



ASPEnewsletter

Southwestern Ohio Chapter

July-Aug 2009 Volume 28 Issue 1

Chapters are not authorized to speak for the Society

**AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
PLUMBING ENGINEERS
SOUTHWESTERN OHIO CHAPTER**

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The *ASPEnewsletter* is published by the Southwestern Ohio Chapter of the American Society of Plumbing Engineers (a non-profit organization). Opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Southwestern Ohio Chapter, American Society of Plumbing Engineers or the Editor.

ASPE September Meeting

Date: TUESDAY, September 15th

Location: Cincinnati Master Plumbers Association Training Facility.
11020 Southland Road, Cincinnati, Ohio, Phone 513.742.2672.
From I-275 take SR 4 south to Northland (1/2 mile); turn right on Northland to Southland (1/2 mile); turn left on Southland to CMPA Training Facility (1/4 mile). Plumbing Products Show. Demonstration of Ditch Witch boring machine. Hot Dogs \$.50, hamburgers \$1.00. Free chips and drinks.

FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

Sept 15, 2009 Product Information Show @ Cincinnati Master Plumbers

Oct 20, 2009 "Press Fit Copper Systems" presented by Elkhart Copper Co and Bill Hutchinson of BWA South

Oct 22-25, 2009 Technical Symposium @ Dearborn Michigan

Nov 17, 2009 "Green Presentation " presented by Zurn Green Systems and Bill Hutchinson of BWA South.

Dec15, 2009 Dayton Engineers Club Christmas Party

Jan 19, 2009 "Seismic Bracing" presented by Chris Jacobs of ISAT Inc. and Pat Murphy of Midwest Spec.

June 2010 Dayton Dragons

June 2010 Region II Presidents Meeting

**All meetings held in Middletown unless noted otherwise
All meeting topics subject to change without notice**



Southwest Ohio ASPE would like to thank the following for their support of ASPE night at the Dayton Dragons June 2nd, 2009

Ticket Sponsors

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By supporting the Southwest Ohio ASPE 2009 Dayton Dragon's Game, these sponsors receive a newsletter ad page. In addition, the ticket sponsors also receive a front-page logo link on the Southwest Ohio website. Contact Jeff Watern at jwatern@helmigl.com for more information on this sponsorship opportunity.

**Southwestern Ohio Chapter-ASPE
2009-2010 Chapter Meeting Meal Assessment Form**

For the 2009-2010 Chapter year, the Board of Directors has established the following individual and corporate meal assessment rates for all regular Chapter meetings:

- \$140 Individual Meal Assessment**
- \$160 Corporate Meal Assessment** (can be used by more than one individual during the 2009-2010 Chapter year)

Please indicate your meal assessment choice, include your check (payable to the Southwestern Ohio Chapter-ASPE and marked "Meal Assessment") and complete the following:

From: _____

To: **Matt Sciarretti**
Heapy Engineering, LLC
1400 W Dorothy Lane
Dayton, OH 45409-1310

Tel: _____
Fax: _____
e-mail: _____

Election 2009 – 2010 ...

- Results of the 2009-2010 Southwestern Ohio ASPE chapter elections is as follows.

President	Al Fike
VP Technical	open
VP Membership	Ron Bartley
Treasurer	Matt Sciarretti
Admin Secretary	Robert McGinnis
Correspond Secretary	Jim Miller

- The upcoming technical symposium in Dearborn will be held on Oct 2nd thru 4th. If you are going you need to get your reservation and hotel room ASAP. This is a great way to get full years worth of CEU's for your time.

Technical jargon...

- There has been some concern recently with the use of **corrugated stainless steel tubing (CSST) in natural gas systems and the recent reports of lightning strikes causing arcing and perforations in the CSST.** As a result of gas leaks and fires caused by the perforations, all manufacturers of CSST have revised their installation protocols to require direct bonding of the CSST system to the electrical grounding system. In Ohio, **this manufacturer's requirement supersedes any code requirement** which currently allows bonding by means of the connection to an appliance that is connected to the equipment grounding conductor of the circuit supplying the appliance. It should be noted that the 2006 Residential Code of Ohio and (by reference in the 2007 Ohio Mechanical Code) the 2006 International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC) allows the use of CSST, both of which indicate the material is to be installed per the code, its listing and manufacturer's installation requirements. The International Code Congress will be addressing this issue by the (proposed) addition of a definition for 'bonding jumper' in the next iteration of the IFGC and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), through its standard *NFPA 54 – National Fuel Gas Code*, has approved language that will specifically address CSST installations.
- Architecture and engineering firms, contractors, and owners report that **water efficiency is rapidly becoming a higher priority than other aspects of green building**, according to McGraw-Hill Construction's latest report, *Water Use in Buildings*. Owners are especially committed to water-efficient practices, with 42 percent reporting that more than three-quarters of current projects incorporate water-efficient designs. Business benefits are the key growth drivers, as companies focus on the bottom line. Primary motivators include reducing energy use (87 percent) and reducing operating costs (84 percent). Increased government regulation and the desire to lower energy costs are also expected to trigger faster adoption of water-efficient products and methods.

- The Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) has announced that the organization will **cease to license and support MasterFormat™ (19)95 as of December 31, 2009.**

The CSI Board of Directors voted to stop licensing and supporting MasterFormat 95 during its June 16 meeting at the CSI Annual Convention in Indianapolis.

In 2004 CSI and CSC introduced the most significant updates to MasterFormat since the standard was introduced in the 1960s. To meet the industry's changing needs, the MasterFormat 2004 edition features an expanded structure, increasing the number of divisions from 16 to 50 and replaces the five-digit system from previous editions with a six-digit system. It was expanded to accommodate the many new technologies and building practices introduced since its inception and to provide more complete coverage for all types of construction projects.

MasterFormat has long been recognized as a standard in the construction industry to organize project manuals and detailed cost information and to relate drawing notes to specifications. It aids project delivery by facilitating communication among architects, engineers, specifiers, contractors, suppliers and other consultants, which helps them meet building owners' requirements, timelines and budgets. By fostering fuller and more detailed construction specifications, MasterFormat is designed to reduce costly changes or delays in projects due to incomplete, misplaced or missing information.

Many high-profile public agencies (including the Ohio State Architect's Office), companies, architect/engineer firms, consultants and others have made the switch to the latest edition of MasterFormat, but there are still organizations that have not made the transition. Using two different versions of MasterFormat makes it difficult to correctly classify work results and communicate project information. The continued use of MasterFormat 95 and earlier versions also hinders industry standardization and works contrary to interoperability.

CSI and CSC are working with the MasterFormat sponsors to communicate the decision to the industry, promote the benefits of using the latest

version through a communication campaign and transition their products that use MasterFormat.

- The International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) and GreenPlumbers USA have entered a Memorandum of Understanding to **establish a collaborative arrangement to enhance the technical content of GreenPlumbers' training modules** by incorporating selected provisions contained within the IAPMO's Uniform Codes set. The two organizations will also partner to develop additional programs and services.

-Casper the Friendly Ghostwriter

Legislatively speaking...

It has been two months since I last reported to the membership. And we have much legislative ground to cover. Let's begin with the following: the Ohio State Architect's Office (SAO) has been busy of late, with the following, originally printed in the *SAO e-news*, to report:

The full report of the Ohio Construction Reform Panel (OCRCP) has been released. Since taking office in 2007, the administration of Governor Ted Strickland has been working in public-private partnership on some of the most difficult issues affecting the business of state government and its role in fostering a healthy business climate. Known as Advantage Ohio, this initiative has led to common sense regulatory reform by state agencies, reforms in the state's purchasing practices, a renewed commitment to promoting minority-owned small businesses in Ohio and expansion of the Ohio Business Gateway.

In August of 2008, Gov. Strickland requested the Ohio Department of Administrative Services to bring together various public and private sector stakeholders to discuss another huge issue affecting the state's bottom line and Ohio's economy – publicly funded or administered construction. The Ohio Construction Reform Panel (OCRCP) was established.

Public construction in Ohio accounts for nearly \$3 billion annually in state spending. These projects include everything from renovations to state government buildings to local school building through the Ohio School Facilities Commission to building and renovation projects on Ohio's public university and college campuses.

For more than 132 years, there has been no fundamental change in the method of project delivery

for the state's public construction projects. During that time, as with every other US industry, major changes have occurred in technology, management techniques and practices, materials and the need for greater energy efficiency in the design and construction industry.

From November 2008 and into the spring of 2009 there were numerous meetings of the full Panel and its subgroups. Each recommendation contained in the report began as an idea culled from an initial survey, was vetted by one of four Panel subgroups and was further discussed and voted on during a full Panel meeting. For a recommendation to be included in this report, it needed to receive a minimum of 75% of Panel members voting for it in the affirmative.

The Panel reviewed the current design and construction laws and practices as compared to industry best practices, provided recommendations to improve quality and time of delivery, cut costs for taxpayers and bring more value to the public construction process. A collaborative approach used in developing recommendations. The guiding principles behind all of the reform suggestions are: transparency, flexibility, accountability and efficiency.

The state's current project delivery model involves separate contractors for general trades work, plumbing, electrical, heating and cooling and sometimes fire protection. There is an option to use a construction manager to provide consulting services, but they are prohibited from holding contracts for the work.

The Panel's recommendations include expanding the public project delivery options to the following models: construction manager at-risk, design-build and expanded use of a general contractor to perform all of the work. In the new construction manager at-risk model, a construction manager is acquired early in the design stages to bring their expertise to bear on estimating, scheduling and other construction issues that could affect the design.

For the design-build model, a single entity is procured to provide design and construction services. This model may be structured as a joint venture, an integrated firm that provides design-build services within their organization, or teams led by either an architect or contractor.

The general trades contracting option increases the threshold from \$50,000 to \$600,000 with adjustments for inflation to be considered after five years. This would continue to be used on small projects in which a high degree of coordination and early involvement by trade contractors is not necessary to ensure success.

For more information or to download the full OCRCP report, go to the SAO Web site at

<http://www.ohio.gov/sao> and click on "Ohio Construction Reform Panel."

• **The OAKS CI team has deployed additional business processes.** These processes include the following...

The Contractor Pay Request enables a Contractor to submit an invoice for completed work on a periodic basis and utilizes the itemized Schedule of Values approved in an earlier business process. The pay request defines the current amount due for contract work completed to date with itemized labor and materials values for general conditions, allowances and each item of work, stored materials, retainage and approved change orders. The format also defines the utilization of EDGE (Encouraging Diversity, Growth and Equity) apprentice and subcontractors during the pay period. Processing must occur in an expedited and efficient manner to comply with the 30-day prompt-pay requirements of the Ohio Revised Code. In addition to the pay request, the Contractor must complete the Prevailing Wage Report business process to file certified payroll reports associated with each pay request application.

The Financial Institutions business process is used to provide a record of the financial institutions used for escrow by agencies and institutions using OAKS CI. The business process record includes the financial institution's name, address and contact information for retainage, lien escrow and other withholding escrow accounts. The Financial Risk business process is used by the project manager to record any unexpected or unplanned financial risks to the project cost sheet, usually resulting from future professional services contract amendments, future change orders and possible claims. Once the risk item has been realized in the form of an amendment, change order or miscellaneous expense it is closed in the Financial Risk business process. Likewise, items that are never realized may be closed to remove them from the project cost sheet.

The Professional Services Fee Allowance business process records the approved fee amount for each executed change order which enables the architect/engineer to request payment for the services performed. The business process calculates the standard fee, allows the creator to make adjustments as needed and executes a transfer on the schedule of values from the contract change order fee allowance to the architect/engineer's additional services change order fees.

The Liens business process records, tracks and reports project related liens. This business process records the liens by project and contractor, identifies when and by whom liens are filed and released and records the original lien amount, amounts of releases and the lien balance.

The Escrow Accounts business process records and reports any funds deposited in escrow on a project. This can include retainage, liens and statutory delay forfeiture (liquidated damages) and other miscellaneous escrows. The financial institution holding the escrow and account balances are maintained.

The Punch List business process provides a structured process for the submission, evaluation and final approval of the contractor's work. The process is initiated by the contractor and includes evaluation of the contractor's work, creation of a punch list, corrections, a final inspection and acceptance of the completed work requirements.

The Warranties business process records specific warranty information from service providers and material suppliers for each construction project. This assists the owner in organizing the warranties associated with a facility.

Contract completion is not fully realized until all work is correctly completed and accepted. A major element of contract completion is the complete and acceptable submittal of all closeout requirements.

The Contractor Closeout business process documents the receipt and approval of the contractors' closeout requirements. Similarly the Professional Services Closeout business process provides an accounting of the required closeout documentation for the professional services provider.

For more information about OAKS CI, go to <http://ci.oaks.ohio.gov> or contact either Steve Mayo at 614.728.4310 or Fred Holcomb at 614.466.0830.

• **SAO College 2009** will take place in September in three cities. The annual one-day seminar is slated for September 10 at Cleveland State University, September 17 at Cincinnati State Technical and Community College and September 24 at Columbus State Community College.

Sponsored by the State Architect's Office, SAO College began several years ago to educate interested parties about the proper design management and construction management of state projects. More than 200 participants, including state agency and institution representatives, architects, engineers, contractors and construction managers throughout the State of Ohio, attend SAO College annually.

Topics for this year's seminar include an update on Ohio Construction Reform, energy rules, tips for completing the Statement of Qualifications (SAO Form F110-330), paperless project management and what's new in the state contracts. The cost per person is \$120. A continental breakfast, refreshments and lunch are included.

For more information about SAO College, go to the SAO Web site at <http://www.ohio.gov/sao> and click on the site map to obtain the direct link.

- SAO is **no longer requiring an annual submittal of Part II of the Statement of Qualifications form for professional design services.** However, professional design firms and construction managers responding to a request for qualifications for State of Ohio projects must submit Part II of the Statement of Qualifications (SAO Form #F110-330) for each firm on its team.

To access the Statement of Qualifications (in both Microsoft Word and PDF formats) online, go to www.ohio.gov/sao and click on "Forms/Documents" then scroll down under "Acquisition" to form number F110-330.

Reminder: SAO Form #F110-330 (Statement of Qualifications) officially replaced both the ADM-0255 and ADM-0254 forms on March 1, 2008. The ADM-0255 and ADM-0254 forms are no longer accepted.

In other news...

- The Ohio Department of Commerce, Industrial Compliance Division, Bureau of Building Code Compliance, has announced **changes in their fee structure.**

Previously if changes were made to construction documents after the final plan approval was issued and required resubmission, the review and approval of the changes were subject to a \$200 processing fee and a \$100 per hour fee for construction document examination by a plans examiner. Effective July 1, the processing fee is \$250 and the same \$100 per hour fee for document examination.

If an inspection cannot be completed due to changes that have not been approved by a plans examiner, the inspection will be counted towards the total number of inspections allocated for the project. If the maximum number of inspections are exceeded the re-inspection fee of \$100 has increased to \$150 as of July 1.

- WaterSense has **refined its draft labeling specification (initially released in May 2008) for single-family new homes.** The revised specification addresses efficient plumbing fixtures, hot water delivery systems, appliances, landscape design, and irrigation. The revised specification will ensure that future WaterSense labeled homes still use 20 percent less water than similar new homes, while reducing the burden and cost to the builders.

- In the 81st Legislature Regular Session, both the Texas House and Senate passed Senate Bill 1410, relating to the licensing and regulation of plumbers and multipurpose residential fire protection sprinkler specialists, to which a last-minute amendment was added that **prohibits municipalities from requiring**

a sprinkler system in new or existing one- or two-family dwellings. The measure has been sent to the governor for approval or (hopefully) veto.

- On July 6th, the International Code Council launched its **International Green Construction Code (IGCC)**, which will reduce energy usage and the carbon footprint of commercial buildings. The initiative is committed to develop a model code focused on new and existing commercial buildings, focusing on building design and performance. The American Institute of Architects and ASTM International are cooperating sponsors for this important project.

It should be noted that the IAPMO is also busy developing its own Green Code supplement to its Uniform Codes set. It is anticipated that this supplement will be ready for inclusion in the next round of code hearings in 2010.

- In response to continuing drought conditions, the California Department of Housing and Community Development has **proposed more lenient graywater standards.** According to the Express Terms for Proposed Emergency Building Standards, a clothes washer or other single-fixture, residential graywater system, such as a shower, could be installed or altered without a construction permit. If approved, the new code could take effect as early as August 4.

- In a story released by the associated Press, the desert city of Tucson, AZ will soon harvest some of its 12 inches of annual rainfall to help bolster its water resources.

Under the nation's first municipal rainwater harvesting ordinance for commercial projects, **Tucson developers building new business, corporate or commercial structures will have to supply half of the water needed for landscaping from harvested rainwater starting next year.**

Already, the idea has become so popular that at least a half-dozen other Arizona communities are looking to emulate Tucson's approach.

"What we learned frankly is that we're wasting a lot of water. It's been our tradition here to shove it into the streets and get rid of it as soon as possible," said David Pittman, southern Arizona director of the Arizona Builders' Alliance.

Rainwater harvesting is also catching on nationwide, with Georgia, Colorado and other

states legislating to allow or expand use of various types.

From Portland, OR, and Seattle to San Francisco and Austin, Texas, voluntary rainwater harvesting is irrigating plants or being used in other ways instead of merely falling onto roofs, parking lots or pavement and being drained into sewers as wastewater.

"There's only so much water. Unfortunately, Americans are terribly, terribly wasteful with water, and we're running out," said Tim Pope, who builds harvesting systems in the San Juan Islands near Seattle and heads the American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association.

Water supplies from the Colorado River are likely to diminish from effects of global warming and increasing demands from other states in the West. And groundwater is carefully managed to prevent overpumping the water that supplies the 1 million people who live in growing metropolitan Tucson.

Largely rural Santa Fe County in New Mexico has required harvesting using cisterns or similar water-collection structures, pumps and drip irrigation for commercial and residential development since last year.

It had allowed passive harvesting, by which runoff is channeled into soil from rooftops, parking lots and the like.

That's the approach Tucson's commercial ordinance takes, though active harvesting is allowed too.

Landscaping needs account for about 40 percent of water use in commercial development and for about 45 percent of household water consumption, "so there is huge potential," said Tucson City Council member Rodney Glassman, who spearheaded efforts to achieve the ordinance.

Rainwater harvesting holds particular appeal in the desert because of the combination of drought conditions and limited sources.

Glassman, a first-term councilman, campaigned in 2007 for rainwater harvesting in new commercial development and systems that

capture water from washing and bathing in new homes.

Last year, Tucson's water utility delivered more than 131,000 acre-feet of water, including 26,000 acre-feet of reclaimed wastewater. According to Glassman, experts estimate more than 185,000 acre-feet of rainfall is available per year.

An acre-foot is about 326,000 gallons, enough to cover an acre a foot deep or supply about two households for a year.

Glassman, who holds a doctorate in arid land resource sciences, said he noticed "a giant disconnect between the need and desire for water conservation and public policy at the local level."

Passing the rainwater harvesting ordinance "makes conservation the rule rather than the exception," he said.

In addition to adopting the harvesting ordinance, Tucson's City Council also approved another measure requiring a plumbing hookup in new homes so that wastewater from washing machines, sinks and showers may be sent to separate drain lines, if homeowners want, at an additional expense. Those lines can be connected to irrigation systems.

Glassman brought developers, architects, environmentalists and ecology advocates together, who eventually proposed a law calling for 50 percent of landscaping needs for new commercial projects to come from rainwater.

"We ended up with a compromise, a practical solution that results in 50 percent less water that has to be diverted from our city water system that has to go on desert plants," Tucson developer George Larsen said. "Nobody thinks it's perfect, but everybody winds up thinking it works."

- The one-year interim period to use the 2008 New York City Construction Codes or the 1968 Building Code ended on July 1. On that date, the **2008 codes, which are based on the International Building , Plumbing, Mechanical, and Fuel Gas Codes, were mandated by the New York City Department of Buildings** for all new construction. The change represents the first major modernization of the city's building codes in nearly 40 years.

-Ronald K Bartley, PE, CPD, CPI

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Cincinnati, OH — June 23rd, 2009 Anvil International has announced the expansion of Midwest Spec's territory to include; Kentucky, Ohio, West Virginia and Western Pennsylvania as of July 1st. Midwest Spec. has successfully represented Anvil in Northern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania since December of 2007.

Midwest Spec will be responsible for the sales and marketing of Anvil's line of mechanical products. This includes Anvil's malleable and cast iron fittings, their extensive line of hangers, supports and strut, as well as their GruvLok® line of couplings, valves and fittings.

With this change, Kyle Crawford will assume the role of Mechanical Specialist for Anvil. Kyle will be working in unison with Midwest Spec by calling on contractors, engineers and wholesalers. Kyle Crawford: Mobile 513-919-5148 or kcrawford@anvilintl.com.

Midwest Spec. and their customers will be supported by Anvil's University Park regional distribution center located near Chicago, Illinois (800)-301-2701 Fax: 708-534-5441

Midwest Spec currently employs 16 associates and maintains 2 regional sales offices in Cincinnati and North Jackson, Ohio. They also have satellite offices in Cleveland, OH, Louisville, KY and Pittsburgh, PA. In addition to Anvil, Midwest Spec also represents the following manufacturers: ABZ Valve, Apollo Valve, Guardian Equipment, Hotbox, IPEX, Lawler, Oasis, Stern Williams, Techno, T&S Brass, Tylok and Watson McDaniel.

Midwest Spec is very pleased to announce the addition of Sharyn Chandler. Sharyn has been with Anvil for 25 years and most recently served as the Cincinnati branch manager. Sharyn will join our Cincinnati team mid July and will be instrumental in ensuring a smooth transition.



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Through the pipes ...

• Late afternoon showers gave way to a pleasant evening for **ASPE Night with the Dayton Dragons last June 2nd at Fifth Third Field**. Plenty of good food, cold drinks and good times were had by all in attendance. For a recap of the game, the following is by *Dayton Daily News* writer Marc Katz:

Dragons manager Todd Benzinger said he is looking for a time when his team just “plays average, or above average. “We’re either below average, or phenomenal.”

It was another below average night Tuesday, June 2, although the Dragons didn’t look that bad in a 3-1 loss to South Bend (Class A affiliate of the Arizona Diamondbacks) at Fifth Third Field.

Starter JC Sulbaran was nearly excellent in six innings, allowing no home runs for only the second time in seven starts while giving up just four hits and walking two in six innings.

Scott Gaffney followed and was in trouble right away, but he didn’t allow it to get out of hand. Still, in a 1-1 game, he allowed both runs that sent the Dragons to their fourth straight defeat against a team they will have to beat in the second half of the Midwest League season to qualify for the playoffs.

“The only thing you can control is hit the ball hard,” Benzinger said. “We hit the ball hard a few times. It would be nice to see a ball fall.”

In the first, with two out, Byron Wiley hit a screamer down the line, but third baseman and former Wright State Raider Justin Parker dove toward the line to glove it for the third out.

In the fourth, Carlos Mendez sent the left fielder to the warning track, where he caught the long drive with a man on.

In the seventh, Dayton’s last good chance was wiped out when that same left fielder, Alfredo Marte, dove to catch a bases-loaded line drive off the bat of Yen-Wen Kuo to end the inning.

• **OUCH!!!** Long-time Chapter member Dave Disney (of Disney-McLane) had an accident shortly after Memorial Day while on vacation with his left knee. Reconstructive surgery was the best option which he was scheduled to have the following week. **Best wishes for a quick recovery, Dave!**

• Rep Source is pleased to announce that they have accepted the **representation for Moen Commercial Faucets in Ohio and Kentucky** effective July 1, 2009. Moen is a North Olmsted, OH-based manufacturer. Please contact your Rep Source sales person with any questions. Everyone at Rep Source thanks you for your support and look forward to serving you for many years to come.

• Ohio Department of Commerce Director Kimberly A Zurz announced **the appointment of Donald C Cooper as Interim State Fire Marshal**.

“Don has dedicated his professional life to all aspects of emergency services including fire fighting, emergency medical services, emergency management, and search and rescue. His broad experience and solid, capable leadership have benefited the citizens of Ohio for three decades,” said Zurz. “It is this background and experience that make him a great asset to the Division of State Fire Marshal and the Department of Commerce.”

In his role as Interim State Fire Marshal, Cooper directs the operations of the bureaus of Testing and Registration; Underground Storage Tank Regulations; Code Enforcement; Fire and Explosion Investigation; and Fire Prevention; as well as the State Fire Marshal’s Forensic Laboratory and the Ohio Fire Academy.

“I’m honored and humbled by this opportunity to serve,” said Cooper. “With the help of a very supportive administration and staff, we have accomplished a great deal. But, there is much more to do in this important time, and I am excited about the possibilities.”

Prior to his appointment as Interim State Fire Marshal, Cooper served two years as the Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal, and 28 years with the City of Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department in Summit County. In addition to earning a Ph.D. and an M.B.A. from the University of California, Cooper is a Chief Fire Officer designee, a member of the Institute of Fire Engineers, a graduate of the Ohio Fire Executive program, chair of the National Fire Protection Association’s Technical Search and Rescue Committee, and author of several emergency services textbooks.

- ‘Through the pipes’ in more ways than one: according to the *Associated Press*, Fairfax County, VA, officials are blaming Krispy Kreme doughnuts **for clogging and damaging the county's sewer system by dumping yeast and grease from a plant** in Lorton. Officials filed a lawsuit after the company refused to pay the \$1.9 million bill for repairs to the system. The lawsuit says the damage was caused by "excessive quantities of highly corrosive wastes, doughnut grease, and other pollutants" and that clogged pipes resulted in raw sewage leaks that shut down the southern Fairfax sewer system. County workers say they once ran a closed-circuit camera inside a pipe to show the grease deposits, but the camera got stuck in the goop. Krispy Kreme says the charges are unfounded.

- According to the *Daily Herald*, a Lakemoor, IL, woman who refused to remove front-yard flower planters made from two water closets and a bathroom sink has been **fined \$25 by police** for violating a local law stating that items that are no longer safely usable for the purpose for which they were manufactured are prohibited. The woman has retained a lawyer and is planning on fighting the fine in court, saying the Lakemoor law is unconstitutional.

Other voices...

The following was originally posted by Cleveland Plain Dealer reporter Peter Krouse. If you have not come across this, you should find it to be interesting reading. Some would say this is business as usual in Cleveland; we take no sides here.

The [corruption probe](#) that has tarred some of Cuyahoga County's most powerful politicians began at least three years ago, according to criminal charges filed Friday.



Gus Chan/The Plain Dealer/FBI agents load boxes into a U-Haul truck confiscated from offices in the Cuyahoga County Administration Building in July 2008. The probe began three years ago when a Cleveland building inspector attempted to bribe an undercover federal agent.

That's when an FBI agent went undercover as an investor in a controversial West Side bar and was hit up for bribes by a Cleveland building inspector, prosecutors said.

That inspector, Bobby Cuevas, and two other building inspectors were charged with extortion in U.S. District Court. The charges are part of a broader investigation looking at possible corruption in Cuyahoga County that went public last year when the FBI and Internal Revenue Service raided the homes and offices of Cuyahoga County Commissioner Jimmy Dimora and Auditor Frank Russo.

So far, charges have been limited to Cleveland's Department of Building and Housing.

Cuevas was accused of soliciting \$4300 in bribes from an undercover agent between March and August 2006 for work done at La Copa Bar and Grille. Building inspectors Lawrence Skule and Richard Kocuba were also charged Friday with taking cash in exchange for favors.

Cuevas, 48, has been cooperating with the government since August 2006, said Vincent Gonzales, Cuevas' lawyer. Gonzales wouldn't provide specifics, but said, "Whatever he was asked by the FBI, he cooperated 100 percent."

Cuevas knew work at La Copa was being done by contractors that were not registered with the city, as required under Cleveland ordinance, but agreed to find registered companies that would claim they did the work instead, according to the charge.

The undercover agent gave Cuevas \$2600, which was supposed to cover the cost of permits plus money for the contractors whose names would appear on them, prosecutors said.

He also took \$200 to let the undercover agent use cheaper studs in a wall, plus \$1500 for the favors he



Cuevas

Bobby

did for the undercover agent at La Copa, prosecutors said.

La Copa, a bar on Clark Avenue that was championed by Councilman Joe Santiago, opened in 2006, around the time the undercover agent was posing as an investor. It closed last year after numerous citations and complaints from residents.

Cuevas resigned from his \$52,000-a-year job last week. He began working for the city in 1990.

Attorney John Ricotta, who represents former building inspector Richard Huberty, believes Cuevas helped federal agents obtain evidence against his client.

Huberty pleaded guilty last month to 10 counts of extortion and bribery. He is scheduled to be sentenced in July.

Huberty's crimes included extorting cash from an undercover agent and a representative of La Copa as well as from the owner of the former Mirage



Kocuba

Richard

Picozzi admitted bribing Huberty and a second unnamed building inspector with cash and entertainment and dinner at a strip club. Picozzi is scheduled to be sentenced in June.

Ricotta said he heard Cuevas' voice on secretly taped conversations that included Huberty's.

Agents played the tapes for Ricotta in discussions that led to Huberty pleading guilty.

Skule, 63, of Rocky River, was chief plumbing inspector for Cleveland until he retired last month. Prosecutors said he extorted \$750 from an undercover agent posing as a real estate investor from New York. In exchange for the bribe, Skule placed violation notices on a house, which lowered its price, and then removed the notices so the investor could then sell the house at a higher price.

Calls to Skule's attorney were not returned.

Kocuba, 64, an electrical inspector for the city, extorted a \$500 bribe from representatives of Wing Hin Construction to speed up the permitting process so Sweethearts Ice Cream could open earlier, prosecutors said.

Kocuba's attorney, Bob Williams, said his client will plead guilty and is hoping to get probation. Kocuba cooperated with the government only in connection with his crime and was not able to help the government in its larger investigation of corruption, Williams said.

"He was a small fish getting ready to retire," Williams said.

Mayor Frank Jackson said he welcomed the continuing investigation and hopes it will send a message "that this kind of behavior, whether it was business as usual in the past, will not be in the future."

Parting thought...

Lest you forget the things your eyes have seen...teach them to your children and grandchildren.

-Deuteronomy 4:5-10



Skule

Lawrence

on the Water nightclub in the Flats (*the entertainment district just west of downtown Cleveland -Ed*). He also admitted taking bribes from K&D Group construction manager Henry Picozzi to approve permits for work performed on the Stonebridge development in the Flats.