

ROAD REPORT

The Official Newsletter of the Sandusky County Engineer

No. 18

November 4, 2011

FROM THE ENGINEER

Our projects continue to wrap up for the year. The Court Street parking lot is done and the CR 85 culvert, if not done by now, is very close. Work has started on the CR 247 and TR 26 culverts. That only leaves the CR 175 culvert on that contract. Hopefully all will be completed by Thanksgiving.

We have received the inspection report from Richland Engineering for Tindall Bridge. For a bridge that is nearly 100 years old, it is in pretty good condition, but does need some work. We're hoping to meet with two contractors next week to discuss how best to accomplish this. Hopefully it will all be done before the bridge is painted next year. If we can accomplish all this, the bridge will be in good shape for its hundredth birthday in 2015!

As work is wrapping up on this year's projects, work for next year's is well underway. A bid date of December 20th has been set up. We hope to bid most of next year's paving, beams for the 232 bridge, and boxes for CR 177 and TR 42 at that time.

It doesn't look like we'll get the OPWC grant for paving CR's 2, 82 and 169 after all. So, we'll have to proceed on our own. We'll be bidding those roads as well as 85, 107, 117 and 151 on the 20th. We've invited Wood County to include their portion of CR 2 on our contract and Clay Township to include their portion of 169. Clay Township has declined and Wood County is considering, but no final word yet.

In Turnpike news, they have a new Executive Director and TR 222 was closed on October 21st due to the condition of the overpass. I had an interesting call from Jerry Wray (ODOT Director) last Friday. He convinced me the State will thoroughly investigate future options for the Turnpike. He also said they will take care of any future needed overpass repairs. The counties and townships will not be held responsible. In my mind, this is the biggest concern for Sandusky County, but it would also be nice to know how they intend to distribute any extra money. The word is out they may make money available for county bridge work. I told him that wouldn't do us much good since our bridges are already in good condition. My fear is we'll continue to pay tolls, but the money will be distributed throughout the State.

Congratulations and best of luck to Steve Fisher on his retirement this past week. Steve was another veteran employee that will be greatly missed.

The @#_&*%# Issue 2 that is on Tuesday's ballot has caused a lot of needless anxiety and prompted premature retirements within our department. We were doing just fine without Issue 2. We don't need it, and in the long run, it won't be of much value to us. Unfortunately, that is not for us to decide and will have to deal with the consequences if it passes. The latest victim of this is our Road Superintendent Duane Reese. Duane has indicated he will be retiring by the end of the month. Although I can't blame him, I hate to see him go—he will be sorely missed. Regardless, congratulations and the best of luck to Duane in the future!

A week from today is Veteran's Day and we should all stop to remember what a great country we are fortunate to live in and what it has taken to preserve and protect it, and be grateful for all who made the necessary sacrifices.

HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY

Duane Reese November 2nd!!!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY (YEARS OF COUNTY EMPLOYMENT)

Jenna Sommers November 8th 7 years

FROM THE OFFICE MANAGER

THANKSGIVING

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

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.

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

Congratulation goes out to Steve Fisher on his retirement. We all wish you well in whatever adventures come your way next.

C.R. 117 DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE

Culverts on CR 117 south have all been replaced now. They have all been flooded and paved. After some clean up from a culvert repair the guys are moving to the north end of CR 117 to start cutting the road for culverts to be replaced.

MOWING

The crews finished mowing west a while back. The crews are now over east and should be wrapping that side of the county up in a few days. We will still have to go back to some areas when the crops come off.

C.R. 232-3.19 BRIDGE MAINTENANCE

The steel has been tied and forms set for the north east wing wall. The guys are now on the south west corner. If things go good steel should be tied and some forms set today. We should have a pour for these walls early next week.

ROAD MAINTENANCE

- Culverts were repaired on TR 218 and 121

- Tiles were repaired on Buckland and Finefrock
- Area on CR 181 was ground down and paved
- Culverts on CR 128, 41, and Tucker Rd. were ground down and paved
- Salt barrels were placed at Ballville Bridge
- Berming continues on CR 1 when time permits
- Trees and brush were removed on TR 265 and CR 117 for surveyors
- Building #2 and #11 were cleaned
- Leaves were cleaned up around the yard

IN THE SHOP

Jeff and Andy are staying busy with services, repairs, and mowers. Jeff has been working on the budget for the shop.

SIGN SHOP

Perry is staying busy with sign repairs plus replacing signs for the sign grant.

FALL BACK

Daylight saving time ends this Sunday at 2:00 a.m.—remember to set your clocks back one hour when you go to bed Saturday night.