



# BYRON BUGLE

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



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## Township Calendar

April 10	Township Board Meeting
April 14	Closed in afternoon to observe Good Friday
April 17	Planning Commission
April 24	Township Board Meeting
April 26	Board of Appeals
May 8	Township Board Meeting
May 15	Planning Commission
May 22	Township Board Meeting
May 24	Board of Appeals
June 12	Township Board Meeting
June 29	Planning Commission
June 26	Township Board Meeting
June 28	Board of Appeals

## Master Plan Update

In May 2005, the Planning Commission began the process of rewriting the Township Master Plan. The Master Plan is the document that the Planning Commission and Township Board use to guide land use, growth and development in the community.

The Planning Commission, Master Plan Advisory Committee, and the Township's planning consultants has completed the first two phases of the master planning process, including:

- Compiling data and conducting research to reveal current trends and conditions in Byron; and

- Defining the preferred future for the Township through consensus-building "visioning" workshops and a community opinion survey.

Currently, the Planning Commission is contemplating a future land use plan that would be based on the preferred future established in the previous phase. This will include mapping and narrative to provide policy and land use guidance for the Planning Commission and Township Board in the review of development proposals and rezoning requests.

Further information about the Township's master planning process is available on the Township's website, at [www.byrontownship.org](http://www.byrontownship.org).

## Downtown Development Authority

The Township Board created a Downtown Development Authority (DDA) earlier this year. The purpose of a DDA is to promote historic preservation, the elimination and prevention of blight in a business district, and to encourage and promote economic development, growth and revitalization. The Byron Township DDA will focus its attention on the Byron Center area.

The DDA is currently working with the Township planning consultant to develop a develop-

ment and financing plan centered on the Township's downtown. This plan will establish a strategy to improve services for the citizens that use the downtown, and will endeavor to facilitate the beautification of the district. Once the plan is complete, the Township Board will review it at a public hearing prior to adoption.

If you would like more information on the DDA and its process to create a development and financing plan, please contact the Township at 878-9066.

## Pool Safety

The Inspection Service's 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

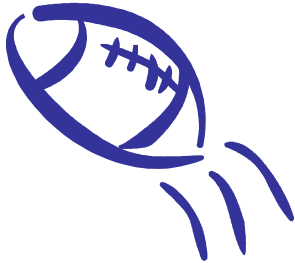
have some type of self closing device.

- Ladder 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.

## Parks & Recreation Department

### Rocket Football Sign Ups



The Rocket Football "Sign Ups" will be held June 5, 6 and 8 from 6:00-8:00pm at the Byron Township Hall. The football program is for children entering 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall of 2006. Practices will begin August 21 and games will begin September 9. The cost for Residents is \$50 and the cost for Non-residents is \$60.

### Flag Football for 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> graders

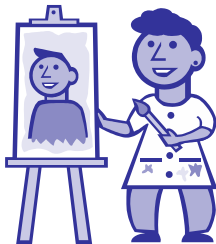
New this summer!!! For the first time children going into 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade in the fall will be able to participate in a youth flag football program. The program will take place on 4 Saturdays in August. The participants will learn the basic fundamentals of the game of football. Sessions will include instruction as well as game situations. Please check the website for updates on registration information.

### Senior ACES

The seniors will be taking a trip to the Evergreen Commons during Tulip Time in Holland on May 8 for lunch and a show. Sign up to reserve your spot today, space is limited! Cost includes the transportation, ticket and lunch. The cost is \$21 for Residents/\$25 Non-residents.

Do you enjoy baseball? Then the Whitecaps trip is for you! The seniors will be taking a day trip to a Whitecaps game on May 31 for an 11:00am game. Cost includes transportation, a ticket and a light lunch at the ball park. The cost is \$11 Residents/\$13 Non-residents.

### Summer Recreation Program



The summer recreation program will be newly restructured this summer. This year summer recreation will be a drop in program during the month of July, Monday-Friday. The program will be held from 10:00am-12:00pm and 1:00-4:00pm each day. There will be different components including arts & crafts, games, physical fitness, special events and one field trip a week. More information will be coming out in May.

Parks and Recreation - Phone: 878-1998. For registration forms or for more information about the programs go to the website at [www.byrontownship.org](http://www.byrontownship.org).

## Treasurer's Forum

## Carol Houseman

### **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](http://www.byrontownship.org) and click on the Treasurer on the left column. Once on the Treasurer's page click where it says PROPERTY TAX INFORMATION. You will be directed to the Tax and Assessing Database. Choose either current tax or assessing. Search on ei-

ther 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.

Last year 1/3 of the county taxes were paid in the summer and 2/3 in the winter. This year 2/3 of the county taxes will be paid in the summer and 1/3 in the winter. This means your summer bill will be even higher in the summer than the winter.

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

## Clerk's Corner

Joel Hondorp

### 2006 Elections

There will be three elections held this year:

School Election

**May 2, 2006**

Primary Election

**August 8, 2006**

General Election

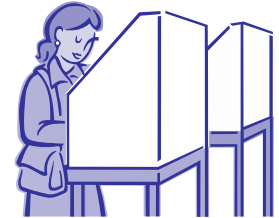
**November 7, 2006**

You vote in the same precinct for all three elections. If you would like to request an application to vote absentee, please send a written request to:

Byron Township Clerk  
8085 Byron Center Avenue  
Byron Center, MI 49315

### 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. To apply for a passport you need to bring with you a certified birth certificate, two pictures (can be taken at Walgreens or Meijer), two checks (Department of State and Byron Township) and a driver's license. The birth certificate will be mailed with the application and returned to you with your passport. It takes about 6 weeks for a passport to arrive after the application is mailed. If you need it sooner, there are ways to expedite the process for an additional fee.



## Water and Sewer Department

Spring will soon be upon us and the underground irrigation systems will soon be energized and ready for another summer of use. If your water is on the Municipal Water Supply system you are required (per the State of Michigan Plumbing Code, and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Cross Connection Rules) to have a Pressure Vacuum Breaker typically located outside your house.

This odd looking contraption is in place to protect the persons inside of the private residence as well as the public water supply system. The way it works is; when negative pressure should occur in the water pressure, the disk float and check valve work to "break the vacuum" thereby preventing a back-siphonage of contaminants (chemically treated lawns, shrub herbicides, sump pump discharge water to name a few) into the potable (drinking) water.

To ensure the Pressure Vacuum Breaker is in proper working order these devices require an-

nual testing by a certified tester. Please contact the Byron-Gaines Utility Authority at (616)971-0002 for a list of local testers in our area.

Also the new prices for water and treatment of sewer have been phasing in as of January 1, 2006. The new price for water for 1000 gallons is \$1.68, and the new price for sewer per 1000 gallons of water used is \$2.41. These prices are based on primarily what we are charged by the City of Wyoming. The water ready to serve fee for 5/8" meters and 1" meters went down from \$13.95 per quarter to \$13.50. The ready to serve fees are collected for the water & sewer departments' fixed expenses.

As prices for everything continue to rise, water commodity and sewer treatment are no exception. The township will continue to do rate study's yearly to ensure that you, the resident, are getting the best deal on prices that we can afford to give you based on our expenses.



*New water and  
sewer rates were  
established*

*January 1, 2006.*

WWW.BYRONTOWNSHIP.O  
RG



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 is  
served by two Chambers  
of Commerce:*

*Cutlerville Chamber*

*[www.cutlervillechamber.org](http://www.cutlervillechamber.org)*

*890-1378*

*&*

*Byron Center Chamber*

*[www.byroncenterchamber.org](http://www.byroncenterchamber.org)*

*878-0108*

**Byron Township**

**8085 Byron Center Ave., SW**

**Byron Center, MI 49315**