

County Update

The Monthly Newsletter For The Belmont County Engineer's Department

Happy
Thanksgiving!



Fred's Desk



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

It's hard to believe that Thanksgiving is here, and that means only one thing. Snow is not far behind. Several years in the past, we have already had snow by this time. But so far, we've been lucky.

Thanksgiving is a time to pause and give thanks for all of our blessings. We are all blessed in so many ways. I know I am. I'm looking forward to gathering around the dinner table on Thurs-

day with all of my family where we will share our blessings.

One of my most important blessing that I have is all of the employees of the Belmont County Engineer's Office..

You are all hard working and dedicated to your job. This time of the year, many of you are called on to work on weekends, holidays and in the middle of the night making our roads and bridges safe for the travelling public.

Many times the public don't appreciate your dedication, but I sure

do. I know that too many times you are called out to work just as your family is sitting down around the dinner table, or sitting around the Christmas tree opening gifts. Thanks for all you do.

In closing, let's pray that the weather cooperates on Thanksgiving Day and you are able to really enjoy the holiday. And don't forget to give thanks and a prayer for your family, friends and fellow co-workers. Have a great Thanksgiving!

Thanksgiving Facts

The National Turkey Federation estimated that 46 million turkeys—one fifth of the annual total of 235 million consumed in the United States in 2007—were eaten at Thanksgiving.

Cranberry production in the U.S. is expected to reach 750 million pounds in 2011. Wisconsin, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Oregon and Washington are the top cranberry growing states.

The sweet potato is most plentifully produced in North Carolina, which grew 972 million pounds of the popular Thanksgiving side dish vegetable in 2010.

Three towns in the U.S. take their name from the traditional Thanksgiving bird, including Turkey, Texas (pop. 465); Turkey Creek, Louisiana (pop. 363); and Turkey, North Carolina (pop. 270).

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GIS Day 2011

Last week the Belmont County Commissioners presented Don Pickenpough, GIS Director, with a Resolution proclaiming November 16, 2011 as International Geographic Information System Day.

Don, who is a Professional Surveyor and a Geographic Information Systems Professional, updated the Commissioners on several items during the presentation including news that the 2011 aerial imagery has been processed and should be delivered in a few weeks.



Shown above from the left are Commissioner Matt Coffland, Commissioner Chuck Probst, GIS Director Don Pickenpough and Commissioner Ginny Favede.



Buckeye Traffic Website

A great source for road conditions throughout the State of Ohio is the website www.buckeyetraffic.org. The website provides Ohio travelers with up-to-date information on road conditions, traffic, construction, and other activity affecting roadways managed by The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). Information provided by this site is updated frequently and comes from a variety of sources, such as pavement sensors and monitoring stations, traffic cameras, and through direct input by ODOT personnel. The traffic cameras provide realtime viewing of local conditions. Whereas the information in this site is kept accurate and up-to-date as possible, Ohio travelers should refer to local and regional information outlets and agencies for the latest information during weather/disaster emergencies. This site is maintained by ODOT.



Federal Trade Commission - Kids Safety Online

The Federal Trade Commission has a list of organizations on their website concerned with keeping children safe while using social networking sites.

i-SAFE — www.i-safe.org

Founded in 1998 and endorsed by the U.S. Congress, i-SAFE is a non-profit foundation dedicated to protecting the online experiences of youth everywhere. i-SAFE incorporates classroom curriculum with dynamic community outreach to empower students, teachers, parents, law enforcement, and concerned adults to make the Internet a safer place. Join them today in the fight to safeguard children's online experience.

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children — www.missingkids.com; www.netSMART.org
NCMEC is a private, non-profit organization that helps prevent child abduction and sexual exploitation; helps find missing children; and assists victims of child abduction and sexual exploitation, their families, and the professionals who serve them.

National Crime Prevention Council — www.ncpc.org; www.mcgruff.org

The National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) is a private, nonprofit organization whose primary mission is to enable people to create safer and more caring communities by addressing the causes of crime and violence and reducing the opportunities for crime to occur. Among many crime prevention issues, NCPC addresses Internet Safety with kids and parents through www.mcgruff.org and public service advertising under the National Citizens' Crime Prevention Campaign — symbolized by McGruff the Crime Dog® and his "Take A Bite Out Of Crime®."

These are just a few of the organizations listed on the FTC website. To learn more, visit www.ftc.gov and search for 'internet safety'.

Driving safely on icy roads.....

Decrease your speed and leave yourself plenty of room to stop. You should allow at least three times more space than usual between you and the car in front of you.

Brake gently to avoid skidding. If your wheels start to lock up, ease off the brake.

Turn on your lights to increase your visibility to other motorists.

Keep your lights and windshield clean.

Use low gears to keep traction, especially on hills.

Don't use cruise control or overdrive on icy roads.

Be especially careful on bridges, overpasses and infrequently traveled roads, which will freeze first.

Even at temperatures above freezing, if the conditions are wet, you might encounter ice in shaded areas or on exposed roadways like bridges.

Don't pass snow plows and cinder trucks. The drivers have limited visibility, and you're likely to find the road in front of them worse than the road behind.

Information for this article was found at www.weather.com.