

Supervisor's News

Tom Hooker, Supervisor

Despite the cool start to spring, summer will soon be upon us. With the M-6 closing behind us we will still see many things happening in our vibrant, growing community. Byron is the fastest growing West Michigan township and we don't want to lose sight of what makes us a desirable place to live. Many things will be happening around our area especially seen in our growing schools. Last summer our Byron Christian schools and our BC Middle school saw changes take place. This summer the High School will be transformed. Let me highlight some of the coming activities to know and watch for.

- Our firefighters set new records in responses and response times. Byron responded to 1130 rescue and fire calls up from 860 and Cutlerville responded to 883 calls in Byron up from 850 last year. A man revived from a cardiac arrest returned to thank the Cutlerville firefighters who rescued him. See story on M-Live.
- Remember to call the Fire Department for burn permits at 878-9174 daily from 6am-6pm. No burning leaves in residential areas.
- Our offices are open daily from 8am-5pm. Board meetings are 2nd and 4th Monday's at 7:00 pm and are now televised on BCTV. Reach our offices at 878-9066 or byrontownship.org
- Byron Wellness Foundation will host the Farmers Market at Tanger Outlet Mall starting Saturdays, May 5, from 9am-2pm. This new location will give vendors more space, better visibility and relieve strain on Post Office parking.
- West Michigan Chalk Art Festival will return to Tanger Mall, June 15th and 16th.
- Sounds of Summer Concert at the Park on Thursday nights in July at 7:00pm at Cutler Park at 160 68th Street SW.
- Byron Days Festival will be July 27th-29th at Bi-Centennial Park with the Parade on Sat. the 27th and Fireworks that night behind the ball fields in the park. Many booths and fun.
- Solicitation Permits are required by the township. Solicitors must register with the township wearing a yellow tag showing approval. Call the township or sheriffs dept. if a violator comes to your door.
- Our parks are now open for your use and our Recreation Center has many exciting programs offered. Pick up a brochure or visit the Rec. Center.
- Our Tornado Siren is ready at Byron and Cutlerville Fire Stations. They are tested at noon on the first Friday each month.
- The final leg of the Kenowa Trail is being finished and will be completed in June. Copies of the Michigan Trails Magazine are available at the township offices.
- Please remember our Veterans with PTSD, autistic children and pets. Please be a good neighbor when celebrating the upcoming holidays with fireworks. Sky lanterns are a fire hazard and banned in Kent County.
- Be sure to use our Kent District Library to help continue learning for the kids.

Any questions or concerns, call me at 878-1222 or tomhooker@byrontownship.org We are here to serve you!

FROM THE DESK OF THE WATER & SEWER ADMINISTRATOR:

Filling Your Swimming Pool

The Byron-Gaines Utility Authority's policy regarding hydrant permits:

You will no longer be able to use a hydrant located in your neighborhood to fill your swimming pool. Please contact a water hauler. The company you chose will contact the Byron-Gaines Utility Authority for a permit to fill their truck at a Metered Hydrant located on the Byron-Gaines Utility Authority's property. The reason for this is not only to have more water accountability, but to also minimize damage to the Township's hydrants. Keep in mind that water from your outside spigot is \$3.30 per thousand gallons and sanitary sewer is \$3.53 per thousand gallons (unless you have a second meter, then you are not charged sanitary sewer usage on water used outside) **Please call 616-971-0002 for hydrant questions.**

Irrigation Meters

If you use a large volume of water for the purpose of sprinkling your lawn, **please consider a second water meter.** With a second water meter you will not be billed for sanitary sewer usage when you sprinkle your lawn or fill your swimming pool. For example, if you sprinkled your lawn over a billing period of 3 months using a total of .80,000 gallons, the sanitary sewer use charge alone would be approximately..... \$280.00, without a second meter. The actual meter and inside plumbing inspection will cost \$675.00. You can either do the plumbing yourself or have a plumber plumb in the spacer bar in accordance with the Byron-Gaines Utility Authority Set Drawings.

All forms and drawings are found at: www.byrontownship.org, or at Byron Township Offices.

2017 Water Quality Reports

You may view a copy of the current Water Quality Report at: http://www.gainestownship.org/departments/docs/Current_Water_Quality_Report.pdf

To request a paper copy of the current Water Quality Report call: 616-878-0660

Water Shut Off for Non-Payment

The water service shut off process is for delinquent utility bills. This has kept a large amount of unpaid utility bills from going to the winter tax roll.

Here are the steps we follow:

1. The utility bill is sent out at the beginning of the month with a due date 30 days later.
 2. If the account is not paid in full by the due date printed on the utility bill you will receive a 5.40% penalty on the balance owed on the account.
 3. If the account still has a balance approximately 10 days after the utility bill was due, a shut off notice will be sent with a "date due by" to avoid shut off.
 4. Approximately 30 days after the shut off notice is mailed, and the account still has a balance due, the Byron-Gaines Utility Authority will post a door hanger giving a 5-day warning. If the account is not paid by the end of the 5 days a \$50.00 shut off fee will be applied to the account and the water service will be shut off until the account is paid in full. This gives the customer almost 3 months to pay the utility bill before the water service is shut off.
- ❖ **Remember that your Utility Bill is a lien on your property.**

A list of agencies that may help struggling families can be found at: www.byrontownship.org

For more water and sanitary sewer information go to; www.byrontownship.org, or call 616-878-0660.

Have a great summer!

Debbie Cousineau

Clerk's Corner

Peggy Sattler, Clerk

I had the privilege of being sworn in on April 22 as the new Clerk of Byron Township and hold office until November 20, 2020 along with the other elected officials. I am thankful for the years of service by my predecessor, Joel Hondorp. Joel was appointed by the Grand Rapids City Commission as the Grand Rapids City Clerk. He served on the Township Board for almost 22 years, first as a Trustee for 4 years and Clerk since 2000. He will continue to reside in Byron Township and serve on the Byron Township Fire Department. He wanted to express his gratitude to this community and enjoyed the opportunity to serve the residents of Byron Township.

Upcoming Elections

August 7 – Primary Election

The primary election is used to narrow candidates down by party. The Republican, Democrat and Libertarian candidates will be on the ballot, but you must limit your votes to only one party – no crossing over.

November 6 – General Election

You may choose any candidate of your choosing on this ballot up to the number to be elected to office.

If you are new to the community or not sure if you are registered to vote, you can check your registration status and where your vote at www.michigan.gov/vote.

Absentee Voting

Please call my office if you have the desire to vote absentee and fit the following qualifications: 60 years or older, absent from the community on Election Day, physically unable to attend the polls, prohibited from attending due to religious beliefs, in jail awaiting arraignment or trial, or working in as a precinct inspector on Election Day. You can also download a form our website or the Secretary of State's Website or contact the Clerk's office.

Election Inspectors

If you are interested in serving your community, we are always looking for citizens to work as Election Inspectors. Please contact me for an application or more information.

If I can be of service you may call my office at 878-9104 or email me at peggy@byrontownship.org. I look forward to the opportunity to serve you as Township Clerk.

Electronic Payment Services

Electronic Payment Services are available on the Township website, www.byrontownship.org. Township property owners can initiate payments from their checking, savings, debit, or credit card. Make sure that you are in the right department before processing your payments. There is a convenience fee to use the services.

Account Information

You have the ability to check your property information.

ASSESSING – TAXES – WATER & SEWER – ALL PAYMENTS

To access these records: log on to www.byrontownship.org and click the **Byron Property Management** button on the left side. Choose the database that fits your needs. You can search by Owners Name – Address – or Parcel Number. The records are available back to 1996. This information is helpful for your tax returns.

As always, you can reach Jacki or me at 878-3196 or just stop into the office. We are happy to help you.

INSPECTION SERVICES

As I write this article the calendar says it is spring but looking out my window, winter does not want to leave. Per Builder Track Reports, Byron Township had the most, new single- family housing starts in Kent County for 2017 with 172. Plainfield Township was second with 115 starts. Byron has been the busiest municipality in Kent County three out of the last five years for new starts. In the last five years, Byron has had 672 new single- family starts with the next closest municipality having 523. It looks like 2018 will be another busy year if the economy stays strong.

With summer coming soon, people are getting their recreational vehicles and units ready for camping and boating. Just a reminder that Byron Township does allow for one recreational vehicle or recreational unit (boat and trailer) to be stored or parked in the driveway in front of the home in any residential district from April 1 through September 30, provided the vehicle shall not be located closer than 5 feet to the front lot line.

Have a great spring and summer.

Randy Zomerlei
 Building Official and Zoning Administrator

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

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

JUNE

- 11 Township Board Meeting
- 18 Planning Commission
- 25 Township Board
- 27 Board of Appeals

JULY

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

AUGUST

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

