

**BENZONIA TOWNSHIP  
2019 WINTER NEWSLETTER  
231-882-4411**

[www.benzoniatownship.org](http://www.benzoniatownship.org)

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

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**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**

**Fire Chief – Steve Adams**

General information, forms, ordinances, etc are available on our website: [benzoniatownship.org](http://benzoniatownship.org). We also have a Facebook page for Benzonia Township that we hope you will take a minute to look at, like and share.

**WINTER PROPERTY TAXES** – Treasurer's office hours during winter tax collection will be Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and 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. Taxes are due February 14<sup>th</sup> to avoid a penalty.

**ELECTION 2020** – We will be having three elections in the coming year and need your help. If you would like to help us conduct any or all of these elections, please call the hall at 231-882-4411 and the Township Clerk, Diana Heller, will let you know what it takes to help with the elections. Once you are a certified election specialist, you can help with any and all elections within a two year period. This is a paid position, plus meals and snacks. Give us a call today.

**ASSESSOR** – Jill Brown can be reached at 231-881-4000 or at [townshipassessing@gmail.com](mailto:townshipassessing@gmail.com). She has no office hours during the winter months.

**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 9volt batteries and on **ALL** lithium-ion 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@benzieco.net](mailto:benzierecycler@benzieco.net). Visit: [www.benzieco.net](http://www.benzieco.net) and click on recycling for a schedule of upcoming events. **Please be sure that all items are clean and free of food residue.**

**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.

**FREE LIBRARY** – Finn McLaren has completed his Eagle Scout project by creating Free Libraries around the area. There is one located in the area of our Central Bark (dog park) for you to use. Thanks Finn.

**WALKING TRAIL AND PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT** – Benzie County is doing an update on the Joint Recreational and Cultural Plan for the County and including Benzonia Township in detail in this plan. This will help us as we start applications for grants for this project. Please consider a donation to this very worthwhile project as the grants will require matching funds. We'd like to see  $\frac{1}{2}$  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.**

**STATION 5 FIRE DEPARTMENT** – Our volunteer fire department not only provides fire protection service, it also provides medical first response, vehicle extraction, ice water rescue, hazardous materials (operational level), search and rescue, fire prevention services. We have two complete sets of "Jaws of Life" that are part of the equipment carried on the trucks. 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 – [btfd@gmail.com](mailto:btfd@gmail.com) or call the township hall). The application is on our website: [www.benzoniatownship.org](http://www.benzoniatownship.org). 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 has hired our current Chief, Steve Adams as fulltime Chief for Benzonia Station 5. Steve is first fulltime employee for the fire department. We are trying to stay in touch with the community and hope you will visit the Face Book page – Benzonia Township Fire Department. Please stop by the station to chat with our Chief and get a tour of the facilities.

We have purchased property that we are hoping can 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 will hold open houses as we get information on building, etc, to inform the public on the costs, requirements, 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](http://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](http://www.benzonialibrary.org)

**ROADS:** As the township has funds, we continue to improve roads located within our borders. When we contract with the Road Commission to improve or pave a road, the township pays most of 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.

**CENSUS:** The 2020 Census drive will need workers. They pay \$14.00/hour and are paid weekly. There are office jobs as well as field jobs available. You can visit [www.2020census.gov/jobs](http://www.2020census.gov/jobs) or call 1-855-562-2020. **Also** – cards will be mailed out to property owners in March with instructions to go online or call a number to fill out your census. Once that's done, you won't have any follow up mailings, calls or anyone knocking on your door to complete the forms.

**TOWNSHIP CLEANUP DATES-** Our cleanup dates for 2020 will be May 9<sup>th</sup> and August 8<sup>th</sup>. Same place as always on US-31 next to Expert Fulfillment, Benzonia.

**CEMETERY** – We are in the process of updating our Cemetery Ordinance. We want to especially address the "Decoration of Lots". There is a problem with the use of artificial flowers and added decorations and rocks that make the maintenance of the cemetery difficult. In the spring before Memorial Day, please check our web site or stop into the office for the new, amended Cemetery Ordinance, as it may affect you.

**HEADLEE ROLLBACK** – There's been some discussions started about overriding the Headlee. Headlee was voted in back in 1982. At that time, Benzonia Township was operating on 1.21 mills, and since that time the millage has rolled back to .7946 mills. This is happening with every unit of government in Benzie County. This directly impacts the income we receive from taxes, which impacts projects we can do like paving roads, park and cemetery upgrades and maintenance, etc. The only way we can get an override is to have it put before the voters. You can expect to see more about this in the near future.