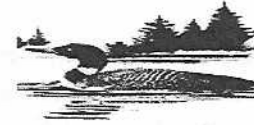


Bear Lake Township



198 E. Bear Lake Rd. NE - Kalkaska, MI 49646 *Summer 2023*



Clean-Up Day JUNE 10TH 8 am to Noon

Bear Lake Township
OFFICE: 231-258-4871

Bear Lake Township CLEAN-UP DAY is 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).

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!



FROM THE SUPERVISOR'S DESK

Your township board has been a hub of activity this past year due to a sizeable ARPA Grant from the Federal Government. The township held a public hearing in February of 2022, to receive input on prioritizing the projects for the upcoming year. The Grant, which totaled over \$72,000.00 gave the township the ability to purchase and repair several priority projects. The township fire dept. received over \$24,000.00 for replacement and purchase of new equipment. A new lawn mower and trailer were purchased along with new gas stoves for the community center kitchen. The business office purchased new desks, computers and the community center had a security system and fire alarm system installed. A complete list of expenditures is available at the township business office. The township also received an additional \$25,000.00 from the Kalkaska County ARPA Grant. Those funds were put together with the balance of the township ARPA money and will be used to replace the roof on the township community center.

In June the township board was made aware of the proposed Camp Grayling request to lease an additional 162,000 acres of state land for training. This would encompass a sizeable area of Bear Lake Township. The State Military Board already owns over 17 square miles in the southern portion of the township. In the

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@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— 7 pm

April—September

WINTER— 4 pm

October-March

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

PLEASE TRY TO ATTEND!

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

June Board Meeting, the board voted to oppose the expansion and passed a resolution to be sent to the Governor, DNR Director, our State Senator and Representative. The board also scheduled a Special Board meeting on July 7, 2022, to discuss the Camp Grayling Expansion with the township population. Colonel Scott Meyers, Commander of Camp Grayling and Tom Barnes, DNR were present to field questions. Over 50 residents were present and the 2 1/2 hour meeting galvanized the opposition to the expansion. Township Trustee, Jim Knight, along with several other individuals, started a campaign to generate more opposition against the expansion. For additional information refer to Trustee Knight's article in this newsletter.

Due to inquiries concerning ownership of Kalkaska Memorial Health Center, (KMHC), I will clarify some of the questions. KMHC is owned entirely by the citizens of Kalkaska County. The Hospital Board is made up of one member from each township, village, and county and 7 members at large. The hospital is affiliated with the Munson Group with contracts that provide IT, Accounting, Lab, Billing, Electronic Medical Records, Purchasing and several other entities which are negotiated between KMHC and the Munson Group. This will also explain why you will see the Munson logo on your billing and why we have signage indicating we are an affiliate of Munson Hospital. The Munson Group does not own, nor do they oversee, the operation of KMHC.

Do you know that KPTA, Kalkaska Public Transit Authority has a fleet of over 20 busses and vans that service our community? Their Main Office is located on Island Lake Rd. next to the Kalkaska Road Commission. The KPTA provides transportation throughout Kalkaska with trips to Meijer in Acme, Munson Cancer Center, VA clinic in Traverse City. Hookups to Bay Area Transit Authority are also offered. There is no charge if you are a resident over age 65. If you are interested in using KPTA, call 231-258-6808 between 6:45 am and 6:00 pm, Mon. thru Fri.

We have a couple of individuals that stand out in our community that you should be aware of. Iola Melvin is the Meal Site Coordinator for the Council on Aging here at Bear Lake Township. Iola not only serves the luncheons every Tuesday and Thursday for our seniors, but also arrives to work early baking cakes and desserts for their meals. On more than one occasion she has transported, with her own vehicle, meals to some of our seniors who could not get to the luncheon, as well as shopping and to Dr. appointments. Hats off to this special lady.

Many of you have used our Bear Lake Township website over the years, but do you know who runs and operates this special township function? Sam Rahaim is the man behind the scenes. He designed, set up and has managed the site daily since its inception, all for a contracted amount of \$1.00 per year. Sam and his wife, Jo, are also active in the Bear Lake Township Improvement Association and the Bear Lake Association. Sam also would like to invite anyone interested in playing pickle ball at the township courts on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 9:00 am.

In January of this year the township board re-appointed Dale Dorrance, Bill Diekman, Bill Spencer and Gary Vetter to the Bear Lake Township Board of Review. A special thank you to these individuals for taking the time to participate in this important government function. This board meets several times a year to work with taxpayers who have complaints or wish to appeal their property taxes.

At the township March meeting the board gave their approval to Fire Chief Mark Laskowski to retire Assistant Fire Chief Beth Redmond's fire helmet, serial #20991388. Beth served in that capacity for 18 years and as much as we will miss her diversified role within the Department, we will still see her smiling face around the township hall and grounds as the building and maintenance person. The township board approved the appointment of Andrei Henegariu, Fire Chief of Bear Lake Township and Mark Laskowski to the Assistant Fire Chief position. Wishing you the best, as with all our dedicated fire department volunteers.

Again, this has been a productive year by my being on the Kalkaska Memorial Health Center Board and serving on several assigned committees: Kalkaska Public Transit Authority Board, Voting Member Upper Manistee River Natural River Act and attending numerous meetings with the Kalkaska County Road Commission, Kalkaska County Commissioners, Michigan Township Association meetings and classes.

Wishing you a Healthy, Enjoyable and Safe 2023-2024. Working for you, George (Bud) Banker

From the Clerk

There are many changes in the elections. The upcoming 2024 Federal Primaries and General Elections will have 9 days of early person voting, 8 hrs a day. Federal Primaries are still unclear when it will be held. Go to www.michigan.gov/sos for updates. If you are interested in becoming an election inspector, please contact me.

I would like to thank everyone in our township for welcoming me and supporting me as Township Clerk. I am truly honored to service the people of our Township.

Dawn Dannenberg, Bear Lake Twp. Clerk

News from Assessor

The Principal Residence Exemption-PRE (formerly referred to as "Homestead") provides residents with an 18.0000 mill savings on their summer tax bill. In order to qualify for the exemption, the property must be your primary residence. PRE'S are audited annually by three entities: the local assessing office, the Kalkaska County Equalization Department and the Michigan Department of Treasury. The Department of Treasury has begun their audit process. If they believe that a property is not eligible for the exemption, they will send the property owner a questionnaire. A failure to respond to the questionnaire will result in a denial of the exemption. If you receive a questionnaire, and you are entitled to the exemption, be sure to adequately respond in order to avoid a denial.

The assessing office has already begun annual site inspections of properties. Inspections are exterior only and provide an opportunity to assure that the property details are accurate for the record cards. If a property owner is not available, a card will be left on site. If I have no questions, the back of the card will read, "Reviewed". If there are questions, the back of the card will read, "Please call".

Sally Murray, Bear Lake Township Assessor

NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

The Summer 2023 tax bills will be mailed the 1st week of July. Another tax season begins. If you have changed addresses please let our office know, or if you do not receive your tax bill by the end of July, give us a call.

Just a note, if you are not aware. If you use the KMHC for medical issues, as a taxpayer in Bear Lake Township, you are eligible to have some of your bill paid. Call the office and we will furnish you with receipts for payments made to KMHC on Winter Tax bills. You can go back 5 years.

I appreciate the Bear Lake Township property owners who call or stop by the office on occasions. We are never so busy that we can't communicate with the property owners. *Shirley Havens, Bear Lake Twp. Treasurer*

TRUSTEES CORNER

Report of Camp Grayling Expansion — For a year, we have been in a battle over the proposed expansion of Camp Grayling. Myself and several others have worked tirelessly to protect our public lands. Recently, the DNR denied the proposed 162,000 acres expansion, that set off a flurry of resolutions in opposition. To date there are 69 governmental entities, from the Thumb to the Mackinac Bridge, that have united to defeat the expansion.

Although the enormous original proposal was denied, 52,000 acres was granted under a signed Memorandum of Understanding. This means the Military may use this additional land under a special use permit. Sizable amount of acreage in this agreement is in our township. There are many questions that several have. Those questions have not been addressed by the DNR, or Camp Grayling.

We are continuing to oppose this, as our township Board adopted a new resolution in the May, 2023 meeting, to oppose the MOU. I will continue to press for explanations and transparency.

With the support of citizens of Bear Lake Township, we were heard all the way to Lansing. To all of you, thank you for your support. If you need info on the expansion please contact me.

Jim Knight, Bear Lake Twp. Trustee

Cub Lake News



Our Annual Meeting for Cub Lake Property Owners will be Saturday, June 24th at 10 am in the Bear Lake Township Community Center large conference room. The Beaver issue on Cub Lake has been resolved.

2023 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.
- 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 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*

2023 Bear Lake Township Improvement Association News

For 62 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 2022, 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, improved the flower beds along the south entrance, and a new sign located above the township hall's east entrance.

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 2023 donation. We encourage you to contact us with projects we may consider supporting. Email your suggestions to bearlaketwimprovementassoc@gmail.com.

Mark your calendar for our Annual Meeting on **Saturday, August 5, 2023**. The social begins at 9:30 am followed by the business meeting at 10:00 am. Details will be announced later this summer.



BEFORE YOU BURN! PLEASE CHECK TO MAKE SURE OF FIRE DANGER
Smokey the Bear stands tall on the lawn of the Fire Station, giving you FIRE BURN ALERTS for the area.
"SMOKEY says: "Only YOU can prevent Fires" CHECK HIM OUT AS YOU DRIVE BY!"

BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2023

It has been a year of progress, growth, success and change since the last township newsletter. I hope this letter finds you all well and ready for spring and summer like we are here at the fire department.

I would like to first thank all of the residents, taxpayers, voters and supporters of our fire department that voted YES to approve our millage increase and changes. To the best of my memory, it had been over 24 years that we had an increase for our operating budget. We had been able to go that long due to the support of all of you through the work and effort of the Bear Lake Township Firefighter's Association fundraising efforts. Also, through the diligent spending, fiscal responsibility and the expertise of our budget guru's Beth Redmond and Sharon Pincumbe. The millage was much needed due to obvious inflation and planning for the future needs of the department. The millage also combined our rescue and fire budget which makes much less work for our township treasurer and clerk in addition to overall budgeting purposes.

Our Assistant Chief Beth Redmond worked diligently to utilize the ARPA Funds that were made available to our township. In the process she was able to utilize \$25,410.00. These funds purchased new tires for two fire trucks, four fire pagers, three sets of wild land firefighting gear, four 800 MHz portable radios, two chainsaws and three wild land firefighting personal protective shelters.

The change I spoke of for those of you that are not aware is our Assistant Chief Beth Redmond retired on April 1st, 2023. Beth served the department, residents and visitors for 18 years and 16 of those years as Assistant Chief. A celebration for Beth was held at the March 2023 Township Board Meeting. I had the honor and privilege of working with Beth for 18 years and 16 of those years as my Assistant Chief. The amount of work Beth did to help this department grow and thrive over the years is amazing, her expertise in management and budgets has made a dramatic impact on this department. In addition to her continued sacrifice to always make herself available for emergency calls and all fire department activities. Thank you, Beth, for always truly going above and beyond for this department and the citizens of our township.

With Beth retiring, I myself chose to step down as the Fire Chief of the department for 24 years with 28 years of service. I recommended Captain Andrei Henegariu to the township board for the position of Fire Chief. Your new Fire Chief, Andrei Henegariu has served our department for 20 years most recently as the Captain, he has continued his training over the years to the level of Fire Instructor through the Michigan Firefighters Training Council. Andrei is very progressive and well trained, he will work hard as your new Fire Chief to serve and protect the resident and visitors of our township. Andrei appointed me as his Assistant Chief, Sarah Henegariu as his Captain and Sharon Pincumbe will remain as his Lieutenant. The three of us will work diligently to support Andrei as Fire Chief.

Our current roster of firefighters is strong and stable. We are always looking for new firefighters. We currently have 13 firefighters. Your four Officers as listed above as well as; FF Andy Long, FF Greg Fast, FF Pat Bird, PFF Charlie Dietrich, FF Donna Hatfield, PFF Jacob Brown, FF Matt Harwood, FF Brittney Harwood and PFF Jolene Dowling. I want to personally thank each of them for their service to our department. This is an intense and serious job with an unbelievable commitment.

BEAR LAKE TWP. FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW: 2022 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 3rd 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.

The Annual Chicken BBQ is also scheduled for Labor Day Sunday, September 3rd. This is our primary fundraiser and is essential to providing funds for needed equipment. Since 2010, the Association has donated over \$125,000 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.

The Well Project brick sale resulted in a beautiful display located by the flags 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 firefighter's Association needs 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. Firefighter's Association to keep up with developments. Thanks to you all.