



# The SCOOP

2024 WINTER ISSUE | THE M&M EXCAVATING COMPANY NEWSLETTER | VOLUME 04

## Here's the Scoop...

Hello, M&M Crew! As I settle into 2024, the winter months serve as a change of pace for me. During the "off season" I have a chance to reconnect with my family, reflect on the accomplishments of the previous Construction Season & prepare for the next. And this year, there's plenty to think about...

Together in 2023, we built projects all across Michigan, both safely AND productively—from the sunrise coast to the sunset coast (Alpena to Traverse City); from north to south (Newberry to Cement City); and plenty of places in-between. We reconstructed airports, major highways, city streets & underground utilities. We constructed new roundabouts & developed sites. We performed slope restorations & tree removals. This is proof that we are living our mission at M&M: *Proudly building safe & sustainable infrastructure throughout our Michigan communities since 1973.*

Speaking of 1973, in July we commemorated our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the Gaylord Alpenfest Parade followed by an M&M Family Picnic at our Shop. Check out the photos in this edition & on our website. And, because it was such a great event, we've committed to hosting it each year during Alpenfest in mid-July to celebrate our M&M Family!

To close out the year & after 50 years of service, we honored the retirement of our Founder & my Dad: Mark Nowicki. Some thought it might never happen...but happen, it did! To hear more about the life & legacy of the man you may know as The Big Red Dodge/ 5-0/ El Capitan, we've posted a video tribute on our website. But be sure to grab some popcorn—it took us 35 minutes to tell his story!

Looking ahead, we're preparing for another successful year. Read on to see WHAT we'll be building, WHERE we'll be working, WHO we'll be working with, WHEN we'll get started & WHY we'll continue *unearthing potential to build our team, company & communities.*

See you at Safety Day on Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>!

Stay Safe & Ensure Quality - Be Proud & Maintain Integrity –  
Love Your Family & Promote Your Community

Brandie Meisner

President | CFO



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*The Scoop for Kids!*

*Please read & share with your families.  
Send your story ideas & photos to  
[newsletter@m-mexcavating.com](mailto:newsletter@m-mexcavating.com)!*

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**The Annual M&M Safety Day is on  
Friday, March 22, at the M&M  
Maintenance Garage in Gaylord!**



## Work In Progress



We have some exciting work going on this 2024 Construction Season! Here are some of the highlights:



**I-75 in Cheboygan County:**  
MDOT Project with CA Hull,  
beginning Spring 2024.



**I-75 BL Roundabout in Gaylord:**  
MDOT Project, Roundabout  
Construction, beginning Spring  
2024.



**US-127 in Lenawee County:**  
MDOT project with Michigan  
Paving, 75% complete.



**US-127 in Gratiot County:**  
MDOT Project with Michigan  
Paving, 10% complete.



**Otsego County Airport (GLR) in Gaylord:**  
Perimeter Road & Grading with  
Pyramid Paving, beginning  
Summer 2024.



**Alpena Airport (APN) in Alpena:**  
Phase I & II Runway Rehabilitation,  
40% complete.



**Newberry DNR Office:**  
DTMB Project with Walbridge,  
80% complete.



**Gaylord Rest Area in Otsego County:** MDOT Rest Area  
Reconstruction, 65% complete.



*On the job in Traverse City, Alpena, and Newberry.*



## What's New in Safety? MIOSHA Releases New Standards



After several months of review on the state and federal levels, MIOSHA has released the new Part 9 standard for **Excavation, Trenching, and Shoring**.

To view the full MIOSHA standard scan the QR code:



These are the most notable changes:

- 1) Protective systems for use in excavations of more than 20 feet deep must be designed by a registered engineer;
- 2) The term “qualified person” was replaced with “competent person”;
- 3) An employee shall not be allowed in shields when shields are being installed, removed, or moved vertically (employees *can* remain in the shield while they are being moved horizontally);
- 4) Sidewalks, pavements, and appurtenant structures shall not be undermined unless a support system or another method of protection is provided to protect employees from the possible collapse of such structures (same as the old standard, but expands the rule to all pavements and appurtenant structures).



## PREVENT CAVE-INS

SLOPE IT. SHORE IT. SHIELD IT.



**SLOPE** or bench trench walls

**SHORE** trench walls with supports

**SHIELD** trench walls with trench boxes



## Have you Heard of M&M University?



Winter in Michigan makes most of our work difficult or impossible. The “Off Season” frequently forces us indoors and encourages us to slow down. This gives us an opportunity to focus on other things, like personal growth, soft skills, and career development.

If you haven't heard of M&M University, it's a term we use to describe the many workshops and classes available through M&M, the Unions, and other professional trainers. We encourage you to use this season to explore these opportunities. Contact Andrew Albrecht or John Landrie to find the right development plan for your future!

*Do you enjoy seeing what's going on at the different jobsites? Would you like to use your familiarity with the work in a new way? Are you interested in exploring a career path in Construction Safety?*

**Safety Coordinator** might be your calling!

To learn more about this New Position, check



out the job description online & talk to your supervisor if you think you may be interested.  
<https://mm-excavating.com/employment/>



## Special Events: What We've Done & What's Up Next

*"Grab the Bull by the horns & take the ride! It's a pretty good one, so hold on tight! Thanks for the memories. May God Bless You All!"*

-Mark Nowicki



**December 15, 2023:** A few colleagues, friends, and family gathered to celebrate the **Retirement of Mark Nowicki**, our co-founder and one half of M&M. A rousing speech by Brandie Meisner brought Mark to tears. Attendees were treated to a presentation of Mark's remarkable career at M&M spanning 50 years. After a few more words from Ken Nowicki and Mark himself, a fabulous retirement gift was presented then everyone let loose with a live band. Congratulations, Mark! Enjoy your retirement!





## Special Events: What We've Done and What's Up Next

**July 15, 2023:** Thank you to everyone who joined us for our **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** at Alpenfest. We think M&M is more than just a workplace, so sharing our history and work with our loved ones meant so much! Families enjoyed the parade, our Touch-a-Truck event, games, food and raffle prizes. The event was such a success that we plan to make it an annual tradition. We hope to see you all again this summer!









After your child completes the activity, bring it in or send in a photo to [newsletter@m-mexcavating.com](mailto:newsletter@m-mexcavating.com) to receive a fun prize!

Hey, Kids! Show us how you SCOOP!

Word  
Search

# Skid Steer



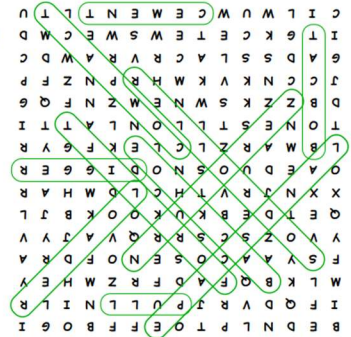
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I T G K C E T E W S W E C M D  
C I L W U W C E M E N T L T U

## Interesting Facts about Skid Steers

- A skid steer, also known as a skid loader, is a compact machine used to dig and move landscaping and building materials. It is lighter and more maneuverable than a tractor front loader.
- What do a skid steer and a ballerina have in common? Skid steers have zero radius "pirouette-like" turning capabilities.

Can you find the construction related words below?

LOADER ZERO TURN  
CEMENT FORKLIFT  
BACKHOE DIGGER  
LANDSCAPE COMPACT  
SOD ROLLER  
PULL  
BOBCAT



# SAVE THE DATE

3.22.24 ANNUAL M&M SAFETY DAY

M&M Maintenance Garage, Gaylord, MI

