



# Union County Engineer's *2018 Summer Field Notes*

**Jeff Stauch, County Engineer**

**Volume 34 Issue 1**

**H**istorically across Ohio, much of the long-range transportation planning focused on metropolitan areas. In recent years, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) recognized the need for similar planning efforts in rural regions of the state. The most recent federal transportation bills likewise helped drive this philosophy, potentially making the access to federal highway funds contingent upon proper planning.

A pilot program was initiated and funded in 2013 by ODOT to help five Ohio regions, covering 34 non-metropolitan counties across the state, with their transportation planning. A primary goal was to encourage comprehensive and informed transportation decision-making across all of Ohio, not just in our urban areas.

This momentum led to the beginnings of a similar formation of a Rural Transportation Planning Organization in Central Ohio. Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), the planning organization for the Columbus urban area, was designated as the mentor for the seven-county plan. The Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO) [*by now you have probably noticed that planning requires heavy use of acronyms!*], was formed partnering Union County with Fairfield, Knox, Madison, Marion, Morrow, and Pickaway Counties.



With assistance from MORPC, each individual county was responsible for leading their transportation planning process. I chaired our local subcommittee, which was made up of staff members from Marysville, Dublin, the Ohio Department of Transportation, other Union County public agencies, and industry representatives.

We worked through our existing transportation conditions, future growth projections and goals, and ultimately prioritized our area's future projects.

MORPC's final report text and our final list of 30 key projects generated by City and County engineering staff was recently approved. While such a planning effort is time consuming, it generated several key takeaways:

- The list of projects, ranging from 2 to 30+ years out, have a total price tag of almost \$500 million!
- This staggering cost is an example of the transportation challenges our nation has ahead of it—the list is made up of our county's high-profile projects and doesn't include the typical annual work like road resurfacing and bridge replacements/repairs.

- Many of the projects involve multiple agency and funding partners—an important point—as the traveling public doesn't care who is responsible for the road they are using, they just need it to function safely and efficiently.

Getting many of these projects across the finish line in the future will take successful partnerships and plenty of cash. Hopefully our CORPO efforts can be a useful tool to help foster that cooperation and to develop funding strategies.

## **In This Issue ::**

2. Employee News
3. Department News
4. Building Department
5. Development and Planning Update
6. 2018 Program of Work
7. County Forces Work
8. Summer Contract Work
9. Graduates Recognized
10. Chip Seal Program

### Employees Receive Service Awards



**Ron Reid**, Building and Electrical Safety Inspector was recognized earlier this year for his 10 years of service.



**Sonya Brake**, Tax Map Assistant was awarded her 20-year service pin for her dedicated years of service.



**Roger Pettit**, Assistant Chief Building Official/Building and Electrical Safety Inspector received recognition for his 20 years of service.



Maintenance Workers **Kevin Grose** and **Dave Putney** received their 20-year service pin earlier this year as well.

### Signs in Right-of-Way

#### Reminder as Roadside Mowing Continues

Roadside mowing started in May and will continue through October. As we make our mowing rounds, we like to remind everyone about our policy relating to the placement of real estate/political signs along county roads. They may not be placed within county road right-of-way. The only exception would be for properties with yard sections along roads where the property owner mows and maintains the right-of-way.

We will remove all signs not complying with our policy and store them at

either our Marysville Operations Facility or our Richwood Operations Facility until November 15, 2018. We will dispose of them after that date.



### Residential Building Code Update

The new Residential Code of Ohio (RCO) is slated to become effective on January 1, 2019. It is based on the 2018 International Building Code (IRC) and replaces the 2013 RCO. The State of Ohio is currently in the process of modifying the 2018 IRC with state specific language. More details

are coming in the 2018 Fall Newsletter.

### Summer Maintenance Workers Welcomed

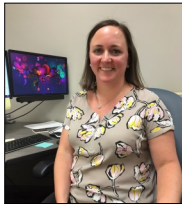
**Bryan Crist**, **Kyle Bosch**, and **Noah Wiseman** joined our Operations staff to help with flagging, mowing and cleaning equipment during our busy construction season. Please slow down in work zones as our crews and contractors perform their work.



### New Employees Welcomed

As we continue to maintain our work force, we are pleased to introduce our newest employees. In our Administrative Office, **Jessica Cain**, Office Administrator, was hired in May as well as **Chad Herriott**, who will assist as a building inspector/electrical safety inspector. At our Operations Facility, Maintenance Workers **Kole Justin** and **Mitch Woodruff** were hired this year as well.

**Jessica**, the new office administrator, has a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from The Ohio State University and a Jessica Cain Juris Doctorate from Ohio Northern University. She was previously with the City of Columbus Prosecutor's Office for



Jessica Cain

the past 8 years as the lead legal intake officer. **Jessica** replaced **Linda Reigle**, who retired in June.

**Chad** joined our building department as an electrical safety inspector. He lives outside of West Mansfield and is a graduate of Marysville High School. As a veteran electrician, Chad has more than 13 years experience in the electrical trade.



Chad Herriott

**Kole**, who lives in Richwood, is a graduate of North Union High School. He joined our Operations staff last summer as a



Kole Justin

part-time employee and was hired full-time in January as a maintenance worker.

Our newest Maintenance Worker, **Mitch**, lives in Marysville and is a graduate of Marysville High School. He has a bachelor's degree in environmental policy and analysis from Bowling Green State University. He previously worked as a streets maintenance worker for the City of Dublin performing daily city maintenance of roadways.



Mitch Woodruff

Welcome **Jessica**, **Chad**, **Kole**, and **Mitch**!

### Look For Us At The Fair

We will have a booth in the Merchant Building at the Union County Fair from July 22nd through July 28th. Stop in and check out our information.

### Summer Work Hours Begin At Operations Facility

Our Operations Division employees have switched to 10 hour days. Summer work hours are Monday through Thursday, 6:30am to 5:00pm until Labor Day. The Engineer's Administrative Office hours, 7:30am to 5:00pm Monday through Friday, will not change.

### Building Inspector Passes National Tests

Congratulations to Electrical Safety Inspector **Chad Herriott** for passing the two NCPCCI electrical exams required by the State of Ohio to receive his interim certification. These two exams tested for proficiency in the understanding of the National Electrical Code (NEC) that forms the basis for the design and installation of residential & commercial electrical systems. This certification allows Chad to inspect electrical systems for residential & commercial structures.

### New Residential Inspections for 2018

Union County added two mandatory inspections starting January 1st: shear wall inspection and finish grade inspection. The shear wall inspection ensures the proper installation of the lateral bracing system of a structure. All structures are required by building code to be braced to resist the lateral loads due to wind and seismic activity. Wall construction must include bracing to resist the imposed lateral loads resulting from wind or seismic loading and provide stability to the structure. The proper installation of the lateral bracing system minimizes property damage due to weather (and other events) and maintains the structural integrity of structures.

The finish grade inspection ensures both the proper water drainage from structures and the

proper elevation (height) of buildings relative to finish grade. A top of foundation wall certificate is required for new residences only to guarantee

it is installed at the proper grade elevation. Lots are required to drain surface water away from foundation walls. The finish grade shall fall a minimum of six inches within the first ten feet. In certain circumstances, drains or swales are permitted to be installed in lieu of providing this minimum slope. Proper site drainage is an important element in

preventing wet basements, damp crawl spaces, eroded banks, and foundation wall failures. Proper building placement is an important element in preventing excessive driveway slopes and water drainage onto adjacent properties while aiding adequate onsite water drainage.



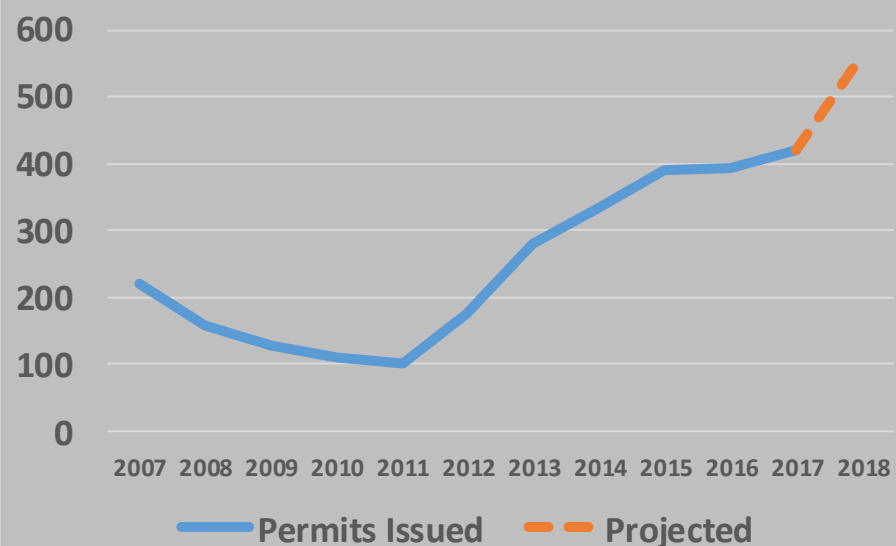
Proper Elevation

### 2018 Record Breaking Number of Single Family Home Permits Projected

This chart depicts the total number of single family home permits issued each year, beginning in 2007.

Based upon the number of single family permits issued from January-May of 2018 (223) we project a total of nearly 550 new home starts by the end of December. We may even beat our record of 577 single family home permits issued in 2003.

Jerome Township and Marysville have seen the most growth.





## **Development and Planning Update**

**Page 5**

### **Advances in Transportation**

#### **Union County Heads West to Discuss Hyperloop**

In May, representatives from the Union County Engineer's Office and Union County Chamber of Commerce joined other regional government officials and agencies in a trip to California and Nevada to learn more about the potential for a high-speed transportation corridor in the area. The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) led a contingent to visit the Virgin Hyperloop One headquarters in Los Angeles to further discuss the technology that can propel travel pods of freight and/or cargo inside of a vacuum tube suspended via magnetic levitation at speeds up to 700 mph. Even though this sounds like a technology more suited for the Jetson's than something you would see currently, the group then traveled to Las Vegas to Hyperloop's one-of-a-kind proving ground, dubbed DevLoop, where they have actually already successfully tested the technology via a 500 meter full scale test track.



The Midwest Connect route, if realized, could connect Pittsburgh, Columbus and Chicago with this new form of transportation, resulting in travel times from Columbus to either city in less than 30 minutes. This route was one of only 10 in the entire world chosen by Virgin Hyperloop One for further analysis among over 2,600 applicants as part of their Virgin Hyperloop One Global Challenge. Communities along the proposed route could potentially construct "stations" to access the infrastructure, similar to a freeway interchange ramp.

MORPC has recently announced that they are moving forward with studies to further look at the feasibility and environmental considerations for high speed travel between the three cities. This is part of MORPC's Rapid-Speed Transportation Initiative, which will also look at the option of high speed passenger rail along the same route. The studies are anticipated to be completed by July 2019.

#### **2018 Parade of Homes Returns to Jerome Village**

Later this summer, The Building Industry Association of Central Ohio (BIA) will host their yearly showcase of Central Ohio's top homebuilders within the Jerome Village Master Development in Jerome Township. The Parade of Homes will run from Saturday, September 1<sup>st</sup> through Sunday September 16<sup>th</sup>, and will be located in the Eversole Run Neighborhood near the southwest corner of Hyland-Croy Road and Ravenhill Parkway.

This is the first time the Parade of Homes has been in Union County since 2013. For more information, visit [www.BIAparade.com](http://www.BIAparade.com).

#### **Jerome Grand at Jacquemin Farms Breaks Ground**

Construction began in mid-May on a new mixed-use development in Jerome Township. Jerome Grand at Jacquemin Farms consists of a 300 unit residential rental community, an assisted living facility and planned retail development.

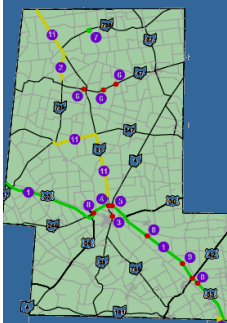
Schottenstein Real Estate group is the developer of the site, which is located on the west side of Hyland-Croy Road, just north of the Post Road intersection. In order to help mitigate the increase in traffic, a northbound left turn lane and a traffic signal will be installed at the intersection of Park Mill Drive. Rental community units are planned to be available by 2019.



Snapshot of Construction in Union County

### 2018 Union County Engineer Program of Work

Projects	Location	Work To Be Performed By	Description	Estimated Date of work
<b>Small Bridge Work</b>				
CR125C-2.254	Liberty West Road	Replacement	County Forces	July-August
CR344B-1.316	Lingrell Road	Replacement	County Forces	Completed
CR173-0.161	Lowe Road	Replacement	County Forces	August
CR57-9.588	Middleburg-PC Road	Rehabilitation	County Forces	Completed
CR299C-2.517	Osborne Road	Replacement	County Forces	September
CR224D-2.500	Shirk Road	Replacement	County Forces	August-September
CR222B-1.309	Yearsley Road	Replacement	County Forces	July
CR129D-2.770	Wolford-Maskill Road	Rehabilitation	County Forces	Completed
CR182-0.287	Maple Dell Road	Replacement	County Forces	September
Bridge Maintenance	Various Locations	Misc. Work	County Forces	May - November
<b>Large Bridge Work</b>				
TR308-0.57	Phelps Road	Contract	Replacement	June - September
<b>Road Improvements</b>				
CR105 - Phase 1	Scottslawn Road	Contract	Widening/Reconstruct	October 2018-August 2019
County/Township	Various Locations	Contract	Pavement Marking	August - September
<b>Resurfacing</b>				
CR2 Section E	Hyland-Croy Road	Contract	Asphalt Paving	August - October
CR9 Section C-D	Mitchell-Dewitt Road	Contract	Asphalt Paving	August - October
CR16 Section A-B	Brock Road	Contract	Asphalt Paving	August - October
CR133	Northwest Parkway	Contract	Micro Surfacing	August
<b>Chip Seal Program</b>				
Southern Portion of the County	Various County and Township Roads	County Forces	Chip Sealing	July - August



**SR 31 Bridge Replacement**  
Replace SR 31 Bridge over Mill Creek in Marysville Corp  
*Start: February, 2018*  
*Completed: July, 2018*

**USR 33 Resurfacing**  
From Logan County Line to western Marysville Corp Limit  
*Start: April, 2018*  
*Complete: October, 2018*  
Traffic Impact: traffic maintained

**SR 38 Resurfacing**  
From southern Marysville Corp to north of 7th Street  
*Start: April, 2018*  
*Complete: October, 2018*  
Traffic Impact: traffic maintained

**SR 739 Resurfacing and Repairs**  
From SR 287 to .02 miles north of Honda Pkwy  
*Start: April, 2018*  
*Complete: October, 2018*  
Traffic Impact: traffic maintained

**USR 33 Smart Mobility Intelligent Vehicle Systems**  
Install fiber optic cable on USR 33 from I-270 in Franklin County to SR 347 in Logan County  
*Start: June, 2018*  
*Complete: July, 2019*  
Traffic Impact: traffic maintained



## Work Performed by County Forces

### Culverts Replaced



County crews will perform over 20 culvert replacements this year as well as replace seven small bridges. Pictured above is a culvert installation on Delaware County Line Road. Culvert work is typically completed in one to two days, while small bridges may take up to four weeks to finish.

### Roadside Mowing



Roadside mowing started in early May and will continue through October. Our Union County crew

mows up to six rounds of 1,040 miles of county and township roadsides each year requiring over 4,000 man and equipment hours. Tyler Griffith, Roy Hammond, and Rick Kingham make up this year's mowing crew.

### Tree Removal/Right of Way Work Performed

In 2017, county forces spent 2,500 hours performing tree and brush removal along county and township roads to help improve sight distance and provide safer intersections. Our program will continue in 2018 with over \$75,000 budgeted for this work.

### Pavement Patching



County workers place asphalt patches on select county and town-

ship roads each year prior to chip seal. They use a grader, tandem roller, and dump trucks to patch distressed areas on our roads. Approximately 1,700 tons of asphalt are expected to be used this season.



County workers also perform partial depth pavement repairs on higher volume priority roads. A milling machine is used to grind out damaged areas of pavement to a depth of up to three inches and then a widening box is used to place new asphalt in those sections. This process is used to repair badly rutted pavement or areas where the pavement is breaking up. It leaves a rectangular looking area in the pavement when completed.

#### Future Roadway Force Account Work

### On Our Radar

#### Intersection Improvements

Baldwin Road & St. Rt. 739

Wolford-Maskill Road and St. Rt. 4



#### Road Widening

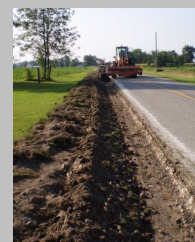
County Home Road

Sandusky Road

Homer Road

Cotton Slash Road

Scottslawn Road





## Work Performed By Contract

### Phelps Road Bridge Improvement Begins

This summer another steel truss bridge will be retired and a new concrete structure erected on Phelps Road over Bokes Creek in York Township. A contract of approximately \$690,000 was awarded to **R & I Construction, Inc.** from Tiffin, Ohio. Funding for this new bridge includes 5% from our share of the sales tax revenue and 95% federal highway funds.

This old steel truss bridge built in the 1920's, has become structurally deficient with a 20-ton load limit that provides only one lane of traffic. The new structure will be able to carry all traffic loads and will support two lanes. The three-month project is expected to be completed by mid-September.



### Scottslawn Road Improvement Planned

Planning and design continue for road widening work along Scottslawn Road. Most of the construction is slated for 2019, with utility relocation and some potential grading work taking place later this year.

The 1.5 mile improvement, between SR736 and the Heritage Cooperative Ag Campus, will involve the reconstruction of roadside ditches, wider shoulders and pavement widening. New turn lanes will be built at the Heritage entrance

to accommodate truck traffic, and a right-turn lane will be added at Weaver Road. Scottslawn will remain a two-lane roadway, but the paved berms will greatly enhance safety for the increasing traffic.

The estimated project cost will total around \$2.4 million. Around 40% of that price tag will be covered by an Ohio Public Works Commission grant that we secured late last year.

### Resurfacing Project Slated to Begin in August

Bids were recently received for this year's paving program. Six miles of roadway will be resurfaced at a cost of a little over \$800,000 funded in part by our portion of the 1/4% sales tax revenue. The roads slated to be resurfaced include Brock Road and portions of Mitchell-Dewitt and Hyland Croy Roads. Northwest Parkway is scheduled to be improved by contract in July or August by a process called micro-surfacing.



## Graduates Recognized

Page 9

### Union County Engineer Employees' Children Receive Diplomas Congratulations 2018 Graduates

**C**aitlin Conrad, daughter of Accounts Administrator **Ronda Conrad**, graduated in May from Ohio University with her Masters Degree in School Counseling /Academic Advisory. She plans to pursue a job at the college level working with student athletes.



Caitlin Conrad

**B**ryan Crist, a current summer maintenance worker, graduated from Guiding Light Home School. He is interested in pursuing a

career in either graphic design or computer engineering.



Bryan Crist

**L**auren Coy, daughter of Maintenance Worker **Joe Coy** received her diploma from Fairbanks High School. Lauren is a four year member of the Fairbanks Varsity Track and Field Team. Throughout high school, she has been involved in National Honor Society, FCCLA, Science Club, and Drama Club. She is also a member of Our Lady of Lourdes

Catholic Church where she has served as a kindergarten Sunday school teacher for two years. She is the recipient of the Fairbanks Alumni Scholarship, Youth Nations Scholarship, and The Toledo Excellence in Academics Scholarship. She graduated with Honors and plans to attend The University of Toledo's Jesup Honor's College this fall, majoring in Bio-medical Engineering.



Lauren Coy

**W**es Pyers, son of Building Inspector

**George Pyers** also received his diploma from Fairbanks High School. Wes was a four year varsity letterman in baseball, two year letterman for the soccer team and played three years of basketball. Wes was also involved with the Vocation Agriculture/FFA program. In addition to sports he is a member of the Vine of Marysville Church and enjoys outdoor activities. He will be attending Marietta College in the fall majoring in Petroleum Engineering.



Wes Pyers

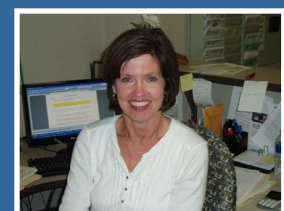
## Linda Reigle Retires

Linda Reigle, a key member of our team since 2000, retired at the end of June. She was our Administrative Coordinator for the last 13 years and juggled a number of different responsibilities in that role. From managing our bids for the many con-

struction contracts-to helping lead our top notch customer service team-to tackling special projects with her typical organized approach, she made our organization better along the way.

Linda looks forward to spending more time with her new granddaughter Amelia, and sig-

nificantly ramping up her travel schedule with husband Brian! Enjoy the new chapter Linda!



Linda Reigle

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[engineer@co.union.oh.us](mailto:engineer@co.union.oh.us)

**Operations Facility**

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## Chip Sealing Program Underway

Our crews started work on our annual sealing program in early July. This summer's chip seal resurfacing involves 99 miles [34 township —65 county] of roadway in the southern portion of the county. A complete list of the roads can be viewed on our website ([co.union.oh.us/news](http://co.union.oh.us/news)), and the schedule is updated weekly.

We make every effort to minimize inconveniences as we perform our summer sealing program, however loose stone and excess tar are always a possibility on newly treated roadways. Slowing down on freshly sealed roads is a good idea for two reasons; issues with loose stone are minimized, and asphalt is less likely to end up on vehicles.

Local traffic will be maintained during the operation, but motorists may encounter slight delays. As always, when approaching the flaggers and equipment, please slow down to guarantee the safety of both our crews and other drivers.

The sealing program is our largest annual in-house construction expenditure. This year's work will total nearly \$1.0 million in liquid asphalt and stone. At an average total cost of \$12,000 per mile, it is an important tool to help stretch our road maintenance dollars. By comparison, a mile of new blacktop placed by contract will cost around \$125,000.