

## BYRON COMMUNITY NEWS

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## Lifesavers honored



Pictured above (L to R) are: Mayo Clinic Ambulance Julia Rinn, Byron First Responders Wendy Lujan, Luis Lujan, and Tom Warndahl; Olmsted County Sheriff's Deputy Jeremy Boucher; Law Enforcement Center Dispatcher Kim Meillier, bystander Ray Halgrimson, and survivor Bill Thompson.

Those recognized and not in the picture were Byron First Responder Isaiah Crossfield, LEC Dispatch Jeff Wellik and Brandt Soukup; Emergency Communications Center David Poirier, and Mayo Clinic Ambulance Brian Ploen.

At the April 14 Byron City Council meeting, representatives from the Southeastern Minnesota Emergency Medical Services program recognized members of the Byron First Responders, Olmsted County Sheriff's Office, and Mayo Clinic Ambulance personnel with eight Lifesaver Awards for exemplary efforts to save Bill Thompson's life on Feb. 26 in Oxbow Park. Alex Catevenis, the executive director of Southeastern Minnesota Emergency Management Services said that this team is "the calm in the chaos," for the patient. When the 911 call comes in, "These silent heroes begin the chain of survival."

On that late February day, with the help of advice from the dispatch center, bystander Ray Halgrimson administered CPR to a collapsed Bill Thompson until first responders arrived.

## Senior Social Café is expanding services

Family Service Rochester is expanding the Social Café, also known as the Senior Café or Congregate Dining, at the Community Education Building, 630 First Ave. NW in Byron. Kathy Voss, Certified Caregiving Consultant and Dementia Practitioner, explained that previously, meals were only offered on Wednesdays but now, lunches will be offered on Mondays and Tuesdays as well. These hot, nutritious meals bring people together and allow socialization time with others. All meals are served in the cafeteria of the

Community Education Building beginning at noon. Each meal has a suggested donation of \$4 or a 5-meal punch card can be purchased for \$17.50. To reserve a meal, please call 507-287-2010 by 2 p.m. the day before. For the Monday meal, please call by 2 p.m. the Friday before.

On the third Wednesday of each month, the Byron Senior Club hosts the noon luncheon. The cost and location are the same. To RSVP for that luncheon, please call Joni Prigge (507) 319-4306. **The next luncheon is on May 20.**

## Operating golf carts and ATVs in Byron

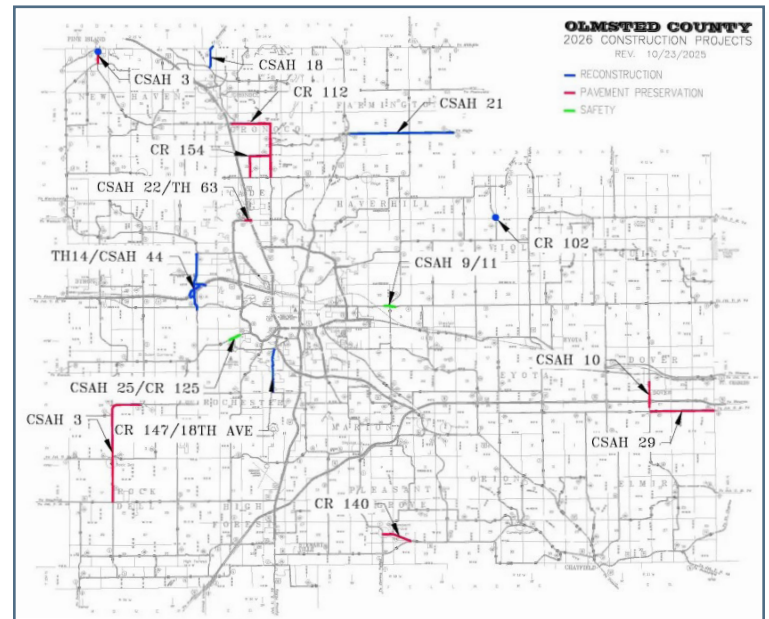
Residents who wish to drive golf carts or all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) on Byron's streets must have a valid license. Eligible drivers must possess either a standard driver's license or provide a physician's letter authorizing them to operate these vehicles.

Golf carts and ATVs used on public streets must have a city-issued permit, be properly insured, and display a 'slow-moving vehicle' emblem. To obtain a permit, individuals need to complete an application and submit it at Byron city hall, 680 Byron Main Ct. NE.



There are several areas where golf carts and ATVs are not allowed. These vehicles cannot be driven on Second Ave NW (County Road 5) and must not be used to cross Highway 14. Additionally, they are prohibited from Byron's walking/bike trail system and from operating on sidewalks. Olmsted County Sheriff's Deputies will enforce this traffic ordinance. For complete details about the ordinance, visit <https://codelibrary.amlegal.com>

## Byron-Rochester commuters WILL BE IMPACTED



MnDot and Olmsted County are partnering on a project at the intersection of Highway 14 and County Road 44 and Seventh St. east of Byron. The project involves constructing an interchange at Highway 14 and Olmsted County Road 44 and a bridge over Highway 14 at Seventh St. NW. The project begins this spring and is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2027. The \$60 million project will improve safety and traffic flow.

To learn more, visit <https://www.dot.state.mn.us>

## CITY OF BYRON MISSION STATEMENT

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

# Kevin Strain honored for 30 years of service



Mayor Daryl Glassmaker (L) and Public Works Director Tom Ricke (R) present employee Kevin Strain with an award for his 30 years of service to the city of Byron.

Kevin Strain was honored at the Byron City Council meeting April 14 for his 30 years of service to the city of Byron. Tom Ricke, Public Works Director, said that when Kevin started working at the city in 1996, 10th Ave. was a gravel road, gas was \$1.29 per gallon and there was no Somerby. Tom said, "While there have been many changes in Byron since then, one thing that has remained a constant here is Kevin's unwavering commitment to excellence."

Tom talked about Kevin's outstanding work in managing the city's wastewater treatment plant, where he always meets the strict requirements of local, state, and federal regulations. And as a person Kevin is valued for "...his positive attitude, knowledge, and the way he has mentored so many of us. He has truly made this a better place to work." Kevin received a storm of applause from the audience and council members when he received his award.



**Inaugural Eggstravaganza a success**

A partnership amongst the Byron Area Chamber of Commerce, the Community Education Center, members of the Lions Club, members of the Egg Committee, and generous sponsors launched Byron's first Eggstravaganza on April 4.

Hundreds of children and their parents turned up to greet the Easter Bunny, find their eggs, pick up

their candy and prizes, participate in games, sip hot chocolate, decorate cookies, and shop at a vendor fair. A big thank you to all who participated to make this such a successful event.

## 2026 Byron Foundation Festival was fantastic

The Byron Community Foundation's 2026 Festival, held April 17 at Somerby, was an outstanding success. The event drew hundreds of people who enjoyed tasty food and drinks, reconnected with friends and neighbors, and enthusiastically participated in the silent auction featuring impressive, donated items.

The Foundation was founded in 2013 by a passionate group of volunteers. Their aim is to enrich and strengthen the community. The group has given thousands of dollars to numerous organizations throughout the community.

The Foundation operates as a fund under the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation. Each August, the Foundation's board reviews grant applications.

## Baseball season parking effective May 1

Between May 1 and September 1, parking regulations are enforced on specific sections of Seventh Street NW. During this period, only vehicles displaying valid parking permits are allowed to park in these designated areas. These months coincide with the busiest season for the baseball fields at Byron Middle School. In previous years, residents living along Seventh Street NW experienced significant challenges, including an influx of illegally parked cars and trespassers crossing through their private yards.

The Olmsted County Sheriff's Office will monitor parking compliance. Vehicles parked without the necessary permits will be subject to ticketing and other enforcement actions.



City of Byron now hiring for seasonal positions

If you're looking for a summer job, the city of Byron is looking for lifeguards at the municipal pool and for concession workers for the concession stand at the Byron Community Recreation Center.

If you'd like to apply for any of these positions, please review the full job description and complete the forms on the Employment Opportunities page of the city's website (<https://www.byronmn.com/employment>). Submit completed forms to City Hall in person or via mail at 680 Byron Main Court NE, Byron MN 55920.

Applications will be accepted until the positions are filled. Join us and help make our community a great place to live, work, and play.

## Leash laws and pet control



As more residents and their dogs take advantage of Byron's public parks and trails, it's essential to follow the city ordinance regarding pet control. When in public areas, all dogs must be on a leash and accompanied by a responsible person who maintains control over them. Allowing dogs to run off leash can frighten other people and wildlife, lead dogs to eat harmful objects, or cause them to run into traffic. For the well-being of both your pet and the community, please keep your dog leashed when out and about and be diligent about cleaning up after them.



For further information, visit <https://smifoundation.org/byron/>