

# CCRC CROSSROADS

*A publication of the Calhoun County Road Commission (CCRC)*

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## Steven L. Ball Operations Manager

As Operations Manager for the Calhoun County Road Commission (CCRC), Steve is involved in the day-to-day management, follow up and evaluation of all CCRC operations including winter maintenance and summer construction activities. He provides oversight to supervisory staff to facilitate consistency in operations and to ensure quality control efforts.

In 2000, Steve became the Safety Coordinator for the Road Commission for the Calhoun County area to ensure the safety of CCRC operations including traffic regulating, road construction and snow maintenance. His responsibilities include developing and implementing training for all equipment and bid positions; reviewing worker's compensation claims and accidents; coordinating monthly safety committee meetings; scheduling ongoing training and certification programs for employees; and orientation and safety training for new employees.



Certifications include:

- ◆ Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Certification and Construction Outreach Trainer.
- ◆ Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) - Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control (SESC)
- ◆ Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) - Storm Water Management Operator
- ◆ Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA)
- ◆ International Municipal Signal Association (IMSA) Board member and Levels 1 and 2 Administrator, as well as certifications in Traffic Regulating; Signs and Markings Levels 1 and 2; Construction Work Zone; and Aerial Work Platform.

Steve started his employment with CCRC as a driver in 1997 and has held the positions of Foreman, Sign Shop Supervisor and Superintendent Assistant, prior to accepting the Operations Manager position earlier this year. He can be contacted at 269-781-9841, 1-800-781-5512 or [sball@calhouncrc.net](mailto:sball@calhouncrc.net).

Would you like to share your public organization's information with others? Let us know and we will gladly add your website link to our website.

Just give us a call at 1-800-781-5512 or email us at [info@calhouncrc.net](mailto:info@calhouncrc.net)



**ATTENTION**  
**EFFECTIVE MONDAY,**  
**NOVEMBER 5, 2007**  
**CCRC Office Hours will be**  
**6:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.**  
**Monday-Friday**

**Our website address has**  
**changed!!!**

**Please visit us at:**  
**[www.calhouncrc.net](http://www.calhouncrc.net)**

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## MAKING THE CASE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SOURCE: SEMSCOPE—SUMMER '07, A QUARTERLY

Why do we have local governments? As the democracy closest to the people, local governments deliver services that are required by the state as well as non-required services that are demanded by residents. Counties are an arm of the state, providing services such as mental health on behalf of the state. Cities, villages and townships provide more of the core services, such as police and fire. Schools educate residents (children and adults) close to home. The services that are provided by these local governments complement each other in a transparent way, producing a “quilt” of services that typically do not overlap or compete.

Because many of the services provided by local governments are those requested by residents, it means that the mix of services differs from community to community. This difference is what sets local governments apart and creates their own unique identity. As communities become more urbanized, residents demand more services.

These are some of the typical services that most local governments provide:

- ◆ Most of the benefits remain invisible. Everyone feels safe until something extraordinary happens.
- ◆ Many things that just get done are taken for granted. We have water for drinking, washing and flushing. We put garbage at the curb and it's gone. When there's a big snowstorm, the roads are plowed.
- ◆ No one is forgotten. There are services to treat mental health and tend to senior citizens.
- ◆ Schools in local communities help to educate the youngest residents.
- ◆ We attend concerts at parks, swim in community pools, skate at local rinks, borrow books and DVDs from libraries, play ball and soccer at a local field.
- ◆ We vote at church halls, schools, fire stations, and other local, public buildings to elect presidents, governors, mayors, supervisors, and other local officials.



**Join us for our 8th Annual Road Tour on  
Thursday, October 25, 2007**

**Information session: 8:30—  
9:30 a.m.**

**Road tour:  
9:30—11:00 a.m.**

**The tour will highlight many of our**

## **DEER-CRASH SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH** (SOURCE: COUNTY ROAD ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN)

October and November are two of the most dangerous months in Michigan, especially for the state's 1.75 million white-tailed deer and the motorists who crash into them each year. Car-deer crashes in Michigan cause at least \$130 million in damages annually, with an average of \$2,000 per vehicle. Recognizing this fact, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm proclaimed October as Car-Deer Crash Safety Awareness Month.

Motorists need to be extra alert when driving this Fall. In an effort to reduce the number of deaths and injuries occurring each year on Michigan roads and to increase awareness of the problem among the motoring public, remember: "Don't veer for deer."

Statistics show that most motorist deaths and injuries occur when drivers swerve to avoid hitting a deer and strike a fixed object, such as a tree or another vehicle," said Jack Peet of AAA Michigan. "No one wants to see a deer destroyed, but striking the animal is often the safest action."

In 2006, Michigan saw an increase in the number of car-deer crashes. According to the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning, there were 60,875 deer-vehicle crashes in 2006, compared to 58,741 in 2005. However, officials note that many crashes also go unreported, so actual crash numbers may be even higher. Of those accidents, 12 resulted in fatalities and nearly 1,500 caused reportable injuries to vehicle occupants.



Nearly half of all collisions with deer occur in the October to December mating season when deer are very active, and crashes spike again in Spring when the season's first grass appears along highway right-of-ways.

"Deer are often seen calmly feeding near highways, but then when they panic, they may appear in front of your windshield in no time at all," noted Penney Melchoir, Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division Field Coordinator. "Drivers must be prepared—look for other deer following the first in a line and keep an eye open for deer doubling back once they have moved out of a traffic lane.

Every motorist should 'think deer' when they are behind the wheel, and drive defensively, as deer can appear at any moment. All motorists should remember to fasten their safety belts—they can often make the difference in surviving a serious crash.

Motorists can help avoid dangerous encounters with deer by using the following tips:

- ◆ Watch for deer, especially at dawn and dusk when they are the most active.
- ◆ If you see one deer, approach cautiously as there may be more out of sight.
- ◆ Slow down when traveling through deer-population areas.

If a crash with a deer is unavoidable, CCRC recommends that drivers:

- ◆ Don't swerve! Brake firmly and come to a controlled stop.
- ◆ Hold onto the steering wheel with both hands.
- ◆ Steer your vehicle well off of the roadway.

## **ROAD COMMISSION EXPANDED**

At their September 6, 2007 meeting, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approved the expansion of the Board of Calhoun County Road Commissioners from three to five members. Each of the two additional Road Commissioners' terms of office will begin on January 1, 2008. The first appointed Road Commissioner will be appointed for a term of 4 years and the second Road Commissioner will be appointed for a term of 6 years. Applications for these positions are available at the County Building, 315 W. Green St., Marshall.



**CALHOUN COUNTY  
ROAD COMMISSION**

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Marshall, Michigan 49068

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**Board of Calhoun County Road Commissioners  
Board of Public Works  
Parks Trustees Board**

**Chester Travis  
Charles Monaweck  
Scott Brown**

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
WWW.CALHOUNCRC.NET**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

**"TO PROVIDE QUALITY, COURTEOUS, DEPENDABLE, AND  
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO THE CITIZENS OF CALHOUN COUNTY;  
THROUGH INNOVATIVE AND COOPERATIVE EFFORTS."**

The Road Commission's primary responsibility is to provide reasonably safe roads through construction and maintenance. The Board of Calhoun County Road Commissioners are responsible for establishing policies and budget priorities as part of their review of operations of the Road Commission. Other services provided by the Road Commission include reviewing roads for plats and subdivisions, abandonments and issuing permits.

The Board of Public Works (BPW) establishes policies and budget priorities as part of their review of operations of the BPW for the County Board of Commissioners. The BPW has the responsibility of administering the various Public Works Project Construction and Debt Service Funds under the provisions of Act 185, Public Acts of 1957, as amended, and the BPW Revolving Fund. Construction and financing services are available to cities, villages and townships within the county for water and sewer projects.

As part of their review of operations of the County Parks for the County Board of Commissioners, the Parks Trustees Board establishes policies and budget priorities. Calhoun County is fortunate to have the following facilities for area residents to enjoy: Historic Bridge Park, Kimball Pines Park, Ott Biological Preserve and several canoe launches.

**Calhoun County Road Commission  
13300 Fifteen Mile Road  
Marshall, Michigan 49068**