



# BYRON BUGLE

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



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## Township Calendar

January 9	Township Board Meeting
January 16	Planning Commission
January 23	Township Board Meeting
January 25	Board of Appeals
February 13	Township Board Meeting
February 14	<b>Winter Taxes Due !</b>
February 20	Planning Commission
February 22	Board of Appeals
February 27	Township Board Meeting
March 13	Township Board Meeting
March 20	Planning Commission
March 22	Board of Appeals
March 27	Township Board Meeting

## Water and Sewer Department

We have some new information for 2006, as well as a reminder for any new residents.

### 2006 WATER AND SEWER RATES

The Byron Township Board adopted the Water and Sewer Rate Resolution at their regular meeting on Monday, November 14, 2005 (published in the South Advance on November 22, 2005). New rates to go into effect January 1, 2006.

#### Public Water and Sewer Utility Bills.

Water usage rates will increase from \$1.49 per 1,000 gallons to \$1.68 per 1000 gallons. Sewer usage for residential customers will change from \$2.22 to \$2.41 per 1000 gallons of metered public water usage. "Sewer Ready to Serve" will remain the same, at \$10.00 per quarter. In one billing component, fees will actually decrease. The cost for "Water Ready to Serve" will be reduced from a flat fee of \$13.95 to \$13.50 per quarter. The overall rate can be reduced because more customers are being added to the system.

The rates will be phased-in. The January 1, 2006 utility bill, will not reflect the increase, as utility bills are billed in arrears. February 1, 2006 bill will be at a blended rate of two months at the old rate, 1 month at the new rate. March 1, 2006 will reflect a blended rate of one month at the old rate and two months at the new rate. The April 1, 2006 bill will reflect the full new rates.

#### 2006 Water and Sewer Hookup Connection Fees.

Check the Township website [www.byrontownship.org](http://www.byrontownship.org) for new connection fees for hooking up public water and/or sewer.

### REMINDER FROM THE BYRON-GAINES UTILITY AUTHORITY

Per Section 1214 of the Township Ordinance "each person who has a fire hydrant on their premises must keep the hydrant and surrounding area within a four (4) foot radius of the hydrant free and clear from piled and accumulated snow".

All underground sprinkling systems should

have been turned off and the systems drained so the piping and vacuum breaker outside the building does not freeze and break.

Turn off the valve to all outside water spigots. Insure any piping inside the building is not exposed to cold temperatures from lack of heat or exposure to wind. If necessary insulate the piping.

If leaving for vacation or going away for the weekend, turn the water off in the house at the meter. This may prevent a problem resulting from several potential issues.

### NEW BYRON TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

#### Bill Payments.

We now have ACHA (Automatic Clearing House Association) available as a bill payment option. Customers may now choose to have their quarterly utility payments automatically withdrawn from their checking or savings account. Call the township water office for details, or check the Township website for the letter and form. No method to pay "over the phone" is currently available. Bill payments (cash, check, or money order) are accepted at the Water and Sewer Office Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Payments may also be placed in the mail drop box on the northeast corner wall of the Township Office Building at 8085 Byron Center Ave.

#### Water and/or Sewer Emergencies

For after hour emergencies, call **Eagle Security Emergency Dispatch System** at (616) 243-1255.

#### Water Quality Report

The 2004 Water Quality Report is available online. The City of Wyoming is the source for Byron Township's water. A water quality report is published annually concerning state and federal guidelines.

## Parks and Recreation Department

### New programs and classes

Do you have a special trade or skill you would like to share with other people? Byron Township is seeking instructors for a variety of youth, adult and older adult classes and programs to offer through the Recreation Department. Some of the programs would include but are not limited to card game lessons, fitness classes, dance classes, photography classes, and instructional sport camps. If you are interested in teaching a class or have a new program idea please contact the Recreation Department at 878-1998.

### WMRPA (West Michigan Recreation and Park Association) Night at the Grand Rapids Griffins

The Grand Rapids Griffins are giving a special offer good to WMRPA communities all over West

Michigan for the March 25<sup>th</sup> Griffins game. The Griffins are offering an ultimate value package including an upper bowl ticket, \$5 food voucher and a special commemorative wristband. All for just \$15! The Griffins also have some other activities in store for a fun filled night.

\*Pre game fireworks \*Post game Autograph session \*Post game skate on the ice for WMRPA guests, bring your own skates.

To be included please register at the Byron Township Recreation Department, 8085 Byron Center Avenue, by February 24, 2006. Print a registration form off of the website at [www.byrontownship.org](http://www.byrontownship.org).



## Byron Center Historical Society

The Byron Center Historical Society and Museum just finished a very exciting year.

If you are new to Byron Township, we want to welcome you as the latest addition to the History of Byron Township. As a new resident you may want to know a little more about the community you now call home and the history behind it. One way to do that is to join the Byron Center Historical Society.

The support of our 200 family membership is the reason we were successful this year. We are holding our 2006 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.

*You are  
invited to join  
the Byron  
Center  
Historical  
Society.*

### 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.

## Clerk's Corner

### 2006 ELECTIONS

Please mark the following dates on your calendar for elections:

**February 28, 2006**  
 (Kentwood Schools only)  
**May 2, 2006**  
 Annual School Election  
**August 8, 2006**  
 Primary Election  
**November 7, 2006**  
 General Election

## Joel Hondorp

If you would like to receive an application to vote absentee, please send a letter to my office requesting an application or you may request to be placed on the permanent absentee voter list. Please note: You need to fill out an application before a ballot is mailed. I will be mailing applications to the permanent absentee voter list approximately one month before the election. If you have questions please call my office at 878-9104.



## Treasurer's Forum

I hope you had a wonderful Holiday 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.


### Check Taxes Online

On the Treasurer's page on the website, you can check the status of your taxes and see if they are paid and also you can see assessing information regarding your property. Follow the link by clicking on the Township logo in the center of the page. Directions are provided online.

## Carol Houseman

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*.

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*"Winter taxes are due February 14, 2005."*

## Byron Township Boards and Commissions

### Planning Commission

Seymour Gould, Chair  
 Bernie Schuitema  
 John Stone  
 Jeff Gritter  
 Tim Slot  
 Dutch Zeinstra  
 Carroll Elenbaas


### Board of Appeals

Abe Vanderwoude  
 Jeff Brinks  
 Kathy Burgess  
 Jim Haagsma  
 Seymour Gould  
 Doug Tubergen

### Rec. Commission

David Flietstra  
 Harriette Allan  
 Mark Gorsky  
 Mike Marshall  
 Kathy Burgess  
 Brenda Dosenberry  
 Scott Schrottenboer

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*Thank You to those that serve on a Township Commission or Board.*

WWW.BYRONTOWNSHIP.O

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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

**Winter Safety**

- Sidewalks- Byron Township Ordinance 350 states: "It shall be the duty of all owners of premises within the limits of the Township to keep all sidewalks...in good repair and free of obstructions (i.e. snow), and/or conditions." Please keep your sidewalk safe for your neighbors and fellow Township Residents.
- Use care with space heaters. Keep heaters away from curtains and furniture. Make sure there is plenty of ventilation when using liquid fueled heaters such as Kerosene heaters.
- Keep spare blankets, hats, gloves in the trunk of the car in the event you get stranded on the roadway. Also make sure you have a flashlight in your car.

**Byron Township**  
**8085 Byron Center Ave., SW**  
**Byron Center, MI 49315**