

# ROAD REPORT

The Official Newsletter of the Sandusky County Engineer

No. 20

October 31, 2014

## FROM THE ENGINEER

Today we are celebrating the completion of another successful construction season! Thanks to all employees for making this possible. We've paved over 26 miles of road and built two new bridges. Although these may be the highlights, they are by no means all of what has been accomplished. Surveys had to be made, plans prepared, bids taken, purchase orders issued, contracts entered, inspection work done, culverts replaced, bridges torn out, holes dug, concrete poured, and the list goes on and on. And that's in addition to the routine, everyday stuff that has to be taken care of first. All in all, it's a lot of work and truly takes a team effort. Thanks to everyone for your contribution.

Things have changed a lot over the years. It seems like there is always something new. At times it seems like we have come so far, you wonder what can possibly be new. I read an article the other day that will be interesting to see if it ever becomes a reality, and that is asphalt pellets. Today, liquid bituminous material is used in asphalt. It has to be heated to be mixed with aggregate—that's where the term "hot mix" comes from. The idea now is to make asphalt pellets that will be mixed with aggregate rather than liquid. Something to watch.

We just received word this week that Muskellunge Creek Road does not have to be closed after all in order for Terra to construct their new entrance. It's interesting how this issue goes back and forth. Who knows where it finally ends up. ODOT has taken over design of the entire project.

You may have noticed we now have a cleaning service taking care of the office and Building 11. This service will cost us about \$10,000 a year, but it seemed like a necessary step to keep the buildings as clean as they should be.

No sooner does one construction season end and another one starts. Bids for some of next year's projects will be taken on November 25<sup>th</sup>. So here we go again!

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY (YEARS OF COUNTY EMPLOYMENT)

Jenna Sommers November 8<sup>th</sup> 10 years

## FALL BACK

**Daylight Saving Time** ends this weekend, which means that we to return to Standard Time at 2 a.m. Sunday. To do so, most people set the clocks back one hour Saturday night, before they hit the hay.

## CLERK of COURTS OFFICE

Dear Employees of Sandusky County,

We would like to thank everyone that donated baked goods or money to raise funds for Jen Randolph and her family. We raised \$1,935.00 with the bake sale and \$276.00 in blanket raffle sales for a total of \$2,211.00! This shows what a big heart and what a caring bunch of employees work within our county system. You all not only moved the Randolph family, but her family here at the Clerk of Courts.

The winner of the blanket was Dean Silva of the Engineer's Office.

Thank you for your outpouring of support,

Clerk of Courts Office, Tracy, Sara, Lisa, Michelle, Cathy, Brittany & Jamie

## FROM THE OFFICE MANAGER

### THANKSGIVING

If you are planning on taking the day after Thanksgiving off, please submit a vacation request by November 12<sup>th</sup>.

## UNITED WAY

United Way Pledge Cards are now available and payroll deduction or a one-time donation can be made. Why invest in United Way? Your donation (large or small), touches the lives of Sandusky County residents. 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 form by December 8th.**

## TAX FREE MONEY

Do you have any of the following expenses throughout the year:

Medical, Dental, Vision, Medication - prescriptions and over the counter AND/OR Dependent Care –day care, babysitter...

Are you interested in **lowering** your tax deductions (Federal, State, City, School, Medicare) out of each paycheck?

Attached is information explaining how a Flexible Spending Account (FSA) will save you money.

If you have any questions, let me know.

## HEALTH INSURANCE

I attended the BORMA (Buckeye Ohio Risk Management Association) Board meeting on October 21<sup>st</sup> in Sandusky. Several changes in the way renewal rates are determined have taken place since hiring Chapman and Chapman as our Benefits Administrator Consultant. Our department received a 30% increase for 2015, as a result of claims. Since joining BORMA in 2011, claims have exceeded the cost of policy. The average rate increase over the past 4 years is 15%.

If you have an “adult dependent” age 26 to 28 years old that is currently on your policy, please let me know ASAP.

Anyone wanting to change their policy (adding/removing) family members, please let me know by November 18<sup>th</sup>.

## FROM THE ROAD SUPERINTENDENT

### RY. 226-0.61 BRIDGE

The final touches are being put on this project. All of the bank and channel work has been completed. Rip rap was installed along the banks. The approaches were cut down for paving. Monday, with the help of Troy Clapp and our old paver, the base asphalt was put in. The next day, our crews waterproofed the bridge and cleaned the road for the top course of pavement, and Wednesday the top course was completed. The guardrail is getting installed, and they are working on the last bit of clean up to complete this job.

### CR 41 DIRT WORK

For the most part, I think we have taken care of all the low yards by adding dirt to the back side of the berm. Crews have been out raking this dirt down and blending it with the yards. The guys have been doing a really nice job. Even some of the grass seed that was planted has already started to come up. I am sure some of this work will have to be finished up in the spring.

### ROAD MAINTENANCE

- Ed is on the west side of the county working on the deeper ditches with the boom mower.
- Jeff and Andy are catching up on their vehicle services.
- Perry has been busy working on curve signs from our recent ball bank study.
- Jeff and I attended the Superintendents & Mechanics Conference last week at Mohican State Park.
- Jarrett Tree Service ground 9 tree stumps around the county for us.
- Our crew then went through and cleaned up the grinding, and replaced them with some good dirt and also seeded them.
- One crew of mowers is back out on the west side of the county. I hope to have more next week. I also hope we can have the last round complete before the weather turns.