

DOWNERS GROVE TOWNSHIP ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
Highway Report
April 18, 2023

The past year has been a strange and trying period of time for most people and the Highway Department is no exception.

Strikes in both the concrete and in the asphalt producing industries plagued private businesses as well as municipalities with severe shortages of both materials and manpower which left everyone scrambling to complete projects before the winter months hit.

Despite this challenge we were able to complete our largest curb and sidewalk maintenance project to date just before the snow started to fly.

Our paving program did not fare as well with prices of materials and fuel driving the cost of our project above our engineers estimate and causing us to scale back on the amount of work we had planned. We still managed to pave the roads that needed it most and patch many roads that were less dire.

The winter was a rather mild one by Chicago standards which did bode well for us. Snow amounts were down but we did do our fair share of salting during the rain, snow, and ice events we did receive. All in all we did well with our salt usage and came in at the minimal amount that we contracted for.

As we start to think of projects this spring, the Highway Department plans on doing four weeks of Gradall work and ditching with our contractor. We use him to regrade our ditches and install French drains in our right of ways. We have him scheduled a week at a time starting in May and ending in October.

We have also started planning our concrete project for this year. Our program will be as large as last year and should be completed earlier now that the strikes are settled. Currently we are going over work orders and putting together work to be done by subdivisions.

We purchased a mini track hoe over the winter and outfitted it with a shredder/chipper attachment to help our crew with cutbacks. The boom allows us to reach higher limbs easier and the machine allows us to cut material faster than ground crews can by hand. We started using it last week on our bike path along 101st St and are very happy with the results. While we were out there two people came by thanked us and said it looked great.

We received a grant from the County last fall which will allow us to repair three large culverts which run under Woodcreek Ct in unincorporated Darien. The culverts were installed in the late seventies and the bottom has rusted through. This, as a result, has caused the basins in the curb line to form sink holes in the edge of the road. Because of the scope of the project as well as the cost, we tried to patch them but the sink holes returned. This grant will allow us to install a liner in each of the pipes in place while costing the Township less than replacement. This is the first time the Highway Department will be using this technology and we hope that it will benefit us with future projects.

Our spring brush pick up is well under way, in fact section two begins next Monday. If anyone is unsure of start dates for their area, what area they are in, have any questions in general or would like to know where we are in the pickup, please feel free to give us a call.

Other jobs we provide our residents throughout the year include culvert replacements, tree trimming and removal, basin repairs, pothole patching, sign repairs and replacement, shoulder repairs and street sweeping twice a year.

If anyone has concerns or questions, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Andy Anderson