

King's Flooring, the flooring expert in Southeast Minnesota, is headquartered in Byron

■ Story & Photo by Gretta Becay

Byron native Monte King, owner of King's Flooring, has been in the flooring business since 1982.

Before opening the showroom in Byron, Monte worked for one other business in the region for 13 years and then became an owner in another local flooring business. About 12 years ago, Monte decided that southeast Minnesota needed a full-service flooring operation that could handle every flooring need, from fine quality carpeting to hardwood, laminates, luxury and sheet vinyl, cork, ceramic and porcelain tile.

Monte's attitude is: "If you aren't happy with your flooring installation, we aren't happy either, and we'll do what it takes to bring smiles all around." He believes in quality work for his customers and he still does the flooring installations himself with help from another employee. They'll even move furniture. The business serves both residential and light commercial clients.

King's Flooring has the most reasonable prices on the highest quality flooring products, explained showroom manager Kathy 'Sam' Peyton King. Monte makes sure floors are properly prepared so the floor coverings are perfectly installed and will last for years. Personnel are friendly, knowledgeable, and aware of safety protocols for COVID 19.

The showroom is located at 185 Highpoint Place NE Suite 102 – right behind the Dollar General. The phone number is 507-624-0237. Email is info@kingsflooringbyronmn.com and the website is www.kingsflooringbyronmn.com. Hours for the showroom are from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday during the pandemic. Sam encourages customers to call for an appointment to make sure that she is at the showroom.



Little rescued Chi-weenie Nacho, held by King's Flooring showroom manager Kathy 'Sam' Peyton King, welcomes customers to the showroom. Owned and operated by Byron native, Monte King, the business has been open in that location for 12 years.



After 20 years of service, Byron firefighter Derek Michaletz (center) is retiring. At the February 9 Byron City Council meeting, Mayor Daryl Glassmaker (right) and all council members wished him well and presented him with a parting gift. Fire Chief Matt Grant (left) said Derek had been a great asset to the city and the department. Derek was very active and served as Safety Officer, Training Officer and retired as a Captain. Derek has been in the construction business all his life and with those skills, he was a great resource for the department, said Matt.

Photo by Gretta Becay

WHEN TEMPERATURES STAY BELOW FREEZING:

- Give pipes a helping hand**
If pipes run through cabinets or vanities, open the doors to let warmer room temperatures flow in.
- Keep water working**
Keep water moving through the pipes by allowing a small trickle of water to run. The cost of the extra water is typically lower than the cost of repairing a broken pipe.

BUT IF YOUR PIPES DO FREEZE:

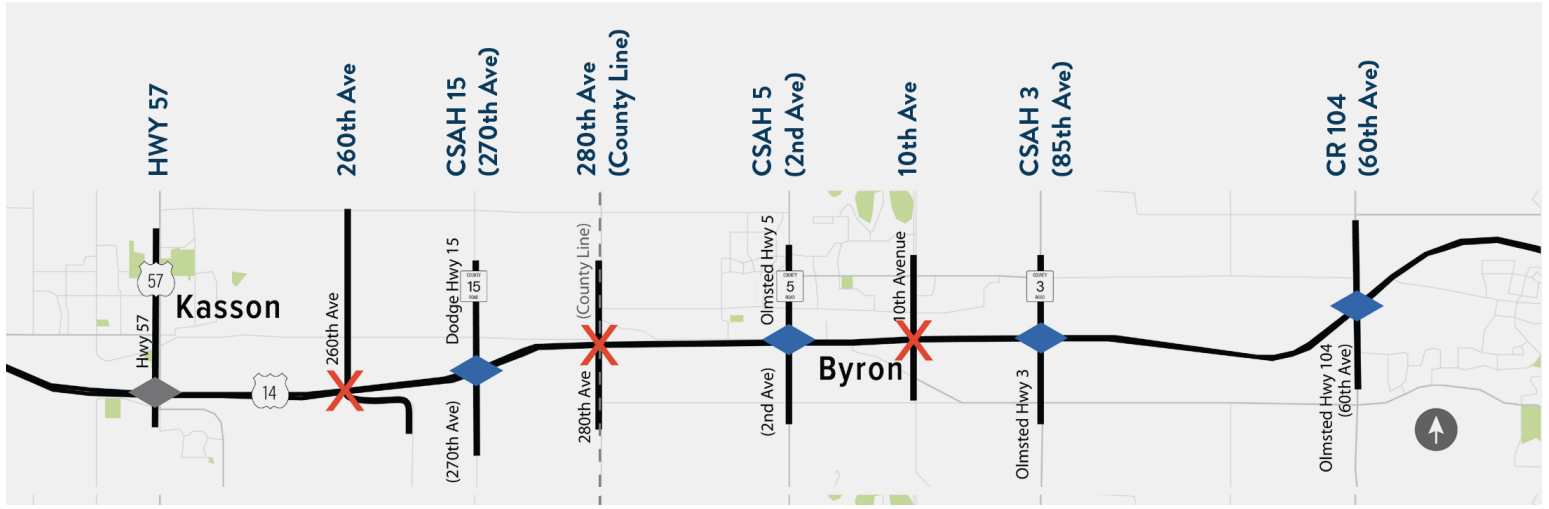
- Shut off the water immediately**
Don't attempt to thaw pipes without turning off the main shut-off valve.
- Thaw pipes with warm air**
You can melt the frozen water in the pipe by warming the air around it with a hair dryer or space heater. Be sure not to leave space heaters unattended and avoid the use of kerosene heaters or open flames.
- Be careful turning water back on**
Once pipes are thawed, slowly turn the water back on and check pipes and joints for any cracks or leaks that might have been caused by freezing.

With the recent cold temperatures, there is a growing concern with water pipes freezing. Byron is asking residents to monitor their water temperature. If your water is below 35 degrees, it is recommended to run a pencil-width stream of water from a faucet.



Do your dogs have lots of energy from being cooped up during the cold weather?! With warmer weather on the way, it's a great opportunity to take your dogs to the Byron Dog Park located right behind the Byron Pet Clinic. We would like to thank the clinic for all their hard work in the park.

City council endorses Highway 14 corridor analysis



■ Story by Gretta Becay

At their February 9 meeting, members of the Byron City Council unanimously endorsed the “preferred concept plan for the Highway 14 Corridor Analysis.” The analysis was the result of an 18-month-long analysis of the current and future access points to the highway between Kasson and Rochester.

Trunk Highway 14 is a, “vital inter-regional transportation link....and the long-term success of the region depends on maintaining the safe, timely, and efficient movement of people and goods on the highway,” the council’s resolution states.

The group that analyzed the section of road included representatives from the cities of Byron and Kasson, Olmsted and Dodge Counties, and the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

The first study of this nature to try to select options for future accesses for the highway was done in 1995. Another was done in the mid 2,000’s. Those studies were not so detailed and did not garner the consensus of all involved entities.

It was noted that funds are not yet

available for construction of the future accesses, but it was impossible for mapping of the area to be completed unless the location of future accesses was known. Without mapping, future development south of Highway 14 is stymied.

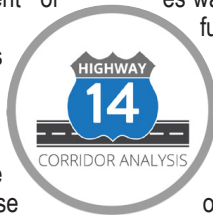
Now, mapping can be completed for the land surrounding County Roads 3 and 5 and a backage road on the south side of Highway 14 between those two roads.

A backage road runs parallel to an arterial road but more land is left between the two roadways than be-

tween a frontage road and a highway. Development can then occur on both sides of the road. Also, intersections of frontage roads and intersecting arterial roads are problematic; witness, the intersection at County Road 5 and Highway 14.

The study proposes that the future accesses will be at County Roads 5, 3, and 44 (old 104) in Olmsted County and County Road 15 in Dodge County.

After 25 years, this deserves a celebration, commented city officials after the meeting.



The maps and study findings are located at:

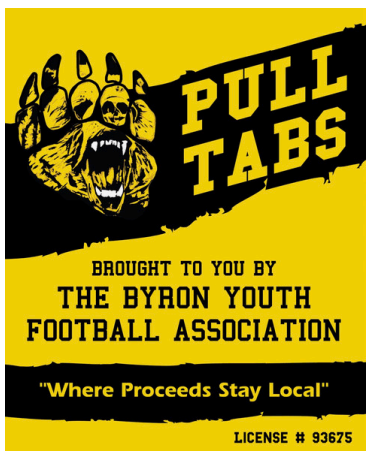
https://srfconsultinggroup-my.sharepoint.com/:f/g/personal/mstewart_srfconsulting.com/Estg1pLntXpOs0wZoLfvwd8BVJU0m_bw7INsQTgt2IW17A

and

<https://www.us14corridoranalysis.com/project-materials/>

PULL TABS AND E-TABS NOW BENEFIT BYRON

■ Story by Gretta Becay



Justin Stotts, Charitable Gambling Manager for the Byron Youth Football Association announced that all the formalities are in place for several local businesses to allow their charitable gambling proceeds to stay in Byron and be donated through the Byron Youth Football Association instead of being donated to organizations outside of town.

Justin explained, “This is money that has always been spent in Byron, but previously was leaving the community. Now we have

an opportunity to keep these funds local and use them to positively affect the Byron community.”

He said that local business owners have always supported the Byron community in numerous ways and, “We would like to bring attention to the great local businesses that have partnered with us to run the charitable gambling in their bars and restaurants. They include:

- Frank-N-Steins**
www.facebook.com/franksteinsbyronmn
- Wildwood Sports Bar & Grill**
www.facebook.com/WildwoodByron;
- 3D’s Sports Bar**
www.facebook.com/3-Ds-240925782632018;
- The Bears Den Sports Bar & Eatery**
www.facebook.com/bearsdenbyron
- ROCHESTER BUSINESSES:**
- Fat Willy’s Bar and Grill** (owned by a Byron resident)
www.facebook.com/fatwillysburgers
- Smoak BBQ**
[www.facebook.com/SMOAKBBQ.](http://www.facebook.com/SMOAKBBQ)

Where does the money go? “We donate funds with an emphasis on youth activities and sports benefitting Byron youth,” Justin said.

He explained that there are electronic tab sales and pull-tab vending machines at each site.

He doesn’t know yet what amount these efforts will generate for Byron youth activities and he hesitates to estimate given the COVID 19 shutdowns and reduction in business.

However, it’s definitely a win-win for the businesses and Byron youth because, “The restaurants and bars that partner with us receive a percentage of the funds as well, so all in all it is a great way to support Byron businesses and the community overall,” he remarked.



Scammers claiming to be from Xcel Energy are contacting Xcel customers by phone, email, and in person. They are attempting to trick Xcel customers into paying money with the threat of consequences (such as their power being turned off) if they do not comply. Here is some information on how to protect yourself:

www.xcelenergy.com/.../customer.../avoiding_scams

From Jan 1, 2021 to February 26, 2021, Byron has issued 12 New Construction Permits with a total combined value of \$4,102,935.

Historically, Byron does not issue that many permits until around May.



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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