

## Mailbox Policy Update



The Kalamazoo County Road Commission (KCRC) updated its Mailbox Damaged by Road Commission Operations policy. KCRC regrets any damage to mailboxes and/or supports that occur as a result of road maintenance activities. The owner must clearly demonstrate the damage was caused by direct contact by road commission equipment. KCRC will not assume responsibility for mailbox damage that may be caused by snow/ice that is being plowed from the roadway.

Statewide the County Road Association of Michigan and the United States Postal Service partnered in the first "Shake Your Mailbox Day" October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Mailbox owners are encouraged to regularly inspect and perform routine maintenance on their mailbox. Mailboxes should withstand wet heavy snow and slush coming off from a plow. Visit our website for a brochure on Mailboxes and Supports guidelines and policy.

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## Managing Director's Message

Happy New Year.

As we begin 2010, it is important to reflect on our many accomplishments of 2009. We continued to partner and value our Township participation in local road improvements. As noted in this newsletter, our Market Street local road participation fund project was recognized by the American Public Works Association Southwest Chapter. This was just one of the many great improvement projects completed locally with our Township partners.

We completed asset management local road data collection for Texas, Ross and Brady Townships. This data will be a useful in project planning for our local program.

Among our many primary road planned projects, we completed three American Recovery and Reinvestment Act projects in 2009. We updated our Primary Road Capital Improvement Plan to 2014.

We accomplished many organizational and operational changes that proved very challenging, but will assist KCRC into the future. We appreciate the efforts of all our staff.

2010 will continue to be challenging with another 5% decrease planned in our Michigan Transportation Fund revenue and with continued review of operations and services. We could all write about our challenges; however we must work collectively to find ways to continue high levels of service with reduced revenues. We have to make difficult decisions which may not always be embraced, but we do so with integrity.

We move into 2010 with the accomplishments and lessons learned of 2009 and with continued dedication of providing you the best in public service.

Sincerely,



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.

**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**
- **Keep garbage/recycle bins up in the driveway if it snows on garbage collection day**

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.kalamazoocountyroads.com](http://www.kalamazoocountyroads.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 our 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 – ON 2/12 OFF 3/30

2010 – 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](http://www.micountyroads.org)

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

## HOTLINE RETURNS IN 2010

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*

*John Byrnes, Traffic Services Director*

*269-381-3170 extension 270*

## 2009 APWA Award – Market Street



Pictured: Bill DeYoung, Area Superintendent, Commissioner Ken Oscarson, General Superintendent Travis Bartholomew



Market Street

The KCRC was honored December 10<sup>th</sup> by the American Public Works Association (APWA) Southwest MI. Branch at their Annual Awards Banquet for the road improvement project on Market Street, Comstock Township.

The project was a 2009 local road improvement project in partnership with Comstock Township totaling \$180,000. The project scope began with the cleaning of existing culverts and ditches, and coordinating the cleaning of a county drain in conjunction with the project. The project included pulverizing the existing roadway, shaping and compacting, placing hot mix asphalt, driveway approach resurfacing and restoring the roadside drainage areas. The project began in June and was completed in August of 2009.

The project was recognized in the Transportation Less than \$500K category.

## **Staff Highlights**

**Joanna I. Johnson, Managing Director** was highlighted in the December issue Encore Magazine. The article highlighted Ms. Johnson's professional career and the Kalamazoo County Road Commission.

([www.encorekalamazoo.com](http://www.encorekalamazoo.com) and see past issues for the December edition)

**Travis Bartholomew, General Superintendent** and his wife Trish received the Ecology Leadership Award at the annual Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in October 2009. This award is given for positive environmental impacts in the farming community – Congratulations to the Bartholomew family!

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.

Office hours are 7:30am – 4pm, Monday through Friday, 269-381-3171 or call 911 for emergencies.

Our services on the web can be found at [www.kalamazooountyroads.com](http://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@kerc-roads.com](mailto:info@kerc-roads.com).



Please VISIT OUR WEBSITE to find:

- 2010 Budget
- 2010 – 2014 Primary Road Capital Improvement Plan
- Brochures
- Maps
- Board Meeting Information
- Permits
- and MORE

## **Educational Opportunities Planned at KCRC:**

To provide educational opportunities for local officials we have planned the following presentations at KCRC at NO COST in 2010.

**Setting Realistic Speed Limits** – Sgt. Jim Campbell,  
Michigan State Police  
February 23, 2010: 10:00am - 11:30am

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

*Watch for additional opportunities in the next e-newsletter.*

## **2010 Board of County Road Commissioners of Kalamazoo County**

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:

**Kent L. McCauley** – Chairman; Brady, Climax, Pavilion  
**Kenneth R. Oscarson** - Vice Chairman; Kalamazoo,  
Prairie Ronde, Wakeshma  
**Jeffrie M. Maddox** –Comstock, Cooper, Ross  
**Dennis J. Berkebile** – Charleston, Schoolcraft, Texas  
**Daniel J. Moyle** – Alamo, Oshtemo, Richland

*The goal of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Kalamazoo County is using our expertise, energy and funds to provide the safest and most convenient road system possible, and to contribute to economic development and high quality of life throughout the county.*