

# County Update

The Monthly Newsletter For The Belmont County Engineer's Department

## Holidays

**Christmas Eve**  
December 24

**Christmas**  
December 25th

Garages & Offices  
Will Be  
Closed For The Day

## Fred's Desk



**2014 IS ABOUT OVER**, and it's the time of the year to look back and see what was accomplished. Six new projects were bid this year totaling over \$1.8 million in construction work. Just this week, Cross Roads Construction opened two new bridges, one on CH 54 (Pipe Creek Road) and the other on CH 56 (O.K. Road). This \$588,000 project was 68% funded by the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC). Also completed and opened this year was a new bridge on CH 4 (Sand Hill Road) costing \$712,225. This also was 56% funded by OPWC. In addition to these 3 new bridges, our bridge crew constructed another 5 bridges. They also built and then removed a temporary bridge

across Mahon Creek for a detour while the Sand Hill Bridge was being built.

Two guardrail projects were completed this year. The first project was for the installation of over 10,000 feet of new rail in Maynard - Barton area at a cost of \$174,942 using 100% federal funds. The second was completed just this week, and was for the installation of over 7000 feet of new rail on Fulton Hill Road, Hospital Road and Ferryview Road. This project was 100% funded by the County Commissioners.

Also completed this year was the resurfacing of CH 26 between Bethesda and Morristown. This \$450,000 project was funded by OPWC with the Commissioners providing

the local match. We also contracted for the supplying and placement of over 60,000 gallons of bituminous liquid asphalt for dust control, funded in the amount of \$194,649 in local funds.

The last project bid, but not yet completed, was for the installation of steel piling to repair a roadway slip on CH 86 (Pugh Ridge Road) and CH 4 (Barton 250) in Barton. Work will begin soon on this project.

This past severe winter created more potholes than I've ever seen as spring arrived. Our road crews spent months filling all of them, and we spent over \$100,000 in material costs alone. Hopefully, this won't happen next spring.

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## ***Fred's Desk continued from page 1***

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2014 saw the retirement of two of our supervisors, Bob Detling and Roy Fatula. Also leaving, for another job, was Mike Wahl, Deputy Engineer. Terry Lively, Deputy Engineer, was our only new hire this year.

The oil and gas industry continues to grow in Belmont County. To date, there are about 90 Road Use Maintenance Agreements (RUMA) on file here. This does not include those written for townships and municipalities. We continue to have a good working relationship with the drillers and pipeline companies. Many roads and bridges have been upgraded by these companies at their expense. It is my understanding that in this coming year we will see this industry grow.

My "thanks" goes out to all of the 39 employees of the Belmont County Engineer for their hard work and dedication in 2014, and my wish to them, their families and loved ones, and to all of you, a very 'MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR'.

## ***Christmas Truce of 1914***

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The Christmas truce was a series of widespread but unofficial ceasefires along the Western Front around Christmas 1914 during World War 1. In the week leading up to the holiday, German and British soldiers crossed trenches to exchange seasonal greetings and talk. In areas, men from both sides ventured into what was known as "no man's land" on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day to mingle, exchange food and souvenirs. There were joint burial ceremonies and prisoner swaps, while several meetings ended in carol-singing. Men played games of football with one another, giving one of the most enduring images of the truce. However, the peaceful behavior was not widespread. Fighting continued in some sectors, while in others the sides settled on little more than arrangements to recover bodies. The following year, a few units arranged ceasefires, but the truces were not nearly as widespread as in 1914. This was due to strongly worded orders from the high commands of both sides prohibiting fraternization. Soldiers were no longer amenable to truce by 1916. The war had become increasingly bitter after devastating human losses suffered during the battles of the Somme and Verdun, and the incorporation of poison gas.

## ***Congratulations Roy!***

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Roy Fatula retired at the end of November after nearly 18 years with the Engineer’s Department. Roy was the Bridge Supervisor for 12 years. Prior to coming to the department, he was employed by Consol Coal Company.

Roy is looking forward to spending time at home with Rosemarie, catching up on “Honey Do” projects and spending time fishing with his grandson.

Congratulations Roy!



## ***Bridge Project Completed***

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On December 16th, Crossroads Construction of Cambridge completed bridge projects on County Road 54 (Pipe Creek) and County Road 56 (OK Road). The bridges were replaced at a cost of \$588,000 and was partially funded by Ohio Public Works Commission.



County Road 56 OK Road



County Road 54 Pipe Creek