

Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Feb. 6, 2015

Aaron Schirm has a master's of business administration from Ohio University and is the treasurer at Alexander Local School District in Athens County, but there's a construction worker lurking within.



Aaron started working on construction projects as a sideline and started his own business, KPS Custom Homes, in 2007.

"I watch a lot of HGTV shows and think it's awesome watching people take a run-down house and turn it into something nice," Aaron said.

He started out building homes on speculation and has moved into custom homes. In fact, one of his houses is in the Slate Creek Cove subdivision, where we've been building our project homes for several years.

He was recommended to us by the subdivision's developer and came on board as our project manager for the 2014-15 project house.

"Aaron's been a big asset to me in how he gets things done with the house," said Gary Robinson, Career & Technical Education supervisor.

Aaron Schirm is the project manager for the 2014-15 house on Granite Cliff Drive in Chillicothe. Aaron oversees getting permits from the city and helps manage subcontractors when they are needed on the project.

To see pictures of the project house taking shape, go to www.pickawayross.com/ProjectHouse.aspx.

"Because of his knowledge in the field, he's been great with helping us keep costs in line and find ways to save money. That's invaluable for a school project."

While our carpentry and electrical program students and our Adult Education HVAC students do a great job building the house, we've learned that it's helpful to have a construction manager who has a background in construction.

A lot of Aaron's time is spent managing the subcontractors we use and getting permits from the city.

"I help out with the purchasing and getting bids for the jobs that the kids don't do," Aaron said. "I was excited to help out."

Aaron visits the job site a few times each week and is impressed with the work that he sees by our students.

"The hands-on experience for the kids is invaluable. And Steve does a great job with the kids," he said, referring to carpentry instructor Steve Mapes, who works on the site and oversees the senior students.

"They've definitely got a good person to learn under."

Dennis Franks is superintendent of Pickaway-Ross Career & Technology Center. He can be reached at dennis.franks@pickawayross.com.