



BYRON BUGLE

www.byrontownship.org



Volume 17, Issue 2

April 2008

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Township Calendar

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

From the Supervisor Audrey Nevins

I am pleased to tell you that 2008 will be a great year for Byron Township. The Board recently passed the 2008-2009 Budget. Byron Township has had a history of saving for projects and not borrowing. In the coming year some of the projects we have been planning for years will begin to take form.

The first project is the construction of a 400 foot road parallel to 68th St. behind the McDonalds and Speedway in Cutlerville. This project will help to eliminate the traffic congestion on 68th St.

The second project is the Byron Township Community Center in Whistlestop Park. This project was included in the last Recreation Master Plan 10 years ago and is finally becoming a reality. The Community Center will truly enhance Byron Township Recreational and Active Older Adult Programs.

The third project involves building of sidewalks on Quincy and Trinity in Cutlerville. This continues our focus of investing in the Cutlerville area. In 2007 we finished the 2 year, 2 mile Vision for Division. The installation of street lights, benches, and brick pavers along with the rebuild of Division Avenue has dramatically changed the face of Division Avenue. The Corridor Improvement Authority recently created for the Division Avenue area is already seeing changes with new businesses and improvements on Division Avenue.

The fourth project is a joint project with Gaines Township and the Kent County Road Commission. A non-motorized trail is being built along M-6 from Kent Trails to Wing Avenue in Gaines Township. Most of the funds for this project are coming from the federal government.

The Township Master Plan was adopted in December 2007 and the Recreation Master Plan is in the development stage. Both Plans are necessary for the future needs of Byron Township. The Byron Township officials have done an excellent job in developing the Townships Master Plan. The plan will continue to guide the Township for future zoning decisions.

The newly formed DDA (Downtown Development Authority) is working with the Kent County Road Commission and the Design+ team for a grant through MDOT to help assist in the downtown Byron Center improvements.

In 2008, your Byron Township Board, Commissions, and Committees will work to continue its goal of maintaining high standards of service and preserving the quality of life we all enjoy in Byron Township.

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. We are encouraging all residential customers with large water use during the sprinkling season to install an irrigation meter so that the Township will not bill you for any sewer usage on that meter. The sewer "cap" of \$91.76 on Sewer Usage Fees for residential customers will be removed beginning on January 1, 2009. This means that without a separate meter for irrigation, you will pay for sewer usage based on all the water you use at an approximate 25% discount regardless of whether discharging to the sanitary sewer or not.

The actual second meter will cost \$325 and must be purchased from the Byron Township Water & Sewer Department and includes the meter and the meter set. The inside plumbing inspection cost is \$30 from the Byron Township Building Department. The actual private plumbing work costs will depend on the complexities of your plumbing system and the person who does the work.

We anticipate that most residents will recoup their initial investment over a period of 2 or 3 years because the township will not be billing you for any sewer usage fees or water ready to serve fee on this second irrigation meter.

The current rate structure was based on an extensive rate study in 2001. At that time it was determined that by capping the sewer usage portion of the bill as well as reducing the sewer rate per 1000 gallons for residents by approximately 25% would help defray the

cost of non-potable water uses. The almost 25% reduction on the sewer usage portion of your bill all year may still be adequate and will stay in place if you don't plan on purchasing a second meter for irrigation. However, if you use a lot of water for landscaping, you might want to consider a second meter.

Also the new prices for water and treatment of sewer have been phasing in as of January 1, 2008. The price for water for 1000 gallons stayed the same at \$1.68, and the new price for sewer per 1000 gallons of water used is \$2.73 compared to \$2.50 last year. 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 stayed the same per quarter at \$14.00. The sewer ready to serve fee went down from \$10.60 per quarter to \$10.18. 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. Surging chemical and energy costs, along with a \$70 million plant expansion in Wyoming are pushing up the water & sewer rates. The township will continue to do rate studies yearly to ensure that customers are provided water and/or sewer at rates that are necessary to meet expenses. If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at 878-0660.

Check out our website for a drawing of how to plumb in the second meter at www.byrontownship.org. Also, pay your water & sewer bills online through our website.



*New Water and
Sewer Rates as of
January 1, 2008*

Clerk's Corner

Joel Hondorp

UPCOMING ELECTIONS

- School Election**
May 6, 2008
- Primary Election**
August 5, 2008
- General Election**
November 4, 2008

You vote in the same precinct for all 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

January 15, 2008
Presidential Primary Turnout

Precinct	Registered	Voted	Percent
1	2268	799	35.23%
2	1311	272	20.75%
3	1376	195	14.17%
4	2064	705	34.16%
5	1993	569	28.55%
6	2223	650	29.24%
7	1269	315	24.82%
8	1937	592	30.56%
Total	14441	4097	28.37%

Treasurer's Forum

Electronic Payment Services

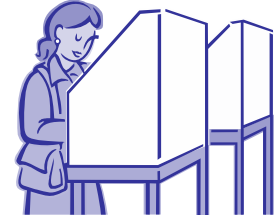
New for this year. Electronic Payment Service will be available for your 2008 taxes. Township property owners can initiate payments from their checking, savings, debit or credit card on our website. There is a convenience fee to use the service. For your checking and savings account it is 25¢ per transaction. When using a debit or credit card a percentage of your payment (average of 3%) will be charged.

Check your account online

You also have the ability to check your property taxes, property assessment and water and sewer records online.

PASSPORTS

Byron Township is a qualified 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 an adult passport is \$100 (\$75 to the Department of State and \$25 to Byron Township). And under age 16 the cost is \$85 (\$60 to the Department of State and \$25 to Byron Township). To apply for a passport you need to bring with you a certified birth certificate, two pictures (can be taken at Walgreens or Meijer or various other stores), two checks (Department of State and Byron Township) and a driver's license. Under Age 16, both parents must be present to sign. The birth certificate will be mailed with the application and returned to you with your passport. It takes about 6-8 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 of \$60. Passports are good for 10 years for adults over 16 and 5 years for those younger than 16.



*You can apply for
Passports at the
Byron Township
Clerk's Office*

Carol Houseman

To access these records: log on to www.byrontownship.org and click on Treasurer in the left column. Once on the Treasurer's page click where it says PROPERTY TAX INFORMATION. You will be directed to the Records Database. Choose the database that fits the record search you are doing. 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.



*"You have the
ability to pay
your taxes
electronically"*

www.byrontownship.org

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 is
served by two Chambers
of Commerce:*

Cutlerville Chamber

www.cutlervillechamber.org

890-1378

&

Byron Center Chamber

www.byroncenterchamber.org

878-0108

Byron Township

8085 Byron Center Ave., SW

Byron Center, MI 49315

BYRON TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

SPRING/SUMMER PROGRAMS

ROCKET FOOTBALL

Sign up Dates: April 14-June 27, 2008

Ages: 3rd-6th Grade (2008-09 school year)

Registration Fees: *Early Bird Registration:* \$55 Resident / \$65 Non-Resident

On/After June 30: \$65 Resident / \$75 Non-Resident

Registrations will NOT be taken after August 1, 2008

First Practice: Monday, August 18, 2008

Practice Time: 5:30-7:30pm

Practice Location: TBA

Practice Notes: Practices will be held 4-5 days a week for the first 3 weeks. After games start, practice will be 2-3 times a week.

Game Days: Saturdays

Game Dates: September 6, 13, 20, 27 and October 4, 11, 18

Game Times: Vary between 9:00am-3:00pm

Game Locations: Allendale, Holland, Kelloggsville, Hamilton, Zeeland

Game Notes: All teams will play 3 home games and 3 away games. All teams will play 4 league games and 2 playoff games. Home games will be held at Whistlestop Park. Teams will be split by the following grades: 3rd-4th and 5th-6th

Equipment needed: Black football pants with knee, thigh, and tailbone pads, helmet painted black with chinstrap, shoulder pads, football cleats or tennis shoes, and mouthpiece. You are responsible for purchasing your own equipment.

Special Team Requests: Requests for coaches and/or players will not be granted. Teams will be split as evenly as possible. Siblings will be placed on the same team if they fall into the same grade category.

ADULT TENNIS LEAGUE

This program is designed strictly as a recreational tennis league for adults. All levels and abilities are welcome. The price of the program includes two sleeves of tennis balls. Sign up for Singles, Doubles and/or Coed. If you do not have a partner we will do everything we can to put you with one to play Doubles and/or Coed.

Day: Mondays - Singles

Tuesdays - Doubles/Coed

Date: June 9-July 28, 2008

June 10-July 29, 2008

Time: 6:30pm

Cost: \$20 Resident / \$30 Non-Resident

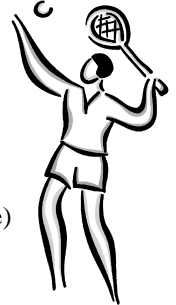
Location: Bicentennial Park, 8085 Byron Center Avenue

Minimum: 6

Maximum: 20

Registration Begins: Immediately

Registration Deadline: May 23, 2008 or until full (\$5 late fee)



ROCKETRY

Byron Township Recreation Department has partnered up with Kent County 4-H. This is a hands on program where students will learn basic aerospace principles. Students will build, paint, and launch their rockets. Afterwards, students get to keep their creations. Topics that are discussed in the sessions are: properties of air, rocket fuel, stability, wind resistance, equipment and launch safety.

Day: Tuesdays

Date: June 24- July 29, 2008

Time: 2:00- 3:00pm

Age: 9 to 13 years old

Location: Whistlestop Park Pavilion

Cost: \$50 Resident / \$60 Non-Resident

Minimum: 8

Maximum: 15

Registration Begins: Immediately

Registration Deadline: June 13, 2008 or until full

BABYSITTING CLASS

Pre-teens and Teens will learn great babysitting games, answers to common questions, how to stop sibling squabbling, meal time tips, first aid, diaper duties and much, much more. This class is guaranteed to be fun and exciting for all kids! Each participant will receive a certificate of completion through Heartbeat LLC and through and American Heart Association.

Day: Thursday

Date: June 26, 2008

Time: 9:00am-2:00pm

Age: 11 years and older

Location: Byron Township Hall

Cost: \$40 Resident / \$50 Non-Resident

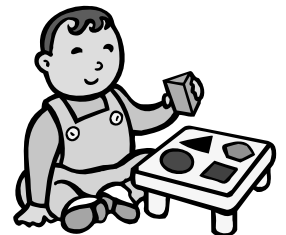
Minimum: 10

Maximum: 20

Registration Begins: Immediately

Registration Deadline: June 20, 2008 or until full

Note: A light breakfast and a pizza/pop lunch will be provided.



SUMMER RECREATION

Summer Recreation is a drop in program during the summer months for children ages 6 and older. Arts and Crafts, games, and physical fitness activities will be offered each day. The program will be held Monday-Friday from 10:00am-12:00pm and 1:00pm-4:00pm (There will not be supervision from 12:00-1:00pm so the children will have to go home during that time). The dates and locations for the program will be announced at a later date. Summer Recreation is a FREE program to Byron Township Residents and Byron Center Public School Residents. More information will be available in May. **NOTE:** You do not have to pre-register for this program. An information card will need to be completed at the site where your child will participate.

YOUTH FLAG FOOTBALL

This program is designed to get 1st and 2nd graders introduced to the sport of football. The sessions will include instruction as well as game situations. Teams will be directed by parent volunteers. Each team will need 1-2 coaches. Please consider volunteering for this popular program. Team shirts, flags and footballs will be provided.

Day: Saturdays
Time: 10:00am-11:00am Practice
11:00am-12:00 Game
Date: August 2-23, 2008
Age: 1st and 2nd graders (2008-09)
Cost: \$35 Resident / \$45 Non-Resident



Location: Whistlestop Park, 2120 76th Street

Registration Begins: Immediately

Registration Deadline: July 11, 2008

Note: Parent volunteers are needed to coach to help make this program successful. Let us know if you are interested in coaching.

DETROIT TIGERS VS LOS ANGELES ANGELS GAME

Go Tigers! Leave your car and parking money at home. Byron Township Recreation Department will take you out to the ballgame on a charter bus. Your ticket will be located in the upper box section 331. Invite a friend and let's go cheer on your favorite Tiger. Limited tickets are available. Pre registration is required.

Day: Thursday
Departure Time: 8:00am
Game Time: 1:05pm
Registration Begins: Immediately
Date: September 4, 2008
Cost: \$55 Resident / \$65 Non-Resident (Includes ticket and transportation)
Limited Tickets: 50
Registration Deadline: July 25, 2008 or until full

*For an entire list of Byron Township Recreation Programs please visit the website at
www.byrontownship.org*

Byron Township Parks and Recreation * 8085 Byron Center Avenue * Byron Center, MI 49315
Phone: 878-1998 * **Fax:** 878-3980 * **Website:** www.byrontownship.org **Cancellation Line:** 878-0623

PRE- REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL PROGRAMS.

HOW TO REGISTER: Mail in or drop off your completed registration form and the full registration fee to the Parks and Recreation Department to reserve your spot. Office hours are Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm. Cash or Checks accepted. Make checks payable to: Byron Township. (No credit cards). An after hours drop box may be used to drop off your registrations. The drop box is located outside of the Township Hall front doors.

AGE REQUIREMENTS: All participants MUST be within the age requirements by the time the program begins. No exceptions.

LATE FEES: There will be a \$5 late fee per registration assessed after the program deadline. Late registrations will only be accepted if space is available.

BYRON TOWNSHIP RECREATION REGISTRATION FORM SPRING/SUMMER 2008

(Please do not use this registration form for Rocket Football or Summer Recreation. Please print one from the website or call the Recreation Department.)

Participant's Name: _____

Age: _____ **Birthdate:** ____/____/____ **Grade:** _____ **School:** _____ **Male / Female**

Address: _____

City: _____ **Zip:** _____ **Resident:** _____ **Non-Resident:** _____

Phone: _____ **Alternate Phone:** _____

Email: _____ **Shirt Size (if applicable):** Youth Med (10-12) Youth Large (14-16) Adult S Adult M Adult L Adult XL

Program Name	Start Date	Cost
	TOTAL COST	\$ _____ (\$5 late fee after deadline)

I hereby understand that by signing this form, I agree not to hold Byron Township or Byron Center Public Schools or Athletes in Motion responsible for any injuries that may occur during participation in this Byron Township Recreation Program. Furthermore, I authorize Byron Township to use photographs of participants for Byron Township promotional literature.

Name Printed: _____ **Signature:** _____

For Office Use Only: Date Paid: _____ Amount Paid: _____ Cash: _____ Check: _____ Receipt #: _____