

ROAD REPORT

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

No. 11

December 2020

FROM THE ENGINEER

Rick and I completed our 2020 bridge inspections this past December. As always, no major surprises were found and overall our bridges are in pretty good shape. There are a few bridges that are starting to show more deterioration than others, however some of these bridges are bigger than our average county bridge. I will be looking to keep up with our bridge replacement program, and try to at least replace a bridge every year. This year (2021) we will be replacing the JA 80 truss, and we will also be replacing the beams on the RY 260-4.42 bridge. Consequently, at the end of December, we had our 5 year bridge QAR routine audit from Mark Stockman of CEAO. Mark and I went around the county looking at our worst bridges. For the most part, he concurred with our inspection reports and methods. He suggested that we lower the rating of the SA 57 (Christy Road) bridge over Muskellunge Creek from a 5 to a 4. I don't necessarily agree with Mark, but we'll be taking a closer look at the bridge to see if anything can be done to improve the rating or we'll look and see if it needs replaced in the next few years.

The Commissioners have awarded the Michaels Ditch contract to Great Lakes Excavating and the project is moving forward given that there wasn't an appeal. Jenna, Elizabeth and I had a pre-construction meeting December 10th on site with the contractor and walked several areas of the project. The contractor is planning to start construction this week or next, depending on the weather. They have already mobilized some of their equipment. Dean, with some help from Tony Miller and others, has been placing construction hubs and laths along the ditch for the contractor to follow. The expected completion date for construction is May 2021.

Elizabeth and Jim Seibert have been working together to put our excess vehicles for sale on Govdeals.com. The Crown Vic. 941 was sold for \$1,575.00, and will be heading to Alabama. The Suburban 783 came in at \$3,150 and will be going to Tennessee. Last but not least, the Stratus 982 sold for \$630, and has made its way to Toledo. They will also be putting some excess lights, tools and miscellaneous stuff on the website to receive bids on.



It is probably a good idea to bring this past year into perspective. Sure 2020 was a very difficult and trying year. The COVID-19 coronavirus global pandemic created major challenges for our operation and totally disrupted our lives one way or another. However, I do believe that there was a lot of good that we can reflect back on. A lot of times it is easy to always focus on the negatives and it's easy to make excuses. I'm very proud of the way our employees cooperated with the mandates, did whatever we needed to do to get through the tough times, and remained opened through it all, working together to make sure we could provide some level of service. We also had more time to spend with our families and maybe were able to slow down a bit and reflect on what's really important in life. As we put 2020 behind us, we hope and pray that 2021 will be better than last year and that we get this pandemic under control soon. Our thoughts and prayers go out to those affected by the pandemic and to those who lost their lives to this virus.

I would like to commend the County Commissioners, Human Resources (Theresa & Jaime), and the other elected officials for their guidance, help and cooperation throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. I would also like to thank Lisa Kuelling with EMA and Bethany Brown with the Health Department for all of their hard work and leadership in keeping us informed and helping us to make good decisions.

FROM THE ROAD SUPERINTENDENT

Happy New Year everyone! Hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and Santa brought you everything you wanted. 2020 is now in the past and hopefully 2021 is a more up lifting year and we can get back to more of the things we love to do and enjoy.

In the past month, we have had a few minor snow events. One to three inches here and there, some winds with it, and just last weekend an ice event that affected the north west corner of the county. All and all it has been a pretty mild winter so far. Still have a ways to go though.

The Brush Crew has been out working on trimming back limbs in the right-of-way. They have been on the west side of the county so far. On days not suitable for cutting brush, the crew is working on guardrail repairs by replacing posts and ends from the inspection sheets.

The excavators have stayed busy as well. We repaired a separated 36' culvert on TR 202. Since we were there we added another 8' section of pipe to gain some shoulder. From there, Mark moved up to CR 11 where he cleaned the ditch between TR 26 and TR 22. That was completed last week. We are now going to clean a section along TR 26 to help drain the ditch on CR 11. The mini is up on CR 1 cleaning the ditch just west of SR 590.

~ *Miscellaneous Road Work* ~

- Mailboxes have been repaired as needed after snow events.
- Trucks have been getting frequent baths after snow events.
- Pot holes are filled as needed.
- Painting of the back office has been completed.
- Matt is still using the boom mower over east, mainly working on Township Roads.
- Year end inventory was completed.

FROM THE CIVIL ENGINEER

Carlos and I have been assisting with Ballville Township and the Sandusky County EMA on a new FEMA grant called BRIC to design a solution for the ongoing flooding on Timpe Rd. Ballville has made it to the next round in the grant process, and we have submitted preliminary storm designs and calculations for the improvement. A key to winning a grant like this is providing historical documentation on past flooding issues, and force account expenses on past repairs on our roads. By fixing the Timpe Road ongoing drainage problem, we can prevent future blowouts that might occur on CR 20 East (East State St) and further downstream to our maintenance ditches.



Who Am I?

Last month's participants were
Travis (Employee #1)
&
Jenna (Employee #2)

Thanks for playing along!!

EMPLOYEE #1

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

a Township Road Maintenance Worker

Favorite activity to do with your family?

play cards

Favorite song?

Whip a Tesla

Favorite sport?

Nascar

Favorite season?

Fall

Favorite restaurant?

Barra

Hobbies?

Peeling apples, opening beers, tying my shoes, with my excavator.

EMPLOYEE #2

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

a Hairdresser

Favorite activity to do with your family?

anything, as long as we are laughing...

Favorite song?

The Devil Went Down to Georgia!

Favorite sport?

Football and Softball

Favorite season?

Summer

Favorite restaurant?

Blue Pacific

Hobbies?

Hang out with my family, watch my kids play sports, fish, and train our dogs... but now i think we need an excavator!

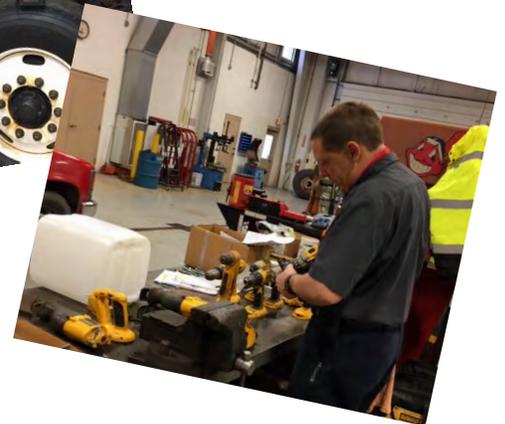
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

James Sanford	January 7 th
Tony Miller	January 14 th
Lee Klohn	January 18 th
Remington Smith	January 18 th
Jim Seibert	January 22 nd
Eric Wheatley	January 30 th
Tara Shanahan	January 30 th

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Lee Klohn	Jan. 1 st	4 yrs
Cody Amor	Jan. 3 rd	16 yrs
Remington Smith	Jan. 3 rd	4 yrs
Elizabeth Ball	Jan. 4 th	5 yrs
Steve Pfeiffer	Jan. 10 th	16 yrs
Mark Auxter	Jan. 22 nd	42 yrs
Chad Fisher	Jan. 25 th	22 yrs

~ Current Garage Projects ~



Remington is preparing to remove the exhaust manifold bolts on Vehicle #125, while Jim is taking inventory of our 18 volt tools to be auctioned on GovDeals, as we have now upgraded to 20 volt.

CONGRATULATIONS

*to Our Newly Elected
Sandusky County Engineer,
Carlos Baez!!*

*Prior to this election, Carlos was appointed to the County Engineer's position,
by the Republican Central Committee.*

*Due to the Coronavirus, this year's Swearing-In Ceremony was held via Zoom from
the Sandusky County Courthouse.*

*Judge Jeremiah Ray performed the ceremony with Carlos' close family in attendance,
as the rest of his family, friends, and co-workers from near and far watched on.*



January

2021

This is the year to be stronger, braver, kinder, and unstoppable

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Happy Anniversary LEE!! New Year's Day	2
3 Cody's 16 th Anniversary & Remington's 4 th !	4 Happy Anniversary Elizabeth!!	5 National Bird Day	6	7 Happy Birthday Jimmy!!	8	9 Law Enforcement Apprec. Day
10 Happy 16 th Anniversary Steve!!	11 Nat'l Milk Day (Who is bringing the cookies?)	12	13	14 TONY! HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!	15 Nat'l Hat Day	16
17	18 HAPPY BIRTHDAY Lee & Rem!! Martin Luther King Jr Day	19	20 Inauguration Day	21	22 It's time to CELEBRATE!! Seibert's B-Day Mark's Anniversary	23
24	25 Happy Anniversary CHAD!! 22 years!	26 Nat'l Spouses Day	27	28	29	30 Happy Birthday Wheat!!
31					Good lord, it is about to be a good month for treats!!	