

District One News

From your County Commissioner

News for the citizens of Calhoun County District 1



Dear Neighbor,

As your County Commissioner, one of my most important responsibilities is keeping you informed about issues that affect you and your family. In this summer newsletter, you will find information about the August 8, 2006 county ballot proposals for seniors, as well as straight-forward talk and simple tips about protecting your children online.



County Commissioner Kate Segal

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your County Commissioner. It is a responsibility I take very seriously, because like you, I want my child to grow up in a thriving community with safe neighborhoods and endless opportunity. I look forward to continuing to fight on your behalf.

If you are having any problems with county services or want further information on county government, please feel free to contact me for assistance. Here's how to reach me:

Home Telephone: 979-9767
Office Telephone: 781-0923
E-mail: katesegal@hotmail.com

Mail: Calhoun County
Board of Commissioners
315 West Green Street
Marshall, MI 49068

I'm always interested in hearing from you!

Best wishes,

Kate Segal
Vice Chair, County Board of Commissioners

AUGUST BALLOT 2006

Vote Yes For Seniors

All residents who care about our senior citizens' quality of life: please, vote YES to renew Proposals 1 and 2. These important items support the Calhoun County Senior Millage programs and the Calhoun County Medical Care Facility. Both ensure that vital services are provided to our seniors so they can retain their independence and dignity.

Here is a breakdown of what each proposal would do:

Calhoun County Senior Millage—Proposal 1

The Calhoun County Senior Millage provides county taxpayer support for home delivered meals, transportation, the Prescription Drug Discount Card program, dental services, adult day care, case management, legal assistance and minor home repairs as well as other services for seniors, aged 60 and over, in Calhoun County. Before the millage passed in 1996, there were seniors who were unable to get home delivered meals, in-home assistance with daily living activities like bathing, cooking, cleaning, transportation, and many other services. Long waiting lists were common in Calhoun County for seniors in need of these services but who were unable to afford them. The senior millage was renewed again by the voters in 2000.

The senior millage funds can only be used for programs for seniors and cannot be used for other departments or budget areas within the county. This restriction was intentionally written into the language of the senior millage so that the services for vulnerable seniors would be protected.

The millage renewal will remain a maximum of 0.7452 mills. A homeown-

Continued next page...



Kate talks about the senior millage with area residents.

COFFEE 
with Kate

Have a suggestion?
Want more information?
Have a problem?
Join Kate for coffee:

Friday, July 28
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM
CONVERSATIONS!
COFFEE HOUSE AND CAFÉ
691 Capital Avenue, SW

Friday, August 18
7:30 AM – 9:00 AM
WHAT'S THE TALK ABOUT
2245 W. COLUMBIA AVENUE,
SUITE 105

LET'S TALK!

Keeping your children safe online

The Internet can be a wonderful resource for school reports, communicating with teachers and friends, and playing games. Even the youngest of today's children quickly become computer savvy.

Their access to this vast online world of information can also allow the world access back to our children and grandchildren. Armed with just a few simple details (an e-mail address, a name, and hobbies), predators can find children online and at home. The Calhoun County Sheriff's Department's Cyber Crime Unit has seen it happen, right in our own community.

In a video presentation, investigators can show how a young girl's screen name, as well as her profile listing her hobbies, can allow a predator to learn her full name, the names of her parents and sibling, her home address, and the school she attends—all in just 20 minutes. By using the girl's hobbies, the predator cross-checks information posted on the web and finds that the girl is selling music in an online ad. The ad lists the girl's telephone number and good times to reach her at that number. The predator then can use the telephone number to find out who it is listed under, finding out her parents' names. From there, the predator can find the girl's home address. Just one more simple search locates her school. Predators then use this information to form online relationships with children. In many cases, online predators will spend hours, weeks and months listening to a child's problems, talk about the latest music, hobbies, and interests of children—all in an attempt to gradually lower their inhibitions and slowly introduce sexual content into their conversations.

A few simple tips can help protect your children from online predators. First, as with any safety issue, it's always important to talk with your children about the dangers of online activity and to keep a close eye on who they are talking to and what they are doing online. You are always your child's best protection. Here are some steps that can help:

- ✔ Become computer literate and learn how to block objectionable material.
- ✔ Keep the computer in a family area, not in your child's bedroom.
- ✔ Watch and monitor your child's activity online.
- ✔ Share an e-mail account with your child so that you can monitor messages.
- ✔ Do not allow your children to include any personal details, including name, age, address, family, etc. in their online profiles or in their screen names.
- ✔ Spend time online together to teach your child appropriate online behavior.
- ✔ Don't let your child enter private chat rooms; block them with safety features provided by your Internet service provider or with special filtering software. Be aware that posting messages to chat rooms can reveal your child's e-mail address to others.
- ✔ Monitor your credit card and phone bills for unfamiliar account charges.
- ✔ Find out what, if any, online

protection is offered by your child's school, after-school center, friends' homes, or any place where he or she could use a computer without your supervision.

- ✔ If your child has a new "friend," insist on being "introduced" online to that friend and never allow your child to meet that person in public alone.
- ✔ Take your child seriously if he or she reports an uncomfortable online exchange.



Kate talks about techniques for safe Internet usage.

- ✔ Forward copies of obscene or threatening messages received by your child to your Internet service provider.
- ✔ Call the Calhoun County Sheriff's Department and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at (800) 843-5678 if you are aware of the transmission, use, or viewing of child pornography online.

Sources: Federal Bureau of Investigation's Cyber Division and the Calhoun County Sheriff Department's Cyber Crime Unit.

Millage... continued

er with a home valued at \$100,000 will continue to pay \$37.26 if the millage is renewed—just a dime a day.

For more information about the Senior Millage or how to access services, please feel free to contact me or the Calhoun County Office of Senior Services at 269-781-0846.

Calhoun County Medical Care Facility—Proposal 2

The needs and wants of nursing home residents are changing. As the "baby boomers" begin to retire and require nursing home care, they have different expectations than those currently being served in our long-term care facilities. To ensure that Calhoun County has the resources needed to meet citizens' long term care needs, the Calhoun County Medical Care

Facility is seeking a renewal of its operating millage.

The Calhoun County Medical Care Facility millage has been in place for 15 years. The millage ensures that the skilled nursing home provides quality care, offers activity programming, hires quality staff, purchases modern equipment, and provides adult day care services that support area caregivers. By renewing the millage now, the Calhoun County Medical Care Facility will have the funds to renovate and expand the facility, updating it with private rooms and installing the most modern technology. In partnership with state funding, the millage and fiscal management, the Calhoun County Medical Care Facility will be able to begin construction this fall on the building.

The millage renewal will remain a

maximum of 0.24822 mills. A homeowner with a home valued at \$100,000 will continue to pay \$12.41 if the millage is renewed—just three cents a day.

For more information about the Calhoun County Medical Care Facility or how to access services, please feel free to contact me or the Calhoun County Medical Care Facility at 269-962-5458.

KATE ★ ★ ★
SEGAL
Your County Commissioner

Want more information about an issue facing our county?

Call Kate!

979-9767

E-mail: katesegal@hotmail.com