

County Update

The Monthly Newsletter For The Belmont County Engineer's Department

June 6th

**71st Anniversary
of
D-Day**



Fred's Desk



THE SEVERE STORM AND FLOODS this past week in the Texas-Oklahoma region brings back memories from 25 years ago, when on the evening of June 14, 1990 (Flag Day), over 5" of rain fell within a one hour period near Key in Mead Township, the headwaters of Wegee Creek, Pipe Creek and Cumberland Run. With the ground already saturated from the above normal rainfall during May and early June of that year, the results of this heavy downpour caused walls of water as much as 20 feet deep to cascade down these narrow, steep valleys as it rushed to the Ohio River.

Twenty-six lives were lost that night, 12 each

on Wegee and Pipe Creeks, and two small children, a six year old boy and his 5 year old sister on Cumberland Run. Over 80 residences were destroyed, another 250 businesses and homes heavily damaged, and scores of vehicles washed away. Damage to county, state and township roads and bridges was severe, making most roadways impassable.

Since it was dark, with roads closed, electric and telephone lines knocked down, and no one had cell phones back then, it was impossible to quickly access the damage. It was first feared that more than 100 people were missing, and probable drowned. The roadways in the path of the water were either washed away or cov-

ered with debris, including trees, rocks, vehicles and even a few homes. The bridges on the main county roads withstood the forces of water, but the approach embankments were washed away.

The first job was to get the roads passable for emergency workers to begin the search and rescue operation. Our road and bridge crews, with the help of the Ohio National Guard, the US Army reserves, ODOT, local contractors and volunteers began the process of making temporary repairs to accomplish this.

Continued on page 2

OUPS Positive Response



In 2013 the Ohio Utility Protection Service started a program called Positive Response. Any member (contractor or utility owner) is required to respond to the Call Before You Dig notices that are sent out to facility owners. Positive response is a closing of the communication loop. It allows each facility owner to communicate to the contractor the status of their one call ticket.

Notices are sent out via email or other methods and facility owners are required to call OUPS or visit a website where several options are available to state conditions at the location.

- NO CONFLICT
- MARKED (UP TO PRIVATELY OWNED UTILITY)
- TICKET CANCELLED
- EXCAVATION REQUEST COULD NOT BE COMPLETED - FACILITY OWNER/LOCATOR WILL CONTACT THE EXCAVATOR DIRECTLY
- EXCAVATION REQUEST COULD NOT BE COMPLETED BAD ADDRESS OR INCORRECT STREET INFORMATION, A NEW TICKET IS REQUESTED
- HIGH PROFILE FACILITY FACILITY/OWNER REQUESTS TO BE PRESENT FOR EXCAVATION
- JOINT MEET/LARGE PROJECT WILL COORDINATE WITH THE EXCAVATOR
- DESIGN TICKET CONTRACTOR WAS NOTIFIED BY THE FACILITY OWNER
- WORK HAS BEEN COMPLETED UPON ARRIVAL

Contractors are then able to see which facility owners have completed the positive response and contact any that have not done so.

This is another tool that make construction work safer.

Fred's Desk...continued from page 1

Damage to our roads and bridges was in the millions of dollars, but with financial help from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Ohio EMA (OEMA), the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), we were able to rebuild our damaged infrastructure. By the late summer of 1991, all repairs were completed.

Today, three monuments stand, one near each creek, listing the names of the flood victims who perished on the evening of June 14, 1990. As this 25 anniversary nears, let us keep these victims, their families and friends in our prayers, and as a reminder to all of us, never underestimate the power of water.



Work Zone Safety by Terry Lively

As the season changes to warmer temperatures, the work of the Engineering staff changes too. Our crews are doing less pothole patching and more mowing, ditch cleaning, and culvert work. You can assist us in our efforts by removing trash along the ditch, and exposing obstacles like stumps, drain pipes, and fence posts. And PLEASE, when you drive past one of our crews working, slow down. Several work zone injuries and deaths happen every year in Ohio, and it is entirely avoidable. With a little extra patience, we can all have a safe summer!

