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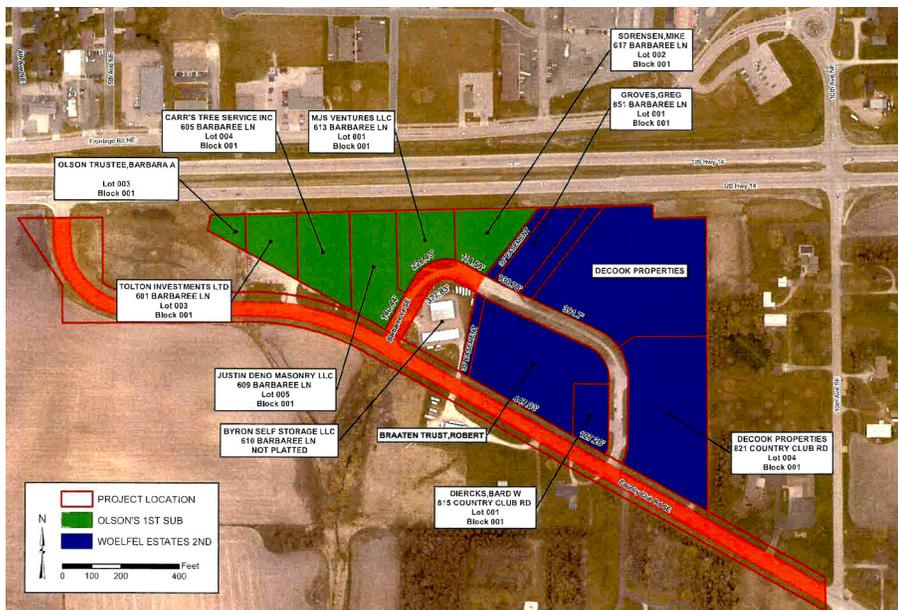
BYRON COMMUNITY NEWS

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The roundabout is officially complete at the intersection of 10th Ave. & 7th St. NE. This picture was taken in mid-August. The project was awarded to Rochester Sand and Gravel and begun in mid-May.
3 1/2 Ave. NW is now open for through traffic as well, as this project is nearly complete. This project was awarded to SL Contracting and begun in July.



As of August 17, Country Club Road has been closed to through traffic from Hwy. 14 to 10th Ave SE as part of the 2020 Street & Utility Improvements project. Construction is estimated to last until mid October. Access will be maintained to local residents and businesses during construction.

For more information on the project, visit

www.byronmn.com/cityproject

BYRON FUNERAL HOME IS A WELCOME ADDITION TO BYRON

■ Story by Gretta Becay

When Macken Funeral Homes decided to open an affiliate facility in Byron, they were building on a long history of serving the people of Southeast Minnesota.

The company was originally founded in 1909 in Rochester and in the early days, horses were used to pull the hearses.

More than a century later, in 2016, a new funeral home and crematorium were built in Byron in the industrial park. The facility was opened in January of 2017 with Byron resident Jay Czczok at the helm.

The Byron facility is completely state of the art and offers memorial and funeral services, direct cremation, direct burial, and visitations. They also offer pre-planning and



pre-funding.

And in keeping with the new requirements of the pandemic, the company now offers live streaming of the funeral or memorial service.

"Our company gives loved ones a chance to celebrate the life of those who have passed on," he noted.

What makes the Byron Funeral Home so special? Ask anyone who has used the business; the service.

It's Jay's credo.

"We offer top-notch service. We only get one chance to get it right. Our attention to detail is impeccable. It has to be," he said.

On a personal note, Jay explained that, "I had always been interested in this profession, but I was not serious about attending college right out of high school. Instead, I decided to enlist in the United States Army. After spending four years as an infantryman with the 10th Mountain Division, I decided it was time for the easy college life. I took advantage of the GI bill and started my funeral director schooling the next possible semester."

Jay quickly moved into the heart of the community and volunteered his prodigious computer skills to revamp the Chamber of Commerce website along with other tasks.

He and the Byron Funeral Home are welcome additions to the Byron community.

CITY OF BYRON MISSION STATEMENT:

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



At least a hundred people were at the Byron Community Recreation Complex on the evening of Aug. 12 to watch the ball games, ride scooters and skate boards, and just enjoy the beautiful summer afternoon. The four-field Complex will soon be the site of an All-Inclusive playground on the north side of the parking lot. The dirt work on the Playground site is mostly complete and the playground equipment is en route from the manufacturer.

After the initial work was completed by the contractor on the Complex, city staff members and volunteers have worked countless hours to transform what was once a boggy cornfield into this fun-filled place.

Photo by Gretta Becay

Public Hearing was July 28 for golf cart/ATV ordinance

■ Story by Gretta Becay

At the city council meeting July 28 at Byron city hall, a public hearing was held for comments about proposed changes to the city's golf cart/all terrain vehicle ordinance.

Before the pandemic forced the nation-wide quarantine, very few people drove these vehicles on Byron streets. In fact, City Administrator Mary Blair-Hoeft explained to those attending the meeting, there had only been one permit issued for several years for a person that required the use of a golf cart for medical reasons.

But with people staying home and looking for entertaining ways to get around town, suddenly, there are several carts and ATV's being driven on city streets; some by students without any type of drivers' license.

With the help of Olmsted County Sheriff's Deputies Ryan Mangan and Tom Olson, suggested revisions were made to the old ordinance so safety concerns have been addressed for those driving the vehicles and for other drivers and pedestrians.

After the public hearing and some discussion, the city council approved the proposed changes. The revisions include the requirement that an annual permit must be obtained for the vehicle. A \$15 fee for the permit was discussed but the final amount won't be decided until January when council members vote on all fees. Drivers must be at least 16 years of age and have a valid driver's license. The vehicle must be appropriately insured.

Because this is a traffic ordinance, it must now be reviewed by the Olmsted County Attorney and then it is sent to officials at the Minnesota Judicial Branch to finalize the process for enforcement.

The revised ordinance will go into effect Jan 1.

The last day the pool will be open is Sunday, August 30th.

THANK YOU FOR A GREAT SEASON!



Len Jessen recently retired from service as a Byron Fire Fighter and was honored at the Aug. 12 Byron City Council meeting. Fire Chief Matt Grant and Mayor Daryl Glassmaker thanked Jessen for his service and the city presented him with a gift. During the pandemic, there are no handshakes and all are masked but appreciation will always be shown to those who serve their community like Jessen.

Photo by Gretta Becay



The blue lines on this map indicate which streets in Byron are scheduled to have crack-sealing done within the next month. Please be aware of construction workers and their equipment. The project will be completed by Sept. 25, 2020