

# County Update

The Monthly Newsletter For The Belmont County Engineer's Department

4th of July  
Independence Day



See Page 5

## Fred's Desk



**THE SEVERE STORMS** this past weekend brought back memories from 20 years ago, when on the evening of Thursday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 1990 (Flag Day), about 5 inches of rain fell in about 1 hour and 15 minutes near Key in Mead Township, the headwaters on Wegee Creek, Pipe Creek and Cumberland Run. With the ground already saturated from above normal rainfall during May and early June of that year, the result of this heavy downpour caused walls of water as much as 20 feet deep to cascade down these narrow, steep valleys as it rushed to the Ohio River.

Twenty-six lives were lost that night, including 12 each on Wegee and Pipe Creeks, and two small children, a six year old boy and his 5 year old sister, on Cumberland Run. Over 80 residences were destroyed, another 250 businesses and homes were damaged, and scores of vehicles washed away. Damage to county, state and town-

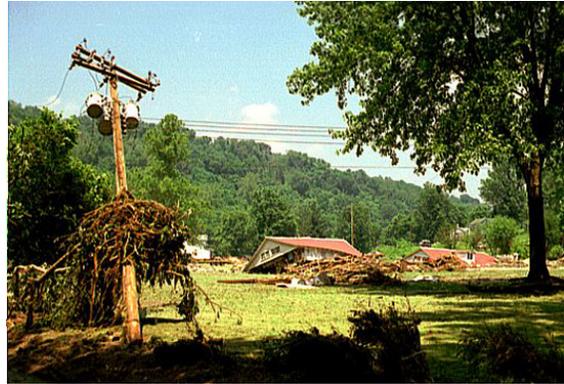
ship roads and bridges was severe, making most roadways impassable. Since roads were closed, electric and telephone lines were knocked down, and no one had cell phones, it was impossible to quickly access the damage. It was feared that more than 100 were missing, and probably drowned. The roadways in the path of the water were either washed away or covered with debris, including trees, rocks, vehicles, and even a few homes. The bridges on the main road withstood the forces of the water, but the approach embankments were washed away. The first job was to get the roads passable for emergency workers to begin the search and rescue operation. Our highway and bridge crews, with the help of the Ohio National Guard, the US Army Reserves, ODOT, local contractors and volunteers began the process making temporary repairs to accomplish this. Damage to our roads and bridges was several million dollars, but with fi-

nancial help from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Ohio EMA (OEMA), National Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) we were able to rebuild our damaged infrastructure. By the late summer of 1991, all repair work was completed. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) issued a report in 1991 stating that the flooding of 1990 was well in excess of a 100 year flood, meaning the expected recurrence of a flood of this magnitude is once every 100. years. Today three monuments stand, one near each creek, listing the names of the flood victims who perished on June 14, 1990. Let's keep these victims, their families and friends in our prayers, and as a reminder to us all, never underestimate the power of water.

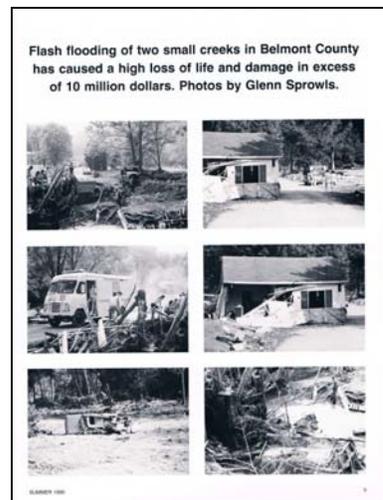
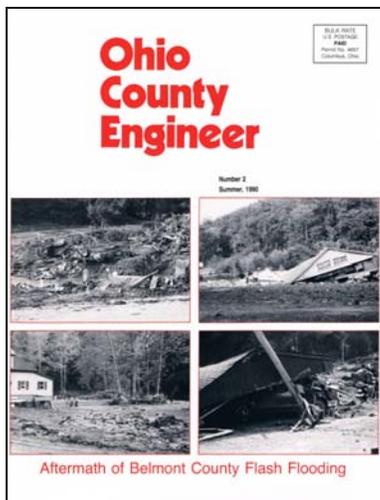
Belmont County Engineer's Department · 101 West Main Street · St. Clairsville, Ohio 43950  
Phone 740-699-2160 · Fax 740-695-8894

## June 14, 1990

---



The two photos above were just a small portion of the widespread damage from the June 14th flooding.



A few days after the flooding occurred, Glenn Sprowls and Dee Bickers of the County Engineer's Association of Ohio office toured Belmont County.



These three monuments were erected in memory of the loved ones lost during the flooding on Wegee Road, Cumberland Run Road and Pipe Creek Road.

## D-Day June 6, 1944 Facts

---

- Until the very last minute, the place of invasion - Normandy - was the most heavily guarded secret on the planet.
- Even the units conducting the initial assaults did not know the locations of their landings.
- Surprise was crucial since Germany had 55 divisions in France - the Allies could transport no more than 8 divisions on D-Day morning.
- It is estimated that nearly 2 million soldiers, sailors and airmen were involved in Operation Overlord, including U.S., British, and Canadians who were scheduled to fight after men on the ground secured a Normandy bridgehead.
- 195,000 naval personnel manned 6,939 naval vessels (including 1,200 warships and 15 hospital ships).
- About 17 million maps supported the mission.
- Training maps used fake names.
- The United States shipped 7 million tons of supplies (that translates into 14 billion pounds of material).
- Of those supplies, ammunition accounted for 448,000 tons.
- Air-support operations - often overlooked in the success of D-Day - sustained significant losses:
- Between the 1st of April and the 5th of June, 1944, the Allies flew 14,000 missions losing 12,000 airmen and 2,000 aircraft.
- 127 more planes were lost on D-Day.
- By the end of the Normandy campaign, 28,000 airmen were dead.
- Instead of two days, it took Germany's 2nd Waffen SS Division two weeks to reach the front. Allied air power, Eisenhower's spies and French Resistance contacts all contributed to that result.
- There are 9,386 graves in the American cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer. Each grave faces west, toward America.
- 307 of those graves contain the remains of "unknown" soldiers.
- 1,557 names are listed in The Garden of the Missing for those who were never found.
- 4,868 British dead are buried in the Bayeux Cemetery.
- 1,837 British names are listed at Bayeux for those who were never found.
- There were 946 Canadian casualties in the Normandy campaign.
- 21,500 German dead are buried at LaCambe.

## Used Cell Phones Donated

---

During the week of June 1, the Engineer's Department donated several used cell phones to the Tri County Help Center. Shown at right is John Parkinson of the Engineer's Department and Beth Bogetich of the Tri County Help Center. The Center offers the used cell phones to clients who are victims of sexual or domestic abuse. The cell phones can call 911 but can not be used to make any other calls.



## June 4th and 5th Rains

---



With 4" to 8" of rain falling on the area last weekend, several sections of County Road were damaged. County Road 54, Pipe Creek; County Road 5, Glencoe St. Clairsville had several areas of embankment damage. County Road 100, McMillan Road, had a culvert washed out and the road is closed at this time.

## Tar Run Bridge

---



The bridge crew set the concrete box beams on the Richland Township Tar Run Bridge on June 1.

## *Engineer's Employees*

---



From the Roscoe garage are from the left; front row Bill Androsko, Bob Barron, Henry Kolodziej, Kevin West and Mike Klos. Back row Dayle Conaway, Scotty Britton, Frank Mayo, Dwayne Leach, Bob Kish and Bob Detling.

## *Independence Day*

---

The 4th of July is the annual celebration of nationhood. It commemorates the passage of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776.

The Congress had voted in favor of independence from Great Britain on July 2 but did not actually complete the process of revising the Declaration of Independence, originally drafted by Thomas Jefferson in consultation with fellow committee members John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, and William Livingston, until two days later. The celebration was initially modeled on that of the king's birthday, which had been marked annually by bell ringing, bonfires, solemn processions, and oratory. Such festivals had long played a significant role in the Anglo-American political tradition. Especially in the 17th and 18th centuries, when dynastic and religious controversies racked the British Empire (and much of the rest of Europe), the choice of which anniversaries of historic events were celebrated and which were lamented had clear political meanings. The ritual of toasting the king and other patriot-heroes—or of criticizing them—became an informal kind of political speech, further formalized in mid-18th century when the toasts given at taverns and banquets began to be reprinted in newspapers.

The information above was found at [www.history.com](http://www.history.com).