



Roadways

Genesee County Road Commission

211 W. Oakley St., Flint, MI 48503
www.gcrc.org 810-767-4920

Our mission, as Genesee County Road Commission employees, is to collectively provide and maintain a safe, cost-efficient and quality road system for the motorists of Genesee County.

Issue 10

Serving Genesee County motorists for over 100 years

February 1, 2011

Where's the sun!?!

Along about the middle of February some folks have had about enough of old man winter and start longing for the warmth and rebirth of spring. Others revel in the snow and cold and enjoy skiing, skating, ice fishing, or maybe the solitude of silent winter woods. Both of these groups think the other group is just crazy! **So enjoy Michigan's snowy Winter Wonderland safely. Then think spring!**

Road Commission joins MDOT in reminding residents of snow removal requirements

In a recent press release MDOT reminds residents to please be careful when plowing snow. It's common sense – **and the law.**

Two main concerns are snow piled at the ends of driveways along the road shoulder obstructing drivers' view, and snow pushed across the road leaving snow or slush on the road.

The Michigan Vehicle Code prohibits "the obstruction of safety vision by removal or deposit of snow, ice, or slush."

This includes the end of driveways, where banked snow can reduce visibility for vehicles trying to enter the roadway. Road crews work to keep the shoulders clear for motorist safety and residents and business owners are required to do the same.

Leaving a trail of snow on the pavement while plowing across the road can also cause problems. The snow can become packed and create ridges on the road, or, as temperatures change, the area can become icy.

It also is important to remember that local ordinances may require residents and businesses to keep sidewalks clear of snow. This is important for pedestrians and transit users who need to use sidewalks in the winter.

Please be a good neighbor and take the extra effort to clear your sidewalks and help everyone stay mobile and safe.

MDOT says: Remember - in Ice and Snow, Take it Slow!

A few Michigan transportation "firsts"

- ◆ Nation's first mile of concrete highway (Woodward Avenue between 6 and 7 Mile roads in Detroit) 1909.
- ◆ Nation's first painted centerline (River Rd near Trenton) 1911
- ◆ Nation's first four-way red/yellow/green electric traffic light (corner Woodward and Michigan avenues in Detroit). 1918
- ◆ Nation's first practical highway snowplow (built in Munising, Mich.) 1922

Helpful Winter Information is on our website

Check out the "Winter Survival Guide" at www.gcrc.org

- Winter's Impact
- Winter Storm Facts
- Winter Safety Tips
- Winter Hazard FAQs
- Winter Weather Definitions
- Wind Chill Guide
- Preventing Frozen Pipes
- Preventing Roof Ice Dams
- Woodburning Stove Safety Tips
- Winter Safety Quiz
- National Weather Service Office
- Ice Jams/Flooding

Extreme cold calls for extreme caution

February can be Michigan's coldest month. Extreme cold calls for extreme caution, since even a "minor" inconvenience like sliding into a snow bank can quickly become life-threatening.

- ❗ **Slow down!** No sense hurrying to the scene of the accident.
- ❗ **Wear your seatbelt and allow even more time.**
- ❗ **Dress as if you were going to have to be outside** for an extended period of time. On foot. At least have cold-weather clothes in the vehicle. Hat, gloves, boots.
- ❗ **Carry appropriate winter safety equipment.** At least a small shovel and some sand or kitty litter. A few of those disposable hand warmers can really be a comfort, too.
- ❗ **Carry some water** and high energy snacks in glove box.
- ❗ **Keep your cellphone with you** – and fully charged. If you do get stuck, call 911.
- ❗ **Stay with the vehicle.** Keep a window opened slightly. Run engine sparingly. Check to confirm tailpipe is clear of snow.

"Some really great people"

The following letter appeared in the Fenton Press:

On October 19 my husband and I went out to dinner at Lucky's in Fenton where I left my wallet. We checked several times at the restaurant and no one had turned the wallet in. What a hassle it was to change everything over. My husband was worried about getting my identity stolen.

On November 22 my husband received a message from an employee from the Genesee County Road Commission that he had found my wallet! It was in the median on US-23.



*David went to the G.C.R.C. and met a young man who was **Larry Van Horn**. He shook his hand and asked him if he wanted anything for a finder's fee. He said no, that he always keeps his eyes open for these kinds of things.*

When my husband gave me my wallet, I was stunned. Everything in the wallet was there! I had \$262 in cash and it was all there. I called Larry to thank him and could hardly talk. I told him it was wonderful to see there are some really great people in this world.

All this time the wallet was in the ditch. Anyone could have found it. Who knows how it got there, or why nothing was missing. Prayer helps that is for sure, as I saw firsthand miracles do happen.

*With so much bad news going on about Flint I wanted to take the time to recognize **Larry Van Horn and the Genesee County Road Commission. Thanks again!***

Submitted by Debra S. Welton, Linden

"Your suggestions and comments are greatly appreciated. Visit our website, www.gcrc.org and Facebook page for automatic updates on lots of road topics and the most current information on all projects. Report a pothole at potholes@gcrc.org, email me at jdaly@gcrc.org or call me at 767-4920."

John Daly, Manager-Director