



Belmont County Engineer's Office
Terry D. Lively, P.S., P.E., County Engineer
101 West Main Street, Courthouse
St. Clairsville, Ohio 43950

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RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY!

Our newsletters are available digitally and in color directly from our website. It can also be emailed as soon as it is released.

To receive your digital newsletter, send an email to Office.Manager@BelmontCountyEngineer.com with Email Newsletter as the subject. Include your name, address, title (if applicable) and email address.

Alternatively, visit our website, www.BelmontCountyEngineer.com, and complete the Newsletter form directly from the Home page (**Click [HERE](#) to receive our newsletter in PDF format via email**).

County Update

The Quarterly Newsletter for the Belmont County Engineer's Office

The events below have been cancelled for their regularly scheduled meeting in April due to the COVID-19 pandemic but will be rescheduled for a date later in the year that is yet to be determined.



Annual Township Meeting
POSTPONED



Annual Safety Meeting
POSTPONED



The year began quietly for our crews as December slipped into January. We took advantage of the mild winter to make guardrail repairs, drag and stone the gravel roads, and keep up cold patching on the asphalt roads. The bridge crew replaced the wood deck on Richland Twp T-314 S. Banfield Rd in just two days using pre-built sections. The office staff continued design work on our 2018 slip repair projects, and we began design work on the CR 4 Glens Run OPWC (Ohio Public Works Commission) bridge deck replacement project. We received some bad news on another one of our OPWC grants, the CR 4 Colerain Pike paving and retaining wall project. Due to an error at OPWC, the project wasn't funded in Round 34, so we will have to reapply in Round 35. However, we were awarded two other grants, \$145,376 from the new Local Roads Oil & Shale Program to fix a slip on CR 10 Blaine Barton Rd, and a \$100,000 grant/\$85,000 loan package from the USDA to replace a worn-out track hoe. Our crews also worked on tree trimming and a small bank erosion/retaining wall project on CR 2 Deep Run Rd. Unfortunately, we also saw a major new slip appear on CR 4 Willow Grove Rd. This one was caused by the July flood event, but it didn't show itself in time to use the disaster funding. We had a few minor snow squalls in January, but overall, we were very lucky.

February was more of the same, mild weather and lots of maintenance work. On the 5th we opened bids on our pavement striping project which will repaint the centerlines on many of our county roads. The winning bid went to the Aero-Mark Company in the amount of \$176,000. The project is 100% funded by a safety grant administered by ODOT and the work will take place this summer. The bridge crew made repairs to a roadside bank erosion on CR 4 Colerain Pike, while the road crews continued berming, ditching, and patching on various county roads. The office staff assisted Colerain and Warren Townships with some RUMA improvement plans, and design began work on several upcoming projects. AEP started relocation work on their 3-phase power line in preparation for the upcoming CR 4 Sand Hill Road slip repair project. Their work required complete closure of Sand Hill Rd. and it will remain closed until the project is bid out and constructed. Also in February we began our annual bridge inspection program with Popa Consulting inspecting all 276 of our county and township bridges.

Early in March our bridge inspector discovered that the 150-foot two-span bridge on CR 10 Blaine Barton Rd. needed immediate attention. Fortunately, our bridge crew was able to make the repairs and keep the 1950's era bridge in service. The office staff went out to RFP (Request for Proposal) once again to provide consulting engineering services to the townships should they need assistance. The results were nearly identical to the 2018 RFP, but the new contract satisfies FEMA's current requirements for projects using Federal funding. We experienced some hard rains which caused the typical plugged culverts and berm washouts. The real damage appeared on the 21st when Mead Twp T-716 Lashley Rd slid down onto CR 48 Wegee Rd completely blocking the road with trees and mud.



TR-716 Lashley Rd above CR-48 Wegee Rd



CR-48 Wegee Rd below TR-716 Lashley Rd

It took a couple of days for the phone company to clear their line, but less than one week later we had Wegee Rd reopened to traffic using one lane. Since Wegee is a Federal Aid route, we should be able to get FHWA assistance with the repairs.

Spring Car Care



Check the bulbs

Ensure both interior and exterior lights are functioning at full brightness for any situation that may arise and to keep yourself visible and safe during heavy rainfall or foggy mornings.

Check the battery

Cold weather wears down the battery faster than warm weather. Consider a voltage test or, if the battery is out of warranty and older than 3-years, consider replacing.



Check the spark plugs



Like the battery, cold weather can wear down spark plugs. Check the plugs and ignition wires and replace as needed.

Change the oil

Modern engines should have the oil and filter changed between 5000-7000 miles. Schedule an oil change to help draw heat away from the combustion chamber and prevent contaminants from accumulating in the engine.



Change the cabin and air filter



Spring means pollen and other allergens are in the air. Get the filter changed to keep the cabin air clean and free from those nasty allergens. Change the air filter for better engine performance.

Test the A/C

Don't get stuck without enough heat or cold air and ensure the A/C is functioning optimally before it's really needed.



Check the wiper blades and windshield

Don't get caught when poor visibility occurs during a spring shower or a heavy downpour. Check the windshield for cracks and chips.

Check the tires

Check the tire pressure and tread. Change from winter tires to all-season. Replace tires when tread is low to help avoid hydroplaning during a storm. Check for leaks, cuts, dry rot, and other damage. Surely potholes have been a nuisance. Realign and rotate the tires.



Wash and wax



It's time to refresh your car. Make sure all that grime and salt are cleaned from the vehicle. Wax for longer lasting results. Check for paint chips and dents. Repair as needed.

Vacuum and clean interior

A clean car always feels better than a dirty one and winter weather can wreak havoc on a car's interior.

Sweep the interior. Scrub stains. Wipe the dust build-up off and wash the windows. You and your car will feel so much better.



Catch up on maintenance

It's easy to ignore warning lights and other maintenance items during the cold, winter weather. It's time to take advantage of the warmer, spring season and have your brakes checked, top off fluid levels, and have warning lights checked. Check belts and hoses for leaks and cracks. Update your emergency kit.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT!



NAME:

Jonathan R. Walker

POSITION:

GIS Technician

EMPLOYED WITH THE ENGINEER'S OFFICE:

since December 10, 2018

A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOURSELF?

Currently a member of the Air Force Reserve, Jon was an active duty Army Infantry and in the Ohio Army National Guard as a Geospatial Engineer. Jon created the National Road Virtual Tour posted on the county tourism website.

THANK YOU, JON, FOR YOUR SERVICE!

INTERESTS OUTSIDE OF WORK?

Jon is a history buff, volunteer firefighter and EMT.

UNUSUAL OR INTERESTING JOB?

Jon was once an Archaeologist/GIS Tech.




HIDDEN TALENTS?

Jon's a talented bass guitar player.

LEAST FAVORITE FOOD?

Leave the peas off the plate, but Jon enjoys everything else he cooks.



ANNIVERSARIES		
MARRIAGE 	BIRTH 	EMPLOYMENT 
APRIL		
Dan & Renni Boltz (19 years) Ken & Julie Wehr (23 years) Troy & Michelle Duffy (25 years) Randall & Jewel Hammond (25 years)	Cory Milhoan, 7th Mike Drake, 26th Ike Nelson, 29th	Mark Bosnic, 11th (9 years) Randall Hammond, 11th (9 years) Keith Williams, 2nd (17 years) Frank Mayo, 3rd (20 years) Henry Kolodziej, 3rd (31 years)
MAY		
Marvin & Rebecca Hickenbottom (38 years) Frank & Nancy Mayo (40 years)	Dan Boltz, 6th Bob Saffell, 7th Charles Crolley, 8th Beth Vincenzo, 9th Shereza O'Hara, 15th Anthony Atkins, 24th	Troy Duffy, 17th (16 years) Marvin Hickenbottom, 13th (18 years)
JUNE		
Cory & Ann Milhoan (7 years) Bob & Terri Saffell (21 years) Mike & Karen Lloyd (29 years) Charles & Shannon Crolley (31 years) Thomas & Catherine Butler (38 years) Albert & Robin Muntz (43 years)	Andy Hadzima, 1st Virgil West, 10th Thomas Butler, 11th	Brent Brubaker, 18th (2 years) Kenneth Wehr, 29th (5 years) Brett Hess, 8th (11 years)

NOTEABLE DATES	
Good Friday – April 10th Easter Sunday – April 12th Tax Day – April 15th Administrative Professionals Day – April 22nd Cinco De Mayo – May 5th	Mother's Day – May 10th * Memorial Day – May 25th (Office Closed) Father's Day – June 21st * Independence Day Observed – July 3rd (Office Closed) Independence Day – July 4th

Our GIS department contracted with Kucera for \$39,500 to provide new 6-inch resolution imagery. The County was last flown in 2017 and the new imagery should be on-line in November. Another rain and wind event kept us busy on the 29th, and the same day our crews were asked to assist the county's water department by hauling material for a 24-inch water main break. Of course, we helped out and they had the main restored in less than a day.

The biggest story of this quarter, and probably the whole year, is the COVID-19 virus. It has forced us to rethink everything we do, adjust our procedures, and decide what is truly necessary. On the 22nd of March the Governor declared a stay at home order, and only 'essential' personnel were

authorized to work. The Governor's order specifically called out infrastructure and transportation as being essential, something we already knew. Whether it's plowing snow, repairing a bridge, or clearing a road like Wegee, keeping our roads and bridges in service is absolutely critical to the public's safety and welfare. And yet we can't ignore the risk to our workers, so we are taking appropriate measures to protect them as best we can. It's true, our crews are accustomed to risk. There's nothing 'safe' about climbing into a plow truck and heading out into the night on icy, hilly roads. But this virus presents a different type of risk, and it's unsettling working around something dangerous that we can't see or control. Despite the uncertainty all around us, there's one thing I can say with absolute confidence: No matter what the circumstances, the employees of the Engineer's office will continue to serve this community to the best of our ability. God bless and take care...

-- Terry

We are in this together.

Stay safe. Stay calm. Stay healthy. Save lives.