

ROAD REPORT

The Official Newsletter of the Sandusky County Engineer
Carlos A. Baez Sr., P.E., P.S.

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FROM THE ENGINEER

It has been a while since our last Road Report. We were not able to produce one since our computer systems went down in September. I want to commend everybody for staying busy, the best we could, during the malware situation. Luckily, everything is back up and running, but it hasn't been all smooth sailing, as we are still trying to get back up to normal.

The computers went down right around budget time. Fortunately, Kris and Jenna had already started working on their budgets and were able to keep working on the budget while we were down. As soon as computers started working again, the first priority was to get the budget completed. I want to commend Kris, and Tara for their work on the MVGT (Engineer's) budget and getting it all submitted in New World. The highlights for the 2020 budget are: Three separate paving contracts including the paving of CR 177, The Town Route (Hayes, Buckland, Siler, Third, Cleveland), and CR 89 and CR 106. We will be ordering two new dump trucks and three new pickup trucks. Also, we will be replacing the JA 80-1.88 truss bridge, and the CR 294 crossover tile at TR 237.

ODOT informed me a couple of weeks ago that the Safety Application to improve the east side of the bypass at CR 198, CR 229 and E. State Street has been approved for funding. Sandusky County will be responsible for 5% of the cost of the project. Construction is expected to be completed in FY 2024. Out of the four options that ODOT gave us, a roundabout was selected as the best option to improve this section of the bypass.

We were also informed by the Ohio EPA that we have been selected to receive a grant for around \$73,000 to replace two of our dump trucks and one of our service trucks. The grant will cover around 25% of the cost of the three trucks. I want to thank Elizabeth, Chad and the Mechanics for putting this grant application together.

Our thoughts go out to Kristine Randolph, and Jimmy Sanford. Hope to see you both soon!

I want to wish a very Merry Christmas to everyone!!! I hope that all of you can spend quality time with your families during this holiday season.

FROM THE ROAD SUPERINTENDENT

Well it has been awhile since we've done a Road Report; let's see how this goes... The weather has been up and down and back and forth. Here we are the end of December and they are talking temps in the 50's. Last week, we saw a couple of inches of snow and temps in the 20's and 30's. Who knows what the rest of the winter will bring. Stay tuned!

We have stayed busy despite the weather. The big excavator was used to clean a ditch along Smith RD, and then used to clean up the brush around the TR 80 Bridge, so that it could be surveyed. Now it will be moved to CR 89 to clean a ditch there. The mini excavator was used to clean a ditch and replace a drive tile on CR 65, at TR 8. Now it has been moved to CR 13, in front of Lakota School, to dip the ditch. Tim has stayed busy leveling spoils on Bark Creek for Ditch Maintenance.

We also have work continuing with the Brush Crew, and crack sealing. When the conditions have been good we have been crack sealing on CR 107 (finished), CR 169, and CR 2. The Brush Crew has been going around trimming in the right-of-ways, around bridges, and culverts. We also helped Facility Management clean up a brush pile on Countryside Drive.

Last week we saw our second stint of winter and snow removal. Not a lot of snow, but enough to make road conditions slippery. *Tis the season!*

Miscellaneous Road Work

- ✓ Minor weld repairs on Tindall Bridge.
- ✓ Replace catch basin on CR 198.
- ✓ Reset tile on CR 181.
- ✓ Finishing up with the Boom Mower.
- ✓ Berm Reclaiming.
- ✓ Replaced light fixtures in Carlos' Office and Conference Room.
- ✓ Repaired guardrail on the TR 183 Bridge.
- ✓ Washed and cleaned road mowers.
- ✓ Washing plow trucks.

Hope everyone has a Safe and Happy Holiday!!

FROM THE DRAINAGE COORDINATOR

Last year was not a good one for getting dip outs done with the Ditch Maintenance Department, due to the weather. We had a total of 7 miles dipped in 2018 compared to the 31 miles in 2017. This year, for the first time that I know of, we asked farmers on a few of the ditches to stay back, so we could start dipping before the crops came off. It worked out well and we got a head start on dipping. Unilliance dipped Hensel and Walter Cramer, they will be moving in on JW Overmyer in the next week or two. Ron Hovis has dipped a section of the JP Miller ditch and then moved to the Dibert and Keenan laterals of Big Mud. He will be moving to the John Albrecht ditch, right after Christmas. Don Hovis has been working on Bark Creek for over a month. He will wrap up in the next week or two and will have dipped about 6.5 miles, of Bark Creek. Next he will move to Othel Dean. Tim Below is currently spreading spoils behind Don Hovis, on Bark Creek. We have had quite a few calls saying how

great Tim is doing with the spoils and compliments on Bark Creek as a whole. Terry McConnell just moved in on WF Williams Ditch today and will be cleaning approximately 5.5 miles of that ditch before he moves to the next one. A new contractor, Paul Storey, has dipped out SE Stull, finished AR Ferguson, and dipped Cora Heal, along with some other work. He will be moving to Vickery to start on the Hissong Ditch. We currently have about 10 miles of ditches dipped, but by April we would like a total of about 35 miles, if the weather allows.

Lee and Cody had a long summer of catching up on spraying, with more than 50 miles of ditches being sprayed and running both sides. Lee and Cody are now working on flagging outlets for the contractors, cleaning up trees and brush, and fixing tile outlets along the projects. Tile outlets will be another big part of our work for the next several months.

We would like to Welcome Dave & Jeremy to the Sandusky County Engineer's!!

Also,

A special shout out to Mr. Timothy Below!!

Tim is the proud grandfather of

Ms. Olivia

born October 8, 2019

weighing 6lb 13 oz

measuring 19 1/2 inches long

Congratulations Tim!!

***MERRY CHRISTMAS
EVERYONE!!***