

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

FORGING AHEAD

This year, the state legislature introduced major changes involving construction. The two legislations that affected construction related contracts were H.B. 87 and H.B. 95. The Transportation Appropriation Act was signed by Governor Taft on March 31, 2003. It increased the force account limits and mandated reporting and penalties for violations of set limits, and also authorized the design build process. H.B. 95, which was signed by the governor on June 30, 2003, increased the dollar amount exempt from competitive bidding. It introduced a process for the professional design selection, and a state Diversity, Growth and Equity program to assist disadvantaged businesses in obtaining state contract.

These two bills will have a substantial and positive impact on our operations. We have been given additional funds, and increases on our force account limits. Our force account limit has been increased from \$40,000 for construction and maintenance of bridges and culverts to \$100,000. Also, our force account limit for road construction or reconstruction has been increased from \$10,000 per mile, to \$30,000 per mile.

These increases will give us the opportunity to utilize our work forces more efficiently. The additional funds will enable us to enhance our existing services to the public. The additional money will result in more roads being paved, and more bridges and culverts being replaced. Force account limits have not been adjusted for inflation since the early seventies and the last gas tax increase was in 1992. Changes were long overdue.

Additional funds from the increase in the gas tax, and the introduced flexibility in managing our work by the increase on force account limits, collectively, will translate in direct and tangible services to our citizens. For that, we are grateful.

July, August and September Birthdays

Tom Alexander	7-9
Mike Knotts	7-18
Paul Wright	8-11
Mike Toops	8-19
Fereidoun Shokouhi	8-20
Steve Kite	8-22
John Gillfillan	9-6
Bill Black	9-2
Rick Bails	9-18
Alyssa Dunham	9-22
Mark Watkins	9-23

Employment Anniversaries

Steve Uhlenbrock	8-29-77
Gary Pendergrass	9-27-83
Doug Bovey	7-18-88



New Ford Survey Van

Welcome Alyssa Dunham!

Alyssa Dunham joined us as a Tax Map Technician on September 8, 2003. Alyssa is married to Doug and they have two sons, Dereck and Trenton. She is a graduate of Urbana High School and holds an Associate degree in Culinary Arts from Hocking Technical College. Alyssa and Doug reside in Urbana. Welcome Alyssa! We wish you success in your endeavors with us.

We purchased a new John Deere 410G Backhoe through the State of Ohio Cooperative Purchasing Program. This was delivered to us in August. We are also expecting a new tandem dump truck cab and chassis to be delivered to us by the end of September. We plan to have this new truck available for snow plowing this season.

New Equipment Update

Our new Survey van was delivered in July and is now in service.



John Deere Backhoe

Safety Tip

LIFT IT TWICE!

The act of lifting is the same as any other movement that you can learn to do better with practice. The more you practice a skill the better you become at it. Consider a sport such as golf, bowling or baseball. You must prepare mentally as well as physically. Most of us familiar with the proper way to physically lift an item, but how many of us mentally prepare to make a lift? Your first lift should be a mental lift. Think about the lift before actually doing it:

- How am I going to lift this item? Can I do it by myself or should I get help?
- How heavy is the item? Do I need to use mechanical assistance?
- Where am I taking the item being lifted? Is it a difficult path or a long distance?
- What hazards may hamper the lift or obstruct the lift? Eliminate hazards before you lift the item.

The second lift is the actual physical lift. Remember to keep the item as close to your body as possible when lifting. Try to lift with your legs rather than your back. Avoid twisting when lifting a heavy item.

REMEMBER ,THE NEXT TIME YOU LIFT TO LIFT TWICE. TWO LIFTS MEANS LESS OF A BACK STRAIN.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions for upcoming issues of our newsletter, please contact Rick Bails.