

# County Update

The Monthly Newsletter For The Belmont County Engineer's Department



**Christmas Eve  
December 24th**

**Christmas Day  
December 25th**

**Offices and  
Garages Closed**

## Fred's Desk



**2013 IS ABOUT TO END**, and it's time to look back and see what was accomplished this year. Five projects were bid this year by the County Commissioners, totaling \$2,015,253. A new centerline was painted on 168 miles of various county highways costing \$172,105. Also, 13.67 miles of various county highways were re-surfaced at a cost of \$921,918. Thanks to the Commissioners for funding these two projects. We also had a contract for furnishing 59,500 gallons of road oil for dust control using Engineer's funds.

New traffic signals are currently being installed at the intersection of Mall and Banfield Roads at a cost of \$118,494. This project is 100% funded by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and should be completed in early January. Also bid was for a new bridge on County Highway 4 (Sand Hill Road) at a cost of \$721,350, funded by Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) and Engineer's funds. Work will begin on this project in late March.

Earlier this month, the Ohio Department of Transportation opened bids for the rehabilitation of two stone arch bridges built sometime during the 1830's as part of the National Road. Both bridges are currently opened to traffic, one located on County Highway 40-B in Lloydsville, and one on Union Township 814 just east of Morristown. The low bid, in the amount of \$972,687, was submitted by BOG Construction of Berlin Center, OH. This project is funded by FHWA and local funds.

The bridge crew built 8 new bridges in 2013, and is currently replacing the parapet walls on a concrete arch bridge on County Highway 4 (Willow Grove Road). When they finish this project, they will begin the installation of a temporary bridge across McMahon Creek which will be used during construction of the new Sand Hill Bridge.

Various oil and gas drilling companies, along with various pipeline companies, are also hiring local contractors to upgrade county highways and bridges which they are using for their operations.

This past fall, Gulfport Energy rebuilt 3.91 miles of County Highway 128 and 0.6 miles of County Highway 124 with about 6 inches of asphalt. Also, Rice Energy built a new 66 foot span bridge on Smith Township T-202, both projects at no cost to Belmont County.

This year, two of our long time employees, Dick Johnson and Bruce Miller, retired. New hires this year were T.J. Moore, Dustin Roe and Charles Crolley (December 30th), all Highway Worker 2. Welcome aboard.

A lot was accomplished this year. With all the new oil and gas wells being drilled, the economy of Belmont County is starting to grow. We now have a lot more trucks on our roads and bridges, but we have had very good cooperation from these various companies. My "thanks" goes to them for their help.

In closing, my wish to all of our employees, their families and loved ones, and to all of you, have a very "MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR".

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## *Retiree Luncheon*

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On December 13th, many of the retirees of the Belmont County Engineer's Department met for the 7th year at Mehlman's for a luncheon and information meeting. John DeBonis once again organized this event.

John is the Region 9 Representative for PERI (Public Employee Retirees, Incorporated) and is the Past President of the Belmont County Chapter.

John talked about how important it is to stay in contact with the state legislature on the issues of the PERS retirement system as well as what is happening with the retirees (and spouses) health care.

For more information about PERI, please call 1-800-247-7374 or see their website at: <http://www.operi.org/default.html>.



Ralph and Helen Johnson with George Thornton.



Ted McGarry and Fred.



Jim Lukacsko and Bob Kish.



John DeBonis gave updates on PERS.



Margaret Piccin, Paul Helms and Nancy Kimmel.



Fred with Ron Horvath and Shereza O'Hara.

 **PERI - *Partners in Retirement***



## ***Congratulations Bruce Miller***

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At the end of November, Bruce Miller retired from the Engineer's Department.

Bruce worked out of the Tacoma garage as a Highway Worker II after starting at the Armstrong Mills garage.

He is currently a Goshen Township Trustee.

Bruce and his wife Cindy reside in the Belmont area and plan on spending time spoiling their grandchildren

Many thanks for your hard work and dedication Bruce!



## ***Find Elected Officials***

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To find the elected officials for your area, go to the websites below and use your zip code to find the name, office address and phone number.

Congress: [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov)

Senate: [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)

Ohio Senate: [www.ohiosenate.gov](http://www.ohiosenate.gov)

Ohio House: [www.ohiohouse.gov](http://www.ohiohouse.gov)

## ***Welcome Dustin Roe***

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Fred would like to welcome Dustin Roe to the Engineer's Department.

Dustin started on December 9th at the Tacoma garage as a Highway Worker II.

He comes to us from the Village of Barnesville where he worked with the Street Department.

