

From the Supervisor

Audrey Nevins-Weiss

The year is half over and the township has been very busy. I am excited to share with you Kent County Parks through the Road Commission has been awarded an MDOT grant for the final phase of Fred Meijer M-6 Trail. This phase follows the M-6 highway west and then curves south toward 68th Street. This new segment will include two bridges. The bridge over the active railroad corridor will look similar to the existing bridge over Division. The second bridge will span Buck Creek. The MDOT grant will cover 1.3 million and \$600,000.00 will come from local match. Byron Township share will be \$62,500.00. The goal will be to bid the project soon, to allow the bridges to be built in the winter months. If all goes as planned the trail will be complete in 2016.

The 84th street sidewalk project will begin in September. It will begin at Burlingame and continue on 84th St on the south side of the street to Byron Commerce Drive. Tanger Outlet Mall will complete sidewalks from Byron Commerce Drive in and around their site.

Tanger Outlet Mall Grand Opening will be held July 31st. All stores will be open at 10:00 a.m. The job fair was held June 6th and 1600 applications were received and 1000 positions were filled.

Solicitation Permits are required by the Township. Solicitors must register with the township and wear a bright yellow tag showing they have been approved. If someone shows up at your door without one please call the township, or the Kent County Sheriffs Dept. after 5:00 or on weekends.

The Byron Township Fire Department is handling all fire permits. The number to call is 878-9174 between 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. If you have any questions about what is allowed you can check the website. Absolutely no burning of leaves in residential areas.

The township offers leaf drop off stations for four weeks in the fall in the lower level parking lot at the Township offices. Those weeks will be determined according to the weather, usually late October early November.

From the Desk of the Water & Sewer Administrator

2014 Water Quality Reports

You may view a copy of the current Water Quality Report at:

http://www.gainestownship.org/departments/docs/Current_Water_Quality_Report.pdf

To request a paper copy of the current Water Quality Report call: 616-878-0660

Protect Our Sewers and Environment

Know What to Flush!

Human waste and toilet paper should be the only thing going down the toilet. Unfortunately, over the years, people have turned the toilet into a trash can. From medications and sanitary products to deceased pet fish and cigarette butts, if it fits, people flush it.

Flushing these types of items down the toilet causes home pipes to clog, wastes water (up to 5 gallons of water every time you flush) and most importantly can have a huge impact on our sewers and not to mention our ocean.

Sanitary Products, Paper Towels, Diapers, Baby Wipes and Facial Tissues-are made of materials that don't break down and can cause all pipes to clog. The trash is the place for these items.

Treasurer's Forum

Carol Houseman, Treasurer

The 2015 Summer tax bills were mailed July 1. They are due by 5 pm on Monday, September 14, 2015. A 1% interest will be charged on the remaining balance on September 15 and an additional 1% the first of each month.

Payment Options:

Check or cash:

In Person - Office hours are 8-5, M-F

Drop Box - Located on East side of the building

US Mail - Return the remittance stub along with your check in the envelope provided. Be sure that our address on the back fits into the window.

ACH Withdrawal: Forms are available on our website or by calling our office for automatic withdrawal from your banking institution. Summer withdrawals are made September 1, 2015. Winter either December 18 or February 1 by your choice.

Online Payment: Go to our website: www.byrontownship.org, click on Treasurer and follow the prompts. There is a 25¢ charge for a check or savings account and approximately 3% for a credit or debit card.

Summer Tax Deferral is available if your last year's gross income was under \$40,000. You must be 62 or older or disabled. This deferral is also for property classified "Agricultural Real Property". This defers summer taxes until the winter due date.

We do accept partial payments. The interest charged is only on the remaining balance only.

Dog licenses are available year round and are due on your dog's vaccination month. You may purchase a one or three year license depending on the vaccination due date. Please bring in the proof of rabies and proof of spaying/neutering.

Carol and Jacki are happy to assist you at any time. Please call 616-878-3196 or stop in. Have a fun and wonderful summer!

The toilet is not the only drain that people are using to get rid of unwanted waste; people are also known to use the kitchen sink as a trash can. Since the invention of the garbage disposal, which claims to grind even the hard stuff such as small bones and fruit peels, people have turned the sink drain into a common destination for kitchen waste. Here are the most common things that people dump into their sinks instead of disposing of them properly:

Fats, Oils and Grease - should never be poured down the sink or garbage disposal. FOG sticks to the interior surface of the sewer pipes, hardens over time and eventually may cause sewage to back up and lead to a sewage spill in your home. The best way to get rid of FOG is to let it cool/harden, mix it with other absorbent materials, place it in a bag or container and then throw it in the trash.

Food - should not be flushed down the sink. The best way to get rid of the food is to compost what you can and wipe or scrape the remnants in the trash. Use a drain screen in your sink to catch any remaining bits of food as you wash the dishes. Use your garbage disposal sparingly. Using the drain as a dump will have unforeseen consequences of clogging sewer lines and possible backups in your home.

Let's keep our wastewater flowing and our oceans clean, protect our sewers and environment! For more water and sewer information go to; www.byrontownship.org, or call 616-878-0660. Have a great summer!

Debbie Jensen

Byron Days July 23-26

Every July, the residents of Byron Township gather to celebrate and fellowship together. There is something for everyone.

Byron Days Festival-2015- Schedule of Events

All events at Bicentennial Park except as noted.

Thursday – July 23

6:30PM-9:00PM Festival Table Tennis Tourney @ First Reformed-The ROCK
6:30PM-9:00PM Classic Car Ice Cream Cruise, gather @ First Reformed-The ROCK
7:00pm-9:00PM Byron Center Historical Museum 'Open House'

Friday – July 24

9:00AM-5:00PM Byron Community Ministries "Flea Market" in their Parking Lot
10:00AM-5:00PM Kent District Library Book Sale, Byron Township Branch
3:00PM-9:00PM Food Concessions – Various Vendors
5:00PM-9:00PM Rides & Inflatables – ACP Entertainment
3:00PM-9:00PM Craft Fair
5:00PM-7:00PM Chemical Bank 5K Registration @ Chemical Bank
6:00PM-10:00PM **PRAISEFEST – "Festival Stage"**
7:30PM-9:00PM Free Family Movie "Frozen" @ First Reformed-The ROCK

Saturday – July 25

7:30AM-9:30AM Rotary Pancake Breakfast, Pathway Church
8:00AM-1:00PM Community Wellness Farmer's Market, @ Post Office
8:00AM 3 on 3 Basketball Tourney
8:30AM **CHEMICAL BANK 5-K RUN/WALK**, Chemical Bank
9:30AM-5:00PM Kent District Library Book Sale, Byron Township Branch
9:30AM Chemical Bank Kid's Fun Run, Chemical Bank
10:00AM **SPARTANNASH BYRON DAYS PARADE**
11:00AM-7:00PM Food Concessions – Various Vendors
11:00AM-7:00PM Craft Fair
11:00AM-7:00PM Rides & Inflatables – ACP Entertainment
1:00PM-3:00PM Festival Bean Bag Tourney
11:30AM-1:30PM Chicken Dinner at WEST Park Pavilion
2:30PM-4:30PM Civil War Demonstration
1:00PM-3:00PM **KENT COMPANIES HORSE PULL**, Ball Diamond
3:00PM-6:00PM Classic Car Show – First Reformed-The ROCK
4:30PM-6:30PM Burgers, Fries & Cokes – First Reformed-The ROCK
5:00PM-7:00PM **FREE FAMILY CONCERT – "Trapped on Mars"**
10:00PM **BUIST ELECTRIC FIREWORKS DISPLAY**
Nickels School Sports Complex

Sunday, July 26

9:30AM Community Worship at Bicentennial Park -Sponsored by Heritage CRC,

For a full schedule of activities and details: www.byrondaysfestival.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY

13 Township Board
20 Planning Commission
22 Board of Appeals
23-26 Byron Days Festival
27 Township Board

AUGUST

10 Township Board
17 Planning Commission
24 Township Board
26 Board of Appeals

SEPTEMBER

14 Township Board
14 Summer Taxes Due
21 Planning Commission
23 Board of Appeals
28 Township Board

OCTOBER

12 Township Board
19 Planning Commission
26 Township Board
28 Board of Appeals

Now that we are in the height of gardening season, I wanted to share a resource that I rely on for my own garden and yard.

Michigan State University Extension

MSU Extension in Kent County is part of a state-wide information and education delivery network, applying university level, research-based knowledge to locally-identified issues. They respond to local needs through a unique partnership of County, State and Federal resources. Information is extended to Kent County residents through the MSU non-formal education system, which assists individuals, families and communities to make better decisions. Here are some services they provide:

- A 1-800 food safety hot line
- A Master Gardener hot line
- Soil testing
- 4-H youth development program
- Money management classes
- First time home buyer resources
- Leadership Training
- Citizen Planner program
- Community and Economic Development Programs
- Pesticide application recertification credits
- Food safety and food preservation information
- Nutrition Education programs

The Kent County MSU Extension office is located at 775 Ball Street NE in Grand Rapids. They can be reached at 336-3265 or online at www.msue.msu.edu/kent.

Voter Registration Reminder

If you are a new resident to the community and are registered to vote in the State of Michigan, you can change your voter registration online at the Secretary of State's Website at www.michigan.gov/sos.

If you have moved from another state or over the age of 18 you may register in our office or you may download a form from the Secretary of State's website and mail it to our office. If you are a college student or will be a college student in the fall of 2016, you will want to register in person at our office or a Secretary of State's office in order to vote Absentee in the November 2016 General Election.

Byron Township Recreation Department & Community Center

The Byron Township Recreation Department is the hub for sports, fitness and recreational opportunities in the community! Whether you're looking for activities for young children, older adults or anyone in between, we have something for everyone.

The Recreation Department offers programs of all kinds, including youth music and dance classes, football and lacrosse leagues, fitness classes, enrichment classes, pickleball, senior trips, senior luncheons and much more. You can find all of our program information in our recreation brochure which can be accessed online at www.byronrec.org, or you can call 616-878-1998 for more information. Pre-registration is required for most programs.

In addition to all of the programs we run, we also offer fitness memberships and leisure opportunities within the Community Center. The Byron Township Community Center includes a full size gymnasium, fitness center, multipurpose rooms, lounge areas with Wi-fi and pool tables. In order to make use of all of the amenities a membership is required, and flexible options are available such as daily, monthly or annual passes. Residents of Byron Township receive a discounted membership rate off the regular rates.

For more information on our offerings, please check out our website at www.byronrec.org or like and follow us on Facebook to get up to date information.