

# It's closed for a reason

## Highway J closure causing headaches for drivers, DPW

By Tracy Ouellette  
EDITOR

In response to numerous requests for the Walworth County Department of Public Works to open Marsh Road as an alternative detour for the Highway J closure during the Beulah Dam project and reports of people moving the barricades out of the way so the road can be accessed, the DPW issued a warning to drivers – Marsh Road is closed for a reason.

"It might look like you can meander through it, but it's unsafe," DPW Central Services Director Kevin Brunner said Monday morning.

The intersection of Marsh Road and Highway J is closed as it is being reconstructed as part of the spillway replacement project. During construction, a part of Marsh Road is needed for the contractors' equipment, staging of materials, temporary utility connections and a water diversion channel.

"A number of people have contacted us about opening Marsh Road," Brunner said. "Unfortunately we can't because we're utilizing it for the project."

He said Monday that even if the DPW wasn't using the road for the project, opening it as a detour wasn't possible.

"We can't detour to a local road, we don't control local roads," he said. "Those local roads are not built for the heavier truck traffic you see on county trunk highways. We can't just open it to local traffic; if it's a little bit of a shortcut everybody uses it."

In a press release from the DPW, Brunner wrote: "After serious review and consideration of all the factors and concerns, we have no alternative but to continue with the current Traffic Control Plan which addresses various aspects pertaining to the Construction Zone policies that roadway construction organizations must follow, which are strictly governed by various federal organizations, such as DOT, FHWA and OSHA."

### Don't move the barricades

### • Coffee shop (Continued from front page)

Thompson credits the shop's success over the years to her loyal customers who made the small store a special place to be and her dedicated staff.

"I've had a wonderful staff; they're like family," she said. "I've had a few come and go over the years, but mostly, it's been the same people."

Kathi Nitsche has been with Thompson and The Red Door the longest, logging in 11 years. Karen Buck comes in second, serving coffee for 9 years at the store.

Beckett Blanchard has been around for about 5 years, Thompson said. "I

Brunner said that while DPW workers had not witnessed the barricades being moved, they have received reports of it being done and it was concerning.

"We have to take out the existing structure and at some point there's going to be a hole there," he said. "People might think they can get through if they did before, but that might lead to a disastrous situation."

According to a press release from the DPW, the current signage will be updated to let everyone know that the "Bridge is Closed" and entry to the construction zone is prohibited.

Brunner said they understood that the detour is an inconvenience, especially for those drivers coming from just west of the project, but it was necessary.

"This is a once in a lifetime project," he said. "The inconvenience compared to the benefit is small."

He also wanted the public to know that they're doing everything in their power to get the job done as quickly as possible. The projected completion date is Aug. 20, but they were hopeful it would be finished sooner.

Brunner also said the residents who had piers taken out for the project, should have them back in the water no later than July 1.

"We sympathize with the people who live around there, but it's a temporary situation and we're going to get out of there as soon as we can," Brunner said.

### Keep kids off the equipment

Brunner also requested parents and caregivers in the area make sure to keep the children off the equipment being used in the project.

"We would also like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that construction sites and large equipment can make a very dangerous, but attractive playground for children. Please warn children of dangers and keep them clear of the construction area and equipment," he wrote in the press release.

remember she used to come in with her mother when she was giving massages and she would ask to help out, empty the garbage, sweep the floor. She always said she was going to work here when she grew up."

Carrie Goetsch has been at the shop for three years and the newest employee, Emma Harris, just since last year.

"I feel bad, almost, for doing this to them. They've been such a great staff," Thompson said.

But times change, and she said she and her husband Stephen were looking forward to semi-retirement.

"We're buying a



ERIC KRAMER  
East Troy Times

## Pay it Forward

Above: Guests play a round of blackjack at the annual Pay if Forward Casino Night fundraiser on Saturday at Ivan's Backstage in downtown East Troy. Left: A group of men have a bit of fun at the craps table. The East Troy Lioness Club hosted the Hawaiian-themed event for the second year with the funds raised going to support their scholarship and other community programs. Next year, the fundraiser will be "paid forward" to another community organization in East Troy.



## Thursday Nights on the Square begin June 18

The East Troy Community Band's season begins with the first concert at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 18, on the East Troy village square.

The seven-concert series takes place Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. on the village square. Concerts are free, and appropriate for families.

Award-winning groups on the series this year include the "Swing Nouveau" Big Band

on July 23 and the East Troy High School Jazz Ensemble on July 9. The Community Band will give its annual Patriotic Concert will be July 2 and also perform on July 16 and July 30.

The performer(s) for the June 25 concert has yet to be determined.

The band will hold 50/50 raffles during the concerts. It is suggested concertgoers

bring a lawn chair.

The non-profit Community Band enjoys sponsorship from The Alpine Valley Music Theatre/LiveNation, East Troy Point Shell, the First Citizens State Bank-East Troy Branch, local businesses and individual donors.

Musicians, high school age

and older, interested in joining the band can find more information at [www.etband.com](http://www.etband.com) or on the band's Facebook page.

Rehearsals are Thursday evening, beginning May 7, and run from 7:15 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the High School band room, 3128 Graydon Ave.

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farmhouse and want to have chickens," she said. "We want to live off the land. We're excited about it."

She will also continue on as an interior decorator, available for consultation and

projects as before. She said she will be consulting out of the Waukesha Resource Center part of the time as well.

For more information, visit [jtinteriorsinc.com](http://jtinteriorsinc.com).

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