

# Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Feb. 28, 2020

**Y**ou never know when an era will end.

For almost as long as the district has existed, seniors in Carpentry and Electrical Technologies, with help from Adult Education program students, have built a house, putting to use the skills learned in the program lab.

But a big part of career-technical education is adapting to change.

One such change was made in 2018, when we put the focus of Carpentry on the commercial, versus residential, aspect and created a two-year dedicated Commercial Carpentry program.

The last project house, at 20 Buckeye Trail in Chillicothe and one of our largest at 2,289 square feet, was started in the 2017-18 school year and completed last year.

It will be auctioned at 6 p.m. Friday, March 27.



The last Pickaway-Ross project house, at 20 Buckeye Trail in Chillicothe, will be auctioned at 6 p.m. Friday, March 27.

Steve Mapes, who taught Carpentry seniors and supervised 21 project houses before retiring last year, said he loved watching young people come into their own on the job site.

He also got job satisfaction from the lesson's longevity.

"I liked that a student can go back and see what they created," he said.

Steve joined Pickaway-Ross after nearly 30 years as a residential and commercial carpenter and said he loved building houses.

Today, however, more jobs for our students exist on com-

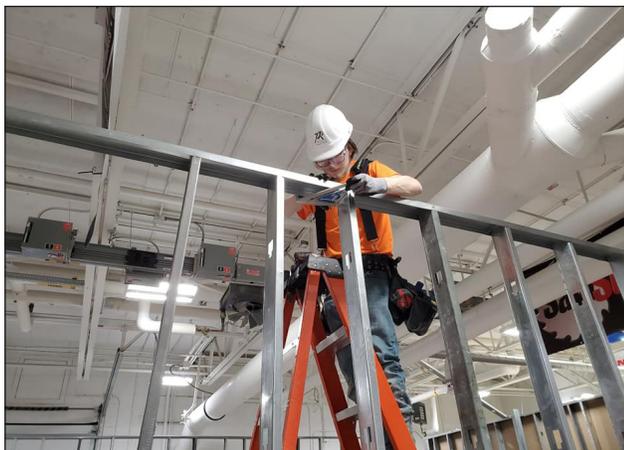
mercial sites.

Of Commercial Carpentry instructor Aaron McManes' seniors — the first class to focus on commercial carpentry for two years — six are working for commercial carpentry firms and one is working for a residential carpentry firm.

The March 27 auction will mark the end of an era for us but also the start of a new path.

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Framing, above left, is a big part of the Commercial Carpentry program. But students really like getting to wear stilts, above right, as these students did while putting up an acoustic ceiling. / Photos by Aaron McManes