



THE BYRON TOWNSHIP BUGLE



Volume 12 Issue 3

July, 2003

Dates to Note:

July 14	Township Board Meeting
July 21	Planning Commission
July 23	Board of Appeals
July 28	Township Board Meeting
August 11	Township Board Meeting
August 18	Planning Commission
August 25	Township Board Meeting
August 27	Board of Appeals
September 8	Township Board Meeting
September 15	Summer Taxes Due
September 15	Planning Commission
September 22	Township Board Meeting
September 24	Board of Appeals



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Byron Gaines Utility Authority

Beginning on July 1, the Byron-Gaines Utility Authority assumed operations and maintenance functions for the Byron and Gaines Townships' water and sanitary sewer systems. These functions were being performed by the Kent County Department of Public Works. The Authority will operate from a new maintenance facility located at 1381-84th Street SE.

Hours of operation will be Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM until 4:30 PM. After hour response for problems involving the water and sanitary systems will be provided by an on call duty system dispatched through Eagle Security Systems (243-1255).

The Authority begins operation with a staff of six (6) people, the Authority Manager (Lynn Thomas), an Administrative Assistant (Katie Balfourt), a Crew Leader (Jim Landis), a System Operator (Rich Tanner) and two (2) Maintenance Worker-Meter Readers (Mark Pyper and Barry Korhorn). Our field operations personnel will be identifiable by the Authority name and logo on the white Chevrolet pickup trucks they drive and the blue uniforms they wear. The Authority intends to provide friendly, courteous, cooperative and professional services to the residents of the Townships and to respond to problems and concerns in a timely manner.

From time to time we will provide you with different information about the water and sewer systems. In this bulletin let's talk about something no one wants to deal with, **sewer backups**. If you should have a sewer backup at your residence or business what should you do? Before you contact a private contractor to fix the problem, immediately call our of-

fice at 971-0002, or after business hours, call 243-1255. An Authority employee will contact you, visit your premises to conduct a visual inspection of the affected area, evaluate the situation, check the sewer main to insure it is flowing properly, then advise you on the course of action to be taken to correct the problem.

The property owner and the Township each share responsibility for a part of the sewer system that serves a property. The sewer main and the sewer lateral from the main to the property line belong to the Township. The sewer lateral from the property line, including the connection (originally made by the owners/builders plumber) at the property line into the home or business, belong to the property owner. The cause of the backup will determine the course of action needed to correct the problem, as determined by Authority personnel.

If you have a sewer backup event occur, by law, you must provide written notice of the event within 45 days to the Authority/Township. A copy of the Sewer Backup Policy and Procedures may be reviewed at the Authority's office or the Townships Water/Sewer Department. If you have specific questions feel free to contact me directly.

Have a safe and joyful summer.

Lynn Thomas, Authority Manager

Phone: 971-0002
Fax: 554-3655



BYRON TOWNSHIP FESTIVAL 2003

July 24, 25, 26, 27



Thursday, July 24

9:00 a.m. Byron Community Ministries Flea Market

Friday, July 25

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

Saturday, July 26

7:30 a.m. Pancake Breakfast (Byron Methodist Church)
 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)
 12:00 p.m. Inflatable Rides
 12:30 p.m. Byron Community Band
 8:30 p.m. Byron Festival Concert
 featuring the United States Air Force Band of Flight
 Byron Center Football Field
Stage sponsored by Metropolitan Hospital
Fireworks
 (sponsored by BCSB, Buist, Byron Township,
 Lions Club and Byron Center Grange)

Dusk

Sunday, July 27

7:30 p.m. Byron Center Praise Fest
 Van Singel Fine Art Center

*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*



THE CLERK'S CORNER

By Joel Hondorp

Does Your House *Hold* Hazardous Waste?

The Kent County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program was developed to provide county residents with a safe and effective means to dispose of their unwanted hazardous materials. How do you tell if something could be hazardous? Read the product labels. Words such as "Danger", "Poison", "Warning", or "Caution" will identify products that contain hazardous ingredients. When these products are discarded, they become household hazardous wastes. These products generally fall into five categories:

- Cleaning Products:** Drain openers, oven cleaners, polishes, spot removers.
- Automotive Products:** Gasoline and solvents, brake or transmission fluids, car batteries, polishes and waxes.
- Paint and Paint Products:** Thinners, mineral spirits, oil base paints, stains and varnishes, aerosol cans, epoxies and adhesives.
- Pesticides:** Weed killers, insecticides, fertilizers, wood preservatives, rat or insect poisons.
- Miscellaneous:** Pool chemicals, driveway sealer, roofing tar, hobby or photo chemicals, mercury, batteries (Ni-Cad, lithium, alkaline, etc.).

Call **(616) 336-2501** or **1-888-217-2850** to set an appointment most convenient for you, and for more information on Kent County's Solid Waste Recycling and HHW Programs. This program is **free** to the residents of Kent County, but we cannot accept materials from farms, businesses, offices, or institutions. There are resources available for these groups, but this program is for households only. To keep the service free and prevent illegal dumping of materials, we need to have residents call for an appointment. Some other basic guidelines for this program can be obtained by calling the above phone numbers. We also publish a guide on waste options and alternatives in Kent County available to residents. For residents of other counties, please call your county government to find out what options are available in your area.

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

<u>Taxing Authority</u>	<u>Millage</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
GR Community College	1.7865	\$107.19
Kent Intermediate Schools	3.7903	\$227.42
Byron Center Public Schools	7.9834	\$479.00
State Education Tax	5.000	\$300.00
Kent County*	5.314	\$318.84
Kent District Library*	.8769	\$46.14
Byron Township Law	.6000	\$36
Byron Township Fire	.9100	\$54.60
Byron Township Allocated	.7100	\$42.60
Total	26.9711	\$1618.27

of your property. In the above example 26.9711 mills equates to 26.9711 X 60 representing the taxable value in thousands and the taxes are \$1,618.27 annually.

Non homestead 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 26.9711. That's 25.9199 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
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Byron Center, MI 49315
Phone: 616-878-9066
Fax: 616-878-3980
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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

From the Inspections Department

Summer is finally here and our office has had many questions regarding swimming pools. Swimming pools with sides above 24 inches will require special considerations in our community in accordance with Michigan Building Codes. Electrical permits are required for all pools requiring a pump. These permits may be acquired at the Byron Township Offices for a small fee. Also a site plan indicating the location of the pool and location of protective enclosures is required. A simple sketch will be sufficient. Many liability concerns for the safety of neighborhood children make these simple requirements a necessity.

Our office would also like to remind you to check and change the batteries in your smoke detectors and practice exit drills in your home. Do your children know where your meeting place is in the event of a fire?

Have a happy and safe summer!

Byron Township

8085 Byron Center Ave., SW

Byron Center, MI 49315