

**COLUMBIANA COUNTY FAIR  
OUTSTANDING FAIR SUPPORTER: BERT DAWSON**

Since taking office in 1969, Mr. Dawson has restored, updated and improved multiple structures, roadways, bridges, culverts and buildings.

The Columbiana County Fairgrounds, as well as, much of Columbiana County is rich with history. Mr. Dawson recognizes the need to preserve this history, when possible.

He has become proficient in finding grant and loan funding through various Federal and State programs and his efforts have contributed to the restoration and construction of a multiple projects in the County over the years. The Columbiana County Fairgrounds have benefited from some of these programs and projects.

Covered Bridges Columbiana County is home to five covered bridges, all of which have been restored and relocated throughout the County.

Many years ago a covered bridge structure that the County acquired was relocated to the County Fairgrounds. Although this was never an active bridge, it reflects the history of the area and has been greeting fairgoers for decades.

2017 - The Bow String Arch Bridge was relocated to the County Fairgrounds. Originally built in 1872, this wrought iron bridge was built by the Massillon Bridge Company. The bridge is 103 feet in length and 12 feet wide and stands as one of the few remaining examples of a bowstring arch bridge. It originally spanned the Middle Fork of the Little Beaver Creek on Market Street at the south end of the Village of Lisbon. It was abandoned as a vehicular bridge in 1966 and stored on County property. In 2010, discussions and planning began to rehabilitate the bridge and relocate it for use as a pedestrian bridge on the Columbiana County Fairgrounds. Construction began in 2016 and was completed in 2017 and is now a main focal piece and attraction at the Fair Grounds. Mr. Dawson helped obtain the funding necessary for this project, assisted in developing plans for the rehabilitation and oversaw construction of the project.

The dedication ceremony was held on July 26, 2017. This bridge received an Ohio Historic Bridge Preservation Award on August 23, 2017 at the Ohio Bridge Conference sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration, Ohio Dept. of Transportation, State Historic Preservation Office and the County Engineers Association of Ohio. Without the help and assistance from Bert Dawson at the County Engineer's office, the fairgrounds would not be what it is today, from the covered bridge, the new bowstring arch bridge and the restroom project that is currently underway. These projects would never have been possible without his guidance and knowledge.

The chip and seal of the roadways in the fairgrounds each year saves the fairgrounds a lot of money and helps maintain the infrastructure for the future.

Restroom Facilities - Currently, Mr. Dawson assisted in securing funding for the construction of new restroom facilities at the Fairgrounds. \$300,000 was secured through the State Budget and construction is planned for 2018.

Chip and Seal Program is conducted for all Townships and Villages, including the Columbiana County Fairgrounds. The roadways are improved with the Reclaimer machine and then chip and sealed. This process provides an affordable alternative to paving that preserves the roads and improves driving conditions.

Mr. Dawson has done this every year for the Fairgrounds, which contributes to the improved, well-maintained grounds.

Mr. Dawson is the senior ranking County Engineer in Ohio with 48 years in Office, serving 12 Terms. His experience and dedication to hard work, economic development and historic preservation has benefited all of Columbiana County, but has also made him a very dear friend of the fair and, we feel, an outstanding fair supporter.

