

Updates from County Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott, 04/10/18:

New Dental Center Now Open

The new Battle Creek Dental Center opened on April 9 as planned, and is now accepting all patients at its newly remodeled office at 3566 Capital Ave. SW, Suite 102. The center is operated by My Community Dental Centers, Inc. (MCDC) on behalf of the Calhoun County Public Health Department. It offers comprehensive dental services including oral exams, cleanings, fillings, extractions, dentures and others, available to those with and without insurance. Information about patient registration and required appointments can be found online at www.mydental.org or by calling 877.313.6232.

FireKeepers Local Revenue Sharing Board Begins Annual Distribution Process

The FireKeepers Local Revenue Sharing Board met on March 16 to consider applications for reimbursement of specific actual cost increases related to the operations of the FireKeepers Casino or Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi (NHBP) Tribal Reservation. These reimbursements are considered the “Tier 2” allocations, which are typically the first step in the annual distribution process following a budgeted set aside for administrative expenses. This year’s requests were from Emmett Township and the County’s Road Department, and totaled \$221,000. The board awarded the township just over \$83,500 for its public safety responses, and legal and engineering costs related to its ongoing sewer upgrade project. More information was requested for its request for reimbursement of costs for a traffic study conducted during 2017 near the casino. The County Road Department will receive approximately \$117,000 in reimbursements for 2017 road improvement projects in both Emmett and Athens townships in the vicinity of the Tribal reservation and casino. The FLRSB is scheduled to meet on **April 27** at 8:30 a.m. to continue its process to distribute this year’s \$5.66 million “Net Win” payment from the casino’s electronic gaming operations. Their meetings are held at the County Building in Marshall and are open to the public. County Board Chairman Derek King was elected by the FLRSB as its board chairman for 2018. The County also provides administrative services to the FLRSB, including information on our website at https://www.calhouncountymi.gov/government/firekeepers_local_revenue_sharing_board/.

Community Development Updates

Community Development Director Jen Bomba reports that the county parks are scheduled for official opening on May 1, and that this year’s enhancements will include new and replaced signage and fencing with our new parks & recreation logo. The County’s **Solid Waste Advisory Committee** completed its final strategic planning session in March, with Veterans Affairs Director Aaron Edlefson facilitating. We are tentatively planning to increase staffing and hours at the Marshall Recycling Center to include Fridays 2pm – 6pm starting the first of May. Recyclorama was a huge success on April 9, with Coordinator Sarah Kelly reporting a very significant increase in volume of materials collected again this year. A special thanks to Commissioner Steve Frisbie and the dozens of volunteers who made this event happen! The County is also working with Republic Services to develop a new expanded recycling option for county residents at the landfill, in response to concerns specifically about our once per month weekend bins at certain townships. Stay tuned for details as this exciting new opportunity unfolds and is ultimately presented to the Board of Commissioners for approval.

The County’s **GIS** staff are working with townships to review address lists to ensure an accurate address list for mailing 2020 Census surveys in accordance with the Local Update of Census

Addresses (LUCA) program (US Census Bureau), and are implanting various interactive GIS layers to show road projects and other items of interest to the public.

Calhoun County's ***Veteran's Affairs*** Office partnered with Habitat for Humanity to build a ramp for a veteran on April 7, and is in the process of considering a broader program through Habitat for Humanity International called the Habitat Veterans Build program.

Senior Services also conducted Strategic Planning with the Senior Millage Allocation Committee in March. County Commissioner Vic Potter chairs the SMAC, and Commissioner Gary Tompkins also represents the Board of Commissioners on the committee. The annual Senior Fair was held on April 5 and was very successful, with more than 80 vendors participating. The County is also planning to conduct a senior needs assessment soon, in conjunction with our three year schedule.

City and County Leadership Meeting

County Board Chair Derek King and I hosted on March 23 our quarterly meeting with city managers and mayors from Albion, Battle Creek, Marshall and Springfield, and the Village of Homer. We heard leadership transition updates, following news of the departure of Nathan Henne and Sheryl Mitchell, city managers of Springfield and Albion, respectively. These meetings have been instrumental in sparking discussions about possible shared services and in exchanging best practices and common concerns.

County Administrative Opioid Workgroup Meets

Commissioner Jake Smith, Corporation Counsel Jim Dyer, Assistant County Administrator Brad Wilcox and I convened on April 3 the first meeting of our administrative workgroup to formulate a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners regarding participating in the multi-district opioid litigation. Commissioner Carla Reynolds is also a member of the workgroup and was unable to attend, along with Health Officer Eric Pessell and Medical Director Dr. William Nettleton. We are planning to issue a request for qualification proposals from legal firms within the next few weeks for review by the workgroup.

Community Involvement/Other

I attended on March 19 our monthly meeting of the ***Marshall Community Credit Union Board*** of Directors.

On March 20 the Health Department held its all-staff meeting and I was invited to hear the special presentation by Mark Uyl, Assistant Director of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA), presented on ***Verbal Judo***, a helpful de-escalation communication technique.

On March 22 I met with Amy DePrez, ***Albion Economic Development*** Corporation president/CEO, Eric Worley, Greater Albion Chamber of Commerce president/CEO, and other leaders from Albion along with Linda Freybler, Calhoun County CVB president/CEO, to talk about our county-wide hotel accommodations tax revenues and ideas for its use to promote tourism, among other tools, given the significant momentum going on in Albion's downtown and surrounding areas.

On March 22, I attended on behalf of the County the first meeting of the ***Native American Heritage Fund Board***, established pursuant to a 2016 amendment to the State's Compact with the NHBP Tribe. This new fund will receive \$500,000 each year from the State's "Net Win" payment from the FireKeepers Casino operations, and the Board will allocate the monies to local governments in accordance with Compact requirements. The Board elected NHBP Tribal Chairman Jamie Stuck as its Chairperson for 2018, and has asked the County to consider providing administrative services through an agreement similar to that for the FLRSB.

I attended on March 23 as Treasurer our regularly scheduled monthly Board meeting of the ***Battle Creek Rotary Club***.

Commissioners Derek King and Gary Tompkins and I attended the 2018 ***Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) Legislative Conference*** from March 26-28. We heard legislative updates from MAC staff, and attended breakout sessions on topics including Headlee Millage rollbacks, recently enacted changes to state law on pension and retiree health plans, and county ordinance powers, among others. As this year's president of our statewide county administrators' association (MACAO), I convened our board meeting as well during the conference.

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