

BENZONIA TOWNSHIP
2016 SUMMER NEWS LETTER
231-882-4411

www.benzoniatownship.org

General office hours Mon – Thurs 9:00 – 4:00

Supervisor – Jim Sheets

Assessor – Christy Brow

Cemetery Sexton – Eric Ferneilus

Clerk – Diana Heller

Zoning Administrator – Dave Neiger

Memorial Park Maint. – Ken Blair

Treasurer – Karen Burns

Summer property taxes –

Office hours during summer tax collection (July 1 – Sept 14th) are Monday and Wednesday 9-12 and Thursday afternoon 1-4. There is a drop box available by the entry door – please feel free to use it. If you would like a receipt, please enclose a self addressed and stamped envelope, ask for a receipt if paying in person or click on the link to BS&A on our webpage and print your receipt from that site. Sorry, but we do not accept credit cards.

Clean up day- May 21st was our spring cleanup day. The participation by our residents far exceeded any cleanup day in the past. As a result, the receiving trucks were loaded past capacity by 11:30 and we had to turn some people away. Benzonia Township Board is sorry for the inconvenience that resulted in the people who wanted to leave their refuse. The next cleanup day will be August 13th at the same location, behind Tri-Gas and next to Antolin (the former Magna Plant) on US-31 south of Benzonia. Hopefully, this one will run smoother. The time will be 7:00 – 11:30. Please stop at the township hall to get a ticket and a list of items not

accepted (that list will also be in the local paper).

Cemetery – Our cemetery sexton is Eric Ferneilus. His contact number is 231-642-7720.

Recycle –Bring in your dead batteries, cell phones, printer cartridges and compact fluorescent bulbs to the township hall.

- Visit www.benzieco.net/departments/recycling_and_solid_waste for a schedule of upcoming events.

Election – The primary will be August 2, 2016 and the General Election is November 8, 2016.

If anyone is interested in becoming an election official, call the Clerk's office, they will arrange to get you trained and certified. There will be a certification class in July that will last for two years. This is a paid position.

The absentee ballots for the Primary should be ready late June. Please call or come in to request your absentee ballot for either or both elections this year.

Memorial Park – Our park continues to grow. The schedule for weekends in July and August is filling up. [We have a form](#)

at the township office for groups over 25.
We are continuing to discuss the addition of a second pavilion at the park.

We have a small “want” list at the park. If anyone would like to donate an item, it would be greatly appreciated. A small refrigerator to keep water cold for our maintenance man and a pressure washer for cleanup.

We are purchasing several new picnic tables for the park this summer. They will replace the older ones that are in need of retirement.

- **The Dog Park** is *VERY* popular with our four legged friends. Please remember to pick up after your pet. There are bags and a container available – PLEASE USE IT.
- **The Veterans Memorial** design is complete, and the construction has started. There is an artist drawing of the memorial at the township hall. Please stop in and take a look. **You might want to buy a paver in remembrance of a loved one.**

Donations are always appreciated for the increased maintenance to the park.

Fire Department – Our volunteer department averages 18 members. Eight of our fire fighters are Medical First Responders, and all are State Certified. We average 200 medicals calls and 70 fire calls every year. We have a contract with

our neighbors to the south (Joyfield Township) to provide fire protection.

We pride ourselves in the ability to budget our money and pay cash for all of the equipment purchases we make.

Roads – Please visit www.benziecrc.org to see what road projects are scheduled for 2016.

Broadband is an exciting topic in Benzie County. The fiber optic lines have been run and we are just getting started gathering information on how to use it and how it will most benefit out township residents. Please visit the web sites where you can fill out a survey for this project OR get a survey at the township hall.

BROADBAND SURVEY INFORMATION:

Your participation is very important in developing an accurate assessment of broadband availability and related needs in Benzie County. To take the survey as a resident, a business owner or a designated representative of another organization, please go to www.connectmycommunity.org/benzie-county and select the appropriate option. Use your computer or smart phone to take the survey. And please share this information with your peers and encourage others to take our survey!

UPDATE FROM THE BENZONIA PUBLIC LIBRARY – THURSDAYS, 3:00 PM AT THE LIBRARY

July 7th – Fun with Physics: Flight and Trajectory. Story and Maker Time: Join the BPL puppets and guests for fun with electronics.

Join us while we explore some high flying science. The puppet lab will help us consider some wacky concepts of flight and trajectory, and we will even learn about wind tunnels. Then, we will head outside and test theories by flinging things through the air from a trebuchet (catapult). Kids will create and test their own paper flying contraptions.

July 14th – Nature Shelters. Story and Maker Time: Join the BPL puppets for exciting experiments with things that fling and fly.

Discover the tools and materials nature provides us, as we explore nature shelters. Local Boy Scouts will join the puppet lab to discuss real life shelter and fort building and special guests will help us to believe in fairies. Kids will construct their own fairy/gnome homes out of natural materials.

July 21st – Trash Mobiles. Story and Maker Time: Join the BPL puppets for fun with the 3 Rs, focusing on reusing.

Recycling and reducing waste are important parts of modern life, but sometimes we wonder how can we reuse things that otherwise end up in the trash. Join the puppet lab as they hilariously explore the idea of making trash mobiles. We will learn some basic principles of weight estimation and balance, and then create a mobile that will reflect your own personality and interests.

July 28th – Finale Party 3:00 – 5:00. Maker Stations and Open Exploration.

Join us for an afternoon of fun as we wrap up Phase 1 of our Summer Reading Program. We will have a multitude of Maker Stations where anyone can engage in open play and creation. Legos, Robots and collage stations are just a few of the activities!

<p>Special Programs @ Mills Community House Saturday, July 16th 11 am. Animal Fitness Tales. 231-882-4111 - www.benzonialibrary.org</p>
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