

WORD

ON THE STREET



VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

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ABC 12 GOOD MORNING MID MICHIGAN

Sarah & Mariah Explain Our Summer Temporary Work Program Via Interview



We have a couple of TV stars in our Admin Office.

Sarah and Mariah were invited to discuss our Summer Temp program on ABC12's Good Morning Mid Michigan. This morning show opportunity caused some discomfort / stress as it is live, and there is no second take.

These two did a great job after limited planning and having to travel to the studio on what was most likely the worst roads of the



winter season. They got to watch the program from behind the scenes.

There was very little preparation once in the studio; they were set up with microphones and asked to wait. The interview went great because these two were so comfortable with the topics being discussed. It was a very smooth conversation with both adding relevant information as needed.

A funny part of this story was when they were thanked and the segment was coming to a close, they both turned to get up and leave, and the interviewer called them back.

The picture below shows them being called back. This caused a lot of laughing afterward but was not noticed.



FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK



As we end our winter season, the Saginaw County Road Commission is full steam ahead as we dive into our busy maintenance and construction season. Our equipment is prepped, and our crews are ready to take on the various tasks we plan to accomplish this season. Our full-time crew is truly an amazing group of individuals who each have something special to bring to the table and make SCRC what it is today. However, I would also like to give praise to our summer co-op employees who join our crew during the summer months to help be able to maximize efficiency and keep all hands on deck!

With this, I would like to take the time to reflect on all the positive things that have been happening up to this point thanks to our TEAM! Every year, the County Road Association (CRA) puts on a fantastic Highway Conference and Road Show, that also includes submitting entries to receive Impress Awards. These awards are given to recognize best practices in innovation and efficiency among county road agencies across Michigan. There are three different categories that you can submit entries into: Communication, Collaboration, and Operations. At Saginaw County Road Commission, I witness these three categories daily between all my departments, so it was a no-brainer that we would have an entry to submit for each category.

Starting with Communication, this category and how important communication is in an agency such as a Road Commission, is huge! Our administrative Team was able to take an old document that was dated and tired, and turn it into a document that was fresh, exciting, and something very beneficial to our residents, township officials, and many other public agencies and stakeholders. This is our Informational Reference

Guide, and I am PROUD to have such a document that has been revamped and modified to educate those about what we do here at the Road Commission. Many people think that all we do here is plow snow and patch potholes, but this document showcases much more than that. It has been a most beneficial document to communicate with the public countywide on everything SCRC has to offer and explain why we perform the maintenance activities we do to benefit our road system.

Collaboration is the next category I would like to speak on. For this entry, we submitted information on how our finance and HR department took our annual open enrollment meeting and turned it into an opportunity for our benefit vendors and employees to come together and communicate what is available within an employee benefit package here at SCRC. Also, this meeting gave time for employees to ask questions and dig deeper into unknowns and things that weren't understood just by reading them on paper. With this also came an employee portal login where each employee is now able to quickly access a dashboard of all their benefits and current



Dennis Borchard (left), Steve Gradowski (middle), and Rob Hudec (right).
 Accepting the Impress Awards at the CRA Highway Conference & Road Show.

selections. The outcome of this collaboration was truly exceptional from our 2023 open enrollment meeting, and it just shows how we truly want to educate our employees as much as possible on their benefits package and give them the tools to do so.

Finally, the Operations category was our final submission. Although we have many operational tasks that improve efficiency and quality of work, we submitted our use of fine aggregate seal (fog seal) for residential areas. When requested by Townships or special assessments, our maintenance crew can lay down this extra layer of road preservation to create a better barrier that reduces water penetration on a road. This

extends the life of a road as well as providing it with a smoother, and more attractive finish. Our maintenance crew here at SCRC is a very talented group of people and take major pride in the activities we perform. They truly prove these talents when doing things such as laying down this fog seal, as it showcases their skills and knowledge of the equipment they are operating, resulting in road projects that not only we here at SCRC are proud of, but the residents as well.

The Saginaw County Road Commission did receive Impress Awards for each of these submissions and received a People's Choice award as well for the Communications submission of our Informational Reference

Guide. I could not be prouder of our team here at SCRC. The submissions for these awards are just the tip of the iceberg of the many accomplishments, skills, and teamwork our Road Commission has to offer, and I look forward to seeing continuous growth and collaboration throughout our departments.

Stay safe and have a great summer!

*Dennis Borchard,
 Managing Director*



MAINTENANCE

2024 Maintenance Operations

The 2024 SCRC maintenance year started with a mild winter. Spring has been up and down, cold, and warm, with many wet days. Our hope is we'll get warmer weather on a more consistent basis with some of our large maintenance activities starting. Listed are the larger 2024 maintenance activities:

Chip Seal: This year, in District 4, which consists of the northwest portion of Saginaw County, we plan to complete 60 miles of primary roads. Countywide, we will complete 88 miles of local roads, for a total of 148 miles of chip seal scheduled.

Gravel Hauling: 18 Miles of 23A mod natural gravel, and 5 miles of 22A limestone will be hauled and placed for a total of 23 total scheduled miles.

Ditching: Many miles of ditch cleaning have been completed with most utilizing farmer fields for material placement, which helps expedite the complete operation with minimal personnel required.

Aside from our larger maintenance activities, we have other important activities happening throughout the county as well. Our high shoulder machine has been around the county addressing all scheduled chip seal routes needing high shoulders removed. Once completed, this machine will be scheduled to work similar to

how our chip seal program is set up. We rotate primary roads per district every four years. This year chip seal primary roads are scheduled to be completed in District 4. The shoulder machine will be in District 6, which is the district that will have primary roads scheduled for chip seal in 2025. This will allow us to complete all high-shoulder issues per district a year ahead of the coming chip seal.

Added equipment to our fleet this year consists of two tandem trucks, a CAT 330 Excavator, pickups for the engineering department, one tractor mower, and one Foreman truck. We also have some equipment, blasting, and painting that has been completed as well.

CHIP SEAL



2024 has brought more good news with the approval of two new salt sheds that are currently being built. One will be built at our current Geddes Road pit site in Thomas Township. The other will be constructed at our new property located at 1777 W. Brady Rd (M-57) in the Village of Chesaning. This property was purchased last fall. Our Hemlock garage was built in 1960 and our Chesaning garage was built in 1964. We have outgrown both facilities and are unable to get all our equipment under cover. The conditions of each salt shed have deteriorated over the years, and they are undersized. The current capacity at each location is 1,200 tons of salt at a time in each shed.



GRAVEL HAULING

The need is unquestionably there and has been for some time. After reviewing possible options of how to proceed in making the right decision for today's operations and the future of SCRC, purchasing the Chesaning property, and building at the Geddes Road pit site was determined to be the best locations to allow us to be as efficient in responding to needed SCRC responsibilities.



SHOULDER MACHINE



DITCHING

We came together with a plan of how to fund within our budget realizing that the best approach would be to start with only building the two salt sheds this year. An added advantage to the salt sheds is placing 40' lean twos on both sides of each of the buildings. This will give us added cover and protection for some of our equipment, and it will be long enough to cover our larger equipment such as our graders. Further expansion of new maintenance facilities at each site is planned in future years as funding allows. Appreciation to all employees involved in making this very tough but necessary decision become a reality.

Thank You

*Dan Medina,
Director of Maintenance*

TECH COMMUNICATION



Flying in the Wire Environment

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) teamed up with Fly USI to bring sUAS (small Unmanned Aerial Systems) training to local agencies. In early April, Steve and I joined up with sUAS pilots from various MDOT roles across the state. We had online training before our in-class ground school. Our instructor, Cameron Ball, introduced us to pre and post-flight logs, assessing a site for risk, and forming a contingency plan.

We spent the next 1.5 days at two different sites in Saginaw County. We flew transmission and distribution power lines. We practiced manual maneuvers to capture images from various distances and angles. It was neat to be in the right-of-way doing hands-on training. During our last flight of the program, we were challenged to review the bridge from all sides. This meant we had to fly below ground level in the ditch, avoiding obstacles to get underneath the bridge. Once below the bridge deck, we took images of the beams and support structures on either side of the ditch.

Researcher Colin Brooks from Michigan Tech University coordinated this opportunity with MEDC and USI. Colin has ongoing research using sUAS and thermal sensors to study two bridges in Saginaw County.

Thanks.

**Mariah Kelly,
GIS Analyst**



ENGINEERING

Construction season 2024 is underway in Saginaw County. The primary and local road systems will see several upgrades throughout the county. We've created a table to summarize our 2024 road projects. Many of these projects also include drainage improvements, curb and gutter, driveway approach and shoulder work as well. SCRC's focus is to manage these roadways safely and efficiently through proper improvements and maintenance. To ensure the safety of road workers and road users - always slow down, follow all posted signs, and be alert. Work zone safety is everyone's responsibility!

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

*Tim Brown,
Project Manager*

*Haley Christensen,
Permit / Safety Officer*

*Nick Hornak,
Engineering Assistant*

Railroad Crossings

Township	Road	Limits	Railroad
Bridgeport	King	Dixie Hwy to Mack	Lake State Railway Company
Taymouth	Birch Run	Dorwood to Nichols	Huron Eastern Railway Company



Dixie Hwy Construction



2024 Road Projects

Township	Road	Limits	Project Scope
Birch Run, Bridgeport and Franknemuth	Dixie Hwy	Willard to Junction	Mil and Fill with improvements to the intersections of Curtis and Burt
Bridgeport	Blue Bird and Toth	West of Studor	Mill and Fill
Buena Vista	Hess	Towerline to Ruff	HMA Paving
Buena Vista	Perkins	23rd to Outer	HMA Paving
Carrollton	McKinley	Mapleridge to Dead End	HMA Paving
Carrollton	Hickory	McKinley to Carrollton	Crush, Shape, HMA Paving
Carrollton	Harrison	Shattuck to Dead End	HMA Paving
Carrollton	Monroe	Shattuck to Stoker	HMA Paving
Kochville	Trautner	Bay to Davis	Mill and Fill
Kochville	Cardinal Square	Tittabawassee to .34 miles north	Mill and Fill
Richland	Geddes	Fordney to Orr	Crush, Shape , HMA Paving
Richland	O'Hara	Fordney to Orr	Crush, Shape, HMA Paving
Richland / Thomas	Orr	Geddes to Tittabawassee	Paving to All Season
Saginaw	Bunny Trail, Deer Trail, Foxwood and Normandy	Off Lawndale	Mill and Fill
Saginaw	Pine Gate	West of Manon	Mill and Fill
Saginaw	Center	M-46 to M-58	Mill and Fill
Saginaw	Brockway	Center to Wieneke	Mill and Fill
Saginaw	Wieneke	Brockway to M-58	Mill and Fill
Saginaw	McCarty	Hospital to Hemmeter	Mill and Fill
Spaulding	Curtis	Bishop to Ambrose	HMA Paving
Taymouth	Burt	Marshall to Moorish over the Pine Run Creek	Bridge Replacement
Thomas	Thomas	Frost to Tittabawassee	HMA Paving
Thomas	Una and Jacqueline	Madeline to Sue	Crush, Shape, HMA Paving
Thomas	Cheryl, Sybil, Lydia and Rambling	Off N Miller Rd	HMA Paving
Thomas	Wallace	River to Dead End	Crush, Shape, HMA Paving
Thomas	Madeline	Miller to Sue	HMA Paving
Tittabawassee	Kochville	M-47 to Garfield	Crush, Shape, HMA Paving
Tittabawassee	First	Meyer to Freeland	HMA Paving
Tittabawassee	Second	Church to Freeland	HMA Paving
Zilwaukee	Kochville	Westervelt to Melbourne	HMA Paving
Saginaw, Kochville, and Buena Vista	Multiple Locations	Concrete Patches	Remove and Replace Concrete

SAFETY

Saginaw County Road Commission was proud to join the nationwide effort in promoting National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW) April 15-19, 2024. As SCRC kicks off the 2024 road construction season, we emphasize the critical importance of safety in work zones. By prioritizing caution and awareness, we can prevent accidents and protect the lives of both road users and construction workers.



SCRC encourages all drivers to adhere to the following safety guidelines:

- Stay Alert
- Reduce Speed
- Eliminate Distractions
- Obey Signs and Flaggers
- Maintain a Safe Distance
- Expect the Unexpected

Go Orange Day!





In Michigan in 2023, preliminary work zone crash statistics show there were:

- 7,237 work zone crashes, 17 fatal work zone crashes
- 20 work zone fatalities, 2 were road workers
- 1,896 work zone injuries, 108 involved serious injuries

This year's NWZAW message for every motorist to remember is **"Work Zones are temporary. Actions behind the wheel can last forever."**

Safety is a mindset that unites all of us. No one knows your job and tools better than you do.

- Never operate equipment unless you've been properly trained.
- Give suggestions to make a process or equipment safer.
- Immediately notify your supervisor of any damaged equipment, hazardous conditions, or unsafe behavior.
- Promptly report all injuries, illnesses and near misses to your supervisor.

Safety is everyone's responsibility. If you think a job or a task is unsafe, stop the work and ask questions. Don't wait until something happens and an injury takes over your life. It is important to look out for one another and raise awareness of unsafe practices so we may all go home at the end of the workday the same way we showed up.

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 Officer:
Haley Christensen

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



FINANCE

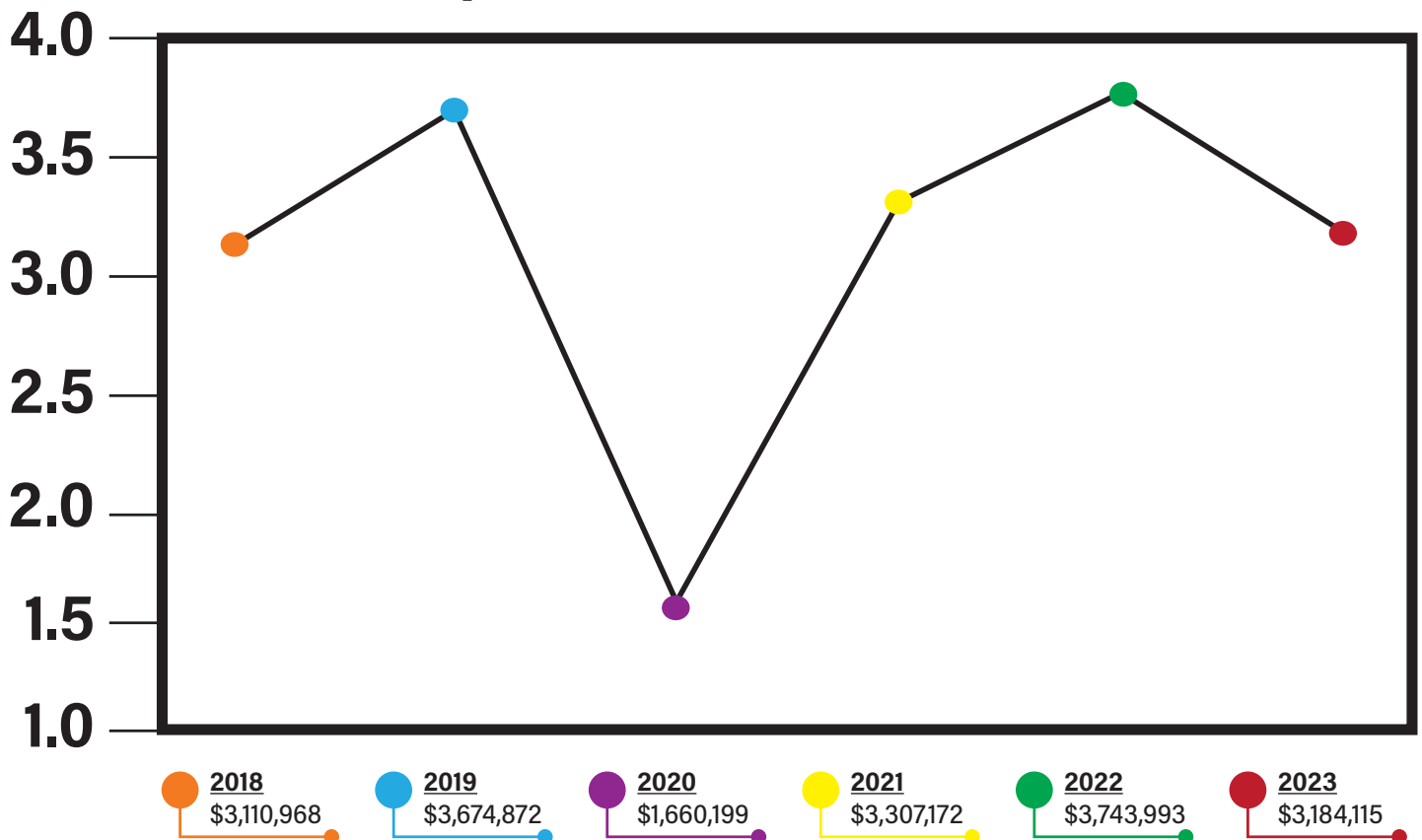
Each township in Saginaw County is responsible for maintaining the local roads within their boundaries, while the Road Commission maintains all primary roads countywide.

Over the past 6 years the total contributions from the county's 27 townships amount to over \$3 million per year (except for 2020 due to the pandemic). This is on top of the allocation (match) dollars that the Road Commission gives to each township annually from our Michigan Transportation Fund Revenue for use on local roads.

Projects that contributions & allocation (match) dollars go to are chosen by each township. Examples of projects chosen are chip seal, hot patching, new gravel, brine on gravel roads, resurfacing / paving, and drainage projects.

Lacey Ziola,
Director of Finance & Benefits

Township Contributions to Local Roads



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



Meridian Rd Bridge - Lakefield Twp
Guardrail Replacement



Volkmer Rd (Gasper & Corunna) - Chesaning Twp
High Shoulder Removal



Orr Rd (North of Geddes) - Thomas / Richland Twp
Culvert Replacement



Bell Rd (Birch Run & Burt) - Taymouth Twp
Tree Cutting & Trimming



Corunna Rd (Ditch & Johnstone) - Chesaning Twp
Ditching & Culvert Replacement



Burt Rd (Over Pine Run) - Taymouth Twp
Federally Funded Bridge Project

UPCOMING DATES

6/16 Father's Day

7/04 Independence Day**

9/02 Labor Day**

10/31 Halloween

11/03 Daylight Savings Time Ends

11/11 Veterans Day**

11/28 Thanksgiving**

11/29 Thanksgiving Observed**

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

NEW HIRES

Shane Moulton

Truck Driver

Andrew Krupp

Truck Driver

SCRC ANNIVERSARIES

MILESTONE ANNIVERSARY DATES

EMPLOYEE	YEARS OF SERVICE
Rob Hudec	25
Scott Peters	25
James Lehman	20
Joe St. Charles	10
Kyle Belger	5
Abby Hare	5
Mitch Weaver	5
Lacey Ziola	1
Chris Odle	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

Richard H. Crannell, P.E. - Chairperson

Deb Kestner - Vice-Chairperson

John D. Sangster - Member

Todd Hare - 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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