

County Update

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September 28, 2016

Fred's Desk



FORTY YEARS AGO, I became the Belmont County Engineer. On December 31st of this year, I will be retiring from that position. In last month's edition of the County Update, I highlighted events of my first 10 years as Engineer. This month, I will do the same for the following ten years.

1986 – 1995

Because of the enactment of permissive sales tax by the County Commissioners, with \$250,000 per year set aside for paving we were able to resurface 29 miles of county highways that year, and another 24 miles in 1986. From 1976 thru 1984, only about 7 miles were resurfaced. Also that year, we had 54 employees, down from 69 in 1976.

In 1987, another 20 miles of county highways were resurfaced. In 1988, 16.5 miles were resurfaced. That year, we had a very hot and dry summer, followed by our first snowfall on October 24th.

Also in 1988, the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) was established to provide funding for local infrastructure projects. Belmont County became part of a 10 county district which formed a committee to review and rate the many projects from the local sub-divisions from the 10 counties. This fall, this committee will be rating these projects for the 31st time. In 1989, the first round of projects were submitted to OPWC and local contracts were let and construction began during the fall.

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Columbus Day

October 10, 2016



**All offices
And
Garages
Will be closed**

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St. Clairsville, Ohio 43950
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1990 was the year of the Shadyside flash flood. On the evening of June 14th (Flag Day), about 5" of rainfall occurred in a one hour period, causing severe flooding of Wegee Creek, Pipe Creek and Cumberland Run. This resulted in very heavy damage to buildings, roads and bridges and resulted in 26 deaths. It took two years to rebuild our roads and bridges. Damage just to our roads and bridges was in excess of \$10 million.

On January 1, 1991, a minor flood occurred on the Ohio River with a reported crest of 39.5 feet, just a couple feet over flood stage. A few of our roads in the low lying areas near the river were covered with water, but no damage occurred. Also in January the first edition of the County Update was published.

During 1992, our work on restoring damaged roads and bridges from the Flag Day Flood, was finally completed. For all of the restoration work, FEMA paid 75% of the costs, OEMA 12.5% and local funds were used to pay the remaining 12.5%

The "Blizzard of '93" arrived on Saturday, March 13th. This storm produced over 18 inches in a 24 hour period. This snow came with high winds and caused drifts over 6 feet in depth. Most state (including I-70 and I-470), county and township streets and municipal streets were impassable. It took several days to get these roads opened. Like 1988, we also had snow in October. Hopefully, it won't happen this year. During the winter of 92-93, we recorded 72.1" of snow. The normal for any winter is 43.1".

The winter of 1993-94 saw even more snow than the previous winter with 76.8" of snowfall. Once the snow melted, several major bridge projects were started. A new 140 foot single span truss bridge in York Township was built, and plans were completed for a new 200' three span concrete box beam bridge west of Bellaire. Almost 20 miles of county highways were resurfaced, and an upgrade to Mall and Banfield Roads was started. Also three bridges were replaced by the realignment of Little McMahan Creek at Willow Grove. The county also purchased 3 sections of the abandoned railroad right-of-way to be used as public roads so that three other large bridges could be eliminated.

During 1995, plans were made for the construction of a new county garage off of Roscoe Road, to replace the small garage in St. Clairsville. That summer, a contractor was hired for clearing and earthwork to prepare the site, another to build a chain-link fence around the site, and in September, bids were received to build the new garage. The total cost of the low bid was \$798,536. The new garage was finished in 1996.

Next month I will update you on the events of 1996 – 2005.

CEAO Magazine Summer 1990

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 4657
Columbus, Ohio

Ohio County Engineer

Number 2
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Aftermath of Belmont County Flash Flooding

Assistant Engineer Position Available

The Belmont County Engineer is seeking an assistant engineer who is a registered Professional Engineer or is able to obtain Ohio registration within 6 months.

Interested parties can obtain a detailed job description and an application by sending a cover letter and resume to the following address:

Belmont County Engineer
101 West Main Street
St. Clairsville OH 43950