



# BYRON BUGLE



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



Volume 16, Issue 4

October, 2007

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## Township Calendar

October 8	Township Board Meeting
October 15	Planning Commission
October 22	Township Board Meeting
October 24	Board of Appeals
November 12	Township Board Meeting
November 19	Planning Commission
November 26	Township Board Meeting
November 28	Board of Appeals
December 10	Township Board Meeting
December 17	Planning Commission
December 26	Township Board Meeting

## From the Supervisor

Audrey Nevins

### 2007 Leaf Drop Off Program

Collection Drop-Off Station to assist Township Residents in disposing of their leaves. The Township Board is encouraging use of this drop-off site as an alternative to open burning. The drop-off site will be located near the ball fields at Bi-Centennial Park, 8085 Byron Center Avenue SW because it is centrally located within the Township.

This service is provided for Byron Township Residents only and proof of residence may be required. The program is provided at no charge for residents.

Only dry bagged leaves will be accepted. Township employees will be available to assist in placing the leaves in the compactor truck. Residents will take leaf bags back with them.

A chipper will be available on October 20 and 27 only for branches, twigs or shrubs.

**Leaves will only be accepted on these 5 Saturdays. Leaves brought at other times could lead to the end of the program.**

#### Leaf Collection Dates and Time

Saturdays 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

October 20 & 27

November 3, 10, & 17

## Passport Fair

**Where:** Byron Township Offices

**When:** Thursday, November 8, 6-8 pm

**Why:** Passports are required to enter the United States when arriving by air from any part of the Western Hemisphere.

**How:** Bring the necessary pieces of information:

- Proof of citizenship: certified, sealed birth certificate, or a previous passport, or naturalization papers, or a certificate of citizenship.
- A current Photo ID (Driver's License)
- Two Passport Photos (Available at Walgreens, Meijer, Sam's, Costco, etc.)
- Appropriate Fees (Check or Money Order only)
- For minor children under the age of 14, both parents must be present to sign the application or a notarized form from the absent parent must be attached to the application.

- All Applicants must appear in person.

**Fees:** (Two Separate Checks)

Age 16 and over: \$67 Department of State  
\$30 Byron Township

Under 16: \$52 Department of State  
\$30 Byron Township

If you need it processed faster add \$60 to the Department of State check. The cost is the same no matter where you apply. You may combine family members or groups into the two checks. The wait time for a passport is 6-8 weeks and 2-3 weeks for expedited applications.

Ordinarily, you can come to the Clerk's office any weekday 8-5, but we wanted to offer a time after hours for you to apply for a passport.

#### Tips to Remember

**Bring all the necessary information. Payments must be made by Check or Money Order.**

## Temporary Signs

Enforcement of the Zoning Ordinance can be difficult when regulations are contradictory or ambiguous. The Township of Byron has recently amended its Zoning Ordinance to clarify vague and conflicting language in connection with temporary signage. A temporary sign is a sign consisting of fabric or other temporary material which is displayed or is meant for display on a temporary basis.

The recent zoning amendment attempts to solve an enforcement challenge related to lack of a reference timeframe for temporary signs. Most communities provide for a 6 month or 12 month reference timeframe. This would mean a business would be permitted to display a temporary sign for 30 days in any 6 month or 12 month period. This is an issue in Byron Township, because some business owners are under the impression that it is technically compliant to place a temporary sign for a period of 30 days; remove the temporary sign for a nominal period of time, such as a weekend or one second; then replace the temporary sign. In addition, some business owners are under the impression that it is acceptable to remove one temporary sign and replace it with another sign.

This clearly contravenes the intent of the Zoning Ordinance and makes enforcement a challenge. Byron Township recognizes that advertising is an essential component of any business, but it has never been the Township's intent to allow temporary signs in perpetuity. As such, the Planning Commission and Township Board

drafted and adopted new zoning standards for clarification purposes.

The new standards require that:

- A temporary sign may be displayed for not more than 30 days in any calendar year, whether or not the days are consecutive.
- If a temporary sign has been displayed for at least the last 20 days but less than the last 30 consecutive days of the calendar year, it may not again be displayed until an equal number of days commencing with January 1<sup>st</sup> of the ensuing calendar year have elapsed.
- A temporary sign may not be larger than 8 square feet, nor may it be placed closer than 2 feet from any property line or right-of-way.
- Only one temporary sign is permitted for each separate commercial establishment on a parcel of land.
- A permit is required for a temporary sign. The permit application must include an accurate sketch of the sign and information on where it will be located; and a statement signed by the applicant stating specifically the days or the span of consecutive days during which the sign will be displayed, and the date when the sign is to be removed.

## Halloween Safety

**Cars, not candy should be Parents' primary safety concern on Halloween. To help make your child's Halloween safe, Byron Township would like to recommend the following safety precautions:**

- Children under the age of 12 should have adult supervision.
- Decorated costumes and bags with reflective tape.
- Give trick-or-treaters flashlights.
- Be sure your children dress in flame retardant costumes.
- Keep candles, pumpkins with candles, matches and lighters out of the reach of children.

## Christmas Safety

- Keep Christmas tree needles moist by replenishing the water supply daily. Dryness is the biggest fire safety hazard. Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks.
- Check your indoor and outdoor Christmas lights each year before you use them. If there are frayed cords, exposed wires or broken sockets, replace or repair them before using. Unplug your lights when you leave your

home or before going to bed.

- Do not put wrapping paper in a fireplace or stove, it can throw off dangerous sparks.
- **NEVER LEAVE CANDLES AND CHILDREN UN-ATTENDED.**

Also, please make sure you have an address on your home that is visible from the street. This will help emergency vehicles find your home and save precious time.

## Clerk's Corner

### Special GRCC Election August 2007

Prec.	Reg.	Voted	Percent	Yes	No
1	2324	488	21.00%	210	278
2	1076	76	7.06%	31	45
3	1369	70	5.11%	34	36
4	2057	294	14.29%	85	208
5	2532	313	12.36%	100	213
6	2186	289	13.22%	127	162
7	859	124	14.44%	55	69
8	1905	360	18.90%	117	243
Total	14308	2014	14.08%	759	1254

### January 15 Presidential Primary

Gov. Jennifer Granholm has signed into law Senate Bill 624, creating Public Act 52, which establishes a presidential primary in Michigan on Jan. 15, 2008. The law allows each of the major parties to use another method of selecting delegates to their national conventions, if they choose, by notifying the secretary of state by Nov. 14, 2007.

You will vote at your normal precinct and you will request a Republican or a Democrat ballot. If proposals are on the ballot, you may choose a proposal only ballot. You do not have to register with a party ahead of time. A list will be given to the parties of which ballot was chosen by the voter. The Township and the State will not keep any record of the ballot chosen. As of print time,

## Treasurer's Forum

Another summer is behind us and fall has begun. I hope you and your family were able to relax and enjoy the beautiful season together.

The Treasurer's Office is a little quieter these days, since the Summer Tax Cycle was over on September 14. Hopefully, you remembered to pay your property taxes. If you did forget, payments can be made to the Township until February 28, 2008. Interest of 1% will be added the first of each month on the unpaid balance. If you are in doubt if your taxes were paid, please call my office at 878-3196.

There appears to be some confusion on the tax statements. There will continue to be 2 statements per year. The only thing that moved to the summer was the Kent County

## Joel Hondorp

both parties are planning to use this method, but they have until November 14, to withdraw. More information will follow in the January Bugle.

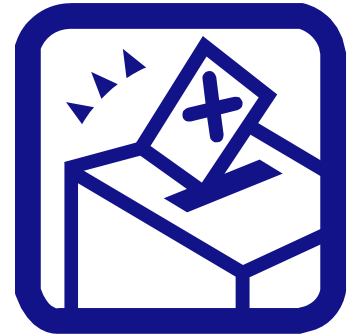
### New Voter ID Regulations

Starting this November, all voters must show a **picture ID** in order to vote in elections. You can satisfy this requirement by showing you Michigan Driver's License or State ID. Your voter card is not acceptable because it does not have a picture. Other acceptable IDs are passport, other state driver's license, military ID, Student ID. If you do not have a picture ID, you may fill out an affidavit stating you do not have ID. The process for voting will remain the same except for showing your ID to the worker who checks your name in the book.

### Change in Precinct Lines

Due to growth in some areas of the Township, some precinct boundaries will be changing. A change in the boundary means a change in a voting location. Voters whose precinct and polling location changes, will receive a new voter card in the mail. Precincts affected will be a portion of Precincts 5 & 7. A map of the new precinct boundaries can be viewed at [www.byrontownship.org/election.htm](http://www.byrontownship.org/election.htm).

If you have any questions about these changes, please call Joel at 878-9104.



## Carol Houseman

line item. The summer tax bill is approximately 72% of your annual tax bill and the winter tax bill is 28%.

Winter taxes will be in the mail the first week of December. They are due on February 14, 2008. If you wish to use the deduction for your 2007 income taxes, the payments must be in by December 31st. Payments dropped off by 8:00 a.m. on January 2 will be stamped 12-31-07.

2008 dog licenses will be available at the Township from December 1, 2007 through March 1, 2008. After those dates you may get them from Kent County Animal Control.

If you have questions or just want to say hi, please stop in. My door is always open.



*“Winter taxes will be in the mail the first week of December.”*

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

*Byron Township  
Holiday Days Closed*

*Thanksgiving  
Day after Thanksgiving*

*December 24*

*December 25*

*December 31*

*January 1*

**Byron Township**

**8085 Byron Center Ave., SW**

**Byron Center, MI 49315**

# BYRON TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT FALL and WINTER PROGRAMS

*"Creating Community through People, Parks and Programs"*

## TRUNK OR TREAT

Come one, come all to the 3rd Annual "Trunk or Treat". Join us for this *Spooky* fun family event. Children of all ages can "Trunk or Treat" through the park for special goodies. Dress up in your favorite costume and take part in the festivities. Entertainment, "Dee Jay the Clown" will feature Balloon Animals!! **Attention: Area Businesses, Individuals and Families.** Please contact the Recreation Department if you are interested in hosting a trunk for this popular event. It is free to host a trunk. Trunk hosts are asked to complete a registration form. Pass out your promotional materials and goodies to all the "Ghouls and Goblins"!!



**Day:** Saturday  
**Time:** 12:00pm-2:00pm  
**Location:** Whistlestop Park  
**Registration Begins:** Immediately  
**NOTE:** Registrations will be taken to get an accurate count to order supplies.

**Date:** October 20, 2007 (Raindate: October 27, 2007)  
**Age:** All participants welcome  
**Cost:** FREE  
**Registration Deadline:** October 12, 2007

## OPEN RECREATION

Stay Physically Active through the colder months!! Byron Township is offering open recreation at West Middle School. The walking track, weight equipment and gym will be available.

**Days:** Tuesdays and Thursdays  
**Time:** 6:00pm-9:00pm (may vary due to school availability)  
**Cost:** \$2 Resident per day OR \$50 Resident Pass  
\$3 Non-Resident per day OR \$75 Non-Resident Pass  
**Age:** Participants must be at least high school age with proof of student ID. Adults must provide ID for proof of residency.  
**NOTE:** 1. Please enter the school through the side gym entrance. 2. If Byron Center Public Schools are closed due to inclement weather or for holidays the program will be closed too.

**Dates:** November 27, 2007-March 27, 2008  
**Location:** Byron Center West Middle School  
**NOTE:** Passes are good for entire program.

## MEN'S BASKETBALL LEAGUE

The men's basketball league will consist of 10 games. Teams will be placed in divisions based on their ability. Trophies and t-shirts will be given to the first place team in each division.

**Day:** Saturdays  
**Time:** 9:00am-4:00pm  
**Location:** Nickels Intermediate School  
**Minimum:** 4 Teams  
**Registration Begins:** Immediately  
**NOTE:** Please call for a registration packet or print from the website.

**Date:** December 1, 2007-March 1, 2008 (skip Dec. 22 & 29)  
**Age:** 18 and older  
**Cost:** \$325 Resident Team/\$400 Non-Resident Team  
**Maximum:** 16 Teams  
**Registration Deadline:** November 9, 2007 (\$20 late fee)



## CANDY CANE HUNT

Children ages 3-4, 5-6 and 7-8 will have their own area to hunt for candy canes. Everyone will win a prize. Some special candy canes will be hidden and can be redeemed for special prizes. After the candy cane hunt a pizza lunch will be served inside the township hall. Santa Claus will make a special appearance. After lunch families will be able to make arts and crafts and have a family portrait taken.

**Day:** Saturday  
**Time:** 11:30am Hunt  
12:00pm Lunch  
**Age:** 3-8 year olds  
**Cost:** \$3 Residents/\$5 Non-Residents and \$2 per adult/other family member for lunch  
**Registration Begins:** October 1, 2007

**Date:** December 8, 2007  
**Location:** Hunt – Bicentennial Park (park off of Byron Center Ave.)  
Lunch - Byron Township Hall  
**Maximum Attendance:** 100  
**Registration Deadline:** November 30, 2007

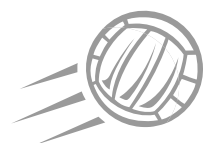


## WINTER WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Ladies, gather your friends for a fun night of volleyball. Leagues will be divided into divisions based on ability, recreational to competitive. The leagues will consist of 10 games.

**Day:** Mondays  
**Time:** 6:00pm-10:00pm  
**Location:** Nickels Intermediate and Marshall  
**Minimum:** 4 teams  
**Registration Begins:** October 1, 2007

**Date:** January 7, 2008-March 17, 2008  
**Age:** 18 and older  
**Cost:** \$150 Resident Team/\$225 Non-Resident Team  
**Maximum:** 18 teams  
**Registration Deadline:** December 7, 2007



**NOTE:** Call the Recreation Department for a registration packet or print the forms online.

## **TAE KWON DO**

Tae Kwon Do is action philosophy. It is the Korean art of self-defense. Literally translated, TAE means kick or to strike with the foot, KWON means fist or to strike with the hand, DO means discipline or art. There is much more the Tae Kwon Do than the martial arts physical aspect. It is designed as a non-violent art and system of complete body exercises. By practicing Tae Kwon Do, one can benefit in many ways such as physically, mentally and philosophically.

**Day:** Mondays  
**Time:** 6:30-8:30pm  
**Location:** Brown Elementary Gym  
**Minimum:** 6  
**Registration Begins:** October 1, 2007

**Date:** January 7, 2008-March 31, 2008  
**Age:** 7 and older  
**Cost:** \$45 Resident /\$55 Non-Resident  
**Maximum:** 20  
**Registration Deadline:** December 21, 2007



## **YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUES - Boys and Girls**

This program is designed to teach boys and girls the proper fundamentals of basketball. Practices will be held the first 4 Saturdays of the program and games will be held the last 4 Saturdays of the program. Boys and girls leagues will be offered separately. The grade levels may be combined if there is not enough in one of them to play. Parent Volunteers are needed to coach the teams. Interested parents or volunteers must complete a background check form before coaching. This program promotes exercise, teamwork and having FUN!

**Day:** Saturdays (8 weeks)  
**Time:** varies per grade  
**Location:** West Middle School  
**Minimum:** 20  
**Registration Begins:** Immediately

**Date:** January 12, 2008-March 15, 2008  
**Age:** 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys and Girls (will play separately)  
**Cost:** \$35 Resident/\$45 Non-Resident  
**Maximum:** 200  
**Registration Deadline:** December 7, 2007 (\$5 late fee after deadline)  
 Late registrations only accepted if there are spots available.

## **PARTNERSHIP NEWS - Businesses Wanted!**

Byron Township Parks and Recreation would like to partner with you. There are many opportunities for businesses to become involved in our events. Reap the positive benefits and rewards of being associated with great events that reach your market with the community attachment!! Please call 878-1998 for more information.

**HOW TO REGISTER:** Mail in or drop off your completed registration form and the full registration fee to the Parks and Recreation Department to reserve your spot. Office hours are Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm. Registration forms can be printed from the website at [www.byrontownship.org](http://www.byrontownship.org). Cash or Checks accepted. (No credit cards). An After hours drop box may be used to drop off your registrations. The drop box is located outside of the Township Hall front doors.

**Byron Township Parks and Recreation \*8085 Byron Center Avenue\* Byron Center, MI 49315**

**Phone:** 878-1998 \* **Fax:** 878-3980 \* **Website:** [www.byrontownship.org](http://www.byrontownship.org)

Participant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: / / \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_ Male / Female  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ T-shirt Size: YM (10-12) YL (14-16) AS AM AL  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Resident: \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Resident: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Program Name	Start Date	Cost
	<b>TOTAL COST</b>	\$

I hereby understand that by signing this form, I agree not to hold Byron Township responsible for any injuries that may occur during participation in this Byron Township Recreation Program. Furthermore, I authorize Byron Township to use photographs of participants for Byron Township promotional literature.

**Name Printed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**For Office Use Only:** Date Paid: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_ Cash: \_\_\_\_\_ Check: \_\_\_\_\_ Receipt #: \_\_\_\_\_