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## *Important Dates:*

October 6, 9:00am  
Board Meeting

October 20, 9:00am  
Board Meeting

## *Office Hours:*

**Monday - Friday**

**7:30am – 4:00pm**

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Brett Laughlin  
Managing Director

## Revised Tree Planting Policy

After many months of research, input, and discussion, the Road Commission revised the existing county wide Tree Planting Policy to enhance the policy's intent of balancing the benefits that trees can provide, the desires of the community, and related safety concerns.

The revised policy depicts tree planting locations as it relates to the type of road, number of lanes within the road, and the speed limit.

Based on the old policy, tree plantings would not be allowed any closer than 50 feet from the center of the road for rural primary and local roads. The newly revised policy will allow tree plantings from 28 to 32 feet from the centerline of 2-lane primary roads and 27 to 30 feet from the centerline of 2-lane local roads.

Another change gives adjacent property owners more flexibility in selecting tree species were implemented in the

revised policy.

More information about the type of tree species allowed in the road right-of-way, permitting, and the tree planting policy can be obtained from our website at [www.ottawacorc.com](http://www.ottawacorc.com).

The Road Commission would like to thank all the citizens and local governmental officials who gave their time, efforts, and comments in the development of the revised county wide Tree Planting Policy.

## Ahead of the Curve

Today, the Road Commission is ahead of the curve in implementing reforms and efficiencies that Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature have recently proposed for local governments.

The constant effort to improve efficiencies and effectiveness is not something the Road Commission has publicized; it is just a normal part of doing good business.

Things the Road Commission has implemented in order to

continue providing good service to the public with decreasing revenues and increasing costs include:

- Routinely sharing labor and equipment with MDOT and other road agencies.
- Directly bidding out or combining a bid through the state or other road agencies to acquire the best price for equipment and materials.
- Limiting the replacement of retirees.

- Supplementing services with private contractors.

Challenges still lie ahead for the Road Commission. Learning ideas and successes from other agencies will help evaluate operations to maximize efficiency and value of services for the citizens of Ottawa County.

The County Road Association of Michigan has released a statewide report of road commission reforms and efficiencies that can be viewed on their website, [www.micountyroads.org](http://www.micountyroads.org).

## Seal Coat Program

Today's technically advanced seal coats are economical surface treatments designed to protect and prolong the life of pavements (5-10 yrs).

In a single seal coat process, an asphalt binder is sprayed onto the pavement, then immediately covered by a single layer of uniformly sized aggregate. The new chip sealed surface is

then rolled to seal the aggregate to the oil, broomed, fog sealed, striped, and ready for traffic.

A seal coat is a perfect tool for pavement preventive maintenance. Seal coats provide a quick, reliable and economical surface treatment that will seal out the damaging effect of water, help to increase skid resistance, improve

aesthetics and delineation, and provide a new wearing surface to protect the pavement for years to come.

This year the Seal Coat program includes almost 30 miles of local roads within Chester, Crockery, Grand Haven, Polkton, Spring Lake, Wright, and Zeeland townships. The estimated total cost for the 2011 Seal Coat program is \$600,000.



The above picture shows 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Chester Township with a recent application of a seal coat.

## Safe Roads for Everyone

Did you know that you must be trained to safely operate an industrial powered lift truck, also known as a forklift?

OSHA has set guidelines for forklift safety and training; which the Road Commission follows as part of an in-house certification program.

The program includes a classroom section, which

covers forklift operation and safety. Written exams are given to employees as part of the program.

Once the classroom training is completed, each operator is given hands-on training with the forklift.

OSHA stipulates that certifications are only valid for 3 years, after which operators must be recertified and trained.



Shown above is John Berens, a certified forklift operator from the Grand Haven garage.



Shown above is Doug Veneberg at his retirement celebration of 40 years of service.

## Retirees Honor Newest Member

Many Road Commission retirees came for more than just cake, they came to give best wishes to Doug Veneberg on his recent retirement.

In the photo to the right, starting from the left are Tom Palarz, Hans Podhel,

and Ron Bakker.



Shown in the next photo,

from left to right are Merrit Zwiers, Roger Dekiep, and Garth Fynwever.

