

BYRON COMMUNITY NEWS

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Volume 8 | Issue 1 | January 2026

Speedy Motors moves to Byron



Ahmed Alnadawi



Oday AlHadeethi

Speedy Motors originally opened in Rochester in 2023 and after their first very successful year in business, the two owners Ahmed Alnadawi and Oday AlHadeethi, decided to look for a larger facility for their used car dealership. One corner of the intersection of Highway 14 and County Road 5 was available, and it is exactly the type of high-visibility site they were looking for. Their new address is 11 Second Ave. SW, Ste 100 and their phone number is (507) 272-2815. Their email address is licspeedymotors@gmail.com.

Ahmed said they are very glad they moved the dealership here. “Everything here is better,” he said. “When I came into town to open the business, people at the city were very helpful. I really appreciate them. Everyone has been very friendly. When you find good people, you want to work with them.”

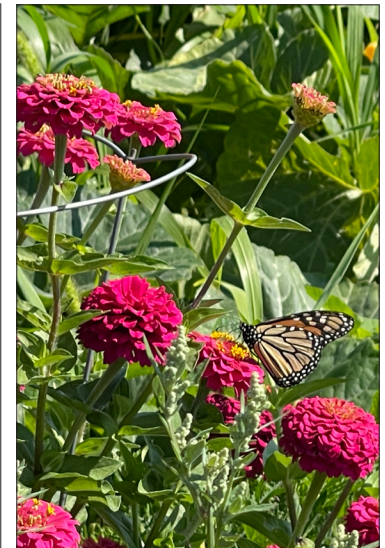
The dealership has great reviews from its time in Rochester and it’s easy to see why the company is successful. The men ensure that the cars they sell are clean and safe and each one has a two-week, 500-mile warranty. Each car has a thorough safety inspection before it is sold.

The lot typically has between 15-20 cars and the Ahmed said he also sells on Facebook Market Place. He said they also buy vehicles from people and offer better prices than other dealerships.

Ahmed also noted that the dealership can finance the purchase of vehicles.

Their Facebook Marketplace page is www.facebook.com/marketplace

Welcome to Byron!



Community Gardens will be available this spring

Beginning Feb. 1, Byron gardeners may reserve garden plots in the Community Garden. The former plots are being converted into a pickle ball complex, but Public Works Director Tom Ricke explained that new plots will be available south of the previous garden location. They are also located west of the Byron Soccer Complex south of 20th St. NE.

The new plots will be the same size as the previous ones and will cost the same. They are 20 X 20-foot in size and will rent for \$30 for the season.

If you’d like to reserve a plot, they will be available on a one-per-household, first-come, first-served basis to Byron residents who live within the city limits. If any plots are available after May 1, they will be made available to a wider group.

To learn more, visit byronmn.com

If you’d like to reserve a plot, please contact city hall at cityhall@byronmn.com or call (507) 775-3400.

2026 planning meetings held

On Jan. 21 and 22, strategic planning sessions were held at the Byron city hall to discuss goals for the city for the next three to five years. Those who attended this year’s sessions included members of the city council, the park board, the planning commission, the Byron Economic Development Authority, and city staff members.

The group dug deep into planning for the challenges facing Byron. The participants agreed that keeping the small-town feel of Byron is of paramount importance. Managed growth, recreation opportunities



for all ages, and future infrastructure needs were all debated along with other widespread issues. The planning sessions were led by Irina Fursman of HueLife.

Anyone interested in being involved in any facet of Byron’s future, please contact Byron city hall to learn about volunteer opportunities at cityhall@byronmn.com or call 775-3400.

CITY OF BYRON MISSION STATEMENT

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

Byron utility rates rise in 2026



The Klingvall water tower received a new coat of paint a few years ago.

At their January meeting, Byron city council members approved water and sewer rate increases for 2026. These increases are based on a study completed two years ago which detailed how much money would be needed in the future for Byron to maintain the infrastructure for the water and sewer utilities. Infrastructure includes everything from the wastewater treatment plant to the city's water towers and all equipment in between that is the city's responsibility.

Water rates will increase by 5% for both base and flow rates, while sewer rates increase by 4% beginning in February.

Every community must plan how to pay for the costs of maintaining and improving its infrastructure. During the study two years ago, the analysis showed that Byron's water bills were lower than the average water bill of similarly sized cities. Included in the study were Wabasha, Dodge Center, Lake City, Zumbrota, Plainview, Stewartville, Pine Island, La Crescent, Chatfield and Kasson. Costs for smaller cities cannot realistically be compared to large cities like Rochester because there is a higher population in a large city to share the costs.

Some of the monthly fees paid in are saved in a reserve account to help pay for large infrastructure improvements in the future.

In Minnesota, utilities must be self-sustaining; rates paid by users must be sufficient to maintain the utility.

Lighting prize goes to food pantry



Pictured above (l to r) are BrrrFest Home Lighting Contest winner Melissa Clements standing with Caitlyn Gaines and Marie Peterson from the Benedictine Living Community - Byron. The three are holding a big collection of items put together for the Byron Food Pantry.

Melissa and her family and a group of her neighbors put together a dinosaur-themed display in their yards for the holidays and with all the lights and blow-up dinosaurs, they won the Byron Chamber's BrrrFest Home Lighting Contest for 2025. The prize for this contest was sponsored by Benedictine Living Community - Byron.

Melissa explained that the collective group wanted the prize donated to the Byron Food Pantry.

Benedictine's Housing Administrator Marie Peterson explained that as the basket was being prepared, residents of the facility brought items to be donated, and the basket, "just got fuller and fuller."

Community Education Director Jennifer Dole said how sweet it was of the winners and thanked them for their generosity. The Byron Food Pantry is in the Community Education building.

For more information about the Food Pantry and Community Closet, visit bce.bears.byron.k12.mn.us



Like to be more involved in the Byron community?

Join the Good Neighbor Days Committee!

The group meets several times each year and coordinates the Good Neighbor Days activities that occur the third weekend in July and other activities. This year, the festivities will be held from July 15 through July 19th. The first meeting for the group is at 7 p.m. February 11 in the lower level of city hall, 680 Byron Main Ct. NE. Come join us!

Call Byron City Hall at 775-3400 to have the latest edition of the Byron Community News sent to your inbox OR pick up a copy at Byron City Hall.

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