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BYRON COMMUNITY NEWS

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Good Neighbor Days 2025 was a success



This year's Good Neighbor Days festival included more activities, more music, more food, and just generally more fun than ever before. New activities this year included a big truck fair on Friday evening and a petting zoo and toddler town at the Family Fun Day Saturday.

A big thank you goes out to the hard-working, dedicated group of volunteers who keep this festival going every year. If you'd like to help, please contact them at byrongoodneighboradays@gmail.com. The group starts meeting regularly after the first of the year to plan the next festival.



Sheriff Torgerson discussed crime

At the July 8 Byron City Council Meeting, Olmsted County Sheriff Kevin Torgerson talked about the dramatic increases in the number of DWI (Driving While Impaired) or CVO (Criminal Vehicular Operation) arrests in the last three years in the county. From 2022 to 2024, DWI's or CVO arrests more than doubled from 123 to 262. He talked about the increase in the number of speeding citations issued from 728 in 2022 to 1,034 in 2024. He also commented on the rise in overdose deaths in the county this year. Many of those deaths were caused by the use of drugs mixed with Fentanyl, an often-lethal concoction.

On the positive side, he said his office is fully staffed and that allows proper patrolling of the county and the towns that use the sheriff's office for law enforcement services. Byron is one of the communities that contracts with the sheriff's office to patrol its streets.

A complete annual report can be found at <https://www.olmstedcounty.gov>.



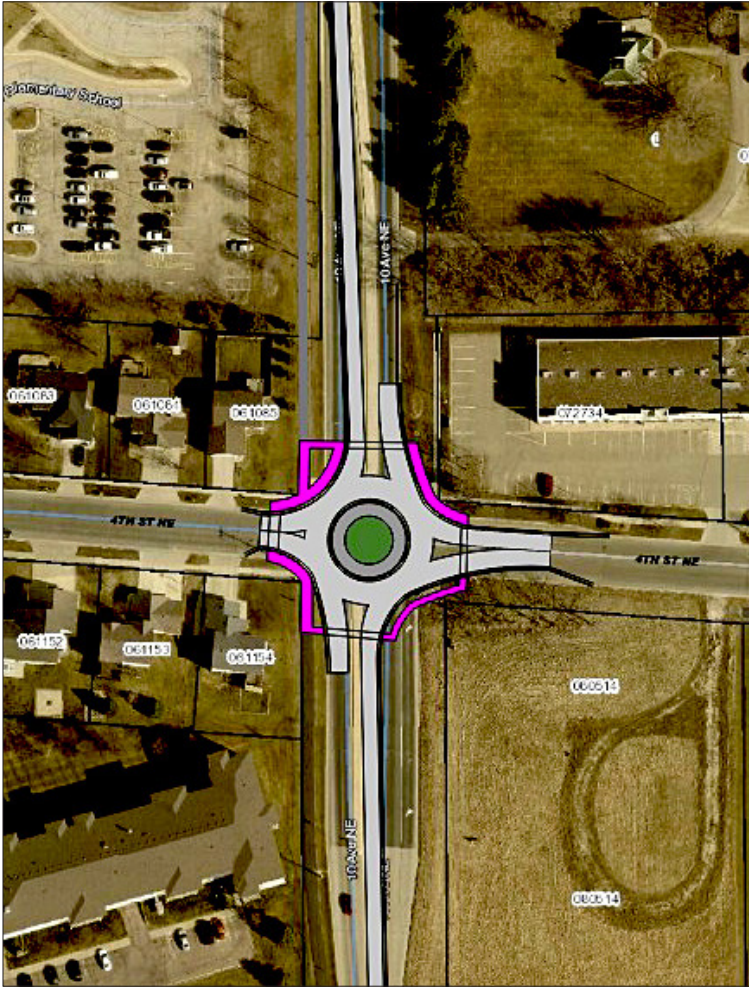
School has started

City workers painted city crosswalks in preparation for Byron schools start up on Aug. 25. Please be careful driving in our neighborhoods as students start back to school. There will be more vehicular traffic, more pedestrians, and more scooters. Please always obey speed limits in school zones and always stop for school buses which are loading or unloading passengers.

CITY OF BYRON MISSION STATEMENT

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

Intersection of Fourth St. NE and 10th Ave. NE to become roundabout



City Engineer Bill Angerman from WHKS presented the results of an extensive Intersection Control Evaluation Report to the Byron city council members at their regular meeting Aug. 12. After discussion, the council members voted unanimously to authorize a professional services agreement amendment with WHKS to proceed with preparing plans for a roundabout at the busy intersection of 10th Ave. and Fourth St. NE. Construction on the intersection will be done next year.

A traffic light and a roundabout were considered for the intersection. The roundabout clearly offers the safest alternative for pedestrians as they must only look in one direction before crossing and traffic is slowed down to negotiate the circular route. Intersections controlled by roundabouts historically have fewer crashes and injuries than intersections controlled by signals.

To review the study, please visit <https://legistarweb>

At the last Summer Concert of the year, held Aug. 6 at the Byron city hall, hundreds of people turned out for the music, the food, and the fellowship of neighbors and friends. Children ran, played, and danced continuously for the time the band, 'Let 'er Rip' played. During the evening, Mayor Daryl Glassmaker, assisted by Lisa Jessen, handed out prizes donated by the Benedictine Living Community – Byron.

Next summer, the city will again host three concerts in June, July and August. See you there!



Winners: (l to r) First place went to Ben Meyer and his son, Brayton, who own Smokin' Silverback BBQ; third place went to Jeremy Jackson and Wade Goss who own Wine and Swine BBQ, and second place went to Byron resident Ammon Fawson.

Inaugural Byron BrewBQ was great

The weather was perfect for Byron's inaugural BrewBQ held Aug. 23 at city hall. The event was held to raise funds to help build pickle ball courts near the soccer fields. Jack's Bottle Shop provided a tap trailer with 10 types of draft beers for patrons to try.

Vendor trucks from Smokin Silverback BBQ and Smoak BBQ had delicious barbecue and sides available. First Alliance Credit Union gave out free ice cream cups during the event. Three bands provided music throughout the afternoon.

Midway through the festival, trophies were awarded to the top three teams that had competed in a smoked ribs contest. Six judges tasted the smoked ribs prepared by entrants and awarded trophies to the top three.

The ribs were provided by Fareway Meat and Grocery. The event was organized by members of the Byron's Diversity and Inclusion Council, led by Byron City Council member Justin Blom. That group also organizes the summer concert series and the winter Open Mic nights.

Judges for the smoked ribs contest were (l to r) Byron Mayor Daryl Glassmaker; School Board Member Lisa Jessen; Jim Nicholas, owner of the Wildwood Sports Bar and Grills in Byron and Rochester; Byron City Council member Justin Blom who spearheaded the event; Paige Morris, owner of Spoons Restaurant; Chastity Good, who kept score; and Jack Lester, owner of Jack's Bottle Shop.

