



THE BYRON TOWNSHIP BUGLE



Volume 10, Issue 1

July, 2001

Dates to Note:

July 9	Township Board Meeting
July 16	Planning Commission
July 23	Township Board Meeting
July 25	Board of Appeals
August 13	Township Board Meeting
August 20	Planning Commission
August 22	Board of Appeals
August 27	Township Board Meeting
September 10	Township Board Meeting
September 15	Summer Taxes Due!
September 17	Planning Commission
September 24	Township Board Meeting
September 26	Board of Appeals

REGULATIONS FOR TEMPORARY SIGNS

One of the most difficult Township Ordinances to enforce is our Sign Ordinance as it relates to the placement of temporary signs.

Temporary signs include a variety of signs, but the ones that cause the most difficulty are:

- Real Estate Signs
- Political Signs
- Signs Advertising Diets, Work at Home Projects and Seasonal Services
- Garage and Yard Sale Signs

Signs placed in the right-of-way, within 50 feet of an intersection, and on telephone poles are in violation of Byron Township Ordinance and are restricted by the Kent County Road Commission.



These signs diminish the appearance of the neighborhood, often create vision obstructions and traffic hazards.

Township employees are instructed to take down the signs and a fine could be imposed in accordance with the ordinance.

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WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT



On July 1, 2001, water and sewer customers will begin to notice changes in their water and sewer bills. The most noticeable will be the change from billing sewer usage and water ready to serve fees in advance, to billing them in arrears. In order to make the switch, bills sent in July, August, and September **will not include** charges for sewer usage or water ready to serve. However, after September, we will again bill for these services.

In addition, customers with both public water and public sewer will see a slight increase in the charge for their water ready to serve and a slight decrease in the water usage rate. (Residential customers with only sewer service will continue to pay a flat rate for sewer usage, plus a new sewer ready to server fee.) For the first time, sewer customers will have a sewer ready to serve fee in addition to a sewer usage fee based on me-

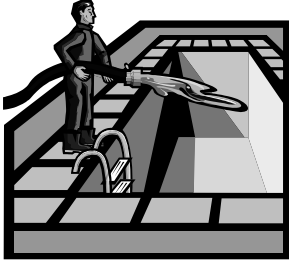
tered water. The service charges are intended to cover costs such as operation and maintenance, wages and benefits, engineering and legal services, and other costs necessary to run the system. The water and sewer usage fees will cover the costs to purchase the water and pay for sewage commodity and facility charges to the City of Wyoming.

For individually metered homes, sewer usage will be based on 74.6% of the metered water to allow for summertime lawn sprinkling. Therefore, before homeowners consider adding a sub-meter for irrigation water, we recommend that they wait a year to see how the new rates affect their bills.

We ask for your patience and understanding as we make these changes.

FROM THE BUILDING INSPECTOR

By Randy Zomerlei

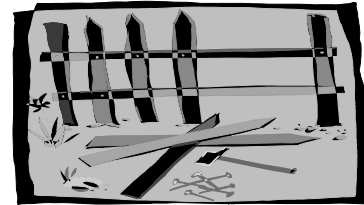


It's Summer!! After a long and cold winter and spring it is finally summer. Summertime is when many people start working on the projects that they have been dreaming about all winter. Three popular projects are: Swimming Pools, Decks and Fences. Yes, you need a building permit to install a pool (in ground or above ground). There are many safety factors and responsibilities that come with owning a pool. We inspect the pools so that you may have an enjoyable summer.

Many above ground pools have decks around them. A deck is a structure and requires a building permit so inspections can be made for proper post depth, guardrail heights and proper opening limitations so that everyone using the deck may be safe.

In order to enjoy private use of their pool or deck, fences are constructed. The Byron Township Zoning Ordinance states that you may have a 6 foot high solid fence in your side and rear yards only. A 3 foot high fence in the front yard is allowed provided said fences are not more than 25% solid. The ordinance does not require a setback from side or rear property lines. *Make sure you know where your property lines are before you install your fence.*

It is my wish that everyone enjoys and stays safe in the coming summer months.



CUTLERVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT ADDS 3 FULL-TIME FIREFIGHTERS

On March 5, 2001 Byron and Gaines Township joined together to provide for the well being of the Cutlerville area. Three trained medical first responders are working the day shift five days a week. These full-time firefighters were needed because most calls for assistance occur during the day shift and they can respond faster.

The on-call volunteer firefighters continue to provide fire protection the rest of the time. The firemen can be seen with their truck all around the community.

Their duties consist of responding to alarms and calls,

meeting with school groups and directing fire drills. They are also hard at work fixing up and organizing the Cutlerville Fire Station.

The addition of these firemen was necessary for the safety and protection of life and property in the Cutlerville area.



HOUSE NUMBERS SAVE LIVES



Is your house number visible from the street? If you reside in a mobile home park, is your trailer number appropriately placed and visible? Do you have house numbers on both sides of your rural mailbox?

The Kent County Sheriff's Department, your local Fire Department, a

medical first responder or ambulance can only provide you with the prompt and efficient service you need if your house numbers are adequately displayed.

Remember, seconds count in an emergency. Your cooperation in this matter may save a life! **AND IT MAY BE YOUR OWN!**

Remember to check to see if your smoke alarms are working properly!

THE CLERK'S CORNER

By Joel Hondorp

Hundreds of people visit our cemeteries every year. Whether it is to visit the grave of a loved one or research the history of Byron Township, we strive to keep our cemeteries well kept. The following rules have been created to keep our cemeteries neat and well maintained:

BYRON TOWNSHIP CEMETERY RULES

- FLOWERS ARE PERMITTED IN URNS OR IN METAL BASKETS WITH HANDLES.
- DECORATIVE STONES, WOODCHIPS, OR IN-GROUND PLANTINGS (FLOWERS, PLANTS OR TREES) ARE NOT PERMITTED.
- PEDESTALS FOR URNS SHALL BE SET SO THAT TOP IS FLUSH WITH GROUND LEVEL.
- URNS AND METAL BASKETS MAY BE PLACED IN LINE ON EITHER SIDE OF GRAVE MARKERS, NOT ON THE GRAVE OR IN PATHS.
- NO SNOWMOBILES OR ATVS.
- CEMETERY CLOSED AT 9:00 P.M. EASTERN STANDARD TIME AND 10:00 P.M. EASTERN DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME.
- FAMILY MEMBERS SHALL REMOVE FLOWERS OR DECORATIONS DURING THE LAST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER. CEMETERY WORKERS WILL REMOVE ALL ITEMS LEFT ON THE GRAVES BY OCTOBER 15TH OF EACH YEAR.
- ON APRIL 1ST OF EACH YEAR, CEMETERY EMPLOYEES WILL REMOVE ALL ITEMS PLACED DURING THE WINTER MONTHS.

TREASURER'S FORUM

By Carol Houseman

Very often property owners have concerns over the amount of their tax bill and perhaps do not realize where their taxes go.

Below is a tax chart for a home that has a homestead exemption and is valued at \$120,000 with a taxable value of \$60,000. It will show the taxing authority, millage rate and annual tax dollars.

<u>Taxing Authority</u>	<u>Millage</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
GR Community College	1.8049	\$108.294
Kent Intermediate Schools	3.8299	\$229.794
Byron Center Public Schools	7.9961	\$479.766
State Education Tax	6.0000	\$360.000
Kent County	5.334	\$320.040
Kent District Library	.84	\$50.400
Byron Township Law	.6000	\$36.000
Byron Township Fire	.9100	\$54.600
Byron Township Allocated	.7100	\$42.600
Total	28.0249	\$1,681.494

One mil equals one dollar per thousand of taxable value of your property. In the above example 28.0249 mills equates to 28.0249 X 60 representing the taxable value in thousands and the taxes are \$1,681.494 annually.

Non homestead properties, such as Industrial and Commercial properties, rental property and a second residence are not considered your homestead are assessed 18 mills more than properties with a homestead exemption. That additional tax goes to support education.

In 1993 prior to the implementation of proposal A, the millage rate was 52.891 mills. Today it is 27.899. That's 24.992 mills lower than 1993. Proposal A also limits annual property tax increases to the rate of inflation or 5% whichever is less.

While the process is confusing, I hope it answers some of your questions.



Byron Township
 8085 Byron Center Avenue
 Byron Center, MI 49315
 Phone: 616-878-9066
 Fax: 616-878-3980

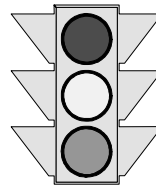
Byron Township Phone List

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

Why is there a 4-way stop at the intersection of Byron Center Avenue and 84th Street?

This question is often asked by Byron Township residents. Realizing that a stop light would allow increased and consecutive traffic flow, this option is not the safest for pedestrians, children and township residents. The placement of a three-way light would encourage drivers to travel at faster speeds to "beat" the red light. A four-way stop insists that each driver slow down and come to a complete stop, ensuring a safe intersection for pedestrian, vehicles and local businesses.

Please review the four-way stop rules. If everyone abides by the law, mishaps will be insignificant and kept to a minimum.



OR



**BYRON CENTER COUNTRY FESTIVAL DAYS
 July 27,28,29**

Friday, July 27

- 4:00 pm Craft Show
- 5:00 pm Chicken BBQ sponsored by Carlisle U.M. Church
- 7:00 pm New Song Ministries Concert Series
3 different acts perform on the hour

Saturday, July 28

- 8:00 am Co-ed Softball Tournament
- 9:00 am Library Book Sale
- 10:00 am Parade
- 11:00 am Kids games, Craft Show, Concessions
- 11:00 am New Song Ministries Concert Series
5 different acts perform on the hour
- 12:00 pm Chicken BBQ sponsored by Carlisle U.M. Church
- 7:00 pm Demolition Derby

Sunday, July 29

- 7:30 pm Praisefest 2001 (Van Singel Fine Arts Center)
 Hosted by Byron Center Community Ministries
BCCM will be holding their annual rummage sale July 26-28 at the BCCM Building, 8250 Byron Creek Drive.

Most festival events will be held at the Festival grounds, located behind Nickels Intermediate School, 8542 Byron Center Avenue.

For Festival Information, please call Ken Koster at 878-1998 or Joel Hondorp at 878-9104