

# News In Our Town

Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin

May 2014



## *Upcoming Meetings and Events*

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### **Town Board Meetings**

(second Tuesday of the month)

May 13th ~ 7 pm

June 10th ~ 7 pm

June 17th ~ 7 pm

(special meeting regarding an addition to the town garage)

### **Veteran's Committee**

(first Wednesday of the month)

May 7th ~ 6:30 pm

June 4th ~ 6:30 pm

### **Byron Historical Society**

(third Monday of the month)

May 19th ~ 7 pm

June 16th ~ 7 pm

### **Community Events**

May 26th ~ Memorial Day  
Open House  
8:00-11:00,  
Program at 9 am

May 28th ~ Open Book  
8:00-10:00 am

May 28th ~ Board of Review  
10:00-noon

June 18th ~ Bulky Waste  
Pick-up  
ALL DAY

## Simon Says....

by Bob Simon

Well, we survived another winter, and one for the record books at that! So much cold and snow makes spring an even more welcome season this year. We were lucky to have minimal damage to our roads, just the typical sunken culverts and stress cracks. We will be crack filling soon and receiving bids for several road projects this summer including Church Road East, Kelly Road from F to Church, and Hickory from F to Prairie.

As most of you already know we switched waste haulers in the town this year. We negotiated a new 5 year contract with Advanced Disposal with substantial savings. We had some glitches with start-up notification mailings and such that had to be worked through. Thank you for your patience as we all managed through the change of service. As of now all of the carts that were ordered have been delivered. There are still a few left, if you missed your chance to order contact me.

We have had a few issues this past year as people did things without checking town ordinances first. That makes things difficult for all involved. All ordinances are available on the town website [www.townofbyron.com](http://www.townofbyron.com). Please check before making any changes to existing property or adding new structures. If there are any questions about where to find the ordinances or further clarifications needed please contact me or the Town Clerk.

We had a couple of members of the plan commission retire this year after many dedicated years of service. Thanks to John Muentner Sr. for his help as chairman of the Plan Commission for many years. Also many thanks to Francis Ferguson who after serving on the Town Board for 44 years went on to serve on the plan commission for 3 more. His dedication to the Town of Byron has been a great asset to all taxpayers for many years. His help to me as I stepped in to fill his shoes has been invaluable. Thank you for everything Francis and best of luck in your new home.

We also lost another life-long town resident Robert Wellnitz, who served on the Board of Review for many years and passed away this fall. You can find the complete listing of committee members in this newsletter.

I feel that I am still settling into this position and am learning new things almost daily. It can be challenging, stressful, and rewarding all at the same time! I would like to thank you all for your patience and understanding when we are dealing with your concerns and issues. Your Town Board members are continually working to make the Town of Byron a better place to live for all of us!

Have a safe and enjoyable summer  
Chairman Bob :)



# Clerk's Corner

By Kay Oestreich

Some of the questions that I get calls on:

- When is bulk waste pick-up?

**This year's bulk pick-up will be held Wednesday, June 18th starting at 6am.**

Materials Accepted:

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

Materials Excluded

Large appliances (stoves, washers, dryers, water-heaters, furnaces)  
 Freon containing appliances (refrigerators & AC units)  
 Tires & used oil  
 Batteries  
 Electronic Items (TVs, DVD players, VCRs, stereos, computer & office equipment, etc.)

- 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 fees are listed on our website at <http://townofbyron.com>.

- Why didn't they pick up my garbage?

Residential garbage pick-up can occur anytime 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.

- Who do I contact with road issues (tree on a town road, snowplowing, etc.)?

Lowell Boelk is the town contact person for roads - 920 583-3589.

- 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 920 921-0071 or e-mail [byronclerk@hotmail.com](mailto:byronclerk@hotmail.com) and I will mail it (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!

Assessed value of your property x mill rate = taxes

Anyone with questions about their assessed value should contact Borree Appraisal Services at 920-766-9166. You may also attend the "Open Book" which this year will be **May 28th** from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. The Board of Review will be held the same day from 10:00 a.m. until noon. The "Open Book" is an informal time when you can view the tax roll and ask questions. 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 prior to attending the Board of Review. My suggestion would be to talk to the assessor before it gets to that point.

If you have concerns about the mill rate you need to attend town board meetings and school board meetings to get informed. Voice your concerns about how monies are being spent.

*Call any time! - Happy Summer, Kay*

# Veteran's Report

By Tom Kelroy

The Town of Byron Veterans Committee would like to thank everyone who turned out for the annual St. Patrick's corned beef & cabbage dinner on March 16th and for their support of our annual 50/50 raffle.

The cash prize winners are:

\$300 ~ Steve Paape

\$200 ~ Tom O'Conner

\$100 ~ Eugene (EJ) Schroeder

\$50 Winners ~ Karen Bachman, Jim Sukawatey, Darren Meyer, Jim Miley, James Wamser, Lizzie Kalish, Reagon, Is-selmann, Jim Jaster, Marlene Bernhard, Pat Ahtonen, Mary Rhein, Dan Feucht, Richard Vande Velde.

This Memorial Day there will be 17 names of veterans with ties to the Town of Byron added to the memorial stone so honorably placed in front of the town hall. There will be a brief program with a local veteran, Mike Bird, as the featured speaker. Following the roll call of all veterans buried in the Town of Byron cemeteries, the Oakfield VFW Post 8092 and the Bintzler/Waehler Lomira American Legion Post 347 will honor those deceased veterans with a joint firing squad salute followed by the playing of Taps. All are welcome and encouraged to attend this special event. The program begins at 9 AM on Memorial Day, May 26<sup>th</sup> with an open house hosted by Byron Historical Society in the town hall 8 am till 11 am. Watch your local news for further details.

With our memorial stone almost full of names, the committee is looking at options of adding additional, smaller memorial stones for future veteran's names to be added. From the beginning of placing Byron veterans names on the Memorial in 2005 the cost of adding each name (\$50) is paid by the funds raised by this committee thru the generosity of many town of Byron residents and local businesses. Without your support this would not be possible. Thank you for your past and continued support.

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm. Any town resident is eligible to serve on the committee. If interested contact any current committee members:

Tom Kelroy ~ Chairperson

539-7710

John Laudolff

923-0176

Bob Geiger ~ Vice Chair

922-9431

Jerry Luedtke

922-8753

Don Whitty~ Secretary/Treasurer

923-2362

## Congratulations!!! 2013 Citizen of the Year...Francis Ferguson

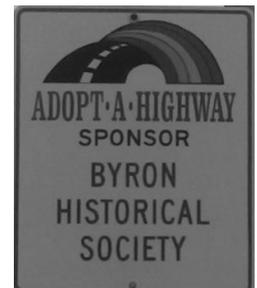


The annual town meeting was called to order missing a very special guest of honor. Well, his chair was just too comfy and he forgot. A phone call was made to him during the meeting 'reminding' him that he was to be in attendance. The meeting proceeded and when Francis Ferguson arrived he was presented with the 2013 Citizen of the Year award. Francis is a life long resident of the Town of Byron. He served on the Town Board for 44 years, on the plan commission for 3, was on the board of Byron Historical Society and has always been more than a public servant. He is a genuine, honest and dedicated man who is always ready with at least one story to tell about something that happened in the town. We wish Francis health and happiness in his new home and thank him for his many years of dedication to our town.

## Adopt-A-Highway

Mark your calendars to help on May 31st, August 9th and October 11th.

Byron Historical Society sponsors Hwy 175 from Hwy F south to the county line in the Adopt-A-Highway program. We need a minimum of 6 volunteers to do the whole stretch in less than 2 hours. Volunteering can count towards school volunteer/community hours. Youth need to be at least 11yrs old or in the 6th grade and be accompanied by an adult. Wear long pants and sleeves, sturdy shoes and gloves and meet at the town hall at 8am for instructions. Contact Brenda Hackbarth with any questions at 904-4831.





## BYRON HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO CELEBRATE YELLOWSTONE TRAIL ALONG HIGHWAY 175



Did you know that the Town of Byron is part of the Yellowstone Trail route? This famous trail was first organized in 1912 as part of a "good roads" movement to bolster business development and tourism. By 1919, the trail was the first coast-to-coast routing across the northern tier of the United States. The Wisconsin leg, including Byron along Highway 175 (originally Highway 15), was established in 1915. The Trail laid out a scenic route for travelers intent on exploring the U.S. in their new-fangled automobiles.

### Marking the Trail

This year the Byron Historical Society (BHS) is celebrating Byron's history as a transportation center. You may have seen our 2014 commemorative calendar featuring photographs and stories relating to all modes of transportation that are a part of our history. What better way to help celebrate the 100th anniversary of Byron's stretch of the Yellowstone Trail than to mark the route with bright yellow stones like those that identified the Trail for those travelers of 100 years ago?

### Get Your Stencil

Our BHS will have a stencil available for loan to any Town of

Byron residence or business located along Highway 175. We invite you to paint your very own Yellowstone Trail stone to proudly display along your property route and be part of the year of celebration for our community.

Contact one of the officers noted on our membership form or check our website for information on stencil size and paint color for **your Yellowstone** Trail stone.



*Mark Mowbray, (above) Executive Director of the Yellowstone Trail Association, shared the history and highlights of the Trail at the BHS annual meeting on March 17, 2014. Below, Erv Kraft, BHS Treasurer, displays a commemorative Yellowstone Trail marker given to the BHS by Mark.*



### Guest Speakers

Each year the BHS presents guest speakers who enrich our community history. In addition to Mark Mowbray, we were pleased to welcome to our BHS meetings Sr. Joann Sambs, who shared the history of Sisters of St. Agnes Congregation; Al

Messner presenting a history of the Oakfield Brickyards; and Karen Kelley sharing the story of the famous Kelley Country Creamery. We also partnered with the Fond du Lac County Genealogical Society, Friends of the Old Eden Town Hall, Friends of the Empire Threshing Association and the Malone Area Heritage Museum for an evening with Wisconsin writer Jerry Apps.

### 2015 BHS Calendar

#### To Feature

### Celebrations and Holidays in the Town of Byron

Parades, proms, birthday parties, family reunions, anniversaries, Christmas parties, 4th of July, Valentine's Day, picnics, and tractor drives...what great photos do you have of celebrations and holidays for our 2015 calendar? Email your photographs and stories to [byronhistorical@att.net](mailto:byronhistorical@att.net) or contact one of our officers noted on our membership form.

### Share Your Stories

Connect on Facebook to reminisce about Byron life. Just log in to Facebook, search for Life and Times in the Town of Byron and you're there. We want to hear your stories about Byron life and times.

### Memberships

Renew your membership in the Byron Historical Society today with the renewal form included in this newsletter. Not a member? Please consider joining the BHS. Check out the application form for our membership levels.

TOWN OF BYRON  
COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS BY ORDINANCE  
TERMS UP JULY 1st of year listed

**BOARD OF APPEALS**

DUSTIN WESTPHAL, Chair	960-8186	2017
RON ENGEL	929-9279	2017
KEITH PETERS	921-8241	2015
TIM SCHAUMBERG	960-6996	2016
GERARD SCHMITZ	921-7489	2015
<i>alternate</i>		
ELSIE KOTTKE	922-0914	2017
GERALD LUEDTKE	922-8753	2016
DENISE MEYER	904-1147	2016

**PLAN COMMISSION**

STEVE WESSING, Chair	923-0530	2017
RUDY DUBNICKA	924-8058	2015
ROBERT GEIGER	922-9431	2017
GARY LANGBRUTTIG	923-4171	2017
GEORGE TREWIN	583-4308	2016
<i>alternate</i>		
DAN HOMUTH	923-2709	2016
KAREN SCHUMACHER	948-5559	2017

**QUARRY INSPECTION*****TERM NOT LIMITED***

MARLIN TOWNE	Permit Issuer
DAN HOMUTH	Industry Rep
BOB SIMON	Town

**Special Meeting***June 17th, 2014 7pm**Byron Town Hall**Possible addition to the Town garage.**See photo to left.*



# Wisconsin Recycles



The following items are banned from landfills and incinerators statewide and should be reused, recycled or composted.

## Containers

- #1 and #2 plastic bottles and jars
- Aluminum containers
- Bi-metal cans
- Glass containers
- Steel (tin) cans

## Paper and Cardboard

- Corrugated cardboard
- Magazines, catalogs, and other materials on similar paper
- Newspaper and newsprint materials
- Office paper

## Yard Materials

- Grass clippings
- Debris and brush under 6" in diameter
- Leaves

## Vehicle Items

- Lead-acid vehicle batteries
- Tires \*
- Used oil filters
- Waste oils \*

*\*These items may be burned in a solid waste treatment facility with energy recovery.*

## Appliances

- Air conditioners
- Boilers
- Clothes dryers
- Clothes washers
- Dehumidifiers
- Dishwashers
- Freezers
- Furnaces
- Microwaves
- Ovens
- Refrigerators
- Stoves
- Water heaters

## Electronics

- Cell phones
- Computers – desktop, laptop, netbook, tablet
- Computer monitors
- Computer keyboards and mice
- Computer scanners
- Computer speakers
- Desktop printers (including those that fax and scan)
- DVD players, VCRs, DVRs and all other video players
- External hard drives
- Fax machines
- Flash drives/USBs
- Other items that plug into a computer
- Televisions

## Why ban items from the landfill and incinerator?

The items on this list are made of materials that can be reused in new products. Some also have toxic components that we do not want in our groundwater, air or soil. Recycling and composting allow landfills to last longer, provide markets with valuable reusable materials, create jobs, and prevent pollution.

## Why not ban more materials?

Corrugated cardboard is banned while waxed cardboard is not. Some things with plugs, like computers, are banned, while others, like toasters, are not. Why? Current bans cover some of the most easily reusable or most toxic materials on the market today. Eventually more items may be added to this list as new recycling markets develop or the types of materials we throw away change.

Some communities go above and beyond what is required by state law. Check with your local government or recycling service provider to find out what additional materials are accepted for recycling in your area. For more information about Wisconsin's recycling program, search "recycle" at [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov). Wisconsin's recycling requirements apply to everyone in the state at all residences and places of work or play.



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
Bureau of Waste and Materials Management  
P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707 • (608) 266-2111  
[DNRWasteMaterials@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRWasteMaterials@wisconsin.gov)

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PUB-WA-1574 2012

Printed on Recycled Paper

Town of Byron

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Byron, WI 53006