



**INGHAM COUNTY**  
ROAD DEPARTMENT

# NEWSLETTER

## 1 Upcoming Events

### March 13 - Public Meeting

- Project: Holt Rd.: US 127 - Okemos Rd
- Location: Alaiedon Township Hall  
2021 W. Holt Rd, Mason, MI
- 5:30 - 7:00 pm
- Open House Format

### March 14 - Public Meeting

- Project: Hagadorn @ Sandhill Roundabout
- Location: Alaiedon Township Hall  
2021 W. Holt Rd, Mason, M
- 5:30 - 7:00 pm
- Open House Format

## Skip the Extra Shoveling Hassle

Clear the space to the right of your driveway (as illustrated below), providing a designated area for the plowed snow to go, keeping it away from your driveway. This simple step can reduce the need for multiple rounds of shoveling after a substantial snowstorm.



## Hand Painted Plow Hits the Roads



The hand-painted plow, styled by kids from all over Ingham County at the 2023 Touch a Truck event, hit the roads this January. Our local youngsters went wild with brushes and paints, adding their own flair to the plows with handprints, names, trees, flowers, and even shoutouts to their favorite sports teams. Big thanks to these mini artists and the community for making our plows a burst of color in the aftermath of winter storms, turning dreary days into a canvas of fun and creativity.

Keep an eye out for news on our next event coming this Fall!

# A Message from the Director

Welcome to the first edition of the Ingham County Road Department newsletter! We are excited to launch this initiative for several reasons. This newsletter provides an excellent platform to share information about upcoming projects, events, and meetings. It also offers an opportunity for the community to become acquainted with the dedicated individuals who work tirelessly to maintain and enhance our roads on a daily basis. Finally, it serves as a valuable channel to disseminate news, updates, and even share a few fun stories.

As we find ourselves in the midst of the winter season, I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to discuss winter driving awareness, especially when encountering snow plows. To ensure the safety of both drivers and snow plow operators, it is essential to maintain a safe distance when driving behind a snow plow for the following reasons:

1. **Reduced Visibility:** Snow plows create a cloud of snow and ice particles as they work, significantly reducing visibility for drivers behind them. Following too closely increases the risk of being caught in this cloud, making it difficult to see the road, other vehicles, and potential obstacles.
2. **Snow and Ice Debris:** Snow plows can throw snow, ice, and other debris to the sides and sometimes even behind them. Driving too close increases the likelihood of the driver's vehicle being hit by debris, potentially causing damage or obstructing views.
3. **Risk of Collisions:** Snow plows are large and heavy vehicles that may need to make sudden stops or maneuvers to navigate through challenging road conditions. Maintaining a safe distance allows drivers more time to react to the snow plow's movements and helps prevent rear-end collisions.
4. **Blade and Equipment Hazards:** Snow plows are equipped with blades and other machinery designed for snow and ice removal. Following too closely increases the risk of colliding with the snow plow's equipment, potentially causing damage to vehicles or endangering driver safety.
5. **Limited Maneuverability:** Snow plows may need to make wide turns or unexpected maneuvers to clear roads effectively. Maintaining a safe distance allows drivers to anticipate and react to these movements without putting themselves or the plow operator in a dangerous situation.

## What's wrong with this picture?



A bill in the Michigan Legislature recommends that drivers stay at least 200 feet (about 12 car lengths) behind a snow plow. By maintaining a safe following distance, drivers not only protect themselves but also allow the snow plow operators to effectively perform their duties without any added complications. Please keep in mind the importance of patience and caution when sharing the road with these essential winter maintenance vehicles.

Thank you for your help in keeping our roads safe during this winter season and we hope you enjoy this new quarterly newsletter!

Kelly Jones, PE  
Managing Director



# Employee Spotlight

Armando 'Mando' Rosas,  
Highway Worker



We are thrilled to shine a spotlight on a longtime employee of the Road Department, Mando Rosas, whose journey began in the Metro Garage 27 years ago.

Throughout his career, Mando has left a lasting mark on our team. With experience at all three garages and the Sign Shop, his diverse background highlights a profound understanding of our operations. Whether on night shifts, operating the chip spreader, spray patching or street sweeping, Mando has performed many roles at the Road Department. Always eager to share his wealth of knowledge, Mando has become a mentor to both new employees and seasoned veterans alike. He has made a lasting impact and we congratulate him on his impending retirement. After retiring, Mando anticipates spending time with his two grandchildren and fishing. We thank him for his years of service and wish him well in the coming years.

## Did you Know?

The Ingham County Road Department is responsible for more than 1,253 miles of roads outside incorporated cities and villages throughout Ingham County. Through the efforts of its more than 70 employees and 450 pieces of equipment, those roadways are cleared of snow and are kept in good repair.

In addition, the ICRD is responsible for traffic signals, flashing beacons, bridges, road signs and culverts within county road rights of way throughout Ingham County's 550 square miles.



## Mailboxes VS Snow

Who's responsible for damages if your mailbox takes a tumble? You are. Well-maintained mailboxes and posts can endure the impact of plowed snow and ice, but occasional damage is inevitable during winter plowing. The county road department is generally not held liable for such damage incurred while performing regular duties or maintaining the roadway, except in rare instances, like a direct hit.

However, you can take proactive measures to safeguard your mailbox:

- Ensure your mailbox is properly positioned in the right-of-way.
- As winter sets in, tighten all screws securing your mailbox to the post.
- Regularly inspect the post, replacing it if damaged, worn out, or wobbly in the soil.
- Enhance visibility by attaching reflectors to both the mailbox and post, aiding snowplow drivers in spotting it.



# Upcoming Projects

In 2024, Ingham County is set for a transformation with the Ingham County Road Department's ambitious road construction projects across multiple townships.

## **Hagadorn Road and Sandhill Road Intersection (Alaiedon Township)**

- Construction of a roundabout and road approach work in all four quadrants of the intersection.
- All traffic will be detoured to alternate roads via a posted detour. Local traffic will be maintained to residents within the work zone.
- Work is scheduled from April-September.

## **Holt Road Bridge over Doan Creek (Leroy Township)**

- Construction includes the replacement of the bridge superstructure (i.e., beams, concrete pavement and bridge railings), an adjacent large culvert and the road approaches to the bridge.
- All traffic will be detoured to alternate roads via a posted detour. Local traffic will be maintained to residents within the work zone.
- Work is expected to occur from July-November.

## **Holt Road from US-127 to Okemos Road (Alaiedon Township)**

- Construction includes the reconstruction of the roadway by breaking apart the existing concrete pavement and resurfacing with an asphalt pavement.
- All traffic will be detoured to alternate roads via a posted detour. Local traffic will be maintained to residents/businesses within the work zone.
- Work is tentatively scheduled for April-September and is being completed as a coordinated project with MDOT for the upcoming US-127 project.

## **Waldo Road Bridge over Deer Creek (Wheatfield Township)**

- Construction includes the replacement of the bridge deck and railings, guardrail installation and road approach reconstruction.
- All traffic will be detoured to alternate roads via a posted detour. Local traffic will be maintained to residents within the work zone.
- Work is anticipated to be scheduled for August-November.

## **Hoxie Road Bridge over Wolf Creek (Locke Township)**

- Construction includes the replacement of the bridge deck and railings, guardrail installation and road approach reconstruction.
- All traffic will be detoured to alternate roads via a posted detour. Local traffic will be maintained to residents within the work zone.
- Work is anticipated to be scheduled for August-November.

## **Dietz Road Bridge over Red Cedar River (Leroy Township)**

- Construction includes the replacement of the entire bridge and reconstruction of the road approaches.
- This road is currently closed and will remain closed to traffic throughout construction.
- Work is anticipated to be scheduled for June-November.

## **Okemos Road and Central Park Drive Intersection (Meridian Township)**

- Construction includes the replacement of the existing traffic signal.
- Traffic will be maintained throughout construction.
- Work is anticipated to be scheduled April-May.

As these projects unfold, Ingham County residents can expect a more efficient and connected road network, showcasing the county's commitment to progressive infrastructure development. Public meetings to showcase each project will be announced in future newsletters.