



[www.byrontownship.org](http://www.byrontownship.org)

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SUMMER 2011

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## Township Calendar

July 11	Township Board
July 19	Planning Commission
July 22	Township Board
July 27	Board of Appeals
August 8	Township Board
August 15	Planning Commission
August 22	Township Board
August 27	Board of Appeals
September 12	Township Board
September 19	Planning Commission
September 26	Township Board
September 28	Board of Appeals

## Byron Township Website

[www.byrontownship.org](http://www.byrontownship.org)

**Your Township Office on the Web. Find minutes, forms, recreation information, property and tax information and so much more!**

## From the Supervisor Audrey Nevins Weiss

I want to express my appreciation to several of our area landscape companies for their very generous donation of plants and flowers to downtown Byron. Seven companies responded to my request to participate in our beautification project. The award winning 84<sup>th</sup> Street Beautification Project was funded through the cooperation of Byron Township, and the Byron Township Downtown Development Authority with grants from the Kent County Road Commission and Michigan Department of Transportation. This spring the project was further enhanced with the addition of beautiful flowers and plants donated by DeHammer Brothers Landscaping, Kuiper Landscape Management, Professional Fertilizing and Hydroseeding, K-Gardens, Plant 1 Landscape Supply, Chuck's Landscape and Management and Veurink's Daylillies.

The West Michigan Chalk Art Festival was a great success this year. Held on the weekend of June 17 and 18, the festival attracted 39 artists and over 300 children. This was the second year for the event and the first time it was held in the downtown area. Once again the Children's Chalk Event was held in the tennis courts in Bicentennial Park. Sponsored by the Community Wellness Foundation, the event brought thousands of residents and guests to Byron Township to participate or view this family event. Our committee worked for over six months preparing for the Chalk Art Festival and I personally want to thank all the artists, sponsors and volunteers that helped make the event a success. Byron's next major family event will be the Byron Days Festival held the last weekend in July.

In other news, the Byron Center Chamber of Commerce has moved their offices to the Township Hall. This move allows expanded hours for the Chamber and provides greater convenience and support for the business community. In these difficult economic times I encourage our residents to shop locally when possible and continue to support companies that create jobs in our community.

If I can be of any assistance or you have any questions about our Township government or any of the wonderful community groups that make Byron a wonderful place to live and raise our families, do not hesitate to contact me personally at 878-1222.

# Water and Sewer Department

## ASSIGNMENT TO TAXES

September 1<sup>st</sup> is fast approaching! On that day the water & sewer department per ordinance transfers all delinquent water & sewer usage 90 days or more past due to the upcoming winter tax bill. Also any unpaid assessment bills that went out July 1<sup>st</sup> that are not paid on September 1<sup>st</sup> will be assigned to taxes. What this means is that anyone who has these delinquent bills will see them on your upcoming winter tax bill with a 6% penalty included. The Township assigned almost \$200,000 in delinquent usage and special assessments to the 2010 winter tax bill.

## WATER SHUT OFFS

Because of the large amount that is being assigned to the winter tax bills each year, the Township has asked the Water & Sewer Department to begin the process of **shut offs** with a past due balance. This procedure has always been outlined in the Water & Sewer Ordinance, but has never been implemented. Beginning with the October 1<sup>st</sup> 2011 utility bills, the Township will begin shutting off water customers with a past due balance. The water & sewer department will be sending out **shut off notices** each month beginning in November 2011 to whomever is past due giving the customer ample time (30+ days) to pay the past due utility bill. If on the shut off day, the utility bill has not been paid, a cost recovery fee in the amount of \$50 will be added to the utility bill and the water will be **shut off** until the entire bill is paid in full.

## SPRINKLING METERS (IRRIGATION)

If you use a large volume of water for the purpose of sprinkling your lawn and landscaping, please consider a separate meter for irrigation. With a second meter you would not be billed for any sewer usage when you irrigate your lawn. For example, if you sprinkled your lawn over a billing period of 3 months using a total of 80,000 gallons, the sewer use charge alone would be about \$200.00 without a second meter. If you had a second meter there would be no sewer use charge on any irrigation water. As of this writing the township has 532 separate residential sprinkling meters. Call us for more details at 878-0660.

## BILLING OPTIONS

Paperless billing is available for your convenience. Email [Julie@byrontownship.org](mailto:Julie@byrontownship.org) for more information.

Automatic funds transfer from a checking or savings account. (form at [www.byrontownship.org](http://www.byrontownship.org))

The ability to pay your bill **online** with a debit/credit card is available at [www.byrontownship.org](http://www.byrontownship.org). Users paying with a debit/credit card will be charged a convenience fee. If you are paying with a debit/credit card and are in danger of shut off, please allow ample time for the processing of the payment! **(We do not accept credit card payments over the phone or at the counter.)**

Visit our website ([www.byrontownship.org](http://www.byrontownship.org)) to initiate the process to have a utility bill debited directly from a checking or savings account for only \$0.25. Visit our "new improved" website at [www.byrontownship.org](http://www.byrontownship.org) and click on "water and sewer" for forms and ordinances.

Have a great summer! Julie Meza, Water and Sewer Administrator

## Byron Days 2011 • July 28-31

### Come and Celebrate Byron Township's 175th Anniversary

Every July, the residents of Byron Township gather to celebrate and fellowship together. There is something for everyone. Some of the events are:

- BCM Flea Market
- Spaghetti Dinner
- Battle of the Bands
- Pancake Breakfast
- 5k Run/Walk
- Kids Fun Run
- Parade
- Chicken Dinner
- Inflatable Rides
- Kids Games
- Byron's Got Talent
- Craft Fair
- Food Booths
- Softball Tourney
- 3on3 Basketball
- Car Show
- Jessica Price Concert
- Dan Lawson Concert
- FIREWORKS!
- Church Service

For a full schedule of activities and details:

[www.byrondays.org](http://www.byrondays.org)

# Clerk’s Corner

# Joel Hondorp

## Census 2010

As you may have read this past spring, Michigan was the only state to have declining population. Due to that decline, Michigan will be losing one of its Congressional Districts. After the census numbers are released, the State Legislature needs to reapportion the districts to make them equally sized by population. As of the writing of the article, it looks we will remain in the 3rd Congressional District which is represented by Congressman Justin Amash. Also our State House and State Senate and County Commission Districts will have a few changes, but will be very similar. Byron Township’s population grew over the last 10 years by 15.9%. The growth was attributed to the addition of the following plats in the last 10 years: VanSingel Farms, Byron Lakes Estates, Byron Lakes West, Planters Row, Misty Ridge, Copperfield, Providence Lake, Amber Creek, Ridgestone, Reflection Lake, Waters Edge and Amber Farms plus other homes built in non platted areas. Take a look at population of Byron Township over the years. Byron Township moved from the 103rd most populous municipality to the 95th. There was even higher percentage of growth in Gaines and Jamestown Townships. The building of M-6 in the early part of the decade made the Townships in the south side of the county attractive to workers who commute to Grand Rapids or Kalamazoo for work. For more census information you can go to [www.michigan.gov/census](http://www.michigan.gov/census).

Year	Population
1970	7,493
1980	10,111
1990	13,235
2000	17,553
2010	20,317

## Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks

In order to serve you better, I belong to International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC), the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks (MAMC) and the Kent County Clerks Association (KCCA). These organizations were created to serve its members by providing quality education, sharing of knowledge and promotion of the position of Municipal Clerk. There are 1610 municipal clerks in Michigan. There are certain tasks that most clerks are responsible. Two of those tasks are Elections and Records Management. There are other tasks that some clerks have that others do not. For example, I am responsible for cemeteries, accounts payable and payroll. Other municipalities may have other staff that cover those tasks. The meetings that I attend with each organization sharpen my abilities and provide necessary information that I need to serve you better. In June, I was sworn in as President of the MAMC and will serve in that capacity until the end of June, 2012. I fully believe that continuing education is important no matter your profession or stage of life.

# Treasurer’s Forum

# Carol Houseman

Summer tax season is in full swing. You should have received your bill the 1<sup>st</sup> week of July. If you didn’t, call us. Your 2011 summer taxes are due by **Wednesday, September 14, 2011 at 5:00pm**. 1% interest will be added at that time and an additional 1% the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month.

We have several options for paying your bill.

**CHECK OR CASH:** In person, dropped in drop box at the East entrance of the building, or by mail. Remember we don’t accept postmarks.

**ACH WITHDRAWAL:** Sign up and we will withdraw your payment on September 1 directly from your bank or credit union. Forms are on line at [www.byrontownship.org](http://www.byrontownship.org)

**ON LINE PAY:** Go to our website and go to the Treasurer’s page and scroll to “Pay Bill”. A fee of approximately 3% will be charged for debit or credit card payments and 25¢ for checking and savings.

If your gross income was under \$40,000.00 for 2010, you are 62 years or older, you are disabled, or if your property is classified Agricultural Real Property, you can defer your Summer taxes until the Winter tax due date without interest or penalties. A copy of the form is on the website or we can send you one.

Sometimes it is difficult to pay the full amount of taxes by the due date. **We do accept partial payments.** When you make a partial payment, the interest or penalty is only added to the unpaid balance.

As always, if you have any questions, please give us a call or stop in. 616-878-3196 Jacki or Carol will be happy to assist you.

Have a safe and wonderful summer!!



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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



**BYRON FARMERS' MARKET**  
COMMUNITY WELLNESS CONNECTION

**Every Saturday until October 8**  
**8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.**

Located in the Heart of Byron Center  
8350 Byron Center Avenue, SW  
Parking Lot of Pathway Ministries

**Byron Township**

**8085 Byron Center Ave., SW**

**Byron Center, MI 49315**