

BENZONIA TOWNSHIP
2018 WINTER 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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WINTER PROPERTY TAXES – Treasurer’s office hours during winter tax collection will be Monday thru Thursday 9-3. 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 spring cleanup day will be May 11, 2019. 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 231-645-4814. We have a Cemetery Ordinance which is available on our website. *We want to keep our cemetery as clean as possible, so please remember to remove your vases, etc prior to October 1st as they will be removed by the township after that.*

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@benzieco.net. Visit: www.benzieco.net and click on recycling for a schedule of upcoming events. Remember, you can also drop off flags at the hall. The Boy Scouts will dispose of them.

ELECTION: The General Election, November 6th was a record turnout for Benzonia Township with 1500 residents casting their votes for many candidates and proposals on the ballot. That’s close to 50% turnout. Everyone was very patient and cordial while waiting in long lines to vote. Thank you!
We had a very large number of absentee ballots cast as well. The Clerk’s office is compiling a permanent absentee voters list for our township. This means that in any future election, our office will generate an “Application for Absentee Ballot” and send to everyone on the list. This will give you a chance to sign it in two places and add a different address if needed and return to the township. After we receive the form back signed by the voter, we can mail you your numbered ballot with instructions included. Please contact the office if you would like to be on this list for the next election.

MEMORIAL PARK – is 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 – We are moving ahead with fund raisers for our project of a half mile walking trail. We have received \$5,300 in donations to date! What a great start. We are talking of upgrading the playground at the same time. The last time it was done was 1990 – so it’s time. It’s estimated that the total project could cost approx. \$150,000.00, so we have a way to go. We are planning a large fund raiser in the near future and hope you can be part of it. If you’d like to make a donation, please stop by the township hall and talk with Karen.

VETERANS MEMORIAL – This beautiful memorial has been the site for several veteran activities over the past year. The construction on the new pavilion is currently in the works. This will add a picnic area at the memorial for family gatherings.

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

BENZONIA FIRE DEPARTMENT STATION 5 is a volunteer 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, ice water rescue and 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 (benzoniefire@gmail.com). We would also like to thank you as community members for your continued support of the department.

UPDATE ON SWIMMER'S ITCH – 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

SEPTIC SYSTEMS: *If you don't know when you last pumped your septic system, it's probably time to do it.* Septic systems that are not regularly maintained can discharge into the surrounding watershed, leading to nutrient pollution that promotes the growth of algae and invasive plants in our waters. In watersheds like ours, where septic systems are the primary disposal system, the impact can be significant. Do your part and pump your septic tank at regular intervals. The number of years between pumping can vary based on tank size and the number of people in your household, but *Michigan State University Extension recommends pumping your tank every 3-5 years at a minimum.* You can find out the size and age of your tank by contacting Benzie/Leelanau Health Department at 231-882-4409 (have your tax ID handy). The pumping providers located in Benzie County are:

Benzie, Crystal & Interlochen Pumping Service ("Geetings") 231-882-9848 www.benziepumping.com
Elliott's Ken-Jac Pumping Service 231-352-9442 www.elliottpumping.com
In Benzie County, we love our lakes and rivers. Show your love by pumping your septic tank.

FLOWER GARDENS IN BENZONIA are under the supervision of Mr. Steve Stephens. They are a beautiful addition to our village. Steve is looking for volunteers to help maintain these gardens with weeding, watering and planting. If you can help, please call Steve at 630-816-5588.