

WORD

ON THE STREET



VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

DECEMBER 2023

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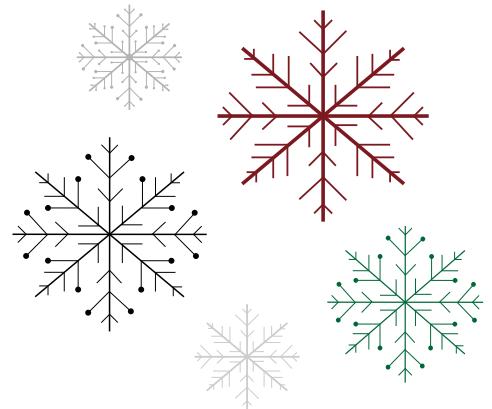
NEW HIRES

Christina Rodriguez
Receptionist / Dispatcher

Lemy Brown
Temp

Kevin Buckner
Temp

Adam Schumacher
Temp



RETIREES

Mike Nixon
Gradall Operator,
23 years of service



FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK



detail and the timely completion of projects reflect the high standards we uphold.

I am thrilled to announce two monumental additions to our fleet and office. The first is the acquisition of a state-of-the-art Shoulder Reclaimer. This unique piece of equipment has been a game changer for us, promising to dramatically enhance our operational efficiency in removing high shoulders and berm to improve road drainage. This investment, made possible

by the foresight and support of our Board, aligns with our commitment to staying at the forefront of technology and innovation in road maintenance. The second addition is that SCRC has put together a new Informational Reference Guide. A tool that can be used to effectively communicate with our County Board, the 27 townships, county leaders, and the public. This guide gives a breakdown of the different maintenance services the Road Commission provides, along with many other pieces of information

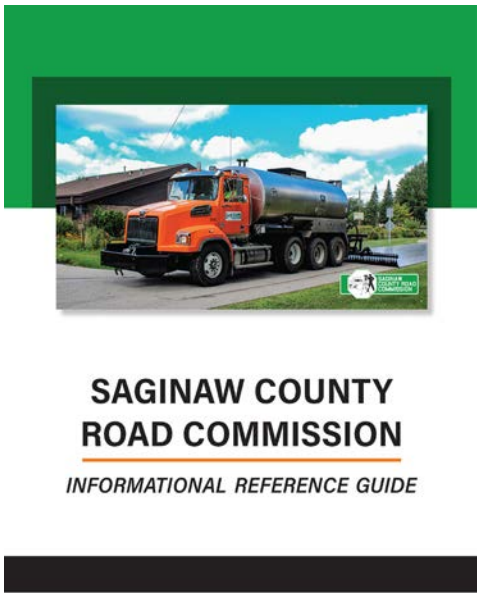
Dear SCRC Team,

As we bid farewell to another productive summer, it's with great pleasure and pride that I highlight the outstanding achievements of our dedicated team over the past spring and summer months. Your hard work and commitment have not only met but exceeded expectations, making a significant impact on our 27 townships and the 1,850+ miles of roadway we diligently maintain.

Construction projects were executed with precision and excellence, showcasing the expertise and professionalism that define the Saginaw County Road Commission. Attention to



SHOULDER RECLAIMER



**SAGINAW COUNTY
ROAD COMMISSION**

INFORMATIONAL REFERENCE GUIDE



such as contact info, how funding works, our permit process, and much more!

We said goodbye to one of our Commissioners, Dave Adams, as he took a new position with St. Charles Township. Dave has served on our board as a Commissioner since January 2019, and we wish him all the best on his new journey! On that same note, we welcomed a new Commissioner, Ed Wasmiller, to our Board. Ed comes with a background in construction and farming and has been a great addition to our Board!

To our office and field teams, your unwavering commitment to the mission of the Saginaw County Road Commission has been the driving force behind our success. Your professionalism, teamwork, and passion for what you do, make our workplace a beacon of inspiration.

My favorite quote, "Do your job, but do it well," encapsulates the ethos of our team. Each one of you has embraced this philosophy wholeheartedly, and it shows in the remarkable results we've achieved together! Your dedication to excellence has not only garnered praise from

the community but has set a benchmark for road commissions across the region.

As we transition into the upcoming winter maintenance season, I have full confidence that the same level of dedication and excellence will prevail. Thank you all for making this not only productive but truly exceptional.

Here's to another season of success and safety!

*Dennis Borchard,
Managing Director*



SAGINAW COUNTY GARAGE



MAINTENANCE

The 2023 Spring and Summer season was again very productive throughout the season. The fall season has started on a positive note as well. We've had our annual Winter Preparedness Equipment Inspection so we're ready for the coming winter weather.

Our complete maintenance team is showing continuity, and they are developing extremely well together. I would normally discuss our activity accomplishments during the mentioned time periods. For this maintenance update, I'd like to focus more on our employees. I assure you that our tasks during this period have been completed safely and efficiently.

Our current workforce consists of 33 employees with less than

13 years of seniority teamed with 21 veterans and 5 CDL temporary employees. The key to our continued improvement and success is a combination of factors.

I'll start with the veteran employees. These employees have seen days where total separations from district to district were the norm. Employees working outside their assigned district and sharing equipment wasn't utilized and was even forbidden. We're aware that isn't the best option or situation when managing a County Road Commission that is responsible for 1850+ miles to maintain.

In the last number of years, there were drastic changes made. The previous way of thinking and operating has ceased. The

expectations and direction were adjusted to working together as one County with employees and equipment directed to work countywide wherever the priorities may exist. For this change to be successful, total buy-in was needed by all, especially the veteran employees. Seamless Borders is the term.

I'm happy to say that there may have been a little resistance in the beginning, but that mentality changed quickly. I truly believe the vision was clear to all that this new TEAM approach achieved very positive results in all aspects of our daily operations. Complete buy-in by all was attained quickly and the results have been steady improvement annually in all we do.

The list of achievements covers everything involved in SCRC's total operation. These are some of the key factors. In the maintenance management group, these men are top-notch. This group or TEAM follows and implements these procedures daily. Follow all the safety rules, that's number one. We believe there is nothing more important than the safety of our employees and our customers. Our goal is to make sure all employees come to work, have a safe productive day, and return safely to their loved ones each night.

The managing TEAM enforces and follows the union contract, SCRC policy book, and has structure and consistency with all personnel. Expectations are clear and accountability is the same for all. Their dedication is shown in their daily actions and how they communicate with all.

Our employees that have 13 years of seniority or less and our CDL temps are a mixture of middle-aged to those recently out of high school. Some came with experience, and others have been learning on the job. The item that is consistent throughout the

ranks is the Attitudes of this entire group. It's not only an important, but an essential trait that our vets have and is what we look for and stress when hiring new employees.

All employees' daily efforts and accomplishments no matter their position, title or years of seniority are important and necessary in SCRC reaching their goals of being a leader statewide. An important trait of all is to be a good listener and be open to change with the times. It's also important to implement positive changes with past successful traditions of completing daily operations. Thrive to make a difference in your time here in all you do. Share the knowledge you've learned throughout your career.

We as well as our customers are all taxpayers. In your time here, continue to do your part in making sure that the tax dollars received by SCRC are spent wisely, efficiently, and safely for all being enforced daily. By sharing your knowledge and wisdom throughout your career and when the day of your retirement is here, you'll be reassured SCRC

will have continued success and have added comfort that your tax dollars are in good hands.

The maintenance area is currently operating at a very high level, but we are only a part of SCRC's success. All departments: Engineering, Finance, Admin, I.T., and Safety are thriving as well. All departments are working as a TEAM. The support that our Managing Director gives each department is unmatched.

There's no one individual here at the SCRC who's smarter than all of us TOGETHER.

Continue to work as a TEAM! and your career and the success of SCRC will shine statewide for the years to come.

Safety First.

Thank You.

*Dan Medina,
Director of Maintenance*





TECH ---

COMMUNICATION



KIOSK HOME SCREEN

Well, we have had a busy summer / fall with the rollout of several new / additional software tools and platforms. Our goal was to complete development and train the staff after our summer construction / maintenance season and before winter weather hits our area.

Most of these changes were forced upon us by vendors or our insurance companies, but we've made the best of it.

First off was our Time and Inventory tracking handled through Precision Computer Systems. The old Kiosk software was very dated and limiting SCRC and Precision RMS from offering the future capabilities users have been asking for.

MCRCSIP along with our safety team and maintenance leaders suggested it would better protect our staff and organization if we implemented DVIRs (Daily Vehicle Inspection Reports). Our team put together a solid, easy-to-use electronic form and database that allows notification via email for the maintenance team and mechanics. We have the tools now to see how our fleet and teams are working at any time from a safety, service, and repair viewpoint.

Our safety team had asked that we move our JSA (Job Safety Analysis), Near Miss Form, and SDS (Safety Data Sheets) to

the cloud and provide staff with quick and easy access to these documents whether in buildings or on the road.

The Tech Communications team worked to put together a solution so that we could put all these tools onto a single interface without purchasing additional computers, or tablets or slowing down the crews at the beginning / end of their day.

As soon as we started using these tools the request for a mechanic's Work Order process came in. We are finalizing the discovery process for their requirements and wish list. It looks like we will be able to give them the information that they need while giving them a quick way to search for both common and uncommon historical details.

Our team, with help from our summer temps, completed our inspection duties, traffic counts, and PASER ratings. All items have been submitted.

Thanks.

*Steve Gradowski,
I.T. Manager*

*Mariah Kelly,
GIS Analyst*

*Abby Hare,
Admin Support
Specialist*

Ecoli In Storm Water



During dry weather screening of our outfalls this year, we encountered one outfall that required further investigation for illicit connection. I was slightly panicked at receiving this news. After reaching out to the District 2 Foreman and coordinating with Fixed Maintenance for labor and equipment we had a solid game plan to review the neighborhood and camera the line directly connected to the outfall in question.

We were given notice from our partners at SASWA and had our investigation completed within a week. I am grateful for our staff here at SCRC. From our mechanics who keep all our equipment running, management understanding the importance of having specialty equipment, workers with the skill and knowledge to operate, and temp staff that complete any task I toss at them.

*Mariah Kelly,
GIS Analyst*

ENGINEERING

Several of Saginaw County roads received improvements in the 2023 construction season. Over 63,000 tons of asphalt was placed countywide which included federally funded, township funded, and special assessment projects. Approximately 1,000 square yards of concrete were placed in areas to improve road surfaces and curbed areas within the urban area. Many of these projects included drainage improvements, curb and gutter, driveway approach and shoulder work as well.

SCRC also worked with our local railroad companies to reconstruct 5 crossings within

Saginaw County under the 2023 MDOT Local Grade Railroad Crossing Grant Program. During construction, the road commission works closely with the railroad company to ensure there is a smooth transition for our roadway through the new crossing.

We would like to thank all that put effort into our 2023 construction projects. From the design and inspections to the contractors and hardworking crews – this work couldn't have been completed without you!

SCRC's engineering department is already preparing for the 2024 construction season.

We hope everyone enjoys themselves during the holiday season. Best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year!

*Dan Armentrout,
Deputy Managing Director/
Director of Engineering*

*Tim Brown,
Project Manager*

*Haley Christensen,
Permit Officer*

*Nick Hornak,
Engineering Assistant*

| Township | Road | Limits | Project Scope |
|-------------|------------|---|---|
| Birch Run | Willard | Gera to Tuscola | HMA Paving - Local Project |
| Bridgeport | Dixie Hwy | Fort to Hess | Mill and Fill - Federal Funds |
| Bridgeport | Prospect | Dixie to Williamson | Mill and Fill - Local Project |
| Bridgeport | Bearcat | Dixie to Baker | Mill and Fill - Local Project |
| Brant | S Hemlock | S Branch of Bad River, Between Brant & Marion | Super Structure Bridge Replacement - Federal Funds |
| Buena Vista | Hess | Towerline to Ruff | Crush, Shape, HMA Paving - MTF Funds |
| Buena Vista | Outer | Perkins to 675 Overpass | HMA Overlay - Federal Urban Funds |
| Carrollton | Michigan | Weiss to Shattuck | Mill and Fill - Federal Urban Funds |
| Carrollton | Lynn | Winter to Reserve | Crush, Shape, HMA Paving - Local Project |
| Carrollton | Pioneer | Bauer to Church | Crush, Shape, HMA Paving - Local Project |
| Frankenmuth | Maple | King to Bradley | Rubblize Concrete, Add Gravel, HMA Paving - Local Project |
| Fremont | S Fordney | Over Beaver Creek, Between Grabowski and Baumgartner | Super Structure Bridge Replacement - Federal Funds |
| Kochville | Kochville | Davis to Bay (M84) | Guardrail and Bank Stabilization - FEMA |
| Kochville | Liberty | Davis to Michigan | HMA Overlay - Local Project |
| Thomas | Geddes | Graham to Gleaner | Mill and Fill - State Grant |
| Saginaw | Hemmeter | State to McCarty | Mill and Fill - Federal Urban Funds |
| Saginaw | Metzger | West off Wieneke | Crush, Shape, HMA Paving - Local Project |
| Spaulding | Washington | Sheridan to City Limit | HMA Overlay - Local Project |

Railroad Crossings

| Township | Road | Limits | Railroad |
|-------------|-----------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Bridgeport | Dixie Hwy | Elmport & Prospect | Lake State Railway Company |
| Bridgeport | Prospect | Dixie Hwy & Williamson | Lake State Railway Company |
| Saginaw | McCarty | Hemmeter & Center | Lake State Railway Company |
| Saginaw | Hemmeter | Shattuck & McCarty | Lake State Railway Company |
| Frankenmuth | Reese | Bradley & King | Huron & Eastern Railway |

Upcoming Projects for 2024

| Township | Road |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Dixie Hwy at Curtis Rd | Roundabout |
| Dixie Hwy (Junction to Willard) | Mill & Fill |
| Center Rd (Gratiot to State) | Mill & Fill |
| McCarty Rd (Hospital to Hemmeter) | Mill & Fill |
| Brockway Rd (Wieneke to Center) | Asphalt Overlay |
| Wieneke Rd (Brockway to State) | Mill & Fill |
| Curtis Rd (Ambrose to Bishop) | HMA Paving |
| Burt Rd over Pine Creek | Federally Funded Bridge Project |

Fordney Rd Bridge Progress



Kochville Rd (Davis & Bay)

Bank Stabilization

BEFORE



DURING



AFTER

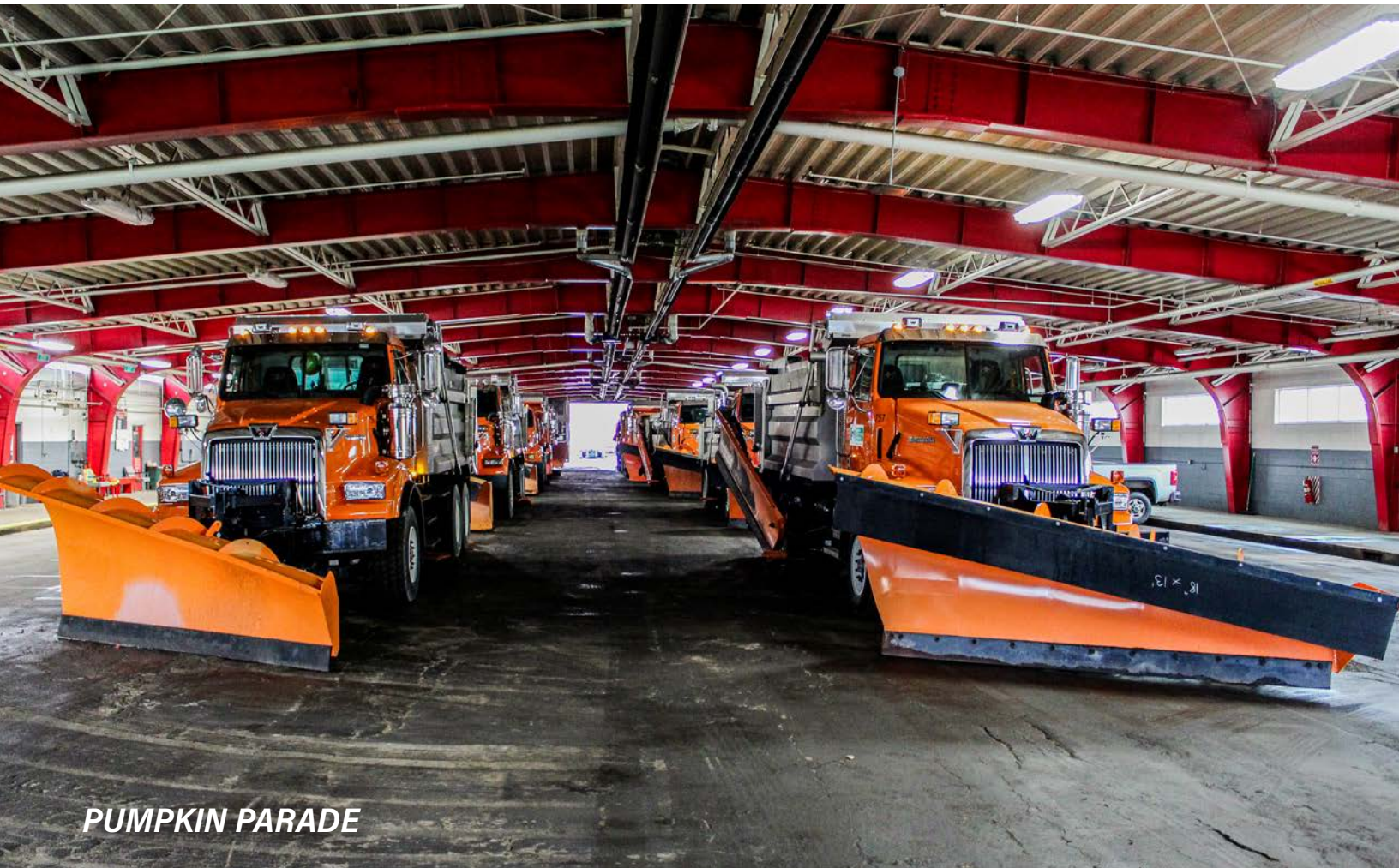


SAFETY

Road Construction season in Michigan is no easy task with thousands of miles of roads to maintain, keep safe for the motoring public, and make improvements where funding allows. Maintaining the equipment used to perform these operations is another undertaking. The work and weather can take a toll on our trucks, and we have come up with a Daily Vehicle Inspection Report (DVIR) to allow our operators to easily report equipment issues to the mechanics and supervisors.

The Safety Team along with Tech Comm have worked together to develop an electronic DVIR that is at the tip of the operator's fingers. Several months of in-house developing, programming, and testing paid off when we were able to introduce the new process to our employees. This form can be accessed through a website on a smartphone or kiosk. The DVIRs not only track equipment issues, but they also provide documentation that we are operating safe equipment on the roadway.

Our electronic DVIR process was rolled out in October, and we invited Mike Phillips with our insurance company, MCRCSIP, to present and inform our employees of the importance of DVIRs. Truck inspections have so many benefits for your personal safety, prevention of accidents, ticketed offenses, and equipment breakdowns. They can also help shield you from liability and promote accountability. We grouped this training with our Annual Pumpkin Parade Truck Inspection Day that is performed



PUMPKIN PARADE



CHAIN SAW SAFETY TRAINING DAY

for our winter operations. The day was well received by all, and we are continually improving our process to be effective and efficient for everyone involved.

Lastly, with the cold temperatures coming, it is important to be aware of your surroundings as weather conditions can have a huge impact on your safety. We'd like to share a few important winter safety tips below:

- Protect against slips, trips, and falls by removing ice and snow from parking lots, sidewalks, entryways, and work areas. Keep steps, ladders and standing surfaces free of snow, mud, and debris. Use 3 points of contact when entering and exiting vehicles.

- Dress for the weather. Cold weather essentials include at least three layers of loose-fitting clothing, a hat that covers the head and ears, insulated gloves, and boots with good rubber treads.

- Know the symptoms of cold stress. This is when the body can no longer maintain its normal temperature. Cold-related illnesses include frostbite, hypothermia, and trench foot. Symptoms range from redness, tingling, numbness, and shivering to name a few. All have possible long-term effects if not identified right away.

The Safety Committee meets monthly to ensure safety is always a topic of discussion. Please feel free to reach out to any member of the committee if you have a concern or suggestion.

Safety Officers: Tim Brown & Haley Christensen

Safety Committee: Zach Chludil, Mike Ecker, Glenn Hardy, Rob Hudec, Ben Iliff, Jason Windy, and a rotating District Foreman.



FINANCE

MERS, or the Municipal Employees' Retirement System of Michigan is an independent, professional retirement service that administers retirement plans of Michigan's governmental units. The Saginaw County Road Commission is a proud member and offers the following benefits that MERS has to offer:

- **Healthcare Savings** – an account where both the employee and employer deposit funds to save for healthcare in retirement
- **457 (Pre-tax or Roth)** – an account where employees can deposit funds with an employer match program
- **Defined Benefit** – while many Road Commissions are moving to a defined contribution plan or 401, we are still able to continue offering a pension benefit to our employees. The Defined Benefit is calculated using a formula that takes your final average compensation (FAC) x service credit x benefit multiplier

MERS offers a yearly conference for all MERS members to attend, both employers and participants. This year the conference was held in Detroit and was the first year that entries were able to be submitted for a MERS Impact Award. These awards celebrate municipalities that have demonstrated a commitment to helping employees achieve financial security in retirement. We in the Finance Department are proud to announce that the Saginaw County Road Commission won First Place in the "Other" Category, for our commitment to guiding employees through retirement from beginning to end!

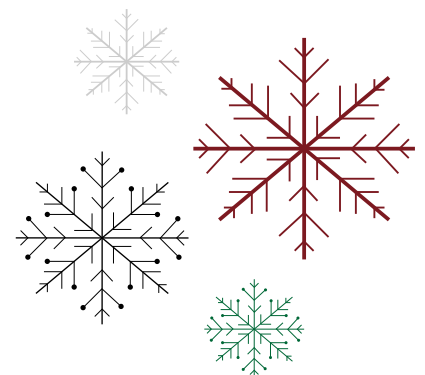


When an employee is getting ready for retirement, the Finance and Human Resources Department works together to meet with the retiring employee, and anyone else that employee would like to be present –

whether that be a spouse or other beneficiary. We sit down and discuss all retirement options, including the best date to leave for their FAC and any benefit adders, SCRC payoffs, what their monthly benefit amount is going to be and right down to applying for retirement together with MERS.

We are committed to continuing to be there for our employees and their families and are looking forward to a great start to 2024!

*Caitlyn Sanderson,
Deputy Director of Finance &
Benefits / Human Resources*





Employee Benefit Enrollment Just Got Easier

SCRC has been working with agency partners Burnham & Flowers and 44 North, now both known as Acrisure, to bring an online enrollment platform to our employees. This portal will allow the employees to enroll and make changes to their benefits during our annual open enrollment period each year. This portal will also allow employees to make updates to their address and family members throughout the year (when there is a qualifying life event, like the birth of a child). Also, under this portal employees will have access to their benefit information, deductibles, copays, coordination of benefit letters and our benefit team's information.

With implementation of the portal and working with 44 North (Acrisure), we now have a dedicated patient advocate team to help the SCRC benefits staff and employees quickly get results and resolve any issues that they are having with their benefit coverage.

*Lacey Ziola,
Director of Finance &
Benefits*

UPCOMING DATES

12/24 Christmas Eve

12/25 Christmas Day **

12/26 Christmas Day Observed **

12/31 New Years Eve

1/01 New Years Day **

1/01 New Years Day Observed**

1/15 Martin Luther King, Jr Day **

3/10 Daylight Savings Time Begins

**** SCRC offices and facilities are closed ****



SCRC ANNIVERSARIES

MILESTONE ANNIVERSARY DATES

| EMPLOYEE | YEARS OF SERVICE |
|------------------|------------------|
| Scott Gunther | 15 |
| Don Holland | 15 |
| Jason Windy | 10 |
| William Reinbolt | 10 |
| Ellis Richardson | 5 |
| Chase Beyersdorf | 5 |
| Lyle Rottiers | 5 |
| Glenn Hardy | 5 |
| Ashton Johnson | 1 |

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS:

Monday—Thursday 6:00 A.M.—4:00 P.M.

****CLOSED FRIDAY****

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS:

Monday—Friday
7:00 A.M.—3:30 P.M.

COMMISSIONERS

Todd Hare - Chairperson
Richard H. Crannell, P.E. - Vice-Chairperson
John D. Sangster - Member
Deb Kestner - Member
Ed Wasmiller - Member

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Dennis L. Borchard

Saginaw County Road Commission maintains over 1,850+ miles of roads. While some local road projects are able to be done by cost-sharing with townships, the majority of the maintenance is the Saginaw County Road Commission's responsibility.

There are 207 bridges to maintain along with smaller tributaries and ditches adding more than 3,474 culverts to the road system. The list continues to grow as new roads are built to meet the needs of our ever changing and expanding community.

Maintaining the county road system is no easy task. However, every Saginaw County Road Commission employee is committed to building and maintaining a quality road system that will last for generations to come. We are proud to be a part of and to serve the Saginaw County Community.

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