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Township Calendar

January 10	Township Board Meeting
January 17	Planning Commission
January 24	Township Board Meeting
January 26	Board of Appeals
February 14	Township Board Meeting
February 21	Planning Commission
February 23	Board of Appeals
February 28	Township Board Meeting
March 14	Township Board Meeting
March 21	Planning Commission
March 23	Board of Appeals
March 28	Township Board Meeting

Tax Reminders

- Taxes are due February 14, 2011.
- You may make partial payments.
- Interest will be added to the balance due.
- Taxes will be turned over to the county after February 28.

Byron Township

A COMMUNITY ON THE MOVE

www.byrontownship.org

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 1

WINTER 2011

From the Supervisor Audrey Nevins Weiss

Byron Township Community Center Wins Award



I was very surprised to receive a phone call from Dykhouse Construction stating that the Community Center was nominated for an award by the Associated Builders and Contractors of West Michigan and we won for the best Pre-Engineered Building of 2010. Winners are selected by a panel of 50 + building professionals from West Michigan.

The Community Center has been a great addition to the Township. Attendance at events and programs have increased due to more space and memberships have long exceeded expectations. Our Active and Young At Heart(55+) group has doubled in size and they have a place to call home. I hope you have an opportunity to check out your award winning community center.

Treasurer's Forum

Carol Houseman

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 one, or you can always pull up your tax information on our website, www.byrontownship.org, click on Byron Property Tax Database and then click on current tax. Taxes are due by 5pm on Monday, February 14, 2011. You can continue to pay your taxes at the township through Monday, February 28. If you can't pay the full amount, we do accept partial payments. Any interest or penalty is only applied to the balance. 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.

Water and Sewer Department

**NEW WATER/WASTEWATER RATES
EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2011
NEW HOURS 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE**

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)	2010 Rate	Rate Effective January 1, 2011
5/8"	\$ 15.72	\$ 16.80
1"	\$ 15.72	\$ 16.80
1 1/2"	\$ 64.84	\$ 68.79
2"	\$114.04	\$120.97

Potable Water Consumption Rates ~ per 1,000 gallons

Individually Metered Residential, Non-residential and Multi-family Residential

Rate per 1,000 gallons	2010 Rate	Rate Effective January 1, 2011
	\$ 1.99	\$ 2.00

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)	2010 Rate	Rate Effective January 1, 2011
5/8"	\$ 15.11	\$ 16.40
1"	\$ 15.11	\$ 16.40
1 1/2"	\$ 62.23	\$ 67.11
2"	\$109.45	\$ 118.01

Wastewater Volume Charge per 1,000 Gallons

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

2010 Rates	\$3.23 (billed at 100%)	\$2.4096 (billed at 74.6%)
Effective January 1, 2011	\$3.65 (billed at 100%)	\$2.7229 (billed at 74.6%)

Payment Options

We have several different payment options. You can make payments from the comfort of your own home by using our township website: www.byrontownship.org. or by coming into the Township. We also have a drop box located by the East Entrance for after hour payments. (We will now be open at 7:00 a.m. for your convenience).

Sign up for **paperless billing** by emailing me at Julie@byrontownship.org.

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.

Clerk’s Corner

Joel Hondorp

2011 is Byron Township’s Dodransbicentennial

What is a Dodransbicentennial you may ask? It is the 175th Anniversary of the forming of Byron Township.

Byron Township was organized in 1836, and the first town meeting was held at the house of C.H. Oakes, in Grandville, by far the largest portion of the voters of that day residing in and near that village.

The officers elected for the year 1836 were:

Supervisor - Gideon H. Gordon

Clerk - Issac A. Allen

Assessors - Eli Yeomans, Ephraim P. Walker, Justin Brooks

Justice of Peace - Gideon H. Gordon, Robert Howlit, E.P. Walker

Collector - Lorenz French

At the general election in November, but 20 votes were polled for any one candidate. The present Township of Byron did not fill up so rapidly as some others and by the year 1850 its population had increased to only about 300.

To find out more about the history of the Township and the surrounding area, please check out the Byron Area Historical Museum located in the former Byron Township Hall. The address of the museum is 2506 Prescott and is run by the Byron Center Historical Society. The mission of the Society is the preservation of historically significant items within the museum at the historic town hall, education about area history, and functioning as a Genealogy Research Room, a Library and an Archivist of Records for Byron Township.

Kent District Library.....Byron Township Branch

Byron Township has had a library since 1887. The start was a local book lending service through the Clerk’s Office. The current branch was opened in December of 2003 and is a 13,640 square foot facility. 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 Lakeland 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!**

On December 27, the Byron Branch welcomed Michelle Miner as the new Branch Manager. Michelle has been with KDL for 8 years and comes to Byron from the East Grand Rapids branch where she served as a Youth Specialist. We welcome Michelle to our community.





www.byrontownship.org

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
KDL Branch	616-647-3830
Sheriff Substation	616-632-6490
BGUA	616-971-0002

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