



BYRON BUGLE



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Volume 13, Issue 3

July 2004

FROM THE

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Township Calendar

July 12	Township Board Meeting
July 19	Planning Commission
July 26	Township Board Meeting
July 28	Board of Appeals
August 9	Township Board Meeting
August 16	Planning Commission
August 23	Township Board Meeting
August 25	Board of Appeals
September 13	Township Board Meeting
September 14	SUMMER TAXES DUE
September 20	Planning Commission
September 27	Township Board Meeting
September 22	Board of Appeals

HOW MUCH DO WE CARE

I seldom get philosophical when writing an article for the newsletter, but lately what I am about to convey has been of great concern to me.

More often than ever, I have noted with heartfelt concern the number of our young people who are being maimed for life or killed in car accidents. In part, because I know some of the parents of those children, and I know they are wishing for a long and rewarding life for them as I am for my soon to be 8 grandchildren. Why are so many of our young drivers killed in traffic accidents? Where does the responsibility lie? How can we prevent these accidents from happening? Are we doing enough to prevent these tragedies?

At a time when our young people are the best educated, the most informed, have access to the best technology, and the best drivers education program; these mishaps are continuing to happen with unprecedented frequency. What's the answer?

I've come to the conclusion, it's most likely attitude. But, before too many people misunderstand that comment, read on! Our children, virtually from the cradle to adulthood develop character and attitude based on what they see, hear and feel. In the young impressionable years they probably learn best by example. Examples set forth by parents, teachers, religious leaders, peers, neighbors and those others they hold in high regard. What kind of example do we, the above, establish for our children? Now, how does this relate to the object of this article?

Every day, I see adults violating traffic laws, time after time. I see parents rid-

ing their bicycles on the wrong side of the road, with a five year old tagging along at the rear. I see adult drivers running stop signs, traffic signals, and not making legal turns. I rarely see anyone stop for a red flashing light or arrow before executing a turn. No one respects a road closed sign any more. They even get out and move barricades, all this in the presence of children and young new drivers. What are we teaching them? Certainly not to obey the law!

I believe we are creating an attitude that, it's okay to disobey traffic laws. After all, mom and dad do it. Other adults do it! Or disobey many other laws for that matter!

When those laws are designed for our protection and to keep us and others safe as we travel our roads are disregarded; **Accidents happen.**

Who's to blame! All of us who fail to set a good example of obeying all of the laws for our young impressionable drivers. The next time you or I are inclined to violate a traffic law, we need to think about what kind of example we are setting for our young people. A good example could save the life of a young adult, someone near and dear to our hearts.

Our children and young adults are America's most valuable resource. They are the future, but we as adults must do what is necessary to protect our loved ones and their future.

Have a great summer!

Larry Silvernail
Township Supervisor



BYRON TOWNSHIP FESTIVAL 2004

July 29 - 31



Thursday, July 29

9:00 a.m. Byron Community Ministries Flea Market
(8250 Byron Creek Drive)

Friday, July 30

9:00 a.m. Byron Community Ministries Flea Market
4:00 p.m. Craft Show (Nickels Intermediate School Gym)
5:00 p.m. Chicken Bar-B-Q (Carlisle Methodist Church)

Saturday, July 31

7:30 a.m. Pancake Breakfast (Byron Center Rotary)
8:00 a.m. Softball Tournament (WhistleStop Park)
8:00 a.m. Rec Sports 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament
9:00 a.m. Byron Community Ministries Flea Market
9:30 a.m. Parade Line up
10:00 a.m. Parade
11:00 a.m. Kids Games – Craft Show – Concessions
12:00 p.m. Chicken Bar-B-Q (Carlisle Methodist Church)
11:00 a.m. Inflatable Rides
8:30 p.m. Byron Festival Concert
featuring the Williams Family
Byron Center Football Field
Dusk **Fireworks**
(sponsored by Buist, Byron Township, and Byron Center Grange)

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

For Festival Information, please call Joel Hondorp at 878-9104

THE CLERK'S CORNER

By Joel Hondorp



Primary Election 2004

Tuesday, August 3

Polls are open from 7:00 am - 8:00 pm.

1. What is the Primary Election and why should I vote in that election?

Basically the Primary is a chance for each party to choose candidates to run in the General Election. If more than one person is running for a position within a party, the Primary Election decides which of them will become a candidate in November.

2. Can I "split my ballot" in the Primary?

No, as stated above, the Primary is for political parties to choose their candidate - you must stay within one party. You don't, however, have to "declare" a party - both major parties will be on the same ballot.

3. Is there anything else on the Primary Ballot?

Yes, there are 3 issues to be decided in August: 2 millage proposals for the Kent District Library and a millage request for the County Wildlife Park. This is the voters' chance to decide on these 3 proposals.

4. What if I am gone on Election Day?

If you know you will be out of town, please mail an Absentee Ballot request to the Byron Township Clerk's Office at 8085 Byron Center Avenue, Byron Center, MI 49315.

Positions on the August 3 Ballot

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| U.S. Representative | County Commissioner |
| State Representative | Precinct Delegate |
| County Prosecuting Attorney | Township Supervisor |
| County Sheriff | Township Clerk |
| County Clerk | Township Treasurer |
| County Treasurer | Township Trustee (4) |
| County Drain Commissioner | |
| | County Proposal |
| | <i>Proposition for Kent County Millage for Wildlife Park</i> |
| | Proposition #1 |
| | <i>Kent District Library Millage Renewal and Increase</i> |
| | Proposition #2 |
| | <i>Kent District Library Additional Millage Increase</i> |

TREASURER'S FORUM

By Carol Houseman

We Have A New Look!

As of May 1st, Byron Township as well as all of Kent County, has upgraded our Tax System to the BS&A Assessing and Taxes program.

Jacki Reed, my Deputy Treasurer, and I have been very busy with the conversion so we could get your tax statements out on time. We believe the new format is very easy to read and understand.

The wording has changed this year for Homestead Exemption. It is now called **Principle Residence Exemption**. Under the "Tax Detail" it has listed P.R.E. and this where your percentage of exemption is listed.

Taxes are due by September 14. If you don't receive a bill by July 15, please call the office. Please be patient with us as we go through the first tax collection cycle. If you have any questions, please call or stop by. I hope you have a great summer.

2004 Tax Table

Below is a tax chart for a home that has a Principle Residence Exemption and is valued at \$150,000 with a taxable value of \$75,000. It will show the taxing authority, millage rate and annual tax dollars.

One mil equals one dollar per thousand of taxable value of your property. In the above example 28.7083 mills equates to 28.7083 X 75 representing the taxable value in thousands and the taxes are \$2,153.12 annually.

<u>Taxing Authority</u>	<u>Millage</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
GR Community College	1.7865	\$133.99
Kent Intermediate Schools	4.5333	\$340.00
Byron Center Public Schools	7.9834	\$598.76
State Education Tax	6.000	\$450.00
Kent County*	5.314	\$398.55
Kent District Library*	.871	\$65.33
Byron Township Law	.6000	\$45
Byron Township Fire	.9100	\$68.25
Byron Township Allocated	.7100	\$53.25
Total	28.7083	\$2,153.12

Non P.R.E. properties, such as Industrial and Commercial properties, rental property and a second residence are not considered your P.R.E and are assessed 18 mills more than properties with a Principle Residence Exemption.

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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

Remember to Vote

Primary Election
Tuesday, August 3

General Election
Tuesday, November 2

Polls are open 7am - 8pm

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