

THE MEDINA COUNTY ENGINEER QUARTERLY UPDATE

2004 - ISSUE #3 SUMMER

David L. Miller, P.E., P.S.

PERMIT DEPARTMENT

Permit Program

The new permit program is up and running!! Small changes are being made while it is in use, but all in all permit procedures are running smoother than we had originally hoped. The new program allows more information to be listed both in the memory of the computer, and also on the permit itself....with no abbreviations!! Prior to the new program, finding ways to abbreviate and fit all pertinent information onto the face of the permit resulted in a high level of creativity....and unfortunately sometimes poor communication with the permit applicants. Tracking the permits themselves is easier and the billing appears to be more accurate, (or as accurate as the person entering the information) more convenient and we can even enter pre-payments or credits, which is something that was impossible prior to this program. We are not as speedy at the moment, but as we become more educated and confident with the new program, our efficiency should be greatly increased.

Permit Activity

Even with the number of new subdivisions in the County, the quantity of driveway and stormwater permits for new home construction has stayed about the same since 2000. A very wet Spring slowed down the amount of work and number of permits given out for the first and second quarters of this year, although it appears to be returning to normal in recent weeks. Although the number of Stormwater Management & Sediment Control permits has only increased approximately 10-15% since the early 1990's, the amount of time spent on each permit has at least tripled. The employees in the Stormwater Department review prints, existing elevations, drawings and the site itself before even issuing the permit. Afterwards the site is reviewed periodically to determine whether building is continuing as stated on the permit, whether drainage controls are in place, if any possible drainage problems become apparent and whether the completion of the site meets the regulations.

Inspectors must now be able to calculate drainage areas, handle culvert sizing for swales on private property, research drainage complaints, calculate watersheds, compose letters to homeowners, developers, attorneys and more and be able to handle multiple priorities with the different inquiries and construction. We are sure that most of the County had Tom Girard on speed dial! With our previous

Stormwater Inspector moving on to the Engineering section, our newest inspector, Kristina Briggs will have her hands full keeping up with the demands of this department!

HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY!

Employee Birthdays in April, May and June were:

Bill Saganes, Gary Emmons, Greg Balogh, Leslie Miller, Vickey Zalewski, Linda Kemp, Marvin Farren, Marty Fekete, Donald Hamlin, Lynn Jenkins, Draton White, Ray Wolf, Scott Horan, Dan Becker, Wes Kent, Debi Taber and Lou Trenka

Employee Birthdays in July, August and September were:

Steve Hawk, Doug King, Richard Moore, Sandy Truelson, Ron Broadsword, Terry Hodges, Bob Schoenbeck, Connie Gibson, Dan Metz, Janine Sarnowski, Pam Warner, Jane Blair, Linda Robertson, Kristina Briggs, Frank Demczyk, Mike McCall, Ryan Schuster, Matt Martin, Jerry Dipolito, Dave Stewart, and Rick Tomko

Happy Birthday to all!

EMPLOYEE NEWS

Kristina Briggs (Krissy), having previously worked with the Medina County Sanitary Engineers for almost 3 years, recently accepted a position as our newest Stormwater Technician.

Krissy has three years experience as a water distribution worker, engineering classes from Kent State University, and besides computer training, water treatment certification, etc., she is also able to operate a variety of construction equipment. Since she handled complaints at her last position, she should be more than capable to handle stormwater and drainage complaints and inspections in her new position. We wish her good luck and welcome to the Stormwater Department.

Ryan Schuster has accepted a promotion to a new position that opened, that of Civil Engineer I. Ryan previously started work as a Stormwater Technician with our Stormwater Management Department. With the abundance of work delegated to our engineers, we

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are now taking advantage of his engineering degree, and he will be working alongside of **Ron Spano**, handling culvert sizing and subdivision/commercial work. The list of very capable engineers includes: Mike Salay, Dan Willhoite, Andy Conrad, Hal Gerspacher, Dan Becker, Ron Spano, Ryan Schuster and Matt Martin.

Matt Martin has also moved to a full-time position as an Engineering Technician. Matt graduated from the University of Toledo College of Engineering with a BS in Construction Engineering, and 3 years of being on the Dean's list! He has been working with us for the past 3 years in the summer, sizing pipes, doing estimates, creating cross sections and various other projects with Fred Boreman and Dan Becker. Matt will now be working alongside of Ron Spano and Ryan Schuster in the Engineering section. We are happy to have Matt staying on as a full-time employee!

Congratulations to **Drayton White**, who has accepted the newly posted position of Facility Equipment Manager for the Highway Department. Drayton previously was our Custodial Worker handling inventory, tool distribution, cost records, radio and telephone communications and more. Drayton will now supervise the mechanical maintenance department, parts and inventory department, dispatch and other departmental personnel as well as a multitude of other duties. A lot more responsibility and more than likely more headaches, but we are confident he can handle the position.

FROM THE WORLD OF COMPUTER LAND.....

SPAM - Unsolicited Bulk E-Mail:

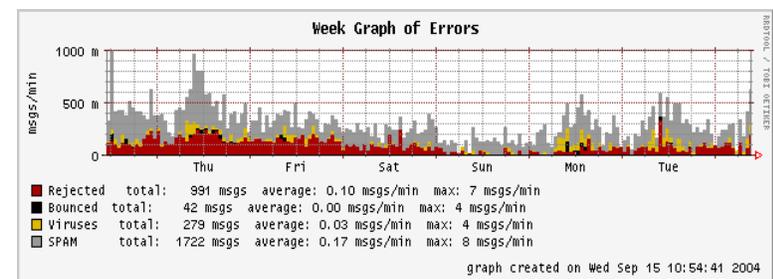
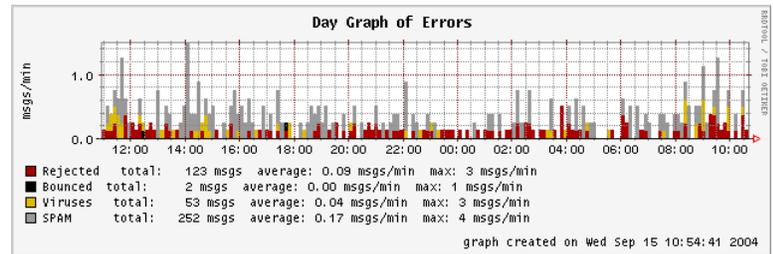
In order to stop the delivery of spam to your Inbox, the County now filters 200+ IP addresses, blacklists 150+ domain names, and utilizes 300+ local filter rules with everything updated daily. To help ensure that e-mail you should receive is delivered and not incorrectly bounced as spam, the County also maintains a white list of 60+ approved "From" addresses. Please forward all spam that makes it through to lfalak or dtaber with the

FULL headers turned on. Graphs showing the amount of spam for part of September 15th and part of the week of September 12th follow. AND just in case you are the type that likes testing the latest virus or receiving 15 copies of the latest e-mail from Nigeria, we also maintain a virus-lovers and spam-lovers list that your address can be added to! Check it out at:

http://hob.medinaco.net/listings/email/new_email.htm

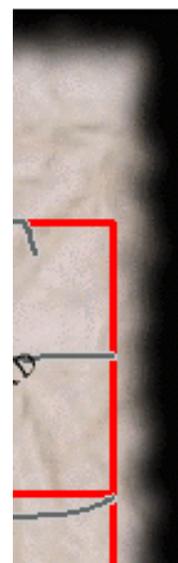
Public Access Web Interface:

The public access web-based interface now offers a new query-by-address option. By the time you read this, the option should be enhanced to not only match addresses that are precisely recorded with an address point but also provide a quick zoom feature that will approximate the location of an unknown address and provide you with a map of the possible area the address may reside. This enhancement will also allow



us to build a "pin map" function that allows a user to select multiple addresses (one at a time) then plot all those addresses on a single map to be used for routing purposes. It will not attempt to route you, just give you a nice circle at every stop you need to make. Check it out at:

<http://www.highwayengineer.co.medina.oh.us/cgi-bin/query.cgi>



Browse Map

Query Parcel #

Query Address #

791

W SMITH ROAD

Query

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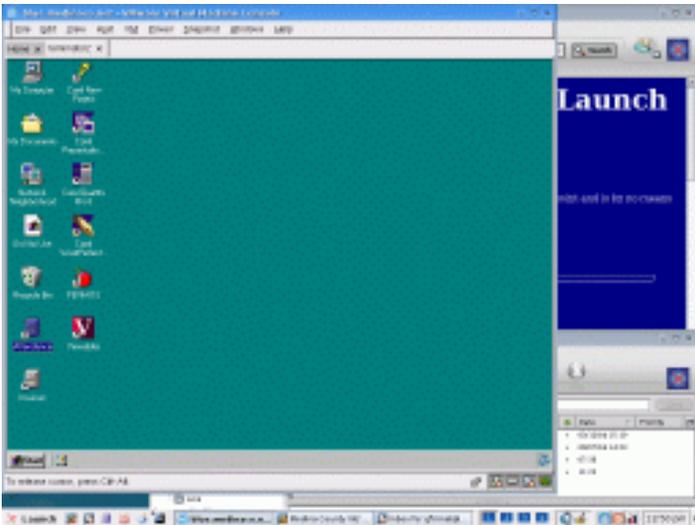
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New Floodzone Index Map:

The Floodzone/Floodway wall maps located throughout the offices (sometimes known as the Ameoba Map) have been enhanced with the help of NRCS/SWCD to include the delineation of soils prone to flooding. If you have a special mapping request you may want to contact bmika or wkent. Check it out at: http://www.highwayengineer.co.medina.oh.us/tax-maps/county_map/floodmap.pmg.gz

Your New Desktop/Computer

You may have recently noticed that some of the desktops in the office look different. You are correct, they are! Because we in the Computer Department know you like new things, we are stirring things up! In order to centralize the administration of MS-Windows software, increase desktop stability, provide a friendly desktop environment, provide a virus/adware/spyware resistant framework for you to work, bring all application access through a single screen, and prevent needless errors caused by incorrect/accidental local configuration, the Engineer's Office is implementing Xandros or RedHat Linux on your desktop machine and allowing access to MS-Windows/DOS applications via VMware and MS-Windows 98SE. This roll-out has been planned for many years and has been evident by strong



suggestions during software selection to only purchase software which is web-based or not wholly tied to a specific user-interface or vendor. Check it out at: http://www.vmware.com/products/server/gsx_screens.html

Server Room AC:

In order to improve reliability of the cooling system in the server room, and subsequently decrease the hard-drive failures associated with overheating, we have recently purchased a 1.5 ton portable auxiliary cooling unit for the room. It resembles Doc Oc from SpiderMan 2. A second unit will also be installed as soon as the heat in the room is too great for a single 1.5 ton unit to handle the load, should the 5 ton roof-mounted unit fail. Most of the problems associated with the current roof-mounted system were attributed to the unit freezing up (yes, air conditioning units can freeze!). To aid against that problem, the current portable unit also removes between 2-5 gallons of water from the air in the room each day. How do we know this? Because it used to drain into buckets that we needed to come in on the weekends and holidays to empty!! This also means no more roof trips for Computer Office Personnel to defrost the roof unit!



Check it out at:

<http://ac-eng.medinaco.net/>

User name **readonly**, password **apc**

FROM THE WORLD OF SUBDIVISIONS

The subdivision department has grown again. Ryan Schuster, E.I.T., has stepped in to add support for plan review and field inspection.

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So far this year, our office has approved 20 new subdivisions for construction. Another 5-10 projects should be approved before year's end. These new subdivisions will be generating a mass of new permits for the Permit Department in the form of Driveway Permits, Stormwater Management & Sediment Control Permits, and Highway Use Permits for gas, water, electric, cable, phone and sewer connections.

The pavement specifications have been revised and upgraded to include cement stabilization and to modify section thicknesses.

RYAN ROAD BRIDGE PROJECT



Ryan Road Bridge at start of project



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