



Battle Creek Rotary Club Newsletter: The RotoScoop Week of May 3, 2021

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July 2020-2021

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Calhoun County Road Department Kristine Parsons, Director of Engineering Lucy Blair, Communications Manager

The big job of managing and maintaining the roads in Calhoun County falls to sixty-six employees of the Calhoun County Road Department. Led by Director of Engineering, Kristine Parsons, the department cares for 1,315 miles and 87 bridges throughout the county.

Until 2012, an elected Board of Road Commissioners made decisions and directed work, but this was taken over entirely by the County. Working through a complex maze of formula funding, grants, and fees for service the department's operations include snow removal, pothole patching, seal coating, traffic signals, road signs, bridges, culverts, dust control on gravel roads, roadside mowing, pavement marking, guard rail and various other road related work. Other services include reviewing roads for plats and subdivisions, abandonments and issuing road and soil erosion permits. Fifty-five staff members work directly in the field performing most of these duties. Other jobs, such as large new road constructions and large tree trimming, and removal are contracted out via competitive bids.

The department is always planning a couple years ahead because of the need to break large projects down to workable and fundable portions. It works closely with each of the county townships to utilize state funds and work collaboratively to maintain local roads. Work continued as usual during this pandemic with herculean effort by road workers to practice safety protocols.

The Department maintains an interactive map on its website to keep citizens informed of planned and ongoing projects, especially big Federally funded endeavors such as work on major throughfares. Weekly updates on construction work are also available via text messages, which you can also access through the Department's website. Look for Textcaster. If you have a question or a concern over any tree, greenery, or road you can contact the department by telephone or email through the website. <https://calhouncountymi.gov/departments/road>



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Announcements

Leadership Opportunities: A chair for the Student of the Month Committee is still needed to coordinate this monthly event with area schools.

PolioPlus Society (PPS): District 6360 Board of Directors approved the formation of the PPS to increase member knowledge and giving to the Polio Eradication program. Those donating at least \$100 this Rotary year, which ends on June 30, 2021, would be recognized as charter members of the society. District 6360 Rotarians have been very supportive of the Polio Eradication effort over the last 30 years, donating over \$1.9 million dollars but the Board wants to reach \$2 million in donations. Districts worldwide are adopting this program. More information to come.

Membership Minute: Have you checked out the Rotary bling and swag? A wide variety of products are available to order at <https://www.bestclubsupplies.com/T-Shirts/products/32/> There is something for everyone and the prices are reasonable. Displaying your Rotary pride is an easy way to start a conversation with potential members.



New Member Inducted: President Ron Monte inducted Chris Allkins, Recruiting Manager for On Staff USA, during Monday's meeting. Welcome Chris!

Newly named BC Rotary Hero is Kathy Gallagher! Gallagher will be recognized as a Rotary Hero at the District Conference on May 20-21, 2021.

Upcoming Programs and Events

5/10/2021 Engaging Youth in Leadership
Katherine Blocker, BCCF, Youth Alliance Committee

5/17/2021 Alisa Parker, Managing Attorney
Legal Services of South-Central Michigan,

Contact Karla Fales if you have any ideas: KFales@carewellservices.org