

ROAD REPORT

The Official Newsletter of the Sandusky County Engineer

No. 19

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FROM THE ENGINEER

The demolition of the Gillmor Bridge was completed last week. In my opinion this was a major project, but in reality it was anticlimactic. When the bridge was closed over thirty years ago it was very controversial. A citizens group was formed to save the bridge. Now many people didn't even know the bridge existed or where it was at. The adjacent landowners wanted it removed rather than protest the removal. The actual demolition was actually uneventful, it went straight down as it should have. What people may not realize is that it didn't necessarily have to happen that way, but since it did it was simple. The biggest controversy seems to be how is the name spelled? Is it Gillmor, Gilmore or Gillmore? I am still not sure since all three spellings are used. But the bridge is gone and it is off our inventory. The removal was videotaped and will be on our web site.

We have hired two new engineers. Carlos Baez will be starting December 6th and Matt Reinhart, January 3rd. Carlos is a Fremont Ross graduate and currently works for the City of Oregon and lives in Genoa. He is a registered professional engineer. Matt is an Ohio State graduate and previously worked for a consultant in Columbus. He will be relocating to Sandusky County. Matt has passed the Fundamentals of Engineering examination which is the first step in becoming a registered engineer. Once he gets four years experience he will be eligible to take the professional examination.

The ventilating system renovation project in the office is not complete. Evidently there are two problems. One is that not all the duct work was done according to plan. Of course the contractor will have to take care of this. The second problem is with the existing duct work which was not included in the project. There are some ducts that may be too small and there is more leakage than normal. Our engineer and contractor are currently working on solutions. One way or the other, we have to get this resolved once and for all.

I had the pleasure of touring the Fremont Energy Plant earlier this week along with other members of the Fremont Lions Club. This plant is very impressive to say the least. It is a huge building, but from the inside it looks even bigger.

The completion date has been moved back towards the end of next year. Earlier this year there were over 400 people working at the plant. Now there are less than 200. Once it is operational, there will only be 25 permanent employees.

In regard to health insurance, we have decided to join BORMA and the overall cost of our health insurance is going down. The catch is we have to contribute a sizeable amount of money upfront. This amounts to over \$2,800 per employee. It can be paid over a three-year period. Currently we as employees pay 6.5% of our insurance. The rest of the county pays 13%. Our percentage will most likely increase. How much has not yet been determined. What this means is that the employee contribution may go up next year in spite of the reduction. That will all be worked out before the end of the year.

Just for the record, I am an Ohio State fan and for tomorrow I am also a Michigan and Purdue fan! Next week I won't care about Purdue and I definitely won't be a Michigan fan.

Have a HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

ANNIVERSARY (YEARS OF COUNTY EMPLOYMENT)

Kris Foreman November 20th 21 years

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

This office will be closed November 25th and 26th. Enjoy your Thanksgiving.

FROM THE OFFICE MANAGER

Income

Comparing January – October, income has increased 2.5%

2010	\$3,608,317
2009	\$3,518,741

www.sanduskycountyengineers.com

When you have a few minutes check out our web site! The "turnpike slope failures" video has recently been added -located in Ohio Turnpike tab.

Flexible Spending Enrollment

Flexible Spending Account open enrollment is in December. Please return forms by December 5th.

Check the web site www.mybenny.com or call 1-877-810-2600 to see what's left in your account.

Remember to submit any outstanding claims or receipts before March 31, 2011 any unspent funds will not be carried over nor will funds be reimbursed to you.

If you are signing up for 2011 be sure to keep your 2010 Benny Card, you will use it for 2011. When using Benny card remember to select "credit" when asked "credit or debit".

IMPORTANT: As of January 1, 2011 funds can no longer be used to purchase OTC medicine and drugs unless medicine or drug is prescribed

Health Care Reform

Under federal law, dependent children can remain on their parent's plan until age 26. Under Ohio law dependent children can be covered under their parent's plan up to age 28. A dependent child is eligible for coverage even if he or she is no longer living with a parent, is not a dependent on parent's tax return or is no longer a student.

Attached is information on adding an adult child to your policy. Please let me know immediately if you want to make any changes.

2011 Health Insurance

Buckeye Ohio Risk Management Association (BORMA) rates are 9.24% less than our current rates. BORMA offers the same Medical Mutual plan; no changes will be made to our current health care coverage. Currently we have Medco for prescription drugs that will change to Caremark. In December a meeting will be held with BORMA representatives to answer all your questions.

On Friday, November 12th I received our renewal rates; we received a 35% increase from our current agent.

United Way

Please return donation forms by December 8th.

FROM THE ROAD SUPERINTENDENT

IT IS THE SEASON

- The trucks were checked over and cleaned
- The plows and salters were hooked up and tested.
- Our paving projects were wrapped up because the asphalt plants are closing.
- Snow fence is going up.
- I asked for volunteers for the midnight shift, and nobody volunteered, so it will be Jeff, Andy & Chad Bender.
- I am planning on the Midnight shift starting on December 12th weather permitting.
- I hope everyone has a **HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**
- And the Saturday after Thanksgiving **GO BLUE!!**

PAVING

- A soft spot on C.R.119 was dug out and paved.
- The water hole in the yard was ground out and paved with the paver.
- Culverts on C.R.117 were paved.

MISC.

- Back banks are being mowed.
- Berms along various bridges were built up with rip rap and dirt.
- Trees were cleaned up from various wind storms.
- Jeff and Steve picked up the distributor from Champaign County.
- Snow fence should be finished today.

THINGS OF INTEREST

Fremont Ross

Presents
42nd Street

Where: Fremont Ross High School Little Theater

When: November 19, 20th – 7:00 pm
November 21st – 2:00 pm

Cost: Adults \$7.00 Students \$5.00

Call: 419-334-6728 for tickets

Fabulous Show!!! Kris was there for opening night, really enjoyed it.

**Fremont Holiday Parade
Food Pantry Collection**

Where: Starting at Roger Young Park, north
on Front St., turning west on Croghan St.,
ending at Flag Park.

When: December 4th

Time: Begins at 4:00 pm

Bring CANS & CASH, during the parade;
Forest Fox & Park District friends will
collect donations for the Food Pantry.

For more information call: 419-334-4495

Crafter's Day

Where: Grace Lutheran Church Dining
Room, 705 W. State Street

When: Saturday, December 11th

Time: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

For more information call: 402-850-1581

Diamond Rio

Where: Grace Community Church,
900 Smith Road

When: Sunday, December 12th

Time: 7:00 pm

Cost: \$25/\$30

For more information call: 419-332-2623