

Welcome to The Birches!

This home is owned by Three Rivers Properties, LLC, dba Northport Lodging. Checks for the rental of this home should be drawn to Northport Lodging.

Your phone number here is 231-386-5254. Long distance calls should be charged to your own credit card or long distance phone service. Cell phone service is available, but can be unreliable. You can receive package shipping only at this street address (107 E. 4th St, Northport, 49670) as there is no curbside mail service in Northport.

Your hosts, Marcia Boynton and Karl Wizinsky, live at 115 E. 4th for much of the summer. If at any time you need assistance, do not hesitate to call or visit us there. Our Northport phone number is 386-7481. If you do not reach us there, you may try our downstate residence at 248-348-2085, or cell phones 248-346-0440 (Karl) or 313-600-3664 (Marcia).

We recommend you purchase a copy of the Leelanau Enterprise to see “what’s on” in Leelanau County the week of your visit. It is published on Monday each week, and can be purchased at Tom’s or at the Filling Station.

Please observe the following courtesies when you are our guest.

Check In Time

In the summer, we enforce a 5pm Saturday check in. We often need every minute to complete lawn care, laundry and cleaning. Please cooperate with us on this by not arriving any sooner than 5pm.

In the off season, if the house is unbooked on either side of your visit, we are often able to be much more flexible. Please let us know what your plans are, and we may be able to accommodate your schedule.

You will have found the house standing open when you arrive, please try to return all the keys to the kitchen counter when you leave. If by chance you have used the “emergency key” be sure to put it back, as we depend on its being there.

Dining/Activity Information

Information about area activities has been provided in the house. Please take whatever you like from the flyer inventory, and look for others at the Chamber of Commerce’s information stand up town.

We have also provided a Leelanau County map. Please leave it in the house as a reference for other guests. Maps can be purchased at the Township Office near the library for \$2.00 each, if you would like to have one of your own.

For food options, try the Galley for burgers, pizza and ice cream or Stubbs' Sweetwater Grill on Waukazoo, which offers lunch and dinner, with full bar service. We also recommend the Eat Spot, on Mill at 3d, where imaginative sandwiches and pizza are served, and patio dining is available. Carry out is especially convenient at The Eat Spot. Another nearby option for burgers and fish is the Happy Hour Tavern at Gills Pier. It's located on M-22 between Northport and Leland. Be sure to have your breakfast roll and coffee at Barb's Bakery at least once while you are here.

We're sorry to advise that Woody's is not open at this time, pending its sale and operation by a new owner. There is, however, a new restaurant in Omena, called Knot Just a Bar.

Tom's Grocery is open til 10PM in the summer, and closes between 6-8pm in the shoulder seasons. They accept credit cards for all purchases. Beer, wine and liquor are all available at Tom's. The Filling Station up town is normally open until 11pm in the summer, for those late night snacks. They also sell beer and wine.

Our properties are equipped with DVD and VHS players. You may wish to stock up on movies from home when you visit. Movies and books can be checked out at the library, which will issue you a card on request, utilizing your home address and phone. Movies are no longer available at the Filling Station.

Housekeeping

Our housekeeping service is limited to Saturday turnover. You are "on your own" during the week.

When you leave during the day, please close windows on the west and south side of the house. Rain is usually not a problem for windows opening to the porch and back yard.

Do not take our bath towels to the beach. We hope you have brought Beach Towels or Beach Blankets from home.

Please remember this is a "no pets, no smoking" home.

You have been provided with a minimal stock of paper goods, garbage bags, laundry and cleaning supplies. If you happen to use up a particular item completely, we appreciate your replacing it during your visit, so we can maintain our inventory conveniently. If you are unable to replace, please leave us a note on Saturday so we know what must be restocked.

There is no garbage disposal in the kitchen, so vegetable trimmings and other garbage should be bagged and placed in the trash.

We provide a daily use shower spray to help us maintain the showers. Please use it each time you shower. This home is on a septic tank, please deposit ONLY toilet paper in the toilets. Please note that the showers operate on a “turn” mechanism, not a “pull” mechanism. Don’t tug on those plastic fixtures, they break easily!

There is no air conditioning at the Birches, but there are fans. These homes are on a remote control & notification system for heat, electricity and hot water. DO NOT turn the thermostat to “OFF” as this makes it impossible for us to make adjustments via our phone connection. Just raise or lower the temperature using the up and down arrows at the thermostat, the temp will show in the display panel.

Light switches on dimmers are part of our remote control system. They can be adjusted manually for more or less light by sliding up and down – but to turn off or on completely, just tap the panel with your finger at the top (on) or bottom (off).

If a fuse should blow, please call us for assistance at 386-7481. If anything else should break, or major spills should occur, we appreciate hearing about it immediately so we are not pressed for repairs or problem solving on Saturdays when we are turning over the house for our next guests. Past problems have been spilled nail polish, broken plastic shower fixtures... and we need extra time to attend to these kinds of problems.

If you are in the “wicker room,” please take special care to knock off sand or mud when entering the carpeted bedroom from the outdoors.

Whenever possible, please keep snacks and drinks in the kitchen/living/dining room areas.

Please leave muddy boots on one of the porches. Our beautiful hardwood floors appreciate it if sandy shoes are left at the doorway, too!

We recommend bottled water for drinking.

Full bags of trash should be deposited in the large trash bin we have provided. There may be additional bins if needed in the shed behind the house. Please enter the shed through the small door on the left, and close it tightly when you are finished.

Trash Day is Friday, so please collect all trash and place it at the curb by 8:30am. This day moves from time to time, so if you happen to see other garbage receptacles on the street, please put your trash out too!

Michigan is a “can/bottle deposit” state, so these items are returnable for a deposit refund of 10 cents each. Tom’s Grocery has an automatic return machine in the back of the store, and we appreciate your returning cans and bottles before check

out. If there are only a few, you may bag them in a garbage bag and leave them in the laundry room or kitchen.

Our lawn is often mowed on Saturday, and our contractors sometimes start in the morning. Though you may be disturbed, happily, it is a short task!

Please water any potted plants on the porch.

Checkout Information

Check out time is 11am on Saturday. If you plan to leave on Friday, or earlier than 11am, please let us know, as it creates options in our cleaning schedule. In the summer, it is rarely possible to be flexible on arrival or departure times, when tenants are always back to back on Saturday.

We can often be more flexible on checkout schedules in the spring and fall.

If your party does not occupy a bedroom, or utilize a bed, please leave an “unused” note on that bed so we don’t change it unnecessarily when you leave.

As you prepare to leave, we appreciate your stripping sheets and leaving them on the sofa. If you have an opportunity to start laundry, please begin with towels. You have one set of sheets for each bed for the week of your stay. If you wish to have clean sheets midweek, you will need to wash/replace them.

Thanks for visiting!

We have provided cards with our name and address in the event you wish to refer other guests to us.

Don’t forget that the Birches is available in the fall, winter and spring for weekends or longer periods. Our off season weekend rate (for up to three nights) is \$425 for the Birches.

Please sign our guest book when you have concluded your visit. We hope you will pass along any ideas you have for improving our service or furnishings at The Birches.