



Fred's Desk



300th Issue

300 ISSUES – That's a lot of "COUNTY UPDATES!" The first issue was published in January, 1991, and was created to communicate with our employees and the general public what was going on at the Engineer's Office. The first co-editors were John DeBonis, Administrative Assistant, and Don Pickenpugh, Office Manager, and the first issue included an article from the County Engineer, a welcome to three new employees, safety tips and an announcement of an employee's contest to name the new newsletter. John Park-

inson, Office Manager, is now the editor.

Several names were submitted by employees, and Charlie Smith, Highway Worker II (now retired) submitted the winner. "COUNTY UPDATE". It appeared first in the May, 1991 edition. Since the first issue, not one month was missed in publishing the newsletter.

The newsletter proved to be a very good public relations tool for the Engineer's Office. Almost every month, Ed Polli, reporter for the local newspaper, would use information from the County Update in

his Sunday column in the Martins Ferry Times Leader. This helped in letting the public know what we were doing.

Normally each edition would list the status of ongoing projects, birthdays and anniversaries (both wedding and employment dates) of our employees, list retirements and new hires and other useful information.

With Christmas nearing, I want to take this opportunity to wish all of you and your loved ones, a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

County Road 10 Barton Blaine Bridge

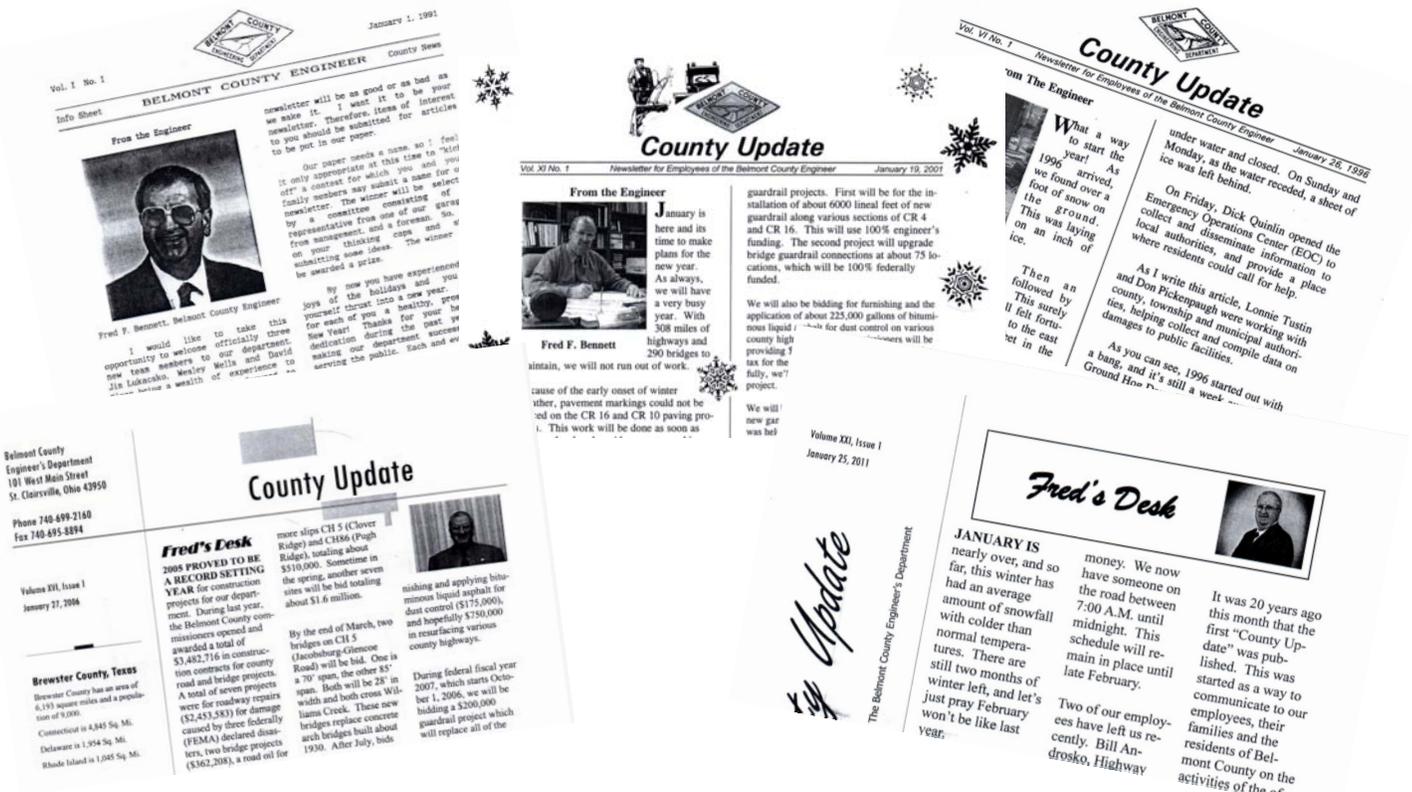
Pictured at the right is the finished bridge replacement project BEL 10 20.22. The contractor for the project was Ohio West Virginia Excavating Company. The bridge opened on November 25th, 2015. Total cost for the bridge replacement was \$948,283.00.



300 Issues—Through the Years

The newsletter has been created using different programs over the years. WordStar (I wish it was still around), Microsoft Word and Microsoft Publisher. A new look and format is long overdue, so keep a look out for the January 2016 issue.

About 300 copies are mailed out each month with each County Engineer and the Township Trustees receiving a copy. The newsletter and archived copies back to 2009 are available on the Engineer's website: www.belmontcountyengineer.com



Retiree Luncheon

Retirees of the Belmont County Engineer's Department meet once again for the annual luncheon on December 11th at the Mehlman's Cafeteria. John Debonis organized the event and gave updates to changes that are going on at PERS. The Ohio Public Employee Retirees Inc., Belmont County Chapter meets monthly at the JB Martin Senior Center at 102 Fair Street in St. Clairsville, Ohio on the third Wednesday of each month.



John Debonis, Bob Kish and Fred Bennett

Thanks John for all the work you do for OPERI!

More information can be found at operi.org.



Bob Kish, Howard Hayes, Jim and Olga Lukacsko



Dana Detling, Helen and Ralph Johnson



Ron Horvath, Shereza O'Hara and Bob Detling



Roy Fatula, Paul Helms and George Thornton