County Update

The Monthly Newsletter For The Belmont County Engineer's Department

December

**Christmas Eve
December 24th**

and

**Christmas Day
December 25th**

**Offices and
Garages Will Be
Closed**

Fred's Desk

NOVEMBER IS ABOUT OVER, and the cold, snowy weather is here. We had our first snow call-out early on November 12th when an average of about 2" covered the roadways. This provided us with a test run for what is to come.

The 2013 construction season is just about over. This past month, a new bridge on Smith Township 202 has been completed by Ohio/West Virginia Excavating Co. and the resurfacing of County Highway 128 (Boston Road) and CH 122 (Wright Road) is about completed by Lash Paving. Both of the above projects are being 100% financed by various Oil & Gas companies.

Our bridge crew completed a new bridge on Washington Township T-101 (Millers Run Road), and now beginning a bridge rail repair project on Willow Grove Road.

On November 13th, bids were opened for the replacement of the steel truss bridge on County Highway 4 (Sand Hill Road over McMahon Creek). Ohio/West Virginia Excavating Co. submitted the low bid of $721,350. The only other bid was from Suburban Maintenance in the amount of $766,000. This project was awarded to the low bidder, and is funded by the Ohio Public Works Commission and local funds.

The Ohio Department of Transportation has set Dec. 12 as a tentative date to open bids on the rehabilitation of two of the three remaining stone arch bridges in Belmont County. The first bridge is located on the old National Road (Union Township T-814) just east of Morristown. This bridge has a span of 12 feet and was constructed circa 1825. The second bridge is located also on the old National Road (County Highway 40-B) in Lloydsville. It has a span of 12 feet and was constructed at about the time of the first bridge. Belmont County's other stone arch bridge is located in Blaine, and was rehabbed about 12 years ago. This new project is being funded by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and local funds. Work should begin in the spring. See pictures on page 2.

This week, as we celebrate Thanksgiving Day, remember to take time to give "thanks" for your family and friends, and for all of the blessings you receive. To you, your family and loved ones, have a blessed Thanksgiving.

Stone Arch Bridges

BEL 40B 00.74

UNI 814 00.21

Busy, Busy, Busy

Jiaozhou Bay Bridge is a 16.6 mile long roadway bridge in eastern China's Shandong province, which is part of the 25.84 mile Jiaozhou Bay Connection Project. As of December 2012 Guinness World Records lists the Jiaozhou Bay Bridge as the world's "longest bridge over water" at 25.84 miles.

The World's busiest bridge is the Howrah bridge across the river Hooghly in Calcutta, India. As well as at least 150,000 vehicles a day it carries more than four *million* pedestrians

Tech News

A new type of ransomware has been showing up and causing major issues for computer users. CryptoLocker is a much nastier version of ransomware as it encrypts ALL of the files on a computer. The bad news is that the ransomware seeks connected hard drives, USB drives, NAS devices AND shared folders on other computers.

The ransomware is sent as an email with an attached ZIP or PDF file. Clicking on the attachment launches an executable file that installs the virus program and then encrypts the data. A pop up window then displays a message that states that the files have been encrypted and the user has 72 hours to pay $300 or euros or even BitCoins to get a private key to restore all of the files to their original condition. If the user ignores the warning and the 72 hours expire, the private key is destroyed and can not be regenerated.

According to Steve Gibson, of Gibson Research Corp., the encryption is so complicated that experts are unable to de-crypt files.

"If you haven't got a backup and you get hit by CryptoLocker, you may as well have dropped your PC over the side of a bridge," says Paul Ducklin, security adviser for anti-virus software company Sophos. **And**
CryptoLocker currently only affects PCs and can easily be removed with anti-virus software, but its effects **cannot**. "I don't think anyone in the world could break the encryption," says Gavin O'Gorman, spokesman for the internet security firm Symantec.

After the initial release of the virus, the crooks started a "customer service" website for people who were having trouble making payments or had missed the deadline

Also, the crooks have been changing how the virus works to adapt to being discovered and blocked by anti virus programs.

So, now more than ever, be careful with email attachments. Don't open attachments from an unknown sender.

Here are links to two articles: http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/cryptolocker-is-the-nastiest-malware-ever-heres-what-you-can-do/

And http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9243537/
cryptolocker_How_to_avoid_getting_infected_and_what_to_do_if_you_are_