

County Update

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Fred's Desk



FORTY YEARS AGO, on July 1, I became the Belmont County Engineer when Richard Boccabella retired. That was the year of our country's 200th birthday. I was then elected to ten four year terms, and have been honored to serve in that position for the past four decades. I will be retiring on December 31st when Terry Lively, who is on the November ballot unopposed, will take over as your new County Engineer.

While watching the national news this past weekend, and the video from the devastating floods which occurred in West Virginia, I was reminded of the major flooding we have had during the last 40 years. They looked just like the photos from the 1990 flood on Wegee Creek, Pipe Creek and Cumberland Run, and the ones from the 2004 flooding which covered the whole region. Our hearts and prayers go out to the people of West Virginia.

Since last month's report, Aero Mark, Inc. has painted center-line on 139 miles of our roadways and Lash Paving Co.'s sub-contractor has stripped another 23 miles of roads. Also completed was a new bridge on Colerain Township T-426 (Buzz Ayers Road) by Buds, Inc. They are now building a new bridge on Pultney Township T-304 (Trough Run Road). Work also continues on various roads by the Oil & Gas Industry.

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**Monday
July 4th
All Offices and
Garages Closed**



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Our bridge crew is finishing the construction of a new concrete retaining wall on Colerain Pike. Also, Martins Ferry's Water Dept. is also replacing an old water-line on Colerain Pike which was built in the 1950's.

The Tacoma garage crew just completed a slip repair on Boston Road. This road is now re-opened to traffic. The rest of the road crews continue patching, grading, ditching, mowing and all of the other work needed to keep our roadways maintained.

On Monday, we celebrate the 240th birthday of our great nation. Enjoy the day and keep safe. Have a "Happy Fourth of July".



Pictured above left and right is the bridge replacement project on COL T-426. This is the first bridge in Belmont County that is being funded through the ODOT Local Bridge Replacement Program



Pictured at left is a retaining wall project on Co. Rd 4 Colerain Pike.

Co. Rd. 128 Boston Road

Pictured below is a slip repair project on Boston Road about 1.5 miles north of the Monroe County line.



Portable Traffic Signals

In late March of 2016, the Belmont County Engineer's Office took possession of a new portable traffic signal system. This system can be used to replace flaggers at some of our temporary construction zones. The equipment was purchased in large part by a \$40,000 safety grant from the Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation. Belmont County's share of the purchase was \$16,840.

The idea is reduce the exposure of our employees to dangerous vehicle traffic in the work zones. After three months of use, the results have been very positive. Employees report traffic is moving more safely and efficiently through the work zones, and it is easier to stop traffic completely while equipment is repositioned.

Our resourceful employees even made some creative modifications to the equipment trailer to make it easier to load and unload the temporary signals. Well done!

