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## Important Dates:

May 4, 3:00- 7:00pm  
Open House

May 5, 9:00am  
Board Meeting

May 19, 9:00am  
Board Meeting

## Office Hours:

**Monday - Friday**  
**7:30am – 4:00pm**

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Brett Laughlin  
Managing Director

## 100 Years of Service

Mark your calendar. On May 4<sup>th</sup> it will have been 100 years since the Office of the County Clerk opened the first meeting for the Board of County Road Commissioners, County of Ottawa, and delegated officials to develop a county road system.

In the fall of 1911, the Road Commissioners developed a plan to establish 206 miles of roads to be constructed to “good” road standards. The County Board of

Supervisors approved the plan and a one-half mill was utilized to start construction.

Today, the Road Commission is responsible to maintain almost 1700 miles of roadways:

- 424 Miles of Primary Roads
- 502 Miles of Local Paved Roads
- 410 Miles of Subdivision Roads
- 343 Miles of Gravel Roads.

Come join the 100 year celebration as the Road Commission will hold an **Open House on May 4<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 to 7:00 pm** at the Grand Haven Office.

Shown below is the Road Commission Grand Haven Garage from 1939.



## Restricted Bridge List Expands

Every two years, certified Road Commission employees inspect and evaluate all the bridges under the jurisdiction of the Ottawa County Road Commission. Currently, the Road Commission is responsible for 136 bridge structures.

A bridge structure is defined as a bridge or culvert(s) that has a clear span of at least 20 feet as measured along the centerline of the roadway.

The recent bridge inspections resulted in the placement of gross

vehicle weight restrictions on 2 bridges.

- **8<sup>th</sup> Avenue over the Lau Back Drain in Wright Township – Posted at 18 Tons**
- **Luce Street over Sand Creek in Tallmadge Township – Posted at 13 Tons**

The Road Commission now has 4 restricted bridges that also include; Squires Road over the Rio Grand Creek and West Spring Lake Road over Cornelius Bayou.

The major source of funding for bridge improvements is obtained from the competitive annual MDOT Local Bridge Program. Funds to improve the West Spring Lake Road Bridge in 2012 were obtained through this program.

Shown below is Luce Street Bridge over Sand Creek.



## MDNRE & MIOSHA Make Inspections

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources & Environment (MDNRE) conducted an inspection of the North Holland and Hudsonville Garages earlier this year.

Specifically the MDNRE was looking at the Road Commission's good housekeeping practices in areas that are exposed to stormwater runoff. Salt and road material storage, petroleum product

containment, dumpsters, vehicle maintenance, and the wash bays were some of the areas inspected. The MDNRE found the Road Commission to be compliant and found no violations.

This past month a surprise inspection by the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) was given to the Grand Haven Garage. MIOSHA reviewed the

facility for possible employee safety hazards. The inspector gave high praise of the Road Commission's Safety Program, however, some minor items of concern were found. All of these have been addressed and remediated.

The Road Commission strives to maintain our facilities that meet all environmental and safety regulations.



*The Eastmanville Bridge (68<sup>th</sup> Avenue) open to traffic in 1917.*

## Safe Roads for Everyone

Providing safe roadways often requires the repair or maintenance of various concrete transportation related items that include: roads, bridge decks, culverts, and curbing.

MDOT has utilized our specialized concrete crew to repair several concrete joints along US-31 and the business loop in Holland. Our crew has become so good, that MDOT utilized them to do concrete joints

on US-31 in Oceana County.

The Road Commission is always looking at innovative products or techniques to help improve roadway safety.

Our concrete crew has been using a high strength quick cure concrete compound to patch bridge decks. Last year this product was used on the I-96 Bridge over M-104

and the 68<sup>th</sup> Avenue bridge over the Grand River.

Shown below is the Road Commission concrete crew patching the deck of the Green Street bridge in Robinson Township..



*Congratulations to Doug Luce as the new Assistant District Supervisor for the Grand Haven and Coopersville garages.*



## Employee Promoted

Please welcome Doug Luce as the newly promoted Assistant District Supervisor.

Doug has over 26 years of municipal experience. He has worked out of the Coopersville garage for the past 11 years and has

performed various duties including the lead ground person on several reconstruction projects. Prior to the Road Commission, Doug worked for the City of Ravenna and the Muskegon County Road Commission.

Doug has been married for 28 years to his wife Joni and they have two grown children, Dan and Dawn.

Doug keeps active at his church, Ravenna Baptist and he was a volunteer fireman for 26 years.