

386 Boyer Court
Marshall, MI 49068
December 31, 2008

To the editor:

My billboard's finally gone. So is 2008. It's time to thank the 2,500-odd supporters who voted for me as Calhoun County Clerk-Register. (And anyone else who would have made me an exception to their straight-ticket voting, but got scared off by false instructions that counting machines would reject split-ticket ballots. Who misinformed **you?** Let me know.)

Through my campaign, I went to dozens of meetings, met thousands of people, visited thousands of households. It introduced Calhoun County to me – and to the Green Party of Michigan, a party that runs on principle. The environmental wisdom of GPMI's energy-conserving third-Thursday 9-to-10-pm Dark Earth Hour drew attention. But I also showed how other Green Party "Key Values" – grassroots democracy, social justice, sustainability, future focus, decentralization – would help a properly **non**-partisan Clerk-Register's office run better . . . **for the people**.

And I uncovered some questionable performance by the incumbent. Self-promotion. Imprudent management of public information. Running for re-election and Secretary of State simultaneously. (And missing a campaign-finance reporting deadline.) Big-bucks fundraising left out of the public spotlight shined on other candidates. Numerous other official decisions that just happened to favor the incumbent, her party, and "major"-party domination. Unfortunately, the media didn't report these stories before November 4. But I'll keep investigating.

Who'll join me as watchdogs of Calhoun County public record-keeping, election supervision and voting conditions, and the 2010 Secretary of State race? Can you find time in your 2009 schedule to attend some local-government meetings? If so, please e-mail jalp@triton.net or call 269-781-9478. Let's make a New Year's resolution to meet ourselves – and organize the Calhoun County Green Party.

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2008 Green Party of Michigan candidate for Calhoun County Clerk & Register of Deeds

John Anthony La Pietra For the People

<http://www.jalpForThePeople.org>

If you'd like to volunteer as a watchdog for one or more local governing boards – or if you have ideas or suggestions for something to do – or if you see something about this project or on this site that needs correcting – please contact **John Anthony La Pietra** via:

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