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BYRON COMMUNITY NEWS
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Byron has new Recreation Coordinator intern

Erica Dovhalionok

Erica Dovhalionok has joined the Byron city staff as the new Recreation Coordinator Intern for the city of Byron. She is originally from Chippewa Falls, WI. She currently lives in Owatonna with her husband who is finishing school in Mankato this year.

Erica explained that after this summer she will have a B.S. in Recreation and Parks Leadership Studies from Minnesota State University, Mankato. She will also have a certificate in Nonprofit Leadership and a certificate in Tourism and Event Management. Before starting this position, she interned with New Ulm Park and Rec as a Recreation Intern and Greater Mankato Growth as an Events Intern.

Erica said, "I am excited about all the programs I am planning this summer and going into next fall and winter as well as getting to know the community. In my free time I like to spend time with my husband and my cat Pebble and play my violin and viola."

Erica has already partnered with the Community Education Center in organizing seven Rec on the Go events at local parks, and a Parks and Trails Bingo for the month of July. She has also put together a Byron Parks and Trails Guide, which is available on the city website or as a paper copy at city hall. **www.byronmn.com**

If your group would like to meet with her, she can be reached at **parkandrec@byronmn.com.**

REC ON THE GO

FREE

Byron Community Education and the City of Byron are partnering to bring you Rec On the Go. Join us at the parks listed below for sports, yard games, crafts and more! Open to all ages. The Rec On the Go program will arrive and leave at the designated time. Staff and Volunteers are not responsible for children after Rec On the Go leaves the location.

*Schedule is dependent on the weather. Watch the City of Byron social media pages for updates!

DATE	LOCATION	TIME
Tuesday, July 7th	BCRC	10am-12pm
Tuesday, July 14th	Brookfield East Park	10am-12pm
Tuesday, July 21st	Brooklawn Park	10am-12pm
Tuesday, July 28th	Brooklawn 10th Park	10am-12pm
Tuesday, August 4th	Klingvall Park	10am-12pm

DATE	LOCATION	TIME
Tuesday, August 11th	Old Towne Park	10am-12pm
Tuesday, Augut 18th	Valleyview Park	10am-12pm

BYRON COMMUNITY EDUCATION

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City council candidacy filing period set

Want to run for city office? The city of Byron will have two Council seats available for the November election. The two-week candidate filing period opens at 7:30 a.m. July 14, and closes on July 28, at 5 p.m.

There is a $2 fee per candidate. To get the form, visit Byron City Hall or click on the city website at **www.byronmn.com**

Byron pool closed but rides to Kasson pool available

The Byron municipal swimming pool will not open this season after workers discovered additional repair needs during a spring resurfacing project. Once completed, the repairs are expected to extend the pool's usable life by seven to 10 years.

Byron has coordinated with the city of Kasson so Byron residents can pay Kasson resident rates at the Kasson pool this summer. For more information about the Kasson Pool, visit their website: **www.cityofkasson**

Byron is also providing a free shuttle service on Rolling Hills Transit for Byron residents between the Byron pool and the Kasson pool Mondays through Fridays except on federal holidays.

The service began on June 18. The shuttle will depart the Byron pool at 11:45 a.m. and arrive at noon at the Kasson pool and then will depart the Kasson pool at 4 p.m. and arrive at the Byron pool at 4:15 p.m.

Renovation and expansion underway at Byron Fire Hall

The Byron fire hall addition and renovation project at 707 Frontage Road is in full swing. Brennan Construction of Mankato is the contractor. The project was started earlier this spring.

The work involves adding two new apparatus bays and the addition of a new decontamination area to the existing fire hall facility. The new apparatus bays will be located west of the current building. The schedule calls for the project to be completed this year.

CITY OF BYRON MISSION STATEMENT
To provide valued public service and guide the city with innovative thinking toward smart growth.

Byron's Memorial Day ceremony and remembrance

With all flags at half-staff at the 2026 Byron Memorial Day ceremony, the speaker, George Beech, talked about what an honor it was to him to deliver the Memorial Day speech. George remembers attending the annual ceremony his entire life and, to come full circle, his beloved parents, George and Betty, are buried there in the Byron Cemetery.

He served for four years as an intelligence officer in the active US Army ending his service as a captain. After 9/11, he went back into the US Army for six years as a civilian special agent for counterintelligence achieving the grade of GS-14.

After thanking the Byron High School band for attending, he talked about how he played trumpet for the band throughout high school and he played Taps at veterans' funerals here.

He said, "As a young man, I knew it was an honor—but I don't think I fully understood the weight of it. Standing beside grieving families, hearing the final notes hang in the air, and watching a flag being folded with care. Seeing veterans stand at attention one more time for a brother or sister in arms. Those moments stay with you."

He said veterans don't simply remember history. "We remember people. We remember faces. We remember voices. We remember courage. And we remember loss."

He talked about how some veterans "laid down their lives for the friends beside them—and for a country they loved. That is sacrifice. That is courage. That is devotion. And that kind of love deserves remembrance."

The ceremony in Byron every year when we take time to remember those who have fallen reminds us that "remembrance does not happen automatically. Each generation must choose it. We must tell the stories. Speak the names. Bring our children here. Teach them why flags are placed at grave sites. Teach them why veterans stand with quiet reverence. Teach them why Taps brings people to tears. It is a sacred pause. A moment for a grateful nation to say: We remember. We honor. We thank you. And we will not forget."

And, he said, as veterans, "We hope that we continue to be a nation worth serving. Hope that we remain united in what matters most. Hope that future generations cherish freedom enough to protect it. Hope that we live in ways worthy of those who sacrificed everything.

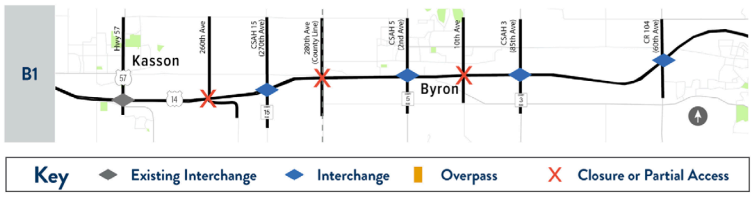
That responsibility belongs to all of us."

Solar panels are up

Solar Panels were installed near Byron city hall at 680 Byron Main Ct. NE in May. The contractor, Solar Connection, installed the 39.5 KW direct current solar project. A grant from the Minnesota Department of Commerce is paying for 70% of the cost and the city will apply to the IRS to receive the remaining 30% as a direct pay tax credit. The project cost is estimated to be $136,620.

A similar installation will also be installed near the city's Wastewater Treatment Plant south of 20th St. NE.

2026 Bonding Bill funds planning for Highway 14 interchanges



Byron is one step closer to having interchanges at County State Aid Highways 3 and 5. An announcement from Olmsted County notes, "The 2026 bonding bill includes $8 million for design work on interchanges at Trunk Highway 14 and County State Aid Highways 3 and 5. These planned interchanges along U.S. Highway 14 in Byron will help increase safety, enhance mobility, and accommodate long-term regional growth."

These funds along with $1.37 million from the Minnesota Department of Transportation as part of its Corridors of Commerce Readiness Advancement Awards, and an additional $2 million in federal funding all obtained earlier this year, will pay for the design, right-or-way acquisition, and environmental review of the two planned interchanges along U.S. Highway 14 in Byron.

The intersection at County Road 3 has been converted to a J-turn. The intersection at County Road 5 is the site of approximately one accident per month and has been for decades.

For more information, visit **www.olmstedcounty.gov**

JULY 16-19
2026
Activities Include:
Byron Good Neighbor Days

THURSDAY
•Driveway Art •Medallion Hunt
•Mexican Fiesta Community Meal
•Puzzle Hunt •Summer Fun Concert

FRIDAY
•Alumni Soccer Game •Beersbee at Bear's Den
•Kick off Kickball Tournament •Big Truck Fair
•Music •Fireworks •Family Bingo Night

SATURDAY
•Art Fair •Family Fun Day with Vendors
•Pickle Ball •Foot Races •Bean Bag Tournament
•Basketball Tournament •Ice Cream Social
•Firefighters Dance

SUNDAY
•Outdoor Worship Service
•Car Show •Parade

FOR FULL SCHEDULE, VISIT www.byrongnd.com