

# ROAD REPORT

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

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No. 10

November 2020

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## FROM THE ENGINEER

Tara, Kris, and I completed the budget for 2021 and submitted it to the Commissioners this past month. We have a larger carryover than years past. This is due to our conservative approach this past year during the pandemic. Given the uncertainties this past year has presented, we delayed some projects and really watched our spending to make sure we would be solvent by the end of the year. We will continue that approach into next year, not knowing what the future will bring given the pandemic. It just seems to be getting worse. For now, the highlights for next year's budget are paving of CR 268 & CR 290, paving of CR 294 & CR 260, paving of CR 44, replacement of JA 80-1.88 Bridge, replacement of precast beams of RY 260-4.42 Bridge, replacement or extensions of several culverts, purchase two new single axle dump trucks, purchase a new sign truck, purchase a new front end loader and trade in our old one, and purchase a new roller. We are also looking into adding a lean-to expansion to the salt shed to give us some more room to keep our equipment dry.

ODOT District 2 invited Elizabeth and I to participate in their Roundabout Scoping meeting with the consultant they selected. ODOT chose Mott MacDonald Design Engineers out the Akron/Cleveland area to design the roundabout on the east side of the bypass connecting US 20 to East State Street. This improvement will close the intersection of CR 198 and CR 229 on the US 20 bypass. The final design is scheduled to be submitted to ODOT by 06/15/2023. Construction is scheduled to begin 03/01/2024 with completion by the end of 2024. Obviously all these dates are subject to change but this is their plan at this point. Talking about roundabouts, I received a call this past week from the Assistant Engineer of the Ohio Turnpike. They are planning to replace their current interchange on SR 53 with a brand new roundabout on N. SR 53. They plan to go out to bids next month and start construction as early as March/April 2021.

You might have noticed Perry installing some new Load Rating signs on some of our bridges. This is due to a new federal mandate to load rate some of our bridges using different size vehicles. All of our bridges had been load rated at one point or another, with only the Tindal bridge being posted. The Federal Highway Administration decided that we needed to load rate specific bridges again and check their rating for Special Hauling Vehicles and certain two and three axle Emergency Vehicles. After redoing the load rating on these bridges we will now have about ten bridges that have to be posted for these specific vehicles.

This past year we received several grants for safety studies, no passing zone study, and pavement marking inventory. For the no passing and pavement marking inventory we hired MasterMind, LLC out of Delaware, OH. MasterMind has delivered their final product and now we have our pavement marking and no passing zone inventory in digital format. As part of this study, MasterMind also ran all of our county roads and created a video database, similar to Google Earth's street view. This feature has already proven to be very useful and we have already started using it to our benefit. We now have video access to every single mile of our county maintained roads.

Doesn't hurt to remind you to please stay safe, wear your masks, maintain your social distance, wash your hands often, and use hand sanitizer. I believe we have done a pretty good job to this point keeping everybody safe. However; this virus seems to be getting worse and worse in our county. We expect it to worsen this winter and hopefully get it under control by the end of the summer. We have to continue to do our part to stay safe and not spread the virus.

## FROM THE ROAD SUPERINTENDENT

End of November already... Hope everyone had a safe and FILLING Thanksgiving. On the work side of things, temperatures and weather have been working out for crack sealing. The crew has finished on CR 117 and also crack sealed all of East State Street as well as Brush Street, checking a couple more roads off the list. They have also started on CR 181. We'll just have to see how the weather plays out. When not able to crack seal, we have been brush cutting. You may have seen them out on the west side town route.

We completed the dirt work around the concrete pad for the new storage unit at the Health Department. We will need to seed it in the spring. A washout was fixed on the CR 229 bridge over Green Creek. Between Jimmy, Kory, and Steve, two older plows were sandblasted and painted, along with about twenty truck rims.

The mowers are back out on the west side of the county mowing back banks now that the crops are off. We are also mowing in Rice Township, to help them out since Jerry's passing. Matt continues in the Boom Mower over east, and also tries to get anything for townships when he is in their areas.

### *Miscellaneous Work*

- Leveled spoils along CR 89 and CR 128.
- Painting in the back office.
- Lutz flashing school sign was relocated further south.
- Trucks were gone over and equipped for snow removal.
- A road inspection was done after the high winds the other weekend. Trees and brush were cleaned up around the county. Multiple roads were closed due to downed trees and power lines.

## FROM THE OFFICE MANAGER

### **House Bill 404 Extends Expiration Date of Driver Licenses, ID Cards and Vehicle Registration**

Due to the ongoing pandemic, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine has signed House Bill 404, which extends the expiration date. Now, if a customer's expiration date is March 9, 2020 to April 1, 2021, the expiration date has been **automatically extended and will remain valid until July 1, 2021.**

### **Income Comparison** (January – November)

2020 - \$5,345,358  
2019 - \$4,436,912

### **OPEN ENROLLMENT**

Flexible Spending Account - Enroll now for 2021 and pay less into Federal, State, City, School, and Medicare Tax. The Deadline is Dec. 7th.

TAX FREE MONEY... Do you have any of the following expenses throughout the year: Medical, Dental, Vision, Medication - prescriptions and over the counter AND/OR Dependent Care –day care, babysitter... Are you interested in lowering your tax deductions (Federal, State, City, School, Medicare) If you have any questions, let Tara know.

### **UNITED WAY**

United Way Pledge Cards are now available and payroll deduction **or** a onetime donation can be made. Why invest in United Way? Your donation (large or small), touches the lives of Sandusky County residents. 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 form by December 10th.

## FROM THE CIVIL ENGINEER

Our office utilized safety funding from the CEAO to hire DGL to do a safety study on the corner of Hayes/Stone/Third Ave. Some short term countermeasures could be utilized to improve stopping sight distance at the corner of Hayes/Stone, such as striping the pavement area within our right of way at the gas station. A medium countermeasure could be a different stop sign/turn lane configuration for southbound Stone St traffic. A long term, expensive solution could involve a roundabout.

I am also reviewing the ongoing design by LJB for an ODOT sponsored project at the West end of the US 20 bypass, whereby the TR 138 intersection will be configured as well as the existing ramp for Eastbound US 20 traffic heading Southbound on US 6/SR 53. There will also be a turn lane for Westbound traffic to go South on US 6/SR 53. This project paid for by ODOT and will also include repaving of our portion of CR 20 West, the paving plans which Rich is currently preparing.

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!

Carlos Baez Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> 10 yrs

Tim Below Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> 21 yrs

Jim Seibert Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> 4 yrs



## Who Am I?

Last month's participants were  
Rich (Employee #1)  
&  
Tim (Employee #2)

*Thanks for playing along guys!*

**KORY!** I'm still waiting for yours...  
I haven't forgot. ☺ (*You too, Mark & Jeff!*)

### EMPLOYEE #1

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? **NBA All Star**

Favorite activity to do with your family?  
**Cleveland Browns Games**

Favorite song?  
**Back that Azz Up - by Juvenile**

Favorite sport?  
**Basketball/Football**

Favorite season?  
**Fall**

Favorite restaurant?  
**Chipotle**

Hobbies?  
**Spending time with family. Training son with sports.**

### EMPLOYEE #2

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

Favorite activity to do with your family?  
**Camping**

Favorite song?  
**Underdog, by Chris Young**

Favorite sport?  
**Baseball/Football**

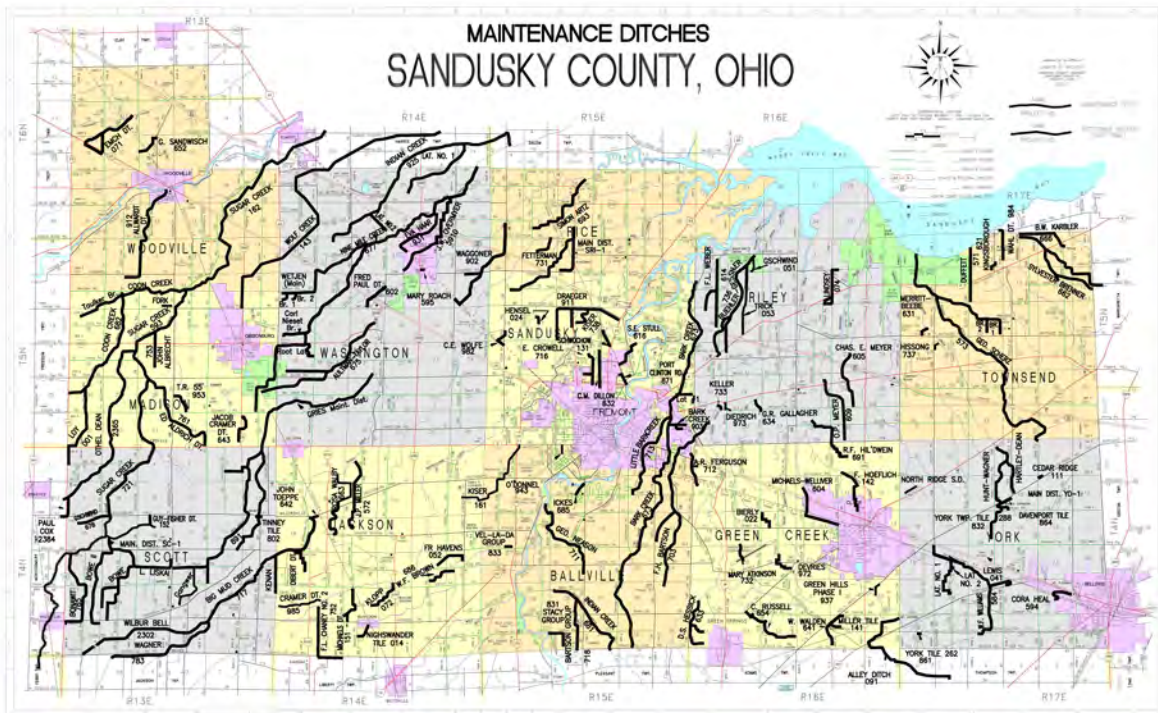
Favorite season?  
**Fall**

Favorite restaurant?  
**Carrabba's**

Hobbies?  
- Fishing/Hunting/Camping.  
- Being around the water/lake.  
- Watching my kids play sports.

# FROM THE DRAINAGE COORDINATOR

2020 has been a great year for Ditch Maintenance! DM bought a mini excavator and with all the tile outlets and other work that the machine completed this year, about \$20,000.00 was saved. If not for the purchase of the machine we would have had to pay a contractor to complete this maintenance. DM dipped out 26 miles of ditches in 2020. We have about 25 miles planned for 2021, if the weather cooperates. We have approximately 260 miles of ditches on maintenance. The goal is to get about 25 miles done a year to stay on a good cycle. Once cleaned, some ditches will stay good longer than 10 years while some don't last as long before they will need dipped again. Lee and Cody also got the remainder of the ditches sprayed this year from when we took over DM. They had some heavy spraying to do the last few years. Now that they are caught up, the plan is to spray half the county every year. The other half of the county will get inspected every year. This will ensure that all the ditches have been looked at. The law states that you need to be on each ditch every year, and this is how we plan to comply. When spraying and inspecting, the guys travel both sides of the ditch, traveling over 500 miles every year on the four wheelers. We plan on purchasing a new four wheeler in 2021 to keep them in good running condition. The Engineer's road crew did over \$40,000.00 worth of work for DM in 2020. Most of this consisted of leveling spoils but also included things like brush trimming, rock placement and mowing. This money will be paid back to the Engineer's Office in 2021. If the Engineer's did not do the work, DM would have paid a contractor to do it. It is nice to be able to work and save both departments money.



# December

2020

*Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow...* sorry guys!!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Santa will be doing Virtual Visits for the children in Clyde-Green Springs Communities... Check out the Winesburg Christmas Facebook page for more details!</i></p>		1	2	3	4 <b>Nat'l Cookie Day!</b> <i>Santa is in Downtown Fremont, starting today!</i>	5 <b>Int'l Volunteer Day</b>
6 <b>Happy Anniversary Carlos &amp; Below!!</b>	7 <b>Pearl Harbor Remembrance</b>	8	9	10 <b>Hanukkah (Starts)</b>	11	12 <b>Happy Anniversary Seibert!!</b>
13	14	15	16	17	18 <b>Hanukkah (Ends)</b>	19
20	21 <b>Start of Winter!!</b>	22	23	24	25 <b>Merry Christmas!!</b>	26
27	28	29	30	31 <b>Ring in 2021 in Downtown Fremont!</b> <a href="http://www.facebook.com/FremontNYE/">www.facebook.com/FremontNYE/</a>		