

**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 39 PAGE 1

MARCH 2020

COUNTY ACTIONS/DISCUSSION

MONTHLY MEETINGS:

March 5 Meeting

- 1) Helen Guzzo, Manager of Senior Services, was on hand to present the senior millage 2019 report. Many positives were heard and I will be providing more detailed info in my newsletter at a later date.
- 2) Approved an agreement for a staffing and workload analysis for the prosecutor's office. This analysis will identify if current staffing levels are below what is needed.
- 3) Approved the annual mileage certification for Calhoun County. No changes from 2019. This certification is required by the state of Michigan in order to receive Michigan Transportation Funds.
- 4) Awarded a two year contract with PK Contracting for provision of pavement Markings. This is a joint contract with Jackson County. This contract is a 4% decrease from the previous and saves the county 44k over the life of the contract. PK was the incumbent.
- 5) Approved a one year contract with Lakeland Asphalt to provide bituminous cold patch. This is a joint contract with Jackson County. This mix mimics Capital Asphalts spec. Which was shown to hold much better in testing. Capital Asphalt (Lansing) is the secondary supplier in case Lakeland doesn't meet spec requirements.

(APRIL)



March 19 Meeting



Due to the concerns of the COVID-19 virus and out of an abundance of caution to keep everyone safe.

Next Board of Commissioners Meeting will take place on Tuesday April 14th at 7pm for our State Mandated Apportionment meeting.
This meeting will take place remotely via conference call

Senior Millage Allocation Committee	4/3	8am
CANCELED		
Homer Village Albion City	4/6	7pm
TBD		
Senior Day in the 7th	4/7	9am-3pm
CANCELED		
Trailway Alliance Lee Township	4/8	8am 7pm
CANCELED		
Clarence twp Albion twp Clarendon twp	4/13	7pm 730pm
TBD		
AH Substance Abuse Homer Twp Commissioners Meeting	4/14	9am 7pm
TBD		
Sheridan Twp	4/15	7pm
TBD		
Albion Eggs & Issues	4/17	8am
TBD		
Albion City	4/20	7pm
TBD		
Forks Senior Center board meeting.	4/22	1pm
TBD		

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Monthly Newsletter

ISSUE 39 PAGE 2

MARCH 2020

ROAD/BRIDGE UPDATES

1.) Due to the COVID-19 virus and out of abundance of caution, the RD has divided road workers into five groups each working one day a week. We have 6 mechanics divided into three shifts, working Monday, Wednesday, & Friday. Night shift divided into five, 2 man groups each working one day a week. Supervisors each work one day a week. Engineering is working from home and managing contract work in the field. Administration and finance are working from home and coming into the office as needed.

OTHER HAPPENINGS

- 1.) . Attended the ribbon cutting kick-off of the Habitat for Humanity's Women Building at 1112 Terpenning in Albion on March 3. This home was purchased from the Calhoun County Land Bank which will be refurbished and this home has been designated for a veteran.
- 2.) Volunteered at the Forks Senior Center fundraiser "Elvis Tribute Concert" at the Marshall Opportunity School on March 7th. Colin Dexter from Jackson Mi, at just 20 years old, is an amazing voice and performer honoring Elvis & classic country stars.

****NOTE****

All meetings from March 11th going forward were cancelled due to the concerns of the COVID-19 virus with the exception of phone conferencing.

- 3.) Albion-Homer United Way held an emergency board meeting via conference call on March 23 to discuss and implement an emergency relief fund. Please see the story on the right hand side which provides a brief synopsis and how you can contribute to the fund.
- 4.) Participated in the Calhoun County Area Intergovernmental COVID-19 response group on March 25. Elected officials and leaders from around the county heard updates from on what is being done in the county to combat the virus. This meeting was in conjunction with the city of Battle Creek. This meeting will be held each Wednesday to provide updates and additional elected leaders have been added to the call list including Township Supervisors and Municipal leaders from the 7th District.
- 4.) On March 30 via conference call the initial meeting of the Homeless Coalition was held involving individuals from around the county to discuss resources available including statistics on homeless in Calhoun County both adult and youth. This 1st session was informational and additional meetings will be taking place to make progress in understanding and addressing.

7th District in Focus

Albion-Homer United Way creates Emergency Relief Fund March 23, 2020

The Albion-Homer United Way board held an emergency meeting for the purposes of creating a Emergency Relief Fund for the Albion & Homer Communities as a result of the COVID-19 virus.

The fund has been created to help agencies provide services and other needs to those who have been affected by COVID-19. Already a K-5 childcare in the Albion Community has been funded with priority given to parents who work in designated essential services.

All contributions designed for the ERF will stay in our communities with 100% of dollars raised granted to help meet local agency needs. There will be no administrative fees charged.

Albion-Homer UW will work with local govt. and social service agencies to ensure a coordinated and efficient effort to quickly disburse funds raised to assist local food concerns, childcare and other basic living needs.

When this pandemic eventually ends, all money left undistributed will go into a fund to help with any unforeseen emergencies in Albion & Homer.

If you would like to contribute, please send a check to Albion-Homer United Way, P.O. Box 55 Albion MI 49224 or donate on-line at www.albionhomeruw.org.

Proud to be a board member of a great organization helping others.

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Monthly Newsletter

ISSUE 39 PAGE 3

MARCH 2020

COMMITTEE CORNER



COMMITTEES/ORGANIZATIONS SERVING:

1.) County Planning Commission met Mar. 4. Items discussed/actions taken included:

A.) Recommended for approval:

- 1.) PA116 application in Sheridan Twp.
- 2.) Zoning text amendment for Pennfield Charter Twp for Solar Energy Facilities.
- 3.) Zoning text amendment for Pennfield Charter Twp for Urban Livestock.
- 4.) Zoning text amendment for Marengo Twp for Recreational Marijuana Facilities & zoning
- 5.) Text amendment for Lee Twp for Solar Energy Facilities.

2.) Senior Millage met Mar. 6. Items discussed/actions taken included:

A.) Approved a mini— grant request from Wilder Creek Conservation Club in the amount of \$750 for a senior picnic to be held in June.

B.) Recommended for approval the renewals of board membership for Jill Booth, Tom Hunsdorfer, Diane Peters & Teresa Shell for a period of May 1, 2020—April 30, 2022. It will be moved on to Board of Commissioners for final approval.

C.) Heard a vendor presentation on the meals program which includes home-delivered & congregate from Karla Fales, CEO of Carewell Services & Dan Pontius, Director of Nutrition, Senior Services of SW Michigan.

3.) Homer Lake Board, scheduled for March 10.

Cancelled due to lack of agenda items .

- *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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ISSUE 39 PAGE 4

MARCH 2020

GOVERNOR WHITMER'S EXECUTIVE ORDER ON COVID-19 VIRUS



To combat the spread of COVID-19 in Michigan, Governor Whitmer signed the "Stay Home, Stay Safe" executive order. For at least the next three weeks, all Michigan businesses and operations must temporarily suspend in-person operations that are not necessary to sustain or protect life, and all Michiganders must stay in their homes unless they're a part of that critical infrastructure workforce, engaged in an outdoor activity, or performing tasks necessary to the health and safety of themselves or their family, like going to the hospital or grocery store.

YOU CAN:

- Go to the grocery store or pick up take-out food.
- Go to the pharmacy to pick up a needed prescription.
- Engage in outdoor activities like walking, hiking, running, biking.
- Go to the hospital or secure any care necessary to address a medical emergency or to preserve your health or the health of a loved one.
- Fill your car with gas.
- Return to Michigan to a home or place of residence from outside the State.
- Leave the State for a home or residence elsewhere.
- Walk your pets and take them to the veterinarian for needed medical care.

YOU MAY NOT:

- Leave the home to work unless your employer designates you as a critical infrastructure worker.
- Participate in any public gatherings.
- Visit someone in the hospital, nursing home, or other residential care facilities (with limited exceptions).
- Go to the mall or to restaurants.

BUSINESSES THAT REMAIN OPEN FOR IN-PERSON WORK MUST TAKE AGGRESSIVE STEPS TO MINIMIZE THE VIRUS'S SPREAD. THEY MUST:

- Promote remote work to the fullest extent possible.
- Restrict the number of workers present in-person on the job.
- Keep employees at least six feet from one another to the maximum extent possible and enabling social distancing for customers who are standing in line.
- Any other social distancing practices and mitigation measures recommended by the Centers for Disease Control.

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

For those who have questions about the state's actions to mitigate the spread of coronavirus, please call the COVID-19 Hotline at 1-888-535-6136 between 8AM - 5PM daily.

****NOTE**** With the announcement from the President on Sunday March 29th and the extension of stay at home/social distancing guidelines until April 30th, stay tuned to the Governor about extending her executive order to April 30th. Also expect an announcement on schools later in the week.

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Monthly Newsletter

ISSUE 39 PAGE 5

MARCH 2020

What the \$2 Trillion Coronavirus Stimulus means for You and Michigan



1.) How much money will I get from the Federal Govt and when?

Every adult making less than \$75,000 in adjusted gross income will receive a one-time payment of \$1,200. A married couple making less than \$150,000 collectively in adjusted gross income would get \$2,400. Qualifying families would also receive \$500 per child.

Above that income level, the amount you'd receive would be reduced by 5 percent of your income and would be completely phased out at \$99,000 for single filers and \$198,000 for married couples with no children.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin estimated most people would get their check within three weeks.

2.) Is that the only financial aid available?

No. If you lost your job, you can apply for unemployment benefits. Under the bill package, you will get Michigan's unemployment benefits — worth up to \$362 per week — plus another \$600 per week for four months. Traditional benefits, which you can get for up to 26 weeks under an executive order signed by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer last week, will be extended by 13 additional weeks. Under her executive order, Whitmer already broadened unemployment benefits to include people who have "unanticipated family care responsibility" such as childcare or to care for sick family members; people who are sick, quarantined or immunocompromised and get laid off or don't have family leave; and public health workers who get sick. Under the deal signed, those categories would be expanded to also include people who rely on part-time work, who are self-employed or who are "gig economy workers" such as Uber and Lyft drivers. The package will also ensure that furloughed workers, on average, would receive their full pay for four months.

3.) Will Michigan Businesses Get Help?

Small businesses (those with fewer than 500 employees) who promise not to fire employees during the crisis will have access to \$367 billion worth of guaranteed loans from community banks through June 30 that will be forgiven if the business continues to pay workers the whole time. That money could be used for employee salaries, paid sick leave, insurance premiums, and mortgage, rent or utility payments. Businesses could start receiving money within two or three weeks. Larger companies will also have access to help: \$454 billion of Federal Reserve money will be available to those businesses through subsidized loans, and an additional \$46 billion in loans will be available for specific industries such as airlines. They will also be exempt from paying payroll taxes for two years. This total of \$500 billion for larger companies will be subject to transparency measures, including requirements to disclose the names of businesses that received federal help and the creation of an independent inspector general to review lending decisions. Companies that receive loans couldn't do stock buybacks or give bonuses to their CEOs for the duration of the loans plus an additional year afterward. Companies will also be eligible for a tax credit if they don't fire employees and could defer payment of the Social Security payroll tax.

Source: Bridge

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Monthly Newsletter

ISSUE 39 PAGE 6

MARCH 2020

What the \$2 Trillion Coronavirus Stimulus means for You and Michigan Cont.



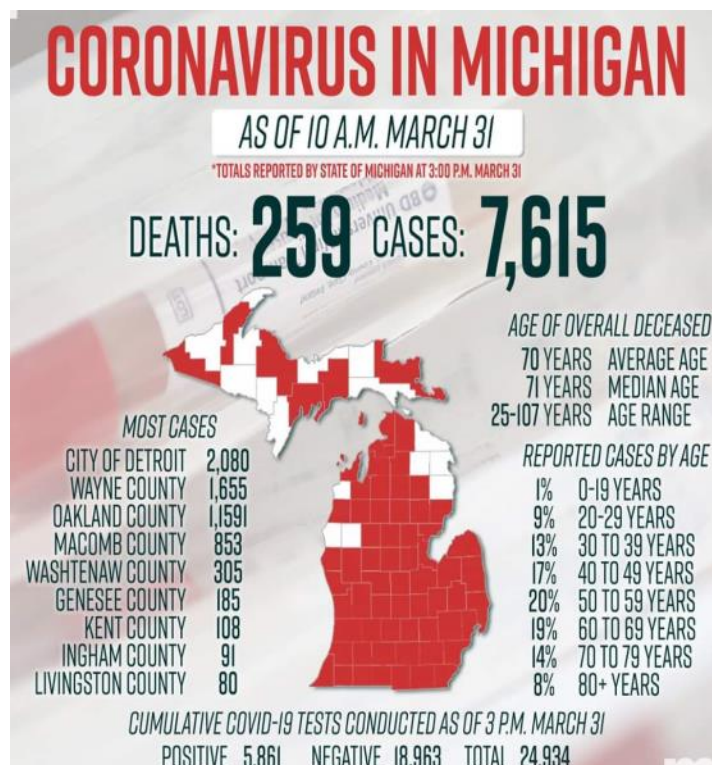
4.) How about our Health Care System?

Under the deal, hospitals and other health clinics around the country can tap into \$100 billion in aid. "Everyone fighting coronavirus" will have access to the funds. Brian Peters, CEO of the Michigan Health & Hospital Association, an industry group, said in a statement Wednesday he is "very pleased" with the stimulus package's proposed allotment for hospitals. Some hospital executives, particularly hospitals in rural areas of Michigan, indicated that the revenue hit they're taking from the coronavirus outbreak could put them out of business.

5.) Will Local Governments get any help?

Yes. Both the state and local governments will get help. The federal package includes \$150 billion in funding for state and local governments. It's unclear how much of that money will go to Michigan and its municipalities, but the funding would be distributed proportionally to states based on population and no state would receive less than \$1.25 billion. (Source: Bridge)

Latest COVID-19 Numbers in Michigan & Calhoun County as of March 31, 2020



Calhoun Data

last updated:	3/31/2020, 5:00 PM
Meets PUI* Criteria: Testing Approved	182
Negative for 2019-nCoV	100
Positive for 2019-nCoV	19
Test Results Pending	63

**PUI: Person Under Investigation. PUI are persons who have symptoms or have been in contact with a confirmed Covid-19 patient*

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Monthly Newsletter

ISSUE 39 PAGE 7

MARCH 2020

CALHOUN COUNTY OFFICES CLOSED EFFECTIVE MARCH 17, 2020

County government operations will continue with employees critical to providing essential services and functions. Government operations are scheduled to resume in full on Monday, April 13, subject to future evaluation of this rapidly evolving public health emergency. County and court employees will continue to receive pay and benefits throughout this public closure period.

Information about how residents are able to interact with County departments is listed below.

Board of Commissioners/FOIA Coordinator:

The March 19, 2020 Board of Commissioners Meeting was cancelled. FOIA processing will continue as normal. Please visit the FOIA website to submit a request.

Clerk and Register of Deeds:

The Clerk & Register of Deeds Office will continue to process paperwork through the mail and take calls during limited business hours at this time.

Courts:

The Calhoun County Courts shall be closed except for the limited purpose of addressing emergency court operations, as outlined in administrative order, which may be conducted by video-conferencing whenever practicable. All court events not stated in the administrative order are suspended until Monday, April 13, 2020 and will be re-scheduled on a case-by-case basis.

Juvenile Home:

Operations will continue as normal at the Juvenile Home, however there will be no in-person visitation and no non-essential service providers. Residents will be allowed phone calls during normal visitation time and contact with attorneys, probation officers, and other court personnel should be by phone. No person displaying symptoms such as cough, fever, or shortness of breath will be allowed to enter the Juvenile Home.

Land Bank:

Property maintenance will continue, as well as maintaining property sales as much as possible. Demolition of the Union Steel property in Albion will continue, as well as a handful of residential demolition projects. Staff is available by phone and email.

Parks and Recreation:

Though County offices are closed, the parks will stay open. Janitorial and lawn care services will continue, and seasonal maintenance will begin soon.

Prosecutor's Office:

The Calhoun County Prosecutor's Office will continue essential services with minimal staffing including but not limited to arrest warrant review, search warrant review, victim advocacy, witness services, child support services and court services as required by our courts. Most office work of attorneys can be performed off site to assist in minimizing office staffing.

Public Defender's Office:

The Public Defender's Office will be closed to the public for walk-in appointments. The office will continue to accept phone calls and other electronic communications. A limited staff will continue to visit incarcerated individuals and attend emergency and high priority hearings as directed by this Court's Local Joint Administrative Order. In an effort to reduce office staffing as much as possible, other work duties will be performed remotely whenever possible.

Public Health Department:

Calhoun County Public Health Department continues to serve the public in modified ways.

Recycling and Solid Waste:

The Albion and Marshall Recycling Centers are closed until further notice. The 2020 Recyclerama event, which was scheduled to take place April 4, is postponed.

Road Department:

Limited road operations will continue to ensure potholes are patched, gravel roads are graded, and necessary maintenance is completed. Engineering will continue managing contract work, as necessary.

Senior Services:

The Senior Services Department will continue to answer phone calls from older adults for information and provide Medicare and Medicaid counseling via phone.

Sheriff's Office:

Public lobbies in both the Battle Creek and Marshall Offices will be closed. Law Enforcement operations will continue as normal. Those in need of law enforcement services, please call 911 or the non-emergency phone number 269-781-0911. Sheriff's Office business phone lines will be answered during normal business hours during the closure. Day-to-day jail operations will continue, including visitation. For those who wish to avoid an in-person visit, there is the option to do video visitation from home, with an additional cost.

Treasurer's Office:

The Calhoun County Treasurer's Office will be closed to the public. Essential staff will continue to process property tax payments and payment plans, certify deeds, and answer questions via phone or email. The office encourages residents to make tax payments online or pay by phone.

Veterans Affairs:

Claims maintenance will continue, to ensure veterans and survivors continue to receive monetary and health benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs. The office will also process emergency needs through the Veterans Relief Fund and Michigan Veterans Trust Fund.

Water Resources:

Residents with an emergency or drain-related question can contact Water Resources Commissioner Fred Heaton at 269-967-1580.

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