



BYRON BUGLE

www.byrontownship.org



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Township Calendar

January 14	Township Board Meeting
January 21	Planning Commission
January 23	Board of Appeals
January 28	Township Board Meeting
February 11	Township Board Meeting
February 14	Winter Taxes Due !
February 18	Planning Commission
February 25	Township Board Meeting
February 27	Board of Appeals
March 10	Township Board Meeting
March 17	Planning Commission
March 24	Township Board Meeting
March 26	Board of Appeals

From the Supervisor, Audrey Nevins

There are several organizations in the area that are beneficial to the residents of Byron Township . You may not even have known they existed or what they have to offer. I would like to introduce you to a couple of them. The first is the Michigan State University Extension Office and the second is REGIS.

For years farmers have turned to MSUE for pesticide application and training and animal health. MSUE is not just for Ag anymore. Here are some services they provide:

The Kent County MSU Extension office is located at 775 Ball Street NE in Grand Rapids. They can be reached at 336-3265 or online at www.msue.msu.edu/kent.

- A 1-800 food safety hot line
- A Master Gardener hot line
- Soil testing
- 4-H youth development programs
- Money management classes
- First time home buyer resources
- Leadership Training
- Citizen Planner program
- Community and Economic Development Programs
- Pesticide application recertification credits



What is REGIS?

An acronym for "Regional Geographic Information System," REGIS provides a common database and suite of applications and interfaces to satisfy the spatial data management needs of all participant member departments. By participating in REGIS and working together as a team, member communities will be able to share valuable information, provide better and more consistent service to constituents, and reduce operating costs.

What is REGIS IMS?

The REGIS Public Internet Map Services, or "IMS", is a set of focused web-based mapping services available on the World Wide Web, featuring the detailed, constantly-updated and locally-driven data which makes REGIS so valuable to its members and citizens.

While not every one of the over 250 individual data layers which are available to REGIS members are featured on the REGIS Public IMS site, many of the basic layers which are so valuable to a variety of users are. These include every parcel in Kent County and the City of Hudsonville, the latest and highest resolution digital orthophotography (aerial imagery), updated streets, parks, zoning, master plan information, bus routes and stops, and many other layers.

Why Use the REGIS IMS mapping website?

Anyone from a citizen at home wanting information regarding nearby parks to a developer trying to find out the zoning to a particular piece of property to a planner analyzing the master plan information for a community to a real estate agent looking for the latest information and an aerial map of a parcel.

The potential uses for the REGIS Public IMS are many, and you are encouraged to explore the system and take advantage of the information which is presented! Some of the benefits include:

Ready and free access to high-quality geographic information from any Internet-enabled computer.

One-stop shop of information, including parcel data and sales information, zoning information, park locations, bus stop locations and much more!

In the URL or address bar of your web browser, type:

<http://www.gvnc-regis.org>

Click on the large, red link partway down the page which reads "REGIS IMS - Public Internet Mapping Service".

Water and Sewer Department

All the water and sewer rates either stayed the same or went down except for the sewer usage portion of your utility bill. The sewer usage charge went from \$2.50/1000 gallons of water used to \$2.73/1000 gallons of water used. The main reason for this rate increase is because the City Of Wyoming has increased their sewage treatment fees to the Township. These rates will be implemented beginning on January 1, 2008.



The "cap" on Sewer Usage Fees for residential customers in Byron Township is proposed to be removed beginning on January 1, 2009. If you are one of the residential customers who use a large volume of water for the purpose of sprinkling your lawn and landscaping, we are encouraging you to install an irrigation meter so that the Township does not bill you for any sewer usage on that meter. The Township anticipates this to be a cost savings to you over the long term. The actual meter and

inside plumbing inspection will cost approximately \$355. The actual plumbing work costs will depend on the complexities of your plumbing system and the plumber who does the work.

We anticipate that you will recoup your initial investment over a period of 2 or 3 years because we will not be billing you for any sewer usage fees or water ready to serve fees on this meter. If you do not install an irrigation meter, you will be charged sewer usage based on your existing meter with no cap in place beginning January 1, 2009. If you are one of those large water users, you might want to consider installing an irrigation meter prior to the start of the next watering season. Please contact the Township Water & Sewer Department at 878-0660 immediately to discuss the details and so that we can answer any questions you might have.

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 2008 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

\$20.00 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.

www.byroncenterhistory.com

Clerk's Corner

Election 2008

There will be 4 elections this year:

- January 15 - Presidential Primary**
- May 6 - School Election**
- August 5 - Primary Election**
- November 4 - General Election**

For the January 15 election there are a couple new items to take note. First is that you must show a picture ID in order to vote. If you do not have a picture ID or do not have it on your person, you will have to sign an affidavit stating such. The second item is that this is a Presiden-

Joel Hondorp

tial Nominating Election for the Republican and Democrat parties. You will need to check off which ballot you wish to receive. Your selection of ballot will not be recorded on your permanent voter record. The only record of your choice will be given to the state committee of each party per state law. If you need an Absentee Ballot you may contact the Clerk's Office. If you want to be on a permanent Absentee list all you need to do is contact the office. You will then get an application for each election. Being on the list only gets you an application. You need to fill out an application for each election.



Treasurer's Forum

I hope you and your family had a wonderful Holiday Season. You should have received your statement by now. If you didn't, let us know and we can send you another, or you can always pull up your tax information on our website, www.byrontownship.org, go to the treasurer's page, click on property tax information, and then current tax. Taxes are due by 5pm on Friday, February 14, 2008. You can continue to pay your taxes

at the township through February 29. On March 1st, unpaid taxes are turned over to the county. The exception to the rule is personal property taxes. These taxes are always paid at the township.

Dog licenses are also available in my office. You may purchase the licenses now through March 1st. Remember to bring your proofs of rabies and if your pet has been altered. If you wish, you can

renew your dog license on line at www.aceskent.com. Select Online Services and then select Dog License Renewal.

If you ever have questions, please stop in or call 878-3196 and Jacki and I will do our best to help.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Carol Houseman



"Winter taxes are due February 14, 2008."



Visit Kent District Library at the Byron Branch at 8191 Byron Center Avenue or online at www.kdl.org

Kent District Library

The Kent District Library was formed in 1994 after being a Kent County Department. KDL is made up of 18 branches, a Service Center and a website. The catalog for the library is jointly owned by several library systems in West Michigan. They formed a cooperative called Lakeland. You may check out books from any library in the Lake-

land system and return them to anyone as well. You may place holds on items and can be notified by phone or email when your selection arrives. The KDL website also has several online databases available from genealogy to health to auto repair. KDL also sponsors several programs from Babies to Senior Citizens. Program listings can be

found at any of the branches or on the website. All 18 branches have public computers, wireless internet, and color copiers/printers. Even though some of the Library technology has changed, one thing remains the same:

The Library is a great place to get a good book to read!

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

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

PARK FACILITY RENTAL INFORMATION

Planning a family reunion, birthday party, or softball tournament? Byron Township offers park rentals at Whistlestop Park, Cutler Park and Bicentennial Park. Full payment of all rentals must be paid at the time the reservation is processed. For rental applications, prices or more specific information please check out the website at www.byrontownship.org or call 878-1998.

ADOPT AN ATHLETE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Byron Township Recreation has recently started the Adopt an Athlete program. Our goal is to raise money to allow all children the opportunity to participate in Recreational Programs throughout the year. Through the donations we receive, we will cover fifty to one hundred percent of a child's registration fee, depending on their need and total donations. All contributions made to the Byron Township Recreation Department are tax-deductible. Please consider donating to this program to allow all children the chance to make memories that last a life time and improve their quality of life. For a donation form please contact the Recreation Department or download a form from the website.

PARTNERSHIP NEWS - Businesses Wanted!

Byron Township Parks and Recreation would like to partner with you. There are many opportunities for businesses to become involved in our events. Reap the positive benefits and rewards of being associated with great events that reach your market with the community attachment!! Please call 878-1998 for more information.

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. Registration forms can be printed from the website at www.byrontownship.org. Cash or Checks accepted. (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.

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

REGISTRATION FORM

Participant's Name: _____
Age: _____ Birthdate: / / _____ Grade: _____ School: _____ Male / Female
Address: _____ T-shirt Size: YM (10-12) YL (14-16) AS AM AL
City: _____ Zip: _____ Resident: _____ Non-Resident: _____
Phone: _____ Alternate Phone: _____ Email: _____

Program Name	Start Date	Cost
	TOTAL COST	\$

I hereby understand that by signing this form, I agree not to hold Byron Township 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 #: _____