

## 2024 BENTON TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

TOWNSHIP OFFICE HOURS: The township office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For questions and information regarding township matters Call 231-625-9176. The office is closed for holidays.

TOWNSHIP IMPROVEMENTS: *ROADS:* Carey Road and North Black River Road from Vanyea road to Butler Road were black topped this summer. *BRIDGE:* Cheboygan County Road Commission has been informed that funding for the replacement of the Mograin Road bridge has been denied for the near future. Feel free to contact your State Representative or Senator to voice your concerns. A brush dump space has been added adjacent to the Transfer Station. The area has been clear cut to make more room available. Branches and leaves may be dropped off at the site. NO CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS OR TREES STUMPS are allowed. Hours are the same as the Transfer Station. A pavilion was installed behind the Community Center for shade and shelter from inclement weather. A separate, covered area for grilling will be constructed this spring. A new camera security system has been installed throughout the playground, recycle area, community center and hall area for added safety to the public. The swing seats have been replaced and maintenance to the slide has been completed.

TRANSFER STATION: *SUMMER SCHEDULE:* April 1 – October 31, Tuesday and Thursday from 2-6 p.m. and Saturday from 9-5. *WINTER SCHEDULE:* November 1 through March 31, Saturday 9-5. Dump tickets cost \$10, you can purchase them during office hours or at the Alverno Grocery Store, cash or check only. Household batteries will only be accepted at the Transfer Station at this time. This holiday season the transfer station will be opened Saturday, 12-21-24 and Saturday, 12-28-24.

RECYCLING: The township's two sites are located on Orchard Beach Road behind the township park and on US 23 at the Alverno fire station site. Your recycled items are collected at no additional charge to you. Acceptable items for recycling are plastic, cardboard, paper (newspaper, magazines), tin and glass. *Styrofoam* is now an acceptable item. Please **break down, collapse or crush containers** whenever possible. Read the information at the sites for additional items collected and items that are unacceptable.

COMMUNITY CENTER: The Community Center is available to Benton Township residents to rent for events of 125 people or less. We continue to sanitize the Center after each rental. You can contact the Clerk for availability and lease agreements. Tables and chairs are available for loan, at no charge, for your backyard parties, garage sales, etc. A total of 33 tables and 240 chairs are available.

TOWNSHIP PARK: The park is open to the public and provides basketball, tennis and volleyball courts along with two pickle ball courts, playground equipment, including swings and slides, a covered pavilion with tables and electricity and a ¼ mile walking path around the back side of the park. There are two drinking fountains and men/women bathrooms (closed during winter months). We welcome your suggestions for future improvements. Disc golf equipment is available to borrow from Alverno Grocery. Pickle ball groups meet M/W 6pm and T/TH 9am in good weather.

TAX BILLS: 2024 winter tax bills are due by February 14, 2025 and can be paid at Benton Hall, Monday, Wednesday or Friday from 9-1, put in the locked, drop box outside the Hall door and also at Citizens National Bank or online at [www.bsaonline.com](http://www.bsaonline.com). The credit card processing company charges a fee of 3% for credit or debit transactions and a flat fee of \$3.00 for an electronic check.

If you have questions about your current tax bill contact Jayne Passeno at 231-625-9176 ext 11. Questions regarding taxable value, SEV or PRE (homestead) can be directed to Clayton McGovern 231-627-5783.

Homestead changes no longer have to be presented at the scheduled Board of Review in March. Forms for amendments to your homestead are available at the township office or from the assessor, Clayton McGovern. At the July and December Board of Review, property owners may present clerical errors and mutual mistakes in fact, apply for hardship exemption for the year, review denied qualified agricultural exemptions, late approval of veteran's exemptions for the previous year and the uncapping or recapping of taxable values. March Board of Review deals with the change of your current year valuation assessment, classification appeals of the property, hardship exemptions and qualified agriculture exemptions.

Board of Review Schedule:

December 10, 2024 8:00am

March 10, 2025 9:00am to 3:00pm

March 11, 2025 3:00pm to 9:00pm

July 22, 2025 8:00am

December 9, 2025 8:00am

VOTING: Benton Township general election results. A total of 2,142 residents voted (72.85%). 787 voted at the precinct, 934 absentee voters and 421 early voters.

ALVERNO FIRE DEPARTMENT: Fire Chief Ron Fenlon, announced that the Alverno Fire Department will be receiving a new Class A firetruck in December! Mark your calendars for December 8<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 3 for pictures with Santa! Join us at the Hall located at the corner of Orchard Beach Road and N. Black River Road. Hope to see you there!

TOWNSHIP MEETINGS: Held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. If a holiday or an election is on that day, the meeting will be held the following Tuesday. These are open meetings and our township residents are encouraged to attend.

TOWNSHIP WEBSITE: Visit our website at [www.bentontwp.org](http://www.bentontwp.org) to get additional township information, forms, pay your tax bill online, land division information, minutes from monthly meetings, dates and time of meetings as well as township board contact information.

The township board would like to hear your input for improvements to the public areas within our township, and also we are looking for a committee to help with a 10 year plan for the township. Please contact the office with your ideas or if you would like to be a part of the team for future planning.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the township, please feel free to call the office at 625-9176 or contact the following township elected officials:

TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBERS 231-625-9176

**Bruce Brandt, Supervisor, 231-268-8537**

**Carol Neumann, Clerk [bentontwp@bentontwp.org](mailto:bentontwp@bentontwp.org)**

**Jayne Passeno, Treasurer, [Treasurer@bentontwp.org](mailto:Treasurer@bentontwp.org)**

**Peter Redmond, Trustee**

**Ron Fenlon, Trustee/Fire Chief 231-420-3388**