



OCRC honored at CRA Highway Conference

The Ottawa County Road Commission was recently recognized at the 2020 County Road Association of Michigan Highway Conference.



The OCRC received two IMPRESS awards during this year's show. The awards highlight innovation and excellence at county road agencies across the state of

Michigan.

In the "Operations" category, the Road Commission received an IMPRESS Award for its guardrail cleaning device, dubbed "The Undertaker."

The new machine, dubbed "The Undertaker" by our maintenance crew, was fabricated in-house by the North Holland garage's own Dylan Lemke. The device is a tool that attaches to the front of a Bobcat loader.

This tool allows for the easy and efficient cleaning of compacted sediment, dirt and debris from the area underneath guardrails along area roads. This sediment and debris can build up over time, and if not cleaned, it can cause a drainage hazard along roads.

The OCRC also received an IMPRESS Award in the "Communications" category for its video highlighting the accomplishments thus far of the countywide road millage.

The video featured highlights of projects completed by the OCRC using road millage dollars, and also looked at what future work was expected as a result of the voter-approved measure.



The video was presented to the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners, and also posted online for the public to view on the OCRC website and social media pages.

Hats off to the OCRC team for their hard work on these and other outstanding projects conducted year-in and year-out for Ottawa County residents.

April is Safe Digging Month across the U.S.



Did you know that the month of April is Safe Digging Month?

The month serves as a reminder to residents, homeowners and professional excavators to call MISS DIG 811 before every digging project, regardless of the size or depth.

Putting up a fence, installing a mailbox post, building a deck or patio, and planting trees and shrubs are all common examples of digging projects that require a call to MISS DIG first.

MISS DIG 811 is Michigan's statewide one-call notification system that was developed in order to provide excavators and the general public the ability to inform multiple owners of underground facilities of excavation with a single call.

Michigan's statute, Act 174 of Public Act 2013, requires anyone who engages in, or is responsible for, the planning or performance of any type of excavation e.g. grading, demolition, cultivating, augering, blasting, or boring to provide advance notice of at least three full business days to MISS DIG 811 by dialing 811, or 800-482-7171, or online via a Remote Ticket Entry program or e-Locate program: http://newtin.missdig.org/newtinweb/missdig_e-locate.html#divLogIn.

The notification center is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to take ticket requests.

MISS DIG 811 must be contacted prior to excavation in order to comply with the state statute. In the event of contact with an underground facility, you must contact the facility owner/operator directly.

Remember to keep work zone safety in mind



April brings about the annual Work Zone Awareness Week during Safe Digging Month, which is a time when awareness is shared about the importance of staying safe in road construction areas.

Work zones play a key role in maintaining and upgrading our roadways. Unfortunately, daily changes in traffic patterns, narrowed rights-of-way, and other construction activities often create a combination of factors resulting in crashes, injuries, and fatalities. These crashes also cause excessive delays, especially given the constrained driving environment.

Work zone incidents impact everyone. In addition to vehicular crashes and fatalities, the leading cause of death in the road and bridge construction sector are run overs, back overs, and falls. Simply put: drivers, passengers, and construction workers are all at risk. Your driving habits can directly help—or harm—the well-being of other motorists, cyclists, workers, and pedestrians, including you.

It's important for everyone to do their part to improve work zone safety. **Work zone safety is everybody's responsibility.**

Tips for Driving Safely in and Around Work Zones

- **Know Before You Go.** Check your phone apps, agency websites, and the radio for the latest traffic information to ensure a safe and timely trip.
- **Wear Your Seatbelt.** It is your best defense in a crash.
- **Expect the Unexpected.** Work zones change often. The area you drove through yesterday may look different today.
- **Avoid Distractions.** Distracted driving in a work zone can have deadly consequences. Put down your phone and keep your eyes on the road.

- **Pay Attention to Other Drivers.** Narrowed traffic patterns provide less ability to maneuver around other vehicles safely. Paying attention can prevent the need for evasive actions in work zones.
 - **Don't Speed or Tailgate.** Keep a safe distance from the vehicle ahead of you and don't speed. Tailgating and speeding lead to crashes with other vehicles and field workers.
 - **Obey Road Crews and Signs.** Flaggers know how best to move traffic safely in work zones. The warning signs are there to help you and other drivers move safely.
 - **Be Patient and Stay Calm.** Work zone crew members are working to improve the road and make your future drive better. Stay calm and drive safely.
-

OCRC welcomes Talsma as Operations Aide



We're excited to announce Matt Talsma's addition to the Ottawa County Road Commission team as our new Operations Aide.

Talsma works out of the North Holland facility and will travel throughout the county performing a variety of functions related to road maintenance. This work will include inspection of preventative maintenance treatments, road repair, guardrail installations and drainage improvements.

Talsma has 15 years of experience working in the road and infrastructure field.

Previous jobs include working as a maintenance worker for the town of Vienna, Virginia, and immediately prior to coming to work for the OCRC, Talsma spent 5 years working for the Washtenaw County Road Commission where he was employed as a sign erector.

Talsma is a native of West Michigan, and he said he's "very excited" to get back here with his family.

"We've been looking forward to it for a long time," he said.

Talsma said he's excited to learn how the Ottawa County Road Commission works, and is eager to use skills he's learned at his past stops to help at the OCRC.

Connect with us remotely!

Want to submit a service request?

Visit ottawacorc.com and use the online form.

- or -

Call: (616) 842-5400 or email: info@ottawacorc.com.

Other ways to conduct business:

Visit ottawacorc.com to download permit applications, apply for a transportation permit, check out our available job postings, and to make an online water or sewer payment to our Public Utilities Department.

Need more help?

Call us at (616) 842-5400 or email us at info@ottawacorc.com



Important Dates:

April 9, 2020 | 9AM | Board Meeting

April 23, 2020 | 9AM | Board Meeting



14110 Lakeshore Drive
Grand Haven, Michigan 49417
616-842-5400

Office Hours: Monday-Friday; 7:30AM-4PM

The Ottawa County Road Commissioners:

Tom Bird | Tom Elhart | Betty Gajewski | Tim Grifhorst | Jim Miedema

Managing Director: Brett Laughlin