

# ROAD REPORT

The Official Newsletter of the Sandusky County Engineer

No. 21

December 17, 2010

## FROM THE ENGINEER

The biggest event of the last two weeks is the addition of a new employee—Carlos Baez. Welcome Carlos!!! Carlos comes to us from the City of Oregon where he worked for eleven years. He is a graduate of the University of Toledo and is a registered professional engineer. Carlos will help us clean up our backlog of existing design projects, keep us current and hopefully get into some areas we have only been able to think about in the past. Again, welcome Carlos!!

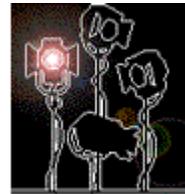
Carlos started on December 6<sup>th</sup>. That is also the first day all of the trucks went out on snow removal this season. Speaking about trucks, is everyone as impressed with our two new trucks as I am? Gee wiz, only one of them has had to be hauled back to the dealer!! \$120,000 just doesn't buy what it used to!

We had our budget hearing with the Commissioners last Friday. It was pretty much a no brainer since they don't give us money anymore. At one time they gave us as much as \$100,000 per year. They did say they would investigate how our workman's comp premium was calculated. As you may remember this is up to over \$100,000 in 2011 from \$30,000 in 2010. As a side note, I see Wood County Commissioners are giving their engineer \$250,000 in 2011.

The final list of Ohio Public Works Commission projects was approved Wednesday night for Round 25. We have just one project in the funding range. That is the paving of CR's 107 and 117. We have another one (repair work to the State Street bridge) that stands a chance of being funded as other projects are completed. I have been appointed as chair of a committee to review the rating system especially as it relates to roads. I, along with several other county engineers, would like to see the rating system change so we have more freedom to choose what roads to apply for. Right now we have to submit roads that will rate well and these are not necessarily the ones we want to pave. That is true with 107 and 117. They would not be my first choice to pave, but since 117 is classified as a Minor Collector, by combining it with 107, the project rates well. Meanwhile roads such as CR 2 are ignored.

Work is to resume (and hopefully be completed) on the office ventilating system next week. Some definite improvements have been made, but it still needs some work. This system will be very much like our new trucks—very dependent on electronics and computers and any problems have to be diagnosed and repaired by specialists. Let's hope the engineers at Wadsworth have done a better job than those at International.

Just in case this is the last edition of the Road Report for 2011, I would like to thank all employees for their hard work and dedication. Sometimes it's too easy to concentrate on problems and not recognize accomplishments. All in all, 2010 was another good year—that makes at least 26 in a row in my opinion!! Thank you and MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!!



## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Employee: Carlos Baez Sr., P. E.  
Title: Civil Engineer  
Date Hired: December 6<sup>th</sup>  
Spouse: Brandi  
Children: 4- Carlos Jr. (14), Robbie (10), Alex (9) & Tony (6)  
Pets: Max – Long hair dachshund  
Favorite Song: Every Breath You Take (The Police)  
Hobbies: Playing golf, coaching soccer, listening to music  
Claim to Fame: My Vanilla Ice Dance  
Pet Peeve: People with NO sense of humor

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jim & Mark for the opportunity to work in this office. I'm looking forward to learning everything that there is to learn about this office and to working with everyone of you. See you around.  
Carlos

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jim Moyer

December 29<sup>th</sup>

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

**It's a Boy!**  
**Austin Edward Swartz**  
**December 9, 2010**  
**7 lbs. 1 oz**  
**19.5" long**  
**Proud Parents John & Melissa Swartz**  
**Proud Grandparents Mark & Jayne Swartz**

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

**It's a Boy!**  
**Walter James Foreman IV**  
**December 13, 2010**  
**8 lbs. 6 oz**  
**20" long**  
**Proud Parents Walter (Justice) & Emily Foreman III**  
**Proud Grandparents Walter (Chip) & Kim Foreman**

## **FROM THE OFFICE MANAGER**

### **Paycheck**

Payroll #27 must be turned on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, any overtime worked after December 22<sup>nd</sup> will be included on payroll #1.

### **Health Insurance**

Insurance cards will be mailed directly to your home; BORMA will let u know when cards are mailed.

## **FROM THE ROAD SUPERINTENDENT**

Well we had our first moderate snow storm of the year Sunday. First, I heard a storm to watch, then someone said, "a forecast his wife heard said 12 to 24 inches in our region", and then the next forecast said 6 to 8 inches with strong winds. I think we ended up with 3 to 4 inches, but the way it blew it's hard to measure. Then the temperature plummeted to around zero and everything turned to ice. What a way to start the season.

### **DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE**

The ditch on C.R.32 south of 11 is being cleaned.

Ma 42-1.80 and Ri 140-0.25 culverts were repaired.

073 was hauled to C.R.13 to clean the ditch in front of the new Lakota school.

### **BRUSH CUTTING**

Brush was cut in various areas the truck drivers said was close to their trucks.

071's route should be completed today.

### **SIGNS**

Gates were made up and installed for the C.R.260 turnpike overpass.

Mailboxes were repaired from the snowstorm.

### **YARD**

The wash bay in b#1 was completed and is now being used.

Trucks and salters were washed out and the lot was cleared of snow and ice.

#9 stone was hauled and mixed with salt.

Lights were repaired in the stairway to the basement.

The sign shop move has started, the sign racks are being moved into b# 1.

The midnight shift started Sunday night at 8:00.

**I want to thank everyone for their hard work in cleaning up from this storm.**

**I want to wish everyone a MERRY CHRISTMAS!**