

# County Update

The Monthly Newsletter For The Belmont County Engineer's Department

**August is  
Back to School  
Safety Month**



## Fred's Desk



**FEDERAL DISASTER DECLARED.** On July 13<sup>th</sup>, a federal disaster was declared for damage caused by the heavy rainfall between April 4 and May 15<sup>th</sup>. This means FEMA will pay for 75%, and OEMA will pay 12.5% of the cost of repairing this damage to our roads and bridges. We have several embankment failures to repair and FEMA representatives will soon be in the county to determine which are eligible. This does not include the damage caused by the heavy rainfall of June 19<sup>th</sup>, where we had two bridges washed out and had severe damage to our roadways and other bridges in the Willow Grove-Neffs area. Our road and bridge crew did an outstanding job in quickly getting these roads and bridges opened and making them safe for the residents of the county.

In July, our bridge crew completed two new bridges, one on Somerset Township 30 (Oaks Place) and the other on

Co. Hwy. 4 (Barton-SR 250). They will also be setting beams on a third new bridge on Flushing Twp. 597 just north of Holloway. The road crew, in addition to flood clean-up, have been repairing two embankment failures on CH 56 (Mt. Victory Road) and placing aggregate on our oiled roads.

On July 11<sup>th</sup>, Ohio/West Virginia Excavating Co. completed their \$495,145 contract to replace two large bridges on CH 48 (Wegee Road). They also completed a \$167,267 retaining wall project on CH 16 (Nixon Run road). Both projects were funded by the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) and local funds. Bids were opened on July 20<sup>th</sup> for furnishing precast prestressed concrete box beams for four bridges, to be built by our bridge crew at a later date. Carr Concrete was low bidder at \$137,968 with the only other bid by Pre-stressed Service Industries at \$157,429. Bids were opened July 27<sup>th</sup> for furnishing approximately

2380 traffic signs and 1200 sign posts to be installed by the county. The apparent low bidder was Custom Products Corp. of Jackson, Miss. in the amount of \$25,414.68. Other bidders were Osburn Associates at \$53,968.31, Rocal at \$57,801.29 and A & A Safety at \$70,494.90. This project is funded by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) (80%) and local funds (20%). Bids are in the process of being reviewed.

Also bid that day for the removal and replacement of a bridge on CH 10 (Barton-Blaine Road). Ohio/West Virginia Excavating Co. was low bidder at \$647,135. Also bidding were Suburban Maintenance at \$677,800; Buds, Inc. at \$689,598; and Shelly & Sands at \$748,500. The engineer's estimate was \$700,000 and is also being funded by OPWC and local funds.

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## County Road 56, Mt. Victory Road



The two slips on County Road 56, Mt. Victory Road, are in the process of being repaired. The pictures at the top show the west slip before and after and the two pictures at the bottom are the east slip, which is under construction.

### ***Coming soon!***

The Belmont County Engineer's Department will unveil a new website in the next few weeks. The website is being built using WordPress, which is an open source Content Management System. It has many features including a theme template system and plug-in architecture. The website will have the same address: [www.belmontcountyengineer.com](http://www.belmontcountyengineer.com)

**Belmont County Engineer**  
Fred F. Bennett, P.E., P.S.



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**Links**  
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Belmont County Auditor  
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Belmont County Recorder

Thanks for visiting our website! We have recently converted our site to a content management system, which gives us more options and makes site maintenance easier. Please explore the site and see what we have to offer.

## ***Belmont County Fair***

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The 161st Belmont County Fair will be held from September 6 through the 11th this year. The 2010 fair was held at the newly completed fairgrounds west of St. Clairsville and can only be deemed a success. The Belmont Agricultural Society is to be commended for a fantastic job last year for completing the seemingly endless tasks that faced them during the weeks before the fair.

The new fairgrounds are located at 45420 Roscoe Road, St. Clairsville, Ohio. Ample parking is available.

Just a few of the events for this year include the demolition derby, truck & tractor pull, motocross and various entertainment groups during the event.



## ***Children and a Safe Internet***

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With the internet growing faster than anyone could have predicted, it is getting more difficult for parents to educate their children on the safe use of the internet.

Google has a website that has tools that will help parents control the type of content that their children can view at home. Parents can report abuse or inappropriate content, get advice from child safety organizations and browse videos of other parents talking about how they manage their child's safety online.

The website can be found at [www.google.com/familysafety/](http://www.google.com/familysafety/)



## *Fall Community Clean Up Announced*

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Tammy Shepherd, JB Green Team - Belmont County Program Director, reports that the 2011 Fall Community Clean Up is scheduled for the following dates and locations:

September - 10 for Smith Township from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. at the Centerville Community Center (old Centerville school), 46024 Main St., Centerville, Ohio.

September 17 - Union and Wheeling Townships from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. at the Union Township Garage, 70098 Alexander St., Lafferty, OH.

October 1 - Wayne Township from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. at the Wayne Township Garage, 55020 New Castle Rd., Jerusalem, OH.

October 15 - York Township from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. at the York Township Garage, 53420 York Drive, Powhatan Point, OH.

Residents are invited to participate in any scheduled cleanup event.

Bring your old household junk, appliances, furniture, mattresses, carpeting, car batteries, household batteries, toys.

Standard car & light truck tires are accepted / Tire requirements - under 54" height and 16" width & no heavy accumulation of water or dirt.

Items NOT accepted at community collection events include: food waste, leaves, tree or grass cuttings, bricks & cement blocks. Please Note: Absolutely NO liquid or hazardous waste materials will be accepted.

Electronics recycling available: Belco Works 340 Fox-Shannon Place every Wednesday 9:00 - 2:00 and the 2nd Saturday of the month 9:00 - 12:00.

Would like to clean an area in your neighborhood? We will provide trash bags and disposal of accepted items at the nearest cleanup.

Questions? Please call the JB Green Team Belmont County Office at (740) 296-5376.

## ***August is Back to School Safety Month***

With summer ending and the start of school just around the corner, drivers need to do their part to keep kids safe as they walk and bike to school. Whether you are taking your kids to school or just driving through a school zone, you can do your part to keep kids safe.

August is designated as Back-to-School Safety Month, and we want to remind motorists to be extra careful at all times.

Follow the tips below to make sure you keep your children safe while walking and biking to school



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

#### **Here are some simple reminders for drivers:**

- Slow down and be especially alert in the residential neighborhoods and school zones
- Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly and carefully
- Watch for children on and near the road in the morning and after school hours
- Reduce any distractions inside your car so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings. Put down your phone and don't talk or text while driving

#### **Reminder for your kids:**

- They should cross the street with an adult until they are at least 10 years old
- Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks
- Never run out into the streets or cross in between parked cars
- Make sure they always walk in front of the bus where the driver can see them

The information above was found at [www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org).



This bridge crew recently completed this project on Somerset Township Road 30.