



BYRON BUGLE

www.byrontownship.org



Important Election Information ELECTION - MAY 3, 2005

Volume 14, Issue 2

April 2005

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Township Calendar

April 11	Township Board Meeting
April 18	Planning Commission
April 25	Township Board Meeting
April 27	Board of Appeals
May 9	Township Board Meeting
May 16	Planning Commission
May 23	Township Board Meeting
May 25	Board of Appeals
June 13	Township Board Meeting
June 20	Planning Commission
June 22	Board of Appeals
June 27	Township Board Meeting

Due to changes in Michigan Election Law last year, local Clerks are responsible for all elections; including election of School Board members. The law also consolidates the days on which elections can occur to four. Those days are the last Tuesday of February and the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May, August and November.

So you may ask, "What's this mean for me?" First of all, ***you will vote in the same location for ALL elections*** regardless what's contained on the ballot. You will be receiving new voter cards alerting you to that fact. Also, all Kent County school districts have chosen to place their School

Board elections on the May ballot, so on May 3, 2005 there will be an election to select members to the School Board and Grand Rapids Community College.

Another change for this year is the style of voting machine. It is very similar to what we have been using, but instead of connecting an arrow to choose a candidate, you will fill in an oval. If you would like to view the new machine before May 3, you may do so in the Clerk's office.

Absentee Ballot Applications are also available in the Clerk's Office. Just stop by or call the office at 878-9104.

Byron Senior Aces

Did you know that there is a fun group of senior citizens that get together every month and have lunch or go on day outings? They are the Byron Senior ACES. Some of our events include things like Tulip Time, a White Caps game. A mystery tour is another one of the fun things this group does. We also get together for

lunch at the township and have different speakers. A monthly newsletter with birthday and anniversaries, and upcoming events is also sent out. Our board meetings are held on the last Monday of the month at 8:30 am at the Township offices. For more information or to be put on our mailing list, call 878-1998.

Water and Sewer Department

At the November 22, 2004 Byron Township Board Meeting, the Township Board approved the process of identifying all the fire hydrants in the township. As part of ISO regulations to lower insurance rates for residents of Byron Township, we must identify our fire hydrants. The blue signs about the size of a license plate with three numbers on it will start to pop up around the township. The signs will be placed on posts approximately 4 feet from the hydrant and will be double sided so to be visible from traffic going either way on the roadway. The bottom of the sign will be at about 7 ½ feet high, to keep children from playing on them or pulling them down. This will not only optimize the fire response time to find hydrants, it will be helpful with the maintenance, snow plowing and also the issuance of hydrant permits. If you have a fire hydrant in your front yard, it is your responsibility to keep it free of snow, weeds, etc.

Sprinkling Tips

Remember with spring and summer fast approaching, the sprinkling season will soon be here. Check your underground sprinkling for leaks. Manually set your sprinklers instead of

putting them on a timer to keep your sprinkling usage to a minimum. If you sprinkle a new lawn less, it will force the roots down to seek water, and therefore establish a healthier lawn. Then the first drought in the summer will not have you looking at a dried up yard because the root system is so shallow.And always remember, if the grass is greener on the other side of the fence, you can bet their water bill is higher too!

-Julie Meza

Important Sprinkling Notice

Starting April 2005 the Township is instituting odd/even sprinkling. We are instituting the odd/even sprinkling to conserve water so that we may avoid further restrictions. Our water continues to be of high quality but it is limited in quantity. For further information about odd/even sprinkling please contact the Water and Sewer Department at 878-0660. Also, please note that this policy will be in effect for the entire 2005 sprinkling year.

Starting April 2005
the Township is
instituting odd/even
sprinkling.

www.kdl.org - the 19th Branch

Kent District Library's Web site offers information about KDL, and about the system's service area. Web site visitors are just a "click" away from timely information about programs, books, events in the community, and special Kent District Library services.

Of course, the KDL Web site provides remote access to many important and informative databases - free to all KDL service residents. For instance -

Learning Express Library provides interactive online learning of practice tests and course tutorials designed to help patrons, students, and adult learners succeed on academic or licensing tests. **Heritage Quest Online** provides searchable images of U.S. Federal census records, 25,000 genealogy books, and

ever-expanding collections through the digitized version of the popular UMI® Genealogy and Local History collection. **College Source** provides access to over 28,819 college catalogs in full, cover-to-cover, original page format. **The Health and Wellness Resource Center** provides magazines, journals, newspapers, definitions, directories, and information in a number of categories. This database includes links to diet, cancer, and health assessment sites. **Lit Finder** consists of three modules - Essay Finder, Poem Finder, and Story Finder. Access to plays and speeches is also provided.

These are just a few of the databases KDL offers on its Web site. Visit the "19th branch" of Kent District Library. It is your passport to a world of information!



Clerk's Corner

May 3, 2005

As stated on the front page there will be an election on Tuesday, May 3, 2005. You have to be registered by April 4, 2005 in order to vote and you may request Absentee Ballots to be mailed by April 30, 2005. Please call my office if you have any questions regarding this election. Polling locations are the same place as you voted in all primary and general elections.

Treasurer's Forum

CHECK YOUR TAXES ONLINE

You now have the ability to check your property taxes online. You may also check your assessing information online.

To access tax and assessing records: logon on to www.byrontownship.org and click on the Treasurer on the left column. Once on the Treasurer's page click on the Byron Township Logo. You will be directed to the Tax and Assess-

Byron Township Inspection Services

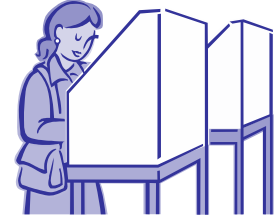
Our office would like to remind homeowners who purchase storable swimming pools of the code requirements for installation. Storable swimming pools are considered any swimming pool that can be removed for winter storage. Requirements for swimming pools over 24 inches in height are as follows:

- 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

Joel Hondorp

PASSPORTS

Byron Township also has qualified to be an acceptance agent on behalf of the United States Department of State for passport applications. Application and information is available in the Clerk's office. Cost for a passport is \$67 to the Department of State and \$30 to the acceptance agent. This is the same cost if you went to the post office. It takes about 6 weeks for a passport to arrive after the application is mailed.




Carol Houseman

ing Database. Choose either current tax or assessing. Search on either Permanent Parcel Number, Name or Address. Tax records back to 1996 are listed. This information will help you with your federal tax return if you cannot find your Property Tax receipts. If you have any questions, you may call me at 878-3196.

Information is also available on Kent County's website:

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



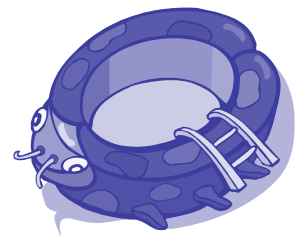
*"You can check
your Property Tax
and Assessing
information
online"*

device.

- Ladder and steps need to be 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.



WWW.BYRONTOWNSHIP.O
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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 Com-
merce and contains
valuable community and
business information.*

Byron Township

8085 Byron Center Ave., SW

Byron Center, MI 49315