

# County Update

The Monthly Newsletter For The Belmont County Engineer's Department

**Don't Forget!**

**February 14th!**



Happy  
Valentine's Day!

## Fred's Desk



**JANUARY IS** nearly over, and so far, this winter has had an average amount of snowfall with colder than normal temperatures. There are still two months of winter left, and let's just pray February won't be like last year.

As always, the road crew has been doing a great job of snow and ice control. This is the third year that we have had the afternoon shift, and it has made our road safer and saved us

money. We now have someone on the road between 7:00 A.M. until midnight. This schedule will remain in place until late February.

Two of our employees have left us recently. Bill Androsko, Highway Worker 2, and Alan Hornyak, Bridge Worker 1, retired the first part of January. Bill started with us on February, 1999 and Alan on December, 1988. To Bill and Al, "best wishes and enjoy your retirement."

It was 20 years ago this month that the first "County Update" was published. This was started as a way to communicate to our employees, their families and the residents of Belmont County on the activities of the office of the Belmont County Engineer. The amazing thing is that we have not missed one month in publishing the "Update" during the past 240 months.



Recently completed bridge replacement on Pease T-471.

## ***Professional Land Surveyors of Ohio***

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### **PLSO and a Strange Turn of Events**

The Executive Committee of the Professional Land Surveyors of Ohio held their January meeting on the evening of Friday the 14th at Columbus State Community College in Columbus. At that meeting, President-Elect Brett Tieben announced that he obtained a new job and that he will be working a shift which would make it impossible for him to attend PLSO meetings. As a result, he stepped down from the President-Elect office.

According to the PLSO Constitution, "If a vacancy occurs in the office of President-Elect, the Secretary shall ascend to the office of President-Elect."

Therefore, President Rion Myers appointed existing Secretary Don Pickenpugh to the President-Elect position. He will serve as President-Elect for the remainder of the term, which expires at PLSO's Annual Conference February 9-11. On February 11, Don is to be installed as President of PLSO. President Myers named George Hofmann, Chapter Delegate of the Cleveland Chapter, as Secretary, a position he will hold until the Annual Conference in February 2012. Don wishes to thank Fred Bennett for his permission to take on this new role.



### ***New JB Green Team***

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As part of a rebranding and education campaign, the Jefferson-Belmont Regional Solid Waste Authority has chosen a new name and logo. The newly announced name, "JB Green Team" will replace the individual Keep Belmont County Beautiful and Keep Jefferson County Beautiful program names making the new name much easier for the public to remember.

The JB Green Team will soon have two friendly squirrel mascots, Jeff (Jefferson) and Bel (Belmont) to appear at schools and other functions as part of new educational and outreach ventures. Jeff and Bel promise that they are "nuts for recycling" and hope others will join the Green Team and be "nuts about recycling" too.



More changes will take place later this year when the JB Green Team implements a larger more efficient recycling collection system. Executive Director Jack Cera agrees that everyone on the team is very excited about the changes that are taking place. "We want everyone involved in recycling for the good of our communities".

Many thanks to Tammy Shepherd for supplying the information above.

## *Ohio Severe Weather*

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The Ohio Historic Society has listed 25 of the most extreme weather events that have occurred in the state on their website. This is just 3 of the winter events.

The Great Thanksgiving Storm - November 23 thru 27, 1950. The Thanksgiving snowstorm of 1950 was the deepest in Ohio's history. Nearly the entire state had over 10 inches and most communities in the eastern half of Ohio measured 20 to 30 inches of snow during this storm. As the storm strengthened, winds increased to over 40 mph and a severe cold wave swept the state early on Friday November 24th dropping temperatures to near zero. The worst storm conditions occurred on Saturday November 25th as near-blizzard conditions prevailed throughout Ohio. By late in the day, snow depths reached 20 inches in eastern Ohio and drifts were 25 feet deep.

Statewide Blizzard—January 28, 1977. National Weather Service forecasters called for a blizzard warning across Ohio early on Friday, January 28, 1977. The cold wave and high winds swept across the state at dawn. Temperatures fell from 20 degrees to 5 to 10 degrees below zero during the day. High winds and blowing snow accompanied the cold wave. Winds of 35 to 45 mph, gusting to 60, blew new snow and snow already on the ground into huge drifts and obscured visibility.

Statewide Blizzard - January 12, 1918. This storm was compared to the New Years Blizzard of 1864 and was not matched in Ohio until the Blizzard of 1978. The Blizzard of 1918 came during a winter of bitter cold and deep snow in the Heartland. It was referred to as an “old-fashioned winter” for the way it resembled the winters of the nineteenth century. The low pressure area that became the Blizzard of 1918 moved out of coastal sections of Texas late on January 10 while arctic high pressure was building southward with extremely cold air from Canada. The Texas low strengthened rapidly as it crossed Ohio and gale-force winds pulled the arctic air across the region in its wake. As the blizzard arrived, temperatures fell from 30 degrees to -15 degrees in eight hours. Winds averaged 30 to 50 mph all day and gusted over 60 mph. This was the coldest day in memory for Ohioans.

Other events listed on the site include tornadoes, floods and mystery waves from Lake Erie.

You can view the website at: <http://www.ohiohistory.org/etcetera/exhibits/swio/index.htm>

Many thanks to the Ohio Historical Society for granting permission to use the above information.

## *New Radio System*

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With news that the FCC had a deadline of January 1, 2013 for VHF/UHF Narrowbanding, the Engineer's Department made the decision late last year to purchase a new radio system. New base stations have been installed at the Courthouse, Lloydsville, Neffs, Roscoe and Tacoma, 22 handheld units have been delivered and 70 portable units are being installed in trucks and equipment. The Department was able to go through the State Purchasing Plan to acquire the system. Staley Communication, Inc. was contracted to do the work.

The FCC mandated local government agencies that operated in the 25 kHz wide channels to make the move to 12.5 kHz narrowband channels by January 1, 2013. It also mandated that “no expansion” of the 25 kHz system take place after January 1, 2011.

