

THE MILE MARKER

DECEMBER 18, 2015

FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK

We have had an exciting quarter at the Road Commission! In November, the State of Michigan finally successfully passed a Transportation Package that will increase our road funding. What does that mean for Saginaw County? It means that in 2017 we should see just over \$3 million in additional road funding and an additional \$1 to \$2 million each additional year till it caps out at nearly \$9 million in 2021.

We would like to personally thank Senator Ken Horn and Representatives Tim Kelly & Ben Glardon for voting in favor of HB 4736 & HB 4738. We appreciate our local representation working hard in Lansing to help improve the transportation infrastructure in Saginaw County and across the great state of Michigan.

Our crews are gearing up for the winter season. In October we had our annual equipment inspection, where each employee and mechanic went through the fleet to ensure that we are ready when mother nature lets the snow fly.

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 everyone of the SCRC team for your hard work, dedication and having pride in the work you do.

Wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2016!

Dennis



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **SCRC Hires 2 New Employees PLUS Winter Temporary Employees**
- **Follow us on Facebook to find out what our crews are doing and where they are working each day.**

SCRC Hires Two Truck Drivers

The Saginaw County Road Commission has hired two truck drivers to add to its force.

Rey Cruz and Bob Miller joined the Saginaw County Road Commission family on November 16, 2015, as Group 3 truck drivers. Both come to us with truck driving and general labor experience. We are very excited to have them as a part of the team!

Rey will be assigned to Fixed Maintenance and Bob will be working in our Sign Shop. Both will be an asset to the organization.

Please take a moment to extend a warm welcome to both Rey and Bob.

SCRC Hire Winter Temporary Employees

Last year the Road Commission kicked off a pilot program for on-call, winter temporary employees to assist with snow plowing. This pilot program gave us the opportunity to see what works and what doesn't. It helped us to create a more effective program, where the Road Commission would benefit across the board, by utilizing these temporary employees to their fullest potential.

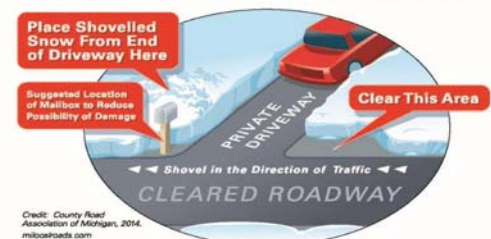
This year the Road Commission will hire 6 winter temporary employees to help with snow plowing. These temporary employees will work 30-40 hours per week during the winter season. They will assist with snow plowing along with other everyday maintenance work that is necessary.

Reminder....Mailboxes in the Winter

It is that time of year again where the Road Commission receives phone calls stating that the snow plow hit (and knocked down) a mailbox. We would like to once again help to remind the residents to take a pro-active approach in making sure their mailbox is structurally sound to handle all that Mother Nature has to throw at us this winter. More often than not, damage to mailboxes is caused by snow pushing against weakened posts or hardware. Flying snow makes it look like snow plow trucks are traveling much faster than they are, but the average speed of travel is about 25 m.p.h. Even at this speed, the force of the snow being pushed off the road can damage mailboxes and other roadside items.

In addition to making sure your mailbox is strong enough to survive winter, clearing snow to the right of your driveway will help reduce the amount of snow deposited in your drive and against the mailbox post during winter maintenance.

Avoid the "Second Shovel"



Credit: County Road Association of Michigan, 2014. michroadroads.com



MAINTENANCE UPDATE

Once again, we have completed our pre-winter preparedness equipment inspection on October 31st. Equipment preparations for this inspection were a team effort by all employees. Prior to the inspection we review winter operations practices. The equipment is then inspected and all necessary repairs are documented and scheduled for repair. This inspection is a very important task that each of us takes very seriously - being a prepared emergency response TEAM.

Road salt costs have dropped from last year. Our early delivery & backup salt average is \$60.04 per ton - compared to \$67.52 per ton last season. It's always good to hear material prices decreasing instead of increasing. We will also continue to utilize a salt and sand mix again this season in our non-curbed areas.

Anti-icing has become a regular practice in our efforts of maintaining our many bridge decks throughout the County. When cold air circulates around and under bridges, it causes bridge temperatures to drop fast. Add high humidity in the air and you'll get an icy bridge very quickly. Bridges may be icy even when the approaching pavement is clear and dry. Motorists should always use extra caution on bridges.

Our Anti-icing practice will provide a couple of added benefits. When a storm develops, a deck that has been treated will stay clear longer and give us added time to re-treat the surface. It will also help in preventing ice & snow bonding. In some cases, when we have only light snow or no snow but temperatures around the freezing point early in the morning, this practice may be enough to prevent the bridge deck from freezing.

There's more good news from our friends in Lansing. This past fall they were successful in putting a plan together that will increase our SCRC budget annually starting in year 2017 and extending thru 2021. This task took several years to accomplish. There were numerous individuals who worked hard in educating our leaders and justifying the road & bridge systems needs statewide. There was also another group of folks that played an important part during these trying times. This group is all of you - The SCRC Team. In some ways, everyone was involved in using multiple maintenance fixes in

efforts of maintaining a road system that is progressively deteriorating at a rapid rate. There was a valuable lesson that was learned statewide during our budget shortage years and that was efficiency. I would say all Michigan road agencies have become more efficient. We are all well aware that it took years for our roadways to get where they are today, and it will take many years to recover our transportation system to an improved condition, giving our motoring customers a safe, clear, smooth road system with the quality ride that they deserve.

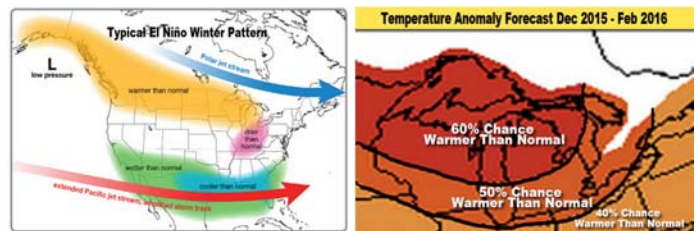
Our night crew started the week of November 29th and will continue until mid-March. They are a big help in addressing road issues throughout the night and in having equipment serviced, loaded & ready for the day crew when winter weather events develop.

More good news - this past November has shown us a number of above-average temperatures. In the chart below you'll see what most forecasters are predicting for this winter season.

Thank You to all SCRC employees for their dedication and service this past year.

To all - please drive safely and cautiously, especially thru the winter months and enjoy the Holiday Season.

Dan Medina, Director of Maintenance



TECHNICAL CORNER: What Is Identity Theft Insurance and Do I Need It?

Identity theft is the number one consumer complaint in America. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, ID theft affected 16.6 million American adults in 2012. That's approximately 7% of the adult population - no small number. Many insurance companies have sought to address consumer concerns by selling identity theft insurance. This article focuses on what identity theft insurance is and whether it's right for you.

How Does Identity Theft Work?

Stealing your credit card number, bank account information, driver's license number, Social Security number, or other personal identifying information can allow thieves to do all sorts of things. They can make purchases on your cards, take out loans in your name, and do other things to enrich themselves and ruin your credit.

More serious identity theft crimes include opening accounts in your name, draining funds in your name such as Medicare and Social Security benefits, and using your details to set up fake identities for other people.

Some thieves will sell your information to other criminals who may even commit crimes while using your identification as cover. There's really no limit to what thieves can do with a stolen identity - the criminal mind can be quite enterprising.

Protecting Yourself

Consumers are not totally unprotected. The most common form of identity theft (85% of all thefts) involves stealing credit card or bank account information. Generally, your bank or credit card issuer works to prevent fraudulent purchases and steps in when your details are stolen.

There are also some common sense precautions everyone can take to avoid identity theft. Shredding documents headed for the recycling bin, keep-

ing your Social Security and driver's license numbers private, and monitoring your bank accounts and other assets can go a long way. It's only when things do go wrong that identity theft insurance comes into play.

What Is Identity Theft Insurance?

There's a common misconception about identity theft insurance. It doesn't cover your financial losses from identity theft. Rather, identity theft insurance offers to cover the expense required to help you deal with identity theft after the fact.

These expenses might include the cost of making phone calls, writing letters, and dealing with banks, creditors, and government agencies. Some insurance providers offer help and expertise in dealing with identity theft and will cover your time off work spent dealing with it. Most will offer some sort of credit monitoring, often at an additional cost. But identity theft insurance is not about insuring against possible loss due to identity theft. It simply insures your time and energy spent dealing with identity theft after it's already occurred.

What Should I Know About Identity Theft Insurance?

Buying any kind of insurance should involve reading the fine print. For identity theft insurance, the devil can be in the details. You should ask some key questions when shopping for a policy:

- ♦ **Do You Already Have Protection?** Many homeowners' insurance plans offer protection for identity theft. You should first determine whether you're already covered.
- ♦ **What is the policy limit?** Most identity theft insurance plans max out at around \$15,000. And again, this doesn't cover losses from identity theft, only the costs of addressing identity theft.

Cont. on Page 3

UPCOMING MAINTENANCE

Estimated Dates

JANUARY, 2016

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

FEBRUARY, 2016

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					

MARCH, 2016

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 HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSED	26
27 EASTER	28	29	30	31		

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 2016 limits for these contributions. They are as follows:

- Maximum elective deferral by employee is **\$18,000**.
- Catch-up contribution (age 50 and older during 2016) is up to an additional **\$6,000**.

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

TECHNICAL CORNER CONT...

- **What is the deductible?** An insurance plan leaves the consumer liable for the amount of the deductible. For identity theft, the deductible can often exceed the cost of dealing with it entirely.
- **Check the Details on Major Costs.** The insurance business depends on having lots of customers but few claimants. Capping reimbursements for major costs such as lost wages and legal fees is a common way to reduce payouts.
- **Read the Fine Print.** You should always take the time to read the details of any insurance plan. Besides knowing what you're paying for, you should also know what exactly it is that you're entitled to should things go wrong.

Should I Buy Identity Theft Insurance?

There's no right or wrong answer for identity theft insurance. If identity theft is a major concern for you and if you think the cost and hassle of dealing with it are worth insuring against, then buying identity theft insurance may be a good choice. If you were hoping to insure against losses from identity theft or don't have any particular concern about your identity being stolen, then buying identity theft insurance may not be worth it. The decision is yours alone.

Tom Luck, Information Technology Manager

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
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
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

SCRC

SAGINAW COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

3020 Sheridan Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48601

Phone: 989-752-6140
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REGULAR OFFICE HOURS: Monday–Friday
7:00 A.M.–3:30 P.M.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS:
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 1,849 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: Influenza A.K.A. The Flu

Influenza, commonly known as “the flu”, is a highly contagious viral infection of the respiratory tract. Although the flu affects both sexes and all age groups, kids tend to get it more than adults. The illness even has it’s own season—from November to April, with most cases occurring between late December and early March.

The flu is often confused with the common cold, but flu symptoms tend to develop quickly (usually 1 to 4 days after a person is exposed to the flu virus) and are usually more severe than the typical sneezing and stuffiness of a cold.

Symptoms may include: fever, chills, headache, muscle aches, dizziness, loss of appetite, tiredness, cough, sore throat, runny nose, nausea or vomiting, weakness, ear infection and/or diarrhea. Infants with the flu may simply seem sick all of a sudden or “just don’t look right”.

After 5 days, fever and other symptoms have usually disappeared but a cough and weakness may continue. All symptoms are usually gone within a week or two. However, it is important to treat the flu seriously because it can lead to pneumonia and other life-threatening complications, particularly in infants, senior citizens, and people with long-term health problems.

The flu is very contagious and is spread by virus-infected droplets that are coughed or sneezed into the air. The flu usually occurs in small outbreaks, but epidemics tend to occur every few years. Epidemics (when the illness spreads rapidly and affects many people in an area at the same time) peak within 2 to 3 weeks after the first cases occur and then begin to decrease.

The flu vaccine usually is offered between September and mid-November, although it may be given at other times of the year. It reduces the average person’s chances of catching the flu by up to 80% during the flu season. Because the vaccine prevents infection with only a few of the viruses that can cause flu-like symptoms, it isn’t a guarantee against getting sick. But even if someone who’s gotten the flu shot gets the flu, symptoms usually will be fewer and milder.

Getting the flu shot before the flu season is in full force, gives the body a chance to build up immunity to, or protections from, the virus.



SCRC ANNIVERSARIES

Service Years Based on Hire Date—Not Seniority Date

EMPLOYEE	JANUARY	YRS. OF SERVICE
Joseph St. Charles	2	3
Kenneth Weber	2	3
Elmer Shepherd	3	9
Ben Follett	12	10
Vincent Donald	15	9
Ben Iliff	24	20
Chris Breternitz	26	7
Ed Krupp	27	7
Aric Martin	28	7

EMPLOYEE	FEBRUARY	YRS. OF SERVICE
Marty Anderson	14	11
Scott Peters	22	17

EMPLOYEE	MARCH	YRS. OF SERVICE
Brian Kleinfeld	1	17
Jim Lehman	6	13
Scott Hare	26	26
Jason Brown	27	16
Michael Nixon	28	16