

# BENGAL TOWNSHIP NEWS

June  
2017

Clinton County, Michigan

[www.bengaltownship.com](http://www.bengaltownship.com)

## SUMMER TAX BILL MESSAGES

Summer property taxes are payable July 01 to September 14 by:

- Mail to 2801 S Forest Hill Rd St Johns
- In person at the Township Hall on M-21 on Wednesday September 14 from 9am-5pm
- Or by appointment (call 517-927-9273).

Review your tax bill for interest/penalty information for past due taxes. Checks or money orders are preferred; however, cash payments for the exact amount owed will also be accepted (there is no cash drawer in the office to make change). Thank you. ☺

**Deferment of Summer Taxes:** Remember that September 14, 2017 is the last day to file for the Summer Deferment per MCL 211.51(7). Certain taxpayers can apply to have their summer property taxes deferred until February 14, 2018 \*\*\*All of the requirements and application form may be found at [www.michigan.gov/treasury](http://www.michigan.gov/treasury).

In general, there are two ways to qualify for this deferment: 1) gross household income of \$40,000 or less and falling into an exemption classification or 2) owning an agricultural or horticultural operation for which gross receipts are not less than household income.

**Need a receipt?** Receipts for tax payments are sent out only upon request. If you need a receipt, please let us know and we will gladly mail one to you.

**THANK YOU FOR PAYING TIMELY!**



## TOWNSHIP HALL RENTAL

To arrange to rent the township hall contact Sharon Bassette at **989-640-4750**

## BURNING PERMITS

Residents living **West of Francis Rd** can obtain a burning permit by contacting the **Dallas Township Fire Department at 593-3146**. Residents will be asked to leave their name, address and phone number, what they are burning, and which days they wish to burn. Please call 24 hours in advance. If you have any questions, please call **Vern Feldpausch at 989-593-2768**.

Bengal Township residents living **East of Francis Road** can obtain a burning permit by contacting the **City of St. Johns Police Dept. at 989-224-6721**. You will be asked your name and address, what you are burning, how much you are burning, and when you wish to burn. Here, it is best to actually speak with someone to confirm your burning permit is approved.

**REMEMBER: Burn permits are required by residents.** When either the Dallas Township or St. Johns Fire Department responds to a fire/rescue call, the **property owner** is billed.

In the event of a fire run within the township, Bengal Township is charged **\$1000.00 when a fire truck or \$450.00 when a first responder leaves the fire station**. Bengal Township is charged \$1000.00 for the first two hours and \$500.00 for every hour after that for fire service. **When Bengal Township gets billed, the person upon whom the service is provided will be billed.** Please check your insurance to see if Fire or First Responder is covered. Typically, basic homeowners insurance only covers up to \$500.00. A small increase in your premium could save you hundreds!!

## 2017 ROAD MAINTENANCE

The road maintenance projects planned for 2017:

- Spot Gravel on various roads and:  
Centerline (Forest Hill to Dexter Tr & Francis to Airport)  
Lowell (Townsend to M21)  
Wacousta (M21 to Townsend)  
Walker (Bauer to Wacousta)
- Chloride & Brush Spray & Roadside Mowing for various roads
- Bridge Replacement – Grove Rd

Supervisor	Treasurer	Clerk	Trustee	Trustee	Township Assessor
Deborah Schafer 989-593-2325	Denice Schultheiss 517-927-9273	Sharon Bassette 989-640-4750	Bill Kushmaul 616-240-4100	Nick McDonald 517-819-6127	Mark Holley 989-834-5611

## INTERIM ZONING ORDINANCE

### Effective 05/27/17

On 05/10/17, the Bengal Township Board approved an Interim Zoning Ordinance which will be administered by McKenna Associates. For more information regarding this firm, please visit [www.mcka.com](http://www.mcka.com).

If an Applicant would like to start a project, they must first contact McKenna Associates to verify the development requirements of the project and McKenna Associates will determine if the project is minor or major per the Interim Zoning Ordinance.

For minor projects, the Applicant shall submit the Zoning Compliance Application, associated fees (per the Bengal Township Fee Schedule) and a basic plot plan for the proposed project. McKenna Associates will review the proposed project and will either approve or deny. Minor projects do not require review by the Bengal Township Planning Commission or Township Board.

Approved plans for minor projects will receive a Zoning Compliance Certificate signed by the Zoning Administrator and will be permitted to apply for construction/trade permits through Clinton County. Denied plans will receive comments and recommendations from McKenna Associates to bring the project into zoning compliance and the Applicant may re-submit revised plans.

Major projects will require site plan review, special land use, rezoning, or variances before a Zoning Compliance Certificate can be issued. The proposed project will need to be reviewed by the Bengal Township Planning Commission and possibly the Township Board.

Applications, associated fees (per the Bengal Township Fee Schedule), and sealed site plans must be submitted to McKenna Associates at least 30 days prior to the next scheduled Planning Commission meeting. McKenna Associates will provide review comments and recommendations prior to the next scheduled Planning Commission meeting. The Planning Commission will approve, approve with conditions, table, or deny the site plan and planning requests.

A Zoning Compliance Certificate is required for all minor and major projects in order for the Applicant to apply for construction, trade, sanitary, soil erosion control permits; all of which will be provided by Clinton County. Inspections will be scheduled through Clinton County.

The Interim Ordinance, Fee Schedule, Application Forms and other information regarding this process may be found on Bengal Township's website at: [www.bengaltownship.com](http://www.bengaltownship.com).

#### McKenna Associates Contact Information:

Erin Schlutow  
Associate Planner  
t: 248.596.0920 | 888.226.4326  
f: 248.596.0930 | [eschlutow@mcka.com](mailto:eschlutow@mcka.com)

Gregory M. Elliott, AICP  
Principal Planner  
t: 248.596.0920 | 888.226.4326  
f: 248.596.0930 | [gelliott@mcka.com](mailto:gelliott@mcka.com)

## NOTE FROM CLINTON COUNTY

"Last summer, the voters of the county approved a phone line surcharge of \$2.75 per instrument able to access 911. That is an additional \$0.50 per line. This will show up on the July phone bill.

In the emergency services area, we have added a **"Code Red Emergency Notification"** which would notify you by phone of a situation which would endanger you or your property. Also, **"Smart 911"** has been added which is a secured site in 911 to store emergency information with a cell phone number. This might be an address, who to notify, medications and any other information you might want available to someone providing emergency services. This can save time when calling 911. To set up these two services you would need to go to [www.clinton-county.org](http://www.clinton-county.org) and on the home page select the service and provide the required information. The third thing added is **texting to 911** with the caveat "call if you can, text if you can't."

The County is looking at doing some updates to some of the facilities at the fairgrounds. In 2004, some improvements were made to the grounds. Now we are evaluating some of the structures."

----David W. Pohl, Clinton County Commissioner

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

The County Sheriff's Office remains involved with the Neighborhood Watch Program. To receive Neighborhood Watch Newsletters and/or Alerts by email, sign up at [www.clinton-county.org/LawJustice/SheriffOffice.aspx](http://www.clinton-county.org/LawJustice/SheriffOffice.aspx).

*The Bengal Township Board wishes everyone a safe and fun filled summer season!!*

