

Road
Commission
of Kalamazoo
County



NEWS LETTER

Fall/Winter 2019 Newsletter

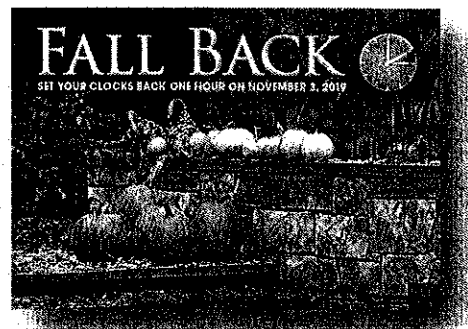
Managing Director's Message

As we wrap up our 2019 construction season, I continue to be proud to be in public service at RCKC. Where else in government does the public have the ability to see and tangibly evaluate our efforts every day? I would like to take this opportunity to express a special thank you for your patience and support throughout one of our most extensive construction seasons. Also, one which has had an increased amount of roads closed for an extended period of time, primarily due to flooding.

As I look at our rich history, and focus forward, our efforts must be focused on continuous improvement for every part of our operations including construction, engineering, materials, equipment and team development.

What are RCKC's efforts in continuous improvement and leadership in public service?

- Collaboration
- Equipment investments
- Technology enhancements
- Asset management data collection
- Communication efforts
- Fiscal responsibility
- Staff evaluation and training
- Road improvements and priorities
- Operational reviews
- Service response



These efforts are on-going and continuously developed to meet the needs of our changing world. Our work is never complete and we will continue to be focused on continuous improvement, leadership and public service.

As we complete our *110 Years of public service 1909 - 2019*, I appreciate all those in attendance at our Open House, Thursday, October 10th. We are proud to be part of the RCKC and equally proud to walk and work in the footsteps of those that have done so before us. As we plan our 2020 budget and beyond, we know there will be challenges ahead as there have been in our past. And when snow flies, be reassured we are working and committed to providing a safe and convenient road system in our county. Thank you for allowing us to serve you!

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Connect to Road Commission Alerts

RCKC CONNECT is a mass notification service that allows RCKC to send citizens voice and/or text messages to home phones, businesses, local agencies and mobile phones in just minutes regarding road closures, detours, and road construction projects. Citizens can choose to receive notifications about RCKC events that may affect their home, workplace, schools and more.



RCKC CONNECT is also a great way for the RCKC to remind citizens of upcoming public meetings and RCKC General News.

The following is the link to **RCKC CONNECT** sign up page.

RCKC CONNECT
RCKC ALERTS SIGN UP NOW

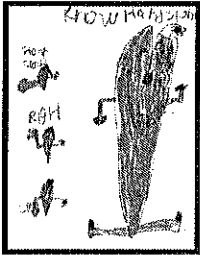
<https://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736724005#/signup>

The RCKC Celebrating 110 Year Anniversary
with an Open House on Thursday, October 10th, Culminating in our Annual
"Put the Brakes on Fatalities" Children's Poster Contest Awards

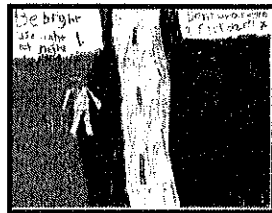


Winners of the 2019 "Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day" Poster Coloring Contest

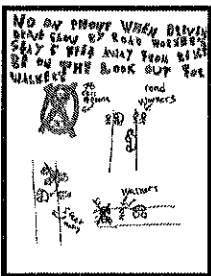
In support of "Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day", the RCKC sponsored a poster contest to bring awareness to distracted driving. Kids ages 4-12 were asked to demonstrate what "Put the Brakes on Fatalities" meant to them. The 1st place winners are:



Ethan Neef (5) of Kalamazoo,



Arie Neef (9) of Kalamazoo



And Peyton Jung (12) of Kalamazoo

The goal of Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day is to unite the country in achieving one full day of zero traffic deaths by encouraging safer behavior and actions, promoting safer roadways and vehicles, and creating improved ways to handle medical emergencies and enforcement of traffic regulations.



JOIN AN AWARD WINNING TEAM in PUBLIC SERVICE. The Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) is seeking candidates for the position(s) of :

- ◆ Communications Administrator
- ◆ Mechanics
- ◆ Road Maintenance Operators
- ◆ Winter Road Maintenance Operators—Seasonal

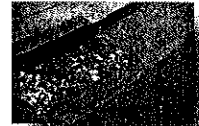
Visit our About Us—[Job Opening's](#) page on our website.

Since 1909

Keep leaves out of ditches and away from storm drains

With the arrival of fall comes the annual chore of raking leaves. Here are some important reminders to consider when cleaning up your yard this fall:

- Keep leaves out of ditches and storm drains. This is to prevent flooding and protect the water quality in local streams and lakes.
- Keep leaves off the street. Leaves piled in the street can be a hazard to motorists and bicyclists.
- Keep sidewalks and paths clear. Leaves and other seasonal debris piles on these pathways can cause slipping and tripping hazards.



Submitting a service request to the RCKC

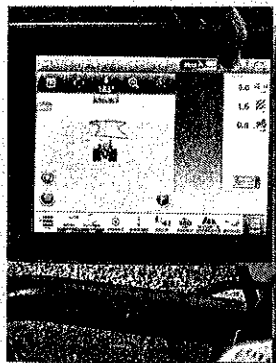
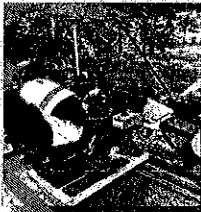
As a friendly reminder, in order for the RCKC to provide the optimum results and customer service for the public, we ask that you share service requests, questions, and concerns which require a varying degree of attention, research and work by our RCKC team to answer or resolve, by using our service request communication system. This allows the RCKC to track service requests, especially in construction season, storm events, etc. Below is a method for entering service requests from our website at www.kalamazooountyroads.com, or by telephone at 269-381-3171, or by using RCKC Connect.

Service Request Active Report is now available on our website. Please keep in mind service requests are also added by our team to track service areas. The report does not include traffic related service requests, as we use a different module in our joint coordinated work with the City of Kalamazoo. A service request remains active in our system until it has been investigated, responded to, and/or action completed. Please allow an average of 20 business days for service request investigation, response or action. Additional time for processing service requests will be necessary during severe weather events, construction season or those requiring investigation. Be reassured the RCKC monitors and tracks all service requests received and they are not closed until which time it is appropriate to do so.

Request ID	Request Type	Request Description	Request Status	Request Date	Request Location	Request Assigned To	Request Assigned Date	Request Assigned Time	Request Assigned Status	Request Assigned Date	Request Assigned Time	Request Assigned Status
1001	Service Request	Request Description	Request Status	Request Date	Request Location	Request Assigned To	Request Assigned Date	Request Assigned Time	Request Assigned Status	Request Assigned Date	Request Assigned Time	Request Assigned Status
1002	Service Request	Request Description	Request Status	Request Date	Request Location	Request Assigned To	Request Assigned Date	Request Assigned Time	Request Assigned Status	Request Assigned Date	Request Assigned Time	Request Assigned Status
1003	Service Request	Request Description	Request Status	Request Date	Request Location	Request Assigned To	Request Assigned Date	Request Assigned Time	Request Assigned Status	Request Assigned Date	Request Assigned Time	Request Assigned Status
1004	Service Request	Request Description	Request Status	Request Date	Request Location	Request Assigned To	Request Assigned Date	Request Assigned Time	Request Assigned Status	Request Assigned Date	Request Assigned Time	Request Assigned Status
1005	Service Request	Request Description	Request Status	Request Date	Request Location	Request Assigned To	Request Assigned Date	Request Assigned Time	Request Assigned Status	Request Assigned Date	Request Assigned Time	Request Assigned Status
1006	Service Request	Request Description	Request Status	Request Date	Request Location	Request Assigned To	Request Assigned Date	Request Assigned Time	Request Assigned Status	Request Assigned Date	Request Assigned Time	Request Assigned Status
1007	Service Request	Request Description	Request Status	Request Date	Request Location	Request Assigned To	Request Assigned Date	Request Assigned Time	Request Assigned Status	Request Assigned Date	Request Assigned Time	Request Assigned Status
1008	Service Request	Request Description	Request Status	Request Date	Request Location	Request Assigned To	Request Assigned Date	Request Assigned Time	Request Assigned Status	Request Assigned Date	Request Assigned Time	Request Assigned Status
1009	Service Request	Request Description	Request Status	Request Date	Request Location	Request Assigned To	Request Assigned Date	Request Assigned Time	Request Assigned Status	Request Assigned Date	Request Assigned Time	Request Assigned Status
1010	Service Request	Request Description	Request Status	Request Date	Request Location	Request Assigned To	Request Assigned Date	Request Assigned Time	Request Assigned Status	Request Assigned Date	Request Assigned Time	Request Assigned Status

Chip Seal Success = Precise Application

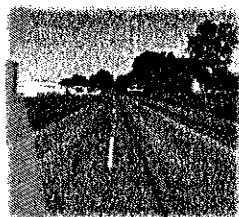
The RCKC has worked to invent a Custom Global Positioning System (GPS) Mapping Cart for chip seal and other operations. The device is for mapping intersections and cul-de-sacs to alleviate aggregate/emulsion overlap and applications shortages. The cart maps the area where we want to spray. We place the controller on the chip spreader and it spreads in the area that we mapped. The cart automatically turns on and off as it enters and exits an area. Also, the cart knows the pass that was made and if it took numerous passes it would not overlay in an area.



RECOGNITION CORNER RCKC Receives Numerous Awards

The RCKC was awarded two 2019 Organization Awards from the Michigan Transportation Asset Management Council (TAMC) honoring the RCKC, Ross Township and Wakeshma Township for demonstrating outstanding achievement and collaboration in implementing the core principles of asset management.

The RCKC was also awarded the 2019 Project of the Year Award from the American Public Work Association (APWA) Michigan Chapter for the W Avenue Preventive Maintenance Scrap Tire Grant Project Transportation—less than \$1 million.



Congratulations

Gravel Road Winter Maintenance

- Gravel roads are difficult to maintain during the winter season with fluctuating temperatures.
- Frozen ground cannot be graded and snow or ice removal are limited to protect the aggregate surface.
- Sand is spread on curves and intersections for traction.
- Salt cannot be used on gravel roads because it melts the frozen aggregate causing an unstable road surface and rutting.

Typically during the "spring thaw," gravel roads are a challenge to maintain much like our hard surface roads, it is when they are the most vulnerable. The faster the ambient temperature rises and the road bed begins to thaw, the more unstable gravel roads become.



The road bed thaws from the top surface down preventing water from penetrating the frozen layer underneath which then causes excessive water saturation on the road surface. When a gravel road is undergoing the thaw cycle, the surface of a gravel road is the consistency of mud, eliminating the option for grading the road to improve its "drivability". Also, applying new gravel to a muddy surface will reduce the stability of the new gravel making it even more difficult for vehicular travel.



The proper time to perform routine gravel road maintenance and apply additional gravel is when the road bed is completely thawed and settled with adequate moisture remaining in the aggregate to achieve compaction.

Grader Facts

We maintain **105 miles** of unpaved roads

We have **3 graders** in our fleet. Our oldest is from 2003 and has 7,201 hours on it.

Graders move **5 mph** when grading

To grade **one mile** of road takes **1.5 hours**

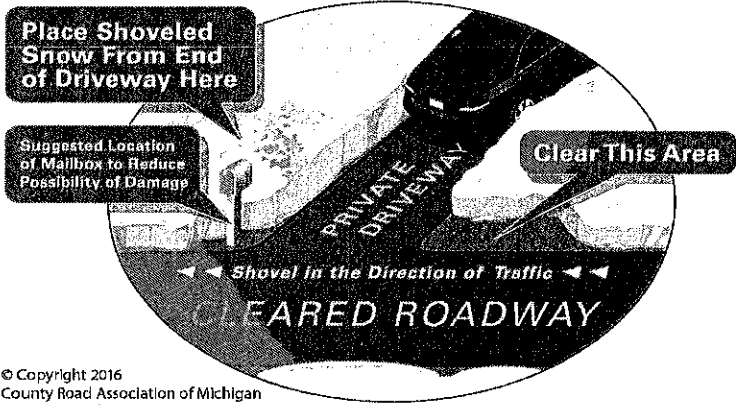
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To grade all our unpaved roads takes **159 hours** or **19 calendar days!**

Helpful Hints to Avoid Winter Woes

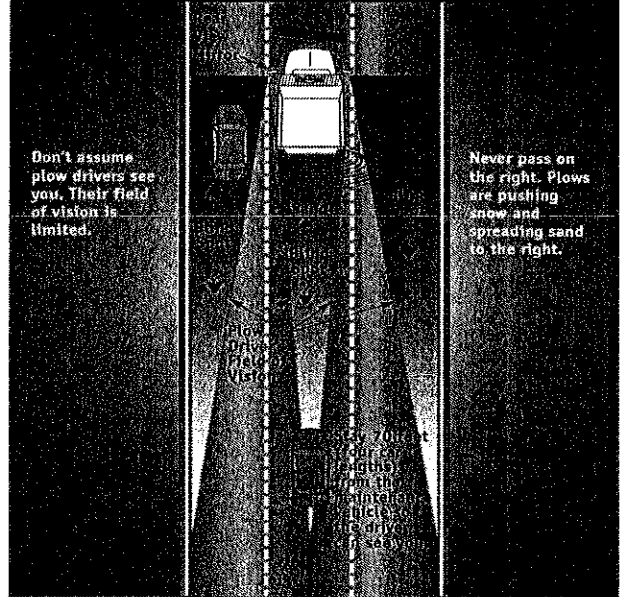
Avoid the "Second Shovel"

People can play a part in ensuring the ends of their driveways remain clear of snow even after their local snowplow comes through. Shoveling a "corner" of the right-of-way free of snow in the area several feet before the driveway will help keep that same snow from being pushed into the driveway in an icy, heavy pile. Clearing an area large enough to hold the snow coming off the plow may help reduce the "second shovel."



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micountyoroads.org

When You See A Snow Plow

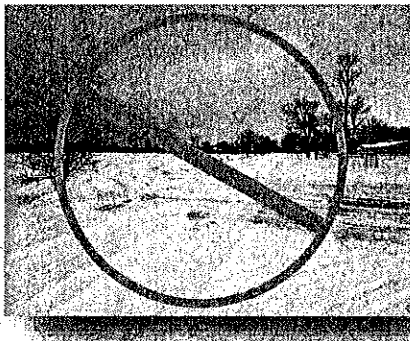


One of the most frequent questions we hear from residents during winter season is, "When will you plow my road?"

When winter weather affects road conditions, our goal is to provide safe traveling conditions. As part of the RCKC's ongoing winter maintenance assessment for the 2019-2020 winter seasons, we have identified a level of service to provide improved and advanced coverage during peak travel and commute times. It is important to share service delivery expectation will be monitored, especially as hiring commercial drivers' license candidates is extremely challenging. RCKC has incorporated a 3 shift program. 4:00 pm, 12:00 am, 7:30 am and 4:00 am when necessary. These changes incorporate our limited staffing and equipment for optimal coverage during winter storms to cover over 1,267 miles of roadway. The priorities within these shifts will continue to be:

- Designated snow route roads,
- balance of primary roads,
- through local roads,
- subdivision or plat streets. PLEASE assist in ensuring vehicles are not parked in roadways

Unfortunately, we do not have a specific time frame as to when roads will be cleared; it depends on winter maintenance conditions. Our staff monitors roads cleared to ensure all roads are plowed and not missed accordingly.



Don't be that person!

MCL 257.677a prohibits removing, or cause to be removed, deposit or cause to be deposited, snow, ice, or slush onto or across a roadway or the shoulder of the roadway in a manner which obstructs the safety vision of the driver of a motor vehicle.

Limit the Time Trash and Recycling is at the Curb

When possible place trash/recycling bins at the curb after the plow has gone down your street and remove from the curb as soon after pick up as you can. While this is not always an option, making the extra effort to do so will help save you a headache in the long run! Due to the force of snow coming off a plow blade, empty bins (and occasionally full) are knocked over and pushed back into people's yards. By limiting the time a bin is curbside will help prevent this from happening.



SHAKE YOUR MAILBOX



RCKC is urging residents to help prepare for the snow and its removal by shaking their mailbox. In most instances where mailboxes are damaged the snow plow doesn't actually hit the mailbox, the force of snow thrown from the roadway is enough to knock down a loose mailbox. Damage to these posts and receptacles can often be prevented by proper routine maintenance. Taking time to tighten screws and secure mail receptacles now can prevent serious headaches later, if the mailbox moves when shaken, the mailbox and/or post may not withstand standard snow removal operations and should be repaired or replaced prior to the onset of winter.

The RCKC regrets any damage to mailboxes and/or supports that occur as a result of road maintenance activities. **RCKC will not assume responsibility for mailbox damage that may be caused by snow/ice that is being plowed from the roadway. PLEASE NOTE: An owner must clearly demonstrate the damage was caused by direct contact by RCKC equipment to receive consideration of a claim settlement per policy.**

Remember to give your mailbox a good shake – and if it moves, it might be a good idea to replace before winter sets in!

Upcoming Office Closures

November 28	Thanksgiving
November 29	Day After Thanksgiving
December 24	Christmas Eve
December 25	Christmas Day
January 1	New Years Day



We are committed to providing a safe and convenient road system for our county motorists. As our customers and as residents of Kalamazoo County you are also entitled to excellent service from us at all times.

We aim to provide answers to your service requests. We encourage our residents and the motoring public to report road conditions that need attention. To make sure our service to you is prompt and courteous we strive to continually improve our methods of contact.

Business hours 7:30am – 4:00pm, Monday through

Friday 269-381-3171 or call 911 for road related

emergencies after business hours.

Board of County Road Commissioners of the County of Kalamazoo County

To better serve our County and local officials, each Road Commissioner has been assigned as a liaison to various townships we serve as follows:

Deborah J. Buchholtz —2019 Chair
Alamo, Oshtemo, Richland Townships

David C. Pawloski —2019 Vice Chair
Prairie Ronde, Schoolcraft, Texas Townships

Larry Stehouwer
Comstock, Pavilion, Ross Townships

Thom Brennan
Brady, Climax, Charleston Townships

Michael Boersma
Cooper, Kalamazoo, Wakeshma Townships



We welcome Eric Arnsman, Project Engineer, Charles Musselman, Mechanic, Edward Klein, Frank Jamann, Paul Zerby, Nicholas Crandall, Michael Shotwell, Travis Bond and Rusty McClain in our field operations team, and Zachary Taylor, Apprentice!

Visit our Website

- Board Meeting Information
- Project Updates/News Releases
- Budget
- Primary Road Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
- Local Road CIP
- Construction Guidelines
- Brochures
- Permit Applications
- Purchasing/Bid Information
- Road Data



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www.kalamazooountvroads.com or email us at info@kerc-roads.com