



CALHOUN COUNTY

Office of the Administrator/Controller

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Update from Kelli Scott for Thursday, June 6



First, I'd like to congratulate **Sheriff Matt Saxton**, who was recently recognized for his service on the Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission. Sheriff Saxton served on the commission since 2013.

Next, Communications Manager Lucy Blair helped several County departments develop annual reports to highlight accomplishments during 2018. Annual reports have existed for some departments in the past, and with this year's pilot, we are working toward a unified format and the goal of having one county-wide annual report next year. [Click](#)

[here for a PDF of the County's 2018 Annual Reports](#), including updates from the Treasurer's Office, Courts, Community Development, GIS, Parks, Recycling, Senior Services, Veterans Affairs, and County Administration/Communications.

On Thursday, June 6, County-wide supervisors took part in a training titled, **Leading and Managing Change**. Presented by Lance Satterthwaite from local consulting firm Humanergy, this workshop provided helpful advice on Leading and Managing Change. Thank you to HR and Labor Relations Director Kim Archambault and her staff for arranging this opportunity.

On May 22-24, I attended the **Michigan Association of County Administrative Officers (MACAO)** annual conference at Crystal Mountain in Thompsonville, Michigan. This year's presentations included Positivity in the Workplace, Problem Solving Courts, and Municipal Bond and Finance updates, among others. As immediate past president, I led the election of officers and members of the board of directors for this state-wide association.

In community involvement,

On Monday, May 20, the **Marshall Community Credit Union Board** met. We received the bi-annual cybersecurity update from our VP of Information Technology, and the 2018 audit presentation from Rehmann.

The **Rotary Board of Directors** met Friday, May 31. At this meeting, we heard committee updates and approved allocations from the McPherson Educational Fund, held by the Battle Creek Community Foundation. We also approved a new Remembrance Giving Policy to honor upon their death those who have served in Rotary. As Treasurer for our club, I've prepared a draft 2019-20 fiscal year budget for committee discussion on June 10 and board approval before the year starts on July 1.

At a Monday, June 3 meeting, the **FireKeepers Local Revenue Sharing Board** approved distributions for the remaining formula-based amounts, Tier 3—Payments in Lieu of Taxes, and Tier 4—Discretionary Funding. This completed the normal annual allocations, totaling \$5.7 million for this year to local governments and school districts. With other members of local government, Commissioner Derek King sits on the FLRSB. To learn more and see a list of what was distributed, [read the recent Battle Creek Enquirer article](#). The Board also decided to offer a discretionary grant program this year, allocating \$330,000 in unspent accumulated funds for this purpose. All local units of government in Calhoun County are eligible to apply for projects to carry out any lawful government purpose. Applications will be posted soon on the County's website and will have a deadline of July 26 for submission.

The **Summit Pointe Board** met Tuesday, June 4, with Commissioner Kathy-Sue Vette as chair. At this meeting, members heard educational presentations from Outpatient Substance Use Disorder Services, CARF Accreditation, and the bi-annual Recipient Rights Training. As Treasurer I presented the finance/audit committee report, which included approval of a mid-year budget amendment, extension of a contract for VA Laundry Trucking, and engagement of a real estate firm to sell Summit Pointe's housing properties.

On Tuesday, June 4 the **Area Metropolitan Services Agency (AMSA)** board met, and I attended as a non-voting county liaison member. The group discussed zoning and permitting issues related to large scale commercial solar panel systems, such as those slated for both Sheridan and Convis Townships. There is a special meeting being scheduled for sometime in July to follow up in more detail about how the townships and cities within AMSA might create uniform guidelines and fee structures for solar installations. We also talked about potential collaboration for services such as joint purchasing and standardization of fire equipment, and maintaining a sufficient pool of qualified building inspectors. Commissioner Rochelle Hatcher is also a county liaison member of AMSA.

From the Board of Commissioners

Juneteenth is recognized as African American Emancipation Day and is the oldest known celebration of the end of slavery. At the June 6 Board of Commissioners meeting, a proclamation was read to recognize Juneteenth, and citizens were encouraged to participate in celebrations to take place June 14 in Battle Creek and June 15 in Albion.



In new business, the Board,

- Approved the Battle Creek Area Transportation Study (BCATS) 2020 Local Funding Work Plan Resolution
- Approved funding for the Health Department from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) for Local Health Opioid Response
- Approved School Wellness supplemental funding, also from MDHHS
- Approved an annual engineering reimbursement request to MDOT, which provides under Act 51 a fixed amount of \$10,000 to our Road Department to offset expenses related to our three licensed professional engineers
- Approved a contract with the Michigan Department of Transportation, providing 80% in federal ad funding for hot mix asphalt crushing, shaping and resurfacing work along Partello Road in Marengo Township
- Approved local road improvement agreements for Clarence, Eckford, Fredonia, Marengo, and Sheridan Townships
- Approved a Microsoft Office 365 Agreement to upgrade to this cloud-based system
- Approved four policy revisions submitted by County administration, as part of ongoing policy review processes and in response to certain changes in related law

Road Department Update

Operations:

- Boom mowing is taking place in Clarendon, Marengo, and Tekonsha Townships.
- Gravel roads are being scraped as weather allows.
- Berm removal is taking place in Clarendon Township.
- State trunkline mowing has begun on Michigan Ave. in Marshall, I-69, and M-60.
- Contractors are crack sealing in Bedford Township.
- Contractors began primary and local mowing in Clarence, Sheridan, and Albion Townships.

Sixteen contractor crews are patching potholes countywide, as well as County crews responding to service requests. Contractor crews are filling potholes township by township in a specific order to cover the entire county as efficiently as possible. [Click here to see the list.](#)

Engineering:

- Primary and local paving has begun in Clarence and Lee Townships
- Construction has begun on the 25 1/2 Mile Road federal aid project
- Water repellent treatment is being applied to the 25 1/2 Mile Road and Webster Street bridge project, which is the project's final step
- Construction on the Union City Rd, F Drive N/West Drive, and North Avenue federal aid projects is anticipated to start within the next three weeks
- Planning is ongoing for Emmett Township's Comprehensive Local Road Improvements
- Traffic counting is ongoing
- The T Drive South and 1 Mile Road project in Athens is being awarded to Hoffman Brothers

[Report a road problem](#)

2019 Road Projects

The Calhoun County Road Department's construction season officially began June 1. With a full schedule of construction and maintenance projects, the public can keep up with what work will be done this summer on the department's website.

[A list of 2019 projects](#) includes information about the project's funding source, treatment, and project limits. [An interactive map](#) is also available, which shows road work that will be completed throughout Calhoun County.

A brochure is also available. Please call the Road Department if you would like one sent to you, or [download the 2019 Road Projects brochure PDF](#).

Elected Officials and Department Head Meeting

Every month, County leaders meet to discuss what is going on throughout the County and they share what is happening in their respective departments. At the Tuesday, May 28 meeting, Senior Services Manager Helen Guzzo discussed the County's United Way employee campaign and received input on campaign strategies for 2019.

We also welcomed David Makled, the County's new public defender, hired in May. Makled will lead the new indigent defense department, which will be fully operational this Fall on the third floor of the County's Toeller Building in Battle Creek. Hiring efforts are well underway, with announcements to come soon about the selection of the deputy public defender, senior public defense attorneys and an office manager. The office is planning to staff 16 employees and also contract with several independent attorneys.

In department updates, we learned,

- **Treasurer Brian Wensauer** reported that the office's foreclosure visits are wrapping up, with Marshall remaining.
- **Veterans Affairs** has begun the selection process for the veterans scholarships at both Kellogg Community College and Western Michigan University.
- **Community Development** shared that the solid waste and recycling program is assisting with tire clean up for County departments, such as the Treasurer's Office, Land Bank, Parks, and Road Department.
- **The Land Bank's** Director Krista Trout-Edwards reported that the fundraiser to restore the 26 Fremont House raised \$13,000 for the restoration of its facade.

- **Senior Services** plans to submit to its committee for approval \$40,000 for bed bug remediation, which is often an obstacle for seniors to receive care. The cost of remediation per household can be \$1,600.
 - Health Officer Eric Pessell discussed a state grant the **Public Health Department** received for mosquito and tick surveillance. Mosquito traps will be set out in various locations around the county, then the captured mosquitos will be counted and entered into the mosquito West Nile Virus and Zyka Virus surveillance program. Deer and Lonestar ticks will be collected and sent to the State Lab for Lyme Disease surveillance.
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Public input needed: Interested in sharing your ideas on how to improve Calhoun County's non-motorized facilities, including trails and bike lines? Or just want to learn more? The Southwest Michigan Planning Commission is hosting a Non-Motorized Summit from 7-9 p.m., Monday, June 17 at the Marshall City Public Services Building. The event is free and open to the public, and after refreshments and a brief presentation there will be a work session to gather input. Learn more via this [Facebook event](#) or [the event flyer](#).

Don't forget: Starting Friday, May 30, several Calhoun County offices and departments began summer hours. [See the full list](#). These hours extend through Friday, Aug. 30.

Questions or comments? Please contact our [Communications Manager](#). If you were forwarded this email, [sign up to receive future emails](#).