



Work zones: Drive like you work here



National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW) is this month and, in its 19th year, the week serves as a reminder that we are all responsible for work zone safety.

This year's NWZAW is April 8-12, and the theme of this year's campaign is "Drive Like You

Work Here".

Recent statistics from the National Highway Safety Administration's Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) show (from 2016 to 2017) a two percent increase in total work zone fatalities and an



increase from 668 to 710 total work zone crashes.

Those statistics demonstrate the importance of spreading awareness of work zone safety.

Safety Tips for the Driver

Stay Alert & Minimize Distractions

- Dedicate your full attention to the roadway.
- Avoid changing the radio station, using a mobile phone, eating, or other distractions that can remove your concentration from the road.



Keep Your Headlights On

Pay Attention to the Road

- Watch and pay attention to the signs along the road
- Watch brake lights on vehicles ahead
- Watch traffic around you and be prepared to react

Merge into the proper lane

- Merge well before you reach the lane closure.
- Be aware that traffic patterns can change daily

Don't tailgate

- Follow other vehicles at a safe distance



Obey the Posted Speed Limit

- Workers may be present just feet away
- Fines may be doubled for moving traffic violations
- Be prepared to slow down further if conditions indicate the need

Change Lanes Safely

- Change lanes only where pavement markings indicate, and only when traffic conditions permit

Follow Instructions from Flaggers

Expect the Unexpected

- Workers, work vehicles, or equipment may enter your lane without warning
- Other vehicles may slow, stop, or change lanes unexpectedly

Look out for springtime shoulder work

Road commission crews reshape or “pull” shoulders on paved roads throughout the county every spring before the grass begins to grow on the side of the road.

This maintenance helps restore the shoulder shape and function.

A typical problem that develops is that the gravel surface of the shoulder does

not meet the paved edge of the roadway. If the shoulder is too high, the road will not drain properly; if the shoulder is too low, a hazardous drop-off condition can result.

Reshaping a gravel shoulder is a routine maintenance activity performed by Road Commission staff using a motor grader. This maintenance is done to reclaim gravel that has been pushed into the shoulder as well as to remove the berm which keeps the water from flowing off the road.

A similar process is done on gravel roads where gravel is displaced onto the shoulder from either rain washing it off the road or from vehicles kicking it up from normal driving. By pulling shoulders on gravel roads and reclaiming it back into the roadway surface, the Road Commission saves thousands of tons of gravel each year.

Throughout the year, maintenance crews check on both paved and gravel road shoulders and regrade them as necessary.



Spring yard debris and brush reminder



As a reminder, when cleaning up your yards for the spring, we ask that you please refrain from placing onto the road shoulder brush piles consisting of small trees, branches and other debris that have fallen into your yard.

Our road crews will not go out and pick up brush piles placed along the shoulder.

Homeowners are encouraged to take responsibility in their own cleanup efforts and dispose of tree debris per their township requirements.

The Road Commission only picks up tree branches that have fallen into the road or shoulder from trees located within the road right-of-way.

Huls joins OCRC engineering team



The Ottawa County Road Commission is pleased to welcome Joshua Huls to the engineering department, where he will be working as an engineering aide.

A native of Shelby, Michigan, Joshua graduated from Michigan Technological University with a Bachelor of Science degree in survey engineering.

While attending college, Joshua spent some time as an intern with the Michigan Department of Transportation in Sault Ste. Marie. He also interned in Alaska.

Joshua has 4 years of experience working at commercial site development and municipal infrastructure projects throughout Montana.

Joshua most recently worked in the survey department at Driesenga & Associates Inc. in Holland.

When he's not working, he enjoys spending time outdoors where he hunts, fishes, camps and kayaks, among other activities.

Youngsters give thanks to OCRC crews

The Ottawa County Road Commission is thankful to have tremendous support from the community. This support comes from people of all ages, as was evident from recent actions taken by youngsters in the community.

Noticing the hard work that our plow drivers put in each and every winter, the girls of Girl Scout Troop 4101 decided to donate two cases of Girl Scout cookies to the North Holland garage. The girls also signed a card thanking our dedicated winter maintenance crew for all of their hard work.

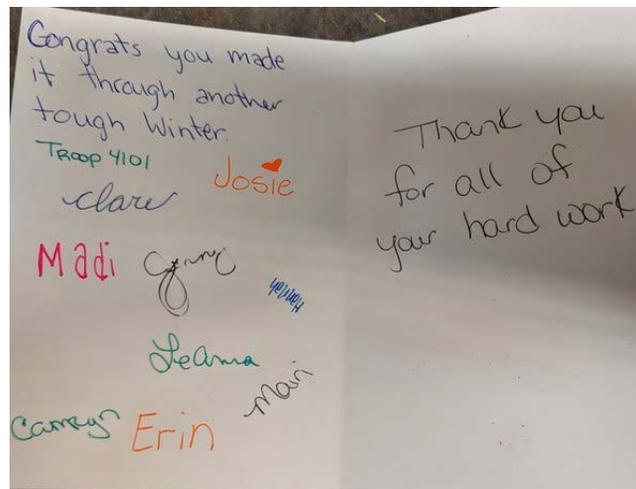
Students from Bauerwood Elementary School in Jenison also noted the hard work our drivers put in this winter. The students wrote letters of appreciation and thanks to staff, noting how vital the Road Commission's work is to their everyday lives during the winter.

Additionally, students at Alward Elementary School sent us a card thanking us for participating in their S.T.E.A.M. career night.

The card features students' own snowplow creations on the front and back, and a nice note from the students and staff on the inside.



Card from students at Alward Elementary School.



Card from local Girl Scout Troop 4101.

Looking Back: North Beach Park



Cars fill the parking lot of North Beach Park in Ferrysburg in the OCRC archive photo.

Important Dates:

April 11, 2019 | 9AM | Board Meeting

April 25, 2019 | 9AM | Board Meeting



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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