

2009 winter has officially arrived in Michigan!



The question remains will we have an early spring? The Kalamazoo County Road Commission has been "knee deep" in winter maintenance operations since late November 2008. We have been working diligently to address winter conditions upon our roadways almost daily. Our dedicated road commission employees are on-call throughout winter and expected to report when their services are needed. With increased costs of fuel and materials, and decreasing revenues, we are vigilant not to waste our resources. We will continue to work hard to provide motorists with safe and efficient roadways.

continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** 2009 Winter has officially arrived in Michigan!
- 1** Managing Director's Message
- 2** 2009 Winter Reminders
- 3** Seasonal Weight Restrictions
- 4** Educational Opportunities
- 4** Your KCRC Board of Road Commissioners

Managing Director's Message

As we look around us and listen, often times we get caught up in the negativity and the many challenges ahead. We automatically think the worst vs. seeking to understand and embrace the challenges as learning opportunities ahead. We have often heard that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expect a different result.

We, at KCRC, will be constantly learning from our past, at the same time we will experiment with new products, equipment and ways of doing business and monitor the results. We have had to make tough decisions and there may be difficult decisions ahead as well, but we must address these challenges as opportunities to better serve the public even in tough economic times.

As the Kalamazoo County Road Commission begins its *CENNTENNIAL YEAR in 2009*, we appreciate the efforts of those who have set our foundation and shaped the roads ahead. I am proud to be part of this organization and I am equally proud to walk and work in the footsteps of those that have done so before me. Equally, I am proud to serve the public with our Board of County Road Commissioners of Kalamazoo County and our dedicated employees in these challenging economic times.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joanna I. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Joanna I. Johnson
Managing Director

In an effort to provide the most efficient and effective snow removal on our County roads. Our goal is to provide the maximum level of service to the greatest number of people as quickly as possible. Our snow removal priorities:

1. Snow route roads
2. Balance of primary roads
3. Through local roads
4. Subdivision or plat streets
5. Dead-end and cul-de-sac roads

Every-day service is provided to priorities 1, 2 & 3 during snow events. Every other day service is our goal for plat streets, dead-end and cul-de-sac roads. If a storm is long lasting or a second storm starts before clean up on priorities 4 & 5 have been completed, crews will return to priorities 1, 2 & 3.

The Kalamazoo County Road Commission encourages residents to inspect their mailboxes to insure they can withstand the wet heavy snow and slush coming off from a plow.

Help us educate the children of our county on the risks presented by snowplows and the dangers of playing on the high piles of snow and ice that are near the roadway during snow removal –

- Please **KEEP THE CHILDREN AWAY** from roadside piles of snow
- Don't build snow forts, make tunnels, or play in or on snow banks next to roads
- Keep away from the edge of the roadway as you wait for the school bus, get the mail, or watch the plow trucks
- Stay away from the end of a driveway when a snow plow is approaching
- Hidden objects under the snow, when thrown by the plow truck could cause serious injury
- Keep sleds and toys away from the roadways at all times

Reminders for motorists:

- Do not park or abandon a vehicle or other object in the right-of-way
- Don't attempt to pass a snow plow vehicle while they're plowing
- Never pass a plow on the right as wing plows are often hidden by the snow cloud being kicked up by the plow
- Plow drivers have limited visibility and they cannot see directly behind their trucks
- Motorists are advised not to travel next to a plow
- Plows can suddenly move sideways from hitting drifts or by cutting through packed snow
- Don't crowd the plow!
- Wear your seatbelt and always allow extra time to reach your destination

Please be advised that it is a violation of the Michigan Vehicle Code, as well as a safety hazard, for contractors, excavators, and homeowners to push snow onto or across a roadway or the shoulder of a roadway. Any violation of the Michigan Vehicle Code, Act 300 of 1949, 257.677a "obstruction of safety vision by removal or deposit of snow, ice, or slush prohibited."

We encourage our residents and the motoring public to report road conditions that need attention by calling our office at 269-381-3171 or call 911 for emergencies. You may also visit our website at www.kalamazooountyroads.com



Seasonal Weight Restrictions

Annually KCRC implements weight restrictions as necessary to protect our road system during the freeze/thaw cycle. Weight restrictions are enforced to minimize the damage caused during Michigan's seasonal thaw. As the ground thaws in the spring, water is forced toward the surface and exerts pressure on roads, causing them to buckle and become more prone to damage. The heavier the vehicle, the greater possible harm to roads. During the weight restriction period, commercial vehicles traveling on restricted roads must carry lighter loads and travel at slower speeds. We strive to not have our seasonal weight restrictions in force unnecessarily; however we must protect our investment within our road system. In prior years, we have implemented weight restrictions as noted below, which vary on weather conditions. Since 2003 the weight restrictions have varied as follows:

2003 – ON 3/12 OFF 4/4

2004 – ON 2/25 OFF 3/31

2005 – ON 2/14 OFF 4/6

2006 – ON 3/6 OFF 3/27

2007 – ON 3/1 OFF 4/2

2008 – ON 3/4 OFF 4/9

2009 – TO BE DETERMINED

KCRC will post notifications, issue press releases and provide information our KCRC website and the County Road Association of Michigan website at www.micountyroads.org

An ALL SEASON ROUTE MAP is also available on the "Publications" section of our website.

NEW HOTLINE IN 2009

For daily updates to the seasonal weight restrictions, citizens can call **269-381-3170 extension 273**. The hotline will be updated daily for any changes to the seasonal weight restrictions status.

For additional questions please contact our

KCRC Weighmasters:

Joe Stark 269-381-3170 extension 272

Bill DeYoung 269-381-3170 extension 271

What information is available on the KCRC Website?

- Brochures
- Bid Information
- Project Information
- Budget Summary 2009
- 2009 – 2013 Capital Improvement Plan
- Maps
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Board Meeting Schedule, Agenda, Minutes
- Contact Form



Contact Us:

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.

To this end, we aim to provide answers to your service requests. To make sure our service to you is prompt and courteous we strive to continually improve our methods of contact. Office hours are 7:30am – 4pm, Monday through Friday, 269-381-3171.

Our services on the web can be found at www.kalamazooountyroads.com and are designed to keep you updated on the news and information from our agency. You can contact us via email at info@krcr-roads.com.

Educational Opportunities Planned at KCRC:

To provide educational opportunities for local officials we have planned the following presentations at KCRC at NO COST in 2009. We are also hoping to schedule "What Elected Officials Need to Know about Traffic Safety" for the fall – stay tuned!

March 31, 2009 9am – 12 noon

Introduction to Transportation Asset Management for Elected Officials

Please contact Michigan LTAP to register at 906-487-2102

More information is also available on our KCRC website

June 25, 2009 9am – 10:00am

Setting Realistic Speed Limits

Please contact Debbie Hill at KCRC to register at 269-381-3170 extension 203.

Your KCRC Board of Kalamazoo County Road Commissioners:

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

**Jeffrie Maddox – Chairman; Comstock, Cooper, Ross
Kent McCauley – Vice Chairman; Brady, Climax, Pavilion
Dennis Berkebile – Charleston, Schoolcraft, Texas
Dan Moyle – Alamo, Oshtemo, Richland
Ken Oscarson – Kalamazoo, Prairie Ronde, Wakeshma**

Kalamazoo County Road Commission
3801 E. Kilgore Road
Kalamazoo, MI 49001