FROM THE DESK OF THE WATER & SEWER ADMINISTRATOR:

Filling Your Swimming Pool

The Byron-Gaines Utility Authority’s policy regarding hydrant permits:
You will no longer be able to use a hydrant located in your neighborhood to fill your swimming pool. Please contact a water hauler. The company you chose will contact the Byron-Gaines Utility Authority for a permit to fill their truck at a Metered Hydrant located on the Byron-Gaines Utility Authority’s property. The reason for this is not only to have more water accountability, but to also minimize damage to the Township’s hydrants. Keep in mind that water from your outside spigot is $3.30 per thousand gallons and sanitary sewer is $3.53 per thousand gallons (unless you have a second meter, then you are not charged sanitary sewer usage on water used outside) Please call 616-971-0002 for hydrant questions.

Irrigation Meters

If you use a large volume of water for the purpose of sprinkling your lawn, please consider a second water meter. With a second water meter you will not be billed for sanitary sewer usage when you sprinkle your lawn or fill your swimming pool. For example, if you sprinkled your lawn over a billing period of 3 months using a total of 80,000 gallons, the sanitary sewer use charge alone would be approximately $280.00, without a second meter. The actual meter and inside plumbing inspection will cost $675.00. You can either do the plumbing yourself or have a plumber plumb in the spacer bar in accordance with the Byron-Gaines Utility Authority Set Drawings. All forms and drawings are found at: www.byrontownship.org, or at Byron Township Offices.

2017 Water Quality Reports

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

Water Shut Off for Non-Payment

The water service shut off process is for delinquent utility bills. This has kept a large amount of unpaid utility bills from going to the winter tax roll.

Here are the steps we follow:

1. The utility bill is sent out at the beginning of the month with a due date 30 days later.
2. If the account is not paid in full by the due date printed on the utility bill you will receive a 5.40% penalty on the balance owed on the account.
3. If the account still has a balance approximately 10 days after the utility bill was due, a shut off notice will be sent with a “due date by” to avoid shut off.
4. Approximately 30 days after the shut off notice is mailed, and the account still has a balance due, the Byron-Gaines Utility Authority will post a door hanger giving a 5-day warning. If the account is not paid by the end of the 5 days a $50.00 shut off fee will be applied to the account and the water service will be shut off until the account is paid in full. This gives the customer almost 3 months to pay the utility bill before the water service is shut off.

Remember that your Utility Bill is a lien on your property.

A list of agencies that may help struggling families can be found at: www.byrontownship.org
For more water and sanitary sewer information go to; www.byrontownship.org, or call 616-878-0660.
Have a great summer!
Debbie Cousineau
I had the privilege of being sworn in on April 22 as the new Clerk of Byron Township and hold office until November 20, 2020 along with the other elected officials. I am thankful for the years of service by my predecessor, Joel Hondorp. Joel was appointed by the Grand Rapids City Commission as the Grand Rapids City Clerk. He served on the Township Board for almost 22 years, first as a Trustee for 4 years and Clerk since 2000. He will continue to reside in Byron Township and serve on the Byron Township Fire Department. He wanted to express his gratitude to this community and enjoyed the opportunity to serve the residents of Byron Township.

Upcoming Elections

August 7 – Primary Election
The primary election is used to narrow candidates down by party. The Republican, Democrat and Libertarian candidates will be on the ballot, but you must limit your votes to only one party – no crossing over.

November 6 – General Election
You may choose any candidate of your choosing on this ballot up to the number to be elected to office.

If you are new to the community or not sure if you are registered to vote, you can check your registration status and where your vote at www.michigan.gov/vote.

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 unable to attend the polls, prohibited from attending due to religious beliefs, in jail awaiting arraignment or trial, or working in as a precinct inspector on Election Day. You can also download a form our website or the Secretary of State’s Website or contact the Clerk’s office.

Election Inspectors
If you are interested in serving your community, we are always looking for citizens to work as Election Inspectors. Please contact me for an application or more information.

If I can be of service you may call my office at 878-9104 or email me at peggy@byrontownship.org. I look forward to the opportunity to serve you as Township Clerk.

Electronic Payment Services
Electronic Payment Services are available on the Township website, www.byrontownship.org. Township property owners can initiate payments from their checking, savings, debit, or credit card. Make sure that you are in the right department before processing your payments. There is a convenience fee to use the services.

Account Information
You have the ability to check your property information.

ASSESSING – TAXES – WATER & SEWER – ALL PAYMENTS

To access these records: log on to www.byrontownship.org and click the Byron Property Management button on the left side. Choose the database that fits your needs. You can search by Owners Name – Address – or Parcel Number. The records are available back to 1996. This information is helpful for your tax returns.

As always, you can reach Jacki or me at 878-3196 or just stop into the office. We are happy to help you.

INSPECTION SERVICES
As I write this article the calendar says it is spring but looking out my window, winter does not want to leave. Per Builder Track Reports, Byron Township had the most, new single-family housing starts in Kent County for 2017 with 172. Plainfield Township was second with 115 starts. Byron has been the busiest municipality in Kent County three out of the last five years for new starts. In the last five years, Byron has had 672 new single-family starts with the next closest municipality having 523. It looks like 2018 will be another busy year if the economy stays strong.

With summer coming soon, people are getting their recreational vehicles and units ready for camping and boating. Just a reminder that Byron Township does allow for one recreational vehicle or recreational unit (boat and trailer) to be stored or parked in the driveway in front of the home in any residential district from April 1 through September 30, provided the vehicle shall not be located closer than 5 feet to the front lot line.

Have a great spring and summer.
Randy Zomerlei
Building Official and Zoning Administrator

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**MAY**
- 14 Township Board Meeting
- 21 Planning Commission
- 23 Board of Appeals
- 28 Township Offices Closed
- 29 Township Board Meeting

**JUNE**
- 11 Township Board Meeting
- 18 Planning Commission
- 25 Township Board
- 27 Board of Appeals

**JULY**
- 4 Township Offices Closed
- 9 Township Board Meeting
- 16 Planning Commission
- 23 Township Board Meeting
- 25 Board of Appeals

**AUGUST**
- 13 Township Board Meeting
- 20 Planning Commission
- 22 Board of Appeals
- 27 Township Board Meeting