

2022 BENTON TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

We are well into our second year of the COVID pandemic and needless to say, it's been difficult even at the township level. We've had to change processes, close our office and additional cleaning and sanitizing measures were implemented. Elections were held with new procedures that seemed to change weekly by rules and regulations that were mandated at the federal level. Having virtual Board meetings did create challenges. COVID protocols forced us to cancel Community Center rentals which unfortunately disappointed some township residents. The overall reaction by the majority of our residents was met with understanding. The list goes on and yet we have survived. At this time, the Benton Twp. Board would like to say "Thank You" to our residents for their continued support during these trying times.

TOWNSHIP IMPROVEMENTS: You may have noticed some activity around the Community Center and Township Hall. Repair work replacing soffit and trim (that had blown off) has been completed, a replacement ramp was constructed, the exterior was power washed and a couple large, dead trees were removed. We purchased new tables, chairs, and 5 (light weight) picnic tables for the Community Center. We continue to make improvements to the property, for the safety and convenience of the residents.

TOWNSHIP OFFICE HOURS: The township secretaries are in the office on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to answer any questions and provide information regarding township matters at 231-625-9176.

TRANSFER STATION: *SUMMER SCHEDULE:* April 1 – October 31 Tuesday and Thursday from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. *WINTER SCHEDULE:* November 1 through March 31 Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Tickets cost \$10, you can purchase them at the office during office hours or at the Alverno Grocery Store.

The transfer station will be closed during the Holidays but will be open on Monday, December 27, 2021 and January 3, 2022 for your convenience.

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 recycle items are collected at no additional charge to you. Acceptable items for recycling are plastic, cardboard, paper (newspaper, magazines), tin, glass and household batteries. 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 only to rent for parties of 125 people or less. 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 24/7 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, a ¾ 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.

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.

TAX BILLS: Citizens National Bank is now accepting Benton Township winter 2021 tax payments until February 14, 2022. Online payments, with a credit or debit card, may be made at www.bsaonline.com, A 3% fee will be added by the credit card processing company.

If you have questions about your current tax bill contact Clayton McGovern 231-627-5783 OR Benton Township Treasurer Jayne L. Passeno, 231-625-9176, ext. 11 and leave a message if she is not available.

Benton Township Board of Review is December 14th. Property owners may present clerical errors or mutual mistakes of fact to the board, apply for a poverty exemption, apply for a principal residence exemption or apply for qualified agricultural exemption.

VOTING: Elections will be held in August and November 2022. Vote in person at the Community Center or you can obtain an absentee ballot from the Township Clerk.

BLIGHT: We have the proposed Blight Ordinance at the township office. You can also review it on our website. Check it out as we would appreciate your input regarding this matter. Feel free to E-mail us your comments at bentontwp@bentontwp.org or attend the Board meeting scheduled Tuesday, February 1, 2022.

TOWNSHIP WEBSITE: Visit our website at 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.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the township, please feel free to contact the following township elected officials:

TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBERS AT 231-625-9176

Bruce Brandt, Supervisor, 231-268-8537

Carol Neumann, Clerk bentontwp@bentontwp.org

Jayne Passeno, Treasurer, Treasurer@bentontwp.org

Peter Redmond, Trustee

Ron Fenlon, Trustee