

## In This Issue:

- Grant Awarded for Jackson Street
- All Season Roads
- North Holland Garage Retirees
- Safe Roads for Everyone
- Hudsonville Garage Retiree

## Important Dates:

March 9, 9:00am  
Board Meeting  
(Note New Date)

March 22, 9:00am  
Board Meeting

## Office Hours:

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

14110 Lakeshore Drive  
P.O. Box 739  
Grand Haven, MI 49417  
(616) 842-5400  
[www.ottawacorc.com](http://www.ottawacorc.com)

Brett Laughlin  
Managing Director

## Grant Awarded for Jackson Street

The Road Commission is pleased to announce that Jackson Street in Wright Township has been approved for a MDOT Transportation Economic Development Fund (TEDF) Grant.

The TEDF program provides funding for transportation improvement projects that enhance the state's ability to compete in a global economy, promote economic growth, and improve the quality of life in Michigan.

Specifically, Jackson Street was awarded a Category F grant, which is part of the TEDF program.

The objectives for Category F projects are to:

- Provide all-season routes
- Improve all-season capabilities on routes with high commercial traffic
- Improve access to the state highway system

It is anticipated that construction will commence in the summer of 2013. Jackson Street will be reconstructed from 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue east to the I-196 on ramp. The improvements will include concrete pavement and some minor drainage improvements.

The total construction cost is estimated to be \$260,000, with the TEDF Category F grant providing \$200,000 of that total.

## All-Season Roads

### What are "All-Season" Roads?

"All-Season" roads are those that have been designed and built with the appropriate width and pavement thickness to withstand truck traffic loads all year long. Thus they are not subject to the Seasonal Weight Restrictions that are placed on most roads during the early spring.

Roads not constructed to "All-Season" standards are subject to a reduction in allowable loading and speeds during the period

each spring when thawing of the ground below the road softens the roadbed and makes the surface susceptible to damage from heavy loads.

As a general rule, primary roads are constructed to all-season loading standards. However, there are a few primary roads that require reduced loading during Seasonal Weight Restrictions.

All residential subdivision streets, most local roads, and all gravel surfaced roads in Ottawa County are subject to a 25

percent reduction in allowable loading when Seasonal Weight Restrictions are in effect.

Seasonal Weight Restrictions are very important for the longevity of roads. The Road Commission employs 2 weighmasters for enforcement of Seasonal Weight Restrictions on county roads.

For more information on Seasonal Weight Restrictions in Ottawa County and throughout Michigan, visit [www.micountyroads.org](http://www.micountyroads.org).

## North Holland Garage Retirees



The above photo shows recent retirees, Cal Janssen and Larry Schrontenboer from the North Holland Garage.

Congratulations to Cal Janssen and Larry Schrontenboer as they have recently retired from the North Holland garage.

Cal had almost 33 years of service at the Road Commission. He started as the second shift mechanic at the old Zeeland garage location.

A few years later Cal transferred to first shift mechanic for the old

Zeeland garage and the relocated North Holland garage.

Cal worked his last 5 years as a Light Equipment Operator and helped out as a mechanic when needed.

Larry worked as a truck mechanic at Padnos Iron and Metal before coming to the Road Commission in 2001.

He has been the second shift mechanic at the North Holland garage for 11 years and has accumulated 40 years of engine repair experience.

Upon his retirement, Larry plans to continue using his skills and do some small engine repairs from home. He is also looking forward to spending more time with his wife and 4 grandchildren.

## Safe Roads for Everyone

### How are traffic signals determined to be installed?

A traffic engineer makes a determination of whether a signal is or is not "warranted" based on standards of the Michigan Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

This manual identifies 9 warrants that may be reviewed in determining whether a signal should

be installed.

The warrants that receive the closest review, however, are minimum vehicular volume, interruption of continuous traffic, and accident experience.

The first relates to whether there is sufficient traffic coming out of the side street in question to consider stopping traffic on the main road.

The second relates to whether or not the traffic is too heavy on the main road for motorists from the side street to pull out.

The last is an indication that traffic on the side street is having difficulty getting out, causing right-angle accidents to occur.

The Road Commission continuously reviews intersections for all types of traffic control devices.



Shown above is Gary Vanderlaan a recent retiree from the Hudsonville Garage.

## Hudsonville Garage Retiree

After almost 42 years of service, Gary Vanderlaan has retired from the Hudsonville garage.

Gary started as a summer employee in 1970 to work in the parks department while attending college.

In 1973, Gary became a full time employee working on the bridge crew in Coopersville.

A few years later, he was transferred to the road crew in Hudsonville and has been there ever since.

Gary plans to keep busy by doing more fishing, bicycling, and volunteer work.

Congratulations Gary!

We wish you and long and happy retirement.