



Belmont County Engineer's Office
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101 West Main Street, Courthouse
St. Clairsville, Ohio 43950

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County Update

The Quarterly Newsletter for the Belmont County Engineer's Office



Belmont County Fair
September 8-13, 2020

** subject to change due to COVID-19*



Annual Safety Meeting
CANCELLED

The event below is on hold while the impact of COVID-19 is considered.



Annual Township Meeting
POSTPONED

BelmontCountyEngineer.com

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July 20, 2020



With the storm damage of late March behind us, we began April cleaning clogged culverts, repairing berm washouts, and getting an early start on our

mowing. The bridge crew worked on stabilizing an eroding stream bank on CR 4 Colerain Pike, just upstream from one of the bridges recently replaced with the Ohio Bridge Partnership program. In addition to our normal annual bridge inspections, we also completed the second half of our Emergency Vehicle (EV) bridge ratings. Meanwhile, the office staff worked on design projects for CR 84 Oak View Road, CR 4 Glens Run Road, CR 214 High Ridge Road, CR 4 Sand Hill Road, and CR 46 New Cut Road. A new slip developed on CR 56 Cats Run Road next to one repaired just last year. Cats Run is an XTO RUMA route, so they authorized design on the repair almost immediately. And we ended April on a positive note by re-opening two roads that had been closed due to slips. The first was CR 20 Blaine-Chermont Road.



CR-20 – Blaine-Chermont Road Slip Repair

This \$314,397.00 contract was with Ohio-West Virginia Excavating (OWV). The other completed project was CR 102 Mt. Olivett Road. This




CR-102 – Mt. Olivett Road Slip Repair

BelcoGIS.com

\$154,267.00 contract was also with OVV. Both projects were part of the February 2018 disaster and were 75% funded by FEMA and 25% by the State of Ohio.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT!



NAME: Thomas Butler
POSITION: Equipment Operator I
OFFICE: Tacoma

EMPLOYED WITH THE ENGINEER'S OFFICE:
 since January 13, 2003






A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOURSELF?
 Tom is happily married to Cathy for nearly four decades. They have two children & four grandchildren. He has nine siblings &, can you believe there is another Tom out there? He is a twin! Siesta Key is his favorite beach and Tom loves to go hiking in the mountains. Tom is such a team player that he operates whatever equipment Wesley doesn't for that day.

INTERESTS OUTSIDE OF WORK?
 Tom is an active fisherman and golfer. He likes to help on his brother's beef farm. Most importantly, Tom is a proud grandparent who thoroughly enjoys spending time with his grandchildren.

WHAT HAVE YOU GAINED WORKING IN THIS JOB?
 Tom has gained many new friendships...and about 15 pounds.
Funny guy! I guess we asked for it.

INTERESTING FACTS?
 Tom takes great pleasure in building projects, fixing things, and any time he can help family and friends.

FAVORITE MEAL?
 Breakfast. Specifically, eggs with bacon or sausage with toast. He also likes anything with coconut and broccoli in it.

In May we continued preparing our roads for the upcoming chip seal project, including some improved ditching. With an ODOT project closing SR 149 near Stewartsville, local residents were concerned about emergency access. So we worked with Richland Township to re-open T-284 Bull Run Road. It had been closed since the July 2019 storms and normally sees less than ten vehicles per week, but with the detour in place, the road was needed for an additional local detour. In May we also began design of the slip repair on CR 10 Blaine Barton Road. On May 13th we opened bids on the County chip seal project. For the first time this year we combined our normal County project with five of our townships, Colerain, Pultney, Richland, Washington, and York. The idea was to assist our townships, create a larger project, attract more bidders, and get lower prices...and it worked! The \$570,344.80 project was awarded to Youngblood Paving and came in well below the Engineer's Estimate of

\$702,424.00. The project is 100% funded by the County's MVGT funds and the various Township's funds. The bridge crew made several guardrail repairs, mostly due to accidents, while the road crews continued hot patching. On the 24th, our crews returned to full strength following a six week COVID-19 split schedule, where half of our crew worked while the other half remained on call. The crews rotated each week. The plan was implemented to

A big WELCOME to our summer employees. They are a huge help during the summer months.

Although May is Motorcycle and Bicycle Awareness Month, the entire summer season is an excellent time to ensure we all are conscious of the many



cyclists travelling roadways.
**SHARE THE ROAD!
LOOK TWICE.
SAVE A LIFE!**



Austin Goddard

Austin Koscoe






Luke Powell

Dalton Toto

make ensure we had at least half of our crew available in case of an infection and quarantine. Thankfully, none of our employees tested positive during the split schedule. We'll never know if the precaution prevented any illnesses, but it did help ease the concerns of some of

our employees. Unfortunately the reduced man-hours put us behind on our work, erasing most of the progress made during the mild winter. The pandemic had other negative effects, like delaying our employee contract negotiations and OPWC grant funding, and seriously reducing our gas tax and license plate fee revenues by almost 40%. Even if the funding returns to normal by the end of 2020, the effect on our budget in 2021 will be significant.

June saw our bridge crew making repairs on several bridges. Richland T-314 S. Banfield Road received a beam height adjustment to improve drainage. Pultney T-316 Tiger Road needed minor asphalt repairs, and T-324 Jordan Run needed a wing wall repair. Goshen T-512 Thompson Road

ANNIVERSARIES		
MARRIAGE 	BIRTH 	EMPLOYMENT 
JULY		
Steve & Donna Clark (38 years) Wesley & Molly Wells (36 years) Keith & Melissa Luyster (18 years) Brent & Marci Brubaker (7 years)	Marvin Hickenbottom, 19th Randall Hammond, 22nd Troy Duffy, 28th David Fisher, 30th	none
AUGUST		
Virgil & Berdie West (32 years) Anthony & Kristy Atkins (8 years)	Dustin Roe, 5th	Beth Vincenzo, 24th (31 years) Steve Clark, 31st (22 years) Terry Lively, 1st (6 years) Brian Ware, 13th (2 years) Mike Lloyd, 5th (1 year)
SEPTEMBER		
David & Twila Fisher (37 years) James & Erica Pyles (16 years)	Keith Williams, 10th Luke Powell, 13th Keith Luyster, 16th Mike Lloyd, 19th Wesley Wells, 25th Steve Clark, 28th	Shereza O'Hara, 5th (25 years) Scott Sall, 27th (10 years) Andrew Hadzima, 11th (3 years)

NOTEABLE DATES	
Labor Day – September 7th (Office Closed)	Grandparents Day – September 13th
Belmont County Fair – September 8th-13th	September is Childhood, Gynecologic, Leukemia, Sickle Cell, Ovarian, Prostate, Thyroid Cancer Awareness Month
Patriot Day – September 11th	



*John Deere Excavator
Facilitated by a USDA Rural Development Grant Award*

needed some minor bank erosion protection. Finally, Somerset T-39 No. 1 School Road received a new wooden deck. Our road crews were busy hot patching, replacing culverts, cleaning up fallen trees, and making catch basin repairs on CR 10 Fairpoint Maynard Road in Blainesville. ODOT initiated emergency repairs on the CR 48 Wegee Road/T-716 Lashley Road project by meeting with Beaver Excavating and our staff on site. Beaver is expected to begin the repairs by mid-September. Our bridge crew rebuilt a box culvert headwall on CR 56 Country Club Road. And finally, Gulfport Energy repaved CR 86 Pugh Ridge Road from Washington T-101 Saffell Church Road to the Monroe County line as part of their RUMA work. -- Terry