

ROAD REPORT

The Official Newsletter of the Sandusky County Engineer

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FROM THE ENGINEER

Duane, Jeff, Shawn and I went to Cleveland on November 7th to look at a used bucket truck. We all agreed that it is not perfect, but would make a good truck for us. Certainly far better than what we have now. So we plan to take bids on December 20th for a used truck. The specs will be written around that particular truck, but who knows, something else might pop up.

Carlos and I have been meeting with contractors to get ideas on repairs that need to be made on the Tindall Bridge. Our goal is to get everything we are aware of repaired before the bridge is painted next year. Once we know the estimated cost, we'll know if we have to bid or just hire a contractor. In the meantime, our own crews will be re-welding the deck and making some other minor repairs.

When I first became County Engineer I remember thinking that we were still surveying the way that it had been done for over a hundred years. There were some improvements in equipment, but the basic procedures were essentially the same. That sure has changed now! We had two systems demonstrated on November 9th—a GPS and a robotic total station. The GPS uses satellites to measure long distances. It establishes the latitude and longitude of any given point. We'll use this for referencing survey points before paving roads, doing ditch surveys and in surveys involving an entire section or more. The robotic total station looks like a regular transit, but it is not manned. It automatically follows a receiver on a rod and determines the x, y and z coordinates of any point which the rod man occupies and records it in an electronic filed book. This will be handy for smaller surveys such as bridges. This equipment makes surveying possible with a one person crew. We are waiting on final prices, but expect to move forward quickly on this since we are already down to a one man crew. The cost for both systems is in the \$50,000 range.

I attended a meeting at Terra on November 10th about a possible bike path from the Brush/Napoleon area to Terra. I don't believe we'll be involved a lot with this project since all agree it should be located well away from the Napoleon Road for safety purposes.

Our discussion with Soil and Water is continuing about the future of Ditch Maintenance. I can see definite advantages of it being combined with our department so personnel and equipment can be more readily shared. I asked the Board at their November meeting what are the advantages of having it at Soil and Water and how much do they get involved with day to day management. In the meantime, Lee Klohn and Jeff Baker are doing a good job of getting a lot of past due work done!!

On November 16th, Kim and I attended a very interesting Issue 2 meeting in Perrysburg. During the course of the meeting, it was discussed how one county had taken a lot of liberties in rating their projects. This made for interesting conversation to say the least! That particular county was to receive two LTIP projects, but depending on what supporting documentation they may or may not submit, they may lose one or both of their applications. If they both fall out, there is a chance the highest rated project from Sandusky County may stand a chance of getting funded. Right now it is well below the cutoff line. It is Bellevue's project for repaving Route 20 which is badly needed.

Best wishes to Jan Dorr for successful knee surgery! We'll be thinking of you Jan and hope you get some needed and deserved relief. Hope to see you back before spring!!

Although Issue 2 was soundly defeated at the November 8th election, Duane Reese is still planning on retiring at the end of this month. His retirement will mean that the top two men in the highway crew and three of the top men in the office crew have left us in a little over the last year. I sure am glad we have fresh recruits ready, willing and able to keep the ball rolling!!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY (YEARS OF COUNTY EMPLOYMENT)

Kris Foreman November 20th 22 years

FROM THE DEPUTY ENGINEER

In the back office we are working on the design of several projects, including getting paving plans around for the upcoming December 20th bid date. Some of the plans we are working on are: Tindall Bridge painting plans which are due to ODOT in early December. The painting of Tindall bridge is a federally funded project with the county responsible for 20% of the cost. The bridge will be painted in the summer of 2012.

We are also working on the design of two culverts. GR 177-0.47 and WO 42-0.21 along with ditch work for the 177 culvert. We are also looking to replace SC 10-1.99 but it would depend on the schedule of the contractor currently working on the culvert contract. Speaking of the culverts, all the pipe is in on 247 and they have started the 175 culvert. Bridge inspections will also be starting next week. The survey crew is working on finalizing surveys for next year's bridge and road projects. Have a

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!

FROM THE OFFICE MANAGER

INCOME COMPARISON (License, Permissive, Gas Tax)

2011	\$3,543,402
2010	\$3,608,317

Flexible Spending Account (Benny Card)

Check the web site www.mybenny.com or call 1-877-810-2600 to check your account balance. Remember to submit any outstanding claims or receipts, any unspent funds will not be carried over nor will funds be reimbursed to you.

Keep your 2011 Benny Card; you will use it for 2012. When using Benny card remember to select "credit" when asked "credit or debit".

Flexible Spending Account open enrollment is in December. Anyone who is considering signing up please let me know please let me know by **November 30th**.

Guardian Life and Dental

Sandusky County offers dental and life insurance through Guardian, open enrollment is in December. Anyone who is interested please let me know by **December 5th**.

UNITED WAY

United Way Pledge Cards are now available, payroll deduction or a one-time donation can be made.

Why invest in United Way? Your donation no matter how large or small touches the lives of 52% of Sandusky County residents.

That's right, your donation reaches out and helps approximately 31,500 children and adults. Invest in your community, invest in yourself... you will never know when you or your family will need the help of a United Way Funded Agency or Program. As a donor you can be assured that 100% of your donation stays here in Sandusky County. Please return forms by **December 8th**.

FROM THE ASSISTANT ROAD SUPERINTENDENT

We want to wish Jan Dorr well on his knee surgery. Hope he gets well soon.

Ry. 232-3.19 BRIDGE MAINTENANCE

Since the last road report, this bridge has progressed nicely. The north east wing wall and the south west wing wall have been poured, stripped, and sealed. The crew has been working hard to get the north west and south east wing walls ready for their concrete pour today. Looking good.

CR 117 ROAD MAINTENANCE

The crew was able to get in a couple more culverts on the north end of CR 117 just in time before the asphalt companies were closing down for the year. They are now back to the south end where they were working on building some shoulders up along the river where guardrail is planned to be set.

ROAD MAINTENANCE

- Boom mower is back out after its repair
- Crack sealing has been started on CR 41
- Pot holes filled as needed
- Tile repaired in the yard for the floor drain in building #1
- Trees and brush removed for surveyors on TR 42 and CR 82
- Culverts ground down on CR. 41 and repaved.
- Area's on CR 1 and CR 130 were ground where road slipped and repaved
- Tile repaired on CR 239
- Office and shop were cleaned
- Leaves were cleaned up around yard

IN THE SHOP

Plows and salters were hooked up and gone over. Now Jeff and Andy have a new list of minor repairs to work on on top of their normal service work.

THINGS OF INTEREST

Have you heard the

BUUUZZZZZZZZZZZZ? 

The Sandusky County Department of Job and Family Services is planning a Spelling Bee! The purpose of the Bee is to raise funds for Children Services. The funds will be used throughout the year to pay for "extras" for foster children that the county doesn't have money for - sports leagues/teams, cedar point tickets, horseback riding lessons, church camps, etc.; basically normal kid activities that they wouldn't otherwise be able to do as foster parents can't afford all of it and there isn't any other money available to pay for it. If you are interested, here are the details.....

Sandusky County Schools, including Bellevue, Clyde, Gibsonburg, Fremont, Lakota, Bishop Hoffman Catholic Schools and Woodmore will be participating in the event. The Schools will be forming teams of five 5th grade students.

Each of the seven teams will be required to submit a \$100 entrance fee for the Bee.

We were hoping your Department's employees would be willing to raise funds to "adopt" one of the School teams and help them with the \$100 entrance fee. Pledges would need to be donated by county employees or to be solicited from community members, co-workers, etc. More than one department could even join forces, if need be, to raise the money.

Please sign-up to make a pledge. Pledge sheet is in the ready room –deadline is December 2nd.