

# THE BYRON TOWNSHIP BUGLE



Volume 12, Issue 2

[www.byron.mi-twp.org](http://www.byron.mi-twp.org)

April 2003

## Dates to Note:

April 14	Township Board Meeting
April 21	Planning Commission
April 28	Township Board Meeting
April 23	Zoning Board of Appeals
May 12	Township Board Meeting
May 19	Planning Commission
May 26	Township Board Meeting
May 28	Zoning Board of Appeals
June 9	Township Board Meeting
June 16	Planning Commission
June 23	Township Board Meeting
June 25	Zoning Board of Appeals

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## From the Supervisor By Larry Silvernail

April 1 commenced the Township's new fiscal year for 2003-2004. The Township Board has just completed its lengthy budget process and has approved the budget.

The Byron Township total budget including General, Fire and Law Enforcement is \$5,277,925.00. Our anticipated revenue for this fiscal year is about \$4,480,000.00. As you can see our expenditures will exceed our anticipated revenues and we will be using our accrued balance from previous years to meet our obligations.

The additional expenditures are due to the two large capital projects we will be completing this year. And this is what we have been saving our tax dollars for.

We will be breaking ground for our new 13,640 square foot library the first week of April. The Township Board has budgeted \$1,750,000.00 for its construction. It will be constructed on the Township owned property just south of the Township Office at 8085 Byron Center Avenue.

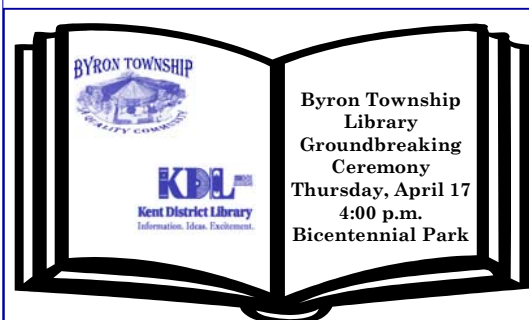
If residents would like to see what our new library is going to look

like, drawings are on display in the conference room at the Township Offices. The best news is that when the library is completed it will be paid for without borrowing any money.

The Township will be completing Phase 3 of Whistlestop Park this year. This years project will include an open air shelter, completing dug-outs for the ball fields, building and furnishing a playground area for children and finally at years end all of the ball diamonds and football/soccer fields will be ready for play. The top coat of asphalt and restoration and seeding will be underway in a week or two. The park will be open to the public about April 15.

Both of the above projects, the new Whistlestop Recreational Park and the new library are the direct result of a community wide survey conducted by the Township back in 1998. That survey indicated that additional recreational facilities and a new library were the top two priorities our residents wanted to see in our community.

It is always a challenge to deal with new growth, the infrastructure and services required to accommodate this growth. Byron Township continues to grow at a rate of about 3% per year. I believe your Byron Township Board of Trustees, its Commissions and Committees continue to be committed to the goals of managing growth, maintaining high standards of service and preserving the quality of life we all enjoy in Byron Township.



## FROM THE PROTECTION SERVICES DEPARTMENT

### By Ron Sabin



Spring is just around the corner and you may be thinking of working in your lawn. Byron Township Protection Services would like to remind you that burning is prohibited in many areas of our community. Areas that prohibit burning include RU, RD, MFR, Business and Industrial Zones. An example of this type of zoning would be housing developments, mobile home communities, or condominiums. Burning is permitted in RA, RR, and RS zones with a burning permit. Permits can be given by the Fire Chief or the Byron Township Supervisor as long as it meets the criteria in our Burning Ordinance. Any

person that violates the burning ordinance could be found guilty of a misdemeanor and could be fined up to \$500. Camp fires are permitted as long as they are no larger than 1 cubic yard of an authorized combustible material and are at least 200 feet from any dwelling. If you have any questions in regards to the type of zoning where you live, please feel free to call our office.

April 6 marks the beginning of Daylight Savings Time. When the time changes in the Spring and Fall, it is a good time to check the batteries in your smoke detectors and practice emergency exit drills in your home.

Have a safe summer.

## Congratulations South Christian Boys Basketball State Champions

What an incredible year for the Sailors of South Christian. First, a state championship in football and now a state championship in basketball. The Sailors finished the year unbeaten at 27-0. South Christian made it to the Championship by defeating Coloma in the quarterfinals, Corunna in the semifinals and Muskegon Heights in the Finals. The Sailors are coached by Ken Hiskes, who is in his sixth season with South Christian and has a 123-27 record for those seasons.

### 2003 South Christian Sailors

Danny Brown  
Rob White  
Joe Skinner  
Derek VanSolkema  
Kirk Walters  
Eric Atsma  
David DeBoer

Jason Ellens  
Marc Damstra  
Kyle Potgeter  
Scott Warsen  
Brandon Mulder  
Ben Frederick  
David Kool

## Kent County Road Commission And Michigan Department of Transportation

### GIVE 'EM A BREAK!

The Employees of the Kent County Road Commission want to thank our Township Residents for the positive support you have given us during the winter season.

As we look ahead to another busy summer maintenance and construction program, we want to remind you to drive carefully, especially within Kent County Road Commission's maintenance and construction work areas. **You can make a difference!**

So, when you see the orange signs, barrels, and cones, please slow down and drive alertly. With your help, we will have another productive and safe road improvement season.

### US131 NB and SB and 68<sup>th</sup> Street

US-131 between 84<sup>th</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup> Streets will immediately begin seeing various construction operations. This work is required to complete the reconstruction of US-131 and the interchange with M-6 and 68<sup>th</sup> Street.

US-131 SB will be shifted to the right between 76<sup>th</sup> and 68<sup>th</sup> Streets and 54<sup>th</sup> and 44<sup>th</sup> Streets beginning Monday night, March 31. In addition, single lane closures will be implemented at these locations overnight from 7:00 pm to 6:00 am beginning Monday night, March 31 and continuing for three weeks. The shifting and lane restrictions are required to construct the US-131 median.

US-131 SB at 68<sup>th</sup> Street on and off ramps will be closed until fall beginning Monday night, March 31. The closure is required to complete the reconstruction of the US-131 interchange with M-6 and 68<sup>th</sup> Street.

## THE TREASURER'S FORUM By Carol Houseman

### Changes in Tax Collection

With the passing of Public Act 244 last year, all future tax statements will be slightly different. Public Act 244 requires the SET (State Education Tax) on all properties to be collected at 100% on the summer tax bill. In the past, we split the SET 50/50 between the winter and summer tax bill. 3 mills was collected on each statement. The entire 6 mills will now be collected on the summer tax statement, except for 2003.

**For 2003 only**, the SET millage rate will be 5 mills. Taxpayers will receive a one year 16% savings as compensation for the collection timing change. After 2003, the SET millage rate will return to 6 mills. Below is a chart showing the difference for a home that has homestead exemption and is valued at \$150,000 with a taxable value of \$75,000.

**Tax levy for 2003 is not available, so this is an estimate.**

## THE CLERK'S CORNER By Joel Hondorp

### Take Time to Clean Up!



As I travel around the Township, I have noticed more trash than normal laying in yards and along the street. Byron Township is such a wonderful place to live and work. If we all pitch in we can keep the Township beautiful.

### School Election - June 9

If you are not registered to vote and wish to vote in the school election, you must register by May 12. If you turn 18 between May 12 and June 9, you may register 30 days before your birthday. You may register to vote at the Clerk's Office, any Secretary of State Branch, or you may download a registration form from the Secretary of State's website: [www.michigan.gov/sos](http://www.michigan.gov/sos).

School District	Byron Center	Grandville	Kentwood	Wayland
2002 Summer Tax Levy	12.6157	17.8509	11.3152	6.5001
	x75	x75	x75	x75
2002 Summer Taxes	\$946.15	\$1,338.81	\$848.64	\$487.50
2003 Summer Tax Levy	14.6157	19.8509	13.3153	8.5001
	x75	x75	x75	x75
2003 Summer Taxes	\$1,096.17	\$1,488.81	\$998.64	\$637.50
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>
School District	Byron Center	Grandville	Kentwood	Wayland
2002 Winter Tax Levy	15.4074	8.4109	14.107	14.9188
	x75	x75	x75	x75
2002 Winter Taxes	\$1,155.55	\$630.81	\$1,058.02	\$1,118.91
2003 Winter Tax Levy	12.4074	5.4109	11.107	11.9188
	x75	x75	x75	x75
2003 Winter Taxes	\$930.55	\$405.81	\$833.02	\$893.91
<b>Difference</b>	<b>-\$225.00</b>	<b>-\$225.00</b>	<b>-\$225.00</b>	<b>-\$225.00</b>

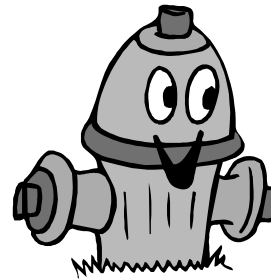
Just a reminder: If you have purchased or sold a home in the past year, you should check and make sure your homestead exemption has been changed. If it hasn't, it will cost you an additional 18 mills per year or \$1350 on a \$150,000 house. I hope this helps in clearing up some of your questions on the changes.



Byron Township  
8085 Byron Center Avenue  
Byron Center, MI 49315  
Phone: 616-878-9066  
Fax: 616-878-3980  
**Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.**  
[www.byron.mi-twp.org](http://www.byron.mi-twp.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



**NEW BYRON-GAINES UTILITY AUTHORITY**

Byron Township, in cooperation with Gaines Charter Township has formed a Utility Authority to provide for the future operation and maintenance of the public water system and the public sanitary sewer system within the two Townships. The Byron-Gaines Utility Authority will replace Kent County Department of Public Works in providing both Townships' public water and sewer operation and maintenance, effective July 1, 2003. For more information, contact Lynn Thomas, Utility Authority Manager at (616) 698-6640. Also look for more detailed information in the next edition of the "Bugle" scheduled for delivery July 1, 2003.

**Byron Township**

8085 Byron Center Ave., SW

Byron Center, MI 49315

*Remember to set your clocks forward 1 hour - April 6, 2003*