

Supervisor's News

Audrey Nevins-Weiss, Supervisor

As you have already noticed the township is picking up speed in the building department. New businesses are moving into the township and filling some of our vacant buildings. Some are adding additions and some of the subdivisions are adding their next phase. Growth is good and with the tools in place (such as the master plan, recreation plan) Byron Township will continue to provide a higher quality of life for all of us.

Signs. The township building department requires temporary sign and/or banner permits. The first week of every month these sign will be removed if they are not preapproved through the building department.

Residents of Byron Township will have the opportunity to once again be able to use the Kent County landfill once a year free of charge. The Kent County Landfill, through the Township Supervisors office, will provide a coupon for one free car or truck load to dispose. Proof of residency shall be provided in order to receive your coupon. Call 878-1222 to receive your coupon.

The Township Board will soon be holding budget meetings for the 2013-2014 budgets. The 3rd quarterly financial reports show the townships budgets are doing well, and no amendments shall be necessary for the General Fund.

I am looking forward to 2013 and consider it a privilege to be working for Byron Township this next term of office. Happy New Year!

Byron Township Recreation Department & Community Center

The Byron Township Recreation Department takes pride in offering activities to people of all ages. The Recreation Department is housed in the Community Center located in Whistlestop Park. Recreation programs are held in Township parks, the Community Center and in the local school buildings.

The Community Center includes a full size gymnasium, fitness center, multipurpose rooms, lounge areas with Wi-Fi, and pool tables. There is a membership fee to use the gymnasium and fitness center. We offer affordable daily, monthly or annual rates. You do not have to be a member of the Community Center to register for programs. However, members do receive a discounted rate on the programs.

Byron Township Community Center
2120 76th Street | Byron Center, MI 49315
Phone 616.878.1998 | Fax 616.583.1220
byronrec.org

MEMBERSHIPS

RESIDENT	YEAR	MONTH	DAY
FAMILY	\$390	\$44	-
4-17	\$120	\$19	\$4
18-54	\$190	\$24	\$5
55+	\$140	\$19	\$4
NON-RESIDENT	YEAR	MONTH	DAY
FAMILY	\$585	\$66	-
4-17	\$180	\$28.50	\$6
18-54	\$285	\$36	\$7.50
55+	\$210	\$28.50	\$6



For more information please check out our website www.byrontownshiprecreation.org. Like us on Facebook to get up to date information.

Byron Township Recreation * 2120 76th Street * Byron Center, MI 49315
Phone: 616-878-1998 * Fax: 616-583-1220 * www.byrontownshiprecreation.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

14 Township Board
21 Planning Commission
23 Board of Appeals
28 Township Board

FEBRUARY

11 Township Board
18 Planning Commission
25 Township Board
27 Board of Appeals

MARCH

11 Township Board
18 Planning Commission
25 Township Board
27 Board of Appeals

APRIL

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

Clerk's Corner

Joel H. Hondorp, Clerk

Elections 2012

It was a busy year for elections last year. We held 4 of them! I want to take a moment to thank all of the Election Inspectors who worked those long days. They did very well and were very efficient in the operation of the precinct. We switched precinct borders in March and voters generally knew where they needed to go to vote. Here are the percentages of turnout for the 4 elections. Just a note, the precincts were different in February from the other 3.

ELECTION	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Presidential 2012	33.98%	22.44%	11.86%	33.68%	29.82%	26.92%	19.51%	27.98%	27.37%
GRCC 2012	12.35%	12.51%	3.19%	11.82%	10.13%	10.30%	9.67%	16.77%	10.79%
Primary 2012	29.59%	26.37%	9.53%	29.47%	31.22%	20.24%	24.80%	22.93%	24.35%
General 2012	78.96%	82.92%	49.72%	81.89%	83.33%	81.86%	72.93%	77.00%	75.75%

Getting ready for a Winter Get Away or going out of the country for Spring Break?

Byron Township is an official Passport Acceptance Agency for the United States Department of State. We have the forms necessary for applying for a passport.

Bring the necessary pieces of information:

- Proof of citizenship: certified, sealed birth certificate, or a previous passport, or naturalization papers, or a certificate of citizenship.
- A current Photo ID (Driver's License)
- Passport Photo (Available at Walgreens, Meijer, Sam's, Costco, etc.)
- Appropriate Fees (Check or Money Order only)
- For minor children under the age of 16, both parents must be present to sign the application or a notarized form from the absent parent must be attached to the application.
- All Applicants must appear in person.

Fees: (Two Separate Checks)

Age 16 and over:

\$110 Department of State

\$25 Byron Township

Under 16:

\$80 Department of State

\$25 Byron Township



If you need it processed faster add \$60 to the Department of State check. The cost is the same no matter where you apply. You may combine family members or groups into the two checks.

You can come to the Clerk's office any weekday 8-5, to apply for a passport.

Tips to Remember

Bring all the necessary information.

Payments must be made by Check or Money Order.

If you need to renew your passport, you may pick up forms at our office as well.

New Water/Wastewater Rates Effective January 1, 2013

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 December 10, 2012, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Township Board approved the latest rate study and its recommended rates. The new rates will decrease the average quarterly household bill approximately \$2.28 per quarter. The new rates are effective January 1, 2013.

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

	Existing Rate	Rate Effective January 1, 2013
Rate per 1,000 gallons	\$2.25	\$2.45

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 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.

Rate per 1,000 gallons		
Existing Rate	\$3.78 (billed at 100%)	\$2.8199 (billed at 74.6%)
Rate Effective January 1, 2013	\$3.50 (billed at 100%)	\$2.6299 (billed at 74.6%)

Treasurer's Forum Carol Houseman, Treasurer

I hope you and your family had a wonderful Holiday Season. You should have received your winter tax 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 Thursday, February 14, 2013. You can continue to pay your taxes at the township through Thursday, 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.

Payment Options

We have several different payment options. Of course you are always welcome to step into the Township Office Water & Sewer Department and pay in person with cash, check or credit card. We accept Master Card, Visa, and Discover. However we do not accept credit card payments over the phone.

Remember you can always pay after hours by using the drop box located by the East entrance. Payment must be received by 5:00 p.m. on the date it is due.

You can 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.)

Helpful Hints

We have paperless billing available to you. Email debbie@byrontownship.org and let us know that you would like to set up paperless billing for your quarterly water & sewer utility bill.

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

Please inform us when you will be gone for an extended period of time as the post office will no longer forward your postcard bill. Sometimes it can take weeks for the postcard to be returned to the Water and Sewer Department, and then placed in an envelope to be mailed out again. This process can result in late fees assessed to your water and sewer account.