

BENZONIA TOWNSHIP
2017 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
Treasurer – Karen Burns
Zoning Administrator – Jason Barnard
Cemetery Sexton – Eric Fernelius

Clerk – Diana Heller
Assessor – Jill Brown
Memorial Park Maint. – Ken Blair
Trustees – James Sheets, Shiela Priest

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 2018 will be May 19th and August 11th. The same location as always, behind Tri-Gas and next to XPert Fullfulness 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 Fernelius. His contact number is 231-642-7720. We have a Cemetery ordinance and it's available on our website.

Recycle – Bring in your dead batteries (non-automotive), cell phones, printer cartridges and compact fluorescent bulbs to the township hall. Household hazardous waste will be: Saturday, June 16; 9:00am – 1:00pm in Frankfort. Saturday, August 4; 9:00am – 1:00pm in Honor. Appointments are required for all special collections, please call 882-0554 or email benzierecycler@benzieco.net. There is no charge for residents to dispose of household hazardous waste or most electronics. There may be a small charge per pound for televisions and monitors due to changes in Michigan's e-waste policy. Call or e-mail for an appointment at the collection most convenient for you. Latex paint recycled from May through October at either Honor Building Supply in the Village of Honor or Nugent5 Ace Hardware in Benzonia. There is a small fee per can. Free scrap tire collections: (pending funding) June 16 @ Frankfort. July 14 @ Thompsonville. August 4 @ Honor.

- Visit - http://www.benzieco.net/dept_recycling.htm for a schedule of upcoming events.

Election – Benzonia Township has 2,394 registered voters. There will be a Fire millage renewal to be held in the May election.

Memorial Park – Our park continues to grow. The schedule for 2018 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.

- **New picnic tables** are in place and being used.
- **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. We will have staff to keep it open and plowed this year as it is used year around.
- **Surveillance Cameras** have been installed in the Memorial Park.

- **The Veterans Memorial** is a beautiful addition to our Park. It's located on the north end of Memorial Park. Please stop in and take a look or better yet, it is a very peaceful setting. **You might want to buy a paver in remembrance of a loved one.**
- **A walking trail** around the park is becoming a hot topic. We have a \$5,000 donation for this project and would welcome more. We are planning a $\frac{1}{2}$ mile paved trail. Children riding bikes, owners walking dogs, parents pushing baby buggies – ALL great fun and exercise.

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

Fire Department – Our 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 14 members. Six of our fire fighters are Medical First Responders, and all are State Certified. We average 400 medicals calls and 140 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. There will be a Fire millage renewal to be held in the May election.

Roads – in 2017 several roads were worked on including Narrow Gauge and Eden Hill Rd. 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. 2018 roads scheduled are yet to be determined.

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.***

FORMS: We have a form section on the township website where you can find the most often used forms, zoning ordinances, etc. at benzoniatownship.org

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.