

**BENZONIA TOWNSHIP
2018 SUMMER NEWSLETTER
231-882-4411**

www.benzoniatownship.org

**1020 Michigan Ave., P.O. Box 224, Benzonia, MI 49616
GENERAL OFFICE HOURS – MONDAY – THURSDAY 9:00 – 3:00**

**Supervisor – Jason Barnard Clerk – Diana Heller Treasurer – Karen Burns
Assessor – Jill Brown Zoning Administrator – Jason Barnard Memorial Park Maint. – Ken Blair
Cemetery Sexton - RJ Jordan Trustees – James Sheets, Shiela Priest**

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SUMMER PROPERTY TAXES – Treasurer’s office hours during summer tax collection will be Monday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings 9-12. 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 summer cleanup day will be August 11th. The same location as in the past, behind Tri-Gas and next to Xpert Fulfillment 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 RJ Jordan. His contact number is 231 231-645-4814. We have a Cemetery Ordinance which is available on our website.

RECYCLE – Bring in your dead batteries (non-automotive), cell phones, printer cartridges and compact fluorescent bulbs to the township hall. Contact information for the county recycle coordinator is: 231-882-0554 or email benzierecycler@benzienco.net. Visit: www.benzienco.net and click on recycling for a schedule of upcoming events.

ELECTION – The Primary Election is scheduled for August 7th and the General Election will be on November 6th. We will be voting on: Fire millage, road millage, conservation millage in the August Election. Remember, your vote counts! The last day to register will be July 9th.

The Primary Election on August 7th has typically been a two party primary election. This year there will be a third party: The Libertarians. As with part primaries, you will only be able to vote for one party, no matter how many are on the ballot. So your choice for the August Primary will be either, Republican, Democrat or Libertarian.

MEMORIAL PARK - Located between South Street and Grace Road in Benzonia.
Please schedule your group events at the township hall. We have a form for groups over 25.
DOG PARK – Remember to pick up after your pet. There are bags and a container available.
WALKING TRAIL – this hot topic continues to have interest. Please consider a donation to this very worth while project. We’d like to see ½ mile of paved trail. Children riding bikes, owners walking dogs, parents pushing babies – it’s great exercise and lots of fun. Let’s all help make it a reality.

REMEMBER, DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS APPRECIATED FOR THE INCREASED MAINTENANCE TO THE PARK.

FIRE DEPARTMENT – Our fire department not only provides fire protection service, it also provides medical first response, vehicle extrication, hazardous materials (operational level), search and rescue, fire prevention services. The department currently has 14 state certified firefighters, with 6 of those are dual trained as medical responders that provide coverage 24/7. Our calls for service have been on the rise over the past years and it is looking as though that trend will continue into the future. If you are interested in becoming a trained

Firefighter, EMT or Medical First Responder, or are already trained as such, and are willing to dedicate a small portion of your life to community service, please contact our Chief. We would also like to thank you as community members for your continued support of the department.

UPDATE ON SWIMMER'S ITCH – The Crystal Lake Watershed Association contracted with Swimmer's Itch Solutions LLC to conduct swimmer's itch control activities on Crystal Lake during summer of 2017. It concentrated on trapping merganser broods and moving them to other waters where the swimmer's itch parasites are not present. By reducing one of the parasite hosts, the cycle that releases the parasites into Crystal is broken and swimmer's itch will be decreased. Glen and Higgins Lakes have already had positive results with these methods. The public greatly assisted in the success of this program by reporting sightings of merganser broods. As a result, SIS captured a total of 14 broods (including 116 ducklings) which have been relocated to Lake Michigan or Lake Huron. By late July, all merganser broods had been removed from Crystal Lake. This reduction in the merganser population is expected to result in a lower infection rate in 2018.

Crystal Lake & Watershed Association is asking for the public's help in reporting nests (merganzers nest in trees), broods (rust colored heads) and cases of Swimmer's Itch. Please go to their website: crystallakewatershed.org for reporting directions and other updates on their efforts to eliminate Swimmer's Itch.

REMEMBER: PLEASE DON'T FEED THE DUCKS!!

911 SIGNS: The Boy Scout Troop 10 supplies us with the 911 signs. There is an application at the township hall or online at our website: www.benzoniatownship.org The price is \$35.00 and the scouts will install them.

Benzonia Public Library is located in the historic Mills Community House 891 Michigan Ave., Benzonia. Be sure to check out all they have to offer including eBay Basics, Computers with Dustin, great children programs for all ages and much more. Visit their website at: www.benzonialibrary.org

FUN FACTS:

- We have 2,394 registered voters in Benzonia Township
- Between 2016 and 2017 a whopping 4.2 million beverage containers were recycled at Shop n Save and Family Fair shopping centers.
- Recycling – 2016 saw 975 tons recycled and 2017 that amount was increased to 1009 tons.
- We will take retired flags at the township hall. The Boy Scouts will hold a ceremony to dispose of them.
- Benzie County Road Commission and the local road committee compiled a list of worst roads in the county. There were 54 on this list. The majority of these roads have been repaired thanks to the millage that was voted in in 2014. According to the Benzie County Road Commission, this amounts to 61.93 miles. If the millage is renewed, the remaining roads will be the focus of attention.