

BENTON TOWNSHIP
[website: Benton Township in Cheboygan MI](#)
231-625-9176

A message from the Township Clerk, Jayne Passeno:

New faces: After 19 years of service to the Township as secretary Elaine Kennedy has decided to retire. We wish Elaine well and thank her for her excellent service to the Township. Carol Neuman, Deborah Berden and Mary Ellen Enos have filled the secretarial position and one of them will be available on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 9 am. – 1 pm. to provide information and answers to any questions you may have pertaining to the Township.

Election information: The last day to register to vote in the August primary is Tuesday, July 5, 2016. The primary election will be held on Tuesday, August 2, 2016 at the Benton Township Community Center. The last day to register for the November general election is Tuesday, October 11, 2016 for the November 8, 2016 general election. If you have never voted in Michigan before you cannot vote by absentee ballot, you must appear in person to vote and you must present photo identification before voting, as do all voters. Accommodations are available for disabled individuals.

Absentee ballots are available for all elections to anyone who is unable to attend in person and/or are over 60 years of age, or are incarcerated awaiting arraignment or trial. You may request an absentee ballot for both the August and November elections at the same time.

Community center rentals: The center is available to only Benton Township taxpayers. It cannot be used for any profit making enterprise. Rental fee is \$50 plus a refundable \$50 deposit to rent the hall for one day. If renting for a funeral/memorial gathering for a Benton Township resident the rental fee is \$10 plus a refundable \$50 deposit.

Additional tables & chairs: The Township owns several tables and chairs that are let out to only Benton Township taxpayers for backyard parties, garage sales, etc. To either rent the hall or borrow the tables and chairs please contact the Clerk, Jayne Passeno at 231-625-9176 or 231-627-7236.

A message from the Township Treasurer Ann Couture:

Please take the time to review the enclosed tax bill(s). Make sure it is yours. You, as the named property owner is the only one that will receive this bill. If you have an escrow account with a bank, title company, mortgage or real estate broker they will request and I will furnish them the amount(s) due. They do not receive any of the other information contained on your bill. If there are any errors on the bill please contact my office right away and leave the information on my voice mail or leave a number where you can be reached in the evening after 6 pm. My telephone number is 231-625-9176 ext. 11.

You can pay your bill by check, cash, money order or credit card. If you are paying by credit card please complete the credit card information and be advised that there is a 3% convenience fee charged to your credit card. You can pay by mailing your payment or by stopping at the township office on Monday, Wednesday or Fridays between the hours of 9 am and 1 pm.. September 15, 2016 is the last day to pay this 2016 summer tax bill before a late fee is incurred.

The July Board of Review will meet on Tuesday, July 19 at 8:00 am to review and discuss any clerical errors or mutual mistakes of fact. If you cannot attend in person you may submit a letter to the Board of Review Secretary, Andrew Archambo prior to that date to be reviewed or call the township hall at the time of the meeting.

A message from Alverno Fire Chief Gary Williams:

On June 15, 2016 Michael Charboneau retired as the Alverno Fire Chief and the Assistant Fire Chief Gary Williams has been appointed as the Fire Chief and Ron Fenlon has been appointed as the Assistant Fire Chief in his place. You can reach Fire Chief Gary Williams at 231-290-2300 but in case of an emergency please call 9-1-1.

The Alverno Fire Department consists of Benton, Grant and Aloha townships covering an area of approximately 153 miles. The Department is currently staffed at 30 on call members of an authorized strength of 36 and has five fire stations located throughout the three townships. The Alverno Fire Department owns 9 vehicles. Five fire engines, two equipment vans, one water tanker and one brush/forest rig. The average cost for a fire engine is approximately \$300,000. The average cost to train and equip a new firefighter to the very basic level is \$5000-\$6000. The training consists of 320 hours in length with additional training being held twice a month. Some members are cross trained with the Cheboygan County Search and Rescue team and the Cheboygan County Dive team. The on call fire department responds to an average of 90–100 emergency calls annually.

The Benton township park is up and running for the summer. The bathrooms are open, the water fountain is turned on, the tennis, basketball, volley ball and pickle ball nets are all installed and ready for your use. Remember the pavilion and the walking trail is also available. AND as always, please report any suspicious and/or destructive activity in the park immediately to anyone of the Board members. Everyone watching everyone creates a safe environment for everyone.

There are a few people that are meeting on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 10:00 to play pickle ball. If you are interested in learning how to play or just want to come and join in please stop by, everyone is welcome to play at any level of experience or age.

The township recycling collection sites are operating very well. The cardboard that is collected is creating a very nice kickback to help offset the cost of recycling. Please remember that Styrofoam is **NOT** a recyclable item and has to be removed from the recycling bins before the bins can be transported. **PLEASE DO NOT PUT STYROFOAM IN THE RECYCLING BINS.**

The monthly Township meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at the Benton Township hall located on the corner of North Black River and Orchard Beach Roads, unless it is an election day, then the meeting will be held on the following Tuesday at 7 pm.

Supervisor Andrew Archambo
Clerk Jayne Passeno
Treasurer Ann M. Couture

Trustee Charles Beckwith
Trustee Maureen Engle
Constable Tim Fenlon