

BENZONIA TOWNSHIP  
2021 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 – Bob Wilkinson 231-633-2592

Trustees – James Sheets, Sheila 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 thru Thursday from 9-2. February 14<sup>th</sup> the deadline for winter taxes to avoid the penalty. **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 now able to take credit cards for payment of property taxes!!! There is a link on our webpage: [www.benzoniatownship.org](http://www.benzoniatownship.org) where you can go to make payment.

**ELECTION 2021** – We only had one election during the 2021 year, resulting in our voters approving a bond to build a new Fire and Township Hall building. During the 2022 election cycle, we will be holding a Primary Election in August and the Gubernatorial election in November. If you are on our permanent absent voter list, you will get your ballot application about 6-8 weeks prior to the next election, then after the application is filled out and returned to us, we will issue your ballot. If you would like to be placed on the list, please call the office (231-882-4411) with your request. A big thank you goes out to all our election workers who help myself and the township conduct these elections for everyone.

**ASSESSOR** – Jill Brown, our township assessor, can be reached at 231-881-4000 or at [townshipassessing@gmail.com](mailto:townshipassessing@gmail.com). During the winter months, she will only be in the township office with a scheduled appointment.

**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** - Our park is located between South Street and Grace Road in Benzonia with two pavilions available for gatherings. We have a reservation form to fill out in order to schedule your event. Please contact the township office or visit us online at [www.benzoniatownship.org](http://www.benzoniatownship.org) under docs and forms to reserve your date.

**DOG PARK** – Remember to pick up after your pet. There are bags and a container available.

**WALKING TRAIL** – We continue working on this project and will be getting bids in the spring of 2022 and hopefully installing the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the trail late summer. This trail will be made possible using the excise tax money that the township received from the recreational marijuana sales in the township.

**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** - The Fire Department would like say THANK YOU for the overwhelming support from the community on the passage of the bond proposal for the new Fire/Medical First Responder Station and Township Offices. This continued support will pave the way of the Township and Fire Department's ability to provide services to our community for years to come. In other news, our firefighter membership has grown and we now have several probationary members that have been working very hard to complete the extensive requirements necessary and soon we'll be 20 members strong. The calls for service have continued to increase with a year to date total of 435 on October 31, 2021. These are record breaking numbers and at this rate we'll break 500 calls for the year. In other big news and after a year in the making we've finally received our latest addition to our apparatus fleet. The 2021 Rosenbauer Fire Engine will take the place of our current primary engine (Engine 1), which was built in the year 2000. We are looking forward to putting the new engine (Station 5 Engine 1) in service as soon as possible to help with the protection of life and property of the community. Please feel free to stop by the station and take a look at the new fire engine and the entire fleet. 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 at [benzonofire@gmail.com](mailto:benzonofire@gmail.com) or call the township office 231-882-4411, ext.16. The application is on our website at [www.benzoniatownship.org](http://www.benzoniatownship.org)

**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.

**ROADS:** 2022 should see work on US-31 from the viaduct bridge in Beulah toward Honor. This five mile project will resurface the highway. There are several other township roads being considered for work in 2022 as well. We will know more in the upcoming months.

**TOWNSHIP CLEANUP DATES** - Our spring cleanup date May 7<sup>th</sup> from 7:00am to 11:00am. Same place as always on US-31 next to Expert Fulfillment, Benzonia.

**CEMETERY** – We have updated our Cemetery Ordinance. You can see it on our website [www.benzoniatownship.org](http://www.benzoniatownship.org), or stop in for a copy. We have an area resident who is retired and loves to garden! She has indicated that she would be available, for a fee, to take care of cemetery lots! She would purchase plants, plant them and water and weed during the summer. If you are interested, please contact the township office.

**HEADLEE ROLLBACK** – The discussion continues 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 .78140 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.

**ICE RINK** – It was so nice to see the rink in operation again last year. There was a wonderful donation of skates given to the Benzonia Library. They are checked out to skaters to use. It worked great and allowed people to skate that might normally not go because of lack of equipment.

**THANK YOU!** Benzonia Township Board would like to thank everyone who helped pass the bond proposal. We will, hopefully, be breaking ground on the new fire and township building in the spring of 2022.

Also – a big **THANK YOU** goes out to the employers of our volunteer fire fighters! We thank you for allowing them to leave their jobs at any unknown time to make rescue runs and fight fires in our community.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO EVERYONE FROM BENZONIA TOWNSHIP!**