

## Updates from County Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott, 03/15/18:

### **Current Bid Opportunities**

The county's Purchasing Department issued three requests for bids this past week: Parks Maintenance, which includes janitorial and grounds services for Historic Bridge Park, Kimball Pines Park, and the Ott Biological Preserve; Environmental Services & Materials Testing to be used during road construction season for both the Calhoun County Road Department (CCRD) and the Jackson County Department of Transportation (JCDOT); and Sodium Chloride, or road salt, for both the CCRD and JCDOT. After public bid openings and evaluation processes, all competitive bid awards are presented to the County Board of Commissioners for approval. Online vendor registration and information on these and other bid opportunities can be found on the County's website at [https://www.calhouncountymi.gov/government/administrative\\_services/purchasing/](https://www.calhouncountymi.gov/government/administrative_services/purchasing/).

### **County Visitors Bureau has Positive Fiscal Year**

The Calhoun County Visitors Bureau (CVB) Board of Directors met on March 13 and reviewed preliminary year-end financials for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017. Items of note included total revenue of \$1.1 million and total expenses of \$900K, both of which were better than budgeted, in spite of county-wide hotel occupancy being down 3% for 2017 compared to 2016. The CVB, which gets the majority of its income from a 5% county-wide hotel occupancy tax, achieved a net surplus of approximately \$153,000 for the year. Funds in excess of required reserves are invested on an ongoing basis in incremental projects to promote tourism in Calhoun County. The CVB invested \$140,000 during 2017 in such projects within Albion, Battle Creek and Marshall. County Commissioner Kathy-Sue Vette is the CVB board chair, and I serve as the Treasurer.

### **Road Department Staffing Updates**

The County named Professional Engineer Kristine Parsons as Interim Director of Engineering and Purchasing/Contracts Manager Kori Albrecht as Interim Director of Operations, to replace Angie Kline, P.E. and Doug Steffens, respectively, effective Monday, March 19. We are still accepting applications for Managing Director and will form an interview committee soon to begin the selection process. The County's Road Department also has vacant positions posted for a new Human Resources Specialist, and for seasonal Engineering Interns. Those interested are invited to visit our website at [https://www.calhouncountymi.gov/employment/job\\_postings/](https://www.calhouncountymi.gov/employment/job_postings/) to apply for these and other job openings within County government.

### **Solid Waste Program Annual Report**

In 2017, the County's Solid Waste Program saw increases in the volume of material collected at Recyclorama, and at our household hazardous waste, scrap tire, and polystyrene collections. Our third electronics and polystyrene collection held in collaboration with the City of Battle Creek set new record volumes of material collected. Please take time to review the annual report, posted on our website [www.calhouncountyrecycling.com](http://www.calhouncountyrecycling.com). The **Solid Waste Advisory Committee** meets next at 3pm on March 21 for a strategic planning session at the County building in Marshall.

### **Community Involvement/Other**

On March 6, I participated along with Commissioner Kathy-Sue Vette in a Strategic Planning retreat for the **Summit Pointe Board of Directors**. Commissioner Vette serves as Board Chair of Summit Pointe, and I'm the current Secretary/Treasurer. The retreat included board members and staff, and was a great opportunity for us to review our mission, vision and values statements, as well as

information from a recent employee engagement survey. The Board and management will follow up with specific goals and objectives to continue to guide our success into the future.

The County hosted on March 7 a meeting of the Michigan Association of Counties' ***Southwest Michigan Alliance for Region Three (SMART)***, which includes county commissioners from 14 counties in our region. Board Chair Derek King, Vice-Chair Vic Potter and Commissioner Gary Tompkins represented Calhoun County at the meeting, which was hosted at the Marshall Regional Law Enforcement Center (MRLEC) in Marshall. The County's Medical Director Dr. William Nettleton and Dawn Smith from the Substance Abuse Council gave informative presentations about our community's impacts from the national opioid epidemic, and local efforts to combat it, including the Calhoun County Opioid Coalition and other collaborative efforts. Sheriff Matt Saxton led attendees on a tour of the MRLEC and I gave a brief overview of the state of Calhoun County and some of our current initiatives. The event was well-attended and was a great opportunity to exchange best practices and common interests with those from other counties.

I attended on March 8 meetings of both the ***Michigan Municipal Services Authority (MMSA)***'s Regular Board and Executive Committee, hearing from Chief Executive Officer Bob Bruner updates on our current programs including multi-county Financial Management System and Virtual Health and Wellness Management, as well as programs currently being considered for development including a stop loss insurance cooperative, a municipal talent pipeline and facilitation of a group bid for upcoming required Friend of the Court information security audits. We also accepted the independent audit for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2017, for which the CPA firm issued an unqualified or clean opinion.

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