

County Road News

BARRY COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION



WINTER 2008-2009

~ 1725 West M-43 Hwy., Hastings, MI 49058 ~

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WINTER MAINTENANCE

Snow removal is one of the most important services provided by the Barry County Road Commission. This operation is taken very seriously and the highly skilled truck drivers and equipment operators at the road commission are the key to successfully accomplishing this task. Pre-wetting with liquid chloride, computerized sanders/salt spreaders, and snow wings, are some of the latest technologies used to help efficiently remove snow and treat roads. The road commission has 1,065 miles of road to maintain and well over 1,000 intersections and turn arounds to clean out. In order to plow the entire county road system just 1 time our trucks must travel over 4,000 miles. Even with latest technologies and professional truck drivers this takes a lot of time. Barring breakdowns, accidents and continual snowfall (which requires us to stay on main roads) the Barry County Road Commission can plow all 1065 miles in about 12 hours.

PLEASE be patient with us as we are working as quickly and efficiently as possible to keep the roads in Barry County safe.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

The Barry County Road Commission would like to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please allow extra travel time as the weather and Holiday traffic dictate. Be assured that if the weather calls we will be out plowing and salting as needed. Our office hours for this Holiday season will be as follows:

December 24, 2008 ~ Closing at 11:00 AM

December 25, 2008 ~ Closed

December 26, 2008 ~ Closed

January 1, 2009 ~ Closed

If you should need to contact our office, you may do so by calling (269) 945-3449. If you have an emergency please call 911.

When Plowing your Driveway...

The Barry County Road Commission would appreciate your help when plowing, shoveling or blowing snow from your driveway. Please do not push or place snow across county roads. Inevitably snow gets built up on the opposite shoulder and creates a hazard for our drivers and the motoring public. **Helpful Hint: If you place the snow from your driveway on the right hand side when facing the county road, our plow trucks won't throw as much snow back into your freshly cleaned drive as they plow the shoulders.** Thank you, your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Finkbeiner/ Crane Road

The Finkbeiner Road Project is moving along much slower than anticipated. Due to funding deadlines on the JOBS Today program, the project has been divided into two phases. By phasing the project, the BCRC was able to secure \$1.2 million dollars in Jobs Today Funds. Unfortunately, Phase 1 was let during the peak of gas prices. This caused the actual price to be significantly higher than anticipated. Phase 1 (from Patterson to 1000' east of Cherry Valley) was let by the MDOT on September 4, 2008 and awarded to Schippers Excavating. The anticipated construction schedule will be late December 2008 through August 2009. As for Phase 2 (from 1000' east of Cherry Valley to Whitneyville Road), we are currently working on ROW acquisition, a second DEQ permit, and the final design. We anticipate that Phase 2 of the project will be let in September or October of 2009. If you have any questions, please contact the BCRC.

Brush Cutting/Roadside Spraying

The Barry County Road Commission offers citizens a "NO CUT/NO SPRAY" Permit. By filling out this permit you agree to keep your roadside free of all trees, brush, and tall grasses within the right of way, and 15 feet above the road surface. We appreciate your cooperation as we try to improve safety for those using county roads. Fewer trees within the public right of ways help make Barry County a safer place to travel. Please remember you need to obtain a new permit each year. ***The 2009 permits are now available at our office.*** Thank you to all the landowners who obtained permits in the past and are currently maintaining their roadsides.

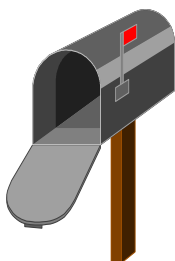
Your help is much appreciated.

Township Meetings

The Barry County Road Commission will be holding its annual meetings with all sixteen townships the week of January 5-8, 2009. If you are interested in attending, please contact the Road Commission in late December or early January for a schedule.



While we do have limited seating, these meetings are usually not full and public attendance is welcome.



Mailboxes VS. Snowplows

Contrary to popular belief, the truck drivers at the Road Commission do not aim for your mailbox when plowing the roadsides. It is very difficult to see when plowing snow in these trucks and more often than not it is the snow that hits the mailbox rather than one of our plows.

Your understanding, that this is not intentional and that the drivers do not keep score or have betting pools to see who can claim the most mailboxes, is appreciated.

2008/2009 Road Commssioners

Donald F. Willcutt, Chairman **Ends Dec. 2008
Frank M. Fiala, Vice-Chair
D. David Dykstra, Member

The County Board of Commissioners appoints the Road Commissioners to six year terms. The Road Commissioners will meet Tuesday, January 6, 2009 and every other Tuesday thereafter, at the Road Commission at 5:00 PM

The public is always welcome!