

ROAD REPORT

The Official Newsletter of the Sandusky County Engineer

No. 20

November 2, 2012

FROM THE ENGINEER

With the completion of the TR 42 box culvert, all of our major force account projects are done for the year. We've had more projects in past years, but I don't think we've had so many unusual projects. It's good to know all the obstacles have been overcome and the projects completed. Of course, now we've got to back and clean up the odds and ends, such as rock removal on 177. Also, next year we need to put the top course of asphalt on 10, 42, 177, and 265. Thanks to all in the office and highway crew that has worked hard to get these jobs done! Your efforts are very much appreciated.

Unfortunately, not all of our major contract projects are completed. The tarps on Tindall Bridge have been riddled by high winds, and work has been delayed by rain. The east span has been sand blasted and primed, and sandblasting has been started on the west span. The State Street Bridge was progressing nicely until high water came up. Let's hope the weather is more cooperative and these projects can be completed yet this year. The paving projects are now done. The contractor milled and repaved about a half mile of the north lane of CR 169 to correct some faulty workmanship. It was quite a battle to get this resolved. Carlos and I spent an afternoon with two officers of the company showing them some other marginal work. We have modified our plans and specifications to better address these type of things in the future.

No sooner is the work for this year completed, work for next is started. On November 15th we are bidding two paving jobs for next year: CR's 12 & 39 and South River Road. We have also ordered two new tandems and will be taking bids on the 15th to outfit them with dump bodies, hydraulic, lights etc.

The Turnpike has awarded a contract for the next three overpasses. Work is to begin this fall and continue through the winter on 244 and 202. Work on 128 is to begin next spring.

The budget for next year is nearly complete. It has been a difficult process as our bottom line is down \$445,000 from last year. Less money means some projects have to be eliminated which is not easy to do when they are all needed.

The Sandusky County Transportation Improvement District (TID) has been awarded \$200,000 from ODOT. It will be used to pay for a study regarding a new entrance for Terra onto SR 53.

Two former employees of our department recently passed away. Dawn (Mosser) Shurer was a secretary when I started here in 1974 and retired shortly after that. She was always very pleasant and fun to work with. She was 98 years old. Former County Engineer Dean Morgan also passed away. He was 86 years old. Dean was engineer from 1961 to 1966. Although I never worked under Dean, I did have the honor to meet him a couple of times. He told me that the most rewarding job he ever had was being Sandusky County Engineer. He gave me a wood pin from the Mull Covered Bridge that was salvaged when the bridge was renovated during his tenure. He also gave me a county road map dating from the 1930's. It's interesting to look at since it was made before a lot of the current state highways such as 53, the bypass, and turnpike existed and some county roads such as 12, 41, 53, 113, and 177 were state highways. Dean lived in the Washington D.C. area. Our sympathy goes out to both Dawn and Dean's families.

Congratulations to our own Tony Miller on being the Grand Champion of the County's "Walking Challenge". He took over a half million steps to become the winner. His nearest challenger was over 50,000 steps behind. Way to go Tony!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Jenna Sommers November 8th 8 years

FROM THE OFFICE MANAGER

THANKSGIVING

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

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

2013 Hospitalization
Medical Mutual – SuperMed PPO
Payroll Deduction – 6.5%

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| Employee | \$13.66 |
| Employee/Spouse | \$27.32 |
| Employee/Children | \$26.30 |
| Employee/Spouse/Child | \$32.26 |
| Family | \$39.96 |

WALKING CHALLENGE

Thank you to everyone who participated in the walking challenge. It is amazing how many (of few) steps we take during a day. Some individuals saw some great benefits from taking a few extra steps. Adding those few extra steps a day could add a few extra days to your life!!!

Remember, although you may feel some immediate benefits of exercise, it takes six to eight weeks to see the more lasting benefits. Just preserve and remain patient!

Although this challenge is over, we hope you will continue to use your pedometer and walking regularly to make this a year round walk program. We still have pedometers for anyone that would like one. Keep tracking daily how much you actually move. You will be amazed ☺

Congratulations goes out to our very own TONY MILLER for First Place with 579735 steps!!! Wow pretty awesome Tony ☺

Also, Congratulation goes out to our other county winners.

Second – Sally Miller – 528763

Third – Rich Oddo – 457645

Everyone who participated in this program will be receiving a prize for participating as a thank you for making the effort to work toward being a healthier you.

FROM THE ROAD SUPERINTENDENT

WO.42-0.21 CULVERT REPLACEMENT

Our last major construction project has been completed for the year. Since the last road report our crew was able to backfill around the structure, place rip rap on the ends, finish the dirt work, channel work, grade the approach, and get it paved before the weather went south. All that is left is to rock hound, seed, and straw if and when the dirt dries out. A great job to all involved.

BRUSH CUTTING

The brush crew has been out for some time on a few projects. They cleaned up the brush around the bridge on CR 175 southwest of St. Rt. 101, on the Turn Pike overpass on CR 169, a stretch of woods on CR 169, plus they removed brush around the guardrail on CR 30. They are now working on the north end of CR 117. We have a little catching up to do from last year since we did not get our bucket truck till later in the season.

ROAD MAINTENANCE

- Crack sealing continues on CR 128 when weather permits.
- Ed is working in Riley Twp. with the boom mower.
- Guardrail was repaired again on CR 117.
- Concrete repair on GR 175-2.45.
- Buildings were cleaned during the rainy weather.

- Vehicles were washed.
- Snow plows and salters were hooked up and trucks gone over and cleaned.
- Dozer was hauled to the yard to be cleaned and serviced.
- Office was cleaned.
- Building #6 was organized to fit trailers in for the winter.
- Perry put up the bridge ice signs.
- Silt is being removed from Sugar CR at the bridge on TR 26.
- Perry and Tony M. attended a sign seminar at Osburn Associates.
- Jeff and I attended the Superintendents and Mechanics conference in Deer Creek.
- Two new tandems have been ordered.