

# Beech Street Journal

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY ENGINEER'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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## From the Engineer's Desk .....

Fereidoun Shokouhi P.E., P.S.

County Engineer

In Persian culture there is a belief that you never plant a walnut tree for your own use, but rather for the people yet to come, just as those did before you. One might think it somewhat strange that a County Engineer would see relevance between road infrastructure and a walnut tree but I believe there is. The present value of the infrastructure maintained by the Office of the Champaign County Engineer is in excess of hundreds of millions of dollars, for replacement costs of 242 miles of roads, 210 bridges, over 2300 culverts, highway safety devices, buildings, etc.. With less than \$850,000.00 in our budget available for capital improvement, our highways find themselves lucky to be fed, or maintained, let alone multiply. This gives us a greater appreciation of the efforts by past employees, and makes us much more aware of the commitment of taxpayers who have now gone. We have, and must continue to commit ourselves to the principle that we cannot fail the trust that we have been given for our current infrastructure legacy, and we must not fail in planting this fruit for the future of our citizens.

## July, August and September Birthdays

Tom Alexander	07-09
Mike Knotts	07-18
Paul Wright	08-11
Mike Toops	08-19
Fereidoun Shokouhi	08-20
Steve Kite	08-22
Billy Black	09-02
John Gillfillan	09-06
Rick Bails	09-18
Mark Watkins	09-23
Chris Louth	09-26
Ted Black	11-02
Lawrence Nott	12-24

## Employment Anniversaries

Steve Uhlenbrock	08-29-77
Gary Pendergrass	09-27-83
Rick Bails	10-01-84
Lawrence Nott	10-13-87
Fereidoun Shokouhi	12-21-87
Doug Bovey	07-18-88
Phil Kandel	10-31-88
Brett Herron	10-25-93
Mark Watkins	11-15-93
Todd Anderson	10-17-94
Tom Alexander	10-23-00
Chris Louth	10-09-01

## New Loader Purchased !!

On July 30, 2002 we accepted delivery of a new John Deere 655C track loader from Nortrax. This machine was purchased under the State Co-operative Purchasing program at a cost of \$138,658.00.



## CCRR Update

Our Champaign County Roads Resurfacing project is proceeding along very well. We completed the grinding and widening process by the end of August. We received bids for the paving on August 29. The contract was awarded to The Shelly Company of Belle Center, Ohio in the amount of \$1,326,668.50.

Currently we are repairing or replacing structures on the affected roads. We expect the entire project to be completed on schedule and all roads opened to thru traffic by November 4, 2002.

## Safety Tip !!

It's hard to think of winter weather and storms after the hot, dry summer we just experienced but we all know that the cold and snow will be here soon. It's important that everyone knows what winter storm **Watches** and **Warnings** mean.

A winter storm **watch** means that a winter storm is possible in your area.

A winter storm **warning** means a winter storm is headed for your area.

A **blizzard** warning means strong winds, blinding wind-driven snow and dangerous wind chill are expected.

You and your family should avoid unnecessary travel in a storm, but if you must travel here are a few tips to help keep you safe.

- Keep your car's gas tank full, this insures that you have plenty of gas for an emergency and helps prevent fuel line freezing.
- Let someone know your route, your destination and when you expect to arrive. If you get stuck along the way, help can be sent along your predetermined route.
- Prepare an emergency supply kit to carry in your car. Include extra clothing, boots, gloves, blankets, snacks, several small candles, matches and a flashlight.

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