



The Orange Brigade



Summer 2009

Logan County Highway Dept.

Volume 35



From the desk of the
Logan County Engineer,
Scott C. Coleman, P.E., P.S.

Greetings from the Logan County Engineer's Office:

This has been a very busy year for the staff of the Logan County Engineer's Office. We are in the process of beginning three Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) funded resurfacing projects (County, Township, and Villages) and two federal aid funded projects for guardrail and pavement marking in Logan County. We are pleased to have secured this funding for the betterment of our county.

Federal aid funding was also obtained for the replacement of two bridges on County Road 63. The bridge over Stony Creek (Bridge 63-2.63) is underway and more details about the progress are highlighted in this newsletter.

Bridge 63-1.38 over CSX Railroad was completed and a grand re-opening and dedication was held on June 18, 2009. The total project cost will be approximately \$2,489,000.00. It was with great pride that I was able to participate in the dedication of the bridge to James K. Cox, former Logan County Engineer. Many officials attended the event including personnel from the Ohio Department of Transportation; local elected leaders; chamber of commerce representatives; State Rep. David Burke; retired Union County Engineer, Steve Stolte; LUC Regional Planning Staff; and Logan County Engineer's Office personnel. The Logan County Commissioners presented Mr. Cox with a resolution dedicating the bridge as the "James K. Cox Bridge". Over 50 people attended this special event and enjoyed a ribbon cutting ceremony conducted by the Logan County Area Chamber of Commerce. Jim had his family and friends there for the event including retired co-workers from his lengthy career in public service.

Here are some highlights of Jim Cox's career.

Jim was raised in Quincy and graduated from Riverside High School in 1964. He raised his family in this community and continues to reside in the village of Quincy. Jim has made a lifetime career in service to citizens of Ohio. It all began back in the summers of 1964

and 1965 when Jim began working for the Logan County Engineer's Office as a Construction Aide. In December of 1969, Jim began working for the Ohio Department of Transportation-District 7 in the Location and Design Department. His hard work was recognized in 1974 when Jim was awarded a grant from the Federal Highway Administration. This allowed him to obtain his Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering.

In 1977, Jim graduated from The Ohio State University and accepted the Assistant Planning Engineer position with the Ohio Department of Transportation in District 7. From 1978 to 1983, Jim was the Assistant District Bridge Engineer right here in our District 7 for O.D.O.T. Later in 1983, Jim advanced to the District Bridge Engineer at O.D.O.T. and remained in that position until 1988.

Retired Logan County Engineer, Chester Kurtz, hired Jim in 1988 as a Deputy Engineer. In January 1993, Jim assumed the responsibilities of the Logan County Engineer and served in this capacity through 2001. Jim infused his vast knowledge of civil engineering from O.D.O.T. and energized the Logan County Engineer's Office staff to achieve their best.

During his tenure as the Logan County Engineer, Jim also served as the Logan County Sanitary Engineer for the Water Pollution Control District. Remaining true to his commitment to public service, Jim served the tri-county area as Director of the Logan Union Champaign Regional Planning Commission from 2002-2003.

Jim continues to represent the community as a member of the Riverside School Board. Jim Cox has proven his leadership and dedication to the citizens of Logan County and District 7 of the Ohio Department of Transportation.

Sincerely,
Scott C. Coleman, P.E., P.S.
Logan County Engineer



**James K. Cox Bridge
Bridge 63-1.38
June 18, 2009 — Dedication**



Visitors arrive before the dedication ceremony to get a prime view of the completed bridge.



Jim Cox and visitors listening to Scott Coleman reflect on his lengthy career in public service.



Logan Co. Commissioner, Tony Core, presents Jim Cox with a Resolution of the dedication.



Jim Cox officially cuts the ribbon while his family and project participants stand by his side.



View of the completed project from the Quincy side.



View of the completed bridge from the DeGraff side.

“Force Account”

What Taxpayers need to know about the efficient and effective use of their taxpayer funds for local construction and maintenance projects.

“Force account” refers to certain capital construction and maintenance projects undertaken by the state, counties, municipal corporations (cities and villages), and townships, which may be performed by the entities’ own employees, equipment, and materials as opposed to competitively bidding these jobs out to private contractors if the estimated costs of these projects are below certain statutory limits. (Source: Mary Taylor, CPA, Auditor of State Bulletin 2008-004).

In 2003, the state legislature revised the force account limits on work that can be built by county work crews to \$30,000.00 per mile for road construction and \$100,000.00 per bridge. The revised legislation required that the County Engineers complete a State Auditor’s force account project assessment form to determine the estimated project cost before proceeding with construction to ensure that the project is within the force account limits. The County Engineers Association of Ohio (CEAO) also made a clear agreement with the legislators that any portion of a construction project that is bid through the competitive bidding process would be excluded from the force account project assessment form. Unfortunately, during his brief tenure as Ohio Attorney General Mark Dann incorrectly interpreted the state law and issued an Ohio Attorney General Opinion stating that competitively bid portions of a construction project should be included in the force account project assessment form.

Since 2003, construction material costs have increased by 71%, yet there is no inflation provision in the force account limits legislation. The CEAO has been working with several State Legislators to develop new language that would increase the force account limits, add an annual inflation factor, and clarify that competitively bid construction portions of projects are excluded from the force account assessment forms. State Senator Karen Gillmor and Representative David Burke have been very supportive of our efforts. Unfortunately, The Ohio Contractors Association (OCA) began an opposition effort claiming that the proposed changes would decrease work for their members.

The OCA submitted a counter proposal that would prevent us from building most of the bridge projects that we are currently able to construct with our staff. The OCA proposal would drop the number of bridge replacement/rehabilitations that we build in Logan County from about 8 to 2 per year due to the much higher cost of contracted bridge construction. This proposal would lead to bridge closures in the future. The OCA representatives have gone so far as to state that County personnel should be limited to snow removal, mowing and picking up litter. The Logan County Engineer’s Office staff can replace bridges at about one third of the cost of contracted bridge replacements and we do it with four to six week closures rather than 3 month closures. The OCA proposal would also require us to cut our annual resurfacing program in half in order to shift funding to bridge replacements. The OCA has failed to realize that their proposal would have a negative impact on their membership due to the reduced volume of public projects. The asphalt, precast concrete, ready mix concrete, steel, and stone industries would all see significantly reduced business.

The CEAO continues to work with the OCA to develop a mutually agreeable proposal that will allow us to continue to do the same size projects that we were able to construct in 2003. The CEAO proposal is beneficial to local governments, Ohio contractors, construction material suppliers, and most of all to the taxpayers of the Ohio. I encourage you to support the efforts of the CEAO so that the Logan County Engineer’s office can continue to build bridges at a lower cost and more efficient use of taxpayer funds.

GRANT FUNDED CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS:

The Logan County Engineer's Office, obtained the following grants to complete projects in Logan County with the lowest cost to taxpayers.

- Bridge 63-1.38, James K. Cox Bridge, completed in June for \$2.5 million (90% federal aid funding).
- Bridge 63-2.63 scheduled completion near end of August, \$883,000 (80% federal aid funding).
- Pavement marking program, \$157,261.87 to be completed by October (100% federal aid funding).
- Guardrail replacement to be completed by November, \$210,275.00 (100% federal aid funding).
- Resurfacing County Roads completed \$2,035,098.50 (80% federal aid funding).
- County resurfacing, \$1,230,195.00, to be completed by September (54% Ohio Public Works Commission, OPWC, funding).
- Village resurfacing, \$139,380.25, to be completed by October (61% OPWC funding).
- Township resurfacing, \$724,510.00, to be completed by October (9% OPWC funding).

“Traffic on the Move”

*By: Don A. Phipps
Traffic Control Superintendent*

Total sign replacements for the year 2009 is 795 signs as of this summer. The new signs meet the high intensity reflectivity standards set by the federal government. All signs maintained by this department will meet these standards by 2018.

The Traffic Department will oversee two large federal aid projects this summer. The pavement marking project will consist of striping and marking roads, school zones, and railroad crossings at a cost of \$157,261.87.

The guardrail rebuilding project involves the replacement of approximately 15,000 feet of guardrail at a cost of \$210,275.00.

I would like to give a special thanks to the Traffic Department Crews for their hard work: Dick Cooksey, Mark Dearwester, and College Intern, Julianne Minnich.



“Mapping Matters”

Notes from the Map Room Staff

*By: Suzie Yoesting
Tax Map Draftsperson 2-Supervisor*

The Map Room has been busy over the last several months scanning the county's records. Currently all of the surveys filed from the 1800's to the present have been scanned and are available on the Logan County Engineer's website. In addition to the surveys, the website also has subdivision plats, highway and road right-of-way plans, railroad plans, cemetery plats and the tax maps with aerial photos. The information is updated monthly as new surveys are submitted for the county's records.

In addition to maintaining the county's survey records, the Map Room assigns the house numbers for new residences in the unincorporated areas of the county, updates the tax maps to reflect new surveys and property splits and checks all legal descriptions on new surveys and deeds. The remaining time is spent assisting the public and other county departments in providing information, answering a wide range of questions and printing maps and aerial photos as requested.

Bridge 63-2.63 (Over Stony Creek) Construction Update

By: *Todd Bumgardner, Engineering Technician*

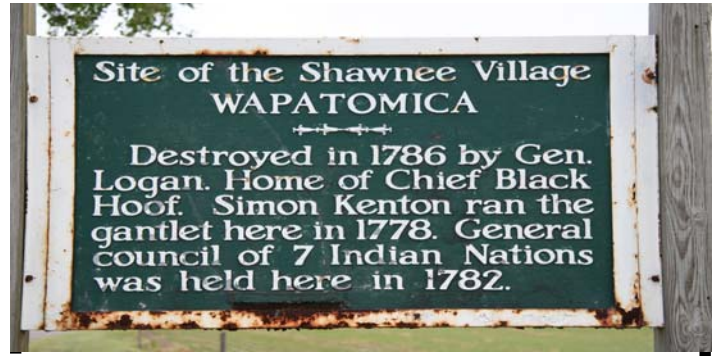
Bridge 63-2.63 at the County Road 63 crossing over Stony Creek began construction early this spring. Construction progressed well until the structural steel beams initially arrived. Upon inspection at the job site the day of arrival the Logan County Engineer's Office recognized that the structural steel beams were not fabricated in accordance to the project specifications. The beams were returned to the fabricator for modification. Construction progress was then halted until the structural steel beams were returned to the project in accordance to the specifications.

The structural steel beams were modified to be in compliance and returned to the construction site on June 10, 2009. After initial assembly on the ground the erection began on June 16, 2009. Construction operations have progressed well since the return of the structural steel beams. The project is currently scheduled for completion near the end of August 2009. The total project cost will be \$883,000.00

Soon after bridge 63-2.63 is completed the County Road 63 paving project will resume. In May of 2009 County Road 63 was paved from the Quincy Corporation line to the construction limits east of the new James K. Cox Bridge spanning the railroad tracks. Paving will resume at the railroad bridge eastern construction limit and continue through County Road 63 termination at the DeGraff corporation line east of the bridge 63-2.63 project.



Galvanized steel beams in place and cross frames being installed



Where in Logan County might you find this historical marker and site?

Can you find all the 17 Townships in Logan County?

A	C	J	P	S	T	N	A	S	A	E	L	P	J	B
C	D	B	L	O	O	M	F	I	E	L	D	A	E	D
E	F	I	W	N	O	I	N	U	N	R	E	C	F	F
G	D	N	Y	G	R	A	E	P	A	N	M	G	F	H
I	N	H	T	D	O	M	H	F	Z	C	Y	I	E	J
K	A	M	R	B	K	I	Z	P	R	E	V	W	R	L
M	R	H	E	M	U	E	S	E	U	T	O	K	S	N
O	U	D	B	C	K	C	E	R	P	F	M	Q	O	P
Q	S	N	I	A	X	H	A	R	R	I	S	O	N	R
S	H	A	L	R	M	J	I	Y	C	X	L	P	O	T
U	C	L	S	T	O	K	E	S	W	S	I	Q	E	V
W	R	H	L	H	D	L	F	J	D	Y	E	N	Q	X
Y	E	C	T	U	Z	K	G	A	K	V	H	K	J	Z
G	E	I	V	R	W	A	S	H	I	N	G	T	O	N
Q	K	R	S	C	M	O	N	R	O	E	B	S	A	B

1. Bloomfield
2. Bokescreek
3. Harrison
4. Jefferson
5. Lake
6. Liberty
7. McArthur
8. Miami
9. Monroe
10. Perry
11. Pleasant
12. Richland
13. Rushcreek
14. Stokes
15. Union
16. Washington
17. Zane

*Prepared by
Michaela Brunke, Secretary*

Employee Birthdays

"HAPPY BIRTHDAY"

January

Matt Archer
Todd Bumgardner
Harvey Grimes

February

Jayma Burkhammer
Carolyn Grimes
Michael Reffitt

March

John Berry
Michaela Brunke
Sam Ragland
John Spencer

April

Mark Hilty
Bob Simmons
Suzanne Yoesting

May

Shirley Brunke
Scott Coleman
Dianne Gauder
Jim Logan
Dan McMillen
Joel Miracle

June

John Cummins
Curt Dill
Keith Price
Lisa Stover

July

Steven Tracey

August

Larry Artis
Jeremy Burrey
Elliott Fullerton
Jon Hines
Curtis Hites

September

Rick Archer
Bryan Dhume
Greg Kennaw
Jason McKee

October

Todd Coleman
Shane Long
Don Phipps
Denny Stryker

November

Butch Banning
Greg Dappert
Greg Swonguer

December

Dick Cooksey
Mark Dearwester
Rebecca Jolliff

**"HAPPY
BIRTHDAY"**

Work Anniversaries - 2009

January

Greg Dappert - 5 Years
Bob Simmons - 16 Years

February

Jim Logan - 12 Years
Shane Long - 12 Years
Keith Price - 12 Years

March

Butch Banning - 27 Years
Todd Bumgardner - 1 Year
Dianne Gauder - 6 Years

April

Jayma Burkhammer - 10 Yrs.
Shirley Brunke - 27 Years
Jason McKee - 1 Year

May

Matt Archer - 4 Years
Dick Cooksey - 20 Years
Curt Dill - 30 Years
Dennis Stryker - 11 Years
Steve Tracey - 4 Years
Suzanne Yoesting - 15 Years

June

Larry Artis - 22 Years
Todd Coleman - 12 Years
Mark Hilty - 12 Years
John Spencer - 10 Years

July

John Berry - 27 Years
Michaela Brunke - 5 Years
Bryan Dhume - 2 Year
Carolyn Grimes - 8 Years
Michael Reffitt - 12 Years

September

Rick Archer - 25 Years
Scott Coleman - 15 Years
Becky Jolliff - 20 Years
Daniel McMillen - 16 Years
Don Phipps - 5 Years

October

Jeremy Burrey - 6 Years
John Cummins - 5 Years
Mark Dearwester - 7 Years
Elliott Fullerton - 3 Years
Jon Hines - 22 Years
Curtis Hites - 1 Year
Greg Kennaw - 3 Years
Joel Miracle - 6 Years
Sam Ragland - 5 Years
Greg Swonguer - 7 Years

November

Harvey Grimes - 19 Years
Lisa Stover - 1 Year

**"THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
YEARS OF SERVICE.
YOUR
HARD WORK
IS APPRECIATED!"**

Recent Promotions

Jayma Burkhammer
Tax Map Draftsperson 1

Jason McKee
Highway Worker Trainee 2

Suzie Yoesting
Tax Map Draftsperson 2-Supervisor

"Congratulations! Job well done!"

NEW LOGAN COUNTY MAPS ARE AVAILABLE

After hours of review and editing, the newest maps of Logan County are available to the public. On one side, you will find insets (town maps) of the villages and city of Bellefontaine including a complete street index for the Indian Lake community and Bellefontaine. Call the Logan County Engineer's Office for more information at 937-592-2791.

**Please visit our updated website at
"www.co.logan.oh.us" and
click on the Engineer link.**