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.

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!
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

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**CALANDAR OF EVENTS**

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**CALENDER OF EVENTS**

**JULY**
- Township Board
- Planning Commission
- Board of Appeals
- Byron Days Festival
- Township Board
- Board of Appeals

**AUGUST**
- Township Board
- Planning Commission
- Township Board
- Board of Appeals

**SEPTEMBER**
- Township Board
- Summer Taxes Due
- Planning Commission
- Board of Appeals
- Township Board

**OCTOBER**
- Township Board
- Planning Commission
- Township Board
- Board of Appeals

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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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.byronrec.org) or like and follow us on Facebook to get up to date information.