

Supervisor's News

Tom Hooker, Supervisor

Treasurer's Forum

Carol Houseman, Treasurer

From the Supervisor's Office

Wow, summer sure went fast and as you can see by the colorful changing trees, fall is here. I wanted you to be aware of many opportunities coming up in our community.

Our parks are still open and available. Bicentennial, Whistlestop and Cutler Parks are ready for fall picnics

- Saturday, October 21st, our Cutlerville Fire Department will host an Open House and Fire Prevention Display to allow you to see the newly completed addition and get hot dogs and drinks. Come see the new addition and meet the firefighters and 1st responders from 10 am to 1 pm.
- With all our schools in session be sure to watch for buses stopping and children crossing. You may have noticed some additions happening at Byron Center Middle School and work beginning on the High School. South Christian's new location on Kalamazoo Avenue continues to grow. Our schools are on the move!
- Fall leaves can be placed in dumpsters provided by the Township next to the skate park from Monday, October 30 thru Saturday, November 18. Bring them in bags, but empty the bags. Do not place plastic or paper bags in the dumpsters.
- Residents can pick up a free dump coupon to the South Kent Landfill at the Township to be used during the month of October. This is a \$30 value. Bring proof of residency.
- Thank you for your patience as we had a huge influx of traffic in our community because of the M-6 closure. It's almost over. A few more weeks to re-opening. Fall will bring the end to road construction. M-6 west bound will reopen the first week of November and Wilson access to M-6 will reopen in mid-October.
- Utilize our great recreation programs for fall and early winter. Refer to the fall brochure that was mailed to homes or pick one up at the Township.
- The Rec Center will host Trunk or Treat on Saturday, Oct. 21st from 12:00PM to 2:00PM -Free
- Use our Kent District Library, a great community resource.
- Remember township ordinance says recreational vehicles must be stored in the rear or side of the house after October 31st until April 1.
- Our township board meetings are 7:00PM on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month. Come out and see local government in action. Make your voice heard.
- Our Byron Community Wellness Foundation Christmas Parade will be held on December 2nd at 5:30 pm starting at Nickels. Santa and reindeer will be available at 4 pm at the Rock. Hot chocolate will be provided by the Chamber of Commerce in town before and during the parade.

If I can help you please contact me at 878-1222 or tomhooker@byrontownship.org.

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 14, 2018. If you wish to use the deduction for your 2017 income taxes, the payment must be in the office by close of Wednesday, January 3, 2018.

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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

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

DECEMBER

11 Township Board
18 Planning Commission
27 Board of Appeals

NOVEMBER

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

JANUARY

8 Township Board
15 Planning Commission
22 Township Board
24 Board of Appeals

Byron Township Holiday Office Hours

The Byron Township offices
will be closed the following dates:
November 23 & 24 – Thanksgiving
December 25 & 26 – Christmas
January 1 & 2 – New Years

Clerk's Corner

Joel H. Hondorp, Clerk

We are planning now for 2018. The Primary Election is August 7, 2018 and the General Election is November 6, 2018. We are also prepping to receive new election tabulators. If you are over 60 and want to be added to our permanent Absent Voter list give a call to 878-9104 or email jhondorp@byrontownship.org. Once on the list we will mail you an application for future elections.

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.

From the Assessor

Real property used and owned as a homestead by a Disabled Veteran who was discharged from the armed forces of the United States under honorable conditions, or by the unmarried surviving spouse of a disabled veteran, is exempt from the collection of property taxes.

For this exemption, a Disabled Veteran means a person who is a resident of this state and who meets 1 of the following criteria:

- Has been determined by the United States department of veterans' affairs to be permanently and totally disabled as a result of military service and entitled to veterans' benefits at the 100% rate.
- Has a certificate from the United States veterans' administration, or its successors, certifying that he or she is receiving or has received pecuniary assistance due to disability for specially adapted housing.
- Has been rated by the United States department of veterans' affairs as individually unemployable.

To get this exemption, Michigan Department of Treasury Form 5107, State Tax Commission Affidavit for Disabled Veterans Exemption must be completed each year along with the letter or certificate from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs confirming the eligibility and submitted to the assessor.

Inspection Services

Did you know that you may apply for Electrical, Plumbing and Mechanical permits online? You may call the Building Department to get your PIN number, then go to the Township website to finish the application and submit it online. The Building Department Administrative Assistant will look at the submittal and send an email that the application has been accepted and is ready to be paid. For a small fee, you may pay online or you may send a check in the mail. For questions please contact the Building Department. You may also request inspections online.

Again, this is only for Electrical, Plumbing and Mechanical permits and inspections. We are not currently set up for this service for Building Permits

Randy Zomerlei
Building Official and Zoning Administrator

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.