

**GARY TOMPKINS
COUNTY COMMISSIONER
7TH DISTRICT**



Proudly serving:

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Lee Twp | Clarence Twp |
| Sheridan Twp | Albion Twp |
| Homer Twp | Clarendon Twp |
| City of Albion | Village of Homer |

YOUR COUNTY CONNECTION

Monthly Newsletter

ISSUE 38 PAGE 1

FEBRUARY 2020

COUNTY ACTIONS/DISCUSSION

MONTHLY MEETINGS:

February 6 Meeting

(MARCH)

- 1.) Calhoun County Sheriff Matt Saxton was on hand to officially announce his retirement as Sheriff to become Executive Director of the Michigan Sheriffs Association. Sheriffs last day on the job will be April 18. We appreciate his 26 years of service to Calhoun County and wish him all the best.
- 2.) Approved a resolution, as part of the consent agenda, in support of the Constitution of the United States.
- 3.) Approved a contract between the county and C&C Landfill (Convis Twp) to allow county residents to access the recycling center at the landfill. The recycling center averages 30 visits per week and come from all parts of the county including Athens Twp, and Homer Twp just to name a few. Pass cards can be picked up at Township Halls throughout Calhoun County.
- 4.) Approved a contract for prime professional services (site plan,) with O'Boyle, Cowell, Blalock, & Associates regarding the development of the Albion Trailhead project in Albion Twp (Next to Riverside Cemetery). These services are paid through the Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund Grant.



February 20 Meeting

- 1.) Approved the Albion Community Recycling agreement extension & modification. County staff met with City of Albion officials in late 2019 to discuss pros and cons of another contract. The City shared their desire to include curbside recycling in their single hauler contract to make recycling easier for their residents. In addition, the County expressed concerns with continuing due to significant site limitations. The extension runs through June 30, 2020.
- 2.) Approved the ballot language for the Senior Millage Renewal. The millage request will remain at .7452 mills for 10 years and will be on the August 2020 primary ballot.
- 3.) Approved the contract with Ivy MMR (Albion MI) to provide dust control services for a three year period at an annual est. cost of \$393,800. This is a joint purchase agreement with Jackson County. Ivy is compliant with all chemical formulation requirements in the bid specification.
- 4.) Approved the 2020 Census Boundary verification. As part of the 2020 Census, all municipalities are asked to confirm their boundary data is accurate.
- 5.) Marcia Starkey, Executive Dir of the Albion-Homer United Way, was on hand to present a certificate of appreciation for Calhoun County's employees support.

Homer Village Albion City	3/2	7pm
Senior Day in The 7th	3/3	9am- 3pm
Commissioners mtg.	3/5	7pm
Senior millage Allocation Committee	3/6	8am
Clarence Twp	3/9	7pm
AH Substance Abuse		9am
Homer Lake Board	3/10	4pm
Trailway Alliance	3/11	8am
Lee Township		7pm
Homer ALL IN Blast	3/13	730am
Albion City	3/16	7pm
SWBH Substance Abuse		4pm
Albion Township		7pm
Clarendon Township		
Sheridan Township	3/17	7pm
Homer Township		7pm
Commissioners meeting	3/19	7pm
Albion Eggs & Issues	3/20	730am
Senior millage Strategic planning session.		9:30am
Forks Senor Center Board Mtg.	3/25	1pm

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ROAD/BRIDGE UPDATES

1.) Albion Street Bridge- City Manager had engineers do a visual inspection on the bridge. As a result, the Director of Public Safety has filed and implemented a traffic order and installed barricades to limit traffic over bridge to the center 18 ft where the under supports are in good condition and allows for continued travel on bridge. On Feb. 20, Sen. Bizon, Rep. Haadsma, Councilmember Reid, Mayor Atchison and I all assessed the bridge and hopefully some addressing at the state capital will take place.

OTHER HAPPENINGS

- 1.) . Attended the 14th annual Fredonia Holiness Church game dinner at Wilder Creek Conservation Club on Feb. 1. Had the opportunity to speak with State Rep. Lynn Afendoulis who is running for the 3rd District Congressional Seat.
- 2.) Attended the SW Michigan Alliance for Region Three (S.M.A.R.T) County Commissioners meeting at host Kent County at Devos Place in Grand Rapids on Feb. 5. Presentations by Kent County Admin, Experience Grand Rapids & West Michigan Sports Commission provided insight into things happening in Kent County. Also had a tour of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum, Michigan Counties Legislative update and roundtable discussion.
- 3.) Kids at Hope presented the 1st Annual Black History month program at First United Methodist Church on Feb. 8. Wonderful, inspiring messages conveyed through music, dance, poetry and singing by very talented youth.
- 4.) Attended the Substance Abuse Council (SAC) Meeting in Battle Creek on Feb. 12. As a member of the AHSAPC, it was great to connect with the coalition as we both focus on substance abuse and prevention in Calhoun County.
- 5.) Attended Heritage Commons Senior Center Ann. Meeting. In Marshall on Feb. 13. Appreciated the opportunity to sit in as Chair of the Senior Millage Committee to see all the great things going on at the center.
- 6.) Site Visit to Union City Senior Center on Feb. 20. Myself, Helen Guzzo, Mgr. of Calhoun County Senior Services & Luann Sommers, Executive Dir. Of the Forks Senior Center met with local reps for a tour, provided insight & answered questions. The location could serve a good size region of Calhoun County as we work on addressing underserved areas.

7th District in Focus



Feb. 1 - BSA Troop 158 Doughnut Fundraiser (Homer)



Feb. 1 Winterfest Cardboard Classic Sled Judging (Albion)



Feb. 8- 1st Ann. Black History Program (Albion)



Feb 18 – Book Signing w/ Michael Spradlin (Homer)



Feb. 29– Walk for Warmth (Albion)



Feb. 16– Men Who Cook (Albion)

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FEBRUARY 2020

COMMITTEE CORNER



COMMITTEES/ORGANIZATIONS SERVING:

1.) Senior Millage met Feb. 7. Items discussed/actions taken included:

A.) Approved year end adjustments (FY 2019) in the amount of \$5,063.73 for vision program, benefit counseling, Senior ramps & Senior fun & fitness.

B.) Approved mini-grants for the Albion-Marshall Connector (\$3,500), Albion Health Care Alliance Commodity Coordination (\$1,000) & Neighborhoods Inc. for housing rehab (\$5,000).

C.) Held a discussion on the tour of the Haven of Rest and what the committees role may be in the future.

D.) Linda Grap, Program Director of Senior Health Partners, provided a report on the services SHP provides including providing a tour of the new programming location of 28 Penn St. in Battle Creek (Next to the Battle Creek YMCA).

2.) Trailway Alliance CANCELLED the meeting for Feb. 12 due to lack of Agenda items.

3.) Calhoun County Planning Commission's meeting originally scheduled for Feb. 24, has been pushed out to the March 4th due to an additional item on the agenda. Details of the meeting will be provided in the March Newsletter.

- *Senior Millage Allocation Committee (SMAC) - Chair*
- *Calhoun County Planning Commission*
- *Calhoun County Trail way Alliance*
- *Homer Lake Mgmt. Board -Chair, Secretary & Admin.*
- *Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health (SWBH) Substance Abuse SUD Oversight Policy Board*
- *Potawatomi Resource Conservation & Development Council*
- *Forks Senior Center Board - Policy Chair*
- *Homer Downtown Development Authority*
- *Albion/Homer Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition*
- *Albion/Homer United Way— Secretary*
- *VFW Auxiliary Post 9411-Homer*
- *County Board of Commissioners Parliamentarian*
- *SLF/Blair Scholarship Review Committee*
- *Homer Athletic Hall of Fame Committee President*
- *Albion City Infrastructure Advisory Committee.*
- *Suicide Prevention Coalition*

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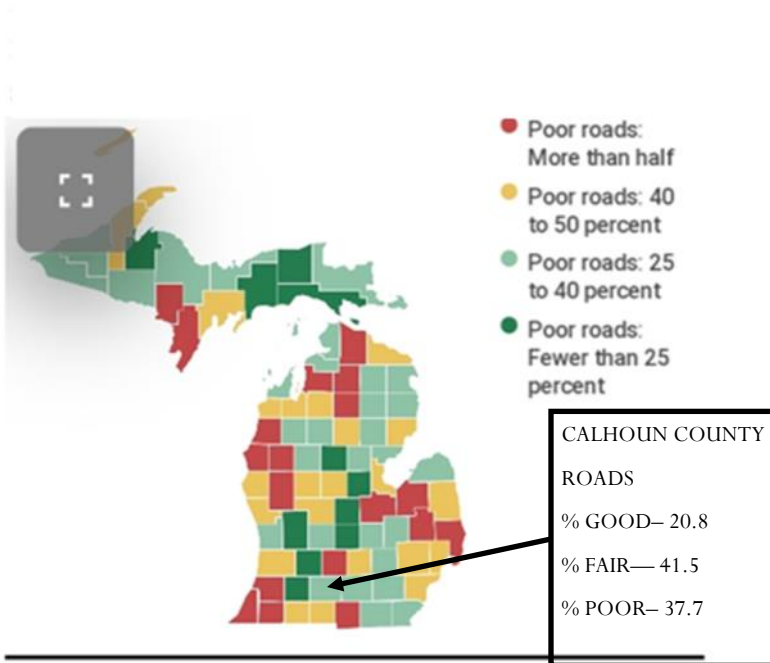
FEBRUARY 2020

ROAD FUNDING DEBATE CONTINUES:

YOUR ROADS & BRIDGES CONTINUE TO CRUMBLE UNLESS A NEW FUNDING SYSTEM IS IN PLACE

Facts on: Roads, bridges

Roads

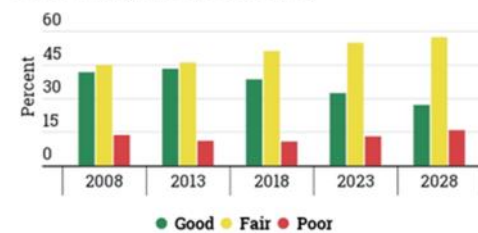


Bridges

Nearly 11 percent of Michigan bridges are considered deficient. It is the highest percentage in the Midwest and well above the national rate of 7.6 percent.

	Total bridges	Percent deficient
Minnesota	13,358	5 %
Ohio	27,277	5.6
Indiana	19,280	6.2
Wisconsin	14,275	7.4
Illinois	26,809	8.5
Michigan	11,228	10.7

Engineers predict state bridges will decline markedly without increased funding. **Note: 2023 and 2028 figures are forecasts.**



Sources: American Road and Transportation Builders Association, Michigan Department of Transportation and Michigan's Transportation Asset Management Council



- ⇒ 23% (19 Counties) have more than half of their roads as poor.
- ⇒ 28% (23 Counties) have 40-50% of their roads as poor.
- ⇒ 36% (30 Counties) have 25-40% of their roads as poor.
- ⇒ Only 13% (11 Counties) have less than 25% roads a poor.

* Michigan ranks last among the great lakes Region in % of deficient bridges (11%) and Well above the national avg. (7.6%).

WE need a plan that addresses the root cause of the problem, not just band-aids and throwing more money at the problem hoping for a different result. MY plan addresses the root cause and provides a solution so EVERYONE in the state gets the money they need to address the problems beginning day one!

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FEBRUARY 2020

Keep up the pressure!

We deserve better roads/bridges and a new plan to get us there!!

Call Your Representatives

Sen. John Bizon (517) 373-2426 (All Calhoun County)

Rep. Matt Hall (517) 373-1787 (Homer & Clarendon)

Rep. Jim Haadsma (517) 373-0555 (Albion, Sheridan, Clarence, Lee)

Gov. Whitmer Office (517) 335-7858

Tell them to talk to Commissioner Tompkins and change ACT 51 with his plan. Let's put Commissioner Tompkins plan in place so the money can be streamlined to be used on roads and bridges as it was intended.

Commissioner Tompkins plan is for all of us. Not just a few.

Commissioner Tompkins 517-607-5202 or Tompkinscc7@gmail.com



Stay tuned in March for an exciting
Announcement
and
Unveiling!!

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THE UNION STEEL BUILDING IS COMING DOWN!!

DETAILS/SUGGESTIONS

The Calhoun County Land Bank Authority (CCLBA) will begin the demolition of the former Union Steel building next week. Pitsch Companies Inc. will complete the demolition work.

During the demolition do not walk through the site for any reason.

Site activities will begin the week of March 2, 2020, with the project being completed around June 1, 2020.

Helpful suggestions for during the demolition:

- ⇒ Keep your doors and windows closed to minimize noise and dust.
- ⇒ Reduce time spent outside during active demolition.

For more information call:

Krista at the CCLBA @ 269-781-0777



FROM KRISTA TROUT-EDWARDS, COUNTY LAND BANK & BRIAN WENSAUER, CALHOUN COUNTY TREASURER

MARSHALL, MICH. – DEMOLITION OF THE FORMER UNION STEEL BUILDING IN ALBION WILL BEGIN THE WEEK OF MARCH 2 AND WRAP IN JUNE, THE CALHOUN COUNTY LAND BANK AUTHORITY (CCLBA) ANNOUNCED TODAY. PITSCH COMPANIES INC. WILL COMPLETE THE DEMOLITION OF THE DILAPIDATED BUILDING, WHICH HAS BEEN VACANT FOR TWO DECADES.

“THE DEMOLITION OF THE FORMER UNION STEEL BUILDING HAS BEEN A LONG TIME COMING AND I WANT TO THANK THE CALHOUN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, TREASURER BRIAN WENSAUER AND THE CITY OF ALBION FOR WORKING WITH US TO REMOVE A DANGEROUS AND BLIGHTED STRUCTURE THAT HAS SAT VACANT SINCE 1995,” SAID KRISTA TROUT-EDWARDS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CCLBA. “OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS IN THIS IMPORTANT PROJECT SHARE OUR VISION OF ELIMINATING BLIGHT, IMPROVING NEIGHBORHOODS AND PROMOTING PUBLIC SAFETY.”

THE LAND BANK IS FINALIZING THE SITE FOR DEMOLITION, WHICH INCLUDES PROVIDING INFORMATION TO NEIGHBORS AND WORKING WITH THE FRIENDS OF ALBION’S ANIMALS TO REMOVE STRAY CATS FROM THE SITE. ONCE DEMOLITION BEGINS, RESIDENTS SHOULD NOT WALK THROUGH THE SITE FOR ANY REASON. THE LAND BANK ALSO ENCOURAGES NEIGHBORS TO KEEP DOORS AND WINDOWS CLOSED TO REDUCE NOISE AND DUST AND MINIMIZE TIME OUTSIDE DURING ACTIVE DEMOLITION. THE DEMOLITION WILL BE FUNDED IN PART BY THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM THE CALHOUN COUNTY TREASURER TO THE LAND BANK. THE CALHOUN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVED THE APPROPRIATION LAST YEAR. IN ADDITION, THE ALBION CITY COUNCIL APPROVED \$300,000 IN FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE PROJECT. THE CITY AGREED TO PAY IN FIVE INSTALLMENTS BEGINNING THIS YEAR AND ENDING IN 2024. EXISTING FUNDING FROM AN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) GRANT WAS ALSO USED TO BRING THIS PROJECT TO FRUITION.

“AS CHAIRMAN OF THE LAND BANK BOARD OF DIRECTORS, I SEE FIRSTHAND THE RESULTS OF THE GREAT WORK THE LAND BANK IS DOING THROUGHOUT CALHOUN COUNTY, WHICH INCLUDES THE DEMOLITION OF THIS DANGEROUS BUILDING,” WENSAUER SAID. “I’M PROUD TO WORK WITH THE LAND BANK TO HELP FUND CRITICAL PROJECTS THAT FULFILL ITS MISSION AND ARE IMPORTANT TO THE SAFETY OF OUR COMMUNITIES.” “I WANT TO THANK THE LAND BANK, TREASURER WENSAUER AND THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR WORKING WITH OUR CITY COUNCIL TO SEE THIS PROJECT THROUGH TO COMPLETION,” SAID ALBION MAYOR DAVE ATCHISON. “THE FORMER UNION STEEL BUILDING HAS BEEN A MAGNET FOR CRIME AND A THREAT TO PUBLIC SAFETY FOR MANY YEARS AND WE ARE EXCITED TO BEGIN A NEW CHAPTER FOR THIS PROPERTY IN ALBION.”

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