

County Update

The Monthly Newsletter For The Belmont County Engineer's Department

Don't Forget!

**February 3rd
Super Bowl**

**February 14th!
Valentine's Day**

**February 18th
Presidents Day**

Fred's Desk



JANUARY is about over, and winter has finally arrived. In last month's County Update, which my article was dated Dec. 18th, I wrote that we had not had our first snow call out. Well, I think it was only two days later that snows began, and since then, it has been a typical winter. But, in about six weeks, most of winter should be behind us. It's now time to begin planning for the upcoming 2013 construction season.

The first project bid will probably be painting a new centerline on about half of our paved roads. This is made possible by the County Commissioners agreeing to fund the project in the amount of \$120,000. This project can't begin until the warmer weather arrives. The next project bid will probably be for furnishing liquid bituminous materials for dust control. This work will begin in June.

In late May, we will bid a project which replaces the traffic signals at the intersection of Mall Road with Banfield Road. This

\$200,000 project is funded 100% by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and replaces the signals which were installed in 1978 when the two roads were built.

In early summer, we will bid a bridge project for replacing the truss bridge on Sand Hill near Neffs. This bridge was built in 1978 after a ready-mix concrete, with 8 cubic yards of concrete, tried to cross the old truss bridge. The bridge collapsed, and the truck ended in McMahan Creek. The new bridge will be precast concrete box beams on new abutments, at an estimated cost of \$540,000, with Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) paying \$399,600. See page 2 for photographs.

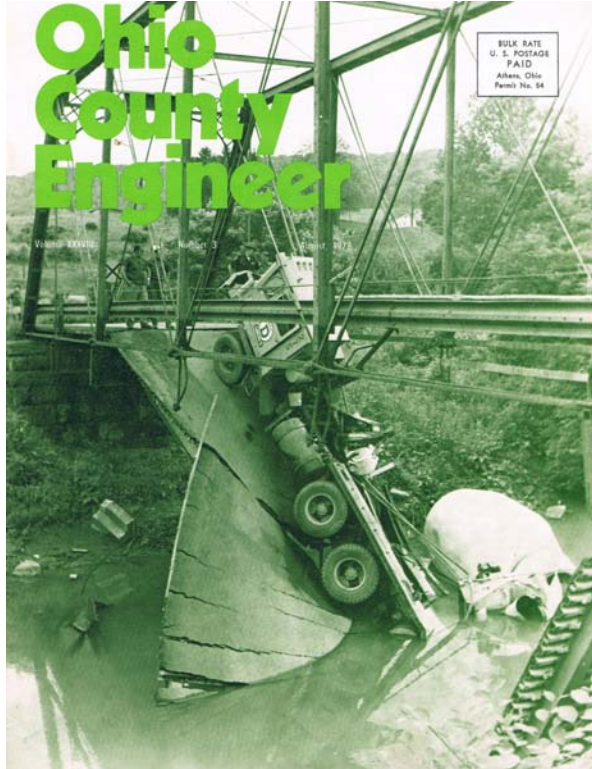
We have also purchased bridge beams for five small bridge replacement projects to be constructed by our bridge crew. They include one on CH 56 (Morgan Hill Road), one on Ch 5 (Clover Ridge Road), one on CH 98 (Badgersburg Road), one on Pultney Township 310 (Nelan Road) and one on

Pultney T-325 (Indian Run). There will probably be beams purchased later in the year for another 5 or 6 bridges.

Normally after Thanksgiving, roads are not resurfaced, but this winter is an exception. With the coming of the oil and gas drilling boom that hit this part of Ohio, two roads have been recently paved. In December, Gulfport Energy Corp. paid for the resurfacing of 3.91 miles of CH 128 (Boston Road) and in January, Hess Ohio Resources paid to have resurfaced 0.20 miles of CH80 (Lloydsville-Bannock Road) and 0.26 miles of adjoining Richland Township Road 264 (Bruce-Clark Road).

My hope is that this winter passes quickly and we have an early spring. Enjoy the rest of the winter.

County Road 4 Sand Hill Bridge



As was mentioned on page 1 in Fred’s article, pictured at the left is the bridge located at log point 6.51 on County Road 4, Sand Hill Road. The picture was used for the cover of the August 1978 issue of the Ohio County Engineer magazine.

Pictured below is the present day bridge which is to be replaced in 2013.



Close Calls - An Accident Waiting to Happen

A “close call” or accident without injury is easy to shrug off and forget. But, there is a danger in brushing off accidents that don’t hurt, harm or damage. When a “close call” happens, it should immediately send up a red warning flag that something was wrong, unplanned, unexpected, and could happen again. The next time it happens, it could result in serious damage, injury or death.



For every accident there are usually several contributing factors, most of which can be controlled. The best way to prevent the reoccurrence of an accident is by looking at those “close calls.” By investigating the root causes of an accident, steps can be taken to eliminate the hazard and improve the work system.

Mark your calendars!



April 18th, 2013
Annual Meeting with Township Officials



April 18th, 2013
Annual Employee Safety Training



Upcoming CEAO Conferences

March 12th and 13th, 2013 - **Ohio Storm Water management and Drainage Conference**

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April 9th and 10th, 2013 - **Bridge Worker, Supervisors and Engineer's Conference**

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April 30th, 2013 - **Ohio Traffic Safety and Roadway Conference**

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