

County Road News

Ionia County Road Commission

I's Fall Already!

At this time Road Commission crews are scraping gravel roads and finishing up miscellaneous maintenance projects to prepare the roads for the winter season.



Don't Veer for Deer



It's that time of year - keep an eye open for deer while driving. Statistics show that most deaths and injuries occur when drivers swerve to avoid hitting the deer and strike another fixed object. Striking the deer is often the safest course of action to take -

Remember:

- Don't swerve
- Brake firmly
- Hold on to the steering wheel
- Stay in your lane
- Bring the vehicle to a controlled stop

Some additional fall driving tips:

- Make adjustments for the light. We lose a minute of daylight per day until the clocks are set back. Watch for pedestrians or other persons who may be close to the roadway.
- Avoid driving over wet leaves. After leaves start falling they may become wet and slippery. This can reduce traction.
- Prepare an emergency kit for your car. Just a few items to include are a flashlight, first-aid kit, nonperishable food, water, and basic tools.
- Watch for frost. Low temps at night cause frost to form on our vehicles and the roadway. Be sure your vehicle windows are free of frost before driving. Use caution while approaching bridge decks and overpasses as they they may become slippery from frost.
- Watch for construction zones that may still be active. Always slow down and watch out for workers and equipment.

Shake Your Mailbox



October 15th is Shake Your Mailbox Day. We encourage residents to give their mailbox an aggressive shake to see if the post and hardware are secure. Taking time to inspect your mailbox may help prevent it from being damaged over the winter. If the mailbox and/or post is not tightly secured it may not endure the standard snow removal process. Residents who have custom or expensive mailboxes may want to consider switching to a less costly mailbox for the winter months to avoid damage to them. Even the heavy duty plastic mailboxes tend to get brittle with age and in cold weather causing them to shatter when hit by snow thrown from the plow.

2011 Board Information

Frederick A. ChapmanChairman
Herbert C. Cusack Vice-Chairman
Stephanie HurlbutMember
Chuck MinkleyMember
Bill WeisgerberMember

The County Board of Commissioners appoints the Road Commissioners to six year terms. The Road Commissioners meet twice a month, generally at 9:00 am on Wednesdays, unless noted below. All meetings are held at the Road Commission office and the public is always welcome.

The Ionia County Road Commission office is located at 170 East Riverside Drive in Ionia. Office hours are 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday.

Remaining Board Meeting Schedule:

Wednesday, October 12; Friday, October 28
Wednesday, November 9 and 23
Wednesday, December 14 at 7 pm
and Wednesday, December 28

Funding



Remember that almost all of our revenues come from fuel taxes and license plate fees, NOT from property taxes.

The fuel tax we receive is based on the number of gallons that are purchased, NOT by the price per gallon. Gallons of fuel used continue to decline and adversely affect our revenue.

We are continually trying to get more funding to help maintain our deteriorating roadways. You can help by contacting your state legislators. You can learn more about helping improve Michigan's roads by visiting www.drivemi.org.

2011 Projects



The Road Commission plans on completing the following projects this fall:

•**Portland Road bridge replacement of the Morrison Lake outlet** – Project consists of removal of the existing bridge and replacement with a 10' x 20' concrete box. The project began August 31 and should be completed by October 7.

•**Keefer Hwy. safety project** – Project includes tree removals, shoulder widening and paving, ditch relocation and roadway resurfacing from 1/2 mile south of Knox Road to I-96. Work began on August 8 and should be completed October 1.

•**Riverside Drive curve safety project** – Project includes flattening the existing broke-back curve east of Somers Road. Construction is anticipated to begin October 3 and be completed by November 15.

You can find further information about these and other projects on our website at www.ioniacountyroads.org.

Brought to you by your local road professionals at the Ionia County Road Commission

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