

C & G
NEWSPAPERS
candgnews.com

DECEMBER 9, 2015
Vol. 24, No. 49

NEWS

Shelby - Utica



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Officials give update on 24 Mile Road project

BY SARAH WOJCIK

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Paving will resume next year; crews to work through winter

SHELBY TOWNSHIP — Because temperatures are cooling and asphalt plants have closed, crews working on the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department's 24 Mile Road project in Shelby and Macomb townships will resume paving operations in the spring of 2016.

Contractor Ric-Man Construction will continue to work on the road, however. There will be intermittent lane closures

through the duration of the project, which is estimated to wrap up in July 2016. The whole project stretches across 7 miles.

Three sections of the road have not yet been paved. At those sites, crews will install three connections between the new 42-inch water main and the existing 36-inch water main that runs parallel to the new pipe, as well as connections into Shelby and Macomb township metering facilities.

Macomb County Department of Roads Director Bob Hoepfner said each of the three unpaved sections are approximately 500 feet long and still covered in gravel.

"The rest of the road is hard surfaced, but not complete. It needs one more layer of asphalt to place on 5 miles of it," Hoepfner said.

He said motorists should be able to travel freely along the whole stretch of 24

Mile Road, except for when crews complete the connections between the old and new pipes, which he estimated should take a few days.

"At that point, they'll set up detours and notify everybody," Hoepfner said.

Shelby Township Supervisor Rick Stathakis said that Ric-Man will perform the maintenance of the temporary roads.

"Ric-Man officials hope to have the first of these connections installed near the Macomb Orchard Trail by Christmas Day," Sta-

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thakis said. "Crews will then move to install the valve near the Cherry Creek Golf and Banquet Center, with hopes to have that complete by mid-January."

The final connection, he said, will be installed near the 24 Mile and Schoenherr roads intersection, which Ric-Man hopes to finish by mid-February.

Stathakis said crews will begin paving the three sections once temperatures reach the high 40s on a consistent basis.

"Along with the three stretches of unpaved roadway, crews will also finish pavement in the Mound and 24 Mile roads intersection in the spring," he said. "They will restripe the roadway to accommodate for a left-turn lane for eastbound, and then the westbound traffic as well."

Steve Mancini, president and CEO of Ric-Man Construction, did not return a call for comment by press time.

For questions or concerns about the condition of 24 Mile Road, call the Supervisor's Office at (586) 731-5154.

Call Staff Writer Sarah Wojcik at (586) 498-1029.