

## COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

- County Administrator
- Personnel
- Corporate Counsel



701 Main Street  
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085  
Telephone: (269) 983-7111, Ext 8095  
Fax: (269) 983-5788

---

## M E M O R A N D U M

---

**TO:** Board of Commissioners

**FROM:** Brian Dissette, County Administrator

**RE:** Weekly Update

**DATE:** October 8, 2021

Below is a brief description of some of the items that the team at Berrien County have worked on during this past week:

- At this week's meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the Board took action to honor Hannah Roberts, an Olympic Athlete from Buchanan. Roberts recently won a silver medal at the Summer Olympics in Tokyo. More information on the honor can be found at the following link:
  - <https://www.wsjm.com/2021/10/07/commission-honors-buchanan-olympic-athlete/>
- Local pedestrian trails were reported on this week by WSJM and Moody on the Market. Trail projects were reviewed by Benton Charter Township officials that would extend along M-63. Also reported was the trail network being proposed to connect the

Whirlpool Corporation's Global Headquarters. More information about the projects can be found at the following links:

- <https://www.wsjm.com/2021/10/06/new-trail-network-planned-around-whirlpool-headquarters/>
- <https://www.moodyonthemarket.com/benton-township-getting-new-bike-trails/>
- The Berrien County Parks Department has announced that the final recycling event of the 2021 season will occur this Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at the Southeast Berrien County Landfill Recycling Center. The landfill is at 3200 Chamberlain Road in Buchanan. More details on the event can be found at the following link:
  - [https://www.heraldpalladium.com/communities/buchanan/berrien-county-holding-last-recycling-event-of-the-year/article\\_e4b15ffe-de2d-54c2-af6c-40258a5e76de.html#tncms-source=login](https://www.heraldpalladium.com/communities/buchanan/berrien-county-holding-last-recycling-event-of-the-year/article_e4b15ffe-de2d-54c2-af6c-40258a5e76de.html#tncms-source=login)
- Over the past week, several members of the Board of Commissioners attended a conference hosted by the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC). One of the sessions hosted by MAC focused on the American Rescue Plan and the usage of the funds (the session was focused on Oakland County.) The presentation materials can be found at the following link:
  - <https://www.berriencounty.org/DocumentCenter/View/14773/ARP-Spending-Overview---MON-AM---Carlson>
- As a reminder, the Berrien County Sheriff's Office was featured this week by ABC 57. The report focused on the Sheriff's Office and the work done by law enforcement to connect with local youth. The report can be found at the following link:
  - <https://abc57.com/news/beyond-the-badge-berrien-county-sheriffs-deputy-impacting-local-kids>
- As a reminder, the Berrien County Animal Control Department has announced that planning is underway for the 2021 "Annual Trunk or Treat" event is underway. The event is planned for Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Animal

Control is seeking event partners for the upcoming event. More details can be found at the following links:

- <https://www.berriencounty.org/DocumentCenter/View/14730/Community-2021-TT>
  - [https://www.berriencounty.org/DocumentCenter/View/14729/2422176\\_23\\_2972900426261779\\_526064372196548486\\_n](https://www.berriencounty.org/DocumentCenter/View/14729/2422176_23_2972900426261779_526064372196548486_n)
- The Berrien County Health Department (BCHD) continues to provide services related to residents dealing with COVID-19. That information, along with the latest media coverage of the BCHD and information on COVID-19 vaccination clinics can be found at the following links:
    - Kyna King, BCHD Family Programs Manager, was highlighted by the Herald-Palladium for her work with our teen parents and other home visiting programs. See the full article here: [https://www.heraldpalladium.com/news/kyna-king-brings-passion-to-family-programs-at-the-berrien-county-health-department/article\\_144567d3-5248-55c4-939c-b445adb2de58.html](https://www.heraldpalladium.com/news/kyna-king-brings-passion-to-family-programs-at-the-berrien-county-health-department/article_144567d3-5248-55c4-939c-b445adb2de58.html)
    - The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, released a press release announcing the recommendation for City of Benton Harbor residents to drink bottled water. The state will be providing the water at a variety of locations. The Berrien County Health Department will answer calls on our water hotline and receive requests from residents who need water delivered to their homes. See this release for more information: [https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MIDHHS/2021/10/06/file\\_attachments/1958784/Benton%20Harbor%20NR.pdf](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MIDHHS/2021/10/06/file_attachments/1958784/Benton%20Harbor%20NR.pdf)
    - The Berrien County Health Department continues to keep residents informed on health news in the community. See the latest community newsletter sent on 10/1/21 here: <https://mailchi.mp/bchdmi/learn-more-about-the-status-of-the-covid-19-vaccine-5657417>

- The Berrien County Road Department has provided an update on the status of local projects and activities. That update is listed below:

Here is the Road Report update for week of **10/04/2021**.

Two-Way Stop Returns to Hollywood Road and Linco Road Intersection on Wednesday (9/29/2021)

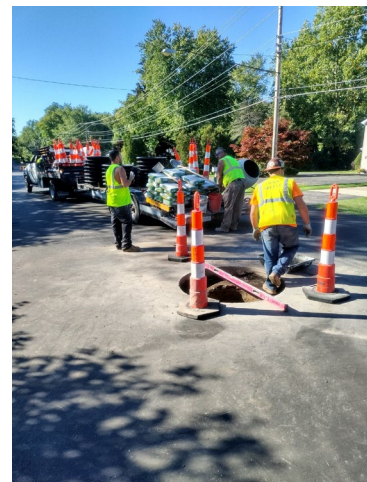
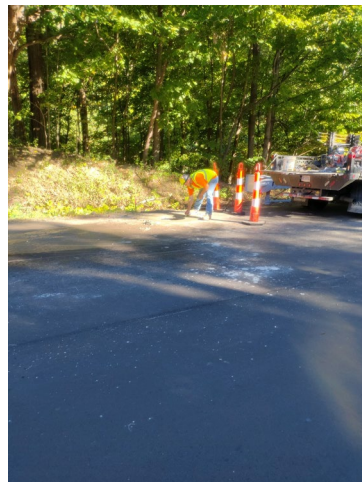
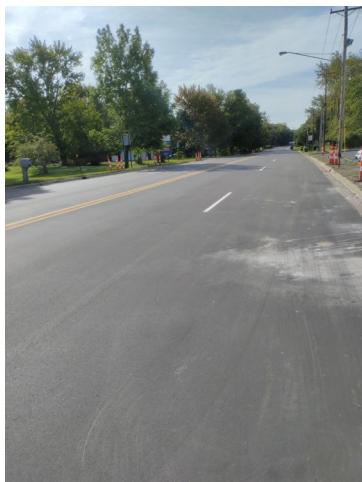
- Previous four-way stop was temporary to occur only during the detour for M-139 closure.
  - M-139 has been reopened to thru traffic this week, and detour has been removed.
    - <http://bcroad.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1835>

Crack Sealing in Berrien County October

- Crack sealing operation will begin the week of 10/4/2021
  - Operation will be a moving operation with flaggers present
  - Crack sealing anticipated to take 4 weeks

Washington Avenue Structure Adjustments and Closure to Thru Traffic

- Road is open to traffic
- Structure adjustments and painting has been completed



- <http://bcroad.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1819>

### Weesaw Township Fall Grind and Gravel Projects

- Grind and gravel completed to:
  - Wee-Chik Road between Pardee Road to California Road
  - Gardner Road between Galien-Buchanan Road to Elm Valley Road
    - <http://bcroad.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1826>
      - Chloride is anticipated to be applied to these freshly graveled roads in October 2021 (weather permitting).

### Fog Seal Operation and Road Closures

- Fog seal operations completed on Wednesday, 9/29/2021
  - Road painting remains: weather permitting

### Forest Avenue Road Closure (Chikaming)

- Road closure pending culvert replacement
  - <http://bcroad.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1822>

### Red Arrow Highway Road Construction Continues

- Red Arrow Highway (Chikaming Township) between Sawyer Road and Main Drive
  - <http://bcroad.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1796>

### Napier Avenue Utility Work and Lane Closure Information

- Water related utility work starting the week of 7/12/2021 by Benton Township
  - <http://bcroad.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1800>
- One lane of traffic will be maintained in each direction between Plaza Drive to Pipestone Road
- Anticipate travel delays

### Countywide Scratch and Sealcoat Projects:

- Paving and sealcoating portion completed on scratch courses
- Structure adjustments are delayed due to material
  - <http://bcroad.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1789>

### Requests for Bids/Requests for Proposals Due

<http://bcroad.org/1435/Proposals-Bids>

- Due by 4pm on October 6, 2021:
  - Bid 2021-054 Berrien Street Reconstruction Project (Design Services)
  - Bid 2021-055 Sawyer Road Rehabilitation Project (Design Services)

### Job Opportunities

For more information and to apply visit <http://www.berriencounty.org/581/Employment>

- Senior Road Accountant
- Mechanic
- Medium Equipment Operator
- Project Engineer
- Senior Project Engineer
- Staff Engineer I

#### Annual Road Painting and Pavement Marking

- <http://bcroad.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1775>

#### Michigan Department of Transportation News:

- Walk to School Day and ACES Lace Up Together
  - Released September 30, 2021
    - <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIDOT/bulletins/2f57c65>
- MDOT video shows progress on US-31 connection and I-94 rebuilding project in Berrien County
  - <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIDOT/bulletins/2f09298>
- Information regarding MDOT construction projects can be found on MDOT's website:  
<https://mdotjboss.state.mi.us/MiDrive/map#>

Thank you for the time and attention. Please feel free to contact me if there are any questions and/or concerns.