



Belmont County Engineer's Office
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County Update

The Quarterly Newsletter for the Belmont County Engineer's Office

Terry's Desk



We began 2021 with our bridge crew replacing a rotted timber wing wall on the CR 4-25.56 Glenns Run bridge. This work was done in preparation for a new concrete composite deck that will be installed as part of the

\$400,000 Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) grant we received last year. The \$755,500 project is being built by Shelly & Sands. Our road crews took advantage of the relatively quiet winter weather to continue ditching, cleaning up fallen trees, cold patching, and arm mowing. They also replaced rusted out culverts on CR 86 Pleasant Ridge Rd. The office staff worked on design plans for an upcoming project on CR 80 Pogue Road, CR 84

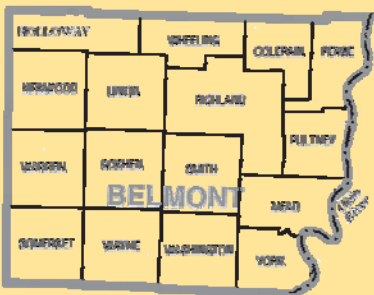


Executive Drive, and CR 84 Oak View Drive. We also continued design work on several FEMA and FHWA slip repair projects. We had snow calls on the 20th, 25th, and 28th that kept our crews busy. On the 25th we were all reminded of just how dangerous the plow driver's job can be. One of our dump trucks slid sideways on an icy gravel road and overturned. Thankfully, the driver was uninjured. And since the accident occurred on a lightly travelled rural road, no other vehicles were involved. In between snow calls we were able to complete guardrail repairs on CR 4 Glenns Run Road and CR 10 Lafferty Bannock Road.

Annual Safety Meeting postponed due to pandemic.



Annual Township Meeting postponed due to pandemic.



February began with more snow, and it was just the beginning of a winter pattern that had our crews working overtime again on the 5th, 9th, 11th, and 18th. We received some good news when we were notified that our 2021 OPWC application had been approved. This project will repair a failing retaining wall and culvert on CR 4 Colerain Pike, and repave the Pike from US 250 to SR 647. We also learned that our project on Pogue, Executive, and Oak View would receive additional funding from the State of Ohio. The current grant awards are \$244,806 from the State Transportation Improvement District (TID), and \$125,000 from the State Jobs and Commerce



Spring Driving Tips

Watch for potholes.



Winter weather takes a toll on our roadways creating large potholes. Rain fills potholes with water making them difficult to see. They can damage your car leading to expensive repairs. Keep a safe distance when following drivers in case they need to react. Never swerve to avoid a pothole. This can put you & your family in a more dangerous situation. Gently brake before, if possible.

Slow down for spring showers.



Roads are the most slippery when it first begins to rain? This is caused by the rainwater mixing with contaminants on the road, such as oil & grease. Make sure to increase your following distance to allow for proper braking.

Watch for pedestrians.



As temperatures increase, more people are outside walking or bicycling with their families. Slowdown in your neighborhood & pay extra attention at crosswalks. If pedestrians have the walk signal, they have the right of way.

Watch for animals on the move.



Animal activity increases during the spring. This is mating season for some. Others were hibernating & now awakening from their long winter slumber. Remember, deer are most active at dawn & dusk.

Be aware of construction zones.



When driving through construction zones:

- Be attentive. Construction workers & equipment may suddenly enter the roadway. Traffic patterns can change to accommodate the work being done.
- Understand & follow the signs.
- Make safe lane changes. Solid lines in construction zones mean that you should stay in your lane.
- Slow down. Fines may be doubled in construction zones. In addition, slowing down can save a life.

Share the road.



Due to their speed & size, motorcyclists & cyclists may quickly be in blind spots. Always take a second look now that these cyclists are out on the road & be courteous. Cyclists have most, if not all, the same rights to be on the road. Always maintain a safe following distance.

Get an emergency kit.



If you run into issues on the road, it is important to be sure you are prepared & have an emergency kit. This includes things like water, blankets, road flares, jumper cables, & the proper tools to change a tire. Roadside emergency kits can easily be purchased at your local auto parts store or create your own.

Make sure your insurance is current.



Before you head out, make sure to confirm that you have up-to-date insurance information, a valid driver's license, & current registration. Having these items will keep you from getting unnecessary tickets that can put a damper on any trip.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT!



NAME: Keith Luyster
POSITION: Road Supervisor
OFFICE: Roscoe & Neffs Garages

EMPLOYED WITH THE ENGINEER'S OFFICE:
 since November 13, 2007

A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOURSELF?

Keith is a "hobby farmer". He and his family take cattle to shows all year-round. He's also the real-deal family man who enjoys spending as much time as possible with them. He says that he likes all the knowledges he has been afforded while employed with the County but now makes sure he always checks the truck beds are closed when leaving the garage.



FAVORITE PROJECT?

Keith has done many duties. His fondest memory is hauling #4 limestone. He was quite good at it, too.



MOST INTERESTING OR UNUSUAL JOB?

Keith worked for Ormet years back. He says everyone should have had a chance to work at the "PLANT" & there was never a dull moment on days working with Tom B.



FAVORITE MEAL?

Any time Keith doesn't need to fork (pun intended) over any money, he's a happy boy. But, when he is buying, he prefers a good steak. But, keep the lobster & salmon patties away.



FAVORITE VACATION SPOT?

Keith enjoys dipping his feet in the water, sitting on the sand, & enjoying drinks while at St. Pete Beach, Florida






Division. Improvements were made at our Roscoe Garage by repairing a back-up generator and installing a new brine tank and pump. The brine system will save us money by making our de-icing materials more effective, and the generator will allow our repair garage and radio dispatch system to operate during power outages.

Despite the weather, our bridge crew was able to replace a posted bridge on CR 4 Colerain Pike with a new box culvert in preparation of the upcoming OPWC project. They also replaced guardrail on CR 72 Mt. Hope Road, CR 5 Glencoe Road, and CR 114 Fairview Road. Finally, the office staff assisted Senator Hoagland’s efforts to find funding for our numerous unfunded slip projects.

March brought some relief to the winter weather, and our crews took advantage of the break by cold patching and cleaning culverts on CR 5 Pugh Ridge and CR 86 Pleasant Ridge Roads. The office staff worked on assisting Belomar with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) paving specs and kicking off a design project for next year’s CR 10 Blaine Barton paving project. They also assembled the list of roads for our annual chip seal project and completed the right of way acquisition for the CR 4 Sand Hill Road slip project. Our bridge crew replaced a wood deck on a Pultney Twp. T-302 Brown Hollow bridge, and guardrail on CR 78 National Oco Road. Also bridge related, Popa Consulting conducted our annual bridge inspection program on all 275 of our bridges. Our road crew replaced culverts on CR 26 South Road in between cleaning up fallen trees. Our office staff scored a big victory by winning an appeal with FEMA which will fund a \$540,000 slip project on CR 56 Mt. Victory Road. And we finished out the month by kicking off a preliminary study to improve the intersection of CR 10 Blaine Barton Road and US 40 at the bottom of the Baine viaduct. This \$29,820 study is being funded by the Belmont County TID and is the first step in advancing the project through detailed design and, eventually, construction, providing a safer, more functional intersection. – *Terry*



ANNIVERSARIES		
MARRIAGE 	BIRTH 	WORK 
APRIL		
Troy & Judy Duffy, 1st (26 years) Kenneth & Betty Wehr, 4th (24 years) Randall & Jewell Hammond, 13th (26 years) Daniel & Renni Boltz, 28th (20 years)	Cory Milhoan, 7th Mike Drake, 26th Ike Nelson, 29th	Keith Williams, 2nd (18 years) Henry Kolodziej, 3rd (32 years) Mark Bosnic, 11th (10 years) Randy Hammond, 11th (10 years)
MAY		
Marvin & Rebecca Hickenbottom, 1st (39 years)	Danny Boltz, 6th Bob Saffell, 7th Charles Crolley, 8th Beth Vincenzo, 9th Shereza O’Hara, 15th Anthony Atkins, 24th	Marvin Hickenbottom, 13th (19 years) Troy Duffy, 17th (17 years)
JUNE		
Charles & Shannon Crolley, 3rd (32 years) Robert & Terri Saffell, 5th (22 years) Thomas & Cathy Butler, 6th (39 years) Michael & Karen Lloyd, 15th (30 years) Cory & Ann Milhoan, 22nd (8 years) Albert & Robin Muntz, 30th (44 years)	Andy Hadzima, 1st Kevin West, 10th Tom Butler, 11th	Brett Hess, 8th (12 years) Brent Brubaker, 18th (3 years) Ken Wehr, 29th (6 years)

NOTABLES	
April Awareness – Animal Cruelty; Autism; Child Abuse; Sexual Assault; Donate Life; Parkinson’s Disease; Esophageal Cancer; Testicular Cancer; Oral, Head, & Neck Cancer; 911 Education May Awareness – Military Appreciation; Arthritis; Asthma; Food Allergy; Brain Cancer; Osteoporosis; Skin Cancer; Lupus; Stroke; Bladder Cancer; Mental Health; Tuberos Sclerosis; Celiac Disease; Foster Care; Necrotizing Fasciitis June Awareness – Safety; Pride; PTSD; Cataract	Teacher’s Day – May 4th Mother’s Day – May 9th Taxes due – May 17th Memorial Day – May 31st (Office Closed) Cancer Survivor’s Day – June 6th Flag Day – June 14th Father’s Day – June 20th

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