

Byron EDA opens COVID-19 loan program for local businesses

■ Story by Gretta Becay

At their April meeting, members of the Byron Economic Development Authority agreed to establish a revolving loan program for local businesses which may be suffering economic hardship because of the COVID-19 crisis.

In order to qualify for the loans, businesses must be located in a commercially or industrially zoned area of the city of Byron, have between three and 25 employees, have been in business

as of or before Feb. 1, 2020, and have an annual gross revenue of \$1 million or less.

The funds must be used within three months of disbursement and may only be used for certain expenses including rent, lease or mortgage; utilities; insurance; and certain other expenses.

Payments on the loans may be deferred. The loans will be secured with a secured promissory note.

The maximum amount of the

loans will be \$5,000 with interest rates between zero and 3 percent depending on the length of the loan.

There are limited funds in the Covid 19 Revolving Loan Program.

First priorities for the loans will be businesses affected by Executive Order 20-04 and 20-08. These businesses were required to shut down and may be struggling the most.

Business owners interested in

applying for a loan through this program should contact Janna Monosmith at 775-3400 or email jmonosmith@byronmn.com.

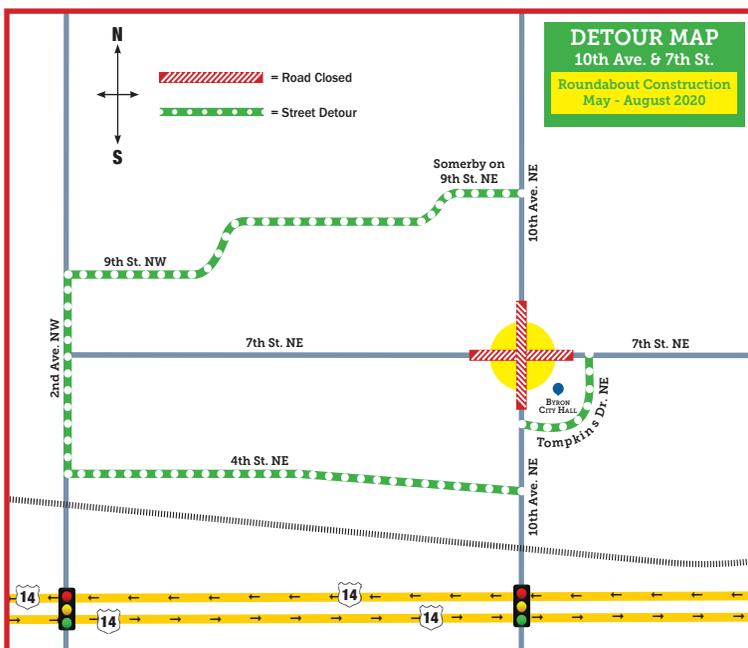
The city website also has many resources for business owners including federal and state guidelines about COVID-19, information from the state Chamber of Commerce, and webinars about ways your business can get through these times. From the Byron website, www.byronmn.com, click on 'Doing Business'.



In late April, city Public Works staff members worked to flatten and seed areas where ash trees or old trees were removed over the winter. The city must eventually remove all ash trees that are on city property or rights-of way and the trees can only be taken down when the weather is cold enough that the invasive emerald ash borer is not active. Ash trees that are on private property must either be treated or removed during that same timeframe. *Photo by Gretta Becay*



Spring is finally in the air!! Please remember to clean up after your pets when you are out enjoying the trails. Dog feces carry many bacteria that can be harmful to other pets and humans.



Construction of a roundabout at the intersection of 10th Ave. NE and Seventh St. NE has begun and the intersection is closed to traffic. Building the roundabout will take most of the summer.



The Byron High School Senior Class won't have their graduation ceremony this year because of the COVID-19 crisis. They'll miss out on graduation parties, the prom, the senior trip, and other events to mark their accomplishment. Byron city officials decided to post signs at two locations in town as one way to show these students that local residents understand their disappointment and wish the students the very best in their futures.

The signs are posted atop the hill on the northwest corner of the intersection of Highway 14 and 10th Ave NE near the commuter lot and on the northwest corner of the intersection of Ninth St. NW and County Road 5. *Photo by Gretta Becay*

Memorial Day ceremony curtailed; but flags were in place



American Legion member and volunteer Troy Landsverk places a flag near the headstone of a veteran on May 18 in preparation for Memorial Day, while holding an armful of the flags destined for other graves.

■ Story & Photo by Gretta Becay

This year, because of the COVID-19 crisis, there was no Memorial Day ceremony at the Byron cemetery. But the American flags were in place near each veteran's grave.

For decades, U.S. Army veteran Jim Pries was in charge of placing the flags in time for the annual Memorial Day commemoration ceremony led by members of the Byron American Legion Sumner R. Hair Post 119.

When Jim died a few years ago, his sons stepped up and with a group of hardy volunteers, they continued to carefully, reverently place hundreds of wooden-staffed flags at the veterans' grave the weekend before Memorial Day. This year because of the COVID-19 crisis, the group placed the flags an entire week before Memorial Day, so people would have a longer time to visit the grave sites and pay their respects to those who have served.

Each year, the group also installs the large flag poles near the center podium in the cemetery which fly the flags representing the major U.S. wars since the Civil War. Veterans of each of these conflicts are buried here.

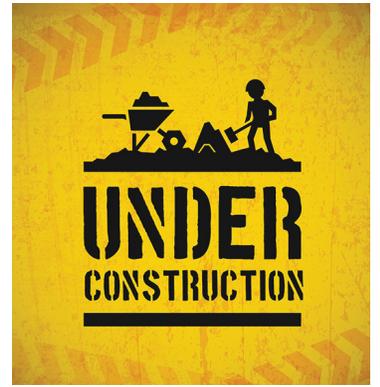


image: Freepik.com

NEW HOME PERMITS

In 2019 Byron issued 38 building permits for new home construction. To date Byron has issued permits for 15 new single family units.



During a beautiful April day, city Public Works staff members worked on extending the infields and base paths on ball fields at the Byron Community Recreation Center. Sprinkler heads have been relocated where required. These changes will allow an additional age group to play baseball there.

Photo by Gretta Becay

2019 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

The 2019 drinking water report is now available for residents to view. You can view the report at our website at:

www.byronmn.com

A paper copy of the report is also available at City Hall upon request.

If you have any questions about the report and its findings, please contact:

Doyle Jorgenson
at 507-775-3413 or
djorgenson@byronmn.com



Soccer Fields

City staff will be doing routine maintenance at the soccer complex throughout the summer. If the chains are up on the entrance, please use alternate city parks. There will be soccer goals located at BCRC (open area directly east of the parking lot), ValleyView and Brooklawn 10th Park (off 12th Street NW). Feel free to utilize these parks while work is being done at the soccer complex.

Members of the Byron Lions Club set up a display of American flags at the 10th Ave./Frontage Road roundabout to honor all essential workers during the Covid-19 crisis. Spokesman Joe Cartney said the whole club endorsed the idea as a way to honor the workers in this way. He said the flags will remain up for 30 days. City officials agreed with the idea and the flags were soon up and flying. They were coincidentally in place for the Byron teachers' parade which was held May 6.

Photo by Gretta Becay



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