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Important Dates:

October 2
9:00am Board Meeting

October 16
9:00am Board Meeting

October 30
9:00am Board Meeting

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday

7:30am – 4:00pm

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Tom Bird
Tom Elhart
Tim Grifhorst
Jim Miedema
Tom Palarz

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Brett Laughlin

Be Informed and Vote on November 4th

Voters in Ottawa County will see a county wide road millage on the November 4th ballot. If passed, it would raise more than \$50 million over the next 10 years.

- Proposed is a ½ mil per year for ten years for the purposes of providing a fund for the reconstruction, resurfacing, and preventative maintenance of roads in Ottawa County.
- The ½ mil equates to a property owner cost of \$25 annually per \$50,000 of taxable value (or \$100,000 of market value.)
- The proposed road millage funds will ONLY be spent on the reconstruction, resurfacing, and preventative maintenance of roads in Ottawa County.
- Road millage funded projects will be selected with input from local government officials and the public.
- 100% of the millage revenues generated within a Township, City, or Village over the millage period will ONLY be spent on road improvements within said jurisdiction.

The Road Commission encourages residents to be informed before casting their vote. Road Commission officials are available to answer questions regarding the proposed county wide road millage. Please contact our office with any questions you may have.

Watch for Deer

Hunting season is a particularly dangerous time of year for potential deer-vehicle collisions.

The responsibility for picking up and disposing of dead animals has been a long-running debate. Surprisingly, there is no statutory requirement for any agency in Michigan to perform this service.

Animal control authorities and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDRE) have both stated they have no authority on the issue. Citizens usually call the local road agency to pick

up the dead animals. While most road agencies will not dispose of the dead animals, they will move the carcasses off the traveled portion of the road that pose a hazard to motorists.

Over the years, the Road Commission has picked up and disposed of dead animals as a courtesy service for the public. However, costs and budget constraints have limited this service to just one day a week, and only dead deer or other large animals will be picked up.

State regulations regarding the disposal of

dead animals can be very confusing. The Road Commission brings dead animals to a local land fill for disposal. The costs to pick up and dispose of dead deer have ranged from \$7,500 to \$15,000 per year.

The Road Commission would encourage drivers to slow down and watch the road carefully. Scan the side of the road for wildlife and use high-beam headlights at night when there is no oncoming traffic. Also, be aware that deer tend to travel in groups. So, if you see one deer, slow down and watch for more.

Shake Your Mailbox



A snow deflector that is constructed utilizing acceptable mailbox supports that is embedded no more than 24 inches into the ground may be acceptable. Please visit our website for more information.

The Road Commission encourages you to participate in the 6th Annual Shake Your Mailbox Day, October 18, 2014.

This is a good time to check your mailbox. The weather is conducive to shaking it out to see what repairs are needed. Doing it now will save many headaches as compared with waiting until winter.

A simple check:

If you can physically shake your mailbox and it "gives", even just a little, it will give out when the snow and ice removal operations commence.

In addition to making sure your mailbox is strong enough to survive winter, clearing snow to the right (the approach side) of your driveway will help reduce the amount of snow deposited in your drive and against the mailbox post during winter

maintenance operations.

Did you know:

Flying snow makes it look like the snow plow trucks are traveling much faster than they are, but the speed of travel ranges from 15-35 mph.

Even at these speeds, the force of the snow being pushed off the road can damage mailboxes and other roadside objects.

Safe Roads for Everyone

Winter driving: Are you prepared?

As the weather changes from fall to winter, the chances of being involved in a vehicular crash increase dramatically.

Winter driving can be hazardous. Factors such as rain, snow, ice, sleet, fog, and limited daylight hours present real challenges to motorists, whether they drive for work or leisure.

In fact, when it comes to winter, the number of casualty crashes almost doubles when motorists are driving too fast for the road conditions.

Remember

Know before you go. Check road conditions beforehand and ask yourself: Do you really need to drive during inclement winter weather?

If you have to drive, then

drive smart. Prepare yourself. Prepare your vehicle.

Always drive for the winter conditions. The posted speed limit is set for ideal driving conditions.

When determining your speed, you should ask yourself, "Can I recognize and respond to road hazards such as black ice, snow, rain, low light, and fog?"



The above photo is Ryan Golembiewski who was recently hired as an Engineering Aide.

Welcome Golembiewski

Ryan Golembiewski was recently hired as an Engineering Aide to assist with project surveying and construction material testing.

Ryan comes to the Road Commission from Kamminga & Roodvoets,

Inc. with over 9 years of experience in surveying, operating equipment, checking grade stakes, and other assignments on various construction projects.

He currently resides in Jenson with his wife,

Allison, and daughter, Ayla.

In his spare time, Ryan enjoys hunting and fishing.

Please welcome Ryan as he joins the Road Commission Engineering Department.