

# County Update

The Monthly Newsletter For The Belmont County Engineer's Department

Just a reminder.....



**Tax Day!**

## Fred's Desk



**SPRING IS HERE**, the grass is starting to get green, the days are getting longer, and the birds are chirping, which means winter is over. Thank goodness. But in reality, it wasn't too bad. It seemed a little colder than normal, but we didn't have too much snow like we did in 2010.

The road crews have been very busy patching potholes. I think there have been more potholes than usual, which is due to the freezing, thawing and heavy rainfall. The biggest problem is that we don't have the money to resurface our roads in a timely manner. Each year the pavement gets a year older, which adds to the pothole problem.

The bridge crew has replaced one bridge already this year, and will soon finish a second one. A new four sided concrete box culvert, 9' x 5' x 32' was installed on Kirkwood Township Road 584 (Swaley Road) in February, and new abutments were built and new steel beams and steel decking were set this week on a new bridge on Pultney Township Road 324 (Jordan Run Road).

On March 7th, County Highway 48 (Wegee Road) was closed and Ohio/West Virginia Excavating is replacing the first of two bridges on this road. The old bridge has been removed, and piling was driven this past week for the construction of a new bridge. This is a \$495,145

carry-over Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) project from 2010. Both bridges are scheduled to be completed by early summer.

During the recent heavy rainfall, a 200' section of an old concrete retaining wall collapsed on County Highway 16 (Nixon Run Road), closing the northwest lane as seen below. We applied to OPWC for, and was granted, \$199,656 for replacement of this wall. This represents 80% of the estimated cost for a new wall. Bids will be opened on April 6th for this project, and work expected to begin early summer.

The 2011 construction season has officially started. There will be more projects as the year goes on.



## ***Bob Kish Retires***

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Bob Kish will retire from the department on March 25. He started his career in July 1994 and worked as a Mechanic II. I talked with Bob a few days ago and it was quickly evident that he very proud of his children. Bob said that 2 of his sons, Alix & Mark, were Belmont County Spelling Bee Champions in 1991 and 1992 and are the only siblings to win the competition in back to back years. Bob stated that his other son, Jim, recently won an award from the NASA Glenn Research Center. The Center annually recognizes the top 100 Research & Development technologically significant products and innovations introduced over the past year. Jim Kish is employed by Goodyear and was part of a team that developed a new metal mesh tire that will better stand up to the rigors or travelling on the Moon or other surface.

Bob asked that I quote him directly for the following. He wanted to express his sincere thanks to all of the people who helped him during his employment.

“You all made my job easier because of your dedication to your jobs. I will always have the fondest memories of everyone and sincerely wish you all of the best!”

**Good luck in the future and Happy Retirement Bob!**

## ***Welcome Mike Drake***

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Mike Drake began his employment with the Engineer’s Department on March 7 as a Bridge Worker 2 at the Lloydsville Garage. Mike lives in Union Township with his wife Christie, who is a nurse at East Ohio Regional Hospital. Mike and Christie have 2 sons, 11 year old Geno and 16 year old Zach. Mike says that he enjoys hunting and fishing, especially when his sons are with him.



**Welcome Mike!**

## **Notes from Real Job Applications**

'Reason for leaving last job: They insisted that all employees get to work by 8:45 am every morning. I couldn't work under those conditions.'

'The company made me a scapegoat, just like my three previous employers.'

'Finished eighth in my class of ten.'

'References: none. I've left a path of destruction behind me.'

'Instrumental in ruining entire operation for a Midwest chainstore.'

'Note: Please don't misconstrue my 14 jobs as 'job-hopping' . I have never quit a job.'

## Annual Employee Safety Meeting

*Friday, April 15, 2011*

*Roscoe Road Garage*

Ohio Utilities Protection Service

Crane Safety

Trench Safety

All Engineer's garages and offices will be closed for the day.



## 2011 Meeting with Township Officials

*will be held on April 14, 2011*

*at the Roscoe Road Garage*

*the meeting will begin at 6:00 P.M.*

*the public is invited*

The featured speaker for the evening will be Tim Jackson, AML Emergency Program Administrator with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Tim will give a presentation on the ODNR website and how to find abandoned mines and the Mine Locator.



## March 1991 Newsletter

During March of 1991, the Engineer's Department was still recovering from the 1990 Flag Day Flood. Damages of over \$6,000,000 were sustained. Work to repair the damage began immediately as several miles of road were damaged or destroyed on County Road 48 (Wegee Road) and County Road 54 (Pipe Creek). 16 bridges were washed out or damaged. Also, during March, the County Commissioners had awarded contracts in excess of \$1,000,000 to repair roadways and replace bridges.



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Info Sheet **BELMONT COUNTY ENGINEER** County News

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### From the Engineer

Damage to County Highways and Bridges by the 1990 Flag Day Flood was estimated to be in excess of \$6,000,000.00. Most of the devastation affected County Highways 48 (Wegee Road) and 54 (Pipe Creek Road), plus the washout of four bridges on township roads. There were also damages to about a dozen other bridges.

Major structures crossing Wegee and Pipe Creeks escaped major damage, including two which were recently built by our bridge crew. Also, the concrete crib walls which

CH 48 (Upper End)..... \$227,377.41  
 Tri-State Asphalt  
 Roadway Repair  
 Completion Date 06/15/91

CH 54.....\$264,941.88  
 Tri-State Asphalt  
 Roadway Repair  
 Completion Date 06/15/91

Mead T-129.....\$116,453.30  
 Bridge Replacement over Pipe Creek  
 Completion Date 06/01/91

The following projects have been let, but not awarded pending the approval of additional funds:

## Department Earns Paving Award

Shown at the right are Fred Bennett, Belmont County Engineer and Ed Leonard of Shelly & Sands, Inc., with the 'Quality Award for Asphalt Paving' they received during the 49th Annual Meeting of the Flexible Pavements of Ohio, which was held in Columbus on March 8th. The Engineer's Department and Shelly & Sands earned the achievement for the 2010 paving project on County Road 28A and 28B (Mall and Banfield Roads).



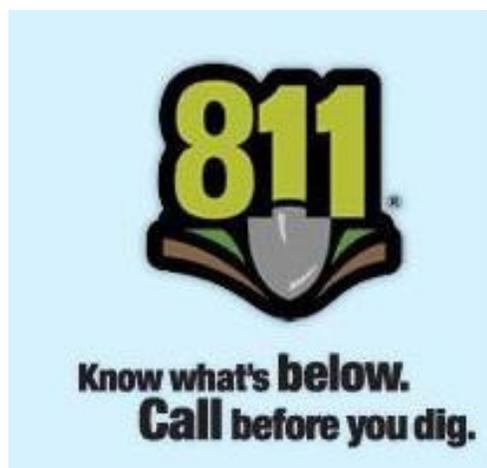
## ***April is Safe Digging Month***

Next month, Ohio Utilities Protection Service (OUPS) will join with other One Call Centers and stakeholders across the country in recognizing and promoting National Safe Digging Month.

The first National Safe Digging Month was observed in May 2008 to promote safe digging practices and highlight the national “Call Before You Dig” number, 811. National Safe Digging Month is an awareness event coordinated by the Common Ground Alliance (CGA) and its members to increase the practice of safe digging across the country.

Throughout the month, O.U.P.S. reminds individuals to call 811 before beginning any digging project whether it is big or small. Since April marks the start of spring digging season, O.U.P.S. encourages homeowners to call 811 before they dig to prevent injuries, property damage and inconvenient outages. Failure to call before digging results in Americans unintentionally hitting underground utility lines more than 200,000 times a year. These hits can lead to injury, fines, repair costs and inconvenient outages.

You can also visit their website at [www.call811.com](http://www.call811.com).



## ***Seven Ranges Survey - First Land Sale***

During the later part of 1987, researchers from the United States Department of the Interior were in Belmont County trying to find the first tract of land that was sold in the Seven Ranges. The Seven Ranges was the first of the public land surveys and the land would be sold to raise money for the new Federal Government. The Seven Ranges started at a point where the western boundary of Pennsylvania intersected the Ohio River, then 42 miles to the west and then south and intersecting once again with the Ohio River approximately 6 miles upriver from Marietta, Ohio.

The researchers from the Department of the Interior were able to trace the sale of land to a John Martin, who bought 640 acres on March 4, 1788. This was the first of more than 1 billion acres of land that would be sold to private citizens as our Nation expanded westward.

The Martin tract is located in Section 20, Township 7, Range 4 of what is now Richland Township. The land is now owned by the Alderman family and is also the site of Alderman Airport. The Department of the Interior erected a plaque on the property which was dedicated in 1988.

