

Supervisor's News

Audrey Nevins-Weiss, Supervisor

Free Landfill Coupons Available

As I discussed in the last issue of the Byron Bugle, through negotiations with the Kent County Department of Public Works, free coupons for the South Kent Landfill are available for residents of Byron Township. Any Byron resident that would like to bring household refuse to the landfill may do so for free April 19, 20, 21 and 22. Residents must provide proof of residency in order to obtain a coupon. I have the coupons available in my office and am pleased to be able to provide this service to our citizens. Please feel free to call me at 878-1222 if you would like a free coupon for the South Kent Landfill.

Budget Update

The Township Board will soon adopt another conservative budget for our 2012-2013 Fiscal Year. Increases in our population between the 2000 and 2010 census will result in a slight increase in the funding available through state shared revenue. In addition, we are doing everything possible to obtain grants to help finance the cost of park and road improvements. Byron Township has been able to make many road improvements in addition to revitalization of our downtown area through partnerships with local, state and federal agencies. These partnerships have allowed us to leverage our funds in order to gain maximum return on our investment in beneficial projects. Using this conservative approach we may soon see improvements to Cutler Park including a splash park, ball field improvements, restrooms and a concession stand along with other enhancements. Over 1,100 children are involved in Little League programs and our DNR grant will directly enhance our ability to provide outstanding programs for our children.

Friendly Reminders

Not every area in the Township is allowed to burn. If you are in an area where burning is permitted by our ordinances, you still must have a burning permit. These permits are required for public safety and in order to avoid any issues with the Fire Department or Kent County Sheriff's Department, please call first before you burn.

With the beautiful spring weather many of us like to walk our pets on the sidewalks or in our parks. It is surprising how many calls I receive about people not cleaning up after their pets. Please be courteous and pick up after your pet.

If you have any questions about Byron Township, please feel free to contact me at 878-1222.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

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

MAY

8 Election Day
14 Township Board Meeting
21 Planning Commission
26 Board of Appeals
28 Township Board Meeting

JUNE

11 Township Board Meeting
25 Township Board Meeting
27 Board of Appeals
28 Planning Commission

JULY

9 Township Board Meeting
16 Planning Commission
23 Township Board Meeting
25 Board of Appeals
27-29 Byron Days

Kent District Library Byron Township Branch - Spring Programs

Find out about these programs and much more at www.kdl.org

PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES

Spring Storytimes for Babies, Toddlers and Preschoolers
Check www.kdl.org for exact dates and times.

PROGRAMS FOR TEENS

Teen Zone is a great way to help plan library teen programs, discuss books, play games, and get together with your friends! April 17 at 3:30 PM

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

Good Reads for Great Discussions adult book discussion will meet on Thursday, April 26 at 6:30 PM to discuss the book, *The Language of Flowers* by Vanessa Diffenbaugh.

Maximize Your Budget: Shopping Tips 101

Sarah from www.sarahsdeals.net will share her knowledge on the best ways to maximize your budget! Thursday, April 12 at 6:30 PM

Planning and Canning - Plan what to plant in your garden and then learn about canning and preserving techniques! Tuesday, April 24 at 6:30 PM

KDL

Kent District Library
www.kdl.org

West Michigan Chalk Art Festival

The 3rd Annual West Michigan Chalk Art Festival is coming to Byron Center June 22 and 23. This is an exciting event for our community. The Byron Community Wellness Foundation will be promoting community wellness with creativity and community interaction cultivated through art. Artists are invited to demonstrate their talent with this unique art form. The Chalk Art Festival will bring explosions of color and vitality to the community. This is a unique event you won't want to miss.

Registration information is available at www.wmcaf.com.

The Festival will be fun for the whole family. There will be music, face painting for the kids and many other activities. This is an opportunity for artists to let loose and create or for the public to enjoy viewing the chalk artists at work.

Sponsorship opportunities are available to promote the event and the artist. Funding will help support the participation of children at no charge and showcase their talents. Proceeds from the West Michigan Chalk Art Festival will be used to support the many activities and charities of the non-profit Byron Community Wellness Foundation.

Call 878-6029 for more information on how you can become involved in this community event.

From the Desk of the Water & Sewer Administrator

LAWN SPRINKLING

Remember with Spring and Summer fast approaching, the sprinkling season will soon be here. Check your underground sprinklers for leaks. Manually set your sprinklers instead of putting them on a timer to keep your sprinkling usage to a minimum. If you sprinkle a new lawn less, it will force the roots down to seek water, and therefore establish a healthier lawn. Then the first drought in the summer will not have you looking at a dried up yard because the root system is so shallow. If you use a large volume of water for underground sprinkling and don't have a separate meter for that purpose, you may want to look into purchasing a second meter before the sprinkling season starts. The meter cost is \$400 and the inside inspection cost is \$45. If you are not real "handy" and need a plumber to install the plumbing for that second meter, it will cost anywhere from \$150 - \$350. If you need help determining the approximate time it will take to recoup your initial investment, please call us and we can take a look at your usage history to see what makes sense. (616-878-0660)

...And remember, if the grass is greener on the other side of the fence, you can bet their water bill is higher too!

BILLING OPTIONS

We offer paperless billing, automatic funds transfer from a checking or savings account (ACHA), customer initiated online debit/credit card payments, a drop box, or you can pay with cash, check or money order. Our office is open Monday-Friday, 7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. If you would like additional information on your billing options, please email me at Julie@byrontownship.org. Visit our website at www.byrontownship.org for more information, forms and ordinances.

Clerk's Corner

Joel H. Hondorp, Clerk

Upcoming Elections

May 8 — Grand Rapids Community College and Grandville Public Schools

GRCC and Grandville Public Schools are asking for a millage approval.

August 7 — Primary Election

The primary election is used to narrow candidates down by party. The Republican and Democrat 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.

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 from our website of the Secretary of State's website.

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

NEW PRECINCT BOUNDARIES & POLLING LOCATIONS

Beginning on March 1, 2012, a new precinct boundary map for Byron Township will be used for all future elections. The change affects 4793 of the 15,140 voters or slightly under 32%. After every decennial census, US Congressional, State House, State Senate and County Commission districts are redrawn and population evenly distributed in each district. At this time Byron Township re-aligned precinct boundaries to distribute voters in each precinct more uniformly.

Also in the process, a polling location was moved from the Cutlerville Fire Station to the Byron Township Community Center. The voters who previously voted at the Fire Station will either vote at Legacy Christian School (those that live east of US 131) or at Frontline Bible Church (those that live west of US 131).

ELECTRONIC PAYMENT SERVICES

Electronic Payment Service will be available for your 2012 taxes. Township property owners can initiate payments from their checking, savings, debit or credit card on our website. There is a convenience fee to use the service. For your checking and savings account it is 25¢ per transaction. When using a debit or credit card a percentage of your payment (average of 3%) will be charged.

CHECK YOUR ACCOUNT ONLINE

You also have the ability to check your property taxes, property assessment and water and sewer records online.

To access these records: log on to www.byrontownship.org and click on Treasurer in the left column. Once on the Treasurer's page click where it says Byron Property Database. You will be directed to the Records Database. Choose the database that fits the record search you are doing. Search on either Permanent Parcel Number, Name or Address. Tax records back to 1996 are listed. This information will help you with your federal tax return if you cannot find your Property Tax receipts. If you have any questions, you may call me at 878-3196.

Byron Township Precincts (Effective 3/1/12)

- Byron Township — Precinct 1**
Pathway Church
8350 Byron Center Ave.
- Byron Township — Precinct 2**
Byron Township Community Center
2120 76th Street SW
- Byron Township — Precinct 3**
Legacy Christian School
67 68th Street SW
- Byron Township — Precinct 4**
Byron Township Offices
8085 Byron Center Ave.
- Byron Township — Precinct 5**
Byron Center Public Schools
Administration Gym
8542 Byron Center Ave.
- Byron Township — Precinct 6**
Banner Of Christ Church
1111 68th Street SW
- Byron Township — Precinct 7**
Frontline Bible Church
8283 Pfeiffer Farms Dr.
- Byron Township — Precinct 8**
First Cutlerville
Christian Reformed Church
1425 68th Street SW

