



Calhoun County Connections

March 2016 Special Points of Interest

- ♣ Snowman Contest Winners
- ♣ Mitigation Planning Project
- ♣ Presidential Primary Q & A
- ♣ Free Workshop
- ♣ Technology and Youth
- ♣ March Happenings
- ♣ Upcoming Events
- ♣ Milestones
- ♣ New Hires
- ♣ Leaving us
- ♣ St. Patrick's Recipes

Without any contest, the winners of the snowman contest are **Phil Amsterburg** and his adorable daughters **Natalie** and **Abby**.

Unfortunately, Mr. Snowman was not named and didn't last long in our warm December.

The Amsterburg family wins a warm Calhoun County fleece blanket.

If you have any fun contest ideas, please let me know at mstamand@calhouncountymi.gov



Mitigation Planning Project Meeting

The Calhoun County Sheriff's Office – Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division, along with the Local Emergency Planning Committee, will be meeting on Wednesday, March 9th 2016 in Grace Health, 181 West Emmett Street, Battle Creek between 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM. The meeting will take place in the Sanitas Conference Room located in the lower level of the main building. Please enter through Entrance A (Dental Entrance). This meeting will host a presentation by BOLDplanning Inc. to kick-off the development of Calhoun County's Hazard Mitigation Plan. This plan will address Calhoun County's natural hazards' vulnerabilities and will comply with state and federal regulations. The government employees, officials, and the public are encouraged to attend, ask questions, provide input, and express any relevant concerns they may have.

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Questions and Answers, Michigan's Presidential Primary March 8, 2016

Do I have to be a registered Republican or Democrat to participate in Michigan's Presidential Primary?

No. Michigan's Presidential Primary has been designated a closed primary. There is no political party registration requirement in Michigan Election Law. Any Michigan registered voter can participate in the primary. By law, you must make your ballot selection in writing by completing the *Application to Vote/Ballot Selection Form* on Election Day; or on the *Absent Voter Ballot Application* form if voting absentee.

Why do I have to select a party ballot?

Michigan Election Law (MCL 168.615c) guides the conduct of the Presidential Primary. The law requires that voters indicate **in writing** which political party ballot he or she wishes to vote. This requirement only applies to Presidential Primary elections, and voters will **not** be required to select a political party ballot type at other types of elections.

Didn't the legislature just eliminate straight-ticket voting?

Yes, the legislature did eliminate straight-ticket voting. But straight-ticket voting was only an option in November General elections. A closed Presidential Primary is a very different process. You are required by law to select a Republican or Democratic party ballot to participate in the Presidential Primary.

What is the difference between an Open Primary and a Closed Primary?

Voters in an open primary are given a ballot with a column listing each qualified party's candidates. Voters then decide which party primary they wish to participate in by voting only in the column of their party choice while in the privacy of the voting station. Voting for candidates in more than a single party's column will void the entire partisan ballot.

Voters in closed primaries must state the party primary they wish to participate in before being issued a ballot. The ballot given to voters only has candidates of the party that corresponds to the voter's choice.

Will Michigan's closed Presidential Primary procedures affect the August State Primary in any way?

No. The August primary is an open primary. Voters will **not** be asked to select a party before voting in the August primary. Voters will be issued ballots containing all political parties and their candidates, and will select one of the parties in the privacy of the voting station.

When I select a party ballot for the Presidential Primary, does that mean I have to vote in the same party primary in August?

No. The written selection made by a voter at the Presidential Primary has no bearing on how a person votes in the State Primary election.

Will my ballot selection be made public?

Yes. By law a public list must be made available that includes the Presidential Primary ballot type chosen by each voter in the Presidential Primary. This list must be made available within 71 days after the Presidential Primary election. This ballot selection information is subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. The public list of voters' Presidential Primary ballot selections must be destroyed after the 22-month retention period expires.

To be clear, only the political party ballot selection will be made public; **the candidate you vote for will not be made public.** Closed primaries

also have secret ballots so that the candidate you vote for is never disclosed.

Who is on the ballot?

Michigan election law includes detailed requirements related to which candidates are eligible and how names would be placed on Michigan's Presidential Primary ballot. By law, both Republican and Democratic Party candidates are listed, but on separate ballots.

The law required the Secretary of State to issue a list of individuals "generally advocated by the national news media to be potential presidential candidates". In addition, Michigan's Republican and Democratic parties had the ability to add candidates and others not on those lists had the opportunity to file petitions to be placed on the ballot.

Candidates had until December 11, 2015, to formally withdraw their names from Michigan's ballot. Although some of the candidates have since suspended their campaigns nationally, state law required that the candidate listing be finalized in December 2015.

See the Michigan Voter Information Center (www.Michigan.gov/vote) for a sample ballot, which lists all candidates on the ballot.

Voters will also have the option of voting "uncommitted" on either the Republican or Democratic ballot.

What does an "uncommitted" vote mean?

Each party ballot has a vote position for "uncommitted." When a voter selects "uncommitted", this indicates the voter is exercising a vote for that political party, but is not committed to any of the candidates listed on the ballot. If enough voters cast "uncommitted" votes, the party may send delegates to the national nominating convention who are not committed to a specific candidate.

Will there be other things on the Presidential Primary ballot?

A number of local jurisdictions are holding special elections in conjunction with the Presidential Primary. Voters who do not wish to cast a vote in the Presidential Primary but want to vote in the local special election have the option of selecting a ballot containing only the local contests. A list of communities holding elections in conjunction with the Presidential Primary is available on our website at www.Michigan.gov/elections.

Where can I find more information?

For more information on your voter registration status, polling place, issues that will appear on your ballot, the absentee voting process and more, please visit the Michigan Voter Information Center at www.Michigan.gov/vote. For a detailed history of Presidential Primaries in Michigan, please visit www.Michigan.gov/elections. (See Presidential Primary Information)

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"We Keep the Records of Your Life"

Attention Parents!

**FREE
WORKSHOP**



***Talk Early & Talk Often* is a nationally recognized workshop aimed at helping parents of middle & high school youth talk with their children about abstinence and sexuality. The workshop helps parents recognize and use opportunities to open the door for conversation, listen and respond with greater confidence and skill and to feel comfortable seeking outside sources of information.**

Wednesday, March 9th, 2016

5:30–7:30 PM

Hosted by: Calhoun County Public Health Department

**Calhoun Area Career Center
475 Roosevelt Ave E, Battle Creek**

Dinner will be provided.

Register to reserve a spot!

[269-969-6482](tel:269-969-6482) or esomerlott@calhouncountymi.gov

It's never too late to improve a relationship with a child or teenager.

Don't underestimate the great need that children feel - at all ages - for close relationships with their parents AND for their parents' guidance, approval, and support.



Talk Early & Talk Often is a program of Parent Action for Healthy Kids, Inc. All Rights Reserved



Technology and Youth: Protecting Your Child from Electronic Aggression

In the last 20 years, there has been an explosion in new technology. With the help of websites and apps like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, SnapChat, and more, young people can interact with others on a regular basis, without the need for face-to-face communication. This may be of benefit for youth who have difficulty developing friendships in a traditional social setting or have limited contact with same-aged peers. However, this does not come without possible risks. Youth can use social media to embarrass, harass, or threaten their peers. Increasing numbers of adolescents are becoming victims of this new form of violence – electronic aggression. Research suggests that 9% to 35% of youth report being victims of this type of violence. Electronic aggression is associated with emotional distress and conduct problems at school.

What can you do to protect your child from electronic violence?

- Talk to your child: ask your child what websites and apps they are using, without provoking consequences for using social media. Educate your child about your concerns, and develop a solution that prevents or addresses possible victimization, without punishing the child.
- Develop rules: together with your child, develop rules about safe behaviors for all electronic media. Make plans for what they should do if they become a victim of electronic aggression or know someone who is being victimized. The rules should focus on ways to maximize the benefits of technology and decrease the risks.
- Explore the internet: visit websites or apps that your child visits, and assess the pros and cons. Many websites and online activities can be beneficial, helping youth learn new information and connecting them with others that have similar interests.
- Talk with other parents: ask how others discussed technology use with their children. Ask about the rules they developed and stay informed about their child's technology use.
- Connect with the school: work with your child's school district to educate parents about school policies on electronic aggression and resources available to parents who have concerns. Work with the school to develop a collaborative approach to preventing electronic aggression.
- Educate yourself: stay informed about the new websites and apps your child is using. Technology changes rapidly, and many of the developers offer information to keep people aware of advances. Continually talk with your child about what they are doing on their technology device.

Technology is not going away, and forbidding young people to access electronic media may not be an effective long-term solution. Together, parents and children can come up with ways to maximize the benefits of technology and decrease its risks.

Adapted from www.cdc.gov

March Happenings & Up-comings

Backroads Saloon
15325 W Michigan Ave
Marshall, MI 49068

Sonia Thorndyke
269.781.7091

If you love high energy dancing, a high energy instructor (Marissa) and great location (Backroads Saloon), come join us for Zumba! The cost is \$10.00 for this two-hour class, which runs from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm.



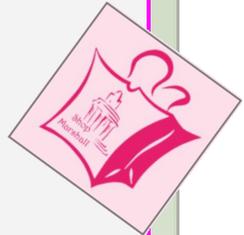
Girls' Night Out

Date: Thursday, March 10, 2016

Time: 5-8:30 p.m.

Location: Downtown Marshall

The theme is Moulin Rouge so put on your feather boas! There will be refreshments, specials and prizes throughout the town.



Believe it or not, spring is right around the corner and it's time to start thinking about golf!!!

The 17th Annual Jayhawk Open is scheduled for Friday, June 10, 2016, at Binder Park Golf Club.

As always, it is a 4 person scramble, with a 9:00 a.m. shotgun start. Cost is \$75.00 per player, which will include a gift bag and meal. Flyers will be sent out soon.

Sign up and join us for a fun day of sun, golf and friendship ... and help support our kids and programs.



Sunday, March 13th



The Franke Center for the Arts
214 East Mansion Street
Marshall, MI 49068

Based on the Oscar-winning Dream Works Animation film, *Shrek the Musical* is a Tony-winning fairy tale adventure. "Once upon a time, there was a little ogre named Shrek..." and thus begins the tale of an unlikely hero who finds himself on a life-changing journey, alongside a wise cracking Donkey and a feisty princess who resists her rescue. A hilarious show for the whole family!

Performances are on March 11, 12, 13, 18, 19 and 20. Performances begin at 8:00 pm on Friday and Saturday and at 2:30 pm on Sunday. For tickets, call or text the Marshall Civic Players Box Office, 269.781.3335. Adults \$15.00, Seniors \$12.00, Students \$8.00



Upcoming Events

Calhoun County Senior Fair – Thursday April 7th, from 10:00am to 1:30pm at the Marshall Middle School Gymnasium. Free light lunch will be held between 11:30 am to 1:00 pm.

“KEEPING IT IN BALANCE”

This is a FREE event to older adults, caregivers and family members in Calhoun County. The Vendors are local business and public services with a special interest to older adults. Last year was the largest event with over 500 people attending. The Senior Fair brings together professionals in finance and investments, home/bath remodeling, transportation, adult day services, home care, chore services, hearing and vision services, and a whole array of living options and health services.

In 2015 we had two presentations that were highly attended. This year we are moving the presentations to the cafeteria area in the Marshall Middle School with much more room for people to attend. The first presentation will be held at 10:30am by Calhoun County Prosecutor, David Gilbert and the second will be held at 12:30pm by Retired Judge, Phillip Harter. Oaklawn will also be holding several 20 minute sessions on fall prevention and wellness at the back of the gym in the south foyer area.

Consider bringing your family members or other caregivers. It is most important that individuals who are caregivers, or may become one, know who to contact when assistance is needed. We are committed to ensuring your ability to locate services when you need them or how to share your knowledge with others. It is our commitment to assist older adults in Calhoun County with **“keeping their life in balance.”** Becoming older does not have to mean becoming frail and losing control of one’s independence. The Marshall Area Senior Fair is meant to find those resources and learn who, and where, to contact the people who can assist with balanced inter-dependence.

County Departments are invited to register as a vendor and highlight their services that benefit older adults. Contact Senior Services at 269-781-0846 to register, spaces are limited.



2016 ANNUAL CENTENARIAN CELEBRATION



**Do you know any residents in Calhoun County who are 99 years old or older ?
We need your help to identify them!**

The Calhoun County Office of Senior Services and the Region 3B Area Agency on Aging are actively seeking **Centenarians** to join us in a Celebration of Life Luncheon. This Luncheon is to recognize and honor as many **Centenarians** as we can in Calhoun County, but **we need your help!**

If you know of a **Centenarian** please contact the Calhoun County Office of Senior Services 269-781-0846 or e-mail lstevens@calhouncountymi.gov. This event will be Tuesday, May 24 at Schuler’s Restaurant in Marshall.



MARCH MILESTONES

25 YEARS & Over

Joyce Kelly - 41 yrs.

District Court

Teresa LaFountain - 34 yrs.

Circuit Court

Sue Bereza - 32 yrs.

Health Department

Elizabeth Freds - 30 yrs.

Probate Court

Paul Makoski - 30 yrs.

Health Department

Julie Sizemore - 26 yrs.

Sheriff's Department

20 YEARS

Eric Foran

Sheriff's Department

Margaret Owen

CCDA

10 YEARS

April Taylor

Sheriff's Department

5 YEARS

Patrice Lewis

Prosecutor's Office

Lindsay Willavize

District Court

Congratulations!



New Hires

Juvenile Home

- ☺ Eric Bowen
- ☺ Brad Baker
- ☺ Townsend Montgomery

Health Department

- ☺ Samantha Gonzalez

Admin. Services/Maintenance

- ☺ Robert Eggleston
- ☺ Tyler Robinson

Sheriff/Corrections

- ☺ Bradlee Clark
- ☺ Allen Golomski
- ☺ Mark Piotrowski
- ☺ Zachary Knaus

Veteran Affairs

- ☺ Heidi Case

Treasurer

- ☺ Brittany Hernandez

Prosecutor

- ☺ Daniel Schwalm

Finance

- ☺ Penny Potter

Leaving Us



Robert Lawton will be retiring on March 17th. Come say goodbye to Bob, on March 17th, 2016, from 1:00pm to 3:00pm, at the Justice Complex, in the Officers Dining Room. Congratulations on your 41 1/2 years of dedicated service.

St. Patrick's Recipes for the Slow Cooker

Reuben Dip

Ingredients:

1 lb. corned beef, finely chopped
1 (16 ounce) can sauerkraut, rinsed, drained and chopped
1 cup thousand island dressing
1 1/2 cups swiss cheese, shredded
1 (3 ounce) package cream cheese, cubed
1 tablespoon prepared horseradish
1 teaspoon caraway seed
Miniature party rye rounds

Directions:

Place all ingredients in a crock pot.
Cook on low setting for 2 1/2 to 3 hours.
You can serve right from crock pot on warm setting!



Guinness Glazed Corned Beef

Ingredients:

1 4 pound corned beef in pickling liquid and spices
1 bottle/can (12+ ounces) Guinness or other Irish stout
(You can swap beer for beef broth)
1 small onion, sliced
1 clove garlic, chopped
1/4 cup brown sugar
2 tablespoons grainy mustard
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
Salt and pepper to taste



Directions:

Place the corned beef along with the pickling spices, onion and garlic in a slow cooker/crock-pot with the fat layer on top, pour in the Guinness and cook on low until fork tender, about 8-10 hours.
Set the corned beef aside, strain the solids from the Guinness and juices, place the liquid into a large sauce pan, add the brown sugar, mustard, Worcestershire sauce, salt and pepper, bring to a boil reduce the heat and simmer to reduce by half, about 10 minutes.
Cut the fat layer from the corned beef, glaze with the Guinness glaze and bake in a preheated 400F/200C oven until the glaze starts bubbling, about 10-15 minutes.

Irish White Bean and Cabbage Stew

Ingredients:

1 large onion, chopped
3 ribs celery, chopped
2 to 3 cloves garlic, minced
1/2 head cabbage, chopped
4 carrots, sliced
1 to 1-1/2 pounds potatoes, cut in large dice
1/3 cup pearly barley (optional or substitute with gluten-free grain)
1 bay leaf
1 teaspoon thyme
1/2 teaspoon caraway seeds
1/2 teaspoon rosemary, crushed
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
6-8 cups vegetable broth
3 cups cooked great northern beans (2 cans, drained)
1 14 1/2-ounce can diced tomatoes
1 tablespoon chopped parsley
Salt to taste

Directions:

Place the vegetables, seasonings, and barley into a large (at least 5 quart) slow cooker. Add enough vegetable broth to just cover the vegetables (start with 6 cups and add more as needed). Cover and cook on low heat for 7 hours. Add beans, tomatoes, parsley, and salt to taste. Check seasonings and add more herbs if necessary. Cover and cook for another hour.

