

BENZONIA TOWNSHIP

2024 WINTER 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 **Asst. Zoning Admin** – Mary Pitcher
Trustees – Julie Orr, Al Rose **Fire Chief** – Steve Adams
Cemetery Sexton – Robert (Bob) Wilkinson 231-633-2592

General information, forms, ordinances, etc. are available on our website at www.benzoniatownship.org. Benzonia Township also has a Facebook page that we hope you will take a minute to look, like, and share.

TREASURER – WINTER PROPERTY TAXES – Treasurer's office hours during winter tax collection will be 9am-2pm Monday thru Thursday and taxes are due February 14th to avoid penalty and interest. If you'd like a receipt, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope. We now accept property tax payments by credit card or ACH payment and there is a link on our webpage, www.benzoniatownship.org to make that payment. If you have questions, please email Karen at treasurer@benzoniatownship.org.

ELECTION 2024 – Thank you to the entire committee of election workers for the awesome job they did to make the November 2024 election safe and secure. There were a few new procedures and hoops to jump through, but they did it with practiced experience. The turnout was phenomenal and everyone was in a great mood and humor.

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 benzierecycler@benzienco.net. Visit: www.benzienco.net and click on recycling for a schedule of upcoming events.

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.

WALKING TRAIL – The paving of the walking trail was completed this fall. It's a beautiful half mile trail that wanders around the park. Please come and enjoy it! Excise tax monies (from the sale of cannabis) pays for these projects.

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT – The new playground equipment is getting daily use. We are hoping to expand the park in the next year or two.

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 – We not only provide fire suppression but medical first response, vehicle extrication, search and rescue, ice and water rescue, hazardous materials services (operational level) and fire prevention. We have recently expanded the department's leadership team to include; Brian Putney as Assistant Chief, Jeff Nordbeck as Safety Officer, Alan Rose as Medical Captain, James Banasiak as Fire Captain and Rick Smith as Dept. Consultant. Our calls for service have been increasing throughout the last several years and as of October 31, 2024 we have received a total of 447 Fire & EMS calls for the year. As calls for service increase, so do our staffing needs. To aid in response to the increasing calls for service we've added daytime staffing Monday through Friday and continue to provide on-call fire and medical first responder services 24/7 for Benzonia, Joyfield and Blaine Townships. The Station 5 crew would like to thank you for your continued support!

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 Fire Chief, Steve Adams via email at benzoniasfire@gamil.com or call the township offices at 231-882-4411, ext.16. You can find an employment application on the Docs & Forms page within the township's website at www.benzoniatownship.org.

NEW FIRE/MEDICAL FIRST RESPONDER STATION & TOWNSHIP OFFICES PROJECT - The new building has seen quite a bit of activity within the past year and we've made great progress. The building frame and siding are almost complete, in-building concrete has been poured and the interior walls are scheduled to start soon. We hope to have the entire building closed-in before winter and look forward to an estimated move in date sometime in the Spring of 2025. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony and an open house once the building has been completed.

Please like 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 – You'll see these green signs all around the county. If you would like a 911 sign on your property, there is an application at the township hall or online on our website at www.benzoniatownship.org. The price is \$40.00 and they will be installed by Boy Scout Troop 10.

TOWNSHIP CLEAN-UP DATES – Our 2025 spring cleanup date is May 10th from 7-10am and will be in the new location at Memorial Park, 6811 South St. and just behind the Watson Chrysler Dealership in Benzonia.

CEMETERY – Our cemetery ordinance is available on our website or stop into the township hall to pick one up.

The township purchases flags for 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.

ZONING – Benzonia Township has a zoning ordinance that regulates the entire township. When you plan to build, remodel or have any project that increases the "foot print" of your structure you will need to schedule an appointment with the Zoning Administrator to obtain a land-use permit. Once complete you will then proceed to the Benzie County Building Department to continue in the permitting process.