

County Update

The Monthly Newsletter For The Belmont County Engineer's Department

**Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year!**



Fred's Desk



MERRY CHRISTMAS! It's hard to believe that this year is about to end. 2010 turned out to be a very interesting year here at the Belmont County Engineer's office. We began the year with over a foot of snow on the ground the first part of January, followed with record snowfall for the month of February. But in March, we had no snowfall at all. Our road crew did an outstanding job on snow and ice control during the harsh winter. As the weather warmed, we began our 2010 construction season with a total of six bid projects totaling \$1,615,513. These bid projects were constructed by private contractors, which included two paving projects, one pavement marking project, one project with two bridges, one retaining wall project and one dust control project. Our bridge crew, in

addition to routine bridge maintenance of our 283 bridges, built eleven new bridges this year. A total of \$176,207 was spent on the purchase of new bridge beams. This winter season is starting out colder than usual. December has been about 20 degrees below normal, but the snowfall has been about normal. This year saw some personnel changes. Nancy Kimmel, Drafting Tech. 1, Jim Lukacsko, Highway Worker 2, and Dom Bounamici, Bridge Worker 1 all retired, and Ty Justice, Highway Maintenance Supervisor moved on to ODOT. In September, Scott Sall joined us as a Welder 2. This leaves us with 41 employees, compared to 44 last year. Because of a decrease in license fees and gas tax revenues over the past couple of years, we are down from 50 employees. I always like hearing

stories about people who do the right thing, and I'm really happy to hear one when it's about one of our own. Last week, Chuck Earliwine, Equipment Operator 1, was checking his snow routes after some light snow early that morning when he spotted a money bag along the road. He stopped and picked up the bag which contained over \$200 in cash along with several checks. It belonged to a local business owner who was very happy to get it back. The owner felt that if he had not found the money bag, someone else may have found it and not turned it in to her. Thanks, Chuck!
As we enjoy the last few days of 2010, my holiday wish for you and your loved ones is to have a **"MERRY CHRISTMAS"** and a **'HAPPY NEW YEAR'**.

240 Issues

On January 2, 1991 the first issue of the County Update was published. This was the newsletter created by the Belmont County Engineer's Department. Since that time an additional 239 issues have been published. Here are just a few tidbits from throughout the years.

1997 Paving

From the September 1997 newsletter - a total of 11.19 miles of county roads were paved for a cost of \$375,381. This works out to \$33,546 per mile.



In 1994, because of changing laws, the Annual Employee Safety Training was expanded to 8 hours and covers a wide range of safety topics.



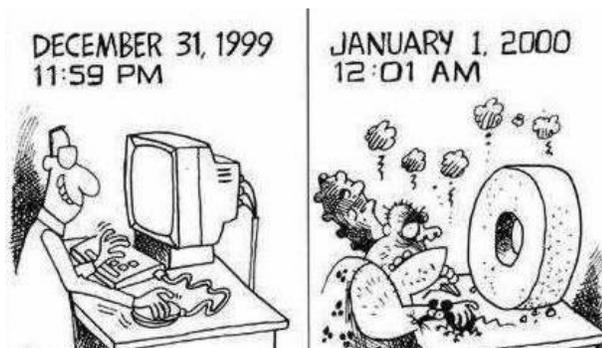
Long Run, Goshen TR 192

From September 1997. The weight limit signs were in place.

Remember Y2K?

Do you remember all of the hoopla about the Y2K bug. People were buying water, batteries and supplies, just in case.

Don Pickenpaugh reported in the January 2000 newsletter that Y2K passed with no major problems with the department computers. Some issues with date fields were fixed by formatting the fields as a 4 digit year.



Storm Water Quality Update by Michael E. Wahl, P.E., Deputy Engineer

A new resolution is about to be considered by the Belmont County Commissioners updating storm water quality requirements within the County's Urban Census Area. This includes portions of Pease and Richland Townships, as well as Bellaire, Bridgeport, Martins Ferry, St. Clairsville and Shadyside. After the Commissioners pass the resolution the individual communities listed above will need to pass similar legislation to remain compliant with the Ohio EPA.

Belmont County's Phase II requirements are determined by population and the urban area's proximity to Wheeling, WV. The requirements / best management practices include public education and outreach, public participation and involvement, illicit discharge detection and elimination, construction site runoff control, post construction runoff control and pollution prevention / good housekeeping.

The storm water quality program is currently being funded by the Belmont County Commissioners through the Belmont County Soil and Water Conservation District's Urban Technician, but in the very near future, each community within the group will pay a portion of the cost of the program.

This program deals only with storm water quality as the law requires and does not deal with storm water quantity. All forms of water pollution and storm water degradation are included.



January Facts

January, as the first month of the year is named for Janus, a Roman god.

Paul Revere was born on January 1, 1735.

New Mexico became the 47th state on January 6, 1912.

Benjamin Franklin was born on January 17, 1706.

Robert E. Lee was born on January 19, 1807.

Thomas Edison was granted the first patent for his incandescent light on January 27, 1880.

Adolph Hitler was named Chancellor of Germany on January 30, 1933.

Kansas became the 34th state on January 29, 1861.

Retiree Luncheon by John Parkinson

On December 15, John DeBonis organized the annual Belmont County Engineer's Department Retired Employees Luncheon which was again held at Mehlman's Cafeteria on National Road east of St. Clairsville. This is the fourth time that the group has met. After a fine meal, John welcomed everybody and gave an update on the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System. John is the Belmont County chairman of the Public Employee Retirees, Incorporated. Fred Bennett said a few words and thanked everybody for all of their hard work over the years. Fred offered to call everybody at 2:00 A.M. in case they missed plowing snow but strangely, there were no takers. It was great to see everybody again. Many thanks to John DeBonis for arranging this event!



From left to right are Judy Lucas, **Paul Helms**, Sue Carpenter, **Jim Carpenter**, **Roger Lucas**, **John DeBonis**, Pat Douglass, **George Thornton**, **Norm Douglass**, **Ted McGarry**, Janet Bond, **Darrell Hurst**, **Don Grant**, **Margaret Piccin**, Dee Durig, **Nancy Kimmel**, Fred Bennett and **Ron Horvath**.



For more information on PERI go to <http://peri.org>.

PLSO Ohio Valley Chapter Officer for 2011

The Ohio Valley Chapter of the Professional Land Surveyors of Ohio met December 2 at the Belmont County GIS Office for their final meeting of 2010. Officers were elected for 2011, as follows:

Dave Siembab, President
 Don Kyer, Vice President
 Jim Deitrick, Treasurer
 Don Pickenpaugh, Secretary
 Larry Gardner, Delegate
 Al Smith, Alternate Delegate

Chapter events for 2010 included a seminar featuring a speaker from the Ohio Attorney General's Office, a presentation by Belmont County E-911 on cell phone location, and a summer picnic with guests PLSO State President Rion Myers and his father A. J. Myers.

The Chapter also joined the Old Fort Steuben organization in Surveyors category, and attended their annual banquet. Support was provided for the auctions at Annual Conference in February, the Trig-Star program, and for the University of Akron survey team's participation in the national student competition. An article was submitted to area newspapers for National Surveyors Week.

Events for 2011 include a local seminar April 8 at the Belmont County EMA, featuring speakers on the National Map, FEMA flood and RISK mapping, underground mine mapping, utility locations, the Muskingum Watershed, mine surveying and surface modeling. The Chapter is also planning to relocate a benchmark on the old Bridgeport bridge.

The Chapter wishes to thank County Engineer Fred Bennett for allowing the use of the GIS Office for meetings during the year. The GIS Office is in the Lloydsville Garage, which houses the bridge crew and weld shop and adjacent body shop.



DEED TRANSFER STATS					
	1996	1999	2003	2005	2009
DEEDS	3086	3108	3306	3077	2243
TRACTS	4926	5233	5688	5571	4163