From the Supervisor Audrey Nevins Weiss

I want to express my appreciation to several of our area landscape companies for their very generous donation of plants and flowers to downtown Byron. Seven companies responded to my request to participate in our beautification project. The award winning 84th Street Beautification Project was funded through the cooperation of Byron Township, and the Byron Township Downtown Development Authority with grants from the Kent County Road Commission and Michigan Department of Transportation. This spring the project was further enhanced with the addition of beautiful flowers and plants donated by DeHammer Brothers Landscaping, Kuiper Landscape Management, Professional Fertilizing and Hydroseeding, K-Gardens, Plant 1 Landscape Supply, Chuck’s Landscape and Management and Veurink’s Daylillies.

The West Michigan Chalk Art Festival was a great success this year. Held on the weekend of June 17 and 18, the festival attracted 39 artists and over 300 children. This was the second year for the event and the first time it was held in the downtown area. Once again the Children’s Chalk Event was held in the tennis courts in Bicentennial Park. Sponsored by the Community Wellness Foundation, the event brought thousands of residents and guests to Byron Township to participate or view this family event. Our committee worked for over six months preparing for the Chalk Art Festival and I personally want to thank all the artists, sponsors and volunteers that helped make the event a success. Byron’s next major family event will be the Byron Days Festival held the last weekend in July.

In other news, the Byron Center Chamber of Commerce has moved their offices to the Township Hall. This move allows expanded hours for the Chamber and provides greater convenience and support for the business community. In these difficult economic times I encourage our residents to shop locally when possible and continue to support companies that create jobs in our community.

If I can be of any assistance or you have any questions about our Township government or any of the wonderful community groups that make Byron a wonderful place to live and raise our families, do not hesitate to contact me personally at 878-1222.
ASSIGNMENT TO TAXES
September 1st is fast approaching! On that day the water & sewer department per ordinance transfers all delinquent water & sewer usage 90 days or more past due to the upcoming winter tax bill. Also any unpaid assessment bills that went out July 1st that are not paid on September 1st will be assigned to taxes. What this means is that anyone who has these delinquent bills will see them on your upcoming winter tax bill with a 6% penalty included. The Township assigned almost $200,000 in delinquent usage and special assessments to the 2010 winter tax bill.

WATER SHUT OFFS
Because of the large amount that is being assigned to the winter tax bills each year, the Township has asked the Water & Sewer Department to begin the process of shut offs with a past due balance. This procedure has always been outlined in the Water & Sewer Ordinance, but has never been implemented. Beginning with the October 1st 2011 utility bills, the Township will begin shutting off water customers with a past due balance. The water & sewer department will be sending out shut off notices each month beginning in November 2011 to whomever is past due giving the customer ample time (30+ days) to pay the past due utility bill. If on the shut off day, the utility bill has not been paid, a cost recovery fee in the amount of $50 will be added to the utility bill and the water will be shut off until the entire bill is paid in full.

SPRINKLING METERS (IRRIGATION)
If you use a large volume of water for the purpose of sprinkling your lawn and landscaping, please consider a separate meter for irrigation. With a second meter you would not be billed for any sewer usage when you irrigate your lawn. For example, if you sprinkled your lawn over a billing period of 3 months using a total of 80,000 gallons, the sewer use charge alone would be about $200.00 without a second meter. If you had a second meter there would be no sewer use charge on any irrigation water. As of this writing the township has 532 separate residential sprinkling meters. Call us for more details at 878-0660.

BILLING OPTIONS
Paperless billing is available for your convenience. Email julie@byrontownship.org for more information.

Automatic funds transfer from a checking or savings account. (form at www.byrontownship.org)
The ability to pay your bill online with a debit/credit card is available at www.byrontownship.org. Users paying with a debit/credit card will be charged a convenience fee. If you are paying with a debit/credit card and are in danger of shut off, please allow ample time for the processing of the payment! (We do not accept credit card payments over the phone or at the counter.)

Visit our website (www.byrontownship.org) to initiate the process to have a utility bill debited directly from a checking or savings account for only $0.25. Visit our “new improved” website at www.byrontownship.org and click on “water and sewer” for forms and ordinances.

Have a great summer! Julie Meza, Water and Sewer Administrator

Byron Days 2011 • July 28-31
Come and Celebrate Byron Township’s 175th Anniversary

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

- BCM Flea Market
- Spaghetti Dinner
- Battle of the Bands
- Pancake Breakfast
- 5k Run/Walk
- Kids Fun Run
- Parade
- Chicken Dinner
- Inflatable Rides
- Kids Games
- Parade
- Food Booths
- Softball Tourney
- Byron’s Got Talent
- Jon3 Basketball
- Craft Fair
- Car Show
- Jessica Price Concert
- Dan Lawson Concert
- FIREWORKS!
- Church Service

For a full schedule of activities and details: www.byrondays.org
Clerk’s Corner

Census 2010

As you may have read this past spring, Michigan was the only state to have declining population. Due to that decline, Michigan will be losing one of its Congressional Districts. After the census numbers are released, the State Legislature needs to reapportion the districts to make them equally sized by population. As of the writing of the article, it looks we will remain in the 3rd Congressional District which is represented by Congressman Justin Amash. Also our State House and State Senate and County Commission Districts will have a few changes, but will be very similar. Byron Township’s population grew over the last 10 years by 15.9%. The growth was attributed to the addition of the following plats in the last 10 years: VanSingel Farms, Byron Lakes Estates, Byron Lakes West, Planters Row, Misty Ridge, Copperfield, Providence Lake, Amber Creek, Ridgestone, Reflection Lake, Waters Edge and Amber Farms plus other homes built in non-platted areas. Take a look at population of Byron Township over the years. Byron Township moved from the 103rd most populous municipality to the 95th. There was even higher percentage of growth in Gaines and Jamestown Townships. The building of M-6 in the early part of the decade made the Townships in the south side of the county attractive to workers who commute to Grand Rapids or Kalamazoo for work. For more census information you can go to www.michigan.gov/census.

Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks

In order to serve you better, I belong to International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC), the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks (MAMC) and the Kent County Clerks Association (KCCA). These organizations were created to serve its members by providing quality education, sharing of knowledge and promotion of the position of Municipal Clerk. There are 1610 municipal clerks in Michigan. There are certain tasks that most clerks are responsible. Two of those tasks are Elections and Records Management. There are other tasks that some clerks have that others do not. For example, I am responsible for cemeteries, accounts payable and payroll. Other municipalities may have other staff that cover those tasks. The meetings that I attend with each organization sharpen my abilities and provide necessary information that I need to serve you better. In June, I was sworn in as President of the MAMC and will serve in that capacity until the end of June, 2012. I fully believe that continuing education is important no matter your profession or stage of life.

Treasurer’s Forum

Carol Houseman

Summer tax season is in full swing. You should have received your bill the 1st week of July. If you didn’t, call us. Your 2011 summer taxes are due by Wednesday, September 14, 2011 at 5:00pm. 1% interest will be added at that time and an additional 1% the 1st of each month.

We have several options for paying your bill.

CHECK OR CASH: In person, dropped in drop box at the East entrance of the building, or by mail. Remember we don’t accept postmarks.

ACH WITHDRAWAL: Sign up and we will withdraw your payment on September 1 directly from your bank or credit union. Forms are online at www.byrontownship.org

ON LINE PAY: Go to our website and go to the Treasurer’s page and scroll to “Pay Bill”. A fee of approximately 3% will be charged for debit or credit card payments and 25¢ for checking and savings.

If your gross income was under $40,000.00 for 2010, you are 62 years or older, you are disabled, or if your property is classified Agricultural Real Property, you can defer your Summer taxes until the Winter tax due date without interest or penalties. A copy of the form is on the website or we can send you one.

Sometimes it is difficult to pay the full amount of taxes by the due date. We do accept partial payments. When you make a partial payment, the interest or penalty is only added to the unpaid balance.

As always, if you have any questions, please give us a call or stop in. 616-878-3196 Jacki or Carol will be happy to assist you.

Have a safe and wonderful summer!!

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
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<td>1970</td>
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<td>1980</td>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>17,553</td>
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<td>2010</td>
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Winter Safety

• Sidewalks—Byron Township Ordinance 350 states: “It shall be the duty of all owners of premises within the limits of the Township to keep all sidewalks...in good repair and free of obstructions (i.e. snow), and/or conditions.” Please keep your sidewalk safe for your neighbors and fellow Township Residents.

• Use care with space heaters. Keep heaters away from curtains and furniture. Make sure there is plenty of ventilation when using liquid fueled heaters such as Kerosene heaters.

• Keep spare blankets, hats, gloves in the trunk of the car in the event you get stranded on the roadway. Also make sure you have a flashlight in your car.

Byron Township
8085 Byron Center Ave., SW
Byron Center, MI 49315

Byron Farmers’ Market
COMMUNITY WELLNESS CONNECTION

Every Saturday until October 8
8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

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

Byron Township Phone List

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Receptionist</td>
<td>616-878-9066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervisor</td>
<td>616-878-1222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clerk</td>
<td>616-878-9104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>616-878-3196</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inspections</td>
<td>616-878-9155</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessor</td>
<td>616-878-6033</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water and Sewer</td>
<td>616-878-0660</td>
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<td>Recreation</td>
<td>616-878-1998</td>
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<tr>
<td>KDL Branch</td>
<td>616-647-3830</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sheriff Substation</td>
<td>616-632-6490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BGUA</td>
<td>616-971-0002</td>
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