

Beech Street Journal

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY ENGINEER'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

www.co.champaign.oh.us/engineer

E-mail engineer@co.champaign.oh.us

From the Engineer's Desk

Fereidoun Shokouhi P.E., P.S.
County Engineer

Got Broad Shoulders?

As the expression goes, having broad shoulders implies that one can withstand the greater challenges one faces. This also, can be applicable to our highways.

We employ great flexibility to achieve a balance between safety, comfort and pleasing roadway in our highway design. Design elements, as applied, are not indifferent to the environmental impact of areas adjoining the highway and the overall storm water runoff. Shoulders and their widths are some of the geometric design elements that are incorporated in the design of our construction and reconstruction of roads. Shoulders of the roadway offer significant value when it comes to safety, as in recovery zones. Shoulders also function as buffer strips in reducing the concentration of the suspended solids and total metals in storm water runoff.

Our work force maintains over 1200 acres of road right of way. We have been spending a significant portion of our resources in the last three decades in improving our highways' shoulders and

embankments. Inasmuch as these types of works are costly in nature, and are not as visible to our traveling public, it is where we are saving lives and protecting the environment. We are committed to provide the safest possible roadway while taking into account the level of comfort, protection of the environment, and aesthetics of our highway.

Next time, when driving on one our county roads, see if the road has a standard pavement width and broad shoulders, and if does not, look for us to be there soon.

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
Alyssa Dunham	09-22
Mark Watkins	09-23

Employment Anniversaries

Alyssa Dunham 09-08-03
Gary Pendergrass 09-27-83

Equipment Update

In July, we took delivered of a Cronkhite, Model 3300 trailer from BOBCAT of Dayton at a cost of \$3,930.00. We will be able to utilize this trailer for a wide variety of hauling including our straw blower for mulching roadside ditches.

In August, we received delivery of a 2005 International tandem cab and chassis from International Truck & Engine Corp. This vehicle was purchased through the State Bid program at a cost of \$54,089.00. The dump body, hydraulic system, snowplow hitch and sander was purchased from Newell Equipment, Inc. of Galion, Ohio and will be installed by them at a cost of \$24,424.00

Construction Update

We have had a busy and productive summer. The reconstruction of Zimmerman road and North Heck Hill road is underway. Stevenson Road is completed and has been reopened to the public. We expect that the balance of this year's paving will be completed by the end of September.

We installed large box culverts on Mutual- Union Road and Nettle Creek Road as well as several smaller structures throughout the County.

We had over 94 miles of County roads marked with centerlines and edgelines in August and remarked five RR crossings. Union and Rush Townships also took part in the pavement marking program this year.

We have been performing our regular maintenance items including roadside mowing, strip patching and maintenance of petitioned ditches.

Safety Tip

Driving in Fog. Think of fog as a cloud at ground level. Fog forms when the air temperature drops to the dew point and water vapor in the air condenses to form suspended water droplets. Fog can drastically reduce visibility. Here are some tips for driving:

- Drive With lights at low beam. High beams will only be reflected back off the fog and may actually impair visibility even more.
- Reduce your speed – and watch your speedometer. Fog creates a visual illusion of slow motion when you may actually be speeding.
- Listen for traffic you cannot see. Open your window a little and turn your radio down to hear better.
- Use wipers and defroster as necessary.
- Use the right edge of the road or painted road markings as a guide.
- Be patient. Do not pass lines of traffic.
- Do not stop on a freeway or heavily traveled road. If your vehicle is disabled or stalls and you can't get off the roadway, move away from the vehicle to avoid injury.

Sources: National Weather Service, Wisconsin DOT



Installing Box culvert on
Mutual Union Road.



Installing box culvert on Elm Tree Road.



Paving operation on Stevenson Road

Reminder: School is back
in session. Let's all watch
out for buses !!!!!



Culvert installation on East Kingscreek
Road

We invite your ideas! If
you have any suggestions
or comments about this
newsletter, contact Rick
Bails