



# District One Commission News

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Dear Neighbor,

As your County Commissioner, it's important to me to make sure our county agencies are responsive to your needs. To help navigate the many services provided in our community, I have included a convenient list of important telephone numbers and contact information for you. I encourage you to keep this list and personalize it with other important numbers.

Also in this newsletter, you'll find helpful information about how to reduce unwanted telemarketing calls and junk mail, a report on the new Calhoun County Youth Council and information on our county's emergency preparedness plans.

If you are having any problems with county services or want further information on county government, please don't hesitate to contact me. Here's how to reach me:

Home telephone: 979-9767 or Office Telephone: 781-0923

E-mail: [katesegal@hotmail.com](mailto:katesegal@hotmail.com)

Mail: 108 Pinehurst Lane, Battle Creek, MI 49015

I'm always interested in hearing from you!

Best Wishes,

*place kate's signature here*

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## Tired of Telemarketing Calls?

*Yes, you can do something about it!*

If telephone calls are disturbing your family dinner, there are options available to significantly reduce telemarketing calls and mail solicitations. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has announced the availability of a national do-not-call list. Consumers can sign up for the list on the FTC's website at [www.ftc.gov/donotcall](http://www.ftc.gov/donotcall) or by calling 1-888-382-1222. Beginning in September, telemarketers will have to check the national list every quarter and remove those individuals who have signed on to the list.

Michigan's Public Service Commission has designated the national do-not-call list as Michigan's do-not-call list, saving you an extra step. But, you can also take action now to decrease unwanted calls. First, when you receive a telemarketing call, ask them to have your telephone number placed on their do-not-call list. Federal law requires the company to remove your number from their lists when you ask to be removed. Second, you can mail in forms from the Direct Marketing Association available at [www.the-dma.org](http://www.the-dma.org). Two forms are available: one for telemarketing calls and one for direct mail.

There are exceptions to the do-not-call lists. Some exceptions include: non-profit organizations, charities, and surveys; if you have purchased anything from the company in the last three months; and if you have applied for anything with the company in the last three months. If you take advantage of all three tools available to you, you should see a significant decrease in unwanted telephone calls and mail.

# Public Forum

This spring, I hosted a forum that allowed residents to learn about Calhoun County's emergency preparedness plan. Greg Babcock, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for Calhoun County, Jim Zoss, Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness Director for the City of Battle Creek, Calhoun County Health Officer Heidi Oberlin and Communicable Disease nurse Kathy Witkowski from the Public Health Department were on hand to talk about Calhoun County's response plan and to answer residents' questions and concerns.

Whether it's responding to the destruction from a tornado, a chemical spill from an overturned truck on I-94, or a bioterrorism attack, we rely on the rapid response of local, state and federal public safety officials. Mr. Babcock, Mr. Zoss, and the Public Health Department are working together to ensure that emergency service responders in our cities and county have the equipment they need to respond and communicate during an urgent situation. Even though Calhoun County may not be a prime terrorist target, it's important for the safety of our residents to have a system in place to address any emergency—no matter how big or small.



# New Calhoun County Youth Council

One of the first projects I have undertaken as Commissioner is creating the Calhoun County Youth Council. This new Council will be a 17-member body charged with investigating issues important to the youth in Calhoun County, and using that information to inform and educate the Board of the Commissioners and area groups.

The Council will be working on a variety of issues including the juvenile home and an educational program for schools on county government. The Youth Council members will represent all the public school districts throughout Calhoun County and share their unique perspectives on issues affecting our county.

Across the country, local governments and organizations are working to include youth on their boards. Why is it so important to involve young adults in government? In the words of the Youth Activism Project, "[just over] one quarter of the population in the U.S. is under the age of 18. That's 26% who participate in school and community activities, 26% who spend more than \$150 billion a year, and 26% who care about the world in which they live. However, that's also 26% of the population who cannot vote and 26% of the population who are supposed to be seen and not heard, making for a resounding 100% of the future who have not been encouraged to exercise leadership today."

With almost 11,000 young people in our county, the Calhoun Youth Council is just one way to develop our greatest resource. They may make up only a fraction of our population, but the young people of today account for 100% of our future. We must reach out and engage them now if they are to be tomorrow's leaders.

Watch for more information on the Youth Council.

**Look for more  
Public Forums soon.**

## Important Telephone Numbers

Emergency 911  
Battle Creek Police *non-emergency* 966-3322  
Springfield Police *non-emergency* 965-7795

Community Information & Referral 211  
Willard Public Library 968-8166 or  
www.willard.lib.mi.us  
Lakeview Public Schools 565-2400  
Battle Creek Public Schools 965-9500

Poison Control 1-800-222-1222

Babysitter

Emergency Contact

Alternative Emergency Contact

Doctor

Calhoun County Govt. www.calhoun-mi.com  
County Clerk 781-0730  
Drain Commissioner 781-0790  
37<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court 969-6530

Friend of the Court 969-6500  
10<sup>th</sup> District Court 969-6666  
Prosecutors Office 969-6980  
Medical Examiner 969-6193

Public Health Department:

General Inquiries 969-6375  
Clinic 969-6364  
Environmental Health 969-6341  
WIC 966-1230  
Travel Health Information 969-6334  
Road Commission 800-781-9841  
County Sheriff 966-3363

Senior Programs/Resources:

Area Agency on Aging 966-2566  
Marian E. Burch Adult Day Care 962-1750  
Calhoun Co. Medical Care Facility 962-5458  
Senior Millage Program/ 781-0846 or  
Senior Prescription Program 877-645-5243  
Summit Pointe 966-1460  
(formerly Community Mental Health)

County Treasurer 781-0807  
Veteran Affairs 969-6735  
Fallen Power Lines 800-477-5050  
Fallen Trees 966-3507

Snow Removal

Battle Creek Streets 966-3507  
Calhoun County Road Commission 781-9841  
Report Potholes 888-296-4546

County Commissioner Kate Segal 979-9767  
or 781-0923



Other Elected Officials:

State Senator Mark Schauer 888-962-6275  
State Representative Mike Nofs 866-737-6637  
Battle Creek City Commission 966-3371  
Springfield City Council 965-2354