

Public Works News

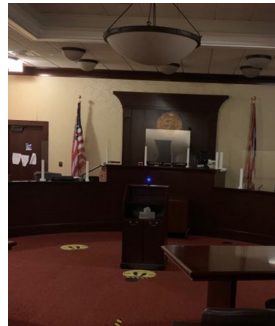
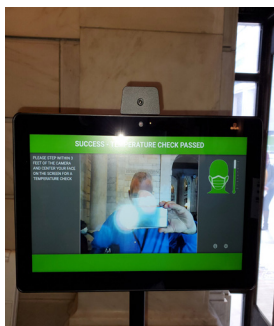


Cuyahoga County
Together We Thrive



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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

It would be easy to let the story of 2020 be one of only hardship, frustration, and loss. While it has been all those things for so many of us, I also choose to see it as one of resilience, innovation, leadership, and an opportunity to serve our communities. Each of us has contributed to effective problem solving during this pandemic.

As you all are aware, the Department did not have the option of closing our doors or working remotely. Most, if not all the work that we perform, requires being physically on the job to create a safe environment for our coworkers or those that need services.

We quickly instituted several safety measures and practices that adhered to the guidelines established by State Board of Health and the national Center for Disease Control including mandatory masks, enhanced cleaning protocols, staggering work schedules, etc. The Public Works Department working collaboratively with the Sheriff's office implemented the County Health Screening initiatives. We set up 18 different locations for temperature scanning and a general health questionnaire and since March, the County has screened close to 850,000 people entering our building.

In addition to screening efforts, the Department has also ensured that all staff had the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). The custodial and building maintenance workforce quickly implemented protocols to sanitize our workplace and the Building Trades creatively constructed temporary shielding structures. *(cont.)*

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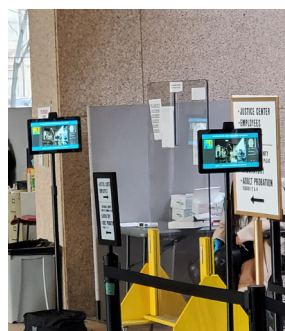
Each of these measures helped minimize the exposure to all those who entered County facilities.

The Public Works construction programs never stopped working, we continued with our programmed road and bridge projects, with two of those projects featured in this issue. In May, we proposed an innovative COVID-19 Building Modification Program, where we identified facility alterations that will create a safer work environment. Some of those alterations included installing touchless features in county bathrooms and entryways, improved office layouts and partitions, and HVAC upgrades that improved the air quality of our workspace. This program proved to be so successful that we will have completed \$15 million dollars' worth of capital improvements in a third of the time it typically requires.

The day-to-day activities of many of our smaller operations such as the County Airport, Animal Shelter and the mail delivery staff did not go unnoticed. Those groups and others, adapted and in an inspiring way, while ensuring the safe and efficient services that they provide continued with minimal disruption.

This holiday season will look different to us, we will be separated from our loved ones and not partaking in many of our holiday traditions we enjoy. It is my hope that as you reflect on 2020, you take pride in your efforts this past year and look forward to better times in 2021. I am so grateful for each of you and appreciate your perseverance during these unprecedented times.

Stay Safe and Happy Holidays!!



HARVARD AVENUE MAINTENANCE YARD



The Harvard Avenue Maintenance Yard is open for business! We have successfully consolidated all staff previously located at Valley View, Brookpark and York facilities. The newly renovated facility is home to approximately 180 staff members.

The considerable move was facilitated by RSI Inc. but could not have been accomplished without the cooperation and planning of employees directly involved with the move and without the assistance from the Trades, IT and Security Departments.

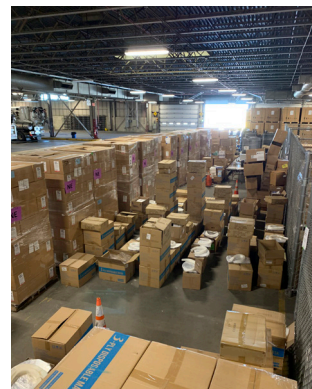
When the pandemic began, this facility became a key location for the County. Public Works has been instrumental in the storage and the movement of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) during the COVID-19 pandemic. DPW has been a long-time partner in planning for and practicing with Cuyahoga County Emergency Management (CCOEM) for such emergencies.

Bryan Kloss, EOC Manager and his team have prepared and practiced

many scenarios: from creating cutting strike teams in response to widespread windstorms, to assisting in point of dispensing (POD) planning. When COVID-19 hit the County DPW was asked by CCOEM to assist in the storage and dispersal of PPE. We immediately responded with offering storage space at the Harvard Avenue Maintenance Yard. CCOEM needed to create the most efficient method of distribution of PPE and this resulted in the creation of a drive through PPE station. We were able to provide the storage space as well as equipment. We created a drive-up lane inside the facility which allowed for covered distribution away from the elements, resulting in a very efficient and well-run system.

To date, over 9.4 million pieces of PPE have been received and distributed to cities, schools, hospitals, jails, and long-term health providers. DPW is assisting in the buildout of an additional storage facility on the site to permanently house the County's cache of PPE for future response.

The County could not have responded as well as it did without the help of Public Works.



In the SPOTLIGHT

Bridge Design Department

The Bridge Design Section for Public Works is responsible for the planning and design of capital improvements for the 209 county-owned bridges and 191 municipally-maintained culverts located throughout Cuyahoga County. The magnitude of projects varies from relatively small repair and maintenance type contracts and culvert replacements, in the \$100,000 to \$500,000 range, to much larger bridge rehabilitation and replacement projects in the \$30 million to \$50 million range.

The more high-profile projects delivered by the Bridge Design Section in the past include the replacement of the Fulton Road Bridge over the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo and the rehabilitation of the Columbus Road Lift Bridge over the Cuyahoga River. Currently, the improvement of the Hilliard Road Bridge over the Rocky River is in the preliminary

design stages.

Composed of chief section engineer Brendan Finn, design engineers Alfred Edwards and Byron Sah as well the department's newest addition Bob Mileti, and project manager Kal Diab. Bridge Design works closely with all of Public Works to successfully deliver projects. First consulting with Bridge Inspection and Maintenance to identify deficient structures and determine appropriate scopes of work for improvements, Bridge Design develops planning level construction cost estimates and coordinates with Planning & Programming to locate available funding sources and establish project delivery methods, whether designing in-house, utilizing a consulting engineer or going the design-build route.

Bridge and culvert projects require



multiple disciplines working together to be successful: structural, hydraulic, geotechnical, roadway and traffic engineering; field survey and utility coordination; right-of-way plan development and land acquisition; environmental studies, waterway permits and stormwater management; inter-agency communication with municipalities, ODOT, railroads, parks and private property owners; fiscal planning and applications for funding; and bid package preparation through construction. The Bridge Design Section is intimately involved during each stage of project development, from initial conception through construction completion.

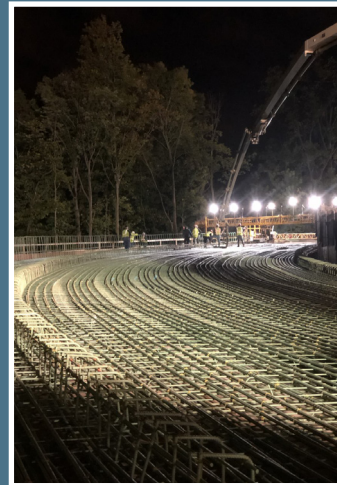
Highland Road Bridges

Four bridges located on Highland Road in Euclid, have recently opened to traffic after being under construction since the winter of 2017/2018. The bridges, which lie within a half of a mile stretch of Highland Rd., each span the meandering Euclid Creek. In July of 2019, for the safety of the travelling public and the construction crews, it was required to close Highland Road to all traffic until the bridge replacements were completed.

Coordinating the construction of four bridges simultaneously was very challenging for the Prime Contractor, Union Industrial Contractors, Inc. Adding to the challenge, the normally calm Euclid Creek would become a raging river during heavy rains. The strength of the flooding river was so intense that materials, including concrete blocks weighing nearly 2-1/2 tons, were washed down river. On Monday, November 23, 2020, Highland Road, which carries close to 15,000 vehicles per day, reopened to traffic. The Contractor will return to complete some final items of work on the \$14,000,000 project in the Spring, but this work will not require any further road closures. Recently retired Project Engineer, Ramzi Halasah, along with Area Engineer, Joe Charif, administered the construction of the project.



Mastick Road Bridge



Mastick Road, located in Fairview Park, has been closed to traffic since early Spring due to the rehabilitation and widening of Bridge No. 03.13, located just west of the Cleveland Metroparks. Along with replacing the bridge deck, the bridge was widened to accommodate a 10' wide bike path. To facilitate the widening, 14 piers were constructed. The foundations for the piers consisted of 36" drilled shafts, some of which had to be drilled 40' deep into the bedrock. The new bike path on the bridge will eventually connect to the Metroparks future bike path project on Mastick Road, allowing safe access to the Metroparks from the neighborhoods along Mastick Road.

As an early Christmas present, the bridge opened on Monday, December 21st. The \$4,100,000 project is being constructed by Kokosing Construction, Inc. The Contractor will return in the Spring to finish up the final items of work. Short term closures may be needed to complete this work. Project Supervisor, Bill Nugent, along with Area Engineer, Joe Charif, administered the construction of the project.



STAFF UPDATES

Please join us in welcoming the following team members who joined Public Works in 2020!

Anthony Barber	Ralph Hughes	Merle Pantry
James Blue	Lareka Johnson	Latesha Ragland
Kenyatta Brooks	Vondria Jolly	Martez Scott
John Campbell	Pamela Jones	Duane Thomas
Jeffery Carr	Christopher Koeber	
Shakiya Edwards	Jon Orzech	

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Congratulations to those who received promotions!

Dale Blackford	Javonna McWilliams	Mellany Seay
Robert Dietrich	Nick Paparosa	
Mary Dobranic	Akara Richards	

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Farewell to those retiring in 2020

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Hugh Blocksidge	Neil Juhnke	Terrance Solomon
Scott Davis	Roderick Mccrey	Brian Stapleton
Tamala Difilippo	Otilio Morales	Chuck Williams
Ramzi Halasah	Roger Periandri	

HR UPDATES



All County employees will need to complete the Ethics Training "Upholding Trust in Government-County Ethics Law" by December 31, 2020. Additionally, all of us will also need to complete the harassment avoidance training during the first quarter of 2021. The HR Team for Organizational and Employee Development

is working to get this requirement ready in MyLearning. The Ethics Training is currently available. The link below will provide direct access so that you can complete the requirement from your smartphone, tablet, or outside county computers.

Ethics due by 12/31/2020
Culture of Respect due by 3/31/2021

Go directly to the MyLearning link:

<https://adfs.cuyahoga.cc/adfs/ls/IdpInitiatedSignon.aspx?loginToRp=https://cuyahogacounty.certpointsystems.com>

Please contact your HR Representative with any questions or assistance.

Finance and Operations Administrator

As you all know Mike Chambers, has been appointed Fiscal Officer for Cuyahoga County. It truly is a compliment to Mike and this department when County Leadership recognizes a current employee for such an important and critical role.



We are happy to announce that Mellany Seay has accepted the position of Finance and Operations Administrator. Mellany has been an integral part of the Public Works team as the Business Services Manager of our Facilities Section and brings a strong understanding of the County's budgeting and financial reporting. Congratulations to both Mike and Mellany!

Recipes



Maple Bacon Carrots

INGREDIENTS

- 12 medium carrots, peeled
- 12 strips bacon
- 1/4 c. maple syrup
- Freshly ground black pepper

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 400°.
2. Wrap each carrot in one strip of bacon, and place bacon ends down on a large baking sheet. Brush all over with maple syrup and season with black pepper.
3. Bake 10 minutes, remove from oven, and brush with remaining maple syrup. Bake 15 minutes more, or until carrots are tender and bacon is crisp. Serve!

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Reindeer Bait

INGREDIENTS

- 3 c. corn chex
- 2 c. wheat chex
- 2 c. mini pretzels
- 2 c. mini marshmallows
- 1 c. red and green M&Ms
- 20 oz. white chocolate
- Red and green sprinkles (for garnish)



DIRECTIONS

1. In a large bowl, mix together Corn Chex, Wheat Chex, pretzels, mini marshmallows, and M&Ms.
2. Melt white chocolate and pour over mixture. Stir until fully coated.
3. Transfer mixture to a parchment-lined baking sheet or dish and top with sprinkles, then refrigerate until firm, 1 hour.
4. Break up into bite-size pieces and serve.

Want to submit your favorite recipe? Email dramsey@cuyahogacounty.us