

BENZONIA TOWNSHIP 2016 WINTER NEWS LETTER 231-882-4411

www.benzoniatownship.org

1020 Michigan Ave, P.O. Box 224, Benzonia, MI 49616
General office hours Mon – Thurs 9:00 – 4:00

Supervisor – Jason Barnard

Assessor – Christy Brow

Eric Ferneilus

Memorial Park Maint. – Ken Blair

Clerk – Diana Heller

Zoning Administrator – Dave Neiger

Trustees – James Sheets, Shiela Priest

Treasurer – Karen Burns

Cemetery Sexton –

Winter property taxes – Office hours during winter tax collection (Dec 1 thru Feb 14) are Monday thru Thursday 9-3 (closed on Friday). 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 - Our two cleanup days for 2017 will be May 20th and August 12th. The same location as always, behind Tri-Gas and next to Antolin (the former Magna Plant) on US-31 south of Benzonia. 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 - http://www.benzieco.net/dept_recycling.htm for a schedule of upcoming events.

Election – Benzonia Township has 2,394 registered voters. This General Election we had 1,675 vote and of those voters, 671 were absentee. There was a steady stream of voters all day, and as a result, all of the absentee votes were processed after the polls closed at 8:00pm. That made a very long day. A very big thanks goes to the people who took the positions available for election inspectors. The process went smooth, but because of the number of voters, extended longer than usual.

Memorial Park – Our park continues to grow. The schedule for 2017 is beginning to fill. **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. We need a pressure washer for cleanup.

We purchased 10 new picnic tables in 2016 from a local business, and will complete the replacement in 2017.

- **The Dog Park** is located at the south east corner of Memorial Park and is *VERY* popular with our four legged friends. Please remember to pick up after your pet. There are bags and a container available – PLEASE BRING YOUR DOGS IN USE THE PARK AND KEEP IT CLEAN.
- **The Veterans Memorial** design is complete, and the dedication was held at the park on November 11th (Veterans Day) . It's located on the north end of Memorial Park. There is an artist drawing of the memorial at the township hall. Please stop in and take a look or better yet, visit the park and see the progress yourself. **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 – John Hanmer, who has served our fire department for 36 years, 20 plus as Fire Chief, has recently retired. Our new chief, Steve Adams comes to us with experience of volunteering on our department for years. He is also qualified as EMT.

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 – in 2016 several roads were worked on including Fairway Drive, Orchard Hill, Timberlane. Several others were repaired including Hoadley, Higgins, part of Eden Hill, and Ingleston. Benzonia Township is working with the Benzie County Road Commission to continue the upgrading and repair of the township roads. The passing of the millage for the roads has been a tremendous help to all of the county roads.

BUSINESS OWNERS!! Regarding your **PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES**. If you have under 80,000 in value for your personal property, you could qualify to have your taxes exempt. You need to look for the form in the packet sent out by the Assessor in January. Remember that it's due back to the assessor by February 10th. ***If you don't fill it out, you won't get the exemption.***

BROADBAND UPDATE: There will be a meeting set for December 7th at 1:00 at the Government Center. It's open to the public and will give everyone an update on what's happening and what to expect regarding broadband in our area.

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 <http://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! Our Ag properties haven't been taking part in the survey like we hope. This is a big deal and the survey needs to be filled out in order to move forward. Please take a couple of minutes to complete it.

FORMS: We have a form section on the township website where you can find the most often used forms.

SELLING PROPERTY? The property transfer affidavit is a **state requirement** every time a property changes owners. There is a link for it on our website or go to the Michigan.gov to find it. There is a fine if it's not completed and turned into the township assessor within 45 days of the transfer. It's form 2766 on the Michigan.gov site.

REMEMBER....Applications for Poverty, VA and Personal Property exemptions need to be filed yearly. Call the township hall if you have questions about any of these items.