

## THE MILE MARKER

SEPTEMBER 24, 2015

## FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK

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As summer comes to an end, the Saginaw County Road Commission is working diligently to complete many road projects prior to the winter season. The maintenance crews were extremely busy this past summer doing jobs such as chip seal, hot patching, placing gravel, ditch cleaning and addressing drainage issues.

This year we will have a couple bridge projects that will begin through the winter months. Work on the Morseville Road bridge over the Silver Creek in Taymouth Township will begin in the Winter of 2015. The Gary Road bridge over the Shiawassee River in St. Charles Township & Chesaning Township will begin in February, 2016. Both of these bridge rehabilitation projects are crucial to our infrastructure.

As we go into the fall, we are already starting to prepare for the winter season. The equipment is inspected, maintenance work is completed, along with any repairs that are necessary. This will help to ensure that once Mother Nature starts letting the snow fly, we are ready to make sure that those traveling within and through Saginaw County, can get to their destinations safely.

I'd like to remind you that "Shake Your Mailbox Day" is October 17, 2015. This day was designated to help residents be proactive in making sure their mailbox can withstand all that the winter season throws at us.

Each winter, mailboxes are damaged during winter maintenance operations. More often than not, damage to mailboxes is caused by snow pushing against weakened posts or hardware. If you can shake your mailbox, it probably needs maintenance.

Take time now to make any repairs necessary so your mailbox will be strong enough to survive the winter. Proper maintenance may help to prevent damage that results in delayed mail delivery, or worse, having to make alternate delivery arrangements.

On "Shake Your Mailbox Day", please give your mailbox an aggressive shaking and thorough inspection.

The fall season gives us time to prepare and re-group. It seems like we are busy year-round. There never seems to be a "slow season" anymore. But our Team is ready for whatever is thrown their way. With that being said, I'd like to take a moment to thank the SCRC Team for their hard work over the summer season. All of you have pulled together and made it a great and productive summer. Here's to a safe fall & winter season!

Dennis



## SCRC Receives Workers' Compensation Award for 5th Straight Year

The Saginaw County Road Commission was recognized for having one of the lowest employee injury rates among road commissions in the state at the County Road Commission Self-Insurance Fund (CRASIF) Annual Meeting on July 23, 2015.

"Low injury rates just don't happen in our business," says Jim deSpelder, Administrator of the County Road Association Self-Insurance Fund. The County Road Association Self-Insurance Fund provides safety training and workers' compensation coverage for road commissions. "Our business is working on the roads. Working on the roads is physically demanding and puts our workers at risk of being injured by passing vehicles. It takes constant reminding employees that their safety on the job is a primary concern of management."

Joyce Randall, Chairperson of the Fund and Manager of the Mecosta County Road Commission, stated "Low injury rates also have monetary benefits to the road commission." She pointed out "lower injury rates result in lower workers compensation premiums. The monetary savings can go to the needs such as maintaining Michigan roads."

"Road commissions that have lower than average injury rates qualify to be on our Honor Roll," commented Jim deSpelder. "They should be applauded for their achievement."

The award was given by the County Road Commission Self Insurance Fund, otherwise known as CRASIF. CRASIF is a Michigan based group fund that provides disability management and workers' compensation to road commissions. CRASIF services 72 out of the 83 road commissions in Michigan.

Press Release Issued by Jim deSpelder, CRASIF

## Welcome to the Road Commission

**Denise Hutchinson** joined the SCRC Team on July 27, 2015 as our Deputy Director of Finance & Benefits. Denise comes to us from Tuscola County Road Commission where she spent over 14 years working in their Human Resource Department. Prior to working at Tuscola County Road Commission, Denise spent 13 years at Tuscola County working as their Chief Accountant/Deputy Treasurer.

Denise has hit the ground running, with the added advantage of being familiar with Cogitate, our specialized government accounting software.

We are very excited about the knowledge and experience that Denise brings to the Road Commission. Please take a moment to give her a warm welcome!

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Welcome Denise Hutchinson - Deputy Director of Finance & Benefits!
- Follow us on Facebook to find out what our crews are doing and where they are working each day.



## MAINTENANCE UPDATE

Well another summer season has come and gone - for many of us faster than any in the past. The Saginaw County Road Commission chip sealed a total of 75 miles of local roads & 27 miles of primary roads this year. Some of these locations were also swept & coated with a top layer of chip lock. Crack sealing was completed countywide on the local road system and primary roads in District 4 (the northwest portion of the county) as our budget allowed. The 2015 tailgate gravel haul totaled 35 miles countywide and 2 applications of brine were applied to our gravel roads this season. Forty loads of hot patching was scheduled and placed this spring. This activity continued through chip seal season when the weather limited our chip seal production. Final hot patching loads were completed in September.

Brush cutting is taking place in District 3 (the southwest portion of the county) and snorkel patching countywide. These operations will be continuously preformed as weather permits. The Sign Shop has worked hard at meeting Federal regulation deadlines in sign retro-reflectivity standards. Line striping has been completed for the year - totaling 300 miles. Unfortunately, budget shortages have restricted us from completing all line striping throughout the county annually. We have had to address this activity on a rotating basis for a number of years now. Ditching, drainage improvements and storm drain maintenance is an endless and ongoing activity.

I'm pleased to say we were able to go back to spraying cattails on all primary roads and vision obstruction locations on our local system. The menace phragmites weed [that has been known to overtake an area and will spread at a rapid pace] were also sprayed county wide. The importance of controlling this weed at the early stages is vital in maintaining proper drainage for our roadways.

We have a couple of drainage/road pulverizing and resurfacing projects in conjunction with a contractor scheduled to complete. The first project is on Townline Road between Pettit Road & Marshall Road in Bridgeport Twp./Taymouth Twp. and one on Pretzer Road between Ederer Road & Swan Creek Road in Fremont Twp. Each location is part of a two year project. Scheduling and coordination encompasses our maintenance crew addressing the drainage issues to include tree removal, setting ditches back to the right-of-way line and box culvert replacement. The contractor will be pulverizing the current road surface and resurfacing the roadway.

## TECHNICAL CORNER

### Mobile Device Best Practices

Your tablet, smart phone, or e-reader is easy to use on the go because it is portable. However, it also carries a risk of being lost, stolen or misplaced. In addition, such devices may have weak authentication mechanisms that can be compromised or easily disabled. The risk to you is even greater if the device is used to store sensitive data.

In order to help mitigate the risk, here are actions you should take to protect your own data and that of others.

- Password protect your device and enable auto-lock. Choose the strongest password that your device can support.
- Follow standard security protocols, such as making sure all operating system and application updates and patches are installed.
- Review the privacy policy and understand what data (location, access to your social networks) any apps can access on your device before you download.
- When in doubt, don't respond: Fraudulent texting, calling and voicemails are on the rise. Just like email, requests for personal information or for immediate action are almost always a scam.
- Wipe the data on your mobile device before disposing of it. Also enable a remote wipe feature in case you have to do so if it is lost. This may include features that will delete stored data on your mobile device if a password is entered incorrectly after a certain number of times. Check with your mobile device provider for specific information concerning your device.
- Report lost, stolen, or misplaced mobile devices to the police immediately. Wipe its data remotely.

Tom Luck, Information Technology Manager

Many tasks for preparation of the coming winter season have already been completed. All salt barns are filled and ready. Mineral well brine levels have also been topped off to include storage quantities doubled at both our Chesaning & Hemlock locations.

We plan to conduct our annual winter preparedness equipment inspection again this season. This inspection gives us a good evaluation of our equipment conditions and allows us sufficient time to schedule and complete any necessary repairs prior to coming winter weather season. Prior to the inspection, an informational meeting will be conducted to review winter expectation and SCRC policy and procedures through this winter season.

Our team of employees continue to work hard, producing quality work for our customers, and I'm certain this attitude will continue as we move on to another Michigan season. Thanks to the entire SCRC employee team for their hard work and persistent dedication.

Dan Medina, Director of Maintenance

## SAFETY CORNER

The permanent members of the Safety Committee for the Saginaw County Road Commission are Rob Hudec, Benton Wenzel, Jr., Mike Wysko, Mike Ecker & Scott Hare

On Tuesday, June 30, 2015 the Saginaw County Road Commission took a large step towards the safety of our employees when we acquired 5 AED's (Automatic External Defibrillators), placing one unit in each of our buildings. Special thanks to MMR and the Shocks & Save program for providing a grant to cover 50% of the costs for three of these units.

On July 22 & 23, Managing Director Dennis Borchard and Commissioner Deb Kestner attended a joint insurance conference hosted by both of our self-insurance pools (CRASIF & MCRCSIP). This was a very informative conference and discussions took place on changes which may have an impact on the Saginaw County Road Commission. We received an award at this event for being in the top 5 for road commissions within our payroll group for having a benefit modification factor of less than 1.0. This award belongs to all of you, as it proves that everyone here is keeping safety in mind while working. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row that we have received this honor.

On September 17, 2015 we will be hosting our first pre-snow season training event. We will have training provided by our insurance representatives Mike Schultz (MCRCSIP) & Melanie Greene (CRASIF) and topics will include: **Front Plow, Wing Plows & Sanders** - risks, operating techniques, rail road grade crossings, pre-season preparations & special precautions. **Drunk & Impaired Driving** - demonstrations using specialized goggles which trick the body and demonstrate the effects of alcohol on drivers. We will also have a mini snow plow roadeo competition to determine which two of our employees will represent the Saginaw County Road Commission at this years' APWA Snow Plow Roadeo to be held in Grand Rapids on October 14, 2015.

October 21, 2015 will be the date for our Annual Safety Training Day. At this training, we are pleased that Paul Griggs (MIOSHA, CET) will be on hand to discuss the top ten violations of 2014, as well as the work place fatalities for 2014. We will also have presentations from Mike Schultz (MCRCSIP) & Al Roden (CRASIF).

If you have any item of concern, please contact any one of the members of the safety committee. You can also contact me directly; my office phone is (989) 399-3754, my cell phone is (989) 737-3226 and my radio call number is 704. All items brought to the safety committee will be kept in strict confidence.

Safety is the responsibility of each and every one of us. We need to look out for each other, and point out unsafe practices to our fellow employees, so that we may all go home safe to be with our families.

**Remember: Falling objects can be brutal if you don't protect your noodle**

Scott Hare, Safety Office

## UPCOMING MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

Estimated Dates

OCTOBER, 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 SCRC OFFICE CLOSED	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 Board Meeting	14	15	16	17 Shake Your Mailbox Day
18	19	20	21 Annual Safety Day	22	23	24
25	26	27 Board Meeting	28	29 Pumpkin Parade	30 Pumpkin Parade	31

NOVEMBER, 2015

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

DECEMBER, 2015

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

## Fall Lawn Care

While most people know that spring and summer are important seasons for taking care of their lawns, did you know that the fall is just as important? Here are a few tips for fall lawn care that will help keep your lawn healthy all year long and will help protect water quality.

### Mowing Your Lawn

- Three inches is the rule! Keep your lawn three inches high during the fall. It will help hold moisture in the plant, reduce stress and shade out weeds.
- Avoid dumping grass clippings down storm drains or in waterways; leave your clippings on your lawn. You'll need less fertilizer if you leave clippings on your lawn!

### Mulch

- Those colorful leaf "bits" provide much-needed organic matter for your soil. As leaves fall onto your lawn, chip the leaves into smaller pieces by running over them several times with your lawn mower. Leaves can also be used as mulch in your gardens beds. Be sure to keep leaves away from storm drains and out of waterways. Do NOT dump leaves into roadside drains or ditches they create drainage problems; flood neighbors, roads, and can create problems in our rivers and streams. Dispose of leaves properly.

### Feed in the Fall

- Fall is generally the most important time of the year for applying fertilizers.
- Be sure to test your soil if you haven't done so recently and use your soil test results to determine proper application rates.
- Use a fertilizer that does not contain phosphorus (the middle number). Do NOT use a 10-10-10 or 12-12-12 fertilizer, as these contains phosphorus and will harm surface water by causing algae blooms; which in turn affects our drinking water source. Use 10-0-10 or 12-0-12 instead.

Russ Beaubien, Spicer Group/SASWA



## 2015/2016 Proposed Construction Season

Township	Road	Location	Type of Improvement	Start of Construction	End of Construction
Frankenmuth	Curtis Road	over the Dead Creek	Bridge Replacement	Spring 2016	Summer 2016
Frankenmuth	Tuscola Road	City Limits to Reese Rd.	Road Rehabilitation	September 2015	July 2016
Saginaw	Shattuckville Rd.	M-47 to Hospital	Road Rehabilitation	September 2015	July 2016
Saginaw	Wieneke Rd. & Shattuck Rd.	Weiss Rd. to Lawndale Rd.	Road Rehabilitation	June 2015	September, 2015
St. Charles & Chesaning	Gary Road	over the Shiawassee River	Bridge Replacement	January 2016	July, 2016
Taymouth	Morseville Road	over the Silver Creek	Bridge Replacement	March 2016	August 2016
Thomas	Miller Road	Gratiot Rd. (M-46) to State St.	Road Reconstruction	August 2015	September 2015
Thomas	River Road	North of Frost Road	Bank Slide Repair	August 2015	October 2015
Tittabawassee	Freeland Road	M-47 to Webster Rd.	Road Reconstruction	June 2015	September 2015
Fremont	Pretzer Rd.	Swan Creek Rd. to Ederer Rd.	Road Rehabilitation	September 2015	July 2016
Bridgeport & Taymouth	Townline Rd.	Pettit Rd. to Blackmar Rd.	Road Rehabilitation	September 2015	July 2016
Maple Grove	Bishop Rd.	Volkmer Rd. to Chesaning Rd.	Road Rehabilitation	September 2015	July 2016

Joe Wisniewski, Director of Engineering

We're On The Web!

www.scrs-mi.org



## 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:** April 27th – Oct. 2nd  
Monday–Thursday 6:00 A.M.–4:00 P.M.  
CLOSED FRIDAY

### COMMISSIONERS

Todd M. Hare - Chairperson  
John D. Sangster - Vice-Chairperson  
Deb Kestner—Member  
Richard H. Crannell, P.E. - 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: Perimeter Shopping

Think about your shopping list. Now think about where those items are located in your supermarket. Are they along the edges of the store, or are they deep within the aisles?

Chances are, the unhealthy foods on your lists are in the middle aisles, which are filled with tempting processed and packaged foods. The healthy, whole food are usually located around the perimeter of the store.

### Stick to the edges of the store, and stick to your healthy eating plan.

Dairy, bread, produce and meats/seafood are usually located along the outside of the store. Load up on those healthy staples, bypass the middle aisles and you'll rarely be faced with the temptation of multiple varieties of potato chips and dozens of kinds of cake mixes.

Here are some tips to help:

- ◆ **Organize your list.** When I go grocery shopping, I construct my shopping list like a road map. You list all similar ingredients together to minimize your risk of forgetting an item. If you frequent the same grocery store, this tactic is even easier, as you know the layout of the store. Put all your vegetables and fruits in one column, write all meat and seafood items in another, and group the dairy together.
- ◆ **Know the aisles, read the signs, or ask for help.** How often do you push your cart up and down each aisle until you find the item you need? Instead of going up and down each aisle, look at the signs in each one. If you need frozen broccoli, don't venture down the ice cream aisle. Head straight for the frozen vegetables aisle. If you don't know where to go, ask for help.
- ◆ **Head straight to the checkouts.** Do you like to wander the aisles after you've finished shopping? The long walk to the checkout line is the last chance for temptation at the grocery store. You've stuck to your healthy list thus far, and you only have one final leg of your journey. Don't pass through the soda aisle "just to see if there's something new", and fight the desire to see whether chips are on sale. Touring only a portion of the grocery store on each visit might make you feel like you're forgetting something, but after a few trips, you'll consider those middle aisles—and all their tempting junk food—no man's land!

## SCRC ANNIVERSARIES

### Service Years Based on Hire Date—Not Seniority Date

EMPLOYEE	OCTOBER	YRS. OF SERVICE
Roger Clauss	4	11
Richard Vollmer	5	11
Jason Windy	7	2
William Reinbolt	7	2
Mark Herbers	23	25
Chet Allen	23	9
Joe Wisniewski	28	2

EMPLOYEE	NOVEMBER	YRS. OF SERVICE
Dennis Borchard	1	25
Todd Ferguson	7	21
Donald Holland	14	7
Scott Gunther	17	7
Timothy Reisterer	21	10
Jennifer Brieske	27	15
Lonnie Wood	29	21

EMPLOYEE	DECEMBER	YRS. OF SERVICE
Dan Medina	1	5
James Popp	1	1
Paul Gohs	19	10
Michael Wendling	27	16