

## Supervisor's News

Tom Hooker, Supervisor

## Treasurer's Forum

Carol Houseman, Treasurer

### From the Supervisor's Office

It is wonderful to live, work and raise a family in Byron Township. I'm honored to be your supervisor and want you to know I desire to be available to help you if need arises. Our Byron staff are available to help you and answer any questions you may have. Byron is a happening place and many opportunities are available.

- **Farmers Market every Saturday morning – North of Post Office**
- **Sounds of Summer Concert series – Cutler park, Thursdays in July 7PM Bring a lawn chair**
- **Byron Days Festival – Bicentennial Park – July 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th**
- **Pick up a brochure at Township Hall or local businesses for all the opportunities.**
- **Free Landfill passes for October are available now**
- **Utilize our great Recreation program this summer and fall \*see the mailers or [www.byronrec.org](http://www.byronrec.org)**
- **Use our wonderful parks \* the maintenance staff has done an excellent job**
- **Remember our veterans with PTSD, Autistic children, pets and be a good neighbor when celebrating on our holidays. Sky lanterns are a fire hazard and are banned in Kent County**
- **Use our Kent District Library to help curb summer learning losses for the kids.**

**Our Clerk, Treasurer, Assessor and Building Departments are ready to serve your needs. If I can help you please contact me at 878-1222 or [tomhooker@byrontownship.org](mailto:tomhooker@byrontownship.org). Our Nationally recognized schools appreciate your support at they grow and work toward continued excellence.**

### From the Desk of the Water & Sewer Administrator

Now that warmer weather is here, you may be using a large volume of water for irrigating your lawn and landscape. Without a second irrigation meter in your house we have no way of measuring how much water was used outside, and not entering the sanitary sewer system. Therefore, you are charged sewer usage on the water that is going on your lawn and landscape. If you would like to save money on your utility bill you can purchase an irrigation meter and permit for \$600.00. Utility Authority Meter- Set Drawing and forms can be found at, [www.byrontownship.org](http://www.byrontownship.org), if you have any questions you can call the Byron Township Water and Sewer Office at, 616-878-0660.

Water and Sewer Assessment bills will be mailed out around July 1st and will be due by 5pm on July 31st.

You may view a copy of the current Water Quality Report at, [http://www.gainestownship.org/departments/docs/Current\\_Water\\_Quality\\_Report.pdf](http://www.gainestownship.org/departments/docs/Current_Water_Quality_Report.pdf)

The 2017 Summer Tax bills were mailed July 1. They are due by 5 pm on Thursday, September 14, 2017. A 1% interest will be charged on the remaining balance on September 15 and an additional 1% the first of each month. All your tax information is available on the website. On the left side of the homepage, click on "Byron Property Database" and then search: Tax by: Address, name or parcel #.

#### Check or cash:

In Person - Office hours are 8 – 5, M – F

Drop Box – Located on East side of the building

US Mail - Return the remittance stub along with your check in envelope. Be sure that our address on the back fits into the window.

**ACH Withdrawal:** Forms are available on our website or by calling our office for automatic withdrawal from your banking institution. Summer withdrawals are made September 1, 2017 Winter either December 18 or February 1 by your choice.

**Online Payment:** Go to our website: [www.byrontownship.org](http://www.byrontownship.org), click on Treasurer and follow the prompts. There is a \$3.00 charge for a check or savings account and 3% for a credit or debit card.

Summer Tax Deferral is available if your last year's gross income was under \$40,000. You must be 62 or older or disabled. This deferral is also for property classified "Agricultural Real Property". This defers summer taxes until the winter due date. We do accept partial payments. The interest charged is only on the remaining balance.

Dog licenses are available year round and are due on your dog's vaccination month. You may purchase a one or three year license depending on the vaccination due date. Please bring in the proof of rabies and proof of spaying/neutering. On July 1st the rates changed.

Carol and Jacki are happy to assist you at any time. Please call 616-878-3196 or stop in. Have a fun and wonderful summer!

To request a paper copy of the current Water Quality Report, call our office.

Please be aware that we no longer take utility bill payments over the phone. However, you may pay your bill online at, [www.byrontownship.org](http://www.byrontownship.org). We also offer Automatic Funds Transfer from your checking or savings account. If you would like to sign up please contact our office.

There are two billing options available to our customers, a post card bill through the United States Postal Service, or a paperless bill sent to your email address. Let us know if you would like to sign up for paperless billing.

Please call, 616-971-0002 to contact the Byron-Gaines Utility Authority regarding a hydrant permit to fill your pool.

You will no longer be able to use a hydrant within the Township for 1 day fills. You will have to go to the Byron-Gaines Utility Authority and use their Metered Hydrant.

Have a Great Summer!  
Debbie Jensen

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

Byron Days Festival-2017- Schedule of Events

**Thursday – July 27**

- 6:30PM-9:00PM – Festival Table Tennis Tourney @ First Reformed-The ROCK
- 6:30PM-9:00PM – Classic Car Ice Cream Cruise, gather @ First Reformed-The ROCK
- 6:30PM-9:00PM – Byron Historical Museum – “Open House”
- 6:30PM-9:00PM – Free Yoga Workshop” – United Methodist Church

**Friday – July 28**

- 10:00AM-5:00PM – Kent District Library Book Sale, Byron Township Branch
- 3:00PM-9:00PM – Food Concessions – Various Vendors
- 5:00PM-9:00PM – Rides & Inflatables – ACP Entertainment
- 3:00PM-9:00PM – Exhibitor’s Booths
- 5:00PM-7:00PM – Spartan YMCA/Chemical Bank Race Registration – Bank Parking Lot
- 6:00PM-10:00PM – **PRAISEFEST** – “Festival Stage”
- 7:30PM-9:00PM – Free Family Movie @ First Reformed-The ROCK

**Saturday – July 29**

- 7:30AM-9:30AM – Rotary Pancake Breakfast @ First Reformed-The ROCK
- 8:00AM-1:00PM – Community Wellness Farmer’s Market, @ Post Office Area
- 8:00AM – REC SPORTS 3 on 3 Basketball Tourney
- 8:30AM – **RACE for SPARTAN STORES YMCA-Presented by Chemical Bank**
- 9:30AM-5:00PM – Kent District Library Book Sale, Byron Township Branch
- 9:30AM – Spartan Stores YMCA Kid’s Fun Run-Presented by Chemical Bank
- 10:00AM – **SPARTANNASH BYRON DAYS PARADE**
- 11:00AM-9:00PM – Food Concessions – Various Vendors
- 11:00AM-8:00PM – Exhibitor’s Booths
- 11:00AM-9:00PM – Rides & Inflatables – ACP Entertainment
- 11:30AM-1:30PM – Rotary Chicken Dinner @ WEST Park Pavilion
- 1:00PM-4:00PM – High Pointe Church Bean Bag Tourney
- 1:00PM-3:30PM – “Anvil Sound” Band on Festival Stage
- 1:00PM-5:00PM – Rush Creek Bible Church Bubble Soccer Zone
- 2:30PM-4:30PM – Civil War Demonstration
- 3:00PM-6:00PM – KENT COMPANIES Classic Car Show – First Reformed-@ The ROCK
- 4:30PM-6:30PM – Burgers, Fries & Cokes – First Reformed @ The ROCK
- 7:30PM-10:00PM – **PLUMMER’S ENVIRONMENTAL Concert Stage – TRAPPED ON MARS**
- 10:10PM – **BUIST ELECTRIC FIREWORKS @ Bicentennial Park Ball Fields**

**Sunday, July 30**

- 9:30AM – Community Worship at Bicentennial Park - Sponsored by Heritage CRC, “Festival Stage”
- For a full schedule of activities and details: [www.byrondaysfestival.com](http://www.byrondaysfestival.com)

**Clerk’s Corner**

Joel H. Hondorp, Clerk

**New Election Equipment**

The state has allocated money (State Budget and Federal Help America Vote Act funding) for new voting equipment in all precincts in the State of Michigan. Kent County has selected Dominion Voting Systems. Your ballot will remain like previous ballots. The new equipment makes a digital scan of the ballot instead of an optical scan. Also at the close of the polls, the unofficial results will be transmitted my wireless modem to the county for faster reporting. There is an upgrade to the equipment used by disabled voters.

**Voter Registration Reminder**

If you are a new resident to the community and are registered to vote in the State of Michigan, you can change your voter registration online at the Secretary of State’s Website at [www.michigan.gov/sos](http://www.michigan.gov/sos).

If you have moved from another state or are over the age of 18 you may register in our office or you may download a form from the Secretary of State’s website and mail it to our office.

**Byron Township Recreation Department & Community Center**

The Byron Township Recreation Department is the hub for sports, fitness and recreational opportunities in the community! Whether you’re looking for activities for young children, older adults or anyone in between, we have something for everyone.

The Recreation Department offers programs of all kinds, including youth music and dance classes, football and lacrosse leagues, fitness classes, enrichment classes, pickleball, senior trips, senior luncheons and much more. You can find all of our program information in our recreation brochure which can be accessed online at [www.byronrec.org](http://www.byronrec.org), or you can call 616-878-1998 for more information. Pre-registration is required for most programs.

In addition to all of the programs we run, we also offer fitness memberships and leisure opportunities within the Community Center. The Byron Township Community Center includes a full size gymnasium, fitness center, multipurpose rooms, lounge areas with Wi-fi and pool tables. In order to make use of all of the amenities a membership is required, and flexible options are available such as daily, monthly or annual passes. Residents of Byron Township receive a discounted membership rate off the regular rates.

For more information on our offerings, please check out our website at [www.byronrec.org](http://www.byronrec.org) or like and follow us on Facebook to get up to date information.

Byron Township Recreation \* 2120 – 76th Street SW \* Byron Center, MI 49315 \* 616-878-1998

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**JULY**

- 10 Township Board Meeting
- 17 Planning Commission
- 24 Township Board Meeting
- 26 Board of Appeals
- 27-30 Byron Days Festival

**AUGUST**

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

**SEPTEMBER**

- 11 Township Board Meeting
- 14 Summer Taxes Due
- 18 Planning Commission
- 25 Township Board Meeting
- 27 Board of Appeals

**OCTOBER**

- 9 Township Board Meeting
- 16 Planning Commission
- 23 Township Board Meeting
- 25 Board of Appeals

**From the Assessor**

**PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE REMINDER**

Byron Township residents who have moved in the past year should update their Principal Residence Exemption status. When you own and occupy a new home that is your primary residence, you should file a HOMEOWNER’S PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE EXEMPTION AFFIDAVIT to obtain the exemption for the property. June 1st is the deadline to own and occupy the home to be eligible to claim the exemption for the entire current year. Property owners who move in after June 1st and before November 1st will have the exemption start on the Winter tax bill. Property owners who occupy the home after November 1st will have the exemption activated in their name the following year. If the prior owner already has an exemption, it will stay active for the rest of the year. You do not need to reapply each year. Once you have a PRE, it continues until there is a change in the status of the property. To avoid possible problems and delays, please make sure the Affidavit is completely filled in.

When a property is no longer your principal residence, you must file a REQUEST TO RESCIND HOMEOWNER’S PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE EXEMPTION form with the City or Township you had the exemption in. The exemption will be rescinded for the year following the change.

The Principal Residence Exemption Program is a State program administered by the Michigan Department of Treasury. Byron Township sends the PRE forms it receives to the Treasury Department which monitors for duplicate exemptions. The Department of Treasury has the ultimate decision as to the validity of an exemption.