

BENZONIA TOWNSHIP — 2024 SUMMER NEWSLETTER

231-882-4411, www.BenzoniaTownship.org
1020 Michigan Avenue, P.O. Box 224, Benzonia, MI 49616

GENERAL OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY through THURSDAY 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Supervisor – Jason Barnard Clerk – Diana Heller Treasurer – Karen Burns
Assessor – Jill Brown Zoning Administrator – Jason Barnard
Assistant Zoning Administrator – Mary Pitcher
Trustees – David Gardner, Al Rose Fire Chief – Steve Adams
Cemetery Sexton – Robert (Bob) Wilkinson 231-633-2592

General information, forms, ordinances, etc. are available on our Web site: www.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 am to 12 pm. Taxes are due September 16th to avoid interest. If you'd like a receipt, please include a SASE. We now accept property tax payments by credit card or ACH payment, there is a link on our Web page www.BenzoniaTownship.org for that payment. If you have questions, please email Karen at: treasurer@BenzoniaTownship.org.

ELECTION 2023 — As everyone knows, there are two major elections in our township. The Primary on August 6th and the General on November 5th, the Clerk's office is busy in preparations for both. There are three ways to vote: 9-days of early voting, absentee voting and in person voting. If you have any questions concerning voting, please give us a call or stop by the office. The applications for absentee voting mailed out for the February election will serve you for both remaining elections. If we have one of those on file in the office, you will automatically receive your ballots when they are ready.

ASSESSOR — Jill Brown can be reached at 231-881-4000 or at TownshipAssessing@gmail.com. Appointments are still best, please 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 collection container at the hall. The Boy Scouts will hold a ceremony to dispose of them.

There are collections for tires and electronics scheduled throughout the summer with Benzie County Recycling, appointments are required for both of these events: rroelofs@benzieco.gov or call 231-882-0035 or visit www.benzieco.gov.

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. It's amazing how many dogs bring their people to the park to play! Lots of fun.

WALKING TRAIL — It's great to see the people and children using the new walking trail! We're hoping to have it paved in the next couple of years. We are providing this great project with monies received from the excise tax revenue received from cannabis sales in our township.

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT — The new playground equipment has also been a hit with children, we are hoping to expand that area with more equipment as funds permit.

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 services but also medical first response, vehicle extrication, search and rescue, ice & water rescue, hazardous materials management (operational level), and fire prevention services. Calls for service continue to increase and in 2023 we responded 553 times to either fire or medical first response calls. With this continued increase comes a continued demand for emergency response staff in which our paid, on-call crew members are on-call 24/7 for 365 days a year. We look forward to growing as a department in providing these essential services for our community.

We have purchased a 2023 RAM pickup to add to our fleet which is in the process of being outfitted and will be licensed with the State of Michigan as a Medical First Response Vehicle.

NEW FIRE/MEDICAL FIRST RESPONDER STATION & TOWNSHIP OFFICES PROJECT – We are under way on the new building! It's been a long time coming and it's going to be a great addition to the community. We thank our voters for approving the funds for this great building.

Please like us on our “Benzonia Township Fire Department” Facebook page and we can't thank you enough for the continued support of your Station 5 Fire Department.

911 SIGNS — If you would like a 911 sign on your property, there is an application at the township hall or online on our Web site: www.BenzoniaTownship.org The price is \$40.00 and will be installed by Boy Scout Troop 10.

TOWNSHIP CLEANUP DATES — Our 2024 summer cleanup date is August 10th from 7:00 - 11:00am and will be located at Memorial Park on South Street in Benzonia, behind the Watson Benzie Chrysler Dodge Dealership. This is a temporary location, as we hope to have it at our new building location starting May 2025.

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. We'd like to thank Boy Scout Troop 10 for placing over 500 flags on the graves of our veterans in Benzonia Township.

HEADLEE ROLLBACK — Language on the ballot this year under the heading ALTERATION OF DURATION OF FIXED OPERATIONAL MILEAGE, will ask the people to remove the word “indefinite” from the language. This will give each unit of government in Benzie County the ability to do studies on the Headlee Rollback and decide if they want to bring it to the people for a renewal in the future.

ZONING – Benzonia Township is a zoned township and requires a land use permit for any changes to your property.