



NEWSLETTER

September-November, 2019

FROM THE SUPERVISOR Tom Hooker

You can already feel fall in the air and kids are back to school. Soon trees will be exploding with color and we will enjoy the sounds of football and bands as the days shorten. Our staff at the township stand ready to serve you.

- Summer taxes should be paid by September 16th. We are here from 8-5 daily and we encourage you to sign up to pay on line (Taxes and Water/Sewer)
- You can pick up a free Landfill Pass from the front desk to use at the SouthKent Landfill during the month of October. (\$30 value)
- Our Fire Chief Bryan Looman leads our Byron Station on 84th and Chief Paul Sheely leads our Cutlerville Station on 68th, by Division, ready if needed.
- We have added another Deputy to our Kent County Sheriff's patrol this past year and our response time has improved significantly.
- Our School Liaison Officer Andy Jonkman works with our schools to keep our young people safe.
- I've encouraged our deputies to watch for speeders – monitor your speed!
- The fall Recreation Program is beginning and brochures should be at your homes. Use our Parks and Recreation programs and facilities.
- Dumpsters for Leaves and Brush will be in the Bicentennial ball field's parking lot beginning Nov. 4 thru the Thanksgiving weekend.
- Most all the road construction should be wrapped up ready for the snow.
- We will be mailing some of the newsletters with Water and Sewer bills; the rest will be at the Recreation Center, Township Hall, Library and couple more places.
- Know our Burn Ordinance before burning leaves at home. <http://www.byrontwpfire.com/>
- We see many improvements in our schools in Byron. Watch for kids and buses stopping. Building projects are ongoing as we continue to grow.
- Next Spring our infamous 100th Street Bridge will be replaced. While much needed, it will be Solving/Causing Headaches for drivers and businesses.

ASSESSING FAQ Craig DeYoung

Does "Improved" on my property record card or Assessment Change Notice mean that I made improvements to my house?

No; a parcel is considered vacant (i.e. undeveloped) until an improvement (i.e. development or structure) is made to the land, at which point the classification changes from residential/commercial/industrial vacant to residential/commercial/industrial improved, it does not imply that an improvement was made to any existing structure.

I want to make an improvement to my property, but am unsure where the property lines are located or how to find my property lines?

If a survey has not been completed recently for a parcel or you wish to quickly find where your property and approximate property lines are located, we encourage residents to utilize REGIS (Regional Geographic Information System) a free helpful map tool. The link is found on the Byron Township website as a box labeled REGIS on the center left. Next, you will click. Parcel Finder, which will take you to a map of Kent County. Enter in your address or parcel number to locate your property. On the map your parcel number and lot dimensions (estimated) are displayed for easy viewing as well as other handy tools.

Calendar of Events

September

9	Township Board	5:30 p.m.
16	Taxes Due	5:00 p.m.
16	Planning Commission	7:00 p.m.
23	Township Board	5:30 p.m.
25	Board of Appeals	7:00 p.m.

October

14	Township Board	5:30 p.m.
21	Planning Commission	7:00 p.m.
23	Board of Appeals	7:00 p.m.
28	Township Board	5:30 p.m.

* = Note Change in date of meeting

November

4	Leaf & Yard Waste Dumpsters	Begin
11	Township Board	5:30 p.m.
18	Planning Commission	7:00 p.m.
25	Township Board	5:30 p.m.
27	Board of Appeals	7:00 p.m.
29	Township Offices	Closed
30	Leaf & Yard Waste Dumpsters	End

December

9	Township Board	5:30 p.m.
16	Planning Commission	7:00 p.m.
18*	Board of Appeals	7:00 p.m.
23	Township Offices	Closed
24	Township Offices	Closed
25	Township Offices	Closed

BUILDING DEPARTMENT Randy Zomerlei

It has been a busy summer in Byron Township with all the residential and commercial building going on. With Byron Township being a great place to raise children, and retire, things are only going to get busier.

With summer coming to an end, it is a good time to get ready for the fall and winter months. Some of the things you can do to get ready are to make sure your gutters are clean of leaves and debris so water does not back up under your shingles and ruin your roof. Take a walk around your home and look for any cracked windows that may be letting cold air in making your utility costs more. Also, look at areas around your windows and doors that may be caulked to make sure the caulk does not need to be replaced.

If you are looking to build, remodel or construct an addition, remember that permits are needed before you start your project. If you are not doing the work yourself, protect yourself and hire a licensed contractor for your projects.

Have a great fall.

FROM THE CLERK Peggy Sattler

With the adoption of Proposal 18-3 last November, there is now "No Reason Absentee", which means anyone can request an Absentee Ballot without having to give a reason. With that being said, if you would like to become a **PERMANENT ABSENTEE VOTER**, you can simply email me at peggy@byrontownship.org or call us at (616)878-9104.

Here's what it will mean. By Michigan Law, we will **NOT** automatically mail you a ballot, however, we **WILL** automatically mail you an application to request an absentee ballot. If you want to vote absentee, simply return it to us. If you want to go to the polls, **DO NOT** return the application to us. You will continue to receive these applications until you decide you no longer want to be on the list or if you move out of the Byron Township jurisdiction. Your Permanent Absentee status **DOES NOT** go with you when you change your voter registration. You will need to request that status once again in your new location.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or the Deputy Clerk, Michelle Fryling at (616) 878-9104. Thank you!

FROM THE TREASURER Jacki Reed

The summer property taxes are due on Monday, September 16, 2019, by 5 PM. The due date of September 14 has been extended to the 16th because it falls on a weekend.

Is your dog licensed? All dog owners that live in Kent County are required to license their dog. Licenses are available for one or three years depending on the rabies vaccination date. Proof of spay or neuter and current vaccination is required to obtain a license. Owners over 62 receive a discounted price. Licenses are sold year-round at the township. Cash or check only.

Winter property tax statements will be mailed on December 1, 2019 and are due on Friday, February 14, 2020, Valentine's Day.

Taxes and water bills can be set up for payment by automatic pay. Forms are available online or at the office. We will also gladly mail you a form if you call.

As always, if you have any questions, please call (616) 878-3196. Donna and I would be happy to help you. Have a wonder-filled fall!

WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT Debbie Cousineau

Sign up for **FREE paperless billing** and **FREE auto pay**. It's easy, safe, and secure! No more worrying about bill due dates, late fees, or having your service stopped! If you are interested please give us a call 616-878-0660, or email your request to debbie@byrontownship.org.

Tips on Protecting Your Irrigation System

1. Insulate irrigation system components that are above ground; pipes, shut off valves, and back flow preventor.
2. Turn off main valve to outside water.
3. Turn off controller (timer) on automatic irrigation system.
4. Remove water from underground pipes.
5. Check for potential problems with your system during winterization.

Irrigation winterization typically costs between \$65 and \$85, but it can save you hundreds, on repairing or replacing a damaged system.

Winterization is not a challenging task but that doesn't mean it's a job for the do-it-yourselfer. If water remains in the irrigation system when temperatures drop below 32 degrees Fahrenheit sprinkler pipes and other components are at risk of freezing which will cause pipes and sprinkler equipment to expand, crack and split. Most home owners are not aware that their pipes have been damaged until they begin watering in the spring and discover leaks in their yard. If the main line is not shut off in the fall, once that pipe bursts, you're going to have a constant flow of water coming out of the yard. That will cause a high-water bill, and costly repair.

Knowing that in the springtime your system will start and operate efficiently is definitely worth the effort!

APRIL 1, 2020 – FILL IT OUT & SEND IT BACK

BE COUNTED
MICHIGAN2020

United States®
Census
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