

From the Supervisor
Audrey Nevins-Weiss

The Township has been extremely busy for 2015. Big changes have been made in the Public Safety Department. Byron Township added three full time firefighters for the 84th St station. We also welcomed Todd Szacaks the new Public Safety Officer /Chief for the Cutlerville Fire and Byron Fire Department. Two new mini pumpers have also been purchased for the fire departments. Cutlerville's truck will be shared with Gaines Township and Byron's truck should arrive in 30 days. These trucks have been selected due to carry four firefighters and equipment to handle a variety of emergency issues and have the ability to maneuver in residential developments.

We also want to recognize Rog Steenwyk for his 30 plus years of service on the Byron Fire Department and the last 12 as Chief. Steve Grooters for his 27 years of service on the Byron Township Fire Department. Rick Heyboer also retired with a dedicated 13 years on the Byron Department. Don Nieuwkoop retired after 43 years on the Cutlerville Fire Department and serving as deputy chief and Mark De Hoek retired with 33 year of service. Be sure to thank them for all their years of service and sacrifice for Byron Township.

The 84th St sidewalk project should be starting any day. Sidewalks will be built on the south side of 84thSt from Burlingame to Byron Commerce Dr. The project should be completed by the end of October.

A new entrance for Whistle Stop Park will be built on Byron Center Ave. The park has only one way in and one way out. With the increasing use of the park especially during the summer months safety is the issue. The Board will review cost and plan the project in the 2016-2017 budget.

Landfill coupons are available for the month of October. Byron residents may pick up their coupon in my office, at the Township Offices 8085 Byron Center Avenue. Also we will once hosting our leaf and brush drop off in the parking lot by the Bicentennial Park ball fields. You may bring your leaves and brush and put them in their respective dumpsters beginning Monday, October 26 and they will be available until Monday, November 23. Please no bags in the dumpsters and please cut up brush as small as possible.

The Township Board and Planning Commission initiated the update to the Township Master Plan. If you want to keep up on information about the Master Plan process or wish to participate visit www.planbyron.com for details on meetings and surveys.

If I can be of any assistance or you have any questions about our Township government or any of the wonderful community groups that make Byron a wonderful place to live and raise our families, do not hesitate to contact me personally at 878-1222.

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

Cold weather will be here soon and when below freezing temperatures are sustained over a few days, water pipes and meters that are close to cold air may freeze. Frozen water meters and water pipes can stop water service and may be expensive to repair or replace. Property owners are responsible for protecting both water pipes and the water meter from damage. Below are some steps you can take to prevent water pipes and meter from freezing.

To prevent frozen water pipes eliminate cold drafts near water pipes:

- Tightly close doors and windows to the outside.
- Install storm windows on basement windows.
- Eliminate drafts from crawl space.
- Fill cracks in walls and around windows.
- Isolate the water supply line that feeds the outside hose spigot by turning it off at an inside valve if available, and always drain exposed piping and disconnect the garden hose from the outside spigot before freezing temperatures set in.

Provide warmth to the water pipes:

- Open the door to the room where the pipes are located to allow warmth to circulate.
- Place a lighted bulb near water pipes. Never use open flames.
- Wrap pipes in insulation or heat tape.
- If your kitchen or bathroom sink is located against an outside wall, insulate the wall.
- Open cabinet door below the sink to allow warm air to reach the pipe.

Make frequent use of your water supply:

- Flowing water often breaks up ice below freezing.
- When outside temperatures remain below freezing, it's less expensive to run your faucet regularly than for you to repair a frozen or burst pipe.

How to prevent a frozen water meter:

- It is colder near the floor and along the block wall of a basement than at the ceiling. So make sure warm air is allowed to circulate around your meter. Follow the previous instruction about preventing freezing frozen water pipes.
- If your meter is in a separate room, leave the door open to this room to allow warmth to circulate. If your meter is in a cabinet/ open the cabinet door.
- If the meter is in an outdoor pit, check to see that; the cover fits properly and that it has no cracks into which cold wind can blow. The pipes, valves and the meter inside such pits should not touch the concrete walls.

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

Treasurer's Forum

Carol Houseman, Treasurer

Summer has gone and the fall season is in full swing. The Treasurer's Office has slowed down a little since the summer taxes were due on September 14.

If you haven't paid your taxes yet, 1% interest was applied on September 15 and an additional 1% is added the 1st of each month thereafter. If you can only make partial payments, we do accept them and interest is only applied to unpaid balances. If you have questions, please call 878-3196 and Jacki and I will help you.

We have several payment options. You can pay online with a credit card or check (fees apply), ACH withdrawal from your checking or savings, or in person with cash or check. A drop box for your convenience is located at the east entrance of the township hall. Any payments placed in the box after hours are applied the next work day, and again we do accept partial payments.

Winter taxes will be in the mail the 1st week of December. They are due on Monday, February 15, 2016. If you wish to use the deduction for your 2015 income taxes, the payment must be in the office by close of Monday, January 4, 2016.

Dog Licenses are available in our office year round. Your dog needs to be licensed when they have their rabies shot. You may choose a one year or three year license.

Byron Township Holiday Office Hours

The Byron Township offices will be closed the following dates:

November 26 & 27- Thanksgiving

December 24 & 25- Christmas

December 31 & January 1- New Years

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

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

NOVEMBER

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

DECEMBER

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

JANUARY

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

On November 3, there will be a special election for Kentwood Schools. This only affects voters that reside in the Kentwood Public School District.

We are planning now for 2016. The Presidential Primary will be March 8, 2016. The Primary Election is August 2, 2016 and the General Election is November 8, 2016.

If you have recently moved to Byron Township and want to vote in Byron Township, you need to update your voter registration. If you are registered in the State of Michigan, you can go on the Secretary of State's website to change your address and that will update your voter registration. You can also come into my office to update your information and an address sticker for your license will be mailed from the Secretary of State. You can check your registration status and where your vote at www.michigan.gov/vote.

Parks and Recreation

Greetings from the Community Center in Whistlestop Park! Here, the home of the Byron Township Parks & Recreation Department, we have been busy working on all sorts of new things! We still have fitness center memberships, great classes for kids, fun fitness classes for adults, and enriching activities for older adults ... but it doesn't stop there.

We have been working hard to improve ourselves and our offerings to the Community; one great new addition is for the over 65 crowd: we are now working with Priority Health's Silver and Fit program! Those with qualifying Priority Health plans can now get a fitness center membership here for free! Just contact the Rec Dept. for more information.

Over the summer we also had our first-ever Movies in the Park! We scheduled two different nights with family-friendly movies and we plan on doing more with these next summer.

Since last year, we have also made improvements to our parks, including new play equipment at Cutler Park and new restrooms and pavilions at Bicentennial Park.

Coming up we have our annual Trunk or Treat and Candy Cane Hunt events, plus Toddler Rec starts back up in November. We have also just started work on our 4th Annual Women's Expo & Craft Show set for next spring!

For more on all that we are up to, visit our website at byronrec.org or pick up our latest brochure available now at the Community Center. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Byron Township Community Center

2120 76th Street | Byron Center, MI

616.878.1998 | byronrec.org | [facebook.com/byrontwprec](https://www.facebook.com/byrontwprec)

Hours of Operation:

M-F: 6am-9pm

Sat: 8am-5pm

Sun: Closed