

THE MILE MARKER

MARCH 3, 2017

FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK

Well, here we are...a quarter of the way through 2017 already! It has thankfully been an uneventful winter thus far. The temperatures have stayed predominately mild, for the most part, and our snowfall has been minimal. For our snowmobiling and skiing friends....well, this has not been such a great winter – unless they headed north.

These milder temperatures have also forced us to place our frost laws on earlier than normal. This does not make us popular with our truck driving friends, however, trying to preserve the roads is our number one concern.

This has been an exciting past few months at the Road Commission. In December, we purchased a building on Hess St. [just across from our Saginaw yard] to use as a cold storage for our equipment. Renovations have begun to this facility in preparation of moving in our seasonal equipment, to get it out of the weather elements.

Plans are also in the works for some cosmetic updates and renovations to our Saginaw Administration Building. This includes the replacement of our antiquated HVAC system. This is a much needed update, as our current system is so outdated that it is almost impossible to find parts when repairs are needed; let alone finding a technician who still services this old model.

We are in the process of filling much-needed positions in order to get our staff back up to a more workable level. We went several years where it was impossible to replace employees when they retired (due to budget constraints); leaving our current staff to wear multiple hats and for some of our duties to unfortunately, get pushed by the wayside. We are finally heading in the right direction.

In February, we held our annual district meetings. These meetings were attended by Township Supervisors and Officials from each respective district, along with Road Commission Staff (Manager, Director of Maintenance, Maintenance Superintendent, Foreman (of each district), Director of Engineering & Finance Director). These meetings help to educate the local officials and help to assist in planning projects and maintenance work for the upcoming season. They are very informative and they produced great dialect amongst those in attendance. Good communication is key!

All in all, I feel that we are off to a great start for 2017. As always, I would like to give a heartfelt thank you to the whole SCRC Team for their hard work and outstanding dedication!

Dennis

Spring Cleaning Sweeps In

When we think of Spring many things are on people's minds; we think of it coming in like a lion and going out like a lamb, or many of us think of the "March Madness" and the college basketball tournaments, but we are also thinking of spring cleaning. Since we don't have much to say about the weather forecast or predicting the March Madness tournament results, we thought we'd share some of our stormwater-friendly spring cleaning tips instead.

If you plan on doing any cleaning outdoors, please remember to use a broom rather than the hose to remove any leaf litter or debris from your driveway or nearby sidewalks. When you use a hose, that water simply flows to the nearest storm drain or directly to the nearest water body, carrying with it all the dirt you were trying to get rid of!

If you plan on cleaning out old cans of paint or household cleansers such as oven cleaner or paint thinner, please don't pour them out! Call the Local Health Department, or Solid Waste Authority to make an appointment or obtain information on how to dispose of these hazardous household items. When poured on the ground, those toxic chemicals are carried by stormwater directly to our local water resources. And who wants to swim or fish with paint, or even worse chemicals?



Russ Beaubien, Spicer Group/SASWA

Two Retire from SCRC



The "Voice of the Road Commission", Gerald (Jerry) Schmidt, retired in January with over 27 years of service. Jerry began his Road Commission career in 1989, working in the Engineering Department as a CAD operator. In 2008, when the Engineering Department was downsized, Jerry stepped in as the Receptionist/Dispatcher. He was full of Road Commission knowledge and became the "front line man" for streamlining calls and providing information. During this time, Jerry still maintained all of the Road Commission maps and CAD drawings. Jerry also served, for many years, as the Treasurer for the Local 1987—AFSCME, AFL-CIO. Jerry will definitely be missed, not just by his Road Commission family, but also by all of the residents and vendors who regularly contacted the office.



Also in January, Henry Wilson, Jr. retired from the Road Commission with 16 years of service. Henry began his Road Commission career in 1999. Henry hired in as a Group 3 Truck Driver. At retirement, he was the Grader Operator for District 6 (Carrollton, Kochville, Saginaw, Tittabawasee & Zilwaukee Townships). Henry also took an active role in the Local 1987—AFSCME, AFL-CIO; at one point serving as the Chief Steward.

There is over 43 years of combined service between these two. They both will be missed. Jerry and Henry, we wish you the very best on your retirement!

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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.
- SCRC's summer work schedule begins on May 1st. Office hours will be Monday–Thursday from 6:00 am – 4:00 pm Closed on Friday.



MAINTENANCE UPDATE

The 2017 maintenance winter season started in high gear, but much to our surprise, faded quickly. In February, we had many days with above normal temperatures. Township meetings were completed reviewing projects and activities from last year. Project options, recommendations and estimate were shared for the coming season.

Our new Hess St. building was prepped and minor repairs were completed. This facility will be utilized for an equipment cold storage building, allowing us to keep our equipment covered and out of the elements.

Preparations are being finalized for facility needs. An energy efficient HVAC unit is being replaced in our administration building. Window replacement and downsizing the current sizes in the Saginaw garage will also provide an energy savings.

The early warmer temps with minimal frost in the ground will allow us to get a head start on many maintenance activities (i.e. curb sweeping, road patching, ditching and tile repairs). The 2017 chip seal plan involves 35 miles of primary roads in District 6 (northern portion of the County) and any approved local roads. In past year, the local road system averaged a total of 70 miles of roadway.

As mentioned in past newsletters, we had been getting some request from some of our Townships to consider trying another product other than 23A limestone for our gravel hauls (lifts) in the future. We've agreed and have tried a different product on test areas last year to see how they perform dur-

ing each season (to complete a year in review), compared to using the 23A limestone. Natural gravel was placed in two different locations. The first was on Chapin Rd. between Schroeder Rd. & Ithaca Rd. in Marion Twp. The second location was on Dice Rd. between Fordney Rd. & Raucholz Rd. in Richland Twp. We've been keeping a close eye on these locations. We'll seek input from both the Township and customers who reside within these roadways or drive these roads on a regular basis. If we agree that one of these options or alternatives performs better than the 23A limestone, we'll discuss this options further for future use.

Our finding to date is that natural gravel has performed well at the stated locations above. We feel that both the 23A limestone & the natural gravel each have their pros & cons. Each roadway should be considered on a case by case basis. The area and amount of traffic on each roadway will determine which material would perform better.

All departments are working well together as one Team and we look forward to the coming season in addressing the many maintenance needs throughout the county.

Dan Medina, Director of Maintenance

TECHNICAL CORNER

6 Tips to Keep Your Home Computer Safe and Secure

1. CHECK YOUR FIREWALL

Checking your firewall sounds complicated, but it really isn't. If you own a Windows-based system, just go to your control panel and type "firewall" in the search box. If your firewall is "on" or "connected," then you're good to go. If you own a Mac, click the Apple icon on your toolbar, go to "system preferences," then "security," then "firewall." Making sure you have a firewall in place can go a long way toward keeping criminals out. Make sure that you share some of your folders only on the home network.

2. BACK UP YOUR DATA

Backing up your data protects you in the event of a computer crash or electrical outage or surge, like a lightning storm might produce. It also helps if you fall prey to the newer type of ransomware, which encrypts your sensitive data. You can do your back-up manually by transferring important documents to an external hard drive, or using a service like [Carbonite](#).

3. STAY AWAY FROM ROGUE WEBSITES

Spotting a rogue website can be difficult, but there are a few things you can do to hone your skills. Look for a green lock in the address bar and the code prefix "https://" at the beginning of the URL while visiting banking sites, entering your credit card data or accessing your web mail. Be careful when shopping at a website that ships items from overseas, and don't click on links sent to you in email messages, go directly to the website itself instead.

4. AVOID DEALS THAT ARE TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE

If you see a deal for 90% off The Beatles Collection CD, it very well could be a knock off. Even worse, some sites are known to lure customers in with an amazing deal, and once they have your credit card information they're never to be heard from again – your identity may be compromised and there's not even a product to show for it. The simple rule of thumb here is: If it looks to good to be true then it probably is.

5. NEVER DIVULGE SENSITIVE INFORMATION

No matter what website you're on be careful of the sensitive information you reveal. Although it's pretty much common knowledge not to give out your social security number or credit card information unless you trust a website completely, you should be just as careful with your social media profiles as well. Revealing information as innocent as your pet's name or mother's maiden name could lead to identity theft, because you probably use the same data as the security question on some other website.

6. AVOID OPENING UNKNOWN EMAILS

Never open an email from an unknown or suspicious source, and definitely never open any attachments contained in them. You have to be careful of emails coming from people on your contact list as well, especially if the sender's account has been hacked. If an email from someone you regularly communicate with has a suspicious link and unusual content, delete it and immediately alert this person that his or her account may have been compromised. This will help you prevent hacking and [phishing scams](#) where you may be a target.

UPCOMING MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

Estimated Dates

APRIL, 2017

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

MAY, 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Mowing Pvmt Markings Start 4-10's	2	3	4	5 Office Closed	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 Office Closed	13
		Bd. Mtg.				
14	15	16	17	18	19 Office Closed	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 Office Closed	27
28	29 HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSED	30	31			

JUNE, 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	Office Closed
4	5 Mowing Pvmt. Markings Chip Seal	6	7	8	9	Office Closed
11	12	13	14	15	16	Office Closed
			Bd. Mtg.			17
18	19	20	21	22	23	Office Closed
25	26	27	28	29	30	
			Bd. Mtg.			

SAFETY CORNER

Lifting Safely to Prevent Injuries

PLAN AHEAD BEFORE LIFTING

Knowing what you're doing and where you're going will prevent you from making awkward movements while holding something heavy. Clear a path, and if lifting something with another person, make sure both of you agree on the plan.

LIFT CLOSE TO YOUR BODY

You will be a stronger, and more stable lifter if the object is held close to your body rather than at the end of your reach. Make sure you have a firm hold on the object you are lifting, and keep it balanced close to your body.

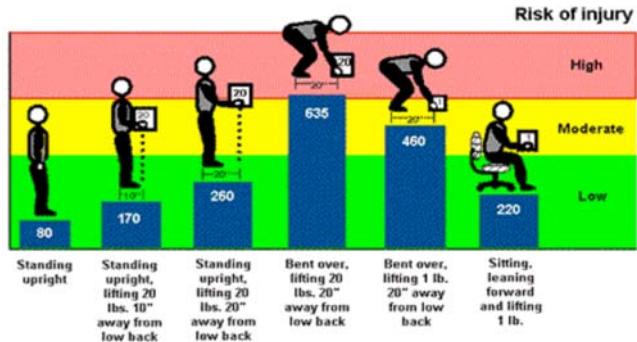
FEET SHOULDER WIDTH APART

A solid base of support is important while lifting. Holding your feet too close together will be unstable, too far apart will hinder movement. Keep the feet about shoulder width apart and take short steps.

BEND YOUR KNEES & KEEP YOUR BACK STRAIGHT

Practice the lifting motion before you lift the object, and think about your motion before you lift. Focus on keeping your spine straight—raise and lower to the ground by bending your knees.

Pounds of compressive force on lower back



Excerpt from Mackinaw Administrator's Newsletter

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
Saginaw	Arboretum Subdivision	Arboretum Subdivision	Road Rehabilitation
Taymouth	Nichols Rd.	Birch Run Rd. to Willard Rd.	Road Rehabilitation
Tittabawassee	Hospital Rd.	Freeland Rd. to Buck Rd.	Road Rehabilitation

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



SCRC ANNIVERSARIES

Service Years Based on Hire Date—Not Seniority Date

EMPLOYEE APRIL YRS. OF SERVICE

Mike Ecker	2	10
Dan Deming	2	27
Jim Warner	26	24
Tim Brown	27	2

EMPLOYEE MAY YRS. OF SERVICE

Richard Irish	2	1
Anthony Jurek	2	1
Ken Wendling, Jr.	2	1
Ben Wenzel	6	15
Chris Burke	14	16
Wayne Kozuch	14	27
Joe Periard	23	23

EMPLOYEE JUNE YRS. OF SERVICE

Tom Luck	2	13
Jeff Harms	3	15
John Flynn	12	11
Mark Sieggreen	26	23
Rob Hudec	28	18

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: Making A Lifestyle Change

If you really want to make a change, then let's do it — together! I won't lie to you, it's not going to be easy. Committing to a healthier lifestyle is just that — a commitment, and it's a big one that will take a lot of work. But believe me when I tell you it'll be worth it! I bet you've already tried it your way, so let's give my way a try.

Here are five steps to change your diet, exercise and lifestyle for the better — for good!

Change Your Mind

The first step is no sweat — literally. It's all in your head. Realize that you have the power to change your life by changing your mind-set. We all have the ability to choose our paths, reach our goals, and build exceptional lives. The challenge is in BELIEVING you can. Get real: Look closely at how your emotions and behaviors are affecting your health. Are you feeding something besides your hunger, like your feelings? Examine your self-destructive behaviors and work on minimizing the negative self-talk. Oftentimes, journaling, positive affirmations, visualization, and other techniques can help improve your self-esteem and move you closer to your goals.

Set Attainable Goals

What is your vision of the ultimate you? Take some time to imagine it, break it down, and then WRITE it down! To make permanent change, you'll need to set short-term and long-term goals, then create and write down your action plans to achieve them. Whether you are establishing a new daily exercise regimen or weekly weigh-in, mastering a new exercise move each week, or learning new healthy recipes to cook for you and your family — setting specific, realistic goals will help you see the progress you're making and keep you motivated. Reward yourself in life-affirming ways — that means no food rewards! Treat yourself to a massage for killing it at the gym all week or splurge on a new workout outfit or pair of sneakers. Reaffirm your belief in yourself and your goals daily, and you'll find yourself taking the active steps needed to achieve them.

Set Up a Support System

You are responsible for your own success, but we all get by with a little help from our friends and family, right? That's why it's important to build a healthy support system. Share your goals and how you're planning to accomplish them. Give them the lowdown on the types of foods you're eating — and no longer eating — and your new workout schedule. Let them know how important it is to you to have their support. Enlist your co-workers too. They can keep you on track on the job by cutting back on leaving the unhealthy treats around. Chances are you'll find someone else looking for support too. Hello, new exercise buddy! Lean on your network when you feel discouraged or unmotivated, and celebrate with them when you hit a milestone.

Make Healthier Choices

Restock your fridge and pantry. Since you can't eat what's not there, dump all the junk foods in your cupboards immediately. Make room for nutritious, energy-boosting fruits, vegetables, lean proteins, and whole grains. Plan out a few go-to healthy meals too, then stock up on those ingredients, along with snack-size packages of nuts, baby carrots, and organic yogurt for when you are on the run.

Start Moving!

Exercise is the BEST way to burn calories and fat. Find out the activities that will allow you to burn the most calories. I'm a huge fan of circuit training because it simultaneously improves mobility, strength, and stamina. If you've been sedentary, just take that first step. You may not be ready to run a half-marathon, but you can go for a walk or maybe even a short run.

Stick with it.

Set up a workout schedule and mark it on your calendar along with your most important appointments of the day — then DO it! It may not be a piece of cake (better not be!), but with the right mindset, motivation, and support system, you CAN do this. Believe in yourself and your ability to change and you will.