

Please note: This PDF is edited to reflect a correction made to the original Update email.



## CALHOUN COUNTY

### Office of the Administrator/Controller

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## Update from Kelli Scott for Thursday, May 16



Starting Friday, May 30, several Calhoun County offices and departments will begin summer hours. [Click for County summer hours link to see the full list](#) These hours extend through Friday, Aug. 30.

**Mark your calendars!** There is an award ceremony to celebrate the County Building courtyard at 10 a.m., Friday, May 24. We will receive a commemorative plaque for receiving a Community Landscape Beautification Award from the Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association. The award highlights the positive economic growth and environmental impact that quality landscaping brings to Michigan communities. [Check out the press release.](#)

HR/Labor Relations Director Kim Archambault and I held our periodic Union leadership roundtable on Monday, May 6 in the Justice Center. At this meeting, we discussed the new CareHere facility, 2018 pre-audit results, and proposed updates to a few County policies, which will be brought to the Board of Commissioners in the near future.

On Tuesday, May 7, Communications Manager Lucy Blair and I met with Linda Freybler, CEO of the Calhoun County Visitors Bureau. We discussed ways we can work together toward promoting the County a thriving tourism destination. The County Visitor's Bureau is funded primarily by the County's hotel accommodations tax, which is collected from local hotels according to state law and our ordinance. The Marshall Area Economic Development Alliance and Albion Chamber of Commerce also receive hotel accommodations tax distributions, administered by the County Treasurer's Office.

**Calhoun County's Planning Commission** met Monday, May 6. At this meeting, six township planning and zoning proposals were recommended for approval. One proposal for Marengo Township included adding additional acres of light industrial to land near I-94. Conditionally approved at the County meeting, it returns to Marengo Township for final approval.

In community involvement,

The **FireKeepers Local Revenue Sharing Board** met Friday, May 3. In new business, the Board approved check disbursements for the Sheriff's Office, Emmett Township, and the administrative services provided by the County. Other items of new business included the approvals of the 2019 budget, Tier 3 allocations, and the Tier 4 formula for allocations. The next meeting takes place Monday, June 3 at 8 a.m. in the County Building. The Board is expected to approve all the remaining check disbursements for Tiers 3 and 4, and consider whether to offer a discretionary grant program for 2019.

I attended the **38th Annual Community Prayer Breakfast** on May 7 at the Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek. Key note speaker Austin Hatch of Ann Arbor provided inspirational advice and stories to support this year's theme of "Faith, Hope and Optimism."

The **Summite Point Board** met May 7 for our annual Organizational Meeting. County Commissioner Kathy-Sue Vette was elected to remain as chair for 2019; Richard Lindsey from Oaklawn Hospital became Vice Chair; I was elected to remain as Treasurer; and Deb Davis from Southern Michigan Bank and Trust was elected to remain as Secretary. Additionally, the board authorized management to negotiate a legal settlement

following discussion of written legal advice in closed session. We also set our Board meeting schedule for the next 12 months.

The **Michigan Municipal Services Authority (MMSA)** Executive Committee met Thursday, May 9. The primary purpose of this meeting was discuss plans related to the CEO replacement, with CEO Bob Bruner leaving at the end of May to take an assistant city manager position in Troy. We are scheduled to meet again tomorrow, May 17, in attempt to finalize future plans and possible actions to replace our CEO.

**County and city officials** met Monday, May 13 to discuss major initiatives and challenges in our communities throughout Calhoun County. This meeting includes County Board Chair Steve Frisbie and I along with managers and mayors of Albion, Battle Creek, Marshall, Springfield, and Homer Village.

Tuesday, May 14, the **Calhoun County Visitors Bureau Board** met at New Level Sports. The Board accepted our 2018 audit and 990 tax return, and approved the engagement of a consultant to help with destination assessment and strategic tourism planning.

On Monday, May 13, I had the opportunity to speak with the **Battle Creek Chamber's Leadership Cohort** about the differences between County and City government. The group toured the Marshall County Building, meeting with staff from the Treasurer, Clerk, and Community Development Offices. To the group, I discussed the role of county government, our County's organizational structure, and how we are funded. Thanks to Communications Manager Lucy Blair for taking the lead and facilitating this visit!



I would like to thank **Dr. Bizon** for visiting the Calhoun County Juvenile Home on Friday, May 3. Three residents in the EYES Program (Empowered Youth Experience Success) shared their Success Plans with Dr. Bizon. The residents shared new skills they have learned in the program to manage their behavior appropriately upon their release, and they shared their short and long term goals which included finishing high school, attending trade school, and attending college.

## From the Board of Commissioners

At the Board of Commissioners meeting on May 16, two agreements to operate the County's Care Here Employee Health & Wellness Center at our new location and with our private sector partners were approved.

In other new business, the Commissioners,

- Approved an amendment to the allocation of demolition funds to the Calhoun County Land Bank Authority, allowing for 8 new projects to be added with



additional unspent funds

- Approved a public art grant application, which would fund a sculpture that would be placed in the County building's courtyard
- Approved a grant application for the Iron Belle Trail Challenge through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, which would fund a new pedestrian crossing at Emmett Street and Raymond Road, connecting Battle Creek's linear path with the County's trail way going south into the Ott Preserve.
- Approved the D Drive North Culvert Replacement agreement, which will allow for that road to be reopened this year after being closed since June 2018
- Approved an agreement to crush and shape two road sections in Convis Township, including P Drive N. from 15 Mile Rd. to the entrance of the C&C Landfill, to be paid for with funds provided through the County's Expansion Agreement with the Landfill.
- Approved a contract with MDOT that would provide 90% of the cost from federal grant funding to do tree removal and clearing along 6 federal aid routes Approved the County's county-wide pulverization project bid award, covering 4 scheduled projects in the townships of Albion, Convis, Lee, Marengo and Sheridan
- Tabled the adoption of a new local road infrastructure failure policy

The board also held a closed session to consider topics that are exempt from disclosure by a state or federal statute.

## Road Department Update

### Operations:

- Boom mowing is taking place in Fredonia, Marshall, and Lee Townships.
- Culvert maintenance is taking place in Athens, Bedford, Clarendon, and Tekonsha Townships.
- Berm removal is also taking place in Clarence, Marengo, Albion, and Clarendon Townships.
- Pothole patching, as well as sign and guardrail maintenance, are taking place countywide.
- Contracted crews are currently patching potholes in Clarence and Lee Townships, as well as crack sealing in Pennfield and Bedford Townships.

### Engineering:

- Paving has been completed on 15 Mile Rd in Convis Township and 16 Mile Rd is under construction and should be paved soon.
- Bids for the D Drive N culvert replacement project are due May 29.
- Bids opened this week for a T Drive S and 1 Mile Rd project in Athens Township.
- Preparation has begun for Emmett's LRP, after a road millage was passed last week.

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**Click It or Ticket:** The Calhoun County Sheriff's Office is participating in a statewide seat belt enforcement event that will take place Monday, May 20 through Sunday, June 2.

The enforcement takes place specifically in Battle Creek city limits. This enforcement time is funded by the Office for Highway Safety Planning. Michigan law requires drivers, front seat passengers and passengers 15 and younger to be buckled up.

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