

## From the Supervisor

Audrey Nevins-Weiss

2013 was a very exciting year. After almost a year of meetings, Byron Township has secured the Tanger Outlet Mall at 84th and 131 expressway bringing 80 new businesses to our community and 800- 1000 NEW jobs.

Byron Township's largest employer has merged with a Minnesota Company and will be known as SpartanNash. They have selected Byron Township to be its headquarters bringing 70 new jobs with the average salary of \$65,000.00 - \$70,000.00.

Many of you have noticed the Historical Train Depot at Whistlestop Park. The Depot belongs to the Historical Society and the township allows them to park it on the park property. Several of you have made contact and have expressed some interest in restoring the depot. If you or someone you know, shares in this interest please contact me or the historical society and see if we can work together to make this happen.

Bicentennial Park will see some changes this spring. New restrooms and Park Pavilion is a much needed improvement. The Byron Recreation Commission will be making suggestions to the Township Board in the next few weeks and hopefully we can be ready for the summer 2014.

I have also been working with MDOT for a proposed project on Clay Ave. for a park and ride and a bike trail connector. Meetings for finalizing these projects are scheduled in the next few weeks.

It has been a very busy year in 2013 and I anticipate 2014 will be even busier. Residents should realize these projects would have been much more difficult to handle without the professional cooperation of our Planning Commission, Board of Appeals, Township Board Members and Recreation Commission, and our wonderful staff, so many thanks to all of you.

If you have any questions or I can be of assistance to you please feel free to call personally 878-1222 and I am looking forward to another exciting year as your township supervisor and looking for another prosperous year for 2014.

## Treasurer's Forum

Carol Houseman - Treasurer

The holidays are behind us and we have settled into a "cold" winter.

The winter statements were mailed in December and are due by 5pm on Friday, February 14, 2014. Payments can be made in person, by mail, or on our website at byrontownship.org. We accept late payments at the township until Friday, February 28, 2014. If payment in full is not possible, partial payments are accepted. Interest and penalty is applied only to the unpaid balance. On March 1 unpaid taxes are turned over to Kent County for collection and additional fees will be applied. Delinquent personal property taxes remain at the township for collection.

Major changes have taken place with issuing dog licenses. Licenses are now available in our office all year and can be purchased for 1 year or 3 years depending on the rabies expiration date. Remember to bring in your letter from Kent County, if you received one, proof of rabies and proof of altering.

If you ever have any questions, you may stop in or call #878-3196 and Jacki or I will be happy to help you.

Continue to enjoy our "Michigan Winter"!

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### JANUARY

13 Township Board  
20 Planning Commission  
22 Board of Appeals  
27 Township Board

### FEBRUARY

10 Township Board  
17 Planning Commission  
24 Township Board  
26 Board of Appeals

### MARCH

10 Township Board  
17 Planning Commission  
24 Township Board  
26 Board of Appeals

### APRIL

14 Township Board  
21 Planning Commission  
28 Township Board  
23 Board of Appeals

## Clerk's Corner

Joel H. Hondorp, Clerk

## 2014 Election Schedule

August 5 - Primary Election

November 4 - General Election

For the first time in a long time, we had a year off from administering an election. We will be conducting two elections this year. If you want to be on a permanent Absentee list all you need to do is contact the office. You will then get an application for each election. Being on the list only gets you an application. You need to fill out an application for each election.

We have had a couple of staff changes at the Township Offices. Lavonne Kuiper in our Inspection Services Department retired after 12 years with the Township. Lavonne also served as recording secretary for the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals. We are thankful for her service. Her duties will be divided amongst two current staff members. The Deputy Clerk, Peggy Sattler, will be the recording secretary for the Planning Commission and Board of Appeals. Lois Dekens, our Administrative Assistant, will cover the permitting and scheduling of inspections in the Inspection Services Department.

## Byron Township Recreation Department & Community Center

The Byron Township Recreation Department takes pride in offering activities to people of all ages. The Recreation Department is housed in the Community Center located in Whistlestop Park. Recreation programs are held in Township parks, the Community Center and in the local school buildings.

The Community Center includes a full size gymnasium, fitness center, multipurpose rooms, lounge areas with Wi-Fi, and pool tables. There is a membership fee to use the gymnasium and fitness center. We offer affordable daily, monthly or annual rates. You do not have to be a member of the Community Center to register for programs. However, members do receive a discounted rate on the programs.

For more information please check out our website  
[www.byrontownshiprecreation.org](http://www.byrontownshiprecreation.org).

Like us on Facebook to get up to date information.

Byron Township Recreation \* 2120 76th Street  
\* Byron Center, MI 49315

Phone: 616-878-1998 \* Fax: 616-583-1220  
\* [www.byrontownshiprecreation.org](http://www.byrontownshiprecreation.org)

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# NEW WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2014

The Byron-Gaines Utility Authority works hard to keep the 24/7/365 provision of clean, safe drinking water and sanitary sewer services as transparent to our customers as possible. You shouldn't have to think about it; that's our job. We do, however, need you to take a moment to think of how much it costs to keep the water flowing and wastewater draining away.

Byron Township's Water & Sewer Department along with Gaines Charter Township Water & Sewer department faces sizeable expense in providing life-sustaining water and wastewater services. However, the water & sewer department does not receive revenue from property taxes or any other financial support from the Township Government. The water & sewer department is an enterprise fund; an organization that provides goods or services to the public for a fee that makes the entity self-supporting. The total cost of the operations and maintenance of the water and sewer department are financed entirely from user fees – that are paid by you every quarter.

Every year the two townships review its rates based on the last fiscal year's expenses and local income (meter and inspection fees) to make sure they are sufficient to cover the cost of providing services.

Regular rate adjustments are necessary to make sure the rates generate the right amount of revenue and cash flow to provide reliable and sustainable services to the community. The City of Wyoming provides our water and treatment of our wastewater; therefore, rates are also in direct correlation to what Wyoming charges us for the commodity. Rates must keep up with the increasing cost of operations, including increases in electricity, raw materials like fuel and chemicals, insurance and labor, and changing regulatory requirements. Rates must also include depreciation expense and provide funds for emergencies.

On December 9, 2013, at a regularly scheduled meeting, the Township Board approved the latest rate study and its recommended rates. The new rates will increase the average quarterly household bill approximately \$0.13 per quarter. The new rates are effective January 1, 2014.

## POTABLE WATER RATES

Billed at approximately 92-day intervals, the water rates consist of two separate charges:

**Water Ready to Serve Fee** ~ based on meter size and applicable to each domestic water meter account regardless of the consumption quantity.

**Consumption Charge** ~ the charge applicable to each 1,000 gallons of water that passes through the water meter.

Potable Water Ready to Serve Fees Charge ~ (per quarter)  
Individually Metered Residential, Non-residential and Multi-family Residential

Meter Size (Inches)	2013 Rate	Rate Effective January 1, 2014
5/8"	\$14.10	\$13.25
1"	\$14.10	\$13.25
1 1/2"	\$56.32	\$52.26
2"	\$99.04	\$91.90
3"	\$223.33	\$207.23
4"	\$398.11	\$369.41
6"	\$895.26	\$830.72
8"	\$1,590.50	\$1,475.84
10"	\$2,485.76	\$2,306.66

Potable Water Consumption Rates ~ per 1,000 gallons  
Individually Metered Residential, Non-residential and Multi-family Residential

	2013 Rate	Rate Effective January 1, 2014
Rate per 1,000 gallons	\$2.45	\$2.80

## WASTEWATER RATES

Just like potable water rates, wastewater rates consist of two separate charges ~ a sewer ready to serve fee based on water meter size and applicable to each account, regardless of the consumption quantity, and a consumption charge applicable to each 1,000 gallons of water that passes through the domestic water meter. There are NO ready to serve fees charged for water or sewer on an irrigation meter nor are there consumption charges for SEWER on an irrigation meter.

Wastewater Ready to Serve Fees Charge (per quarter)  
Individually metered Residential, Non-residential, and Multi-family Residential

Meter Size (Inches)	2013 Rate	Rate Effective January 1, 2014
5/8"	\$14.15	\$11.60
1"	\$14.15	\$11.60
1 1/2"	\$56.14	\$45.82
2"	\$98.74	\$80.58
3"	\$222.64	\$181.70
4"	\$396.88	\$323.90
6"	\$892.50	\$728.38
8"	\$1,585.58	\$1,294.02
10"	\$2,478.08	\$2,022.40
12"	\$3,571.92	\$2,915.10

Wastewater Volume Charge per 1,000 Gallons  
Separately metered Dwelling Units shall be billed at 74.6% of total metered Public water usage, unless a separate sprinkling meter is installed, then the dwelling unit (domestic meter) shall be billed sewer consumption at 100% of total metered public water usage.

Rates per 1,000 gallons		
2013 Rate	\$3.50 (billed at 100%)	\$2.62 (billed at 74.6%)
Effective January 1, 2014	\$3.35 (billed at 100%)	\$2.50 (billed at 74.6%)

## Payment Options

We have several different payment options. Of course you are always welcome to step into the Township Office Water & Sewer Department and pay in person with cash, check or credit card. We accept Master Card, Visa, and Discover. However we do not accept credit card payments over the phone.

Remember you can always pay after hours by using the drop box located by the East entrance. Payment must be received by 5:00 p.m. on the date it is due.

You can find a form on our website for an automatic withdrawal out of your checking or savings account quarterly. There is no charge for this from the township and it is a one time set up for continuous withdrawals on the 20th of the month that your quarterly bill is due. You will still receive a utility bill; however on the bottom left it will say "Auto-Draft Do Not Pay". If you chose to pay it before the 20th that month, it will not be deducted from your account that month.

Also available is a customer initiated debit/credit or checking or savings withdrawal when you receive your bill. On our website: [www.byrontownship.org](http://www.byrontownship.org), on the left side you will see "water & sewer". Click on that and you will see a button that says, "Pay Bill". That will guide you through the process of paying that bill only either by debit/credit card or a withdrawal from your checking or savings account. When you use your debit or credit card the merchant will charge approximately 3% in a convenience fee that will be added to your total. For a checking or savings withdrawal, the merchant will charge a nominal fee of \$0.25 to be added to your total amount.

## Helpful Hints

We have paperless billing available to you. Email [debbie@byrontownship.org](mailto:debbie@byrontownship.org) and let us know that you would like to set up paperless billing for your quarterly water & sewer utility bill.

Watch for messages on your bills, and glance at the back side of your bill for important information about leaks and penalties. **Also located on the back of your bill is a link to view the current Water Quality Report.**

Please inform us when you will be gone for an extended period of time as the post office will no longer forward your postcard bill. Sometimes it can take weeks for the postcard to be returned to the Water and Sewer Department, and then placed in an envelope to be mailed out again. This process can result in late fees assessed to your water and sewer account.

## Irrigation Meter

If you use a large volume of water for the purpose of sprinkling your lawn and landscaping, you may wish to consider purchasing a second water meter for irrigation before next summer. Remember, additional water use results in additional sewer usage charges as well. With the second meter, you will not be billed for any sewer usage when you irrigate your lawn. For example, if you sprinkled your lawn over a billing period of 3 months using a total of 80,000 gallons, the sewer use charge alone would be about \$200.00. If you had a second meter there would be no sewer use charge.

Most people use more water for sprinkling than they think they do.

Depending on how much you sprinkle, we anticipate that you will be able to save money on your Water and Sewer Bill during the sprinkling season and recoup your initial investment over a 2-3 year period.

The actual meter and inside plumbing inspection would cost approximately \$545.00. The actual plumbing work costs will depend on the complexities of your plumbing system and the plumber who does the work. We don't require that you hire a licensed plumber, as long as the plumbing is set up properly.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to call us at (616) 878-0660 or visit our website at [www.byrontownship.org](http://www.byrontownship.org) and click on water & sewer.