



BYRON COMMUNITY NEWS

BROUGHT TO YOU BY BYRON EDA AND CITY HALL

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Workers from DeCook Excavating began the dirt work in July on the All-inclusive Playground being built at the Byron Community Recreation Complex. Grants from the Otto Bremer Trust and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources as well as contributions from the City of Byron helped push donations over the top to get the playground built. The playground is the Legacy project of the local Lions Club and many local businesses contributed to the funds as well.

The playground is scheduled to be completed this year. *Photo by Gretta Becay*



DID YOU KNOW
Byron offers online and paperless billing?

Byron has teamed with Payment Service Network to allow residents to view bills, make one time payments or set up auto-pay. You can access all this on their mobile app as well.

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY!

Byron's credit rating is AA

■ Story by Gretta Becay

Standard & Poors Global Rating, the company that issues credit ratings for municipalities, has given Byron an AA rating. That rating allows the city to issue bonds, that is, borrow money for municipal projects, for a very low interest rate. And, explained Paul Donna, the city's financial consultant, interest rates for this type of borrowing are lower than they have been since the early 1990's. After his presentation and some discussion at their meeting July 14, the City Council members voted unanimously to approve floating a general obligation bond issue for \$4,150,000.

The funds will be used to refinance two bonds that currently have higher rates and to pay for the street projects for this year, the roundabout and stormwater pond F. The refinancing will save the city's taxpayers about \$53,000 in interest costs.

The street projects include Second St. NW, Barbaree Lane SE, Country Club Road SE, 3 1/2 Ave. NW, 10th Court NW, Fourth St. NE, Byron Main Court NE, and some new sidewalks.

Donna noted that Byron has had a history of conservative budgeting and sufficient reserves, and these practices help the city maintain this strong rating.

Standard & Poors	Numeric Equivalent
AAA	100
AA+	95
AA	90
AA-	85
A+	80
A	75
A-	70
BBB+	65
BBB	60
BBB-	55
BB+	50
BB	45
BB-	40
B+	35
B	30
B-	25
CCC+ to CCC-	20
CC	15
C	10
D	5



Wearing a mask is easy but closing down our businesses again is not. Please wear a mask so that your favorite small businesses **stay safe** and **stay open**.



Olmsted County Sheriff's Deputy Ryan Mangan was introduced to the Byron City Council members at their regular meeting July 14. Mangan is taking the place of Deputy Adam Hennen, who had been assigned to Byron after Deputy Jay Clements completed his time here. However, Adam was injured on the job and during his recovery, Deputy Mangan will be the assigned Byron deputy.

Mangan explained that he has been with the Sheriff's Office for 11 years. He was a police officer for four years before that in a different location and prior to that, he was a paramedic.

Mangan is a native of Plainview and now lives in Byron with his family. He is one of the six deputies in the Sheriff's Office that have canine teammates.

Mangan's teammate is named Rajko, (pronounced Riko), and is an 80-pound German Shepherd from Slovakia. The two have been teamed together since Rajko joined the Sheriff's Office in 2012 as a puppy.

Caption & Photo by Gretta Becay



Many Byron gardeners showed off their gardens during the first Byron Good Neighbor Days Garden Show held July 18. This garden, tended by Ann and Bob Jensen, is a perfect example of a welcoming outdoor space where a person could while away a lovely summer day. *Photo by Gretta Becay*

SEE MORE PHOTOS OF THIS AND PAST YEARS' GOOD NEIGHBOR DAYS ACTIVITIES ONLINE AT: BYRONGND.COM

OR GO TO FACEBOOK AND LOOK FOR **BYRON GOOD NEIGHBOR DAYS**.



This 2019 Chevrolet Camaro ZL1, owned and driven by Tobey Hicks, accompanied by his sons, Jayse and Jaxson, took second place in the first Byron Good Neighbor Days Classic Car Cruise. A group of classic cars, golf carts, and other vehicles, followed a circuitous route through Byron on July 19 so Byron could have a parade, even during a pandemic. *Photo by Gretta Becay*



There were many and varied examples of chalk art scattered around the driveways and sidewalks of Byron for the first Byron Good Neighbor Days Chalk Art Show held on July 18. The show allowed people to show off their talents and allowed spectators and artists to remain safe during the pandemic.

This artwork, by Olivia Witts, shows Christopher Robin and his friends marching across the driveway of Olivia's home. The rain that fell the night before the art show forced contestants to re-draw their creations. *Photo by Gretta Becay*

2020 Water & Sewer Residential Rates

City	Water	Sewer	Other	Debt	Storm	Total	Other Description
Zumbrota	\$21.25	\$32.40	\$3.80			\$57.45	Infrastructure charge
Lake City*	\$16.81	\$43.46				\$60.27	
Pine Island	\$27.14	\$45.25	\$1.00		\$0.50	\$73.89	Monthly Meter fee
Eyota	\$26.16	\$48.00			\$2.00	\$76.16	
Kenyon	\$25.11	\$42.01	\$4.03		\$7.28	\$78.43	Storm Water Matinenance Fee
Stewartville	\$25.10	\$33.75	\$12.20	\$4.00	\$4.40	\$79.45	Admin fee/CIP/Street Light
Byron	\$23.81	\$51.15			\$5.50	\$80.46	
Wabasha	\$21.76	\$59.65				\$81.41	
Hayfield	\$24.56	\$33.00	\$24.00			\$81.56	user fee
Dodge Center	\$33.98	\$40.01	\$2.04	\$5.00	\$1.00	\$82.03	customer charge
Plainview	\$25.20	\$51.18	\$11.84		\$0.25	\$88.47	Sidewalks/Street Reconstruction fee
St. Charles	\$33.94	\$49.26			\$7.63	\$90.83	
Kasson	\$27.84	\$64.64			\$14.80	\$107.28	
Wanamingo	\$29.56	\$33.75		\$42.00	\$3.50	\$108.81	
Cannon Falls*	\$33.62	\$76.02			\$2.62	\$112.26	
Mantorville	\$40.43	\$71.40			\$3.00	\$114.83	
Chatfield	\$36.56	\$100.65				\$137.21	
City Average	\$27.81	\$51.50			\$4.37	\$88.87	

All water and sewer rates are based off of 5000 gallons of water

*Cannon Falls & Lake City - Rate is off of 700 cubic feet - just over 5000 gallons

Per USGS Water Science School the average usage per person is 80-100 gallons a day.

thinktank
DID YOU KNOW
 that City Hall has space available for new and upcoming businesses?!
 Visit our website or call us for more information!



The City of Byron will have the Mayor and three Council seats available for the November election. The filing period opened July 28 and closes August 11th at 5:00 p.m.

For more information visit www.byronmn.com.

Please remember to remove valuables from your vehicles and lock them up. Also lock your house and garage.

DON'T BE A VICTIM!

Did you know the city of Byron's 2020 water and sewer billing rate is below average when compared to surrounding cities?! Here is a comparison of water bill costs based on 5,000 gallons of usage.

Call the 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 City Hall.

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