

In This Issue:

- Winter Maintenance Operations
- Jingle Bell Parade
- Mailbox Damage
- Safe Roads for Everyone
- Roads to Bows

Important Dates:

January 5, 9:00am
Organizational Meeting

January 13, 9:00am
Board Meeting

January 27, 9:00am
Board Meeting

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday

7:30am – 4:00pm

14110 Lakeshore Drive
P.O. Box 739
Grand Haven, MI 49417
(616) 852-5400
www.ottawacorc.com

Brett Laughlin
Managing Director

Winter Maintenance Operations

The Road Commission has a goal of providing the best winter maintenance service possible by balancing the available resources and limited funding.

Snow plowing routes are established so the higher traffic volume roads and corridors can be plowed in the least amount of time possible. In order to accomplish this, our priorities are the State Highways and higher volume primary roads first, followed by lower volume

primary roads and local roads, then finally subdivision streets.

Due to the decreased revenues we have limited our driver overtime. Lower volume local roads and subdivisions will not be plowed on overtime unless there is a snow event of more than 6 inches.

In an effort to help reduce costs, the Road Commission has developed a Salt Management Plan. This

plan has helped decrease the salt usage and has shown significant cost savings in winter maintenance.

We strive to have all roads plowed within two regular business days from the day the storm stops.



Jingle Bell Parade

The first Saturday evening of December, marks the date for the traditional Jingle Bell Parade located in downtown Grand Haven. Santa and Mrs. Claus are the featured guests but the parade is also filled with "lighted" and decorated entries.

Since 2001, the Road Commission has participated in this popular annual event by driving some of our vehicles and equipment in the parade.

This year was no different as members of the Grand Haven garage added

some festive touches to Road Commission trucks.



Shown above is a single axle truck driven by Pat Wolf. Pat works out of the Grand Haven garage. This is just one of the many trucks in our fleet that are utilized for winter maintenance.

Below is a sign truck driven by Terry Svoboda. Terry works on the sign crew out of the Grand Haven garage.



May you and your family have a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year.

Mailbox Damage



Wildwood Drive in Port Sheldon Township with a Seal Coat treatment.

Since mailboxes are typically in the road right-of-way they are sometimes knocked down during snow plowing or other road maintenance operations.

The Road Commission has established a policy to handle mailbox damage.

If the mailbox or wooden post was broken off from the force of the snow coming off the snowplow

blade then the replacement or repair is the responsibility of the property/mail box owner.

If the mailbox or post was actually hit by our equipment then the Road Commission will:

- a) Repair if possible, or
- b) Replace with standard mailbox and post, or

- c) Compensate owner for damage (\$20 for mailbox, \$20 for post). Owner is responsible to install.

Please contact the Road Commission at 616-842-5400 if mailbox damage has occurred. We will inspect as soon as possible and inform you of our findings.

Safe Roads for Everyone

The winter season is here and as such there are some tips that should be followed.

Slow Down

Most snow or ice related accidents are caused by driving at speeds too fast for existing conditions.

Don't Crowd the Plow

Motorists should keep a safe distance between their vehicles and

snowplows. Plowing may result in a cloud of snow limiting visibility and/or may throw ice, rocks, and salt. Always watch for the unexpected.

Don't Let Children Play in Roadside Snowbanks

Even at low speeds snowplows throw large amounts of snow a great distance from the roadway. This snow can make it difficult for the

driver to see children.

Driver Training

Besides learning to stay alert and driving the routes our drivers are trained to monitor the appropriate down pressure on the blades, apply salt in accordance with the Salt Management Plan, and to watch the shoulder as some trucks have wings that extend 8 feet beyond the truck.



Greg Denny retires with over 37 years of service.

Roads to Bows

Congratulations to Greg Denny as he is retiring from the Road Commission with over 37 years of service.

Greg started his career in the Parks Department at the Grand Haven garage, then transferred after 16

years to the Coopersville garage to become a Light Equipment Operator.

He liked the variety of work the Road Commission offered and enjoyed working with everyone over the years.

Greg is a father of 4 and has 8 grandchildren, with the ninth due in February.

Retirement will give Greg more time to spend on his hobby of building bows and arrows and participating in archery tournaments.