



BYRON BUGLE

www.byrontownship.org



Volume 19, Issue 1

January 2010

Inside this issue:

From the Supervisor	1
Kent County MSU Extension	2
Byron Center Historical Society	2
Clerk's Corner	3
Treasurer's Forum	3
Kent District Library	3
Winter Safety	4

Township Calendar

January 11	Township Board Meeting
January 18	Planning Commission
January 25	Township Board Meeting
January 27	Board of Appeals
February 8	Township Board Meeting
February 15	Winter Taxes Due !
February 15	Planning Commission
February 22	Township Board Meeting
February 24	Board of Appeals
March 8	Township Board Meeting
March 15	Planning Commission
March 22	Township Board Meeting
March 24	Board of Appeals

From the Supervisor, Audrey Nevins Weiss

On behalf of myself and the staff of Byron Township, I want to wish you and your family a Happy New Year.

The Township is looking forward to the New Year. 2009 definitely was one of the slowest years for new business and development; however, I have managed to stay busy on other projects for the township.

The biggest event for us this year was the opening of the Byron Township Community Center at 2120 76th Street, SW in the front of Whistlestop Park. The Center has been on the drawing board for many years and it is exciting to witness all the wonderful things that are happening. If you haven't had a chance to see it for yourself, take a moment to check it out. Other highlights of the year were:

- Ratifying a contract with the fulltime firefighters at the Cutlerville Fire Department
- The creation of an expanded Warner Drainage District
- The purchase of property for a new northwest sewer pump station
- The installation of a sewer lift station in Whistlestop Park to help with sewer flow from downtown Byron Center
- Renovation of the restroom facilities and a new playground at Cutler Park
- Moved our fire dispatch services to Kent County Dispatch from City of Grand Rapids
- Partnered with the Kent County Road Commission and purchased the house and out buildings at 92nd St and Burlingame and had it removed to increase visibility on the southeast corner

Longtime Electrical and Mechanical Inspector Ron Nederveld retired in 2009 along with his wife Sadie. The Township has contracted with Professional Code Inspections (PCI) to perform electrical inspections and mechanical inspections will be done by Marv Schierbeek who already serves as our Plumbing Inspector. I want to thank Ron and Sadie for their service to Byron Township and wish them well in retirement.

While the economy has been rough and development has slowed, some projects were approved or built.

- Valley Vista, a new commercial , residential and office use development was approved on the southeast corner of 64th Street and Byron Center
- Byron Wholesale Meats opened its new facility
- Highpointe Church moved into their new worship space

I am looking forward to see what is in store for 2010. I invite you to take a look at what Byron Township has to offer at our Community Center, our parks or the Library. I hope you have a great 2010.



Kent County MSU Extension

MSU Extension in Kent County is part of a state-wide information and education delivery network, applying university level, research-based knowledge to locally-identified issues. They respond to local needs through a unique partnership of County, State and Federal resources. Information is extended to Kent County residents through the MSU non-formal education system, which assists individuals, families and communities to make better decisions. Here are some services they provide:

- A 1-800 food safety hot line
- A Master Gardener hot line
- Soil testing
- 4-H youth development programs

- Money management classes
- First time home buyer resources
- Leadership Training
- Citizen Planner program
- Community and Economic Development Programs
- Pesticide application recertification credits
- Food safety and food preservation information
- Nutrition Education programs

The Kent County MSU Extension office is located at 775 Ball Street NE in Grand Rapids. They can be reached at 336-3265 or online at www.msue.msu.edu/kent.



*You are
invited to join
the Byron
Center
Historical
Society.*

Byron Center Historical Society

The Byron Center Historical Society and Museum just finished a very exciting year.

If you are new to Byron Township, we want to welcome you as the latest addition to the History of Byron Township. As a new resident you may want to know a little more about the community you now call home and the history behind it. One way to do that is to join the Byron Center Historical Society.

The support of our 200 family membership is the reason we were successful this year. We are holding our 2010 membership drive and you are invited to join. As a benefit of membership, you will receive our magazine, the "Timekeeper", newsletters of what is happening and the opportunity to help us in the collection, preservation, and displaying of Byron Township history.

BYRON CENTER

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Membership Application

\$20.00 Yearly Family Membership

_____ Additional donation

_____ Total donation (All donations are tax deductible: License to Solicit is #MICS 12251.)

_____ I would like to help and be a worker in the Byron Center Historical Society.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ___ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Make check payable to Byron Center Historical Society and mail to P.O. Box 20, Byron Center, MI 49315.

Clerk's Corner

May 2010 School Election

The annual school election will be held on Tuesday, May 4, 2010 for all voters in the Byron Center, Grandville, Kentwood and Wayland Public Schools. If you are interested in being a candidate for office you may pick up a packet in the Clerk's Office. If you would like an Absentee Ballot, you may request an application at the Clerk's Office as well.

August 2010 Primary Election

The August 3 ballot will contain the Re-

publican and Democrat primary races for US Congress, Governor, State Senate, State House and County Commissioner. Judicial and Proposals may also be included on the ballot.

November 2010 General Election

The November 3 ballot will contain the races for US Congress, Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Senate, State House, MSU/UM/WSU Board members, County Commissioner, State Supreme Court, Local Judges and Proposals.



Treasurer's Forum

I hope you and your family had a wonderful Holiday Season. You should have received your statement by now. If you didn't, let us know and we can send you another, or you can always pull up your tax information on our website, www.byrontownship.org, go to the treasurer's page, click on property tax information, and then current tax. Taxes are due by 5pm on Monday, February 15, 2010. The official date is

February 14, but since that falls on Sunday, you will have until the 15th. You can continue to pay your taxes at the township through February 28. On March 1st, unpaid taxes are turned over to the county. The exception to the rule is personal property taxes. These taxes are always paid at the township.

Dog licenses are also available in my office. You may purchase the licenses now

through March 1. Remember to bring your proof of rabies and if your pet has been altered. If you wish, you can renew your dog license on line at www.accesskent.com. Select Online Services and then select Dog License Renewal.

If you ever have questions, please stop in or call 878-3196 and Jacki and I will do our best to help.



"Winter taxes are due February 15, 2010"



Visit Kent District Library at the Byron Branch at 8191 Byron Center Avenue or online at www.kdl.org

Kent District Library

The Kent District Library was formed in 1994 after being a Kent County Department. KDL is made up of 18 branches, a Service Center and a website. The catalog for the library is jointly owned by several library systems in West Michigan. They formed a cooperative called Lakeland. You may check out books from any library in the Lake-

land system and return them to anyone as well. You may place holds on items and can be notified by phone or email when your selection arrives. The KDL website also has several online databases available from genealogy to health to auto repair. KDL also sponsors several programs from Babies to Senior Citizens. Program listings can be

found at any of the branches or on the website. All 18 branches have public computers, wireless internet, and color copiers/printers. Even though some of the Library technology has changed, one thing remains the same:

The Library is a great place to get a good book to read!

WWW.BYRONTOWNSHIP.ORG

BYRON TOWNSHIP



8085 Byron Center Avenue
Byron Center, MI 49315

Byron Township Phone List

Receptionist	616-878-9066
Supervisor	616-878-1222
Clerk	616-878-9104
Treasurer	616-878-3196
Inspections	616-878-9155
Assessor	616-878-6033
Water and Sewer	616-878-0660
Recreation	616-878-1998

Winter Safety

- Sidewalks- Byron Township Ordinance 350 states: "It shall be the duty of all owners of premises within the limits of the Township to keep all sidewalks...in good repair and free of obstructions (i.e. snow), and/or conditions." Please keep your sidewalk safe for your neighbors and fellow Township Residents.
- Use care with space heaters. Keep heaters away from curtains and furniture. Make sure there is plenty of ventilation when using liquid fueled heaters such as Kerosene heaters.
- Keep spare blankets, hats, gloves in the trunk of the car in the event you get stranded on the roadway. Also make sure you have a flashlight in your car.

Byron Township
8085 Byron Center Ave., SW
Byron Center, MI 49315

NEW WATER/WASTEWATER RATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2010

Byron Township Water & Sewer Department
www.byrontownship.org

You go to the kitchen and open the faucet and the water flows like...well...water. You turn a dial and the washing machine's soapy rinse water disappears down a drain. You don't think about it, it just happens...

The Byron-Gaines Utility Authority works hard to keep the 24/7/365 provision of clean, safe drinking water and sanitary sewer services as transparent to our customers as possible. You shouldn't have to think about it; that's our job. We do, however, need you to take a moment to think of how much it costs to keep the water flowing and wastewater draining away.

Byron Township's Water & Sewer Department along with Gaines Charter Township Water & Sewer department faces sizeable expense in providing life-sustaining water and wastewater services. However, the water & sewer department does not receive revenue from property taxes or any other financial support from the Township Government. The water & sewer department is an enterprise fund; an organization that provides goods or services to the public for a fee that makes the entity self-supporting. The total cost of the operations and maintenance of the water and sewer department are financed entirely from user fees – that are paid by you every quarter.

Every year the two townships review its rates based on the last fiscal year's expenses and local income (meter and inspection fees) to make sure they are sufficient to cover the cost of providing services.

Regular rate adjustments are necessary to make sure the rates generate the right amount of revenue and cash flow to provide reliable and sustainable services to the community. The City of Wyoming provides our water and treatment of our wastewater; therefore, rates are also in direct correlation to what Wyoming charges us for the commodity. Rates must keep up with the increasing cost of operations, including increases in electricity, raw materials like fuel and chemicals, insurance and labor, and changing regulatory requirements. Rates must also include depreciation expense and provide funds for emergencies.

On November 23, 2009, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Township Board approved the latest rate study and its recommended rates. The new rates are effective January 1, 2010. If you have questions about your water or wastewater service, please call Byron Township's water & sewer department at **616-878-0660**.

POTABLE WATER RATES

Billed at approximately 92-day intervals, the water rates consist of two separate charges:

Water Ready to Serve Fee ~ based on meter size and applicable to each domestic water meter account regardless of the consumption quantity.

Consumption Charge ~ the charge applicable to each 1,000 gallons of water that passes through the water meter.

Potable Water Ready to Serve Fees Charge (per quarter)
 Individually Metered Residential, Non-residential and Multi-family Residential

Meter Size (Inches)	2009 Rate	Rate Effective January 1, 2010
5/8"	\$ 17.11	\$ 15.72
1"	\$ 17.11	\$ 15.72
1 ½"	\$ 71.11	\$ 64.84
2"	\$125.05	\$114.04

Potable Water Consumption Rates ~ per 1,000 gallons
 Individually Metered Residential, Non-residential and Multi-family Residential

	2009 Rate	Rate Effective January 1, 2010
Rate per 1,000 gallons	\$ 1.81	\$ 1.99

WASTEWATER RATES

Just like potable water rates, wastewater rates consist of two separate charges ~ a sewer ready to serve fee based on water meter size and applicable to each account, regardless of the consumption quantity, and a consumption charge applicable to each 1,000 gallons of water that passes through the domestic water meter. There are NO ready to serve fees charged for water or sewer on an irrigation meter nor are there consumption charges for SEWER on an irrigation meter.

Wastewater Ready to Serve Fees Charge (per quarter)
 Individually metered Residential, Non-residential, and Multi-family Residential

Meter Size (Inches)	2009 Rate	Rate Effective January 1, 2010
5/8"	\$ 11.07	\$ 15.11
1"	\$ 11.07	\$ 15.11
1 ½"	\$ 45.94	\$ 62.23
2"	\$ 80.78	\$ 109.45

Wastewater Volume Charge per 1,000 Gallons
 Individually Metered Residential Volume Charge will no longer be capped.
 Separately metered Dwelling Units shall be billed at 74.6% of total metered Public water usage, unless a separate sprinkling meter is installed, then the dwelling unit (domestic meter) shall be billed sewer consumption at 100% of total metered public water usage.

Rates per 1,000 gallons		
2009 Rates	\$2.93 (billed at 100%)	\$2.1858 (billed at 74.6%)
Effective January 1, 2010	\$3.23 (billed at 100%)	\$2.4096 (billed at 74.6%)

Payment Options

We have several different payment options. You can come into the Township or use the drop box located by the East Entrance.

You will find a form on our website for an automatic withdrawal out of your checking or savings account quarterly. There is no charge for this from the township and it is a one time set up for continuous withdrawals on the 20th of the month that your quarterly bill is due. You will still receive a utility bill; however on the bottom left it will say "Auto-Draft Do Not Pay". If you chose to pay it before the 20th that month, it will not be deducted from your account that month.

Also available is a customer initiated debit/credit or checking or savings withdrawal when you receive your bill. On our website: www.byrontownship.org, on the left side you will see "water & sewer". Click on that and you will see a button that says, "Pay Bill". That will guide you through the process of paying that bill only either by debit/credit card or a withdrawal from your checking or savings account. When you use your debit or credit card the merchant will charge approximately 3% in a convenience fee that will be added to your total. For a checking or savings withdrawal, the merchant will charge a nominal fee of \$0.25 to be added to your total amount. (If you don't have access to the internet, we have a kiosk here at the township for your use to make utility bill payments.)

Watch for messages on your bills, and glance at the back side of your bill for important information about leaks and penalties.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to call us at (616) 878-0660 or visit our website at www.byrontownship.org and click on water & sewer.

BYRON TOWNSHIP RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Upcoming Winter Programs



Youth Programs

Indoor Golf

Each child will be supplied with their own floor mat, top of the line junior clubs, and indoor foam golf balls. The curriculum includes explanation of the game, grip, stance and swing fundamentals, long game, short game, and educational handouts.

Day: Thursday
Date: March 2– March 23
Time: 6:00– 7:00pm
Age: 5– 12 year olds



Cost: \$56 Resident/ \$66NR
Location: Brown Elementary Gymnasium
8064 Byron Center
Registration Deadline: February 19, 2010

Youth Ballet

This popular program is designed to introduce children to beginner ballet. Angela Peavey will lead the classes. She is currently the lead performing arts instructor at the Grand Rapids Civic Theater.

Day: Monday or Tuesday
Date: March 8 & 9– April 19 & 20
Time: 6:30-7:15pm, 3 year olds
7:15– 8:00pm, 4 year old



Age: 3 & 4
Cost: \$37 Resident /\$47 NR
Location: Community Center
2120 76th Street
Registration Deadline: March 5, 2010

Kindermusik

Parents and children will delight in learning new songs, stories and games together with Kindermusik. Each distinct themed session will have you and your child learning through creative play and music about the world around them. With each session children will receive take home materials including a CD and booklet that covers the songs and stories learned in class. Kindermusik helps kids develop a life long love of music and reading.

Day: Monday & Thursday
Date: March 1 & 4– March 29 & April 1
Time: Monday– 5:00-5:45pm
Thursday– 10:00– 10:45pm



Age: 18months– 3 years
Cost: \$52 Resident /\$62NR
Location: Community Center
2120 76th Street
Registration Deadline: February 19, 2010

Rocket Football

Rocket Football consists of teams from several area communities, competing with the league. Practices will be during the week and games will be held on Saturdays. There are 3 home games and 3 away games. This program strives to make playing football fun, instructional, safe, life learning, and a participatory experience for every child involved. Volunteer Coaches are needed.

Practice Day: Varies
Game Day: Saturday
Date: August 16– October 23

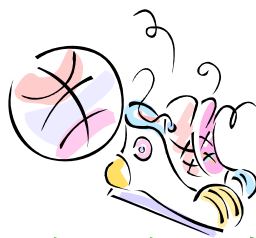


Age: 3rd– 6th grade (Fall 2010)
Cost: \$61 Resident/\$71 NR
Location: TBA
Registration Deadline: July 2, 2010

Sports Camp

Why not try a new sport, or lots of new sports, this spring break at sports camp! With a different sport each day you'll get the chance to work on skills and learn the basics. Basketball, soccer, volleyball, and much more.

Day: Monday– Friday
Date: April 5– 9
Time: 10:00– 11:00am 1st & 2nd grade
11:00am– 12:00pm 3rd & 4th grade
12:00– 1:00pm 5th & 6th grade



Age: 1st– 6th grade
Cost: \$25 Resident/\$35 NR
Location: Community Center
2120 76th Street
Registration Deadline: March 26, 2010

Art Explorations

A hands on burst of creativity in a fun and artful way! Exploring with pencils, markers, crayons, and other materials children will be able to create art with inspiration from people, stories, animals and more.

Day: Thursday
Date: March 11– April 22
Time: 4:15– 5:15pm
Age: 6+



Cost: \$41 Resident /\$51 NR
Location: Community Center
2120 76th Street
Registration Deadline: March 5, 2010



Adult Programs

How to Build a Website

If you've ever wondered what makes a website work, or how to build one from scratch, this class is for you! Building websites is not only fun, but it can be a valuable skill to carry around in life's tool box. Your instructor, Scott Ruth, of ScottymanMedia.com, will show you the tools of the trade and demystify the web development process.

Day: Saturday
Date: February 6, 13, 20
Time: 10:00-11:00am
Age: 16+

Cost: \$46 Resident /\$56 NR
Location: Community Center
2120 76th Street

Registration Deadline: January 22, 2010



Conversational Spanish

Would you like to be able to converse with someone who speaks Spanish? Are you planning a trip to Mexico or Latin America? Come and learn everyday conversational Spanish for beginners. Learn from a native certified teacher. The course for returning students will be a continuation of the beginning course.

Day: Wednesday
Date: March 17- April 28 (Skip: April 7)
Time: 6:00-7:00pm Beginner
7:00-8:00pm Returning
Age: 18+

Cost: \$41 Resident/ \$51 NR
Location: Brown Elementary Cafeteria
8064 Byron Center Ave

Registration Deadline: February 19, 2010

Adult Watercolor

Have you dabbled in watercolor painting in the past, or are you interested in learning? Get out those paint brushes and join the water color class to perfect your skills. Instructor Maryleah Marshall will use props to teach new techniques each week in a fun and creative way.

Day: Wednesday
Date: March 10- April 21
Time: 6:30- 8:30pm
Age: 18+



Cost: \$46 Resident /\$56 NR
Location: Community Center
2120 76th Street

Registration Deadline: March 5, 2010

Line Dancing

A fun and energetic way for anyone who loves music to get a little exercise and have a great time. You will learn the basic steps that can be incorporated into the songs. No partner is needed. Please do not wear open toe shoes.

Day: Wednesday & Thursday
Date: March 10 & 11- April 21 & 22
Time: 5:00-6:00pm
Age: 16+

Cost: \$41 Resident /\$51 NR
Location: Community Center
2120 76th Street

Registration Deadline: March 5, 2010

Slow Pitch Softball

The adult softball leagues will consist of 10 league games plus a single elimination tournament after league play is complete. Game balls, umpire and scorekeepers provided. Men's, Women's, and Coed leagues are available.

Day: Monday- Thursday
Date: May 3- July 22
Game Time: 6:16- 8:25pm

Age: 18+
Cost: \$450 per team
Location: Whistlestop Park

Registration Deadline: March 27, 2010

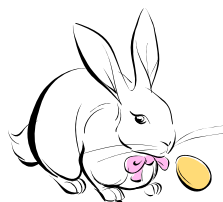
Special Events

Easter Egg Hunt



Here comes Peter Cotton Tail hopping to Whistlestop Park! A family fun Easter egg hunt and breakfast to welcome Spring. Meet the Easter bunny! Easter Egg hunt will take place outdoors.

Day: Saturday
Date: March 20
Time: 9:00-11:00am
Age: 2-8



Cost: \$4 Resident /\$6 NR
\$3 Parent Breakfast
Location: Community Center
2120 76th Street

Registration Deadline: March 12, 2010