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## *Important Dates:*

March 8, 10:00am  
Board Meeting

March 21, 9:00am  
Board Meeting

## *Office Hours:*

**Monday - Friday**  
**7:30am – 4:00pm**

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Managing Director

## What are “All-Season” Roads?

“All-Season” roads are those that have been designed and built with the appropriate width and pavement thickness to withstand truck traffic loads all year long. Thus, they are not subject to the Seasonal Weight Restrictions that are placed on most roads during the spring thaw.

Roads not constructed to “All-Season” standards are subject to a reduction in allowable loading and speeds during the period each spring when thawing of the ground below

softens the roadbed and makes the surface more susceptible to damage from heavy loads.

As a general rule, primary roads have been constructed to all-season loading standards. However, there are a few primary roads that require reduced loading during Seasonal Weight Restrictions.

All residential subdivision streets, most local roads, and all gravel surfaced roads in Ottawa County are subject to a 25

percent reduction in allowable loading when Seasonal Weight Restrictions are in effect.

Since Seasonal Weight Restrictions are very important for the longevity of roads, the Road Commission employs 2 weighmasters for enforcement of Seasonal Weight Restrictions on county roads.

For more information on Seasonal Weight Restrictions throughout Michigan, visit [www.micountyroads.org](http://www.micountyroads.org).

## Bridge Crosses Funding Gap

The Road Commission received a Grant to repair the West Spring Lake Road Bridge over Cornelius Bayou in Spring Lake Township.

The Grant is funded with State Local Bridge Funds covering 95% of the construction costs.

The project was awarded to Anlaan Corporation in December of 2012 at a bid price of \$1,347,138.57.

The project will consist of the removal of the existing superstructure, guardrail, and related approaches.

The substructure unit will be repaired and new beams, deck, guardrail, and approaches will be placed.

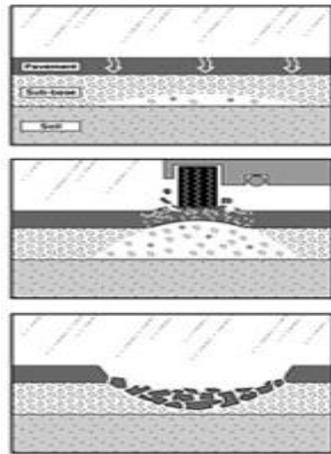
This will be the first major repair on this bridge since it was constructed in 1974.

In addition, Spring Lake Township has partnered with the Road Commission to include in the project an 8 foot wide path along the east side of the bridge. The Township will pay 5% of the path cost that is not covered by the Local Bridge Funds.

Work started in February, and is expected to be open to traffic in June. During the work, West Spring Lake Road is closed to thru traffic. A detour route has been posted and traffic is routed to Hemlock Drive.

Below is a photo of the existing West Spring Lake Road Bridge.





The sketches above show the how potholes are formed.

## Pothole Season

Winter is almost over, but as the warmer weather starts to develop, so do potholes.

### So what is a pothole?

Over time roadways deteriorate and develop cracks and other defects. Snow and moisture pass through the cracks and seep into the underlying gravel base and sub-soils.

freezing and expansion of the moist gravel and sub-soils. As a result, the asphalt surface rises up in places in the road. This is called frost heave.

In the Spring, the temperature begins to rise, the ground thaws, and the gravel and sub-soils settle leaving air pockets under the pavement.

air pockets and weakened pavement force the asphalt surface to collapse, creating a pothole.

If you notice a pothole, please contact our office at 616-842-5400 to report the pothole location or utilize our online service request form. The link to our website is [www.ottawacorc.com](http://www.ottawacorc.com).

The cold weather causes

Vehicles driving over the

## Safe Roads for Everyone

### Why shoulders on gravel roads are worked on in the Spring?

Road Commission crews pull (grade) shoulders on gravel roads in the county every spring before the grass begins to grow on the side of the road.

This maintenance is done to reclaim gravel that has been pushed out to the shoulder, as well as to remove the berm along

the edge which keeps the water from flowing off the road.

We lose a lot of gravel either from rain washing it off the road, or from vehicles kicking it up from normal driving. By doing this, the Road Commission can save thousands of tons of gravel.

The process of pulling shoulders involves a

couple of steps. A tractor with a retriever (disk), or motor grader, pulls the berm forward the center of the road.

Next, a truck grader "beats" the gravel out of the sod, and mixes it with existing gravel. This is not something that is done in one day. It can be a two-week process. The graders do come back on a regular basis to check if regarding is as necessary.



Shown above are Jerry VanHouten and John Gappa, the winners of the 2012 Michigan APWA Snow Plow Rodeo.

## Drivers to Compete in Colorado

The National Snow Rodeo, held in Estes Park, Colorado, is a very popular competition that tests the skills and knowledge of equipment operators from around the country.

Each event includes a

written test on the rules of the road, a diagnostic vehicle inspection, and a timed obstacle course.

Jerry VanHouten from the Coopersville Garage and John Gappa from the Grand Haven Garage will be representing the

Michigan APWA section at the 2013 National Snow Rodeo for the two person team Single Axle Snow Plow event.

The national competition will be held this September. Good luck, Jerry and John.