

# County Update

The Monthly Newsletter For The Belmont County Engineer's Department

## Kids Are Back In School!!



## Fred's Desk



**ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4TH**, heavy winds blew into Belmont County causing severe damage to much of the county. It has been reported that ground wind speeds in excess of 70 MPH arrived in the late afternoon, blowing down trees and power lines, causing 40 county roads to be either closed or down to one lane traffic. Most of the county was without power after the storm, but by the following Tuesday, most homes had power and all county highways were opened with two-way traffic. The winds were so bad that the three 400 ft. high WWVA radio towers, located along CH 4 (St. Clairsville-Barton Road) toppled to the ground. Many homes were damaged by the winds and falling trees. Shelly & Sands began the Mall & Banfield Roads \$511,596 milling and resurfacing project on July 28<sup>th</sup>. The blacktop work has been completed, and guardrail is now being installed. All work should be completed by next week.

A&A Safety, Inc. began their \$28,236 pavement marking project this week. This project is for placing thermo plastic pavement markings on the newly paved Mall & Banfield Roads. On July 28<sup>th</sup>, bids were opened for the replacement of two bridges on CH 48 (Wegee Road). Bidding were Ohio/West Virginia Excavating Co. at \$495,145. Suburban Maintenance, Inc. at \$527,200 and Sheldon Gantt, Inc. at \$565,520. The Engineer's estimate was \$540,540. Ohio/West Virginia was awarded the job. On Aug. 4<sup>th</sup>, bids were opened for the resurfacing of CH 56 (Cats Run Road). Shelly & Sands, Inc. was the low bidder at \$269,941, with Lash Paving, Inc. the only other bidder at \$278,833. Also bid that day was a project for resurfacing six separate township roads in 4 different townships. Again, Shelly & Sands, Inc. was the low bidder at \$311,959, Lash Paving, Inc. at \$352,207 and Wilson Blacktop Co. at \$433,586. Shelly &

Sands was awarded both projects. This past Wednesday, bids were opened for the repair of a roadway embankment failure along CH 54 (Pipe Creek Road). BBR Drilling was the apparent low bidder at \$161,445.00, with Ohio West Virginia Excavating bidding at \$164,164.00 and Alan Stone Co. bidding at \$252,252.00. Since last month's report, the bridge crew has completed two bridge projects. They replaced a bridge in Bethesda with a 9' x 4' precast concrete box culvert. They also removed the existing steel beams and bridge deck on Richland T- 279 (McMahon Creek Road) and placed new precast concrete box beams on the existing abutments. This week, they then began a bridge replacement on Pease Township T-458 (Buckeye Run Road).

***School began this week. Please watch for children as you travel our county highways.***

## *Road and Bridge News*

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The WWVA 1170 radio towers, which had stood for over 70 years, toppled during the afternoon of August 4th.



Road crews were kept busy for several days after the August 4th storm clearing trees that blocked the majority of County roads.



The bridge crew recently completed this concrete box culvert project on County Road 26 in the Village of Bethesda.

# 2010 Belmont County Fair

The 2010 Belmont County Fair will be held September 7th through the 12th at the *new fairgrounds* which are located at 45420 Roscoe Road, west of St. Clairsville, Ohio. From Interstate 70 Exit 213 travel west on U.S. Route 40 for a distance of 0.5 miles. Turn left onto County Road 84 and travel south 1.1 miles and then turn left onto Roscoe Road. Travel east 0.3 miles and turn right into the fairgrounds entrance. Ticket prices are as follows: General Admission tickets are \$7.00 per day; Season Ticket can be bought for \$21.00; Lunch Hour Ticket is available for \$5.00.



## *Engineer's Employees*



The Office Staff from the left are Shereza O'Hara, Ruth Graham and Beth Vincenzo. Back row from left are Fred Bennett, Rick Oberdick, John Parkinson and Mile Wahl.

## Electronic Recycle Event

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The Jefferson-Belmont Regional Solid Waste Authority announced that the Belmont County E-cycling event will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 28 at the Ohio Valley Mall. According to Jack Cera, executive director of the solid waste authority, it is the third year in a row the e-cycling collection will be held at the local mall.

"This is an chance for the residents of Belmont county to get rid of their old electronic items without sending more of these hazardous materials to our local landfills," said Cera. "Many electronic items contain copper, lead and other hazardous materials which can add to pollutants in a landfill."

According to Cera, the list of acceptable materials that can be dropped off for e-cycling include hard drives, mainframe servers, keyboards, cell phones, telephones, power cords, fax machines, printers, CDs, floppy discs, UPS batteries, car batteries and cell phone batteries.

"All of the electronic items will be refurbished or recycled. All computer hard drives will be thoroughly destroyed to remove any confidential information," Cera added.

For information, contact the Jefferson-Belmont Regional Solid Waste Authority at (740) 266-6899.

The information above was found at the Jefferson Belmont Regional Solid Waste Authority website: <http://www.regionalsolidwaste.org>.



## ***Back to School Safety Tips***

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**Phone Numbers** - with today's technological world, kids need to know more phone numbers than ever before. This is especially true for kids that are from split families. To make things a little easier, print information on a business card (all information needs to fit inside 3-1/2" wide by 2" high (leave 1/4" margin all the way around). Type everyone's numbers that the kids might need. Don't forget that you can use both sides.

If you are doing a number of these, you may want to pick up a package of blank business cards from an office supply store. They have directions on how to set up your word processing program to make it easy.

When you are done, have the cards laminated. If the kids are old enough to carry a wallet, it will slip inside easily. If they are younger, you can punch a hole in the card and lace it into their school backpack, so they will not lose it.

**Car Safety** - please be sure everyone is properly seat-belted into your vehicle before putting the car into gear. Younger kids should be in car seats or booster seats, and they should sit in the back seat if they are under 12 years old. For a complete set of safety tips check our Child Transportation Safety Tips.

Drop kids as close to the school as possible. If the school has a drop off area, be sure to use it. Do not set a bad example by dropping them in a dangerous location. If the kids are young, wait until they are in the school yard or building before you leave.

**Bike Safety** - please teach your kids that bikes have rules to follow, just like cars. Each year there are children injured or killed, because they are riding on the wrong side of the street, they fail to stop at a stop sign, or they fail to follow some other rule of the road. Print out the Sprocket Man comic to address this important subject in a fun way. Don't forget their helmets! It's not only safer, it's the law.

**Walking to School the Safe Way** - plan the route your kids are going to take if they are walking to school. It is important to try to minimize the number of streets they have to cross. Keep it as simple as possible. Then, do a dry run with your kids. You should have them do it at least once on their own before the first day of school, so they feel comfortable. Teach your kids to keep away from vacant lots, fields, and any other locations that have few people around.

Also, please make sure that your kids do not walk alone, especially if they are young. Creeps look for the kids that are all alone. It is much more difficult to deal with a bunch of kids, so they normally do not do it.

**Family Meeting Spot** - make sure to pick out a family meeting spot that can be used in case of an emergency. Parents with kids in middle school and high school should make sure they do not forget this. When there is a crisis, things get confusing. If they know where they are supposed to meet you, you will both be more calm when you need it.

**Stranger Safety** - teach your kids not to talk to strangers. They should not accept presents or rides from them. Also, be sure to pick a family password. This word will be used if someone different is picking them up from school, sports, or other locations. It should be a weird word, like spaghetti. One that someone would not be able to guess. If too many people have heard your word, change it!

**After School Safety** - if the kids are alone after school for a short time make sure that they follow some basic guidelines: They should keep the doors locked. They should never tell someone on the phone that there are no adults at home. Teach them to say that you can't come to the phone right now. Post a list of emergency phone numbers near the phone. Have them call you at work or on your cell phone as soon as they get home. Set up rules on what kind of food they can fix. Younger children should never use the stove without adult supervision.

The information above was found at [www.classbrain.com](http://www.classbrain.com), the website for teachers and parents.