

THE MILE MARKER

DECEMBER 22, 2016

FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK

Another year has come to an end. It seems like yesterday we were ringing in the new year, and now 2016 is almost gone. But what a productive year it has been for the Road Commission!

During the past year, SCRC added four (4) full time employees to their workforce. This has been long overdue. In the past three (3) years, ten (10) new employees have been hired. For many years, we were unable to fill positions of those retiring, let alone hire new employees. We are finally at a point where we feel comfortable filling those vacant positions. This has helped to alleviate some of the "pressures" of trying to prioritize which job is more important. Employees are more evenly distributed in each district to provide extra help and additional assistance.

On December 2nd, the Road Commission closed on the purchase of a storage facility on Hess St. [just across from our Saginaw yard] to use as a cold storage building for our equipment. This building will aid in getting some of our equipment that would normally sit outside in the elements, into a dry area to help extend the life and minimize maintenance needs.

Internally, each department has been actively participating in the planning and preparation of the 2017 budget and trying to decide how to stretch a dollar in order to maintain our level of service to the residents of Saginaw County.

This is the time of year that our maintenance department is most-recognized. They work hard all year round making sure that the roads are maintained, however, when the snow flies.....that is when they shine!

Our engineering department is planning future projects and seeing that the design work is completed over the winter months so construction can begin once the snow melts.

I'd like to take a moment to recognize the amazing and talented group of individuals working here at the Road Commission. I am very proud to lead such a dynamic organization. I want to shout out a huge **THANK YOU** to each and every member of the SCRC team for your hard work, dedication and taking pride in the job you do.

Each year at this time, I get a little sentimental.....as we say goodbye to the past, we look forward to the future and embrace change with open arms. Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2017!

Great Job Team!

Dennis

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Follow us on Facebook to find out what our crews are doing and where they are working each day.



Are You Investing in your Future?

Deferred Compensation offers potential for tax-deferred growth. When you invest for retirement through your deferred compensation program, your money is invested before it is taxed. Therefore, the amount of taxes you pay each pay period is reduced because you are taxed neither on the contributions nor the earnings until you take a distribution. Plus, investing is easy since the money is automatically deducted before it reaches your paycheck and before you have a chance to spend it.

Today people want to retire earlier than ever. With medical advances and improved lifestyles, life expectancies are increasing. Most people retire between age 55 and 65 and live well into their 80's. That's a lot of years to plan - and save - for.

For those employees contributing to their 457 deferred comp plan, the IRS has announced the 2017 limits for these contributions. They are as follows:

- Maximum elective deferral by employee is **\$18,000**.
- Catch-up contribution (age 50 and older during 2017) is up to an additional **\$6,000**.

Any active employee wishing to increase or change their contributions, please contact Mike Girard at 989-399-3759.

Two Elected to ASMRC Board



Saginaw County Road Commissioner, Deb Kestner has been elected to serve as President of the Association of Southern Michigan Road Commissions (ASMRC) for 2017. Kestner was elected to the ASMRC board in 2016 and is currently serving as its Vice President.

"Many of the roads and bridges in our state are well beyond their service life and there is not a funding plan in place for their replacement," Kestner said. "We need more than just a one-time funding increase from Lansing. We need a debate on the state's long-term infrastructure needs and funding at the local, state and federal level."



At the annual ASMRC conference in September, Saginaw County Road Commission's Director of Engineering, Joe Wisniewski, was also elected to serve on the ASMRC board. Wisniewski brings 9 years of engineering experience. Wisniewski also represents the Saginaw County Road Commission on the County Road Association (CRA) Public Relations Committee and serves as the Vice Chair of the County Engineers Workshop.

ASMRC is an association led by county road agency volunteers who are dedicated to promoting best practices and providing educational opportunities for county road agency employees and commissioners.

MAINTENANCE UPDATE

Many activities have been completed this past year including:

- ◆ **Chip Seal:** 100 miles primary & local—our best product in years!
- ◆ **Ditching:** Miles of cleaned and set back ditches to include hydro-seeding and all DEQ soil erosion & sediment control measures were completed.
- ◆ **Tailgate Gravel or Gravel Lifts:** 40 miles completed - Countywide.
- ◆ **Hot Patching:** 40 distributor loads - Countywide.
- ◆ **One Man Road Patcher:** 2 units ran daily.
- ◆ **Tree Removal:** Continuing fall & winter projects.
- ◆ **Cross-Culvert Replacement:** From 12" to box culverts - numerous were completed Countywide.
- ◆ **Crack Sealing:** Many primary roads in Saginaw Twp. & approved local roads - Countywide.
- ◆ **Brush Cutting:** Mainly in District 3 (southwestern portion of the County) & District 2 (eastern portion of the County) along with other locations, as needed.
- ◆ **Shoulder Maintenance:** Countywide.
- ◆ **Grading & Brining:** Gravel roads routinely.
- ◆ **Spraying Completed:**
- ◆ **Brush spraying** in District 3 (southeastern portion of the County).
- ◆ **Guardrail spraying** - Countywide.
- ◆ **Cattails** - local roads Countywide & Primary roads in District 2 (eastern portion of the County) & District 6 (northern portion of the County).
- ◆ **Phragmites**—treated - Countywide.
- ◆ **Sweeping:** Curbs, bridge decks & chip seal routes completed.
- ◆ **Storm Drain & Catch Basin Maintenance:** Continuous repairs, replacements & routine maintenance - Countywide.
- ◆ **Sign Shop:** Updating signs & routine sign maintenance - Countywide.
- ◆ **Line Striping & Pavement Marking:** Prioritized locations were completed per budget.
- ◆ **Equipment:** Repairs, refurbishing & new equipment purchased.

Not only was there a high quantity of work completed, but the quality is outstanding! Some of these activities will continue throughout the winter months and Mother Nature will determine the time we have invested preforming one of our main maintenance activity - WINTER OPERATIONS. Our equipment inspection was completed on 10/27/16. The issues that were found in our pre-winter inspection have been addressed. Our night crew started Sunday, November 27, 2016 and will continue until Mid-March. The end date will be determined based on forecasted weather.

Our facilities are up in age and in need of repair and upgrading. Shown here,

you'll see our facilities listed; including the year that each facility was built or operational.

- ◆ **Saginaw Maintenance Garage opened - 1957**
- ◆ **Saginaw Administration Building opened - 1968**
- ◆ **Chesaning Garage opened - 1964**
- ◆ **Hemlock Garage opened - 1960**

This past year, facility repairs consisted of:

- ◆ Saginaw Garage - a deteriorated south wall in the maintenance garage was removed & replaced—with additional drainage work included.
- ◆ Three overhead garage doors were removed & replaced with insulated doors in the Saginaw maintenance garage.
- ◆ A heating system in the office area was replaced in the Saginaw maintenance garage.
- ◆ A generator was installed as a backup power source at the Saginaw maintenance garage.
- ◆ A generator is being installed as a backup power source at the Saginaw administration building.
- ◆ The old compressor was replaced with a new one at the Saginaw maintenance garage.

All of these issues or updates are justified and needed. The windows and heating & cooling upgrades are long overdue and in time, will pay for themselves in having a more energy efficient systems. We have a list potential future projects in our 5 year (and beyond) plan that will be addressed annually with approval and as budget allows.

A true team effort has been continuously performed throughout the divisions & ranks of the Saginaw County Road Commission. Working together as one and understanding the importance of assisting our partners at the City, State, County & Township levels. The team effort even extends beyond the mentioned organization to include Central Dispatch, Sheriff's Department, police, fire, EOC, and utility companies throughout the area. When an emergency develops, it's a great feeling to know that the SCRC will be there, assisting as needed, or leading the charge to address the situation, working as one.

Coming into the winter season I would like to thank all the employees for their continued dedication. I'd also like to thank their families for understanding our responsibility to our customers, when your loved ones are asked to work extended hours, many times in the most unpleasant conditions.

Thank you to all and have a safe & wonderful holiday season!

Dan Medina, Director of Maintenance

TECHNICAL CORNER: Tips for Online Shopping

USE FAMILIAR WEBSITES

Start at a trusted site rather than shopping with a search engine. Search results can be rigged to lead you astray, especially when you drift past the first few pages of links. If you know the site, chances are it's less likely to be a rip off. We all know Amazon.com and that it carries everything under the sun; likewise, just about every major retail outlet has an online store, from Target to Best Buy to Home Depot. Beware of misspellings or sites using a different top-level domain (.net instead of .com, for example)—those are the oldest tricks in the book. Yes, the sales on these sites might look enticing, but that's how they trick you into giving up your info.

LOOK FOR THE LOCK

Never ever, ever buy anything online using your credit card from a site that doesn't have SSL (secure sockets layer) encryption installed—at the very least. You'll know if the site has SSL because the URL for the site will start with HTTPS:// (instead of just HTTP://). An icon of a locked padlock will appear, typically in the status bar at the bottom of your web browser, or right next to the URL in the address bar. It depends on your browser. Never, ever give anyone your credit card over email. Ever.

DON'T TELL ALL

No online shopping store needs your social security number or your birthday to do business. However, if crooks get them, combined with your credit card number for purchases, they can do a lot of damage. The more they know, the easier it is to steal your identity. When possible, default to giving up the least amount of information.

CHECK STATEMENTS

Don't wait for your bill to come at the end of the month. Go online

regularly during the holiday season and look at electronic statements for your credit card, debit card, and checking accounts. Make sure you don't see any fraudulent charges, even originating from sites like PayPal. (After all, there's more than one way to get to your money.)

INOCULATE YOUR PC

Swindlers don't just sit around waiting for you to give them data; sometimes they give you a little something extra to help things along. You need to protect against malware with regular updates to your anti-virus program.

THINK MOBILE

There's no real need to be any more nervous about shopping on a mobile device than online. The trick is to use apps provided directly by the retailers, like Amazon, Target, etc. Use the apps to find what you want and then make the purchase directly, without going to the store or the website.

AVOID PUBLIC TERMINALS

It is never a good idea to use a public computer to make an online purchase. What about using your own laptop to shop while you're out? It's one thing to hand over a credit card to get swiped at the checkout, but when you must enter the number and expiration date on a website while sitting in a public cafe, you're giving an over-the-shoulder snooper plenty of time to see the goods.

COUNT THE CARDS

Gift cards are the most requested holiday gift every year, and this year will be no exception. Stick to the source when you buy one; scammers like to auction off gift cards on sites like eBay with little or no funds on them.

Tom Luck, Information Systems Manager

UPCOMING MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

Estimated Dates

JANUARY, 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSED	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSED	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

FEBRUARY, 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

MARCH, 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Pollution Prevention Practices

Employ these simple pollution prevention practices during winter weather to prevent stormwater pollution.

- ◆ **Shovel/plow snow first** to remove it from paved surfaces, like driveways and sidewalks, **before** applying snow melt and de-icing products.
- ◆ **Pile snow downslope** of paved surfaces to help prevent icy and slippery conditions on pavement as snow melts and refreezes.
- ◆ **Shovel, blow or plow snow onto lawn** and vegetated areas where melting snow can soak into the ground.
- ◆ **Take a "Snow Day"** – work at home or postpone errands on snow days avoiding trips on the road to help county and municipal road crews clear roads safely, possibly limiting the need for excessive road salting and de-icing.
- ◆ **Sweep up after snowmelt** – Sweep and dispose of residual sand, grit and litter to help prevent accumulation in streets and roadside ditches, drains and culverts, and sediment pollution in streams and rivers.
- ◆ **Keep gutters and drainage pathways clear** and free of debris to prevent snowmelt from backing up and forming ice in places where you want runoff to flow freely.
- ◆ **Direct, or route, snowmelt runoff into nearby gardens** and vegetated areas before applying salt and de-icing products.

Remember: Stormwater pollution is a major cause of water pollution in our urban and suburban streams and drains which go to our rivers and the Great Lakes.

Russ Beaubien, Spicer Group/SASWA



2017 Proposed Construction Season

Township	Road	Location	Type of Improvement
Birch Run	Birch Run Rd.	Over the Briggs Drain	Box Culvert Replacement
Brady/Chapin	Steel Rd. Bridge	Over South Branch of the Bad River	Bridge Reconstruction
Buena Vista	Portsmouth Rd.	M-81 to Munger Rd.	Scrub Seal
Chesaning/Maple Grove	Gasper Rd.	over the Fairchild Creek	Box Culvert Replacement
James	Hart Rd.	Willing Rd. to Miller Rd.	Road Rehabilitation
Jonesfield	Merrill Rd.	over the Handy Creek Drain	Box Culvert Replacement
Jonesfield	Merrill Rd.	Ederer Rd. to Merrill Village Limits	Scrub Seal
Lakefield	Merrill Rd.	Swan Creek Rd. to Ederer Rd.	Scrub Seal
Taymouth	Nichols Rd.	Birch Run Rd. to Willard Rd.	Road Rehabilitation
Tittabawassee	Hospital Rd.	Freeland Rd. to Buck Rd.	Road Rehabilitation

We're On The Web!

www.scrs-mi.org

SCRC

SAGINAW COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

3020 Sheridan Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48601

Phone: 989-752-6140
Fax: 989-752-8934

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS: Monday–Friday
7:00 A.M.–3:30 P.M.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS: May 1st – Sept. 30th
Monday–Thursday 6:00 A.M.–4:00 P.M.
CLOSED FRIDAY

COMMISSIONERS

Richard H. Crannell, P.E. - Chairperson

Deb Kestner - Vice-Chairperson

John D. Sangster—Member

Todd M. Hare - Member

Ronald L. Sholtz - Member

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Dennis L. Borchard

Saginaw County Road Commission has over 1,848 miles of roads to maintain. Although local townships share in the cost of maintaining some of the roads, the Saginaw County Road Commission is responsible for most of the cost.

The extensive number of rivers and drains in Saginaw County means there are also over 200 bridges to maintain. Smaller tributaries and ditches add more than 2,800 culverts to the road system and the list continues to grow as new roads are built to meet the needs of our ever changing and expanding community.

As you can see, maintaining the county road system is no easy task; however, everyone at the Saginaw County Road Commission is committed to giving you the best road system for your money. We are proud to be a part of the Saginaw Community and are committed to building a quality road system which will last for many generations to come.

HEALTH CORNER: Eating Clean

THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF EATING CLEAN

Eating clean involves not only choosing the right foods to eat but also avoiding all of the junk foods and processed foods that are so readily available. The keys to good health and proper nutrition are in the following principles:

- **Eat whole foods:** Whole foods are foods that haven't been tampered with, in the lab or the manufacturing plant. The foods you eat on this plan are straight from the farm: whole fruits and vegetables, whole grains, grass-fed and free-range meats, low fat dairy products, unsalted nuts, and seeds.
- **Avoid processed foods:** Processed foods are any food that has a label. A label means that more than one ingredient was used to make that food. You don't have to eliminate all processed foods (like whole grain pasta or natural cheeses), but if you can't pronounce an ingredient on a label, don't put that food in your shopping basket.
- **Eliminate refined sugar.** Refined sugar provides nothing but calories. Other sweeteners can be used, but with all the good foods you add to your diet, refined sugar really has very little place in the eating clean plan.
- **Eat five or six small meals a day.** By eating smaller meals throughout the day you can help rev up your metabolism and reduce the chance that you'll eat some Funyuns rather than that whole grain cracker with nut butter and strawberries. You never get so hungry on this plan that you'll feel deprived or feel the need to cheat.
- **Cook your own meals.** Instead of buying meals in a box, cook meals from scratch. That's not as hard as it sounds! Clean, whole foods need little preparation beyond chopping and sautéing to make satisfying, delicious meals your family will love.
- **Combine protein with carbs.** When you do snack or eat a meal, make sure that meal is balanced. For the most satisfaction from your diet, and so you'll be less tempted to eat junk food, combine protein with carbs or carbs and fat. This simple act will fuel your body and squash hunger pangs.



SCRC ANNIVERSARIES

Service Years Based on Hire Date—Not Seniority Date

EMPLOYEE	JANUARY	YRS. OF SERVICE
Joseph St. Charles	2	4
Kenneth Weber	2	4
Elmer Shepherd	3	10
Ben Follett	12	11
Vincent Donald	15	10
Ben Iliff	24	21
Chris Breternitz	26	8
Ed Krupp	27	8
Aric Martin	28	8

EMPLOYEE	FEBRUARY	YRS. OF SERVICE
Marty Anderson	14	12
Scott Peters	22	18

EMPLOYEE	MARCH	YRS. OF SERVICE
Brian Kleinfeld	1	18
Jim Lehman	6	14
Scott Hare	26	27
Jason Brown	27	17
Michael Nixon	28	17

