

News In Our Town

Town of Byron, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin

May 2016



Upcoming Meetings and Events *****

Town Board Meetings

(second Tuesday of the month)

June 14th ~ 7 pm

July 12th ~ 7 pm

August 9th ~ 7 pm

Veteran's Committee

(first Wednesday of the month)

June 1st ~ 6:30 pm

July 6th ~ 6:30 pm

August 3rd ~ 6:30 pm

Byron Historical Society

(third Monday of the month)

June 20th ~ 7 pm

July 18th ~ 7 pm

August 15th ~ 7 pm

Community Events

May 30th ~ Memorial Day
Open House
8:00-11:00,
Program at 9:30 am

June 8 ~ Regular Trash and
Recyclable pick up
ALL DAY

June 9 ~ Bulk Waste
Pick-up
ALL DAY



Simon Says....

by Bob Simon

Take two steps forward. Simon says, sit down and relax for a minute. Now jump up and shout "Hurray" (I didn't say Simon says)!! OK. Enough of that! But I do hope you will sit down, relax, and enjoy some news about the Town of Byron.

This has been a year of learning, bonding and getting the Town's business done with a pretty new Town Board. Mary Laudolff has been doing a really great job in her first year as the Town Clerk. Special thank you to Kay Oestrich for her invaluable mentoring. Dustin Westphal has also been adjusting well to his first year as supervisor and taking on responsibilities willingly when asked. Kay Murre is the other new supervisor appointed last fall to fill the vacant position when Tim Hackbarth moved out of the township. (Thanks, Tim, for your years of service to the town.) Kay and her sons have taken over dog catcher duties. (As a reminder: all dogs in the Town of Byron require a license. If you didn't get your dog license during the property tax collection times, please call Treasurer, Wendy Giese, today at 920-921-6578.) Between my 5 years of service, Wendy's 3, and the new board members—there are now just 11 total combined years of service on the current board. That said, we do work well together and each comes to the board with real-world knowledge and experiences ranging from private business, plan commission, board of appeals, election inspectors and a desire to keep Byron moving forward in the right direction. Step in to one of the monthly Town Board meetings and meet the team.

In addition to the yearly crack filling, ditching, mowing, sign replacement and culvert repairs, road work this year will include some road repaving. Neitzel Road, south from Lost Arrow, will be pulverized and repaved with a new culvert at the intersection. The board approved a contract with Fond du Lac County to do this work which may start as soon as late April or early May. The bigger road project will be Mill Pond Road from River Road north to the town line. Because the \$23,000 TRI money grant from Fond du Lac County will be available from the second half of the year, we will be looking for bids to do this work after July with expectation that it will be completed before fall. The 1.5-mile stretch of this road will be pulverized, graded, compacted and paved. This project will consume the majority of our yearly road budget. The cost of pulverizing and paving is so high that we usually only have funds to do this every other year.

So what do we spend budgeted road money on during those off years? For all the calls we get, I'll guess many of you already know that the method we use is seal coating. This was done last year on Hickory Road from Prairie Road north to the town line as well as Barton Road North and Briar Court. The process begins with crack filling and then tar is applied. Stone chips and slag, which is a byproduct of charcoal, are put down on top of the tar. The slag fills in the spaces between the stone chips and provides a stronger bond than stone chips alone. This is a much cheaper option and builds up a protective layer that helps our roads stay in good condition longer. It also creates issues from dust, tar, stones and slag on driveways, lawns and cars that are upsetting to homeowners living and driving on the road. I agree these are challenging to deal with, but usually within a year they are resolved, and we're left with a better road to drive on. Thank you for your pa-

tience as we work to keep our roads in good repair while being as fiscally responsible with your tax money as possible.

The plan commission, with the help of the ECWRPC, is working on updating the town's comprehensive plan. All residents are encouraged to provide input. (See the article in this newsletter for more information.) The Town is also working with the City of Fond du Lac on a border agreement. The plan is to be finalized very soon and more details will be provided as they become available.

Simon Says... jump up and shout, "I love living in the Town of Byron!!"

Clerk's Corner

By Mary Laudolff

I have officially completed my 'first' year as your Town Clerk. It has been challenging, stressful and rewarding all at the same time. I am learning new things every day, and I am feeling more comfortable with the job as the days go by. I want to thank you for your patience and understanding this past year, and I look forward to next year. Some of the questions that I get calls on:

When is bulk waste pick-up?

This year's bulk pick-up will be held Thursday, June 9th, starting at 6 am

Lists of accepted and excluded materials can be found on **page 5** of this newsletter.



When do I need a building permit, and where do I get one?

Anyone doing construction that costs more than \$1,000 needs a building permit. You can obtain a permit from Marlin Towne at 920 922 6089. The application and fees are listed on our website at <http://townofbyron.com>.

Why didn't they pick up my garbage?

Residential garbage pick-up can occur any time after 6:00 a.m. on Wednesdays, so if necessary, put your items out the night before. Also, when a week has a holiday in it, your pick up will be a day later on Thursday. Businesses are responsible for their own disposal.

Whom do I contact with road issues?

Bob Simon (920 904 2533) and Dustin Westphal (920 960 8186) are the town contacts for roads.

When does the Town Board meet and who can attend?

The Town Board meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

The Veteran's Memorial Committee meets the first Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

The Historical Society meets the 3rd Monday at 7:00 p.m.

All meetings are open to the public, and all are welcome.

Where can I early vote?

Early voting is the same as absentee voting. You can contact me by phone at 920 375 6119 or e-mail me at clerk@townofbyron.com, and I will mail you an absentee ballot. (You must be registered.) You can also vote at my home until 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before election. (Please call first.)

My taxes are too high!

Anyone with questions about his/her assessed value should contact Borree Appraisal Services at 920 766 9166. You may also attend the "**Open Book**" which, this year, will be **May 24th** from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. The "**Open Book**" is an informal time when you can view the tax roll and ask questions. The Board of Review will be held the same day from 10:00 a.m. until noon. The Board of Review is a recorded meeting with testimony given by the assessor and the homeowner. At this meeting the Town Board is to assume the assessor is correct unless the homeowner can prove differently. An "Objection Form" has to be filed with the clerk 48 hours prior to attending the Board of Review. My suggestion would be to talk to the assessor before it gets to that point.

Citizens of the Year



Lowell and Sally Boelk have a combined 60+ years of service to the Town of Byron!

Lowell served on the Town Board for 32 years serving as road maintenance man, dog catcher, and, most importantly, Wing Man on the Oshkosh snow plow. Not to mention the many other miscellaneous jobs, committees and countless meetings he has been involved in.

Sally has been an election inspector forever. She is at every election from start to finish and puts in many hours of training and certification to stay up-to-date with all of the changes over the years.

Together they farmed and raised their family in the Town of Byron.

Lowell and Sally's dedication and commitment to the Town of Byron are the reasons they have been chosen 2015 Town of Byron Citizens of the year.

Congratulations, Lowell and Sally!

From the Treasurer

By Wendy Giese

Property Tax Collection

Tax collection was fast and furious. A few problems that were encountered were the following:

Please make sure the amount you enter in the box on the right hand side of the check, written in numerical form, coincides with the same amount you write out in words below "Pay To The Order Of." There were numerous errors this past tax collection season which required phone calls and a couple of mailing back payments to correct the errors.

If an escrow check is payable to the property owner and the Town of Byron Treasurer, both parties must sign the back of the check.

Please include the payment stub along with payment.

Please be aware of submitting payments in a timely manner. There are specific deadlines for tax collection. The 2nd installment for taxes to be paid is due by July 31st, 2016.

Make check payable and mail to:

**FOND DU LAC COUNTY TREASURER
160 SOUTH MACY STREET
P.O. BOX 1515
FOND DU LAC, WI 54936-1515**



Receipt(s) for taxes paid are available on the Fond du Lac County website.

Go to the Fond du Lac County website @ <http://www.fdlco.wi.gov/home>. Go to the "Property and Tax Data" tab. Search for your property by either name or address. In the "Select Detail" drop-down box, select "Taxes" and the tax bill and tax receipt history will appear. Click on the "Tax Year" you are interested in looking at and a box with payment history will pop up. There is a printer-friendly option on the right for printing tax receipts.

The Town of Byron Animal Control Ordinance requires all dogs in the Town of Byron to be licensed.

Dog Licenses are a requirement by State Statute Chapter 174 Dogs, specifically 174.05. Dog License Tax requires the owner of a dog more than 5 months of age on January 1 of any year, or 5 months of age within the license year, to annually pay the dog license tax and obtain a license.

The minimum license fee for each neutered male or spayed female dog shall be \$3.00. The minimum license fee for each unneutered male or unspayed female dog shall be \$8.00.

In addition to the established license fee, a late fee of \$5.00 shall be assessed and collected from every owner of a dog over the age of five months who fails to obtain a license prior to April 1 of each year, or within 30 days of acquiring ownership of a licensable dog, or if the owner fails to obtain a license on or before the dog reaches licensable age. All late fees collected shall be paid to the Town Treasurer.

When requesting a license the following information should be submitted to the Town Treasurer: name and address of the applicant, description of the animal (name of animal, color, breed and sex), the appropriate fee, certification by a licensed veterinarian that the animal is neutered or spayed (if applicable), and certification by a licensed veterinarian that the animal has received current immunization for rabies (a copy of the rabies vaccination).

Kennel Licenses

Every person who owns or operates a kennel shall apply for a kennel permit.

Kennel permit fees are as follows:

- \$30.00 for a kennel of 12 or fewer dogs
- \$3.00 for each additional dog over 12

For each dog license issued the Town Treasurer will issue a license tag and a receipt for payment. **Note:** A condition of our Animal Control Ordinance is that no person shall own or keep a "Pit Bull" in the Town.



Veterans Report



by Tom Kelroy

The 2016 St. Patrick's corned beef & cabbage dinner along with the 50/50 raffle was successful in adding funds to our accounts. Following are the raffle winners:

\$300- Michelle Stark	Dan Kuen	Vic Jewson	Dale Schraufnagel
\$200 - Mike Kietzer	George Trewin	Amy Becker	Bonnie Tag
\$100 - Lyle Hefter	Gerald Thill	Helen Koene	Reese Gerber
\$50 -Jan Schraufnagel	Bob Boelk	Darlene Greene	Thomas Henke
RC Luedtke	Pat Neitzel	Marlin Towne	Ron Rose

The Byron Veteran's Memorial committee has been looking to add 2 smaller memorial stones next to the existing memorial stone. We had to do this as the existing memorial stone is nearly filled with names of Byron veterans dating from the War of 1812 to the present. Due to tremendous local support, we were able to place an order with Fond du Lac Memorial Co. The 2 additions should be in place later this summer. The total cost of this is \$13,546. We have already paid 50% with the remaining amount due after placement. This has only been possible because of you, the Byron town residents, and other local companies and individuals who were very generous in their financial support.

Once again the new names of veterans who served honorably in our armed forces will be unveiled at our annual Memorial Day services to be held in front of the town hall on May 30, 2016, at approximately 9:30 a.m. All are welcome. The Lomira American Legion and Oakfield Veterans of Foreign Wars will once again have a combined firing squad in attendance. We also have a **guest speaker, Dave Wege**, to highlight this event.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, May 4, at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall. All are welcome!

Town of Byron Kicks Off Comprehensive Plan Update

The Town of Byron, with the assistance of East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, is working on preparing an update to the Town's existing Comprehensive Plan that was adopted in 2006. The new plan will set forth a vision and policies that will guide future land use decisions over the next 20 years. A kickoff meeting was held on February 23, 2016, with the Byron Plan Commission. Residents had an opportunity on April 27, 2016, to provide input during a public visioning open house held at the Town Hall. The Byron Plan Commission will be meeting with its consultant on May 24, 2016, to review the draft background chapters and results of the public visioning session.

If you would like to learn more about the planning effort, please check out the project website at <http://www.ecwrpc.org/programs/comprehensive-planning/town-of-byron/>. Input is welcome throughout the planning effort. For more information, please contact Mary Laudolff, Town Clerk, at 920 375 6119 or email at clerk@townofbyron.com.

Don't forget!

If you love spring cleaning, there are two great opportunities for you to help your Byron community. Tidying the roadside along Highway 175 is a commitment by the Byron Historical Society. To get involved, contact Mary Ann Geiger at 920 922 9431.



The Byron Cemetery is another project for the coming warmer weather. To help with this clean-up, contact Maureen Betz at 920 922 5351 or byronhistorical@att.net. Thanks!

Help Wanted

Snow plow drivers for the up-coming winter season. (Applicants must have a CDL license and be Town of Byron residents.) To apply, contact the Town Clerk at 920 375 6119 or email clerk@townofbyron.com. You can also download an application on our website (www.townofbyron.com) under "Forms."



Wanted: Photos!

The Byron Historical Society is searching for photos of the first Byron Town Hall and the Methodist Episcopal Church. These landmarks were located near the crossroads of Highway 175 and County Road F. Photos will be scanned and returned. Please call 920 922 5351 or email byronhistorical@att.net.



Bulk Waste Pick-Up: June 9

Bulk Waste Materials Accepted:

- Furniture
- Rolled carpeting (4 ft. max length)
- Lumber (4 ft. max length)
- Cabinets & countertops
- Mattresses & bed springs
- Non-metal doors
- Wood windows



Bulk Waste Materials Excluded:

- Large appliances (stoves, washers, dryers, water heaters, furnaces)
- Freon-containing appliances (refrigerators, AC units, dehumidifiers)
- Tires & used oil, batteries
- Electronics (TV's, DVD players, VCR's, stereos, computer & office equipment)



Remember Our Veterans

at the

Annual Memorial Day Observance on May 30, 2016

Byron Town Hall Ceremony at 9:30 a.m.

Open House and Exhibit 8 a.m.—11 a.m.

Yellowstone Trail

The 100th anniversary of the construction of the Yellowstone Trail (currently Highway 175) through the Town of Byron was commemorated in 2015 with a successful parade in August. Margaret Kelroy Schmitz, Byron's oldest resident, served as Grand Marshall.



Photo courtesy Fond du Lac Reporter

travelers. In the parade, some of Guy and Marcella's descendants carried the sign used to advertise this business.



Left to Right : Marilyn More Meyer, Mary More Berens, Gary More, Nancy More

classroom. Carol's presentation included how the students of the time amused themselves with baseball and toy guns made of sticks, since there were no swings or little other playground equipment.



Carol Whyms

In the days before interstate highways, Highway 175 was "the good road" for individuals traveling from the northeastern United States to attractions in the west, such as Yellowstone Park.



Map showing route of Yellowstone Trail through Wisconsin

2015 Programs

BHS members were favored with presentations at meetings in 2015 that recalled life in the area. Bob Mann, a descendant of the Anderson family of Hamilton, described how his ancestors came to settle here and his memories of the Anderson Garage and its denizens. Bob told about his family's relationship with Steve Wittman and various aviation adventures that took place in an open area near the garage.

Carol Whyms taught in one-room schools in the Waupun and South Byron areas in the early-to-mid 1940's. Her first school had no electricity. Heat came from a large furnace that burned wood chips and coal. Light came from kerosene lamps. Though America did not enter World War II until late 1941, many young men from the area had already enlisted in the armed forces before then. For Carol, that meant school chores associated with the furnace and lamps fell to her. Older students helped to clean the

2017 Souvenir Calendar

The theme of our 2017 calendar is "Great Adventures," and we invite you to share photographs and stories. As 2017 marks the centennial of the beginning of American involvement in World War I, many contributions are anticipated on this subject. But the calendar will certainly not be limited to this theme. Memorable trips, events, and celebrations may also constitute great adventures.

Adventures need not be exotic or far flung. Was your first day of school a great adventure? Do you or did you have an interesting job?

The deadline for submitting your photographs and stories is September 30, 2016, though early submissions are *greatly* appreciated. Contact us by email at byronhistorical@att.net or by calling 920 922 5351. Thank you!

Byron residents, Guy and Marcella More, rented rooms in their home to

**Membership Application/Renewal &
Calendar Order Form***
2016-17 Byron Historical Society
P.O. Box 466, Byron WI 53006
Founded March 2006

Administrative Use Only	
Expires on _____	
Membership Type _____	
Dues Paid _____	
Payment Method: _____	
Check No. _____	

Date of Application _____

Name: _____
Last
First

Address: _____
City
State
Zip

Contact Information: _____
Email
Phone

<i>Item</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Fee/Donation Each</i>	<i>Total</i>
2016 Calendar: Pastimes and Pets			
2015 Calendar: Holidays and Celebrations			
2014 Calendar: Transportation			
2013 Calendar: Veils and Vows: Weddings			
2012 Calendar: Reflections on Youth			
2011 Calendar: Neighbors in the News			
2010 Calendar: Businesses and Commerce			
2009 Calendar: Churches and Cemeteries			
2008 Calendar: Agriculture			
2007 Calendar: Schools			
Byron Historical Society Membership:			
Individual		\$10.00	
Family		\$25.00	
Business		\$50.00	
Junior (up to age 17)		\$5.00	
Lifetime		\$200.00	
Shipping		\$3.00/calendar	
Misc Donation	-----		
GRAND TOTAL	-----		

Send check or money order to: Byron Historical Society P.O. Box 466 Byron WI 53006
*** Please Note: Donations for calendars from previous years are appreciated!**

2016-2017 Officers

President: Maureen Betz	920 922 5351	Vice President: Nancy More	920 960 4591
Treasurer: Ervin Kraft	920 583 4273	Secretary: Jackie Hansen	920 583 3083

E-mail: byronhistorical@att.net Website: www.townofbyron.com/historical-society

Town of Byron

PO Box 466

Byron, WI 53006