

Supervisor's News

Tom Hooker, Supervisor

Just recently finishing a wonderful Byron Days celebration, it's hard to imagine we are only 13 weeks from Thanksgiving and 17 weeks to Christmas. I don't want to be a downer, but this issue covers September through December. I'm not ready to give up our wonderful summer days. Know our township staff is here to serve you and help any way we can. Our long time Township Treasurer, Carol Houseman, will be retiring at the end of September and know the position of Treasurer is open for application at township Clerk's office. You must be a township resident with special skills. The deadline to apply is Friday, Sept. 14, 2018. We are very thankful to Carol for her faithful service to the people of Byron Township for twenty years. Thank you, Carol! The township will be hosting a farewell for Carol on Friday, Sept. 28th. Stop by and wish Carol well on her retirement.

- Our township will again offer dumpsters for branches and leaves by the township hall in the lower level parking lot from Monday, Oct. 29th until Sunday, Nov. 18.
- Our updated burn ordinance is available at township hall or contact our Byron Fire Dept. weekdays at 878-9174.
- Kent County SouthKent Landfill offers a free dump pass for residents during the month of October. Show your license or proof of residence at the reception desk at township hall.
- Our Recreation Center is offering many activities for residents including workouts and senior activities. Fall leagues are already started. See the Rec. Center brochure for details.
- Remember Sept. 14th is our summer tax deadline. I encourage you to set up an Automatic Withdrawal for your taxes and water bills to save a trip in to the township.
- Summer street repairs are mostly all completed with 64th East of Burlingame and 76th from Clyde Park to 131 still being worked on. 82nd, 72nd, Whistlewood, Whistlepipe and Whistlepipe Ct. and Wilson from 108th to 92nd are completed. If potholes are noticed we can inform the KC Road Commission.
- In October, we will be adding an additional 12 hour per day sheriff's deputy to our current 24-hour deputy. The goal is to reduce response time and enforcement. It's a sign and response to growth in our township.
- We are again sharing the cost of a school liaison officer in cooperation of the township, school and Kent County Sheriff's Office. Deputy Andy Jonkman is in our schools, crossings and roads helping keep our families and kids safe.
- Much work is happening in our schools with recent upgrades at BC Middle athletic and BC High with massive additions. Our partnership with the schools is appreciated.

Our Clerk, Treasurer, Assessor, Building and Sewer and Water Departments are ready to serve your needs. If I can help please, contact me at 878-1222 or tomhooker@byrontownship.org.

From the Desk of the Water & Sewer Administrator

Debbie Cousineau, Water & Sewer Administrator

Why worry about stamps and possible late payments when Byron Township Water and Sewer Department offers automatic payment withdrawal. Customers may have their quarterly utility payments automatically withdrawn from their checking or savings account through an ACH transaction. **There is no cost for this service from the Township.**

This service is very easy and saves you time and effort. Once you have enrolled, your designated checking or savings account will be debited the balance due on your utility account around the 20th of the month your bill is due. You will still receive a copy of your bill showing the amount due and reminding you that the amount due will be automatically withdrawn.

To enroll, you must complete an ACH application and return it with a voided check or deposit slip to the Township Office located at, 8085 Byron Center Ave. or email it to: debbie@byrontownship.org. You will find a copy of the ACH application at, www.byrontownship.org. You can request a copy by email or call 616-878-0660. Please note that a **written notification will be necessary to terminate this service**, and that ACH transmission will not apply to final water bills.

Remember, if you will not be home to receive your paper post card bill please call the office so that we can temporarily change the billing address on your utility account. The United States Post Office will not forward your post card bill. Once you get back in town please call the office to change the billing address back.

To eliminate the steps mentioned above you can sign up for paperless billing and automatic funds transfer.

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.

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.

Debbie Cousineau

From the Building Department

Randy Zomerleij, Building Official

Summer is coming to an end and winter is fast approaching. If you are thinking about fall and winter projects, remember that permits are required for most work. You can call the Building Department to ask if permits are needed. Also, if you are hiring a contractor, make sure that they are licensed, obtain the required permits, and have inspections.

This is also the time to look over your home and make sure that it is ready for winter. This would include looking at your roof, siding, windows, caulking and any other things that would let the cold air in to make your heating cost soar.

I hope everyone has a safe and wonderful fall and winter.

Clerk's Corner

Peggy Sattler, Clerk

November 6, 2018 – General Election

Absentee Voting

Please stop by our 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 as a precinct inspector on Election Day. You can also download a form from our website www.byrontownship.org under the Clerk's tab or the Secretary of State's website www.michigan.gov/sos

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.

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. If you are a college student or will be a college student in the fall of 2018, you will want to register in person at our office or a Secretary of State's office in order to vote Absentee in the November 2018 General Election.

You can check your registration status and where you vote at www.michigan.gov/vote.

The deadline to register to vote for the November Election is MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2018.

Notary Service

If you have the need for Notary Service, we have three notaries on staff and we provide the service at no charge. A notary is available usually Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Bring your unsigned documents and proof of identity.

1. What is Assessed Value? Assessed Value is 50% of the property value estimated by the assessor as of Tax Day. For 2018, Tax Day is December 31, 2017. That assessed value is subject to appeal at the March Board of Review.

2. What is State Equalized Value? After all appeals are heard, the March Board of Review confirms the assessment roll. That roll is then subject to review by the county and state. Following those reviews State Equalized Value (SEV) is set. SEV is then considered to be 50% of Market Value or True Cash Value as determined on Tax Day.

3. What is the Capped Value? The Capped Value calculation is used to determine Taxable Value (TV). 2018 Capped Value formula is: 2017 TV-2018 Losses x IRM + 2018 Additions = 2018 Capped Value. The 2018 Inflation Rate Multiplier (IRM) was 1.021. Losses are considered to be physical losses to the property. Additions are considered to be physical additions to the property.

4. What is Taxable Value? Taxable Value is the lesser of Assessed Value or Capped Value. In the year following a transfer of ownership (sale, gift, etc.) the Taxable Value will be equal to the Assessed Value. In Michigan, taxes are based on Taxable Value, not State Equalized Value. Taxable Value can never be higher than the Assessed Value.

Craig DeYoung
Assessor

Treasurer's Forum

Carol Houseman, Treasurer

Life in the treasurer's office continues to stay busy. We are nearing the close of the summer season, as well as the 1st tax cycle. Your taxes are due by Friday, September 14th at 5pm. If you can't pay them in full, we accept partial payments. After the due date, interest is applied only to the unpaid balance. As always, you can continue to pay them at the township until February 28, 2019. At that time, they are turned over to Kent County for collection.

Dog licenses are available year around. They are due the month that the rabies vaccination is given. The license can be purchased for one or three years. You must show proof of rabies as well as spade or neutering.

After almost 20 years of service to the residents of Byron Township, I will be retiring on September 28th. It has been a pleasure serving this community. I appreciate the trust that you put in me, to elect me for 5 consecutive terms. I tried my best to listen to the voice of the people. I know that we didn't always agree, but I always tried to do my best.

Again, it has been a pleasure. Blessing and joy to all of you as you continue to live and grow in this beautiful community. I will truly miss you all.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

10 Township Board 5:30 p.m.
14 Taxes Due 5:00 p.m.
17 Planning Commission 7:00 p.m.
24 Township Board 5:30 p.m.
26 Board of Appeals (Cancelled)

OCTOBER

All Month Landfill Coupons
8 Township Board 5:30 p.m.
15 Planning Commission 7:00 p.m.
22 Township Board 5:30 p.m.
24 Board of Appeals 7:00 p.m.
29 Fall leaves and branches dumpsters Begin

NOVEMBER

6 Election Day
Polls are open from
7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
12 Township Board 5:30 p.m.
18 Last Day for Fall leaves and branches dumpsters
19 Planning Commission 7:00 p.m.
26 Township Board 5:30 p.m.
28 Board of Appeals 7:00 p.m.

DECEMBER

10 Township Board 5:30 p.m.
17 Planning Commission 7:00 p.m.
26 Board of Appeals 7:00 p.m.

* Note change in time for Township Board meetings