

My Turn

By Dennis Franks

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Despite this harsh winter, our 2013-14 project house is moving along and a big part of that progress is thanks to Bob Waller, whom we hired as project manager this year.

Bob completed Pickaway-Ross' carpentry program in 1995 and has been a valued contributor to the school's success.



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While a student, Bob represented Pickaway-Ross in the SkillsUSA competition, advancing to nationals and winning first place.

After graduation, Bob worked for Jim King, building million-dollar homes before starting his own business, R.L. Waller Construction Inc., in 1999 with his wife, Elizabeth, who completed the accounting program.



The 2013-14 project house is on Granite Cliff in Chillicothe.

And nearly 20 years after he "left" Pickaway-Ross, he continues to be a part of it.

"I've always been connected to Pickaway-Ross," he said, "I've been on advisory committees, judged skills contests and hired students."

In his role as our project manager, he's helping behind the scenes to aid the building process.

"I'm helping with purchasing, getting all the bids for the sub-trades and getting the permits from the city," he said. He also provides the invaluable insight of his experience and, when needed, loans equipment to the project. He stops by the site often and said he enjoys seeing the next generation of carpenters at work.

"You can definitely tell the ones who are trying to do a good job."

Bob, whose grandfather also built houses, said his involvement with carpentry started at a young age.

"I was always around woodworking and building stuff. When I applied to Pickaway-Ross, I only listed carpentry; there was no second choice."

It's important, especially during Career & Technical Education Month, to realize the impact an education from Pickaway-Ross can have on students and how they, in turn, go on to affect our community.

