



Shake your mailbox before the snow flies!

Before the snow begins to fly, the Ottawa County Road Commission reminds residents to prepare for winter by shaking their mailboxes.

Over time, mailbox posts can rot or become wobbly, which can lead to snapped posts and mailboxes thrown from their pedestals.

Snow from snowplows has a surprising force that can topple an unstable mailbox, so it's important to make sure it's placed solidly in the ground.

If you shake your mailbox and it's loose, the box may need to be repaired or replaced before winter weather sets in.



Shake your mailbox

This simple trick will get you ready for winter.

-  Winter is coming. Don't let your mailbox become a casualty of winter weather.
-  Damaged mailboxes can be hazardous to drivers if they come loose
-  Mailboxes that aren't sturdy are more likely to break or be damaged by heavy snow, wind and the force from plows.

To check the sturdiness of your mailbox, shake it by the post and if it "gives," it's likely that your mailbox could come loose this winter.

Check with the Road Commission and post office for mailbox type and placement policies, as well as any replacement options for damaged mailboxes.



Scan the code with your smartphone or visit <https://youtu.be/6KeytQkQY8Y> to watch a video to learn more.

Either replace the old mailbox and post with a new sturdier one, or tighten screws and ensure the post and box are secure enough to endure the large amounts of snow that's thrown from the plow blade.

If a mailbox is damaged by snow that's been thrown from Road Commission equipment during winter maintenance operations, or if it's been damaged by OCRC equipment, property owners may receive a new standard mailbox and/or a single 4"x4" wood post at one our four garage locations.

The property owner is responsible for removing the damaged mailbox/post and installing the replacement mailbox/post.

We ask that people contact our main office at (616) 842-5400 to schedule an appointment prior to coming in to pick up a new mailbox.

For more information about our mailbox replacement policy and other winter maintenance FAQs, visit <http://www.ottawacorc.com/resources/>.

OCRC receives bridge funding for FY 2023



The Ottawa County Road Commission received some good news related to several future bridge projects.

The Grand Region Local Bridge Council under the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Local Bridge Program met in October to review the Fiscal Year 2023 applications for bridge replacement,

rehabilitation, and preventative maintenance.

There were 64 applications totaling over \$28 million, with only \$4.8 million available for the council to distribute under this program.

Based on the decision of the Local Bridge Council, the Ottawa County Road Commission received funding for two bridges in Fiscal Year 2023 from the MDOT Local Bridge Program:

- **Hayes Street over a branch of Sand Creek.** This is a replacement project in Wright/Tallmadge Township.
- **Green Street over Stearns Bayou.** This is a preventative maintenance project in Robinson Township.

The Local Bridge Program is a major source of funding for local bridge projects.

Applications are submitted each year for possible funding. Applications are reviewed based on bridge rating and condition, the impacted area, detour route, and other social and economic factors.

How traffic signals account for time changes

With Sunday, November 1, marking the end of Daylight Saving Time, we're all reminded to set our clocks back one hour.

While we all set our clocks back at home and in our cars, have you ever wondered what the process entails for changing the time settings for traffic signals?



The process is easier than you may think!

Our signal timing and operations are done remotely through GPS capabilities.

The software utilized with the GPS units makes the necessary corrections to the signal operations whenever we have to fall back or spring forward.

A 'Royal Cleanup' along 32nd Ave., Quincy St.



The Ottawa County Road Commission would like to send a big "Thank You" to a hardworking group of volunteers from Royal Technologies in Hudsonville!

A group of employees volunteered their time on Oct. 24 for a roadside cleanup along 32nd Avenue and Quincy Street.

In all, these volunteers collected roughly 300 lbs. of trash from along the side of the road!

Thank you for helping make a difference in our community via your "Royal Cleanup 2020" event!



Important Dates:

November 5, 2019 | 9 a.m. | Board Meeting

November 11, 2019 | Closed for Veterans Day

November 19, 2019 | 9 a.m. | Board Meeting

November 26-27, 2019 | Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday



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The Ottawa County Road Commissioners:
Tom Bird | Tom Elhart | Betty Gajewski | Tim Grifhorst | Jim Miedema

Managing Director: Brett Laughlin

Who manages the roads and how are they funded?

The Ottawa County Road Commission manages the roads--not the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners or Ottawa County staff. The Ottawa County Road Commission is funded by fuel taxes, vehicle registrations and millage dedicated to the Ottawa County roads. Other property taxes you pay to Ottawa County do not fund road repairs or snow removal. Concerns about roads should be directed to the Ottawa County Road Commission.