

County Update

The Monthly Newsletter For The Belmont County Engineer's Department

Veterans Day
November 11,
2011



Fred's Desk



IT'S BEEN 250 months since January, 1991, when the first edition of the "COUNTY UPDATE" was published. This has provided a long history of the many happenings here at the Belmont County Engineer's Office. The newsletter was started to communicate to our employees, county officials and the general public the activities of this office. It also serves as our "Annual Report" in 12 monthly installments.

Through the years, articles have been written highlighting employees, construction projects, disasters, health and safety issues, employee's birthdays, wedding anniversaries, employment dates, and other general informa-

tion. In addition to printing a few hundred copies each month, this newsletter can also be read on line at belmont-countyengineer.com, look for the hyperlink "newsletter" on the left side.

Last month I mentioned several up-coming projects that we have been working on. The first was for the replacement of two bridges which were washed away by the flooding on June 19th. One bridge is on Colerain Township T-426 (Sloans Run Road), and the other on Richland T-436 (Rehm Road). These bridges will be bid on November 9th.

Concerning other projects, Rocal, Inc. has delivered 2380 traffic signs as part of a

\$57,801 federally funded highway safety project. These will be installed by our crews during the next 8 months.

Since last month, our road crew has completed another FEMA slip repair project on CH 102 (Mt. Olivett Road). The bridge crew has recently completed the new bridge on Kirkwood T-712, and should finish this week installing new box beams on Pultney T-316-A (Wozniak Road) near Neffs. They have also begun work on the replacement of a bridge on Richland T-279 (little McMahan Creek Road).

Veterans

This past May, the last surviving combat veteran from World War 1 passed away in Perth, Australia. Claude Choules was born on England on March 3, 1901. He joined the Royal Navy a few months after he turned 14 years old. Enlistees were supposed to be at least 18 years of age to join.

Choules also served in the Second World War as a torpedo officer and then retired in 1956 after serving with the Naval Dockyard Police.

He also wrote a memoir, “The Last of the Last”, which was published 2 years ago.

In March of this year, the last surviving American combat veteran was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. Frank Buckles of Charles Town, WV enlisted at the age of 16 and passed away at the age of 110. He was the last of 4.7 million Americans who served in World War 1.

Buckles was working for a shipping company in the Philippines during the Second World War when he was captured as a prisoner of war and spent 3 years in Japanese prison camps.

Permits Needed!! by Fred F. Bennett

Any company or person working within the right-of-way of any county highway needs a permit from this office. This includes utilities, fences, new driveway culverts, signs, etc. This is not a new requirement, but recently we have found that several driveways have been built without a permit. Also, before any excavation are made (including post holes), it is necessary for the contractor or owner to call 811 so that the Ohio Utility Protection Service can notify affective underground utility owners to mark their utility. This must be called in at least 48 hours prior to the start of work.

The reason for a driveway culvert permit is very important so that we can determine the diameter and length of a culvert, and to make sure the grade of the new driveway will not create a hazard when we plow snow.

Some permit applications can be found at www.belmontcountyengineer.com. Click the ‘FORMS’ link on the left side.

I’m asking that if any of our employees spot a new driveway being built or culvert installed, please notify your supervisor so that they can check to see if a permit has been issued.



GIS Day November 16, 2011



Welcome Kevin Ball

Kevin Ball began his employment with the Engineer's Department on October 3 of this year.

Kevin was formerly employed as a manager at Ferry Hardware for 11 years. During that time he attended Belmont Technical College and received an Associates Degree in Civil Engineering Technology.

He has been married to his wife, Erin, for 5 years and they have 2 children, a beautiful daughter, Natalie, who is four years old and has started school this year in Martins Ferry Preschool and a wonderful son, Evan, who is 14 months and already a handful.



Kevin spent nine years in the Army Reserve of which almost four years were active duty. He did three tours, one to Djibouti, Africa and the other two were in Iraq.

Welcome Kevin!

Windows XP is 10 years old this week. While this is Microsoft's most popular OS, there have been 2 failed attempts to entice people to upgrade to newer operating systems. The company has been pressured to extend deadlines as to when support for the product would end.

Information found at TGDaily.com

Belmont County Fair

More Belmont County Fair pictures will be included next month.

The Belmont County Dairy Youth Program held their 16th annual Auction and raised \$13,900.

Amy Wahl with her Reserve Champion heifer feeder calf. Amy is the daughter of Mike and Holly Wahl.



Bridge Beams Set



On October 26, the bridge crew replaced the structure on Wozniak Road, Pultney Township Road 316A. They were able to set the beams in a few hours and County Road 4, Willow Grove Road was closed for just a short time.

250th Issue

January 1991 was the first issue of the Belmont County Engineer's Department newsletter with Don Pickenpaugh as the editor.

After 1998, John Debonis took over until 2001 when the duties passed to John Parkinson.

Many thanks to all of the people who have contributed pictures, articles and information.



At left is the cover of the first issue January 1991.

Survey: Computer Phobia Fading

Submitted by Don Pickenpaugh

A new survey suggests computer phobia is fast becoming a thing of the past. Reporting on its recent nationwide poll of 1,000 adults age 18 to 60, EDK Forecast, a newsletter that tracks women consumers' attitudes, lifestyles and values, says it found:

- :- 74 percent of the sample use computers either at work or at home and 37 percent have computers in both places.
- :- 82 percent think that in the next decade most households will have to own a computer.
- :- 68 percent think computers already are making their lives easier.
- :- A mere 6 percent say they fear they will ruin something when they use a computer.
- :- Only 16 percent said they have no idea how to use one at all.
- :- 41 percent are enthusiastically exploring computers, but almost as many (37 percent) aren't as interested in new functions as they are in just ensuring that their machines work.

"There's no gender gap in the wonderful world of computing," publisher Ethel Klein said in a statement from New York. "Women are just as likely as men to embark on a 'computer safari.' Age and education level are the real indicators of computer literacy."

The statement says middle age also doesn't preclude computer fascination, noting that the survey suggested 44 percent of Americans age 50 to 60 were interested in learning more about computers.

"For many," the statement said, "cyberspace is the unexplored final frontier. About half (49 percent) of computer users are ready to go 'where no one has gone before' -- including 38 percent who are ready to get on the 'information superhighway' and 11 percent who already are on it and searching for the passing lane. But 37 percent of computer users admit that they are not even sure what 'information superhighway' means." --Charles Bowen

Source: On Line Today, CompuServe, February 1, 1995

At right is an article in the February 1995 issue which Don Pickenpaugh found on CompuServe. Wow, this brings back memories.



1-2-3 and You're Out! Jack Hale of the Office of the Governor's Highway Safety Representative demonstrates what happens in a rollover when you do - and don't - wear your safety belt.



Bob Applegate gives accounts of lock-out tag-out successes and failures.

Steve Clark gives a refresher on CPR.



Matt Coffland, President of the Belmont County Township Association, presents Clarence Kemp with an honorary cake and one of several plaques in recognition of Mr. Kemp's 45 years of service as a township trustee during the Engineer's Annual Township Trustee Meeting held April 21 at the St. Clairsville Garage.

At left is the Engineer's Annual Meeting with Township Officials during April 1999.