

ROAD REPORT

The Official Newsletter of the Sandusky County Engineer

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FROM THE DEPUTY ENGINEER

The Tindall Bridge contractor has been battling the elements to get the bridge blasted and painted. So far, they have blasted all of the east span, except for the stringers and floor beams on three panels. They will try to get the east span primed this weekend, if the weather cooperates. The work on the west span has been going a bit slower due to the type of material they are using to blast. Hopefully we get some better weather in the weeks ahead.

The State Street Bridge contractor made their second concrete pour last week. They poured the abutment wall itself. Currently they are forming the pilasters on the second pier and also getting the repairs on the pier Pilasters (both North & South) on the first pier. They also shotcreted some areas on the wall. They will be ready for a pour next week. The contractor will keep moving east from pier to pier, repairing the pilasters and pier walls. After they complete those repairs, they'll concentrate on the fascias of the bridge. Let's hope the weather cooperates on these two projects.

Our crews installed the boxes on WO 42-0.21 last week. It looked like we might get this one done in one day, but the concrete box company did not send us the correct hooks to lift the boxes right away. Therefore, it turned into a two day job. We also had the help of a pipe puller which, by all accounts, turned out to be very helpful to set the boxes, since they were not easy to set (due to the quality of the boxes). Jim and I appreciate everyone's effort and hard work in getting these boxes in the ground. It wasn't easy, but we did it. Good Job!!!

Currently we are working on the plans for the resurfacing of CR 12 & CR 39, which will be bid November 15, 2012. We also started the bridge inspections for this year and hope to have them completed by Thanksgiving, or before, depending on the weather.

FROM THE OFFICE MANAGER

OPERS

Governor John Kasich signed Substitute Senate Bill 343 into law on September 26, 2012 at the Statehouse during a special ceremony. Though the main components of Sub. SB 343 will take effect on January 7, 2013, certain other aspects of the bill contain specific effective dates beyond January 7, 2013. For a summary of the bill, go to www.opers.org website; a copy is posted in the ready room.

For those who are contemplating retiring prior to the January 7, 2013 effective date, OPERS needs a valid, completed retirement application by the close of business January 4, 2013 if applying using paper forms, or by midnight January 6, 2013 if applying online. In addition, a member must have terminated public employment and be off their employer's payroll by December 31, 2012.

THANKSGIVING

If you are planning on taking the day after Thanksgiving off, please submit a vacation request.

BUDGET

Jim and I are working on the 2013 budget. Anyone considering retiring in 2013, please let me know.

FLEXIBLE SPENDING ENROLLMENT

Flexible Spending Account open enrollment is in December. This plan may (depending on interest) be offered again for 2013. Anyone who is considering signing up, please let me know by November 30th.

FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNT (BENNY CARD)

Check the website 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 Benny Card; you will use it for 2013. When using Benny card remember to select "credit" when asked "credit or debit".

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.

HEALTH INSURANCE

I attended the BORMA (Buckeye Ohio Risk Management Association) meeting on August 28th in Sandusky. The association decided to raise health insurance rates by only 4% for next year. This is great news and so much better than the double digit annual increase we were receiving prior to joining BORMA. Our benefits will remain the same. Caremark's prescription drug list changes are attached. Anyone wanting to make changes to their policy (adding/removing) family members, please let me know by November 30th.

FROM THE ROAD SUPERINTENDENT

WO 42-0.21 CULVERT REPLACEMENT

This was our last major construction project for the year and what a "Dandy" it was. We replaced the old, corrugated metal structure with 144' of 12'x 6' concrete box culvert. Mark and his crew did an excellent job preparing the site in a short amount of time. We started this job on Oct. 1st and boxes were scheduled for Oct. 11th. Everything was going according to plan the day of the box set, (utilities moved, crane setup and boxes on time) until we found out nobody brought the hooks for lifting the boxes. The box company finally got the hooks to us late morning. The first box was finally set at 12:15. We were able to get 18 of the 24 boxes set that afternoon with the help of a new tool we heard about, The JB Pipe Puller. This unit has 15 ton of pulling power and it sits right inside the boxes. It kept the job moving plus we did not have to have the excavator in the hole tracking on the graded stone. The following day, the last 6 boxes were set and our crew started sealing the joints. I, for one, am glad those boxes are in the ground. This week, our crew has been working on filling lift holes, waterproofing, hauling stone for backfill, leveling dirt, hauling dirt out, and cleanup. A big thanks to everyone for their hard work!

ROAD MAINTENANCE

- Culvert joints were sealed on CR 39, 265 & 177 and Christy Rd.
- Mowing over east was finished.
- Crack sealing on CR 128 was started.
- Tree limbs were cleaned up from high winds.
- Mowers were washed.
- Boom mower is now working over east.
- Spots around town were mowed.
- Graded and rolled grindings on TR 253 for Riley Twp.
- Offices were cleaned.
- Inventorying supplies for budget.
- Cut brush back on CR 175 south of S.R. 101.
- Poured concrete floor in building #1.

IN THE SHOP

Jeff and I have been working on specs for two new dump trucks plus the equipment packages to go along with them. We have also been working on the equipment and tool budget for next year. With mowing wrapped up, Andy is busy catching up with services.

SIGN SHOP

Perry has been busy fixing green signs, changing some R/R signs and a few stop signs that were damaged from accidents. He has also started contacting property owners about putting up snow fence for this winter season.