

Beech Street Journal

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY ENGINEER'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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From the Engineer's Desk

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County Engineer

What is coming Up the Road?

The summer is upon us and we are busy with our construction season. We completed and opened Black Road on June 11th. Our chip and seal operation started, which consists of 50 miles of township roads and 56 miles of county roads and it will be completed by June 30th. Design work and requests for state funds are underway for a replacement of the Virts Road bridge late this summer or early fall. We are preparing for our County Road Reconstruction Program to start on July 6th with an anticipated completion date of September 30th. We will reconstruct North Heck Hill Road and Zimmerman Road, both from U.S. Route 36 to Millerstown and all of Stevenson Road. The Paving program is scheduled to start August 9th and we will pave approximately 19 miles of county roads in various locations. We are planning to replace a bridge on East Kingscreek Road starting on July 6th and hope to have the work completed within three weeks of the closure. A bridge on Nettle Creek Road is scheduled for replacement on September 13th and construction will be completed by October 8th. Approximately 94 miles of

Champaign County Roads will have new pavement markings. We are hoping for the weather between now and the upcoming winter to be such that it allows us to replace two bridges on Elm Tree Road, construction to start October 11th, with the work completed by November 12th.

These listed improvements are above and beyond our routine and everyday maintenance work, such as our right of way maintenance and mowing operation, strip patching, maintenance of petitioned ditches and response to incidents or complaints. We committed ourselves to a busy schedule and are somewhat optimistic about weather. To our citizens, like always, we want to thank you for watching for our safety along our highways by obeying our construction signs and slowing down around our work areas. We believe that the first requirement for us to be able to continue to serve you is to remain alive. Please watch for what's up the road.

We need and want your comments and suggestions for newsletter articles, etc. Please contact Rick Bails if you have any ideas or suggestions

April, May and June Birthdays

Ned Bailey	04/15
Scott Wright	04/28
Mark Crowder	05/31
Karen Bolte	06/04
Brett Herron	06/22

Employment Anniversaries

Rick Bahan	04/07/75
Ned Bailey	06/19/75
John Gillfillan	04/24/78
Carl Davis	06/15/81
Mark Crowder	05/28/85
Ted Black	06/24/85
Ed Markin	05/12/86
Steve McCall	05/28/91
Karen Bolte	05/08/00

Safety Tip

June is designated by the National Safety Council as **CRASH-FREE-JUNE**, this year's national safety month.

Failure to yield the right-of-way is one of America's most common driver errors.

Failure to obey a yield sign is not just a breach of etiquette, it's against the law!

Here are a few helpful tips to make everyone on the road a little safer:

When approaching an intersection:

- **Cover the Brake.** Covering the brake cuts three-fourths of a second off your reaction time to stop. Depending on your speed, even this fraction of a second could make a

difference in an emergency. Don't uncover the brake until you see that the intersection is clear of traffic.

- **Observe yield signs and yellow lights.** Slow down to assess the intersection before deciding to stop or proceed through.
- **Delay acceleration.** When stopped at an intersection, make sure it is clear before you accelerate. If you are the first vehicle in line, scan left, right, straight ahead and then left again before accelerating. If there is a vehicle ahead of you, count two seconds after it's tires begin to move before you accelerate.
- **Use the "rule of thirds".** In the first of the block, accelerate to a safe and legal speed. In the second third of the block, maintain speed; signal if making a turn and get into the proper lane. In the final third of the block, cover the brake.

Take caution when entering the roadway from a private drive. You must yield the right-of-way to vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians.

Reduce speed and yield to pedestrians in work zones and school zones.

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New Equipment

In May, we purchased a 2005 International 7400 tandem axle cab and chassis from Navistar. This vehicle was purchased under the State bid program at a cost of \$54,089.00.

The dump body, hoist, hydraulics, snow plow and sander for this vehicle will be supplied and installed by Newell Equipment, Inc., of Galion, Ohio at a cost of \$24,424.00

Resurfacing crew at work.



Black Road “before”



Black Road “after”



