



BYRON BUGLE



www.byron.mi-twp.org

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April 2004

From the Office of the Supervisor

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Township Calendar

April 12	Township Board Meeting
April 19	Planning Commission
April 26	Township Board Meeting
April 28	Board of Appeals
May 10	Township Board Meeting
May 17	Planning Commission
May 24	Township Board Meeting
May 26	Board of Appeals
June 14	Township Board Meeting
June 21	Planning Commission
June 28	Township Board Meeting
June 23	Board of Appeals

State of the Township

With spring rapidly approaching and many things in nature taking on new life, it is relatively easy to get excited about what the future may bring. But perhaps also a time to reflect on past accomplishments and the impact they have had on our individual lives and upon our community.

Byron Township commences its 2004-2005 fiscal year with a reasonable general fund balance which will allow us to continue our Whistlestop Park project, make some significant sidewalk improvements, help construct some new roads and help maintain our current local road system. Storm water management regionally is becoming a big issue as State and Federal mandates require us to resolve and improve both the quantity and quality of storm water discharge. This will require a significant financial commitment on the part of the Township.

The population of Byron Township continues to grow at a rate of about 3% per year. Our population according to the 2000 Federal census was 17,533 residents. An estimate of our population 4 years later is approximately 20,000. Continuing to provide and maintain services for our growing population is challenging and I believe your elected officials and staff employees have been equal to the task.

Our new library was dedicated and open for business December 22 of last year and already

is experiencing a 30% increase in usership. Whistlestop Park, our new 59 acre recreational park was dedicated last spring and has an amazing amount of use. We will be expanding its parking facilities for the second time this spring. Please stop in and visit both new facilities. We are very proud of both and they certainly enhance the quality of life in our community.

Transportation or road construction projects for 2004 include the expansion and improvement of the intersection at 76th & Burlingame. This will be an early spring project. Byron Center Avenue from 64th Street to 76th Street will be expanded to 5 lanes. Some utility work will be included in this project. 68th Street will be extended from Burlingame to Byron Center Avenue. Of course, the big project is the South Beltline (M6) that we expect to be open for traffic late this fall of 2004. Regular road maintenance projects will continue as well.

As we look forward to the future, the Byron Township Board and its appointed Commissions and Committees continue to be dedicated to maintaining and improving the quality of life in our community, while being conservative and operating within the financial means provided by you the taxpayers of our great community.

Have a great and safe summer!

Larry Silvernail
Byron Township Supervisor

Byron Township Library ... A Branch of Kent District Library

Monday, April 19, 2004 6:30 PM

[Covered Bridges & One Room School Houses](#)

Diana Stampler, of the West Michigan Tourist Association, will share a slide show focusing on covered bridges and one room school houses found throughout West Michigan. Bring a picture of a one room school house if you have one. Registration is required.

Wednesday, April 21, 2004 11:00 AM

[Barnyard Song Storytime](#)

Featuring farm related stories, songs, crafts and other activities related to Michigan Reads! 2004 selection of Barnyard Song by Rhonda Gowler Greene. Ages 6 and under. Registration is required.

Thursday, April 22, 2004 12:00 pm until 8:00 pm

[Down on the Farm Drop In Crafts](#)

Make your very own farm animal puppet.

Friday, April 23, 2004 11:00 AM

[Barnyard Song LIVE!](#)

Come be a part of Barnyard Song by Rhonda Gowler Greene. Make an animal mask and help act out the story. Ages six and under. Registration is required.

Monday, April 26, 2004 7:00 PM

[Let it Snow Reading Club Celebration - Meet the One Book, One County Author](#)

Award-winning author of The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency, Alexander McCall Smith, highlights KDL's annual Let It Snow Reading Club Celebration. Enjoy entertainment, refreshments and door prizes (the ever-popular book baskets). The Celebration will be held at the Kentwood Fine Arts Center. Admission is free.

Wednesday, April 28, 2004 11:00 AM

[Get Well Soon Storytime](#)

Featuring stories, songs, crafts and other activities about being sick. Based on Michigan Reads! 2004 selection of Barnyard Song by Rhonda Gowler Greene. Ages 6 and under. Registration is required.

Thursday, May 6, 2004 7:00 PM

[Book Discussion For Adults](#)

Join us for a friendly, informal book discussion for adults. Please call the library for more information.

Thursday, May 13, 2004 3:00 PM

[Teen Advisory Group Meeting](#)

Like to read? Want to share your ideas? The TAG meets to recommend books, music, movies and more for the library. They also plan programs for teens, discuss good books and have fun! Ages 12 to 18.

Wednesday, June 23, 2004 7:00 PM

[Bats of the World](#)

Step into the world of bats and discover the tremendous species diversity surrounding these mammals. A wide variety of bats will be shown and discussed by a representative from the Organization for Bat Conservation. Registration is required. Ages 6 and up.

Thursday, June 24, 2004 10:30 AM

[Pet Show](#)

Does your dog have the waggiest tail? Does your cat have the silkiest fur? Does your rat do tricks? Show them off at our pet show - every pet is a winner! Pick up a registration form at the library to sign up your pet for this fun family event. Registration is required. For all ages.

Friday, June 25, 2004 10:30 AM

[Movie and a Craft](#)

Need something to do? Come join us for a craft, video or story. Presented by teen volunteers. For ages 6 and under.

Monday, June 28, 2004 6:30 PM

[Teen Photography Workshop](#)

Do you like to take pictures, with either a film or digital camera? Then join us for a "one shot" workshop on the art of photography with photographers Amy Brower and Eric Doyle. Registration is required, bringing your own film or digital camera is optional. For ages 11 and up.

Tuesday, June 29, 2004 1:30 PM

[Magic Tree House](#)

Let the Magic Tree House whisk you away to faraway places! Join us for games, crafts, and fun. For ages 6 and up. Registration is required.

Wednesday, June 30, 2004 1:30 PM

[In Style - Duct Tape](#)

Create the latest fashion statement in duct tape - make wallets, cd holders, jewelry, a purse, and more! Let your creativity flow with this very versatile material. For teens.

Clerk's Corner

What is REGIS?

REGIS stands for Regional Geographic Information System. REGIS is a part of the Grand Valley Metro Council and Byron Township was part of the project from the very beginning. I have the privilege of being a member of the REGIS Board of Directors. Information is updated daily in regards to parcel information and various other information. Our Township staff use REGIS in many capacities. It is used for planning and

zoning, creating precinct maps, general township overview and creating mailing lists of a particular area.

There is also a way the general public can gain access to REGIS called REGIS IMS (Internet Map Service). You can search for parcels, bus routes, parks, zoning and future land use.

The web address is:

<http://ims.gvmc-regis.org:1052/>

Treasurer's Forum

Change in Tax System Software

During 2004 we are switching from a Kent County-wide Property Tax Administration System to a Township based tax system. What does this mean for you? Your bill will look differently. Taxes will still be due at the same time: September 14 for Summer and February 14 for Winter. One of the major changes is that we will updating the system with address changes and parcel splits here at the Township Office.

The information updated at the Township will then be uploaded to the County for use with their Access Kent system.

The REGIS system mentioned above and the following website at Kent County work together so you can find information on a parcel:

<https://www.accesskent.com/servlet/Property>

Byron Township Inspection Services

Our office would like to remind homeowners who purchase storable swimming pools of the code requirements for installation. Storable swimming pools are considered any swimming pool that can be removed for winter storage. Requirements for swimming pools over 24 inches in height are as follows:

- Pumps: Cord-connected pool filter pump shall incorporate an approved system of double insulation and connected to a ground-fault circuit interrupter.
- Barrier requirements: An approved fence a minimum of 48 inches. Gates are required to have some type of self closing device.

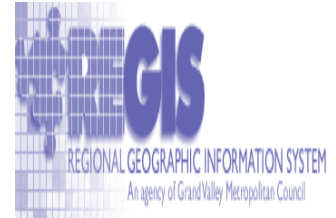
- Ladder or steps capable of being secured.

Electrical and Building Permit to assure you have proper enclosure around your pool and that it is located properly within your property. An Electrical Permit ensures that all electrical devices serving your structure are correctly installed to guard any chance of electrocution.

If you have any questions regarding swimming pool requirements, information can be obtained from our office. Thank you for helping keep our community a safe place to live.

Byron Township Protection Services

Joel Hondorp



“We are in the process of switching our tax software.”



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BYRON TOWNSHIP



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
Directories
are available at the
Township Offices and
at several businesses
around town.*

*The Directory is a project of
the Byron Center Chamber
of Commerce and contains
valuable community and*

Byron Township

8085 Byron Center Ave., SW

Byron Center, MI 49315