

**BENZONIA TOWNSHIP
2022 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 2022 — The Primary Election is August 2, 2022 & the General Election will be November 8, 2022. We are approaching the new election season and the clerk's office will be sending out Dual Absent Voter applications for the two elections. If you have signed up to be on the absent voter list, you will be receiving one for the August election. The applications from the state are now dual, meaning you sign up to receive ballots for both the primary and the general, or just one if chosen. At the top of the application, you will check which election you want to receive a ballot. We will not be sending the applications for the November election because this one is a dual and meant for both. If you have any questions, please call the office, 231-882-4411 and ask for either the clerk or deputy clerk.

ASSESSOR — Jill Brown can be reached at 231-881-4000 or at townshipassessing@gmail.com. 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 benzierecyclers@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 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. There's been some discussion about enlarging the park. Funding is always paramount on projects like this. If you have suggestions on the park or funding ideas, please let us know.

WALKING TRAIL – We are getting bids to start our half mile walking trail in the park. We should be starting this fun project later this summer. It will be finished to a packed gravel surface at this time. The paving of the trail will be our next project and hopefully can be done in 2023.

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 and currently working on adding more members. We have 7 members dual trained as firefighter/medical responders, as we had

one of our members complete testing and received a State of Michigan license. Our medical personnel provide non-transporting medical response for the community and provide assistance with Benzie County EMS.

Our calls for service have been on the increase over the past years. **From 2016 to 2021, our calls for service numbers has increased by a whopping 77%. Our 2022 numbers of calls for service are up 15% over our 2021 numbers, as of May 31, 2022.**

NEW FIRE/TOWNSHIP BUILDING PROJECT — We are struggling with the unforeseen and unexpected skyrocketing prices of lumber, steel and other building material. We are checking into several options so that we may still be able to move forward in getting our building constructed. We would like to be able to secure all the funds to be sure our project is able to be completed and not have to find ourselves with a partially finished building. This may include the need for further funding and help from you the community. Again, when we put this plan together 2 years ago the materials were far less than they are now, this has been quite heartbreaking for our township board and all of us here at the fire department. We appreciate your patience and understanding in this matter and we pledge to remain upfront and straight with our community as we move forward. If you have any questions comments or concerns, please contact Township Supervisor Jason Barnard supervisor@benzoniatownship.org or Fire Chief Steve Adams btfd58@gmail.com

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.

ROADS — Case Road to Homestead Road has been resurfaced recently and Love Road from Case to Alysworth will be done this summer as well. The other road will be Crystal Drive from US-31 to M-22 with a new surface applied. If you have questions, please contact the Benzie County Road Commission.

TOWNSHIP CLEANUP DATES — Our 2022 summer cleanup date is August 6th from 7:00am to 11:00am. Same place as always on US-31 next to Expert Fulfillment, Benzonia (behind Tri-Gas).

CEMETERY — We have our cemetery ordinance available on our website, or stop by the township hall and pick one up.

The township purchases flags for the veterans buried in our cemetery each year. This year we purchased 500, and want to thank Boy Scout Troop 10 for the time donated to place flags on our veterans graves for Memorial Day.

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