

THE WEST END WIRE



An Internet Publication For The Information And Enjoyment Of Our Employees
And Friends Of WEST END ELECTRIC CO., INC.

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WestEndElectricCo.com

Things Are Starting To Turn...

It goes without saying that the overall economy has “tanked”. Many have never seen nationwide unemployment as high as it’s been for the last 12-months. For almost a year and a half now, the number of projects available to bid in our area have been extremely low. There have been months where we found less than ten projects to consider, let alone to bid. And even the small projects that have surfaced, have attracted bidders from as far away as Cleveland. Some bids have come in lower than our cost, obviously out of desperation. During 2009, we were very blessed to have a few projects that we received contracts in 2007 and 2008. These projects carried us over in 2009. It’s always great to have a backlog, but we haven’t seen that for awhile.

Times have been tough, but this Spring has not only brought warm sunshine, it is also bringing hope. Lately, the trend has been a slow increase in projects available to bid. These projects continue to attract bidders from all over, but it is still a positive sign. We are also starting to see more projects bidding, that are funded with stimulus money. It has taken a lot longer for this money to reach the bidding level than expected.

Another positive for our local economy has been the project labor agreements included in the specifications for the Washington-Nile School District's new Middle School; and Clay School District's new K-12 School Facility. This has really helped to keep the bidding focus on the local work force. Hats off to the successful efforts of our local building trades.

One area we have been very fortunate in is with small and private projects, where we were among a few selected bidders; or the only Contractor the Customer wanted. For the most part, these opportunities come because of the impressions our Electricians have made on our customers. Those of you in the field really do make a big difference in our future with our customers.

Nothing makes us feel better than a sincere thank you, for something we've done for someone. The same thing applies to God. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 tells us "In everything, give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus, concerning you." There is no better way to demonstrate our faith, than to say "Thank You" to God for His faithfulness, and for providing much needed work!

April and May Birthdays

April: Dennis Beekman

**May: Dina Fraulini,
Laura Hawes**

Success comes in cans. Failure comes in can'ts.

ODNR Watercraft Office Off & Running

Good weather has helped to get a good start at the site of the new ODNR Watercraft Office & Maintenance Facility. Footers are finished, and block walls are at least to slab level. We have completed the installation of the primary utility conduits. The permanent AEP pad-mounted transformer has been set, wired, and energized. Danny Beekman, Ed Sommer, and Bill Mershon have been working on this project as work is available. The steel building is scheduled for delivery the end of this month. Our crew is currently installing conduits below the slab, and completing the grounding. We appreciate the opportunity to get to work with the folks from ODNR once again.

Nile Township Gets New Fire Station

It's been about one year since it bid, but a Pre-Construction Meeting has finally been scheduled for the new Nile Township Fire Station Project. We received a signed contract in the mail last week. We look forward to getting started on this project, very soon.

Norfolk & Southern Crew Facility Under Way

It's been a slow process, but this building is finally starting to come out of the ground. Recently, Bill Mershon and Ed Sommer installed some conduit sleeves and temporary power. We look forward to getting started on this project. We are a subcontractor to Portco, Inc. This project is a new Crew Facility for the N & S Railroad Yards in Portsmouth.

SSU's University Center...Finished!

SSU has taken over the newly renovated University Center. This has really turned out to be a beautiful facility. We have a few loose ends to wrap up, and this one will be history. This project has provided work for a great crew of Electricians for over a year now. It has been a pleasure working with the fine folks at SSU, and we look forward to working with them in the near future. There were no serious injuries reported on this project. That's the ticket!! Led by Danny Beekman, the following workers wrapped up this project: Dan Maple, Kenny Stewart, Bill Mershon, and Ed Sommer.

Well done is much better than well said. Benjamin Franklin.

Portsmouth WWTP Work Begins

Some of our crew was put to work at the Portsmouth Waste Water Treatment Plant recently, to relocate an Electrical manhole; and the associated underground conduits. Led by Bill Mershon, Ed Sommer, Michael Hunt, Dwane Johnson, and Tim Sommer did a great job taking care of this obstacle. An existing manhole and underground conduits had to be relocated in order for the new UV Structure to be installed. The remaining Electrical work on this project is expected to happen over the next few months.

USEC Gets New Security Card Readers

We were the low bidder on the recently rebid Security Card Reader System, being installed for USEC; at the A-plant. Our A-Plant Crew should be starting this work very soon.

Portsmouth City Schools Central Office Under Construction

Metal studs are up, new windows have been cut in, and some exterior work has been performed; on the new Central Office Building for the Portsmouth City Schools. This project is in the former Unemployment Office at the corner of 8th & Findlay Streets. Kenny Stewart and Dan Maple have completed as much as possible, until the sheetrock has been hung and finished. The permanent Service has been energized, conduit & wire has been completed in the walls and ceilings, and Tele/Data cables have been installed throughout the building. We appreciate the opportunity to be a part of this project.

ACP FUTURE STILL LOOKS PROMISING

We recently filled out paperwork with Fluor, for work to take place through 2013. It appears things will start ramping up soon, on the ACP Project in Picketon. Things should start happening this Summer, and we welcome this with open arms! This is the closest thing we have to a quick shot in the arm for our local economy. As of this date, the following men are on site: Pete Nichols, Mike Cantrell, Chad Hawes, Tucker Smalley, and Nick Kingrey.

Nothing else ruins the truth like stretching it.

Student Service Center Renovations at SSU

We were the low bidder on the recently bid Student Service Center Renovations Project, on the second Floor of the newly renovated University Center; at Shawnee State University. This is a continuation of the recently completed University Center Project. C.J. Hughes had the low General Contractor bid, A.J. Stockmeister had the low Plumbing and HVAC bid, and S.A. Cumunel had the low Fire protection bid. Work is expected to begin next month, and should be completed in August of this year.

New Service For Portsmouth Cancer Center Equipment

We recently completed the installation of an Electric Service, a transformer, and other equipment; for the Mobile PET/ CT Scan to be used at the Portsmouth Cancer Center. Dwane Johnson led this project, which included these workers: Ed Sommer, Andy Eldridge, Michael hunt, and Bill Mershon. No injuries reported on this project, and that is what we like to hear.

Misc. Work at Manchester Schools

Kenny Stewart and Dan Maple have been performing several small projects for Manchester Local School District. They recently completed the installation of cabling and additional CCTV cameras in both of their school buildings. Work has also begun on a Distance Learning Center, and a new Bus Parking Lot. It's always great to have the opportunity to work for the good folks at Manchester Schools.

He who angers you, controls you.

Oak Hill Campground Upgrade Well Underway

Andy Eldridge and Michael Hunt have been installing underground conduits at the Oak Hill Campground in the Wayne National Forest, for several weeks now. Great weather has allowed the Electrical work to get off to a great start. If you love the outdoors, you would love this job. It is a beautiful area, located on top of the hills adjacent to Lake Vesuvius. It has been good to work with the folks from Diaz Construction again. We are the Electrical Subcontractor on this project. This project is scheduled for completion in August of this year, but the way these workers are moving; it may be a lot sooner than that.

Narco Work On Hold

Andy Eldridge and Michael Hunt completed all they can, and are now waiting on a weekend that the plant can be shut-down; for the transformer and switchgear replacement to take place. Narco's orders for materials has increased, delaying our work. That is a good thing for Narco, as long as the old gear and transformer holds up. It's good to see local businesses doing well again. No injuries reported on this project, and that is always welcome news.

Rubyville Community Church Looks for a Late Summer Completion of Worship Center

Work continued through March, but then came to a stop for our Electrical crew. Sheetrock has been installed throughout the Main Floor of the building. Plastering has been taking place for several weeks now. Some painting has been completed. All of the permanent utilities are on. Miles Lee Ferguson and Dustin Pendleton have been performing the Electrical work on this project. The church has been focusing on finishes, furnishings, and equipment for the new Sanctuary. It has been an honor to work for the wonderful folks at Rubyville Community Church.

Jay Leno's Quote of the Month: "With hurricanes, tornados, fires out of control, mud slides, flooding, severe thunderstorms tearing up the country from one end to the other, and with the threat of swine flu and terrorist attacks; are we sure this is a good time to take God out of the Pledge Of Allegiance?"

Service Work And Small Jobs

We appreciate Dwane Johnson taking care of our service calls and small projects. He has performed work for: New Boston (traffic signals), Rumpke Transfer Station, Movie Gallery, Dollar General, State Electric Supply Co., SOMC Urgent Care, Scioto County Jail, Buckeye Towers, Rumpke Transfer Station, Portsmouth Cinema, Portsmouth Public Library, and PNC Bank of Jackson; to name a few.

An idea not coupled with action will never get any bigger than the brain cell it occupied.

SOMC Peds. Project Progresses

Miles Lee Ferguson and Dustin Pendleton have completed rough-in of conduits and wire in the ceilings and walls of the Pediatrics Patient Rooms Project at SOMC. Work has progressed good so far, but now we are waiting for sheetrock to be installed and finished, so we can return to complete the project. No injuries reported to date. That's great news!

Clay K-12 School Bids

Bids were opened for the Clay Local School District's new K-12 School Facility, on April 6, 2010. Low bidders were J & H Erectors, West End Electric, B B & E, and Central Fire Protection. As of this date (4/15/10), post-bid reviews are nearly completed by the Construction Manager; and the School Board will be voting on awarding contracts on April 22, 2010. A notice to proceed is scheduled for May 7, 2010; with a completion date in August of 2011. We are thankful for this opportunity, and look forward to working with the other contractors and the fine folks of Clay Local School District.

PMHA Gets New Generators

West End Electric turned in the low bid on the installation of Emergency Power Generators at the Lett Terrace Apartments in West Portsmouth, and the Miller Manor Apartments in Wheelersburg. Work is expected to start on this project in May 2010, with an 8-week duration.

Phones In Church...

A man in Topeka, Kansas decided to write a book about churches around the country. He started by flying to San Francisco, and worked east from there. Going to a very large church, he began snapping pictures and taking notes. He spotted a golden telephone on the vestibule wall and was intrigued with a sign which read, "Calls: \$10,000.00 a minute."

Seeking out the Pastor, he asked about the phone and the sign. The Pastor answered that this golden phone is, in fact, a direct line to heaven and if he pays the price; he can talk directly to GOD.

The man thanked the Pastor and continued on his way. As he continued to visit churches in Seattle, Dallas, St. Louis, Chicago, Milwaukee, and around the United States, he found more phones, with the same sign; and got the same answer from each Pastor.

Finally, he arrived in Ohio. Upon entering a church in Columbus, Ohio, behold – he saw the usual golden telephone. But this time, the sign read, "calls: 35 cents."

Fascinated, he asked to talk to the Pastor. "Reverend, I have been in cities all across the country and in each church I have found this golden telephone and have been told it is a direct line to Heaven, and that I could talk to God; but in the other churches the cost was \$10,000 a minute. Your sign reads only 35 cents a call. Why?"

The Pastor, smiling benignly, replied, "Son, you're in Ohio now...You're in God's Country. It's a local call."

Thanks to Ed Messer.

What we've bid, and will be bidding...

- We will be rebidding the Mass Notification System for Shawnee State University, on April 16, 2010.
- We will be rebidding Washington-Nile's New Middle School, on April 20, 2010.
- We will be bidding a Classroom Addition, and Athletic Complex Addition at the Greenup, Ky. High School; on April 20, 2010.
- We will be bidding a Fire Alarm System Improvements Project in the X-710 Building, at the Piketon A-Plant, on April 21, 2010.
- We will be bidding a Dry Air and Nitrogen Plant, at the former Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Piketon; on April 26, 2010. This will be a design/build project.
- We are planning on bidding the new K-12 School Facility, for New Boston Local School District. The latest word on this project is OSFC has told the School District they do not want the building to be built at the proposed site (former New Boston Pool). As I understand it, the School District must come up with a better site. This project could be delayed for several months. We will keep our eye on this one.
- We recently bid a project for Horizon Telephone Company, to install conduits in the National Bank Building, and underground conduits in the alleys adjacent to the building; for fiber optic cables. I received a call from Horizon on 4/16/10, telling me they were going to award this work to us.
- We recently bid a traffic signal installation project in Flemingsburg, Kentucky. We are waiting on an approval of this bid.
- We recently bid the Electrical on a new Pop's Restaurant that Jeff Brown is planning on building, in Wheelersburg. No word on the status of this project, as of this date.
- We recently bid the Electrical for a new Eagles Hall, for New Boston. We've not heard anything on this project, since the bid was turned in.
- We recently bid the Generator replacement at Buckeye Towers in New Boston. We are waiting to see how the bids came in on this project.
- We recently bid a Handicapped Assistance Ramp for CSX, at the Vanceburg, Kentucky train stop. This consisted of site lighting, and power to lifting equipment. We are waiting on approval of this quote.
- The lighting retrofit project we bid recently, on four (4ea.) of the Pepsi bottling Facilities, was awarded to Denier Electric.
- We recently bid a site package for the Ironton Local School District. I believe Solid Rock was the low bidder, and we have quoted the Electrical work with them. As of this date, we have not heard if we are the successful Electrical subcontractor.