

Local labor does job on new road, bridge

James Parkway extension in Heath almost completed

BY KENT MALLET
Advocate Reporter

HEATH — The bridge completing the James Parkway extension to Irving Wick Drive West will open in a few weeks on time, under budget and made by Licking County labor.

The half-mile extension of James Parkway, from Irving Wick Drive to Kaiser Drive, opens up 70 acres for future development, in addition to improving traffic flow for employees of nearby businesses such as Boeing and Kaiser Aluminum.

Motorists will be able to take James Parkway from the Hebron Road entrance to Mid-Ohio Industrial Park at the southern tip of Heath, through Central Ohio Aerospace and Technology Center, to Irving Wick Drive West.

The Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority decided at its August meeting to dedicate the bridge as the Made in Licking County Bridge to recognize the local labor involved with the project.

"Labor Day is a fitting day to recognize the work force talent that can build a bridge like this," said Rick Platt, executive director of the Port Authority. "I think it stands out that Licking County has that capability here."

The bridge will include a plaque proclaiming it the Made in Licking County Bridge and a 50-year time capsule including names of Licking County individuals and businesses who worked on the project.

The bridge construction combined the efforts of 24



Matthew Berry, The Advocate Rick Platt, director of the Newark, Heath, Licking County Port Authority talks to a group of people Thursday afternoon during a cookout on the almost completed bridge that will connect to Irving Wick Drive West.

companies with Licking County ties, including more than 100 people who live or work in Licking County.

The \$2.9 million project included the work of the Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority, Newark companies Layton Excavating, Armstrong Steel Erectors and Bowden Construction, and L&K Concrete Sawing and Drilling, of Hanover.

Platt invited representatives from the companies to a cookout Thursday on the bridge, which takes traffic over Ramp Creek, connecting to Irving Wick Drive.

"This is really a thank you," Platt told the gathered crowd. "The Port Authority can't be happier with the bridge. I hope my grandkids can come here and see what we did."

John Vermaaten, the authority's manager on the project, said he tried to track the Licking County contributions, and counted at least 120 involved with the work.

"It's amazing how far out a project like this can reach," Vermaaten said. "It

affects a tremendous number of people in the county."

Armstrong Steel Erectors generally had eight or nine employees of its 30-member core work force on site, but about 24 employees were involved in some way.

"It was very important to us," Armstrong president Diane Bednar said. "We were able to start in February, before most other work could start. It was important to put people to work that were laid off. We're proud of the final product."

Joe Bowden, owner of Bowden Construction, said he had six or seven employees there installing contemporary street lighting elements on the bridge and 25 employees involved with the project. The company has not had any layoffs during the recession.

"We're still working," Bowden said. "We're doing things we didn't do a few years ago; just different aspects of construction we didn't do or sublet."

"This is a great project. It's close to home and good people to work with."

LOCAL PROJECT

Road extension

James Parkway extended 3,000 feet north from Kaiser Drive to Irving Wick Drive West.

New entrances

The easternmost Irving Wick Drive entrance to the Central Ohio Aerospace and Technology Center closed, with the new road connected to employee entrance and truck entrance to The Base, as well as to Irving Wick Drive West over Ramp Creek.

Development sites

Three potential development sites enhanced by the new road and extension of sewer service — 5-acre sites on both sides of the extended road and a 60-acre site south of Boeing.

Parking lot

Reconfigured parking area on east side of The Base, including a new motorcycle and bicycle lot.

Bike trail

New path will be added along the extended James Parkway, connecting to the existing COATC path just south of Boeing, allowing for a possible future connection at Irving Wick to the city's bike path system.

Stephen Phillips, job foreman for project general contractor Layton Excavating, said the work was much appreciated.

"This project here helped us out a little bit," Phillips said. "It's slow, slow for everybody."

Lance Kuhlwein, owner of L&K Concrete for 11 years, also was thankful for the project.

"This year has been real tough, probably slowest of the 11," Kuhlwein said. "I like this project because it opens that land up for more development. Bring it on."

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LOCAL LABOR

Local companies involved in the project

- Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority
- Layton Excavating, of Newark, general contractor
- Jobs Henderson, of Newark, consulting engineers and surveying
- Holophane, of Utica, bridge and street lighting manufactured at Utica facility
- Armstrong Steel Co., of Newark, bridge construction subcontractor
- L&K Concrete Sawing & Drilling, of Hanover, concrete and asphalt sawcutting
- Triple "H" Enterprises, of Newark, parking lot striping
- Bowden Construction, of Newark, site lighting
- Shelly Co., of St. Louisville, asphalt paving, materials from local plant
- United Precast, of Mount Vernon, bridge precast structures, employs Licking County residents
- The Olen Co., of St. Louisville, gravel materials
- Buckeye Concrete Products, of Newark, concrete products
- Top Cat Concrete, of Buckeye Lake, concrete
- Redskin Transport, of St. Louisville, limestone materials

Source: Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority

SUDOKU SOLUTION

Puzzle on Page 5B

Solution to 9/7/09

2	5	7	9	6	3	1	8	4
4	3	6	1	8	2	7	5	9
9	8	1	7	5	4	3	6	2
3	7	5	2	9	8	4	1	6
6	9	4	5	1	7	2	3	8
8	1	2	3	4	6	9	7	5
7	6	8	4	3	9	5	2	1
1	2	9	6	7	5	8	4	3
5	4	3	8	2	1	6	9	7

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- GAMER [R] [1:45, 4:50] 6:55
- HALLOWEEN 2 [R] [1:40, 4:40] 7:15
- FINAL DESTINATION [R] [1:25, 3:50] 6:40
- INGLORIOUS BASTERDS [R] [1:05, 4:05] 7:05
- G-FORCE [PG] [1:30, 4:25] 6:45
- TIME TRAVELERS WIFE [PG13] [1:50, 4:45] 7:30
- DISTRICT 9 [R] [1:10, 4:15] 6:50
- JULIE AND JULIA [PG13] [1:15, 4:30] 7:10
- GI JOE [PG13] [1:20, 4:20] 7:20

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