

# Bertrand Township

Established 1836  
3835 Buffalo Rd  
Buchanan, MI 49107

November 2011

Dear Township Residents,

As 2011 is nearing its end, I would like to take a moment to share with everyone what has been happening in Bertrand Township. The first half of 2011 was a challenging time in our Township. There was a recall election and then in late summer two new faces were added to the board. We are enthusiastically moving forward in serving the citizens of our Township and have accomplished some exciting things.

The Township Community Building has experienced much needed renovations. The building was erected in 1890 and is truly a treasure for our community. The interior has been repainted including the bathrooms and foyer. The entry into the building has been painted and upgraded with a hand rail and a yellow caution stripe on the steps. Township residents can rent this building for a reasonable rate of \$50.00.

Also, please check out our new website [www.bertrandtownship.com](http://www.bertrandtownship.com). The site has a blend of the history of our Township, agendas and monthly meeting minutes, permit forms, zoning information and many other informative links. Gena, our Township secretary, helped design our website and she maintains it saving the Township the cost of design and the annual cost to maintain our web page.

Furthermore, Bertrand Township is now on Facebook. Please "like" our page [Bertrand Township](#) to stay informed of upcoming community events and more. This page is intended to be another avenue to keep information flowing to our citizens at no cost to the Township.

Our Township Treasurer is busy maintaining and monitoring the Township's financial assets. We also underwent an audit performed by Derek Hall from the Michigan Dept. of Treasury. The audit went very well with Derek declaring at our monthly meeting in September that the Township's funds are properly reported. We entered into a three year contract with the State of Michigan for our annual audit at a substantial cost savings. Thanks to the Treasurer and the Clerk for all your hard work during the audit and for properly managing our Township's assets.

We also saved the Township money on our phone, fax and internet bill. Our phone and fax were with one company and our internet service was with another company. We reviewed our options and found that we could bundle our phone, fax and internet under a three year contract giving the Township an annual savings of approximately \$1,000.00.

The Township's fire department continues to provide excellent fire protection service to our community. The Bertrand Firefighter's Association held their annual fund raiser pancake breakfast on February 13<sup>th</sup> and the chili supper on November 5<sup>th</sup> to raise money to help those in need in our community. On October 29<sup>th</sup> we had the pleasure of paying tribute to Larry Cramer who retired from our fire department after 25 years of service.

Scott Bonner – Supervisor   Lee Ann Couture – Treasurer   Jane Lano – Clerk  
Alice Kring – Trustee   David Zelmer – Trustee  
269.695.5001 \* [bertrandtownship@comcast.net](mailto:bertrandtownship@comcast.net) \* Fax 269.695.4205

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*Also, you may notice a millage reduction on your winter tax bill for payment of the fire station loan. After this winter bill collection, the fire station loan will be paid off.*

*Mr. Richard Kuntz and his wife Joan have been busy with restoration of broken headstones in our cemeteries. They volunteer much of their time and are carefully repairing and restoring headstones that have become damaged or broken. The treasured history of those in our Township that have gone on before us is being preserved by their faithful efforts.*

*Earlier this year, our Assessor completed the five year cycle of evaluating all of the properties in the Township. In addition to property evaluations which are always ongoing, the Assessor took on the duty of processing the land splits and land combinations that occur. The Assessor works hard to make sure that properties in our Township are fairly and equally assessed. We appreciate the fine work that is being done.*

*Even though I've mentioned a few names there are many others to acknowledge for their service to our Township. We have approximately 40 individual residents that serve the citizens of Bertrand Township by giving their time and talents to sit on various boards, serve as zoning administrator, election workers, fire fighters and in many other important positions. To all of you I would say "thank you" for all that you do.*

*2012 will be a year for new challenges. We hope to begin collecting our summer taxes. Our Township can save financially if our Treasurer collects the summer tax. We also plan on forming a committee to explore options for high speed internet to serve as many Township residents as possible. If you are interested in serving on this committee or any other Township board, please contact the Township office during regular business hours of 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday to Thursday.*

*In closing, I would like to "thank you" residents for your continued support. Your Township officials are committed to representing you with honesty, integrity and we promise to greet you with a smile and a friendly hand shake.*

*Please feel free to call if you have any questions or concerns. On behalf of the Bertrand Township Board of Trustees we would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.*

*Sincerely,*

*Scott A. Bonner  
Bertrand Township Supervisor*