

ROAD REPORT

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

No. 4

April 2021

FROM THE ENGINEER

So, April came and went so fast. This year is already flying by. This month, we had our final bid openings of the year when we opened bids for three different projects. Our combined project with Woodville Township and the Village of Gibsonburg (CR 44, TR 139, & E. Yeasting St.) came in under estimate at \$339,900.00. The low bidder was Henry W. Bergman out of Genoa, Ohio. Kokosing Construction and M&B Asphalt came in above the estimate. The 2021 Pavement Marking contract came in just over estimate at \$202,100.00. The low bidder was The Aero-Mark Company out of Streetsboro, Ohio. This year's pavement marking contract is bigger than usual, given that we didn't do a pavement marking contract last year. Last, but not least, we also opened bids for the JA 80-1.88 beams. These came in under estimate at \$120,200.00. The low bid was from Prestress Services out of Columbus, Ohio. Believe it or not, we saved about \$20,000 by making the bridge deck 32' wide rather than our usual 30' wide. So, it cost less to make the bigger beams.

The townships on the west side of the county went together in their annual OPWC contract and also opened that bid in May. The low bid came in under estimate at \$769,880.00 from M&B Asphalt out of Tiffin, Ohio. Also bidding this contract were Gerken Paving, Kokosing Construction, and Henry W. Bergman. The townships involved in this contract are: Jackson, Madison, Rice, Scott, Washington, and Woodville (Lead). Given that this is an OPWC project, the grant money usually becomes available after July 1st. With all of the paving going on this year between the county and the townships, it looks like we have a total of 9 bridges to waterproof this year, so our guys will be busy waterproofing bridges throughout the county this summer.

This past month, we were asked to provide comments regarding an update of the antidegradation permit for Area Aggregates in Woodville. The quarry has filed a permit with the EPA to discharge about 1.5 million gallons of water to the ditch on TR 40 in Woodville Township. This ditch crosses US 20, TR 93, and eventually drains to Sugar Creek. Some of the farmers and residents have been complaining about the quarry pumping their water to this ditch for years. The existing ditch has enough capacity to handle the water being pumped by the quarry. However, the constant flow doesn't allow the farmer's tiles to drain properly since the ditch is always flowing. We hope the EPA looks at all the factors before formally approving the quarry to discharge into this ditch.

We also held our annual employee appreciation luncheon on April 16th. Special thanks goes out to Tara and Chad for planning and preparing the food. Also to Cori for making the beans. Congratulations to our cornhole tournament winners; the team of Travis Arter and Mark Auxter. I appreciate everyone's hard work and your dedication to this department. Keep it up!!!

FROM THE ROAD SUPERINTENDENT

Since the last Road Report, the excavator crew finished up the ditch enclosure along CR 260. We have moved the big excavator as well as the mini excavator up to CR 294 for culvert replacements. Unfortunately, some of these 12” culverts required the big excavator due to the depth and soil conditions. We have replaced six culverts between CR 175 and SR 101. All of these still need spot paved yet. We also reset a 21” RCP end pipe by the Turnpike. Now the guys are north of CR 247 by the Townsend Township House replacing a 12” VCP to an 18” RCP and two 3’x3’x4’ catch basins. This was an upgrade Townsend Township asked for to help drain the area around their new building. Townsend Township will be adding a second outlet to this system as soon as the wheat comes off this summer. We still have a 24” culvert to replace and a 30” extension to complete before CR 294 gets paved this year.

As of Monday, May 3, 2021, all of the beams have been poured for RY 260-4.42 Bridge. The last set will be moved out of the barn on Monday. The removal of the old beams and the setup of the new beams will start as soon as we wrap up the culverts on CR 294.

Perry has been busy in the Sign Shop. The new radar detection system is up and running for the Hayes & Brush St./Michaels Dr. traffic light. What a treat it was running those wires through the conduit. He also has the new solar pedestrian crosswalk signs ready to be installed on Buckland Ave. for Lutz School. Those should be going up in the next few weeks. Another system he is working on that you will see soon for the Lutz and Lakota school zones will be speed sensors. These will display the MPH of vehicles coming into the school zones. He is also trying to keep up on other sign maintenance as well.

~ Miscellaneous Road Work ~

- Worked with Dean digging for survey points on CR 260 and CR 294.
- Hydro seeded areas (ditch cleanings, culvert projects, also spots for City of Fremont).
- Finished the ditch enclosure along CR 260.
- Plows and salters were washed, oiled, and put away for the season (actually had to hook trucks back up on April 20th with a threat of snow).
- Tim leveled spoils on Overmyer Ditch and Meyer Ditch.
- Spot bermed and touched up culvert trenches, as needed.
- Roadside mowing has started. Mowers started over east.
- Dirt work was completed on Fangboner Rd behind the curb and gutter that was installed by Smith Paving.
- Trying to keep the areas around town mowed, plus our yard.
- We did send a few trucks out on April 21st for the snow. Mainly over east for our overpasses and bridges. We also had a few tree branches and trees come down due to the snow that we cleaned up.
- Tile was fixed on Napoleon Rd.
- The drains and floor was cleaned in Building #9.

FROM THE CIVIL ENGINEER

Carlos and Elizabeth attended a fatality review meeting for the county recently. These meetings occur quarterly with other county offices. Thankfully, very few fatalities occurred on county roads in 2020 and none have occurred so far in 2021. In 2020, there was one involving the intersection of CR 247 and SR 510. We review crash reports to see if there were any factors that could be remediated by our office. Ongoing crashes were occurring at SR 101 and CR 175, so in 2017 some design changes were implemented to make it safer. The fatality in 2018 involving CR 198 and the bypass led to the safety funding for an eastside bypass fix with design currently underway and construction coming up in a few years. Back in 2016, a fatal crash involving TR 124 and CR 141 has led to us recently taking a further look at the stop sign and yield sign combination and whether that intersection signage can be updated.



Congratulations to our 2021 Cornhole Tournament Runner-Up Team: Jenna and Chad! (Pictured with their complimentary jar of Sour Patch Kids candy)

FROM THE SIGN SHOP

- Installed new radar loop sensors on poles at the traffic light of Hayes and Brush St. ahead of the grinding of Michaels Dr. for paving.
- Rapid Fire lights for the Lutz school zone crosswalk have been assembled and are waiting on installation after concrete work.
- Lights and sign assemblies have been moved up in preparation of new Radar Speed Assemblies being added to Lutz and Lakota School zone lights. All of this work being done will make our school zones safer for our kiddos!
- Keeping up with damaged or stolen signs on a regular basis.



Congratulations to Travis and Mark on being the 2021 Cornhole Champions! Check out that trophy!

FROM DITCH MAINTENANCE

The Ditch Maintenance Department has had a busy month! Lee and Cody have:

- Installed over 1,200 feet of tile, replacing over 100 tile outlets with the mini excavator
- Used the mini excavator to clean out downed trees on JW Overmyer Ditch
- Picked up and hauled multiple loads of rocks on the Gries Ditch and Bowe Ditch from the dip out earlier this year
- Caught up on the seeding of banks, spreading about 500 pounds of seed
- Hauled multiple loads of Rip Rap for the FH Bartson Ditch
- Inspected the Scherz Ditch in Townsend Township
- Flagged pipes for any contractor working on dip outs
- Got the spraying equipment all ready to start spraying next week

This week, Lee and Cody got to get the row boat out of the barn that I don't believe has been used for at least 15 years, but I could be wrong. They inspected Sugar Creek in Ottawa County for a petition ditch we are working on. The section they inspected is mostly wooded. They had to get out of the boat numerous times to drag it over or around all of the log jams as they rated them according to size for our project. I believe it was much more efficient to use the row boat than if they were to walk the 6.5 miles they traveled. They were in the boat on Sugar Creek approximately 8 hours total. They also recently inspected a mile stretch of Big Mud south of 41 that may need some work done.

So far in 2021, the Ditch Maintenance Department has dipped out 22 miles of ditches.



FROM THE OFFICE MANAGER

Hello All! On April 1st, I was lucky enough to earn the title “Office Manager” due to the retirement of Kristine Randolph. I was fortunate enough to be able to learn from Kris prior to her retirement, and am so thankful for the guidance she has given me. I would like to thank Carlos for entrusting me with this position, and for his guidance as well. Even when I was in the Clerical Specialist position, Carlos took the time to educate me on our policies and procedures (contracts, road maintenance, personnel, etc.). I appreciate the time he took to invest in my future. He helped to set me up for success, and I am grateful for that. I would also like to thank each of the Sandusky County Engineer’s employees for making this a great place to work! There is not a day that I dread coming into work, because the employees make it so welcoming and fun. *Yes, I said FUN.* We have a great group! Moving forward, please know that I am here for you if an issue or concern arises.

Sincerely,

- Tara Shanahan

Income Comparison (March)

2021 - \$1,396,028

2020 - \$1,545,351

Health Insurance:

May’s Promotional Theme is Maintaining Mental Health.

The Achieve Solutions website contains many informational articles. Log onto www.achievesolutions.net/jhp to locate the array of information.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Dean Silva May 22nd
 Dave Meyer May 26th

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!

Jimmy Sanford May 22nd

BREAK TIME

Can you solve these riddles?

1) You see a boat filled with people. It has not sunk, but when you look again you don't see a single person on the boat. Why?



2) Solve this riddle by guessing the opposite of each word below:

- Always _____
- Coming _____
- From _____
- Take _____
- Me _____
- Down _____

Once you have solved the 2nd riddle, go to the link listed below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eBGIQ7ZuuiU>



The beautiful display of the Cornhole Champion trophy



MAD LIBS®
VACATIONS

A vacation is when you take a trip to some _____ place
ADJECTIVE
 with your _____ family. Usually you go to some place
ADJECTIVE
 that is near a/an _____ or up on a/an _____.
NOUN NOUN
 A good vacation place is one where you can ride _____
PLURAL NOUN
 or play _____ or go hunting for _____. I like
GAME PLURAL NOUN
 to spend my time _____ or _____.
VERB ENDING IN "ING" VERB ENDING IN "ING"
 When parents go on a vacation, they spend their time eating
 three _____ a day, and fathers play golf, and mothers
PLURAL NOUN
 sit around _____. Last summer, my little brother
VERB ENDING IN "ING"
 fell in a/an _____ and got poison _____ all
NOUN PLANT
 over his _____. My family is going to go to (the)
PART OF THE BODY
 _____, and I will practice _____. Parents
A PLACE VERB ENDING IN "ING"
 need vacations more than kids because parents are always very
 _____ and because they have to work _____
ADJECTIVE NUMBER
 hours every day all year making enough _____ to pay
PLURAL NOUN
 for the vacation.

May

2021

“Do. Or do not. There is no try.” -Yoda

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		May 4 th : Bid Opening for CR 44, TR 139, E Yeasting & Pavement Marking & JA 80-1.88	May 5 th : Bid Opening for Twp. Roads Resurfacing Project (OPWC)			1
2 National Brothers & Sisters Day	3	4  Star Wars Day May the 4 th Be With You!	5  Cinco de Mayo	6 National Day of Prayer	7	8
9 HAPPY  Mother's DAY	10 << The 9 th is also National Moscato Day... just sayin' 😊	11	12	13	14 National Dance Like a Chicken Day (yes, this is real...)	15  National Armed Forces Day
16	17 Federal Tax Filing Deadline!	18	19	20	21 National Pizza Party Day (sounds like a good idea to me... 😊)	22 Happy Birthday, Dean!! Happy Anniversary, Jimmy!!
23	24 National Scavenger Hunt Day	25	26 Happy Birthday, Dave!!	27	28	29
30 Indianapolis 500	31  MEMORIAL DAY				<p>Just a reminder: Armed Forces Day honors those who are currently serving in the US Armed Forces. Memorial Day honors those who died in service to the US.</p>	