

County Update

The Monthly Newsletter For The Belmont County Engineer's Department

Don't Forget!



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

**February 16th
President's Day**

Fred's Desk



WINTER IS now past the half-way point, and so far, it hasn't been too bad. Up until this week, we've had less snow than normal, and about 1/3 less snow call-outs. Let's just hope that February and March are about the same.

This is the time of the year we make our plans for the upcoming construction season. We hope to bid our first project in February for the resurfacing of some of our highways. The roads selected will be determined based on the amount of money available. In May, we will bid our annual contract for providing liquid asphalt for dust control, and in June bids will be received for the building of a new bridge on CH 10 (Barton-Blaine High-

way). Other projects will be bid later if money is available.

One project carried over from last year is for the repair of three roadway slips, two on CH 86 (Pugh Ridge) and one on CH 4 (Barton-Colerain Road). The contractor is expected to start work sometime in February. Another job not yet completed, is the rehab of two stone arch bridges, one on CH 40-B at Lloydsville, and one on Union T- 814 near Morristown. Both projects should be completed this spring.

Needed this year is the construction of a salt storage building at the Roscoe Garage and a equipment shed at the Lloydsville Garage. Our equipment is aging, and we need a new

loader and two tractors with mowers for our road crew, and two work trucks for the bridge crew. Hopefully money will be available for these things. Decisions will be made in the next few weeks on what we can afford.

The bridge crew is currently replacing a bridge on Pultney T-302 (Brown Hollow Road). The road crews, when not on snow and ice control, are patching potholes, grading roads and other winter related duties.

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National Weather Service

For nearly 10 years, the National Weather Service has been providing weather information to local government agencies in Eastern Ohio, West Virginia, Western Pennsylvania and Maryland. In the event that severe weather of any kind is in the forecast, the Pittsburgh office of the NWS will send out email alerts to entities in their coverage area.

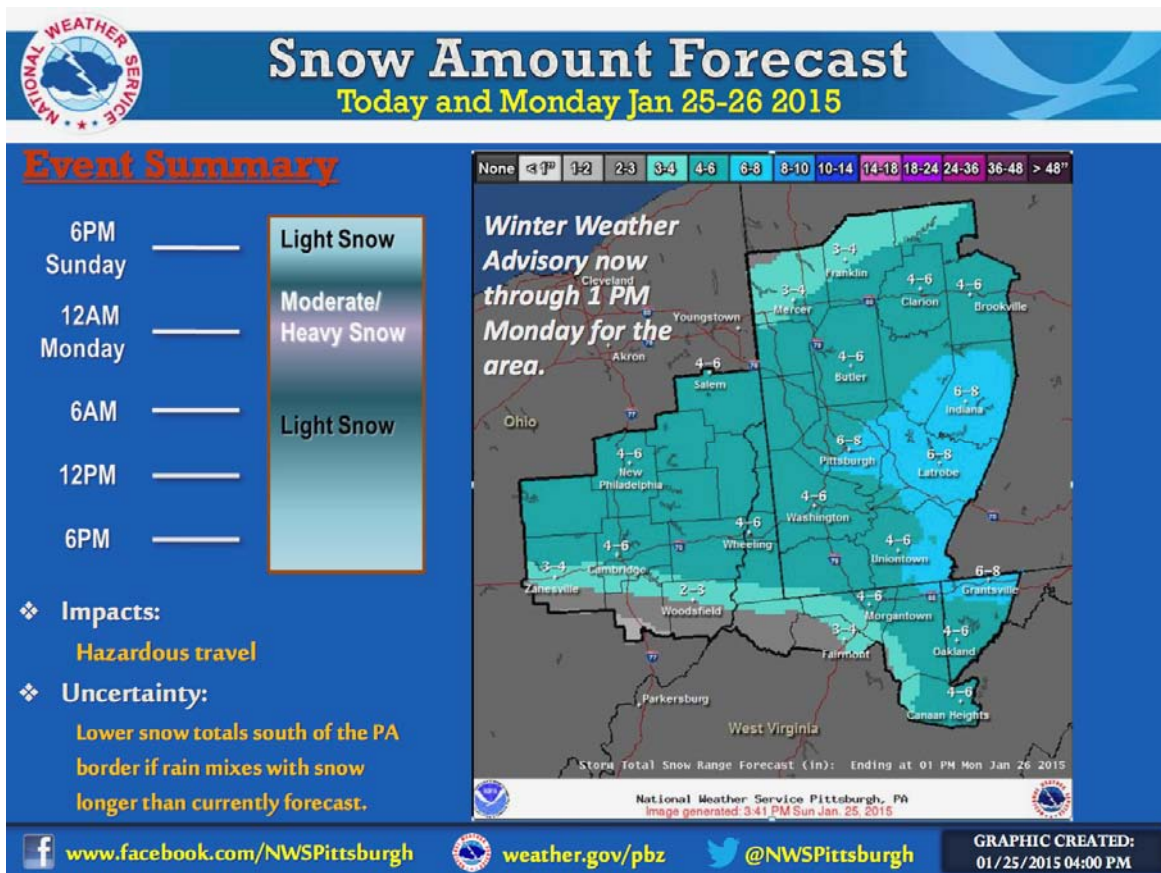
The coverage area includes Eastern Ohio from Monroe County, West to Muskingum County and Northeast to Columbiana County. The West Virginia area includes the Northern panhandle and East of Morgantown. Western Pennsylvania includes East of Washington and extends North of the Butler area. Garrett County in Maryland is included.

If catastrophic weather is forecast (damaging winds, high amounts of rainfall or snow) a conference call / webinar will be held a day or 2 before the weather system impacts our area. These conferences calls can be attended by any local government agency in the coverage area and can number over 150 participants.

Because of the varied terrain of the NWS Pittsburgh area, forecast can vary widely.

The graphic below is an example of the information the NWS sends out in their email blast.

For more information, visit the National Weather Service website at: weather.gov.



Fred's Desk.....continued from page 1

With the snowfall this week, it's a good time to remind every driver on the highways to slow down, watch out for icy spots, and to give our snow trucks plenty of room. With a snow plow attached, these plows are wider than the truck. Our drivers have to keep an eye on oncoming traffic, the edge of the road (which is usually snow covered) and what's behind the truck, all at the same time operating the snow plow on the front, and the truck bed and salt spreader on the rear. The driver has a lot to do as he drives down the road.

As winter continues, "be safe" and watch out for the snow truck..

April 16th, 2015

Annual Meeting with Township Officials

6:00 P.M. Roscoe Road Garage

April 17th, 2015

Annual Employee Safety Training

All garages and offices will be closed.

February 17th, 1915

One hundred years ago next month, Edward Stone became the first US soldier killed in what was to become known as World War I. Sadly, he was the first of 116,516 US servicemen to die in The Great War. The World War that followed, WWII, took 407,316 US lives. The veterans who survived WWI have since passed on, and WWII veterans are becoming fewer every day. Typically we stop to remember these veterans only twice a year, Memorial Day and Veterans Day. But to their families, rarely a day goes by when the ones they left behind don't pause to think of them, if just for a moment. If you are fortunate enough to know a service member, whether active or retired, thank them for their service while you still have the opportunity and if you are one of the ones they left behind, don't wait for a designated holiday to pay your respects. Every day we live in freedom deserves our deepest gratitude.