



Michigan Department of Transportation
Operations Field Services Division
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Two million milestone approaching

Since the start of Michigan's Adopt-A-Highway program in 1990, MDOT has logged in 1,990,845 bags of trash. Sometime in April, the 2 millionth bag of litter will be collected. Thank you to all Adopt-A-Highway groups as we approach this milestone!

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ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY NEWS

WINTER 2014

For many groups, Adopt-A-Highway is personal

For many Adopt-A-Highway groups, the road they've adopted is more than just a road. It's personal.

April Guindon and her family clean up litter along a section of US-2 between Escanaba and Gladstone. It's where her sister Cathi Jo Hurkmans was killed in 1986 by a drunk driver. A cross marks the spot.

"We do it to honor her memory," Guindon said.

Last year was her 12-year-old son Brett's first as part of the cleanup crew.

"I want my children to know the sacrifice our family has made in the loss of my sister," Guindon said. "She was killed when I was 12 so they never knew her."



Hurkmans



Marker

Near Elk Rapids, another Adopt-A-Highway group of family and friends picks up litter on US-31 in memory of Matthew Noble Marker.

Marker, a rally road racer, died in 2011 at age 31 after crashing during a race in Ocean Shores, Wash. Group members wear customized safety vests emblazoned with Marker's name and "65," his race car number.

Marker's mother, Michelle, said the group's portion of US-31 was "Matthew's favorite stretch of road leaving Elk Rapids and coming home." The National Multiple Sclerosis Society of NW Michigan already had adopted the section, but graciously agreed to share it with the Marker group.

Michelle Marker said her son was "a nature boy" who was adamantly against littering. "He was a litter picker-upper everywhere he went," she said.

Across Michigan there are many Adopt-A-Highway signs stating that the next 2 miles of highway are adopted in someone's memory. Behind all of those signs are stories like these.

2014 Pickup Dates!



Spring Pickup

Bay, Grand, Metro, Southwest and University regions
April 12 - 20

North and Superior regions
April 26 - May 4

Summer Pickup

July 12 - 20

Fall Pickup

Sept. 20 - 28



Safety messages for 2014 pickups

– Prior to your pickups, please remember to review the safety rules brochure and video. This is necessary even for groups that have been in the Adopt-A-Highway program for several years. Safety materials are available from your Adopt-A-Highway region coordinator.

– For every pickup, make sure that volunteers sign the safety meeting attendance form and then send the form to MDOT. This is how MDOT determines what groups are active.

– Do not work in construction zones. This includes the area prior to the construction zone where there may be lane closures and traffic backups. Please send in a pickup report stating "No pickup due to construction" so MDOT will know your group is active but unable to do the pickup.

– Face oncoming traffic when picking up litter. Do not pick up litter in highway medians.

– The 2014 safety meeting attendance forms, safety rules brochures, pickup report forms, certificates and vehicle placards will be mailed in early March.

The ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY NEWS is authorized by the transportation director to provide adopting group coordinators with timely, brief and accurate accounts of safety issues and other program policies of the department that impact the Adopt-A-Highway program. It is published by the Michigan Department of Transportation Office of Communications. Comments, questions and news ideas are welcome. Contact Jon Ogar, editor, at 517-373-2752; e-mail: ogarj1@michigan.gov; or write to: MDOT Office of Communications, P.O. Box 30050, Lansing, MI 48909. Requests for this information in an alternative format may be made through the Office of Communications or by TDD/TTY through the Michigan Relay Center at 800-649-3777.



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News from the roadside

Thank you for sending in your photos and news. If you want your group's photo to appear in a newsletter or our online photo album, e-mail it as a JPG (no larger than 640x480 pixels) to MDOT-adoptahighway@michigan.gov. In your e-mail, please include your group's name, the name of the highway you clean up, the county the highway is located in, and the number of years your group has been in the Adopt-A-Highway program. To see the online photo albums along with this newsletter, go to www.michigan.gov/adoptahighway.



Since 1992, volunteers from Sparta-Esterline VFW Post 3039 and Auxiliary have been patrolling for litter along M-115 near Farwell.

The Southwestern Michigan Chapter of the Michigan Geocaching Organization has found its calling in cleaning up along M-44 in Kent County, having not missed a pickup since 2007.

The Cornerstone Baptist Church youth group in Ludington combined forces with the Mason County Republicans to clean up US-31 just south of Ludington in Mason County.



For 13 years in Marquette County, the Republic Sportsmen's Club has been targeting trash along M-95 near Republic.



Members of the Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Lambda Chi Chapter have participated in the Adopt-A-Highway program since 2002, and clean up Eight Mile Road between Dequindre and Mound.

In Macomb County, volunteers from Proper Group International ensure that a section of the I-696 service drive is cleared of litter properly.

Scouts from Girl Scouts Area 577 in Gladwin have been cleaning up M-61 from Hawkins Road to Littletown Road since 2011.

Since 2008, this group of family and friends has cleaned up 4 miles on US-41 in Alger County in memory of Kelsey Leigh Lindberg and Brian (Lindberg) Little.



Volunteers from the Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency pick up litter along the US-24 Business Route (Cesar Chavez Drive) in Pontiac.



Picking up litter is a family affair for the Trombley family from Reese. For 10 years, the family has cleaned up a stretch of M-15 in Saginaw County. Lindsey Campbell reports that "Grandma Verna just turned 86 and doesn't miss a cleanup date!"



This is the first year in the Adopt-A-Highway program for this group from Gentex Corp., which cleans up along the I-196 Business Loop in Zeeland.

