

Supervisor's News

Audrey Nevins-Weiss, Supervisor

From the Supervisor's Office

It is hard to believe the year is half over. As always there are a lot happening in the Township. The Township hosted the West Michigan Chalk Art Festival in June. It was the largest to date with more artists than ever. The event also provided more exposure to our great community. I am also excited about the 80th Byron Days Festival. This annual event is a great time for us to come together as a community.

As we went through the budget process, we heard from residents about linking neighborhoods together and filling in gaps in our sidewalk network. We listened and three projects that are taking place this year are 1) Along Byron Center Avenue from Brown School to Rush Creek Bible Church, 2) Along Byron Center Avenue from Byron Shores Drive to 68th Street, and 3) Along 84th Street from Chesterton to Pfeiffer Farms Drive. There have been requests for other projects and we will be working on them over the next few years. Treasurer Houseman is working on a committee called Safe Routes to School that we can apply for grants to build pathways. One other project that we are participating in is the Kenowa Trail Connector that we are partnering with Jamestown and Georgetown Townships and MDOT to build a trail along Kenowa Avenue from Quincy (68th Street) to Barry (56th Street). This will finish the connector between the Kent Trails and the Fred Meijer Kenowa Trail.

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 Sheriff's Dept. after 5:00 or on weekends.

The Byron Township Fire Department is handling all fire permits. You may either go to the Fire Department's website at www.byrontwpfire.com or call 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.

Clerk's Corner

Joel H. Hondorp, Clerk

Upcoming Elections

August 2 – Primary Election

The primary election is used to narrow candidates down by party. The Republican and Democrat candidates will be on the ballot, but you must limit your votes to only one party – no crossing over.

November 8 – General Election

You may choose any candidate of your choosing on this ballot up to the number to be elected to office.

Absentee Voting

Please call my office if you have the desire to vote absentee and fit the following qualifications: 60 years or older, absent from the community on Election Day, physically

Treasurer's Forum

Carol Houseman, Treasurer

The 2016 Summer tax bills were mailed July 1. They are due by 5 pm on Wednesday, September 14, 2016. 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, 2016. 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.

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!

unable to attend the polls, prohibited from attending due to religious beliefs, in jail awaiting arraignment or trial, or working as a precinct inspector on Election Day. You can also download a form from our website or the Secretary of State's Website. You can check your registration status and where you vote at www.michigan.gov/vote.

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 are 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.

From the Desk of the Water & Sewer Administrator

2015 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.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY

11 Township Board Meeting
18 Planning Commission
25 Township Board Meeting
27 Board of Appeals
28-31 Byron Days Festival

AUGUST

8 Township Board Meeting
15 Planning Commission
22 Township Board Meeting
24 Board of Appeals

SEPTEMBER

12 Township Board Meeting
14 Summer Taxes Due
19 Planning Commission
26 Township Board Meeting
28 Board of Appeals

OCTOBER

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

All events at Bicentennial Park except as noted.

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

Byron Days Festival-2016- Schedule of Events

Thursday – July 28

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
6:30PM-9:00PM – Byron Historical Museum – “Open House”
6:30PM-9:00PM – Free Yoga Workshop – United Methodist Church

Friday – July 29

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 – Exhibitor's Booths
5:00PM-7:00PM – Spartan YMCA/Chemical Bank Race Registration – Bank Parking Lot
6:00PM-10:00PM – **PRAISEFEST** – “Festival Stage”
7:30PM-9:00PM – Free Family Movie @ First Reformed-The ROCK

Saturday – July 30

7:30AM-9:30AM – Rotary Pancake Breakfast @ First Reformed-The ROCK
8:00AM-1:00PM – Community Wellness Farmer's Market, @ Post Office Area
8:00AM – 3 on 3 Basketball Tourney
8:30AM – **RACE for SPARTAN STORES YMCA-Presented by Chemical Bank**
9:30AM-5:00PM – Kent District Library Book Sale, Byron Township Branch
9:30AM – Spartan Stores YMCA Kid's Fun Run-Presented by Chemical Bank
10:00AM – **SPARTANNASH BYRON DAYS PARADE**
11:00AM-6:00PM – Food Concessions – Various Vendors
11:00AM-6:00PM – Exhibitor's Booths
11:00AM-6:00PM – Rides & Inflatables – ACP Entertainment
11:30AM-1:30PM – Rotary Chicken Dinner @ WEST Park Pavilion
1:00PM-4:00PM – High Pointe Church Bean Bag Tourney
1:00PM-3:30PM – “Anvil Sound” Band on Festival Stage
1:00PM-5:00PM – Rush Creek Bible Church Bubble Soccer Zone
2:30PM-4:30PM – Civil War Demonstration
1:00PM-3:00PM – **KENT COMPANIES Horse Pull**
3:00PM-6:00PM – Classic Car Show – First Reformed-@ The ROCK
4:30PM-6:30PM – Burgers, Fries & Cokes – First Reformed @ The ROCK
7:30PM-10:00PM – **PLUMMER'S ENVIRONMENTAL Concert Stage**

@ TANGER MALL

10:10PM – **BUIST ELECTRIC FIREWORKS @ TANGER OUTLET MALL**

Sunday, July 31

9:30AM – Community Worship at Bicentennial Park -

Sponsored by Heritage CRC, “Festival Stage”

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