

In This Issue:

- 136th Avenue Construction Starts
- Screening for Topsoil
- Where does Stormwater Go?
- Safe Roads for Everyone
- Beaver Guard

Important Dates:

June 7, 9:00am
Board Meeting

June 21, 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

Brett Laughlin
Managing Director

136th Avenue Construction Starts

Originally scheduled for resurfacing in 2014, the Road Commission and Holland Charter Township have partnered together to implement watermain and road improvements to 136th Avenue from Butternut Drive to Riley Street this construction season.

The 2 million dollar project was bid out and awarded to Milbocker and Sons in April.

Construction started in May and will be done in multi-phases.



Shown above is the contractor starting the project with watermain construction on the east side of 136th Avenue just north of the intersection of Butternut Drive.

The contractor will continue north with

varying detours as the watermain work progresses through the intersections of James and Riley Street.

A complete bituminous overlay of the entire project with the road opened to traffic is anticipated by the end of August.

The Road Commission and Holland Charter Township will continue to explore project partnerships on further segments of 136th Avenue in the future.

Screening for Topsoil

Throughout the year, each of the four Road Commission garages stockpiles soil that has been excavated from project sites. This soil has not been broken down or sifted in any way and typically contains roots, weeds, sticks, and rocks.

This raw "unscreened" soil is ideal to use for leveling or filling in low areas. However, the material must be processed in order to use it as topsoil.

The screening process first starts by placing the loose soil from a backhoe

or other heavy equipment into the open mouth of the topsoil screener.

The soil sits on a mesh screen and a hydraulic ram shakes the screen back and forth so that soil, gravel, and other debris small enough to fall through, is ground beneath.

The grinders pulverize the soil into a fine consistency. Once it's small enough in diameter, the soil falls past the grinders and onto the beginning of a conveyor belt. The belt carries the

soil up and away to form another stockpile.

This soil is now topsoil.



The above picture shows the topsoil screening process in action at the North Holland garage. The Road Commission rents a topsoil screening machine as needed.

Where does Stormwater Go?



Shown above is a photo of a painted stencil next to a catch basin that was taken by the Macatawa River Watershed Group.

Stormwater is simply any water that falls during rainstorms or melts from snowfall. When stormwater falls on impervious surfaces, such as roads and parking lots, the runoff goes into drainage systems and eventually enters our lakes and streams.

As this stormwater runs across the roads, parking lots, and surrounding areas, it can pick up

pollutants, such as oil and sediments. These pollutants can lower the water quality in our lakes and streams, causing harm to aquatic organisms.

The Road Commission is an active participant in watershed groups such as the Macatawa River and the Lower Grand.

A watershed is an area of land where all the water;

including rain, snowmelt and groundwater flow into the same stream, lake, river, or bay. Just as townships, counties, or states have boundaries, so do watersheds.

The watershed groups strive to provide the public with information to recognize the purpose of drainage systems and the qualities and goals for effective, environmentally friendly drainage.

Safe Roads for Everyone

A new rule to the Michigan Motor Carrier Safety Act says commercial motor vehicle (CMV) drivers cannot "use a hand-held mobile telephone" while driving a CMV.

This new rule does not completely ban cell phone usage; however, it does restrict cell phone use while driving a CMV.

According to the rule, use of a hand held mobile

telephone means:

- Using at least one hand to hold a mobile telephone to conduct a voice communication;
- Dialing or answering a mobile telephone by pressing more than a single button, or
- Reaching for a mobile telephone in a manner that requires

a driver to maneuver so that he or she is no longer in a seated driving position or restrained by a seat belt.

In the interest of public safety, the Road Commission is establishing guidelines that comply with current regulations as to when, where, and how an employee can use a cell phone while driving.



Shown above is the low cost beaver guard being installed by Gary Slagle and Pat Wolf from the Grand Haven garage.

Beaver Guard

To a beaver, a culvert under a roadway looks like a hole in an otherwise perfect dam. So they plug them, often backing up the stream until the water flows over the roadway.

The Road Commission has an issue with beavers

plugging up a culvert on 128th Avenue in Robinson Township.

After looking at several costly solutions through vendors and on the internet, Tom Langeland from Grand Haven garage was able to fabricate a low

cost beaver guard that will have minimal impact to the natural habitat.

