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Important Dates:

September 12
9:00am Board Meeting

September 19
9:00am Board Meeting
10:00am Budget
Hearing

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
7:30am – 4:00pm

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Affordable Care Act Impacts

In 2010, President Barack Obama signed into law health care reform with implementation to be phased in over time. The law is referred to as the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

While most elements of the ACA affecting the Road Commission take effect in 2014, some have already been required to be implemented, and they include:

- Extension of dependent coverage for adult children up to age 26
- Prohibition of health plans from excluding children under age 19 from coverage due to a pre-existing condition
- Requirement of health plans to cover preventive services without cost-sharing
- Elimination of lifetime benefit limit and a phasing out of annual benefit limits
- Excise tax on high cost health insurance plans that exceed annually adjusted limits for individuals and families

Some provisions of the ACA that take effect in or after 2014 will also apply to the Road Commission and include:

- The setup of new Health Coverage Exchanges called the Health Insurance Marketplace. This will cost the Road Commission approximately \$20k/year.
- Patient Centered Outcomes and Comparative Effectiveness Research Fee. This will cost the Road Commission \$1/ member per year and will increase every year.

The Road Commission will continue to monitor the ACA requirements and work with health insurance agencies to provide the most cost effective employee health plan.

Truck Petting Zoo

The Road Commission recently participated in two educational events for children.

The first was the Spring Lake District Library's Truck Petting Zoo that was held in July.

This was a great event with over 250 children and adults coming to see and touch trucks that were showcased by various local agencies.

After the event, the children were so excited to learn more about trucks that all of the "truck" books

were checked out of the library.



The photo shown above is the Road Commission sign truck with a remote controlled basket on display at the Spring Lake Library.

Secondly, children from Lakeshore Little Peoples Place visited the Road

Commission North Holland Garage.

There were approximately 25 children that were given a tour of the facility, watched a video on snow plow safety, and took a seat in one of the Road Commission snowplows.

The photo below shows some of the children that were given a tour.





Shown above is recent retiree Mark Winchester and shown below is Joe Hebert the new Public Utilities Supervisor.



Public Utilities Department Update

After 35 years of public service at the Road Commission, Public Utilities Supervisor Mark Winchester has retired.

Mark started his career in 1978 as an engineering aide working on the survey crew. He transferred to the Public Utilities Department and was promoted to Public Utilities Supervisor in 1987.

Mark resides in Grand Haven with his wife Sherry and enjoys spending time with his granddaughter and working on cars.

Joe Hebert has been selected as the new Public Utilities Supervisor. Joe has worked at the Road Commission since 1989 and started as a Public Utilities Aide.

Over the years, Joe has spent considerable time

and effort pursuing various drinking water and wastewater licenses, the most recent being a B classification wastewater license.

Joe resides in Fruitport Township with his wife Carey and three children and enjoys hiking, coaching softball and being active in his church.

Congratulations to both Mark and Joe.

Safe Roads for Everyone

How are roads designed?

Roads are designed utilizing geometric design standards. The basic objectives in geometric design are to optimize efficiency and safety while minimizing cost and environmental impact.

Geometric roadway design can be broken into three main parts:

alignment, profile, and cross-section. Combined, they provide a layout for a roadway that engineers use to develop plans and specifications.

The **alignment** is the route of the road; typically this is a straight line or a series of horizontal tangents and curves.

The **profile** is the vertical aspect of the road, including crest and sag

curves, and the straight grade lines connecting them.

The **cross section** shows the position and number of vehicle lanes with the appropriate cross slope.

Cross sections also show drainage features, pavement structure, and other items outside the category of geometric design.



Shown above is recent retiree Mark Ralya from the Grand Haven garage.

Ralya Retires

With over 33 years of service, Mark Ralya retired from the Road Commission.

Mark started his career at the Road Commission in 1980 as a common laborer, but his experience and talents quickly

transitioned him to a mechanic.

He worked as a mechanic for 22 years, then decided to return to the road crew as a light equipment operator.

Mark started and retired

as a valuable member of the Grand Haven garage.

Mark is looking forward to retirement as he and his wife Cheryl intend to celebrate by going on an Alaskan vacation.

Congratulations Mark!