

County Update

The Monthly Newsletter For The Belmont County Engineer's Department

October Columbus Day

October 13th

Garages & Offices
Will Be
Closed For The Day

Fred's Desk



TEN YEARS AGO this month, Belmont County, along with many other counties from Ohio and the tri-state region, experienced the worse flooding in our history. On September 8, 2004, the remains of Hurricane Frances passed through, dropping over 5" of rainfall. This caused wide spread flash flooding along all of our creeks. Many homes were flooded, and some of our roadways were damaged.

Then on September 17th, Hurricane Ivan came through, dropping about 10" of rain, causing extreme damage to homes, roadways and bridges. Most state, county and township roads were closed due to the flooding, roadway slips and washouts. Over 2000

homes and businesses were severely damaged or completely destroyed. Then, 2 days later, the Ohio River crested 10' over flood stage, causing more damage to homes and roadways.

President Bush declared an emergency (Disaster 1556) in many states, including Ohio, which made us eligible for federal assistance. It was estimated that we had about \$10,000,000 in damage to just county highways and bridges. This does not include state highways, township roads and municipal streets. About half of the 308 miles of county highways are on the Federal Highway System, which used their emergency funds to make the necessary repairs to our roads.

The contracts to do this work was let and administered by ODOT.

The remaining damage (non-federal highways) was funded by FEMA, and administered by Belmont County. A project worksite (PW) was established by FEMA for every location where damage occurred. A total of 70 PWs were written at a total cost of \$4,538,127. About half of the sites were repaired by local contractors, with the other half by our forces. It took several years to complete the work. When the final paperwork was been submitted, the actual cost was \$3,542,904, with FEMA paying 75%, OEMA paying 12.5%, and Belmont County paying the other 12.5%.

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JB Green Team

The JB Green Team is holding a Household Latex Paint Recycling Collection on Saturday September 27, 2014 at the Ohio Valley Mall (near Sears) from 9:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. This is for **LATEX PAINT** only. No oil based paints or thinners will be accepted.

HOUSEHOLD **LATEX PAINT**



RECYCLING COLLECTION

Colerain Township Bridge Project

The bridge replacement project on Colerain Township Road 1163, Maynard Church, was recently completed and is open to traffic.



Fred's Desk continued

At that time, we had two other federal disasters caused by heavy rainfall, one (DSR 1507) in January, 2004 and one (DSR 1580) in January, 2005. Work on DSR 1507 was completed at a cost of about \$1.1 million and DSR 1580 at a cost over \$4 million. All three disasters within that 12 month period was about \$23 million to just county highways and bridges. Damage to township and state highways, along with private homes amounted to well over \$100,000,000.

Next May will mark the 25th anniversary of what is known as the Shadyside flood. That flood was more localized, mainly in the eastern part of Belmont County. This was a flash flood, where the creeks rose up to 25 feet in a matter of minutes, taking the lives of 26 people. Twelve lives were lost on Wegee Creek, twelve on Pipe Creek and two on Cumberland Run. This flood also caused damage in excess of \$10 million.

This just shows what mother nature can do. You should always keep an eye on the weather, and never drive through standing water.

2004 Flood Pictures



County Road 2, Deep Run



County Road 10, Crescent Barton



County Road 4, Glens Run



Richland Township 1249 Bridge



County Road 4, Willow Grove



Pease Township 641 Bridge