

# The Orange Brigade



Winter

Logan County Engineer's Office

Volume 66

## ***Colemans's Comments***

The one-half percent sales tax for roads, bridges and Sheriff generated \$3,946,626.77 in 2024. These funds are collected and divided among county engineer (25%, \$986,656.66), county sheriff (25%, \$986,656.66), townships (20%, \$789,325.38), municipalities (20%, \$789,325.38), and land use and economic development (10%, \$394,662.69). Sales tax revenue increased by 1.81 percent from 2023.



By combining sales tax with motor vehicle fuel tax, vehicle registration fees, federal and state grant funds, we were able to complete several construction projects in 2024. County road resurfacing totaled \$1,711,252.44 and rejuvenating sealer came in at \$202,256.72. County federal aid resurfacing totaled \$1,837,739.97. Federal aid CR 18 profile improvement cost \$167,228.25. Bridge 209-0.18 replacement was \$236,043.55 using federal aid, state disaster relief program and local funds. Township resurfacing was \$531,474.21, township chip-sealing totaled \$447,274.72 (funded by sales tax and township funds). Federal aid pavement markings totaled \$184,425.84. County road chip sealing and fog sealing cost \$699,641.25 this year. These projects would not have been possible without the sales tax for roads and bridges. Thank you for supporting this program.

The new motor vehicle fuel user fee increase of 10.5 cents per gallon on gasoline, 19 cents per gallon on diesel, \$200 registration fee for electric vehicles, and \$100 registration fee for hybrid vehicles began collection in July of 2019. In 2024, we have received \$ 3,871,744.51 from motor fuel tax. This is approximately \$1.4 million more than we received in 2018, which is still less than the projected increase of \$1.5 million. Auto registration fees received in 2024 totaled \$1,769,656.77.

I want to thank the U.S. House of Representatives, U.S. Senate, and President Biden for approving and signing the Social Security Fairness Act. HR 82, concerning the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset, was signed into law on January 5, 2025. Upon implementation, the Social Security Fairness Act eliminates the reduction of Social Security benefits while entitled to public pensions from work not covered by Social Security. This is vital to retirees to ensure that they receive the full social security benefits that they have paid into and are not penalized for choosing to be employed in public service.

Unfortunately, the state legislature was unable to come to an agreement on pay adjustments for county and township elected officials. This means that most county elected officials will have to wait another four years for a pay adjustment. Since 1993, county elected officials have fallen

*Continued on next page*

approximately 36 percent below the consumer price index inflation rate. The state legislature has the duty to establish pay for state and local elected officials. We must continue to encourage our legislators to approve fair and equitable wages for local officials so that we can continue to retain and recruit the best candidates to serve the public.

Sincerely,



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



## Kudos Corner: Celebrating Successes & Welcoming New Faces

*By Misty Centers  
Personnel Specialist*



### Anniversaries

- Congratulations to **Shirley Brunke** on an incredible 45 years of service! Thank you for your years of dedication and for being a valuable asset to our team.
- We extend our sincere gratitude to **Scott Coleman** and **Suzie Cochran** for their 30 years of hard work and commitment.
- Congratulations to **Jayma Burkhammer** and **John Spencer** on 25 years of service!
- We congratulate **Michaela Brunke** and **Greg Dappert** on reaching the 20-year milestone!

These employees have set an exemplary standard for all of us with their work ethic and dedication. We appreciate their loyalty and all the hard work and talent they've brought and continue to bring to the team. Congrats on reaching such incredible milestones!

### Outstanding Attendance

We recognize and appreciate the dedication and commitment demonstrated by Brandon Moon, Mark Dearwester, and Jesse Strayer for their excellent attendance during 2024, utilizing less than 24 hours of sick leave.

### Employee of the Quarter

The following employees were nominated by their peers for going above and beyond the normal scope of work and were selected for the Employee of the Quarter awards for 2024! Congratulations to David Kirkpatrick (Q1), Greg Dappert (Q2), Troy Miller (Q3) and Leslie Teets (Q4).

### New Hires

Skip Judd joined the team in July as the Administrative Coordinator Assistant and Tony Hamilton joined the team in October as a Routemarker 1.

Welcome to the team, Skip and Tony!

### Milestones

Tony Hamilton successfully completed on-site CDL training and obtained his Class B CDL license.

## County Road 18 Profile Improvement Successfully Completed

*By Michael Kerns, P.E.  
Assistant Engineer*

On August 19, County Road (CR) 18 was closed to traffic and contractor J&J Schlaegel from Urbana began a profile improvement project just south of the Township Road (TR) 200 intersection. On September 5 the new asphalt was placed and on September 12 the road was opened. The goal of this project was to improve roadway safety by improving the line of sight for vehicles on CR 18 and for vehicles approaching CR 18 from TR 216, TR 200 and CR 200.

We evaluated several options for how best to improve this segment of CR 18 leading up to the intersection. Cost, constructability, driver comfort and sight distance were all analyzed and we decided the best option was to perform a profile improvement that didn't involve a hill cut to the south of the project and to have a project length short enough to qualify as a 'Simplified Design' when going thru the Ohio Department of Transportation's design and approval process. Furthermore, we didn't want to involve any driveways or intersections as that would further complicate the design and approval process. The final design involved raising the elevation of the roadway profile a maximum of over 2-feet near the center of the project.

Our Surveying Department performed the surveying and construction staking for the project. Construction staking included placing right-of-way stakes along the project length and placing construction survey stakes every 50 feet. These stakes specified proposed cuts, final elevation, and the offset to the centerline. Staking every 50-feet and working with the contractor to ensure the final elevations were correct was very important as the project involved an equal tangent vertical curve, which means the grade transitioned from one grade to another grade halfway thru the vertical curve.

J & J Schlaegel was one of three bidders for this project and they were awarded the bid with a bid amount of \$167,228.25. Approximately 90% of the cost of this project was covered by federal funds thru the LUC Regional Planning Commission and the Surface Transportation Block Grant program.



### Flash Flood Safety Tips



- If you come upon a flooded road while driving, turn around and go another way. Never drive through water of unknown depth. The road may not be intact below.
- Only 6 inches of swift moving water can sweep a person off their feet.
- Only 12 inches of water can float many cars.
- Most cars can be swept away by less than two feet of moving water.
- Flooding is harder to see at night. Stay patient or find an alternate route.



# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## Get To Know Our Team



**Candy Powell**

Operations Clerk

**HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WITH THE ENGINEER'S OFFICE?**

Almost two years

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT WORKING AT THE ENGINEER'S OFFICE?**

I really enjoy the chance to learn new things. I recently had the chance to try snow plowing. I was scared at first, but I ended up loving it.

**IF YOU COULD TRAVEL ANYWHERE, WHERE WOULD YOU GO AND WHY?**

I'd go back to Montana. I've been there several times and absolutely love it.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE KIND OF WEATHER?**

Winter. I love all the smells associated with winter.

**ARE YOU A MORNING PERSON OR NIGHTOWL?**

Morning.

**WHAT'S SOMETHING MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU?**

I possess a Commercial Driver's License. Most people know me from my past job, which was quite different from here.

**COFFEE, TEA, OR SOMETHING ELSE ENTIRELY?**

Coffee or chocolate milk

**WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES AND INTERESTS OUTSIDE OF WORK?**

I love spending time with my grandchild and enjoy working in my yard.

**WHAT'S THE MOST ADVENTUROUS THING YOU'VE EVER DONE?**

Went on a 4 week motorcycle trip out west with my husband.

**IF YOU COULD HAVE ANY SUPERPOWER, WHAT WOULD IT BE AND WHY?**

I'd want to be able to twitch my nose like Samantha in 'Bewitched'. I could make anything happen, past, present or future. It would be incredibly cool.

**WHAT HAVE YOU ENJOYED LEARNING AND WHAT DO YOU WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT?**

I enjoyed learning about flagging. I look forward to being able to get behind the wheel of CDL vehicles.

**IF YOU COULD EAT ONLY ONE FOOD FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?**

Pasta.

**DOGS OR CATS?**

Dogs.

**HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WITH THE ENGINEER'S OFFICE?**

*Almost twenty years.*

**WHAT CAREER HIGHLIGHT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?**

*Becoming superintendent and being here almost twenty years.*

**WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO EMPLOYEES WHO ARE LOOKING TO GROW THEIR CAREERS WITHIN THE LCEO?**

*Be patient*

**WHAT QUALITIES DO YOU BELIEVE ARE ESSENTIAL FOR SUCCESS IN OUR LINE OF WORK?**

*Strong foundation of common sense, understanding of job-related knowledge, and a genuine desire to always do your best work.*

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT WORK AT THE ENGINEER'S OFFICE?**

*I enjoy working with friends.*

**WHAT CAREER ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE YOURSELF TO YOUR YOUNGER SELF?**

*Slow down and be patient and take the time to observe and learn from others. It's amazing how much you can learn just by watching.*

**IF YOU COULD TRAVEL ANYWHERE, WHERE WOULD YOU GO AND WHY?**

*Alaska to see the scenery.*

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE KIND OF WEATHER?**

*Anything without snow!*

**WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES AND INTERESTS OUTSIDE OF WORK?**

*Golfing, farming and kids.*

**WHAT'S THE MOST ADVENTUROUS THING YOU'VE DONE?**

*Being the Grand Marshal in a Disney parade in Orlando! It was an absolutely unforgettable experience.*

**IF YOU COULD EAT ONLY ONE FOOD FOR THE REST OF OUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?**

*Ribs. Especially the ones I slow cook on my smoker.*

**ARE YOU A MORNING PERSON OR NIGHT OWL?**

*Both.*



*Steve Tracey*  
Ditch/Traffic Superintendent





## Bridge Crew Update

*By Elliott Fullerton  
Bridge Superintendent*



R&I Construction working on BR TR 209-0.18

This fall, our bridge crew, in collaboration with the road department, completed the BR TR 209-0.18 bridge reconstruction project. Major reconstruction on this bridge was necessitated by a severe windstorm that occurred in June of 2022. That severe windstorm caused a large cottonwood tree to fall onto the existing steel thru truss bridge which resulted in the destruction of the existing truss bridge.

Two types of funds were applied for and received to get this bridge rebuilt: LBR funds from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the County Engineer's Association of Ohio was used to pay 100% of the new bridge superstructure costs and Ohio's State Disaster Relief Program was used to pay for part of the remaining labor, equipment, and material costs associated with completing the bridge project.

The new beams, which were designed and fabricated by Prestress Services Industries, were set on existing abutments. These beams were set via cranes operated by Capital City Group and the beams were installed by R & I Construction.

Following beam installation, county crews poured a concrete deck on top of the beams, installed bridge railing, performed necessary roadway work, paved the bridge approaches, and performed embankment work and reopened the road in mid-November 2024.

R & I Construction, Inc. was awarded the bid for BR TR 209-0.18 replacement with a bid amount of \$147,115.00. This bid was for supplying and placing precast concrete beams and for supplying the bridge railing and this is what the LBR funds covered.

## Highway Crew Update

*By Dan McMillen  
Highway Superintendent*

Despite the challenges of fall weather, the road crew was able to complete several key road projects. We replaced a large deteriorating corrugated metal pipe culvert on CR 50 with a new 55-foot long, 5-foot diameter aluminized steel pipe. This will improve drainage and help prevent road damage during heavy rains. Additionally, we've been working on fixing berms across the entire county system. In December, we added 1,500 tons of new berm material to improve safety and prevent erosion. With increasing traffic on the roadways, these improvements are crucial to maintaining a safe infrastructure.

County road crews performed work for several townships to address their specific road issues. In Richland Township, crews worked on improving a flood-prone area on Township Road 97. In McArthur Township at the Bell Lake addition, we durapatched 17 low or sunken culvert cuts and completed 16 mil-and-fills in preparation for the 2025 chip seal program. Mill-and-fill involves milling out deteriorated asphalt and replacing it with new hot mix asphalt.

## **Ditch Maintenance and Traffic Department Update**

*By Steve Tracey  
Ditch/Traffic Superintendent*

The Ditch Department was busy this past summer and fall and completed a variety of essential maintenance tasks throughout the county. All county road and some township roadside spraying is completed. Maintenance ditches have been sprayed and mowed. We performed other ditch maintenance including placing 200 tons of concrete on the Stony Creek for stabilization, removed 5 large beaver dams from the South Fork, replaced 65 feet of 8-inch tile on the Ligget, and replaced a 42-inch CMP crossover and removed trees and debris from the Houchin Slough Ditch. We were contracted out through our Shared Serviced Program to mow and cut trees for the Simon Kenton Bike Trail from Bellefontaine to Urbana. We boom mowed for the fairgrounds and the Logan County Solid Waste District. We also cleaned and rebuilt an inlet to a culvert, dipped and cleaned a ditch and pulled large log jams from the Darby Creek for the Solid Waste District that was causing flooding issues.

The Sign Shop has also been hard at work this summer and fall. We oversaw the centerline and edge line striping for county roads and repainted school zones, railroad crossings and multiple stop bars. The Traffic Department also conducted a speed study in Harrison Township and upgraded a stop ahead and stop sign with beacons on CR 153 to improve visibility. Currently the Traffic Department is fixing and posting bent or broken signs. Additionally, the department is continually maintaining over 7,000 signs throughout the county, ensuring they are in good condition and properly posted.

## **Map Room Update**

*By Suzie Cochran  
Map Room Supervisor*

In 2024, the Map Room Staff checked legal descriptions on 2,605 real estate documents. There were 1,832 deeds, 624 Affidavits, 71 Certificates of Transfer, 58 easements, 19 land contracts and one Resolution. Additionally, 4 Subdivision plats, 1 annexation plat, one condominium plat and Declaration were filed and recorded. New property splits totaled 174 for the year with 55 new survey descriptions recorded along with 45 new deeds combining properties into one Tax Parcel Number.

Surveyors submitted 242 new surveys that were reviewed, approved, indexed, scanned and filed by the Map Room personnel. In addition, 185 new house numbers were entered into the 911 system.

## **Safety Update**

*By Misty Centers  
Personnel Specialist*

In September 2024, our organization experienced a serious workplace accident while loading office equipment onto a trailer. An employee sustained a severe ankle injury after falling from the trailer. This incident serves as a critical reminder that workplace safety is paramount in all aspects of our work, even during tasks that may not immediately seem hazardous.

While we diligently focus on safety during our core heavy equipment operations, this incident underscores the importance of maintaining a vigilant safety mindset at all times.

We are grateful to report that after a period of recovery, our injured employee has returned to normal daily activities.

## **2024 Capital Improvements**

*By Mark Hilty  
General Superintendent*

Over the past few years, we have patched several leaks on the aging fiberglass shingle roof on the Engineer's Office building that was installed in 1997 by Frost and CO. Inc. The increasing frequency and cost of repairs necessitated a more permanent solution. To address this issue, we sought bids for a complete roof replacement. The Commissioners selected and funded the bid submitted by Stidham's Painting and Roofing, a local contractor, for a total of \$47,250. This investment in a new standing seam metal roof ensures a maintenance-free roof for the next 40+ years.

The original salt shed structure has served multiple purposes over the years, including storage for extra salt, dry #8 stone for our Durapatcher, and our wood deck trailers. Due to the deteriorating condition of the original wood siding (cracked, broken, and missing), our crews conducted necessary repairs over the years. Martz Construction then installed new metal siding in the late fall. With the new metal siding and a recently replaced metal roof, the salt shed will continue to serve as an essential storage structure for years to come, ensuring the continued safe and efficient storage of critical materials for road maintenance operations.

## **Upcoming Projects for 2025, Including Historic Bridge Restoration**

*By Skip Judd  
Administrative Coordinator*

The Logan County Engineer's Office is excited to announce several key projects slated for 2025.

In the spring of 2025, the restoration of the historic "Great Miami River Bridge" is scheduled to begin. Located on County Road 21 northwest of Logansville, the bridge is a significant landmark originally constructed in 1882 by the Massillon Bridge Company. This is an excellent, unaltered example of a Cast and Wrought Iron Whipple Truss Bridge that once carried one lane of traffic on a two-lane road across the Great Miami River, spanning 143 feet with a width of just 15.5 feet.

The bridge was originally scheduled for rehabilitation in 2015-2016. However, due to community safety concerns and the significant travel restrictions imposed by the bridge's narrow width, a new two-lane structure was built to the north to accommodate modern traffic needs. Despite the construction of the new bridge, the county has remained committed to preserving this as a historic landmark.

Plans to transform the bridge into a historic monument for Logan County have persisted for two decades and are now nearing fruition. Residents and visitors will be able to park in a small designated area, enjoying the scenic beauty of the Logan County countryside and the picturesque views of the Great Miami River.

In addition to this landmark project, the Engineer's Office will continue its essential work of maintaining Logan County's highway infrastructure. Planned projects for 2025 include paving over a dozen county roads, chip and fog sealing approximately 47 miles of roadways, and replacing over 3,900 linear feet of guardrail and supporting hardware.



## Logan County Officials Elected to State Posts

Logan County Recorder Pat Myers was recently elected as State Secretary of the Ohio Recorders Association. The ORA is a cornerstone organization dedicated to serving Ohioans and its membership consists of recorders from all eighty-eight counties. Myers has held the position of Logan County Recorder since 2013. County Recorders are responsible for maintaining a comprehensive, precise, and permanent record of all documents related to the transfer and encumbrance of land within the county.

Logan County Engineer Scott Coleman has been elected State President of the County Engineers Association of Ohio, a consortium that works to unify its members in providing the highest quality transportation, drainage, surveying and land record keeping services. From the safe and efficient movement of people, goods and services to continuing land development needs, CEAO strives to construct solutions for many challenges to Ohio's local infrastructure. Coleman has held the position of Logan County Engineer since 2002.

Logan County Commissioner Joe Antram was elected State Secretary of the County Commissioners Association of Ohio at their 144<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Conference in Columbus. CCAO advances effective county government for Ohio through legislative advocacy, education and training, technical assistance and research, quality enterprise service programs, and greater citizen awareness and understanding of county government. Antram has been a member of the CCAO State Board of Directors for 3 years and has served as Logan County Commissioner since 2017.



## Staying Safe and Warm During Extreme Cold Weather

Winter can be a beautiful time of year, but it's important to take precautions to stay safe and healthy during the cold weather. Here are some tips to help you and your family stay warm and comfortable:

- Wear layers of clothing to stay warm, with a wind resistant outer layer. Gloves and a hat will help prevent losing your body heat. Use a scarf, neck tube or face mask to cover your face and mouth for extra protection for your lungs.
- Wear insulated, sturdy and waterproof footwear.
- Your body's extremities, such as the ears, nose, fingers and toes lose heat the fastest. When it is very cold, or when the wind chill is significant, cover as much exposed skin as possible.
- Know frostbite signs: numbness, flushed, gray, white blue or yellow skin discoloration.
- Frostbite could occur in less than 30 minutes if proper precautions are not taken.
- Know hypothermia symptoms: confusion, dizziness, exhaustion, and severe shivering.
- Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water or warm non-alcoholic beverages.
- Be safe with heat sources. Never use a stove or oven to heat your home. Many house fires result from these practices. Keep a fire extinguisher handy, and make sure everyone in the household knows how to use it
- Do not leave pets outside during cold weather extremes. They need adequate shelter. In sub-zero temperatures, their paws, noses and ears can succumb to frostbite—bring them inside. If you can't bring them in your home, house them in a garage or basement with plenty of warm bedding.
- Ensure proper ventilation for any heating appliances to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Check on elderly neighbors or those with health conditions to ensure they have adequate heat and are staying safe.

## Equipping Our Team: Enhancing Operator Skills

The Logan County Engineer's Office is committed to developing a highly skilled workforce. To that end, we've been utilizing inclement weather days to provide valuable on-site equipment training to our newer team members.

Many of our recent hires possess a strong work ethic but may have limited experience operating heavy machinery. These training sessions provide a hands-on learning environment, allowing employees to safely develop their skills and gain confidence in operating our equipment.

This investment in our team ensures increased safety, efficiency, and productivity in all our projects.



2025 Holiday Closures		
Holiday	Date	Day Observed
New Year's Day	Wed. Jan. 01	Wed. Jan. 01
MLK, Jr. Day	Mon. Jan. 20	Mon. Jan. 20
President's Day	Mon. Feb. 17	Mon. Feb. 17
Memorial Day	Mon. May 26	Mon. May 26
Juneteenth	Thu. Jun. 19	Thu. Jun. 19
Independence Day	Fri. Jul. 04	Thu. Jul. 03
Labor Day	Mon. Sep. 01	Mon. Sep. 01
Veterans Day	Tue. Nov. 11	Tue. Nov. 11
Thanksgiving Day	Thu. Nov. 27	Thu. Nov. 27
Day after Thanks.	Fri. Nov. 28	Fri. Nov. 28
Christmas Day	Thu. Dec. 25	Thu. Dec. 25

## Logan County Engineer's Annual Report

Each year, the County Engineer provides a detailed annual report to the County Commissioners in compliance with Section 5543.02 of the Ohio Revised Code. This report outlines revenues, expenses, equipment purchases, and plans for road and bridge construction, reconstruction, resurfacing, and improvement in Logan County. It also includes the condition of our road system and a sales tax balance sheet.

The 2024 report will be available for viewing and download on our website ([www.lceo.us](http://www.lceo.us)) in April. Simply click "Additional Information," then "Logan County Engineer's Annual Report."