

Supervisor's News

Audrey Nevins-Weiss, Supervisor

Solicitation Ordinance

In March, the Board adopted a Solicitation Ordinance. The Ordinance requires solicitors who are not affiliated with a non-profit organization to apply for a permit from the Township. If you have a solicitor approach you or your home, you may inquire if they have a permit from the Township and they must show you the permit if they are asked. If they are soliciting without a permit, they may be subject to a fine. The ordinance also states that solicitors must abide by signs placed on homes that state "no soliciting".

New Sidewalks to Be Constructed

As part of our new budget, sidewalks will be constructed along the west side of Byron Center Avenue from 76th Street to 68th Street. This \$260,000 project will be constructed this summer and will help with pedestrian safety along this busy segment of Byron Center Avenue. Since the construction of M-6, the Byron Center corridor has become a more significant entrance to our community. Traffic volume has continued to increase along the corridor and this new sidewalk will provide for greater public safety.

Park Improvements Approved

Last year, many of our residents participated in a survey and community discussions about our Township Parks. In addition, I have had the opportunity to talk to residents that use our parks on a regular basis and hear their concerns and suggestions for improvements. As part of our 2013-2014 Township Budget, the Township Board will be making many of those suggested improvements to two of our parks.

Cutler Park will see an improved parking lot on the southwest side of the park as well as resurfaced basketball and tennis courts. A new Splash Park, (the only one in our area) and new restroom facilities will follow. Bi-centennial Park will also see improvements to the pavillion and restroom facilities. These upgrades follow the recommendations of our residents and will improve conditions in both of these community assets. I encourage everyone visit our public parks and Community Center and participate in our fine family centered programs.

Chalk Art Festival Another Great Success

The West Michigan Chalk Art Festival was another great success bringing artists and spectators from Byron Center as well as other areas of the state to our downtown area. Hundreds of spectators also attended the event to view the art and watch the creation of the chalk art. The Kids Chalking Area allowed children of all ages to participate in a fun and colorful day of activities. It was great family event and I was pleased to see many families including grandparents, parents and children filling our downtown area enjoying their day together. Thank you to the Community Wellness Foundation for all your hard work.

Reminders

The Byron Farmers Market is open Saturdays from 8:00 – 1:00. It is located next to the Post Office. Kids events are held once per month.

Byron Festival Days will be held on July 26 - 28. The event includes a parade, 5-K Run, Evening Fireworks and many other family centered activities.

Please feel free to contact me at 878-1222 if you have any questions or concerns.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY

- 8 Township Board Meeting
- 15 Planning Commission
- 22 Township Board Meeting
- 24 Board of Appeals
- 26-28 Byron Days Festival

SEPTEMBER

- 9 Township Board Meeting
- 14 Summer Taxes Due
- 16 Planning Commission
- 23 Township Board Meeting
- 25 Board of Appeals

AUGUST

- 12 Township Board Meeting
- 19 Planning Commission
- 26 Township Board Meeting
- 28 Board of Appeals

OCTOBER

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

Clerk's Corner

Joel H. Hondorp, Clerk

Now that we are in the height of gardening season, I wanted to share a resource that I rely on for my own garden and yard.

Michigan State University Extension

MSU Extension in Kent County is part of a state-wide information and education delivery network, applying university level, research-based knowledge to locally-identified issues. They respond to local needs through a unique partnership of County, State and Federal resources. Information is extended to Kent County residents through the MSU non-formal education system, which assists individuals, families and communities to make better decisions. Here are some services they provide:

- A 1-800 food safety hot line
- A Master Gardener hot line
- Soil testing
- 4-H youth development programs
- Money management classes
- First time home buyer resources
- Leadership Training
- Citizen Planner program
- Community and Economic Development Programs
- Pesticide application recertification credits
- Food safety and food preservation information
- Nutrition Education programs

The Kent County MSU Extension office is located at 775 Ball Street NE in Grand Rapids. They can be reached at 336-3265 or online at www.msue.msu.edu/kent.

**From the Desk of the Water & Sewer Administrator...
New in Town??? - New Service Applications**

If your name is not on your water bill and the name “**Occupant**” appears on your bill, you will need to come into the Township Offices to fill out an application for new service. We also require that you bring your **closing documents** and **drivers license** with you to show proof of ownership. You can find the Service Application at: www.byrontownship.org, or at the Township Offices.

Like a Green Lawn??? - Sprinkling Meters

If you use a large volume of water for the purpose of sprinkling your lawn and landscaping, **please consider a separate meter for irrigation**. With a second meter you would 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 without a second meter. **If you had a second meter there would be no sewer use charge on any irrigation water**. The actual meter and inside plumbing inspection would cost approximately \$445.00. You can either do the plumbing yourself or have the plumber plumb in the spacer bar in accordance with the Byron-Gaines Utility Authority Set Drawings. All forms and drawings are at: www.byrontownship.org, or at the Township Offices.

What Are My Options??? - Utility Bill Payments

1. You may mail in your payment to: P.O. Box 264, Byron Center, Mi. 49315
 2. You can use the 24 hour drop box located on the East side of the Township Offices - 8085 Byron Center Ave.
 3. You can pay in person at the Township Offices Mon. – Fri. 7am -5pm. with cash, check, money order, or credit card plus convenience fee. We accept MasterCard, Visa, and Discover.
 4. Credit card payments plus convenience fee, as well as E Checks can be made at: www.byrontownship.org. Please allow 2-3 days for processing. All payments accepted after 5pm will not be posted until the next business day. We will not accept credit card payments over the phone.
 5. Another option you have is to sign up for Automatic Funds Transfer; the amount due will be taken directly out of your checking or savings account around the 20th of the month that your bill is due. Forms are available at: www.byrontownship.org, or at the Township Offices. **There is no fee for this service.**
- **Payments must be received before 5pm. on or before the due date or they are late.**

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.

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

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byronrec.org

MEMBERSHIPS

RESIDENT	YEAR	MONTH	DAY
FAMILY	\$390	\$44	-
4-17	\$120	\$19	\$4
18-54	\$190	\$24	\$5
55+	\$140	\$19	\$4
NON-RESIDENT	YEAR	MONTH	DAY
FAMILY	\$585	\$66	-
4-17	\$180	\$28.50	\$6
18-54	\$285	\$36	\$7.50
55+	\$210	\$28.50	\$6



Byron Days July 27-29

Every July, the residents of Byron Township gather to celebrate and fellowship together. There is something for everyone.

Friday, July 26

- Used Book Sale–KDL Library 9:30am-5pm
- Food Concessions–D&C Express Bicentennial Park 4pm-10pm
- Taste of Byron Dinner 1st Reformed, “The Rock” 4:30pm-6:30pm
- Inflatable/Rides-Gyroscope, Rock Wall
- Craft Fair Bicentennial Park 5pm-8pm
- Chemical Bank 5k Registration Chemical Bank 5pm-7pm
- Spin Art/Hair Streaking–Sports Clips Bicentennial Park 5pm-10pm
- Softball Tournament–Byron Parks and Rec. Whistle Stop Park 6pm
- “Praise Fest” Concert Stage-Bicentennial Park 5:30 pm-9:30 pm
- Drive-Up Movie - 1st Reformed, “The Rock” 7:30pm-9:30pm

Saturday, July 27

- Pancake Breakfast–Rotary Club Pathway Ministries 7:30am-9:30am
- Farmer’s Market–Community Wellness Post Office-North side 8am-1pm
- Softball Tournament-Byron Parks and Rec. Whistle Stop Park 8am-Finished
- 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament–Recsportsonline.com Bicentennial Park 8am-1pm
- Chemical Bank 5K Run/Walk 84th and Byron Center Ave. 8:30am
- Parade Line-up–enter off 84th St. only Nickels Intermediate School 9am
- Chemical Bank Kid’s Fun Run 84th and Byron Center Ave. 9:30am
- Used Book Sale–KDL Library 9:30am-5pm
- Spartan Stores PARADE– Byron Center Ave, 84th Street 10am
- Food Concessions–D&C Express Bicentennial Park 10am-10pm
- Craft Fair Bicentennial Park 11am-8pm
- Inflatable/Rides Bicentennial Park 11:30am-9:30pm ***
- Chicken Dinner–BC Senior All Nighter Bicentennial Park Pavilion 11:30am-2:30pm
- Civil War Demonstration – Bicentennial Park 2pm – 4pm
- Horse Pull Brown Elementary 2pm-Finished
- “Byron Classic Car Show” 1st Reformed, “The Rock” 3pm-6pm
- “Burgers, Fries, & Cokes” 1st Reformed, “The Rock” 4:30pm-6pm
- “Union Guns”-Headliner Performance - Concert Stage- Bicentennial Park 7pm – 9:45 pm
- BUIST ELECTRIC FIREWORKS!!! Byron Center Public School Athletic Fields 10pm

Sunday, July 28

Community Worship-Heritage CRC Concert Stage- Bicentennial Park 9:30am
For a full schedule of activities and details: www.byrondaysfestival.com

Treasurer’s Forum
Carol Houseman, Treasurer

Summer tax season is in full swing. You should have received your bill the 1st week of July. If you didn’t, call us. Your 2013 summer taxes are due September 14, 2013, but we are taking payments without penalty until Monday, September 16, 2013 at 5:00pm. 1% interest will be added at that time and an additional 1% the 1st of each month.

We have several options for paying your bill.

CHECK OR CASH: In person, dropped in drop box at the East entrance of the building, or by mail. Remember we don’t accept postmarks.

ACH WITHDRAWAL: Sign up and we will withdraw your payment on September 1 directly from your bank or credit union. Forms are on line at www.byrontownship.org

ON LINE PAY: Go to our website and go to the Treasurer’s page and scroll to “Pay Bill”. A fee of approximately 3% will be charged for debit or credit card payments and 25¢ for checking and savings.

If your gross income was under \$40,000.00 for 2013, you are 62 years or older, you are disabled, or if your property is classified Agricultural Real Property, you can defer your Summer taxes until the Winter tax due date without interest or penalties. A copy of the form is on the website or we can send you one.

Sometimes it is difficult to pay the full amount of taxes by the due date. We do accept partial payments. When you make a partial payment, the interest or penalty is only added to the unpaid balance.

As always, if you have any questions, please give us a call or stop in. 616-878-3196 Jacki or Carol will be happy to assist you.

Have a safe and wonderful summer!!