



*Happy Anniversary*



CITY OF

**BYRON**

GEORGIA

**150**  
YEARS

Est. 1874



*A special product by **The Leader Tribune**  
A division of the Georgia Trust for Local News*

# Meet the City of Byron Elected Officials



(L-R): James Richardson, Council Post 1; Rusty Adams, Council Post 2; Michael Chumbley, Council Post 3; Michael Chidester, Mayor; Chris Hodges, Council Post 4; Alan Dorsey, Council Post 5

**Byron Elected Officials:** Mayor: Michael Chidester;  
 Council Post 1: James Richardson; Council Post 2:  
 Rusty Adams; Council Post 3: Michael Chumbley; Council  
 Post 4: Chris Hodges; Council Post 5: Alan Dorsey

**City Management:**

City Administrator: Tiffany Sandefur;

City Clerk: Telina Allred

**150th Team Members:**

Melanie Bickford, Selina Hall; Austin Simar,  
 Mary Jo McCary; Karla Chidester; Carolyn Rath

## A FEW WORDS FROM THE MAYOR

Whether you live, work, shop or play in the City of Byron, we would love for you to be a part of the celebration of Byron's 150th Anniversary! It is my privilege to be the mayor of this wonderful city during its sesquicentennial year. As many of you know, this city began as a small train stop for wood and water, evolved into a farming community, and has since grown into a bustling bedroom community along Interstate 75. Together with the members of our city council, I and the team of dedicated employees of this city strive every day to make Byron a hometown any resident can be proud of, as we manage our growth while maintaining a small town atmosphere. While there continue to be challenges, we continually work to insure that this city will maintain its classic character for many years to come. We invite you to enjoy our celebration with us, and encourage your attendance at our grand celebration party on October 28 in North Peach Park, where A2Z Band, Edwin McCain, and 38 Special will headline an evening of musical entertainment followed by a fireworks show you will not forget!

I'll conclude with a bit of trivia concerning our city that was of great interest to me personally, but which I found to be quite an interesting coincidence. Byron's first mayor was Charles H. Richardson. He was one of the original five town commissioners appointed by the Georgia General Assembly when the town was chartered in 1874, and under the provisions of the original charter, was chosen as president of the commission (now mayor). It was he who was responsible for naming this city after his favorite poet, George Gordon Byron (Lord Byron). Mayor Richardson was born in Sumter, South Carolina in 1830. It happens that I, the mayor during the 150th year since the city was chartered, was also born in Sumter, South Carolina, and I love this historical connection with our very first mayor. Mention this tidbit at our welcome center, and you will receive two tickets to the concert in the park on October 28!

We hope you all enjoy celebrating the historic anniversary with us, and we would love for you to become a resident of our wonderful city if you do not already live here!

**Michael Chidester, Mayor, City of Byron**

SHIRTS - CAPS - EMBROIDERY - BANNERS - SIGNS - VEHICLE GRAPHICS & MORE



"We Aim To Please"

478-956-6116

**Celebrating  
 City of Byron's  
 150th Anniversary!**



110 Galan Dr. Suite A Byron, GA 31008

[www.onthemarkga.com](http://www.onthemarkga.com)



**BYRON WELCOME CENTER**

*Do you ever visit or call the Welcome Center when you travel?* Byron's Welcome Center has swapped locations from being on Main Street pre 2010, to the Peach Shops in 2010, and then to the log cabin on Chapman Road in 2019. We exist to promote Byron as a travel destination, which is important to the local economy.

Check Out the  
**LOCAL SCENE**  
 shopping • dining • drinking • events • entertainment  
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Judy Robinson  
 Publisher of  
 The Leader Tribune  
 478-825-2432



Emily Griffin  
 Managing Editor  
 The Citizen Georgian  
 478-472-0189



Zoe Hammond  
 Production Manager,  
 Managing Editor  
 The Leader Tribune



Andrea Banker  
 Production Manager,  
 Layout Designer  
 The Leader Tribune &  
 The News Observer

**The Leader Tribune**  
 Peach County's Newspaper

A division of the Dublin Courier Herald Publishing Co.

109 Anderson Avenue, Fort Valley, Georgia (478) 825-2432

Start receiving the local Peach County newspaper directly to your home or business by calling us at (478) 825-2432.

**Schedule of Events**

**October 26, 2024**

Event opens at 2:00 p.m.

**Location:** North Peach Park

*Food Trucks, Kids Zone, and other activities throughout the day*

**Daytime Fireworks Show by Deep South Fireworks:** 3:00 p.m.

**Concert Area Opens:** 4:00 p.m.

**A2Z Band:** 4:30 p.m.

**Edwin McCain:** 6:00 p.m.

**38 Special:** 7:30 p.m.

**Closing Fireworks by Deep South Fireworks:** Immediately following 38 Special.

Throughout 2024 we have celebrated Byron's 150th year with several contests, giveaways, and activities!

On Tour Byron's Facebook and Instagram, we hosted Trivia Tuesday and Throwback Thursday. We also held a photo contest at the beginning of the year which had beautiful photos of our lovely city.

Thank you to the community of Byron for making our town a sweeter place to call home, since 1874!

We would especially like to thank **Jayco of Byron** for providing RVs for use by the bands during this event. Stop by and see them for your next RV purchase! Jayco of Byron, 100 Suncoast Dr., Byron, GA 31008. phone: (866) 478-4419



# Celebrating

## History of Byron

# 150<sup>TH</sup>

Byron began as a flag-stop known as “Number One and One-Half Station” on the Southwestern Railroad in the early 1850s. William Hays built a store which was occupied by Mr. Seaborn Hartley in 1860, and a post office soon followed. Dr. C.H. Richardson, who later became Byron’s first mayor, built a second store in 1867. The town had several handsome homes and pretty cottages.

Free man Nimrod Jackson supplied the woodrack and loaded wood onto the trains, so it then became known as Jackson Station. Because there was already a Jackson in Georgia, the town was incorporated by the Georgia legislature in 1874 under the name Byron after C.H. Richardson’s favorite poet, Lord George Gordon (Noel) Byron.

A large belt of productive farmland owned by industrious people surrounded the infant town. Since Byron lay directly on the Southwestern Railroad, which handled all incoming and outgoing freight, the town began to grow steadily and substantially.

The first school erected within the corporate limits was established in 1885 by Major E.H. Ezell who served as principal and teacher. Owing to Ezell’s reputation as an educator, boarding students came from various parts of the state to attend

the school.

By the early 1900s, Byron was still a quiet, rural community but was beginning to show notable growth. Its people were conservative, religious, and well-educated. Byron attracted people because of its proximity

to Macon and excellent passenger train schedules that made it convenient for those in business or those who worked in Macon to commute. Students used monthly ticket books to commute to Wesleyan College, Mercer University, and Macon Business College. The city of Byron now covers 5.8 square miles in Peach County, Georgia with approximately 6,000 residents.

We are now a home base for outgoing people who are excited about exploring their surrounding areas.



*Poet Lord Byron*

# City of Byron's 150th Anniversary Celebration



**Saturday, October 26th**  
**North Peach Park**  
**Byron, GA**

Event Gates Open: 2:00

Concert Entry: 4:00

A2Z Band: 4:30

Edwin McCain: 6:00

**38 Special: 7:30**



**Opening Fireworks**  
**Food Trucks**  
**Closing Fireworks**



**CITY OF BYRON**  
GEORGIA  
150 YEARS  
Est. 1874

*Celebrating  
150 years of growth  
and prosperity!*

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**TIRE PROS**

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*Celebrating Byron rolling into  
150 years of growth!*

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# LIVE

OUR PRIDE



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**BYRON PAWN SHOP INC.**

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at 114 Galan Dr., Byron, GA

**CITY OF BYRON GEORGIA** 150 YEARS Est. 1874

Come be a part of the excitement as we celebrate City of Byron's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!



**Martin Moseley,**  
Chairman Peach County Commission  
and wife **Teresa Moseley**

*Celebrating*

**150** years

**BYRON**

**150**

Proud to be a part of the celebration of The City of Byron turning 150!

**State Rep.**  
**Robert Dickey**  
**State House**  
**Representative**

PO Box 10 Musella, GA 31066  
(478)836.4362 - Office



*Look Who's Celebrating!*

**BATTLE of BYRON**



**BATTLE of BYRON**



**CITY OF BYRON GEORGIA** 150 YEARS Est. 1874

This October 2024 as our great city turns 150 years old, let's celebrate and make it a memorable historic event!

*A Historic Festival of Challenges*  
<https://www.battleofbyron.com> • 100 West Heritage Boulevard South, Byron, GA 31008



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*Celebrating  
The City of Byron*

**150 YEARS**

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**Need A Tow? Call A Pro!**



**Sheriff Terry W. Deese**  
and the Peach County Sheriff's Department

*We encourage everyone to stay safe while enjoying the festivities as our wonderful city of*




**150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Peach County Sheriff's Office  
(478) 825-2507  
1007 Spruce Street Extension  
Fort Valley, GA 31030

*Celebrating*

**150 Years of the City of Byron**

*Proud to be serving Peach County as the City of Byron turns 150 year old!*

**Kerry E. Rooks**  
**Peach County Coroner**  
478-955-2967  
*Serving Peach County for over 30 Years*

★ **history • heritage • tradition** ★



**COME BY AND CHECK OUT OUR SPECIALS!**

**Tapatio's MEXICAN RESTAURANT**

**Come Celebrate the City of Byron's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with us!**

**600 Vineville St • Fort Valley**  
**(478) 827-0250**

☞ Banquet Room Reservations Accepted ☞

**Come Celebrate with us as Byron turns 150!**

**BARBOUR FARMS**



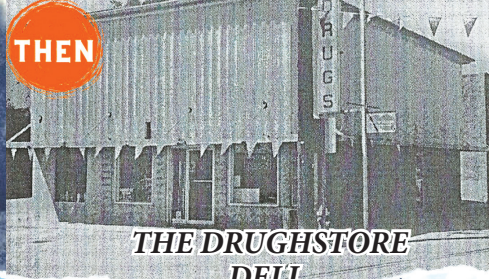
**COUNTRY STORE**  
*A Sweet Place To Shop!*

**235 GA Hwy 49 North, Byron (478) 956-2112**  
(Next to the Raceway gas station, one block west of I-75)

*Fresh Handmade Candies*  
*Peach & Strawberry Ice Cream*  
*BBQ & Stripling's Sausage & Jerky*



**THEN**



**THEN**

**THE DRUGSTORE DELI**

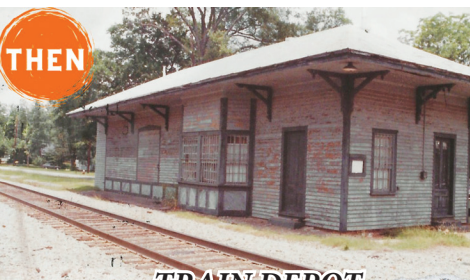


**NOW**

**MAIN STREET**



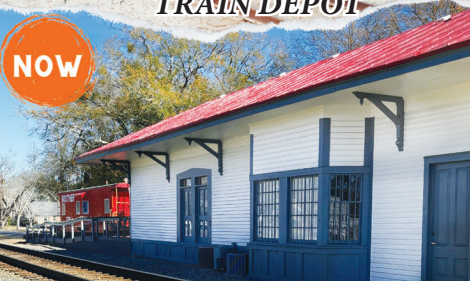
**NOW**



**THEN**

**TRAIN DEPOT**

**THE DRUGSTORE DELI** building used to be an actual drugstore. Records say there used to be a wooden building that multiple businesses occupied before 1900. The Historic District Walking and Driving tour available at the Welcome Center says "...Jim Armstrong, Dr. [Moultrie] Warren built the current building, designing the hand-made bricks himself". After Dr. Warren's death, Dr. John William Vinson bought it and opened the first drugstore in that location. Since then there have been multiple drugstores, a restaurant called Lord Byron, and the old home of the Welcome Center before becoming the Drugstore Deli that is there today.



**NOW**

**MAIN STREET.** See how different Main Street looks now to how it looked in the past. Main Street is the artery of downtown. **Fun Fact:** Main Street was the first road in Byron to be paved.

**TRAIN DEPOT.** Renovated and preserved over the years.

**Proud to be a part of our fair city!**

**150 Years**

**AFFORDABLE RELIABLE QUALITY**

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**City of Byron**

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**CELEBRATING THE CITY OF BYRON**

**RR**

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**150 YEARS**

While visiting The City of Byron come by The Railroad Cafe. Visit our website [www.rrcafe.biz](http://www.rrcafe.biz) to order some great food. Located at 117 Lowe St, Fort Valley, GA 31030

City of Byron

CELEBRATING

150

YEARS

Georgia



Wade Yoder

PEACH COUNTY  
COMMISSIONER  
AT-LARGE

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## Celebrating the City of Byron



Board of Education Members  
B.J. Walker, Chair; Mr. Scott Hodges, Vice Chair;  
Mr. Alfred Ellis; Mr. Drenon Everett; Mr. Ben McDaniel  
Superintendent: Dr. Lionel Brown



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*Dedicated to the Education of our Peach County Students!*





## *Middle Georgia Motor Speedway*

Middle Georgia Motor Speedway: Home to the NASCAR Grand Nationals Series from 1966-1971. The first race, The Speedy Morelock 200, was held in 1966, with Richard Petty winning his first of four checkered flags, and setting a speed record for half-mile tracks.

Middle Georgia Motor Speedway was also one of the filming locations for the 1977 Richard Pryor film, *Greased Lightning*, based on the life of NASCAR driver Wendell Scott. It's also been the location for a Dodge commercial and the 2012 *Dukes of Hazzard* Reunion event.



## *2nd Annual Atlanta International Pop Festival (Byron Pop Festival): July 3-5, 1970*

A soybean field adjacent to Middle Georgia Raceway was the location of one of the biggest music festivals in history, the 2nd Annual Atlanta International Pop Festival. With estimated attendance larger than Woodstock, Byron opened its doors to Festival attendees of all ages. With Middle Georgia's own, The Allman Brothers Band, opening and closing the festival, it was 3 days of non-stop music

and congregating. This was also the last US performance and largest US audience of Jimi Hendrix's career. The Jimi Hendrix Experience played their rendition of The Star-Spangled Banner at midnight on July 4th, with fireworks booming in the background. The Festival was organized by legendary event coordinator, Alex Cooley, who was also the organizer for the 1969 Atlanta Pop Festival held in Hampton, GA.



## EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

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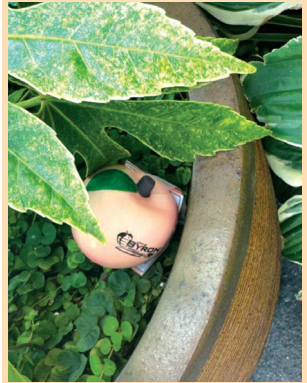
# City of Byron Photo Contest

#ByronPeachProwl  
will conclude at the  
end of October!

Have you found any  
of the 150 peach  
shaped stress balls  
hidden around  
Bryron?



Submission by James & Calvin Hyer



Submission by Anna Carithers



Submission by Wanda Logan



**Lane**  
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*Congratulations!*  
**BYRON ON YOUR 150th**  
**ANNIVERSARY**



*October fun* ON THE *farm!*

**FAIR FOOD, CORN MAZE,  
HAYRIDES  
& MORE!**



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**FALL FESTIVAL**  
11AM-5PM SATURDAY  
OCT. 19, 2024

**OPEN DAILY, YEAR ROUND**

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FORT VALLEY, GA 31030**

**WWW.LANESOUTHERNORCHARDS.COM**

# City of Byron Photo Contest



Submission by William Lynch



Submission by Payten McLeod

## Photo of historic Main Street-Byron



Byron 150 Years

## Historic Sites



Come out to see the historic jail at the Jailhouse Park in the Historic District of Byron!



Burial Site of Dr. C.H. Richardson, Byron's First Mayor

# HAPPY 150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

City of  
**BYRON**

We are honored to be  
of service to the  
City of Byron as it  
has continued to  
grow and expand.  
We look forward to  
supplying real estate  
to future residents.

**Sandee Davis Khoury**  
**(478) 956-5050**

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