



BYRON BUGLE



www.byrontownship.org

Volume 14, Issue 3

July 2005

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Township Calendar

July 11	Township Board Meeting
July 18	Planning Commission
July 25	Township Board Meeting
July 27	Board of Appeals
August 8	Township Board Meeting
August 15	Planning Commission
August 22	Township Board Meeting
August 24	Board of Appeals
September 12	Township Board Meeting
September 14	SUMMER TAXES DUE
September 19	Planning Commission
September 26	Township Board Meeting
September 28	Board of Appeals

A New Master Plan for Byron Township

Byron Township is commencing the process to create a new Township Master Plan. The Master Plan is the document that the Planning Commission and Township Board use to guide land use, growth and development in the community. The Township Planning Act requires that a community review its Master Plan at least every five years, and due to significant growth in Byron, the Township has elected to develop a new Master Plan to reflect and address current and likely future trends.

The Township Planning Commission will work with Williams & Works – a consulting firm that has provided the Township with planning services for over twenty-five years – to implement the master planning process. A local resident “advisory committee” will help guide the process, as well.

The development of the Master Plan will involve four inter-related phases and will be completed in the late summer of 2006. The process will include extensive public input.

A Community Profile Report will be a compilation of information about the Township, or a “snap shot” into pertinent trends relating to demographics, economic development, transportation, natural features, parks, utilities, and the Byron Center business district, to describe the Township’s current situation and to draw implications for the future if current trends continue.

The preferred future for the Township will be established through a consensus building process involving public open houses and “visioning” workshops, in which the public comes to voice opinions on threats and opportunities to the “ideal” Byron Township. A community opinion survey will be promulgated to garner additional input. This public input will inspire the Planning Commission in crafting goals and objectives that the Township would later attempt to achieve.

A future land use plan will be created based on the preferred future established in the previous phase. This will include mapping and narrative to provide policy and land use guidance for the Planning Commission and Township Board in the review of development proposals and rezoning requests.

The final component will be a collection of action strategies that will detail the work required to bring the goals of the Master Plan to fruition.

Significant public participation is sought in this process. The open houses, visioning workshop, and community opinion survey will inform the Planning Commission of how residents view current growth and development trends. The visioning workshop will be the first element of public participation and has been tentatively scheduled for August 17th, and will be held at the Township Hall at 7:00 pm. The Township will use several media to give you advance notice so that you can participate. If you would like further information about the Township’s master planning process, please contact the Township at 878-9066 or the Township’s planning consultant at 244-1500.

From the Water and Sewer Department

The Byron Township Water and Sewer Department is now offering a new payment option. Customers may now choose to have their quarterly utility payments automatically withdrawn from their checking or savings account through an ACHA (Automatic Clearing House Association) program. There is no cost for this service from the Township, however your financial institution may, in some cases, assess you a service charge. This service is easy and convenient. You also save money by avoiding postage, check costs and potential late payment fees. Once you have enrolled, your designated checking or savings account will be debited the outstanding balance due on your quarterly utility bill. You will receive a copy of the bill showing the amount due and the date the money will be drawn from your account. For more information, please feel free to call Julie or Shirley at 616-878-0660.



BYRON TOWNSHIP FESTIVAL 2005

July 28 - 31



Thursday, July 28

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

Friday, July 29

9:00 a.m. Byron Community Ministries Flea Market
5:00 p.m. Byron Bank 5K Race Registration (Byron Bank)
7:00 p.m. Teen Night concert - Legendary (Byron Bank)

Saturday, July 30

7:30 a.m. Pancake Breakfast (Pathway Ministries)
Hosted by Byron Center Rotary and Pathway Ministries
8:00 a.m. Softball Tournament (WhistleStop Park)
8:00 a.m. Rec Sports 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament
8:30 a.m. Byron Bank 5K Run/Walk (Byron Bank)
9:00 a.m. Byron Community Ministries Flea Market
9:00 a.m. Parade Line up (Brown School)
9:30 a.m. Parade
10:30 a.m. Kids Games – Concessions (Bicentennial Park)
10:30 a.m. Inflatable Rides (Bicentennial Park)
7:00 p.m. Byron Festival Concert @ Bicentennial Park
featuring Lare Williams and New Direction
Bring your lawn chairs and blankets.

Dusk **Fireworks**

Sunday, July 31

6:15 p.m. Krissy Nordhoff in Concert
First Reformed Church of Byron Center

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

The Rapid Launches Countywide Transportation Service



The *Rapid* has kicked-off The County Connection, a new countywide transportation service. The County Connection service ensures that all residents of Kent County have access to public transportation. It is available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, with the excep-

tion of major holidays. Rides are scheduled in advance and cost \$14.00 each way; same day rides can also be scheduled on a space-available basis with a \$5.00 surcharge per person/per ride. Children under the age of 5 are free. The service area is the borders of Kent County, approximately 22 Mile Road to the north, 108th Avenue to the south, Wilson/Kenowa to the west, and Boynton/Snow to the east. You can ride from any point in the county to any other point in the county using this service.

The County Connection program is funded through a competitive federal job access and reverse commute grant matched by state money. *The Rapid* worked closely with the Workforce Development Board and the Area Community Service for Employment and Training (ACSET) to design a program that supports work or work-related trips throughout Kent County. Priority is given to clients of ACSET and the Michigan Department of Human Services (formerly FIA), but it is available to all residents of Kent County.

County Connection has brought transportation alternatives to many areas of Kent County that previously had no access to public transportation. The service also assists those choosing to live in rural areas in finding a cost-effective, reliable way to get to work. The County Connection significantly enhances the quality of life for Kent County residents and is quickly on its way to becoming a major success story for *The Rapid*, and ultimately, the people it serves. To schedule a ride or find out more about the service, call *The Rapid* at 800-849-1191.

State Representative Kevin Green

To serve his constituents more effectively, State Rep. Kevin Green has scheduled regular office hours in Wyoming. Kevin will be at the Wyoming-Kentwood Chamber of Commerce at 590 32nd St. SE from 7:30 to 9 a.m. on the fourth Friday of every month beginning May 27. Green says it's important for elected officials to be accessible residents.

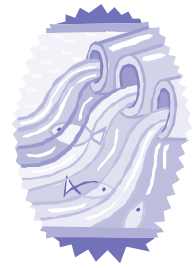
"With so much happening right now in Lansing that affects us here in Wyoming, maintaining the relationships and contact in the district is vital," Green said. "I look forward to meeting with my constituents."

Green can be contacted by phone at (517) 373-2277, e-mail at Dist077@house.mi.gov, or by regular mail at P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909-7514

A Citizen's Guide to Stormwater

Michigan rivers and tributaries stretch across hundreds of square miles in Michigan, including highlands and lowlands. The rivers **carry rain and snowmelt runoff, or stormwater runoff, into inland lakes and the Great Lakes. The quantity of stormwater entering our rivers, lakes, and streams along with the pollutants it carries can degrade aquatic habitat and water quality.**

We can all take simple steps to reduce stormwater pollution. After all, the cheapest way to stop pollution is at the source.



5 WAYS YOU CAN HELP MICHIGAN RIVERS

1. **Use a pooper scooper!** Bacteria, parasites and viruses from pest waste can easily wash into storm drains and end up in the river without being treated.
2. **Limit your pesticide and fertilizer use.** Pesticides are one of the biggest pollutants of all. Limit fertilizer use and make it a habit to sweep your grass clippings onto the lawn rather than into a catch basin.
3. **Check your vehicles for fuel and oil leaks.** When it rains, grease and oil drippings wash into storm drains, and go straight to our rivers and streams.
4. **Wash your car on the lawn or go to a car wash.** Dirt and oils you wash off can harm fish and animals if goes straight to the storm drain.
5. **ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN!**

Fall Recreation Opportunities

Fall Softball

Fall softball leagues are now forming. Register your slow pitch softball team for the fall leagues in Byron Township. Registrations are currently being accepted. The fall registration deadline is July 22, 2005. Men's and Coed 6 game leagues are available Monday-Thursday. Games will begin the week of August 22, 2005. All games will be held at Whistlestop Park. Check out the website for registration forms, www.byrontownship.org or call 878-1998 for more information.

Fall Volleyball

The fall women's volleyball league registrations will begin July 18, 2005. The registration deadline is August 26, 2005. Register your volleyball team for the 10 game leagues. Teams will be split into divisions depending on their ability. Games will be held on Monday evenings beginning September 26, 2005. Check out the website for registration forms, www.byrontownship.org or call 878-1998 for more information.



www.byrontownship.org



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

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.

Byron Township

8085 Byron Center Ave., SW

Byron Center, MI 49315