



# BYRON BUGLE



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

## From the Supervisor Audrey Nevins

### PROTECT OUR NATURAL WATERS

As responsible citizens of Byron Township, we need to recognize how we take care of our cars and trucks and other vehicles that greatly influence our creeks and streams. You can do your part to stop pollution at the source by preventing detergents, oil grease, and gasoline from entering street drains, which leads directly to nearby streams and lakes.

#### Vehicle washing

Look for non-toxic phosphate free cleaners at your local grocery, auto or hardware store. You can also use alternative cleaners, such as baking soda and lemon juice. Avoid products with bleach, ammonia, lye, or petroleum distillates. ( See chart below)

#### Fuel and Oil

When fueling, avoid topping off. Remember fuel expands when warmed up in your tank. Fuel should be stored in approved containers. Routinely check for and fix oil and fuel leaks. Recycle your waste oil. Never dump in storm drains. Use a drip pan when doing engine maintenance. Drippings left on the cement can get washed into nearby drains and end up in our streams.

Have a great summer and enjoy this great State and protect our natural waters.

<i>Product</i>	<i>Better Alternative</i>
Bleach	Borax or hydrogen peroxide
Chrome Cleaner	Apple Cider Vinegar to clean and baby oil to polish
Engine Cleaner	Steam clean the engine in a dedicated service area
Paint Stripper	Physically remove old paint without chemical use
Scouring Pads	Baking soda and "elbow grease"
Window Cleaner	Vinegar and lemon juice in lukewarm water
Wood Polish	Olive or Almond Oil for interior wood

## From the Water and Sewer Department

The water & sewer assessment bills will go out on Friday, June 30<sup>th</sup>. If you have an annual assessment payment of either water or sewer, or perhaps both, they will be due on July 31, 2006 before the close of business. Any bill that is not paid on or before 5:00 pm, August 31, 2006 will be assigned to your winter tax bill. We have a drop box on the East side of the building for your convenience.

The Consumer Confidence 2005 Water Quality Reports are going out in the summer tax bills if you are in a section within the township that has public water. This report is supplied by the City of Wyoming, and tells you that your drinking water is safe. If you need additional copies, we have them available at the township office for distribution.

Remember that underground sprinkling set automatically can cause an unnecessarily high utility bill. You may want to consider manually setting the underground sprinkling so that you have more control over how much water you are using.

*If the grass is greener on the other side of the fence,  
you can bet their water bill is higher too!!*

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### Township Calendar

July 10	Township Board Meeting
July 17	Planning Commission
July 24	Township Board Meeting
July 26	Board of Appeals
August 14	Township Board Meeting
August 21	Planning Commission
August 23	Board of Appeals
August 28	Township Board Meeting
September 11	Township Board Meeting
September 14	SUMMER TAXES DUE
September 18	Planning Commission
September 25	Township Board Meeting
September 27	Board of Appeals



## BYRON TOWNSHIP FESTIVAL 2006



**July 27-30**

### **Thursday, July 27**

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

### **Friday, July 28**

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 Concert - Sleeping Tribune

### **Saturday, July 29**

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. Byron Center Fine Arts Boosters  
Art and Craft Sale  
9:30 a.m. Kids Fun Run (Byron Bank)  
9:30 a.m. Parade Line up (Nickels Intermediate School)  
9:30 a.m. Used Book Sale (Library)  
10:00 a.m. Parade  
11:30 a.m. Kid's Activities  
11:30 a.m. Military Recruiter Activities  
5:00 p.m. High Pointe Community Church Praise Band  
7:00 p.m. Byron Festival Concert  
featuring Lare Williams and New Direction  
*Bring your lawn chairs and blankets.*  
Dusk **Fireworks**

### **Sunday, July 30**

10:00 a.m. Community Worship Service in the Park  
hosted by Heritage CRC and Pathway Ministries  
7:30 p.m. Sunday Evening Concert - Ami Walker

***For Festival Information, please call Joel Hondorp at 878-9104  
All events located in Bicentennial Park unless noted differently.***

# THE CLERK'S CORNER

By Joel Hondorp

## Primary Election 2006

*Tuesday, August 8*

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 is 1 issue to be decided in August: a millage proposal to renew the Kent County Senior Millage.

### 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 8 Ballot

Governor	U. S. Senator
U.S. Representative	County Commissioner
State Representative	Precinct Delegate
County Drain Commissioner	Circuit Court Judge

### Proposition #1

*Kent County Senior Millage Renewal*

**\*\*New this year\*\***

Through Federal and State Grants, there will be equipment available for voters with disabilities to mark their own ballot unassisted. This new machine is called the AUTOMark. The AUTOMark will mark the ballot and the ballot will run through the tabulator like any other ballot. The AUTOMark uses touch screen, audio and buttons to allow the voter to mark their ballot.

# 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.

One mil equals one dollar per thousand of taxable value of your property. In the above example 28.8743 mills equates to 28.8743 X 60 representing the taxable value in thousands and the taxes are \$1732 annually.

Non PRE (principle residence exemption) properties, such as Industrial and Commercial properties, rental property and a second residence are not considered your homestead and 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 28.8745. That's 24.0165 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.

<u>Taxing Authority</u>	<u>Millage</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
GR Community College	1.7865	\$107.19
Kent Intermediate Schools	4.6903	\$281.42
Byron Center Public Schools	7.9835	\$479.01
State Education Tax	6.000	\$360.00
Kent County	5.3140	\$318.40
Kent District Library	.88	\$52.80
Byron Township Law	.6000	\$36.00
Byron Township Fire	.9100	\$54.60
Byron Township Allocated	.7100	\$42.60
<b>Total</b>	<b>28.8743</b>	<b>\$1,732</b>

**\*\*New this year\*\***

You may sign up to have your taxes automatically deducted from your bank account. There will be two dates that you may choose to have your account debited. The form will be included with your tax bill.

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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

**EVERY  
SATURDAY  
JUNE 17**

*through*

**OCTOBER 14**  
*9am - 1pm*



Located in the Heart of Byron Center  
8350 Byron Center Avenue, SW  
Parking Lot of Pathway Ministries

**Byron Township**

**8085 Byron Center Ave., SW**

**Byron Center, MI 49315**