



BYRON COMMUNITY NEWS

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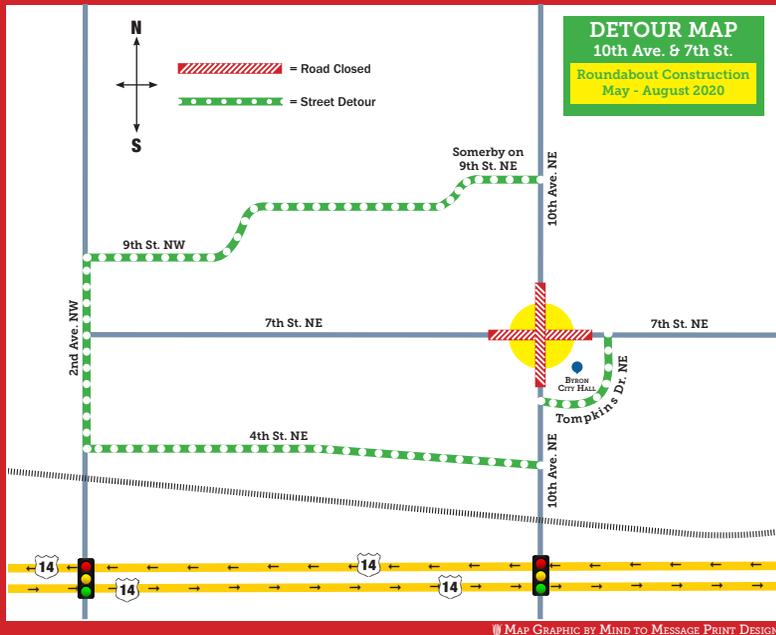
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Workers from Minnesota Energy and the People's Energy Coop worked to reroute gas lines and power lines at the intersection of 10th Ave. NE and Seventh St. NE in preparation for the construction of a roundabout at that intersection. At the moment, traffic can still pass through the intersection but beginning in mid-May, the intersection will be closed to traffic. Building the roundabout will take most of the summer.

Photo by Gretta Becay



CENSUS RESPONSE



The US Census is underway. Byron's response rate is 66.9% and the whole state is 61.6%. The response rate for Byron for the 2010 Census was 79.4%.

Please be sure to respond by visiting:

<https://2020census.gov/>



We are now taking reservations for the 2020 garden season.

For information on how to get a plot, please contact city hall at:

507-775-3400

or email:

cityhall@byronmn.com



Looking for local restaurant information? Check the City of Byron's Facebook page to see which restaurants have takeout and/or delivery available.

Byron follows Governor Walz's request to collect masks for group homes



Story & Photo by Gretta Becay

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 25, volunteer firefighters from the Byron Fire Hall staffed a collection point for handmade masks to be distributed to regional group homes such as Madonna Summit in Byron and Hiawatha Homes, Inc. Firefighters Mandece Marx and Amos Holmes were on hand in the afternoon to staff the collection table.

Marx said there had already been hundreds of masks dropped off at the table on the east porch of the fire hall. She said the masks will all be washed before being distributed to various locations. It was a bright, sunny, warm spring day and once again, Minnesotans showed their generosity by filling the bins to overflowing.

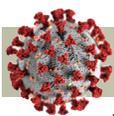
COVID-19

Financial Assistance

COMING SOON:

COVID-19 Revolving Loan Program for businesses impacted by Governor Walz's Executive Order 20-04 and 20-08.

Further information will soon be available on the City of Byron Website and Facebook. Contact City Hall at 507-775-3419 to discuss the program.



COVID Relief

The USDA and Federal Partners have programs that can be used to provide assistance to rural communities affected by COVID-19. Click the link below for the resource guide:

https://byronmn.govoffice.com/.../USDA_COVID-19_Fed_Rural_Res...

Please call city hall if we can be of assistance. 507-775-3419

CITY OF BYRON MISSION STATEMENT:

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

BYRON FIRST RESPONDERS' ANNUAL CALLS INCREASE 72 PERCENT IN 10 YEARS

■ Story & Photo by Gretta Becay

The 16 volunteers that staff the Byron First Responders have been answering more and more calls each year. Ten years ago, the group answered 187 calls; last year, that number had increased to 322. Director of the First Responders, Brian MacGregor, said the uptick can be traced to several factors. The First Responders answer emergency calls from the city of Byron and Kalmar and Salem Townships. Populations in all three areas have increased in the past 10 years.

The winter of 2019 contributed its share to the particularly high number of calls answered last year.

The population growth in Kasson and other towns in Dodge County have caused a rise in the number of vehicles traveling on Highway 14. More traffic causes more accidents and the Byron First Responders are often first on the scene of nearby highway accidents.

The highest number of calls the group respond to are medical emergencies not related to accidents. The responders generally arrive first at a call and are often able to assess the scene, get baseline vital signs, and



Byron's new First Responders' Truck has been in service just over a year. The vehicle can carry all kinds of medical tools, supplies, and significant lighting to scenes in the area covered by the volunteer First Responders including the City of Byron, Kalmar and Salem Townships.

prepare the patient for transport in an ambulance, if that is required.

When the ambulance arrives, the patient can be transported more quickly with this preparation.

The volunteer responders are highly qualified for their jobs and include Rochester firefighters, paramedics who work for Mayo Clinic Ambulance, an emergency department nurse from St. Mary's Hospital, emergency medical technicians, and emergency

medical responders.

The First Responders work closely with Olmsted County Sheriff's Deputies and volunteers from the Byron Fire Department during calls. Deputies ensure the safety of the scene if needed before medical personnel enter a home.

Traffic is always a concern when responding to a call because the vehicles responding may partially block traffic. Both the deputies and Fire De-

partment personnel assist in extrication, blocking traffic, and assisting in moving patients if needed.

One thing that's made their job easier this year is the new First Responder truck used to respond to the calls. The department has had the truck for just over a year and it has significantly helped the responders do their jobs.

"For one thing, it's a lot more visible," said MacGregor. "Other drivers can see us better and give us room. And when we're stopped at a scene, the back of the truck is highly visible."

Before this truck was obtained, the responders used a pickup truck with a topper on it and were often ignored by other drivers.

The truck can bring all kinds of medical tools and supplies to calls as well as significant lighting in case the scene is in a dark location.

After every call and every single week, the truck is inspected thoroughly to ensure it is always ready for the next call.

MacGregor said the First Responders would welcome two more volunteers with daytime availability. Applications are available at the Byron City Hall.

Valuation Notices are in the mail for Byron

■ Story by Gretta Becay

Property Tax Statements and Valuation Notices for Byron property owners have been mailed and Byron property owners may challenge the value or correct any information on the notices in several ways.

Julie Hackman, Assistant Director of Property Records and Licensing for Olmsted County, explained that the appraiser for Byron residential property is Ryan Kraft. He may be reached at (507) 328-7662 or via email at kraft.ryan@co.olmsted.mn.us.

She said the appraiser for Byron commercial/apartment property is Ben Bedard and he may be reached at (507) 328-7652 or via email at bedard.benjamin@co.olmsted.mn.us.

These two may be contacted with questions about the valuation or any information on that notice.

The County Board of Appeal and Equalization is at 6:30 p.m. June 16 at the Government Center. Those wishing to address the commissioners at that meeting should call (507) 328-6001 before June 12 for an appointment.



At the Byron Fire Hall, first Responders and firefighters who serve the city of Byron and Kalmar and Salem Townships, deputies from the Olmsted County Sheriff's Office, ambulance drivers from the Mayo Clinic, and drivers from Byron Auto Repair lined up their emergency vehicles for a parade through Byron neighborhoods on April 22. These types of parades are being held across the state and nation as shows of solidarity and as a reminder that these men and women respond to emergency calls, even in the midst of a nationwide quarantine. Residents came out and waved at the drivers and visited with neighbors after the vehicles had passed; staying at least six feet apart.

Photo by Gretta Becay



Bear Hunting? While you're out walking and enjoying the lovely spring weather, be on the lookout for bears! Residents around town have placed teddy bears in the windows of their houses to bring cheer to passers by. They can be hard to see because of reflections in the window glass, so watch carefully.

Photo by Gretta Becay

FIRE PITS

Recreational fires cannot exceed 3 feet in diameter. Residents are also only allowed to burn dry, clean wood and limbs.

Items that are not allowed to be burned inside city limits include: green wood, wood that has leaves/needles/preservatives, yard waste, and trash of any kind.

If you notice anyone burning items they are not supposed to be, please contact law enforcement at 507-775-3406 or Law Enforcement non emergency number 507-328-6800.

Service Master of Rochester voluntarily provided high point touch cleaning at Byron City Hall and maintenance shop.

They are also scheduled to do the EMS Vehicles.

Thank you for your hard work on helping stop the spread of COVID-19.

