



# THE BYRON TOWNSHIP BUGLE



Volume 12, Issue 1

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

January 2003

### Dates to Note:

January 13	Township Board Meeting
January 20	Planning Commission
January 22	Zoning Board of Appeals
January 27	Township Board Meeting
February 10	Township Board Meeting
February 14	Taxes Due
February 17	Planning Commission
February 24	Township Board Meeting
February 26	Zoning Board of Appeals
March 10	Township Board Meeting
March 17	Planning Commission
March 24	Township Board Meeting
March 27	Zoning Board of Appeals



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## Byron Township Website and E-Bugle

Last year, Byron Township launched two new technologies. The first was a website. The address is [www.byron.mi-twp.org](http://www.byron.mi-twp.org). There is valuable information available: Building Permit applications, links to state forms for Homestead Exemption, election results, and various other items.

The other was the E-Bugle. Due to computer upgrades, the list of subscribers of the E-Bugle was lost. If you are interested in receiving updates about Byron Township, please submit your

email address to Clerk Joel Hondorp at [jhondorp@byron.mi-twp.org](mailto:jhondorp@byron.mi-twp.org).

We will also begin hiding a needle like the one to the right in the website somewhere. The first person to email Joel with the location will win a Byron Township coffee mug. The location of the needle will change quarterly. If you have any ideas or suggestions for Bugle, E-Bugle or website, please contact Joel by email or by phone.



## Byron Township Library News

### READ ALONG THE RIVER



Read along the River: One book, One County is an unprecedented collaboration between all of the public library systems in Kent County, Kent District Library (which Byron Township Library is a member), Grand Rapids Public Library, Cedar Springs Public Library, and Sparta Public Library. Our goal is to build community in the diverse county by encouraging individuals to share an experience, namely reading one great book. We encourage you to participate by picking up a

copy of Peace Like a River at a library or bookstore. Then read the book and discuss it with your friends and neighbors. You can also take advantage of the book discussions throughout the county. For more information contact the library or the Kent District website at [www.kdl.org](http://www.kdl.org).

### BYRON TOWNSHIP HIRES ARCHITECT

Byron Township has hired The Architectural Group to design the new Township Library. Construction will begin in the spring. Stay tuned for more details.

## Congratulations, South Christian Football Team

Byron Township would like to congratulate the South Christian Sailors for an outstanding season and their first state football championship. This was their fourth State Final appearance. The Sailors finished the season 13-1. They won the O-K Gold this year with a 7-0 conference record.

Byron Township Assessor Craig DeYoung's son Bryce started at Offensive End for the Sailors. The Sailors were coached by Bob Blacquiery who has been coaching for 21 years. Assistant coaches are John Butler, Mark Tamminga and Craig Tibbe.

### 2002 South Christian Sailors

Jordan Timmer	T.J. Buist	Danny Brown
Bryce DeYoung	Adam Syswerda	Andy Berkenpas
Jason Ellens	Grant Webster	Rob White
Jake Bending	Ryan Sinnema	Brad Brummel
Justin Helmholdt	Adrew Hesselink	Michael Stob
Marc Damstra	Joe Skinner	Sam Sportel
Paul Richard	Derrick DeYoung	Jason Bussa
Phillip Lobbezoo	Kurtis Bolt	Scott Hoekwater
Nate Jansen	Matthew Hirdes	Matt DeYoung
Michael Wierenga	Ryan Geers J	Joshua Monsma
Josh Van Laan	Steve Burgess	Eric Manne
Ben De Groot	Nicholas Meekhof	Jeffrey Kortman
Richard Guichelaar	Tim Van Der Heide	Johnathon Stuit
Nathan Trathen	Kyle Potgeter	Brandon Mulder
Jameson De Blaay	Nicholas Zylstra	Scott Oeverman
James Baker		

## Congratulations, Byron Center Lady Dawgs

Byron Township would also like to congratulate the Byron Center Girls Basketball Team on an outstanding season. The Lady Dawgs finished with a 24-2 record and a perfect 14-0 record in the O-K Blue. Byron Center fought hard in a double overtime loss to East Grand Rapids in the Class B Semi-Finals.

Byron Center is coached by Glenn Davis.

### 2002 Byron Center Bulldogs

Rena Schierbeek	Crystal Zick
Tabby Navarro	Alicia Barczak
Katie Lehocky	Whitney Marsh
Sara Haverdink	Lisa Wightman
Ellie Kielwitz	Aubrey Flesch
Jessica Hibma	Stacey Kyser
Rachel Newsome	Megan Stephens
Kari Karsten	

## WhistleStop Park Brick Project

*Have you ever participated in a sport?  
You can buy a brick in the. . .*

### Warren Reynolds Sports Circle of Honor

Throughout his life Warren Reynolds was a great supporter of athletic participation and community spirit. With this in mind, it is only right to name our Sports Brick area after Warren Reynolds.

Bricks placed in the Warren Reynolds Sports Circle of Honor recognize athletic participation. Whether your sport is golf, basketball, fishing, football, cheerleading, or whatever, you are welcome to place a brick. A company that sponsored a championship team may want to permanently remember that achievement. An All-Conference or All-State award could be commemorated.

The Warren Reynolds Sports Circle of Honor will be located near the softball complex in Whistlestop Park. The Circle of Honor will consist of individual bricks and statues representing different sports.

Bricks are \$75 for a 4"x8" brick and \$125 for a 8"x8" brick.

Brick project sponsored by the Byron Center Historical Society

*Do you have a connection to Byron Township?  
You can buy a brick in the. . .*

### Byron Township Family Circle of Honor

Byron Township has been home to many families over the years. Some from the very beginning of the Township in the early 1800's. If your family lives in Byron Township or used to live in Byron Township or have ancestors from Byron Township, you have the opportunity to place a brick in Whistlestop Park with your family name on it.

A brick could contain a Family Last name or a larger brick could hold the Family Last name and the First names of family members.

**You may obtain Order Forms at the Byron Township Office, on the Township Website, at various locations around town or calling 878-1998.**

## THE CLERK'S CORNER

### By Joel Hondorp

#### General Election 2002

Precinct	Voters	Voted	Percent
1	1936	1273	66%
2	1126	424	38%
3	1528	492	32%
4	1672	1186	71%
5	1976	1253	63%
6	1536	1057	69%
7	845	516	61%
8	1470	863	59%
<b>Total</b>	<b>12089</b>	<b>7064</b>	<b>58%</b>

Full General Election results can be viewed at: [www.byron.mi-twp.org](http://www.byron.mi-twp.org).

If you or somebody you know will be turning 18 in the near future, remember to register to vote. You may register 30 days before your Birthday.

## TREASURER'S FORUM

### By Carol Houseman

#### Taxes Due February 14

I hope you had a wonderful Holiday Season. These next few months give us a time to relax a little after the business of the Holidays and before active Spring season.

I want to bring to your attention that property taxes were mailed out the first week of December. The due date for paying your taxes is February 14. You may pay your taxes to my office from the 14th to February 28th with penalty. After March 1, unpaid tax bills go to the county.

Dog licenses are also available in my office. You may purchase licenses between now and March 1. Remember to bring proof of your dog's rabies shots. You may also renew your dog license online at [www.accesskent.com](http://www.accesskent.com). Select *Online Services* and then select *Dog License Renewal*.

## Byron Center Historical Society

The Byron Center Historical Society and Museum just finished a very exciting year. A few of our accomplishments include:

1. Memorial Day Cemetery Tour at Boynton Cemetery.
2. New and improved Displays (including Byron Township Farming). The Museum is open on Mondays 1-3 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. (April -Mid-November)
3. Our Train Depot project is being worked on in the new WhistleStop Park.
4. Byron Township and World War II program.

The support of our 200 family membership is the reason we were successful this year. We are holding our 2003 membership drive and you are invited to join. As a benefit of membership, you will receive our magazine, the "Timekeeper", newsletters of what is happening and the opportunity to help us in the collection, preservation, and displaying of Byron Township history. If you have any questions, please call Doug Tubergen at 878-3554.

### BYRON CENTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY Membership Application

**\$10.00 Yearly Family Membership**

\_\_\_\_\_ Additional donation

\_\_\_\_\_ Total donation (All donations are tax deductible: License to Solicit is #MICS 12251.)

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to help and be a worker in the Byron Center Historical Society.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to Byron Center Historical Society and mail to P.O. Box 20, Byron Center, MI 49315.



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

## South Beltline Update

Construction has been heavy on the new M-6/South Beltline/Paul Henry Freeway. This summer the Byron Center Avenue, Wilson Avenue, and 8th Avenue bridges were completed. Kenowa Avenue will be closed next year. That is the final bridge to be completed.

The Northbound side of 131 was reconstructed and the Southbound side will be completed next summer.

All in all the project is progressing well. All construction is scheduled to be done in 2005. For further information you can check out the following website:

[www.aboutM6.com](http://www.aboutM6.com)

**Byron Township**

**8085 Byron Center Ave., SW**

**Byron Center, MI 49315**



*HAPPY NEW YEAR*

