

**BENZONIA TOWNSHIP
2019 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

Cemetery Sexton - RJ Jordan (231-645-4814)

Trustees – James Sheets, Shiela Priest

Memorial Park Maint. – Geoff Miner

Fire Chief – Steve Adams

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. **SEPTEMBER 14TH IS ON A SATURDAY THIS YEAR – SUMMER TAXES ARE, THEREFORE, DUE SEPTEMBER 16, 2019.**

ASSESSOR – Jill Brown has office hours on Monday at the township. She can be reached at 231-881-4000 or at townshipassessing@gmail.com on other days.

CLEAN UP DAY – Our summer cleanup day will be August 10th. It will be at 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). A big thanks to the buys from the Twisted Trails Off Road Park for volunteering their time for this project!

RECYCLE – Bring in your dead batteries (non-automotive), cell phones, printer cartridges and compact fluorescent bulbs to the township hall. Please put tape over the terminals on the 9 volt batteries.

Remember, if you have a flag to retire, we have a container at the hall for them. The Boy Scouts will hold a ceremony to dispose of them.

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.

MEMORIAL PARK - The 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 AND PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT – this hot topic continues to have interest. Please consider a donation to this very worthwhile project. We'd like to see ½ mile of paved trail and new playground equipment. We'd love to see people walking, children riding bikes, owners walking dogs, parents pushing baby strollers – its 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 volunteer 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 volunteer 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

(Steve Adams – 231-342-2837). We would also like to thank you as community members for your continued support of the department. **We also give a BIG thanks to the employers for allowing the firefighters to leave their work at any given time and help protect our community!**

Benzonia Township will be hiring current Chief, Steve Adams as fulltime Chief for Benzonia Station 5. Steve will be the the first fulltime employee for the fire department. As we continue to grow as a department and community, we see that full time firefighters will be more in demand. The fire hall we are now working out of is full to capacity with firefighting equipment and no place to expand. Steve will be using part of an office in the township hall for his office work space, but we can see that this will also need to change.

We have a volunteer committee that had been searching out a property that could be used as home for a new fire hall, future township hall, home to a Benzie County EMS station and perhaps more. (Benzie County EMS currently has no center point station in the county.) We are planning open houses during 2019 to inform the public on the costs, requirements, possible location, needs and wants for this project. We are hoping to get good public input from the open houses and ideas that can be used as we start moving forward. Watch the paper, or check at the township for the times and dates.

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 Join the **SUMMER READING PROGRAM**. Read Books/Win Prizes!! Thursdays at 3pm. There will be no program July 4th.

ROADS: As the township has funds, we continue to improve roads located within our borders. When we contract with the Road Commission to improve a road, the township pays half the cost for that improvement. On the Benzie County Road Commission schedule for 2020 is a full reconstruction of US-31 from the light in Benzonia to the Betsie River as well as the Village of Benzonia street scape project.

BENZIE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY will hold their 50th annual meeting September 10, 2019 at 7:00 at the Elberta Life Saving Station in Elberta, MI. The Museum (located on River Street in Benzonia) is open during the summer Tuesday thru Saturday 11:00 – 5:00 and well worth a visit. The Drake School House located east of M-22 on Fowler Road holds hours July and August on Saturday and Sunday from 1-4 with family activities on Sundays.

CEMETERY: The township board will be considering another update to the 1997 ordinance. If you would like to look at this ordinance, please visit our website at www.benzoniatownship.org.