

**BENZONIA TOWNSHIP  
2020 SUMMER 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**

The office is open to the public **HOWEVER**, we ask that you please wear a face mask if you come in and use the hand sanitizer at the front desk before entering any of our offices. **THANKS!**

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.

**SUMMER PROPERTY TAXES** – Treasurer's office hours during summer tax collection will be Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 9-12. Taxes are due September 14<sup>th</sup> to avoid interest. **We encourage payments by mail or in our drop box please include a SASE if you want a receipt mailed. We are excited to announce that we are in the process of getting set up to take credit cards for payment of property taxes!!! When it's complete, you will see a link on our webpage: [www.benzoniatownship.org](http://www.benzoniatownship.org) where you can go to make payment.**

**ELECTION 2020** – August 4<sup>th</sup> primary and November General Elections are coming up. We have mailed out applications to our Permanent Absentee Voters to vote by mail for the August primary. We will be doing the same thing for the November election. If you are not on our permanent AV list, please contact the Clerk and you will be included. Many people are requesting this type of application because of the Covid-19 virus and the construction on US 31. After you complete the application, either drop it off at the Hall or deposit in our drop box outside the door.

**ASSESSOR** – Jill Brown can be reached at 231-881-4000 or at [townshipassessing@gmail.com](mailto:townshipassessing@gmail.com). Her office hours at Benzonia Township remain Mondays from 9-3.

**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.

**PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT** - We're still working on this project and will be applying for a few grants to try making this a reality. If you have any suggestions, we'd like to hear them as we move along with these projects.

**Donation boxes can be found at the park if you'd like to "chip in" and help us with maintenance and development. THANKS!**

**STATION 5 FIRE DEPARTMENT-** Our fire department not only provides fire protection service, it also provides medical first response, vehicle extrication, ice water rescue, hazardous materials (operational level), search and rescue and fire prevention services. We currently have a total of 20 members on the department. Over the past year we have increased our roster with 7 new members, four of which will be completing firefighter training at the end of June. We have 7 members dual trained as firefighter/medical responders that provide medical response. The Insurance Services Office (ISO) recently completed an analysis of the structural fire suppression delivery system that the department provides to the community. The Public Protection Classification (PPC) that our department received from ISO went from a 5/5Y to a 4/4Y that will be effective September 1, 2020. The department is also in the process of replacing our 1999 Engine, to help maintain our level of service to the community. If you are interested in becoming a trained Firefighter, EMT or Medical First Responder and are willing to dedicate a small portion of your life to community service, please contact

our Chief (Steve Adams – [benzonofire@gmail.com](mailto:benzonofire@gmail.com) or call the township office). 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.

**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:** The full reconstruction of US-31 is underway and seems to be going smoothly. Part of the reconstruction will be in Village of Benzonia street scape project, which will include sidewalks and lighting. Dam road has been repaired this year and Love Road from US-31 to Hanmer Road is scheduled for work in 2021. This will include removal of about 5 ft from the crest of the hill to improve visibility and sight distance.

**CENSUS:** The 2020 Census continues. **Please get yours filled out and returned.** It means direct revenue to the county and township as well as help with roads, etc.

**TOWNSHIP CLEANUP DATES-** Our summer cleanup date August 8<sup>th</sup> from 7:00am to 11:30am. 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 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, cemetery upgrades and maintenance, etc. The only way we can get an override is to have it put before the voters at the county level. You can expect to see more about this in the near future.

**A MESSAGE FROM BENZIE SENIOR RESOURCES - *What does it mean to be connected, supported and home?*** The last one is easy; it’s what most of us want in our later years – to **be home**, in a safe place, surrounded by the familiar things we love. Many older folks in our community are living in their own homes because they are **supported** with services like Home Delivered Meals, Medication Management and Snow Removal. They are avoiding isolation because they are **connected** through activities and nutritious shared meals at the Gathering Place. Last year we provided services to 1,616 seniors throughout Benzie County, and 315 live in Benzonia Township. We could not fulfill our mission of service to seniors without the support of our community via the Senior Millage, donations, local grant opportunities and volunteers. For that ongoing support, we are most grateful. When it matters, we’re here! ***Celebrating 45 years of service to Benzie County Seniors.***

With warm regards, Douglas Durand, Executive Director Phone: 231.525.0600 Website:

[BenzieSeniorResources.org](http://BenzieSeniorResources.org)