

**BENZONIA TOWNSHIP
2021 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

Trustees – James Sheets, Shiela Priest

Fire Chief – Steve Adams

Cemetery Sexton – Robert (Bob) Wilkinson 231-633-2592

General information, forms, ordinances, etc are available on our website: 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 14th to avoid interest. We encourage payments by mail or in our drop box please include a SASE if you want a receipt mailed. We now accept property tax payments by credit card or ACH payment, there is a link on our webpage www.benzoniatownship.org for that payment.

ELECTION 2021 – There will be no election in August of 2021 for Benzonia Township. The next one coming up will be November 2021. Ballots should be available sometime around the last week in September. Call the Clerk at the township office for more information.

ASSESSOR – Jill Brown can be reached at 231-881-4000 or at townshipassessing@gmail.com. Her office hours at Benzonia Township will be the fourth Tuesday of the month from 9-3. Appointments are still best, so consider calling or emailing her in advance.

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. Visit: 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 – Our park is located between South Street and Grace Road in Benzonia.

We now have two pavilions available for gatherings. 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 refuse container available.

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT - We continue working on this project and will be applying for a few grants to try making this a reality.

WALKING TRAIL – We are getting bids to start our half mile walking trail in the park. This will be an exciting addition to Memorial Park.

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 19 members on the department. We have 6 members dual trained as firefighter/medical responders that provide non-transporting medical response for the community and provide

assistance along with Benzie County EMS. Four of our department members recently completed training to become Medical First Responders and are now working to become licensed with the State of Michigan. We've also had one of our dual trained members advance from Medical First Response and is now licensed as an Emergency Medical Technician. The Fire Department has seen increase in the number of calls for service over the past years, 2020 came in at 487. The number of calls has been a little busy thus far for 2021, as of May 31, a total of 184 calls were received. The new pumper truck, Fire Engine 1, has the chassis and cab portion completed and is being built with a tentative delivery date in the fall of 2021. Benzonia Township has purchased property that will be slated for construction of a new fire station/township hall, more to come as planning continues. 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 – btfd58@gmail.com or call the township office). The application is on our website: www.benzoniatownship.org . Please like us on Facebook @Benzonia Township Fire Department. 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 on our website: www.benzoniatownship.org The price is \$35.00 and the scouts will install them.

We want to thank Boy Scout Troop 10 for the time donated to place flags for our veterans at Benzonia Township Cemetery for Memorial Day.

ROADS: Unfortunately, the Love Road reconstruction project had to be put on hold to work out a couple of issues. We are hoping it will be done 2022. Meanwhile, Moss Road (US-31 to Worden), Worden (US-31 to Moss), Pond (Hoadley to Grace) and River Road from the Village of Benzonia west just short of the Betsie River bridge have been worked on and funding for these roads was mostly from the road improvement millage that you see on your winter tax bills.

TOWNSHIP CLEANUP DATES- Our summer cleanup date August 7th from 7:00am to 11:00am. Same place as always on US-31 next to Expert Fulfillment, Benzonia (behind Tri-Gas).

CEMETERY – We have updated our Cemetery Ordinance. If you'd like a copy, please stop by the township hall during business hours, or see it on our website under the docs and forms tab. We want to thank everyone for complying with the ordinance regarding silk flowers. We have a township resident who is willing to purchase, plant, weed and water REAL plants for your burial site if you are interested. We have her contact information at the township hall.

HEADLEE ROLLBACK – 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 put it before the voters at the county level. You can expect to see more about this in the near future.

GOT A SEPTIC ? Michigan State University Extension recommends pumping your tank every 3-5 years at a minimum. To schedule septic services, contact one of our county's providers. A 2016 study found that in watersheds like ours where septic systems are the primary disposal system, septic pollution of surface waters is likely much more severe than previously realized. Contact the Crystal Lake & Watershed Association with your questions at P.O. Box 89 Beulah, MI 49617, 231-882-4001 or info@crystallakewatershed.org