

BYRON Minnesota

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BYRON COMMUNITY NEWS

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Legion's generosity helps all of Byron



Every year Byron's Sumner R. Hair American Legion Post 119 awards 15 to 20 \$1,000 scholarships to Byron students for their continuing education expenses.

Most of the funds raised by charitable gambling at the Legion are donated to the community. The Post has given tens of thousands of dollars back to Byron by funding scholarships to Byron High School students and by donating to the robotics team, Boy Scout Troop 42, the post-prom party, the fire department, the Byron Area Chamber of Commerce, families in crisis, the high school music program, and Good Neighbor days, to name just a few.

The Post was chartered in 1924. It is named after U.S. Army Private Sumner R. Hair, a Byron resident killed during World War I. He was born on Sept. 8, 1894, and died October 9, 1918, of wounds received in battle. Sumner was the son of Perry Sumner Hair and Rosellen M. Roof of Byron. Perry was the son of James Noble Hair who served in Company I, First Minnesota Battalion during the Civil War.

Just before Memorial Day, Legion members place American

flags by veterans' graves at four cemeteries in the Byron area. Members also provide graveside services for veterans who have recently passed away.

The Legion provides members of the color guard and the honor guard for the Memorial Day ceremonies at the Byron Cemetery, at the Byron Veterans Memorial, and for local parades.

Since COVID, the Legion also places a group of small American flags on the grounds of the high school on the day scholarships are awarded. Each flag is labeled with a graduating senior's name. The students find their flag and they can take it at the end of the school year.

Legion members started this tradition during COVID by placing the flags on the Legion grounds.

In May, Legion members placed flags at the graves of veterans interred in the Byron Cemetery and at the Veterans Memorial near the Bear Roundabout.

Members also participated in the Memorial Day ceremony at the Byron Cemetery.



Join hundreds of friends and neighbors! Take our survey.

Byron Public Schools will ask voters to approve additional operating revenue through a property tax levy at a November referendum. The district has financial challenges due, in-part, to a budget forecasting error two years ago, but mostly due to state revenue increases not keeping pace with inflation and other factors. Byron receives the 3rd lowest state funding of 331 school districts in Minnesota, and has made more than \$3 million in budget cuts over two years. The school board is committed to a final referendum proposal that reflects what the community can afford and that reflects the use of referendum dollars on community priorities as much as possible.

Please take less than 10 minutes before June 20 to complete the survey. Survey results will be reported to the community in July. The board will decide on the final ballot question in July or August.

Use this QR code or visit surveymonkey.com to take the survey today!



Street construction updates available

The 2025 street and utility improvement updates are now available on the city's website at [2025 Street & Utility Improvements - City Projects - Byron, Minnesota](#).

This year the city is reconstructing Seventh St. NW and Third Ave. NW. Details about the project including weekly updates about nearby street closures or utility interruptions are included at this link along with contact information for the contractor and the engineer.

The 2024 Water Quality Report is now available.

To view the report, please visit <https://www.byronmn.com/waterquality>



CITY OF BYRON MISSION STATEMENT

To provide valued public service and guide the city with innovative thinking toward smart growth.

Byron American Legion donates to fire hall and two new firefighters are welcomed



Submitted Photo

Pictured are (l to r) Travis, Cat, Ryan, and Christian.

Byron's Sumner R. Hair American Legion Post 119 has again donated generously to the Byron Volunteer Fire Department. In March, city council members approved the Legion's donation of \$1,800 to the Fire Department for new G5 Pagers.

Also at that meeting, the council approved two new firefighters, Catherine (Cat) Kurtz and Jeremy (JP) Armstrong.

Cat has always been interested in giving back to her community by volunteering. Her father, Ken Bee



Submitted Photo

Pictured are (l to r) JP and Angie, and their children, Mason, Caitlyn, and Jaxon

was a firefighter for Rochester for many years, and she grew up going to the station to visit him during his shift. So, when the opportunity arose to join the Byron Volunteer Fire Department, she didn't hesitate. "I'm really excited to start this new adventure in my life," she said. Her husband, Travis is from Byron and the couple have two boys, Ryan 12, and Christian, 6 who attend Byron schools. She works at the Mayo Clinic leading an administrative support team in Business Development.

JP has a history in firefighting. He worked for seven years in the fire departments of Lake Elmo and the Lower St. Croix Valley in Washington County and in various wildland firefighting companies. His spouse, Angie Beech-Vizenor, is a Byron native so when she moved back to the area to help care for her parents, JP soon joined her by leaving his position on the city council at Lake St. Croix Beach and at his fire station to get involved in this community. He still commutes for his day job at Washington County Parks. JP served in both the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Army. The couple have three children and two grandchildren with one more on the way.

Annual fire hall maintenance is hard work



Every inch of every fire hose is tested for leaks at the Byron Firehall the first weekend in May every year. Byron's Volunteer Fire Fighters and First Responders also check all tools, other equipment, and vehicles to make sure everything is in proper working order. These annual checks and meticulous maintenance throughout the year help ensure all apparatus is ready to go when an emergency arises.

Students imagine being mayor for a day



Students from Kristin Laplante's fourth-grade class at the Byron Intermediate School attended the May Byron City Council meeting and read essays about what they would do for the city if they were 'Mayor for a Day.' The students selected to read their essays were Evangeline McIllrath, Madelyn Lynch, and Oliver Leadens. In the photo, they are flanked by (left) Council Member Justin Blom, who also teaches at the Intermediate School, and Mayor Daryl Glassmaker.

The students' suggestions included building a dog park by the Fareway store, installing a stop light on County Road 5 by the high school, installing a camera by the new basketball courts at Valley View Park, building a library, and building a community center.

The students spoke clearly and confidently about their ideas and audience members applauded each of them when they finished.

ROCHESTER-OLMSTED COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

SAFETY ACTION PLAN

ROCOG Public Engagement survey

The City of Byron would like your input on transportation safety concerns within the community.

Rochester-Olmsted Council of Governments is preparing a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (SAP) as part of the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) federal grant program. The goal of the SAP is to develop a regional strategy to prevent roadway fatalities and serious injuries for all roadway users within the ROCOG boundaries.

We want to hear your transportation safety concerns and ideas. Use the following link to identify locations where you have safety concerns driving, walking or biking.

<https://rocog-gis-olmsted>



At the May Byron City Council meeting, Public Works Director Tom Ricke explained that needed repairs to the municipal swimming pool will be completed in time for the pool to open in June.

In Mid-April, Tom, Mayor Daryl Glassmaker, and other city officials met with a representative from the Olmsted County Public Health Department to determine if Byron's pool could be repaired enough to open this summer. The 38-year-old pool has needed extensive repairs every year for several seasons. This year, the repairs included plastering and painting the bottom of the structure.

At the May meeting, council members gave the go-ahead to continue discussions with the Byron School District about parking options for the pool if the old pool is rebuilt and/or expanded in its same location.

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