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Important Dates:

November 1, 9:00am
Board Meeting

November 15, 9:00am
Board Meeting

November 29, 9:00am
Board Meeting

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
7:30am – 4:00pm

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Brett Laughlin
Managing Director

Building a Better Mousetrap

The Road Commission received first place in the Build a Better Mousetrap National Competition for the repurposing of worn truck tires for use as wing plow cutting edges.

The purpose of the competition was to collect and disseminate real world examples of Best Practices, Tips from the Field, and assist in the Transfer of Technology.

In 2006, the Road Commission began using 9 foot wings on the tandem axle plow trucks.

The wings have proved to be beneficial for more efficient plowing. However, the cutting edges on the wings did not last very long and were very expensive to replace.

After trying various manufacturer recommendations, employees from the North Holland Garage devised a solution that used strips of recycled truck tires as cutting edges. The following picture shows the strips of tire mounted on the wing.



Below is a photo of Randy Nagelkirk accepting the award at the 2012 CRAM Superintendents Seminar.



Shake Your Mailbox

Governor Snyder has proclaimed October 20, 2012 as the Annual Shake Your Mailbox Day in Michigan.

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 items.

- The mailbox damage policy for the Road Commission allows the property owner to receive a new standard mailbox from one of our facilities.

Please contact the Road Commission office or visit our website at www.ottawacorc.com for details.

Seal Coat Partnership



Shown above is a photo of Kent, Montcalm, and Ottawa road crews placing a fog seal over a recently seal coated road.

Partnering with Kent, Montcalm, and Muskegon County Road Commissions to complete almost 23 miles of seal coat surfacing in Ottawa County has proved to be both successful and economical.

Seal coat surfacing is a treatment that provides an improvement for the least amount of money and helps a road last longer.

The seal coat process

consists of emulsion that is made up of water and liquid asphalt which is placed on the road surface. This layer of emulsion penetrates and seals small cracks in the existing pavement and acts as a binder for the stone layer.

The stone, also known as “chips”, sticks to the emulsion and, after rolling and sweeping, provides a slightly roughened skid

resistant surface to improve safety.

The photo below shows Muskegon and Ottawa road crews placing a seal coat on Perry Street in Jamestown Township.



Safe Roads for Everyone

Fall has arrived and it's time to ask the annual question: what to do with all those leaves?

Unfortunately, the Road Commission does not provide a leaf or yard debris pick up service. Residents should use a local refuse service, or if available, a Township drop off site to dispose of leaves.

It is important to keep

leaves out of ditches and storm drains to prevent flooding and protect the water quality in local streams and lakes in Ottawa County.

Residents are reminded not to pile leaves in the street. Leaves piled in the street can be hazards to both motorists and bicycles. Remember, property owners are responsible and bear the liability for leaves that are

placed improperly in the street or cause safety or flooding hazards.

It is also suggested to keep sidewalks and paths clear of leaves and other seasonal debris that can cause slipping or tripping hazards.

For more information concerning leaf disposal options, please contact your local refuse service or Township.



Shown above is a picture of Jim Weller with his grandson.

Weller Retires

After over 26 years of service, Jim Weller recently retired from the North Holland Garage.

Jim started his employment at the Road Commission in 1986 as a common laborer out of the Zeeland Garage (now

North Holland).

In 1988, Jim was promoted to a heavy equipment operator, where he operated a bulldozer and pan scraper (earthmover) until his retirement earlier this year.

Jim looks forward to spending time with his grandkids; one of them is in the photo to the left taken from his retirement party at the North Holland garage

Congratulations to Jim on this retirement.