

PLEASE  
NOTE:

- Staring April 28th our board meetings will now be held at 3:00 PM.
- Our office will be closed Monday, May 25 in observance of Memorial Day.



## Michigan's Road Funding—Facts & Figures

Did you know:

-the Michigan Transportation Fund (MTF) is the funding source for Michigan's public roads?

-the MTF is comprised of State gas tax, diesel tax and vehicle registration fees?

-the MTF is the sole funding source from which the Barry CRC provides routine maintenance such as snow plowing and scraping gravel roads?

-the last increase in the state gas tax was in 1997 and is currently at 19 cents per gallon with the remaining cost going to other taxes and the oil companies?

-that if your vehicle gets 19 miles per gallon fuel economy that it costs you 1 cent / mile in state gas tax to drive Michigan's roads?

-that given the above example, that if you drive 25,000 miles per year it costs you \$250 in state gas taxes?

-that the state gas tax is essentially a user fee, the more you use—the more you pay?

-you also pay a vehicle registration/plate fee annually to the state depending on the age/value of your vehicle?

-most people do not realize what they pay for most government services including roads?

-that now you can calculate what you actually pay in state taxes for roads? All you need to know is that the gas tax is 19 cents per gallon and look at your vehicle registration fee.

-the Barry CRC 2009 MTF revenue will be down almost 10% from 2005?

-that asphalt prices for the Barry CRC have risen by 283% over the past 10 years?

-that diesel fuel prices for the Barry CRC have risen by 157% over the past 10 years?

-that many road commissions have recently reduced services, laid off employees, **turned paved roads back to gravel** and executed many other cuts?

-that this will be commonplace within the next few years across the entire state without a funding increase?

-that waiting to repair our roads will result in massive expenditures for more costly repairs?

## ROADSIDE VEGETATION CONTROL

The Road Commission utilizes a brush cutter as well as roadside spraying as the two most financially feasible alternatives for roadside vegetation control. Unfortunately, neither alternative looks very appealing on our roadsides. However after a season of re-growth, both opera-

tions have generally been visually acceptable to landowners. The Road Commission has a policy in place that would allow roadside property owners to maintain their own premises. A "No Spray/No Cut" permit can be obtained at no charge at the Road Commission. This will

allow us to keep track of the areas where landowners are willing to help us out and maintain their own roadsides. NOTE: Due to the possibility of spreading Oak Wilt disease we will not use our brush cutter during April, May or June.

# Service Requests

*“Your reports are a valuable tool that we rely on to provide the best services that we can for the traveling public”*

Spring is pothole season in Michigan and we need your assistance. The Barry County Road Commission does not have the employee power or the finances to travel all our roads on a daily, weekly or even semi weekly basis. So we often do not immediately know what repairs or services are needed.

Your reports are a valuable tool that we rely on to provide the best services that we can for the traveling public. We

are well aware that most of you do not want to call, because you feel that you do not want to complain. Well we do not take it that way and actually welcome the information.

The Barry County Road Commission maintains 1068 miles of county roads. Traveling around, just to look for problems, would be extremely time consuming and expensive. Rather our professional crews keep a watchful eye out as they travel from jobsite to

jobsite. The BCRC also uses information from local law enforcement, postal carriers, bus drivers and other county departments to aid in providing quality services.

Please contact the Barry County Road Commission by phone, letter or through our website for all service requests. See contact information below.



## FINKBEINER CRANE ROAD

The Finkbeiner-Crane Road & Bridge Project has received its final MDEQ permit needed for completion of the project. The MDEQ still must approve the wetland mitigation plans which involves the BCRC preserving some existing high quality wetlands.

Construction has begun on the first phase of the project from Patterson road to 1000 feet east of Cherry Valley.

The remainder of the project is currently anticipated to be bid in late 2009 or early 2010 for the 2010 construction season.

## DID YOU KNOW...

The Barry County Road Commission from December 2008-March 2009....  
Spent 9,033.75 Employee Hours on snow removal  
Used 66,364 Gallons of Diesel  
Used 2,980.50 Gallons of Unleaded Gas  
Used 7,362.50 Yards of Sand  
Used 2,090.55 Yards of Salt  
Spent \$1,280,897.39 total for snow removal!

## 2009 ROAD COMMISSIONERS

Public input is very important and always welcome!



The Barry County Board of Commissioners appoints Road Commissioners to six year terms. The Road Commission meets every other Tuesday in the main

office at the Road Commission at 3:00 PM.

### 2009-2010 ROAD COMMISSIONERS

FRANK M. FIALA, Chairman  
DAVID DYKSTRA, Vice Chair  
DAVID D. SOLMES, Member

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