



BYRON BUGLE



www.byrontownship.org



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October, 2009

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Township Calendar

October 12	Township Board Meeting
October 19	Planning Commission
October 26	Township Board Meeting
October 28	Board of Appeals
November 9	Township Board Meeting
November 16	Planning Commission
November 23	Township Board Meeting
November 25	Board of Appeals
December 14	Township Board Meeting
December 21	Planning Commission
December 28	Township Board Meeting
December 30	Board of Appeals

From the Supervisor

Audrey Nevins



2009 Leaf Drop Off Program

Collection Drop-Off Station to assist Township Residents in disposing of their leaves. The Township Board is encouraging use of this drop-off site as an alternative to open burning. The drop-off site will be located near the ball fields at Bi-Centennial Park, 8085 Byron Center Avenue SW because it is centrally located within the Township.

This service is provided for Byron Township Residents only and proof of residence may be required. The program is provided at no charge for residents. Only dry bagged leaves will be accepted. Township employees will be available to assist in placing the leaves in the compactor truck. Residents will take leaf bags back with them.

A chipper will be available on October 31 and November 7 only for branches, twigs or shrubs.

Leaves will only be accepted on these 4 Saturdays. Leaves brought at other times could lead to the end of the program.

Leaf Collection Dates and Time
Saturdays 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
October 31 and November 7, 14, 21

From the Water and Sewer Department

During the later part of September and through the middle of October the Utility Authority will be doing *directional flushing* of the water-main system in various locations within the Township.

Utility System Operators will be isolating sections of the water-main by shutting down main line valves, forcing the water in one direction and flushing out at the fire hydrant locations within that section. This process typically helps with water turbidity by moving in one direction and also gives opportunity to inspect and work the fire hydrants on a particular section of water-main piping. (Residence may experience cloudy water during this time of flushing. This does not make the water unsafe to drink; flushing your faucets typically will clear out the cloudiness).

Reminder: There have been numerous reports within several counties this past summer of fire hydrants tampering; caps removed, and hydrants opened and left flowing. The use of Fire Hydrants (Ordinance Section 1305) in the township requires a Hydrant Use Permit which can be obtained at the Byron-Gaines Utility Authority Office located at 1381 84th Street S.E.

If you have any questions or want further information regarding the Utility Authorities System Operations please contact Katie Balfourt, Office Administrator, or Dan Van Dyke, Authority Manager at 971-0002 from 8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m, Monday –Friday.



“Cars, not candy should be Parents’ primary safety concern on Halloween.”



Holiday Safety

General Holiday Safety Tips

- All holiday decorations should be non-combustible or flame-retardant and not placed near heat or electrical sources.
- Keep candles away from flammable materials like curtains, plants, and Christmas Trees—place candles where they can’t be blown over.
- Don’t forget to change your smoke detector batteries when you set your clocks back in the fall.
- Never use an oven or range as a sup-

plemental heating device. It can be a source of potential toxic fumes.

- Never store gasoline or propane in the basement.
- If there is a fire hydrant near your home please keep the hydrant clear of snow so in the event it is needed, it can be locate.

Have a Happy and Safe Holiday Season from the Byron Township and Cutlerville

Fire Departments.

Halloween Safety

Cars, not candy should be Parents’ primary safety concern on Halloween. To help make your child’s Halloween safe, Byron Township would like to recommend the following safety precautions:

- Children under the age of 12 should have adult supervision.

- Decorated costumes and bags with reflective tape.
- Give trick-or-treaters flashlights.
- Be sure your children dress in flame retardant costumes.
- Keep candles, pumpkins with candles, matches and lighters out of the reach of children.

Christmas Safety



- Keep Christmas tree needles moist by replenishing the water supply daily. Dryness is the biggest fire safety hazard. Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks.
- Check your indoor and outdoor Christmas lights each year before you use them. If there are frayed cords, exposed wires or broken sockets, replace or repair them before using. Unplug

your lights when you leave your home or before going to bed.

- Do not put wrapping paper in a fireplace or stove, it can throw off dangerous sparks.
- **NEVER LEAVE CANDLES AND CHILDREN UNATTENDED.**

Also, please make sure you have an address on your home that is visible from the street. This will help emergency vehicles find your home and save precious time.

Clerk's Corner

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)
- Two Passport Photos (Available at Walgreens, Meijer, Sam's, Costco, etc.)
- Appropriate Fees (Check or Money Order only)
- For minor children under the age of 14, 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.

Treasurer's Forum

Another summer is behind us and fall has begun. I hope you and your family were able to relax and enjoy the beautiful season together.

The Treasurer's Office is a little quieter these days, since the Summer Tax Cycle was over on September 14. Hopefully, you remembered to pay your property taxes. If you did forget, payments can be made to the Township until February 28, 2010. Interest of 1% will be added the first of each month on the unpaid balance. If you are in doubt if your taxes were paid, please call my office at 878-3196.

There appears to be some confusion on the tax statements. There will continue to be 2 statements per year. The only thing that moved to the summer was

Joel Hondorp

Fees: (Two Separate Checks)

Age 16 and over:

\$75 Department of State
\$25 Byron Township

Under 16:

\$60 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.



Carol Houseman

the Kent County line item. The summer tax bill is approximately 72% of your annual tax bill and the winter tax bill is 28%.

Winter taxes will be in the mail the first week of December. They are due on February 15, 2010. This is President's Day and we will be open that day. If you wish to use the deduction for your 2009 income taxes, the payments must be in by December 31st.

2009 dog licenses will be available at the Township from December 1, 2009 through March 1, 2010. After those dates you may get them from Kent County Animal Control.

If you have questions or just want to say hi, please stop in. My door is always open.

“Winter taxes will be in the mail the first week of December.”

www.byrontownship.org



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

*Byron Township
Holiday Days Closed*

*Thanksgiving
Day after Thanksgiving*

*December 24 - 25
December 31 - January 1*

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

BYRON TOWNSHIP RECREATION

"Creating Community through People, Parks and Programs"

Ballet

Classes	Day	Date	Time	Instructor	Location
3&4 year Olds	Mon	Nov 2- Dec 7	6:30 - 7:15pm	Miss Angie	Community Center
5-7 Year Olds	Mon	Nov 2- Dec 7	7:15 - 8:00pm	Miss Angie	Community Center
3 year Olds Morning	Wed	Nov 4- Dec 16 *Skip Nov 25	10:00 - 10:45am	Miss Angie	Community Center
4 year Olds Morning	Wed	Nov 4- Dec 16 *Skip Nov 25	11:00 - 11:45am	Miss Angie	Community Center

Registration Deadline: Oct 23

Art Explorations

Designed to teach children the proper fundamentals of basic art. Exploring with pencils, markers, crayons, and other materials children are able to explore their imaginations with inspiration from people, stories, animals, and more.

Day: Thursday Cost: \$40R/\$50NR
 Date: Nov 5 Dec 17 Age: 7-12
 *Skip Nov 25 Location: Community Center



Registration Deadline: Oct 23

Time: 4:15-5:15pm

Kindermusik

"Sign and Sing," 10:00am-11:00am- Play, sign, and sing using everyday items in engaging small and large group activities.
 "Outside My Window," 11:00am-12:00pm- You and your child will enjoy a range of imagination and listening skills.

Day: Thursday **Outside My Window** Date: Nov 5- Dec 10 and Cost: \$51R/\$61NR

Sign and Sing Date: Nov 5-Dec 17 and Cost: \$69R/\$79NR

Skip: Nov 26

Age: 18 months- 3 years old Location: Community Center

Time: 10:00- 11:00am or 11:00-12:00am



Registration Deadline: Oct 23

Water Color

Get out those paint brushes and join the watercolor class to perfect your skills. Instructor Maryleah Marshall will use props to teach new techniques each week

Day: Wednesday Cost: \$45R/\$55NR
 Date: Nov 4- Dec 16 Location: Community Center
 *Skip Nov 25



Time: 6:30-8:00pm

Registration Deadline: Oct 23

Adult Conversational Spanish

Planning a trip to Mexico or Latin America? Come and learn everyday conversational Spanish for the beginner. Learn from a native teacher.

Day: Wednesday Cost: \$40R/\$50NR
 Date: Oct 28- Dec 16 Location: Brown Elementary Cafeteria



Time: 7:00-8:00pm

Registration Deadline: Oct 23

Beginner Line Dancing

You will learn the basic steps that can be incorporated into songs. No partner is needed. Please do not wear open-toe shoes to class.

Day: Thursday Cost: \$40R/\$50NR
 Date: Nov 5- Dec 17 Location: Community Center



Time: 5:00-6:00pm

Registration Deadline: Oct 23

Ballroom Dancing- Rumba

Carol Kirschner our instructor will move at the pace of the class from beginner to advanced.

Day: Tuesday Cost: \$61R/\$71NR
 Date: Nov 3- Dec 8 Location: Brown Elementary



Time: 7:00-8:00pm

Registration Deadline: Oct 30

Byron Township Parks and Recreation * 2120 76th St * Byron Center, MI 49315

Phone: 878-1998* Website: www.byrontownship.org*Fax: 583-1220 *Cancellation Hotline: 878-0623

TRUNK OR TREAT

The 5th annual Trunk or Treat event will include activities such as hayrides and entertainment. For the main event, families will line up and parade past a line of fully decorated vehicle trunks gathering goodies. Come out and see your favorite trunk in festive decorations. Get a chance to see up close and personal a Fire Truck, Cop Car, and much more.

We are seeking businesses and volunteers for this year's event to decorate trunks and hand out candy and/or promotional items. This annual event is a great opportunity for families to participate in fun and safe Halloween activities. Last year we served 600 children and a total of approximately 1000 guests/parents. If you would like to participate this year by decorating your trunk, volunteering at the event, or giving a donation please contact the Byron Township Recreation Department at 878-1998.

Day: Saturday Date: October 17, 2009
 Time: 12:00-2:00pm Cost: FREE
 Age: All ages welcome Location: Whistlestop Park, 2120 76th Street



Note: You do not have to pre register for this program.

CANDY CANE HUNT

Children ages 3-4, 5-6 and 7-8 will have their own area to hunt for candy canes. Everyone will win a prize. Some special candy canes will be hidden and can be redeemed for special prizes. After the candy cane hunt a pizza lunch will be served inside the Community Center. Santa Claus will make a special appearance. After lunch families will be able to make arts and crafts and have a family portrait taken.

Day: Saturday Cost: \$3R/\$4.50NR, \$2 Parent lunch
 Date: Dec ember 5 Location: Community Center
 Time: 11:30am Hunt/12:00pm Lunch



Registration Deadline: Nov 25

GENERAL REGISTRATION FORM

Participant's Name: _____ Email: _____
 Age: _____ Birthday: ____ / ____ / ____ Grade: _____ School: _____ Male/Female
 Address: _____ City _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____ Municipality (where you pay taxes): _____
 Phone: _____ Alternate Phone: _____

Program Name	Start Date	Program Time	Cost
*No refunds after deadline	TOTAL COST	\$	(\$5 late fee after deadline)

Release: I understand all the information given above is correct and I grant permission to Byron Township Recreation employees to submit credit card transaction that was given over the phone, fax or via email for this registration. I know that participating in the program named above is a potentially hazardous activity. I should not register and/or participate unless I am medically and physically able. I assume all risks associated with participating in the program above including, but not limited to falls, contact with other participants, and the effects of the weather (including high heat and/or humidity), waive and release Byron Township, any and all partners, sponsors, officials, volunteers, instructors, coaches, and their representatives and successors from all claims or liabilities of any kind arising out of my participation in the program above, even though that liability may rise out of negligence or carelessness on the part of the person's named in this waiver. I grant permission to all the of the foregoing to use any photographs, motion picture, recordings, or any other record of me for any legitimate purpose. IF PARTICIPANT IS UNDER 18: This is to certify that I acknowledge and agree to the above for my son/daughter/ward, and that my son/daughter/ward has my permission to participate in the program above, is in good medical and physical condition, and that Recreation employees, volunteers, officials, instructors, and/or coaches have my permission to authorize emergency medical treatment if necessary. I grant permission to all of the aforementioned to use any photographs, motion pictures, recordings, or any other record of my child for any legitimate purpose.

Signature of Participant (if 18+) (Required) _____ Signature of Parent (if participant is under 18) (Required) _____

YES, I would like to donate to the youth Scholarship program. Amount: \$1 \$5 \$10 Other: _____
Credit Card#: _____ **Name on card:** _____
Address: _____ **Zip:** _____
Expiration Date: _____ **VISA MC Expiration Date:** _____
For Office Use Only: Date Paid: Amount: Cash: Check: Receipt #: Staff Initials: _____