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Belmont, Ohio, Marshall,
and Wetzel Counties

NWAAA: Brooke, Calhoun, Doddridge,
Gilmer, Hancock, Harrison, Marion,
Marshall, Monongalia, Ohio, Pleasants,
Ritchie, Tyler, Wetzel, Wirt, and Wood
Counties

Fred Bennett Honored

Fred Bennett, Belmont County Engineer, was named Engineer of the Year in the State of Ohio. This honor was bestowed upon Fred by the County Engineers Association of Ohio and the County Commissioners Association of Ohio.

On December 10, 2009, the Belmont County Commissioners passed a resolution acknowledging this wonderful accomplishment and thanking Fred for his years of loyal public service.



Congratulations Fred on this well deserved recognition and honor.

Celebrating a True West Virginia Living Legend: U.S. Sen. Robert C. Byrd

From the Desk of Governor Joe Manchin

West Virginia celebrated one of the most significant and monumental milestones in our state and nation's history, as U.S. Sen. Robert C. Byrd became the longest serving member of Congress. November 18, 2009 marked the official day that Sen. Byrd eclipsed one of the most prestigious honors a public servant can attain. November 18th, now known in West Virginia as Robert C. Byrd Day, is truly special because many people across West Virginia know just how much time, effort and sincerity Sen. Byrd has put into his work. His deep admiration and respect for the Constitution and his passion for this state and nation are second-to-none and exemplify qualities of a true American statesman.

I was truly honored to be joined by so many of Sen. Byrd's closest friends, colleagues, state and local officials and citizens to honor our beloved senior senator. The

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Robert C. Byrd

Continued from page 1

event was one of the most memorable and fitting tributes that I have attended since becoming governor. Although the Senator could not join us in Charleston, he did, however, spend his day in a very familiar setting - on the U.S. Senate floor - where many of his colleagues honored his historic achievement."

Sen. Byrd's presence on Capitol Hill has spanned 11 different U.S. presidents, and his sheer influence and knowledge has benefited many people and public officials. I have been privileged to call Sen. Byrd a very dear friend, mentor and trusted colleague.

For more than 56 years, the people of West Virginia have trusted Sen. Byrd to deliver for them, and, he has. We are truly fortunate to have someone of his caliber and expertise fighting for us in Washington.

Sen. Byrd has helped make possible some things we might take for granted in our state, such as roads, water, sewer, new schools, economic development projects, homeland security funding and bridges, among countless others, have an impact on our quality of life each and every day.

This week, was not the first time Sen. Byrd broke a record, here are a few others:

- He is the only West Virginian to have served in both Houses of the West Virginia Legislature and both Houses of the U.S. Congress.
- He is the first public official in West Virginia to have won all of the state's 55 counties in a contested election.
- He is the only person elected to nine full-terms in the U.S. Senate.
- He has cast more roll call votes than any other U.S. Senator.
- He presided over the Senate for the longest continuous period in history (21 hours, 8 minutes, March 7-8, 1960).
- He is the first senator to complete a comprehensive history of the U.S. Senate based on his own insights, recollections, and the work of scholars.

Today, we say "thank you" and "Happy Birthday" to Sen. Byrd! West Virginia truly appreciates what this great West Virginian has done. And, we take time this week to salute our state's true living legend.

Governor Announces \$15,049,205 Allocation in Federal Stimulus Funds For New and Rehabilitated Rental Housing

Governor Joe Manchin announced the allocation of \$15,049,205 in federal stimulus funds for new and rehabilitated rental housing. Appropriated by Congress to assist developers of low cost rental housing in raising adequate equity to lower the cost of construction and therefore rents, it is administered by the WV Housing Development Fund.

"These funds, called TCAP for Tax Credit Assistant Program, will be used to replace funds typically raised through the sale of low income housing tax credits. In today's market, those credits are selling at 65% of value rather than the 92% to 95% of value of years past. The lower the sales price, the less equity that is raised to lower the debt on a building. With more debt, the tenants must pay more rent," said Joe W. Hatfield, Executive Director of the Housing Development Fund.



"Fourteen properties in thirteen West Virginia towns will receive these funds to provide new and rehabilitated affordable housing for 865 families. This brings new jobs, new hope, new promise to our towns in addition to affordable housing and for that, we are all thankful," added Governor Manchin.

The developments are located in Charleston, Martinsburg, Mt. Hope, Ranson, Fairmont, Wheeling, Bunker Hill, Moorefield, Harpers Ferry, Shepherdstown, Beckley, Pt. Pleasant and Lewisburg.

FMI, contact the West Virginia Housing Development Fund at (304) 345-6475 or visit the website at www.wvhdf.com.

Management Services Department

CHIP Funds Awarded

The Belmont County Commissioners were successful in their application request to the Ohio Department of Development for a Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP) Grant, for fiscal 2009. This Grant is for \$112,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds, and \$288,000 in HOME funds, for a total of \$400,000. This grant will allow the Commissioners to continue their quest to upgrade housing stock in the County. The CHIP Program works with low to moderate income residents to identify deficiencies in housing, and have those deficiencies corrected. The table below shows the types of activities and number of units projected:

- Private Owner Rehab - Full rehab of owner occupied single family dwellings. We expect to complete five units.
- Home Repair - Correcting one or two items that are of a serious health and safety threat. We expect to complete at least eight units.
- Homeownership - Down payment assistance for first time home buyers, and full rehab of new dwelling. We expect to complete three units.
- Private Rental Rehab - Full rehab of rental unit. This requires a 50% match from the landlord. We expect to complete one unit.



Under this Grant, the County has named a portion of Flushing as a Target Area. A public information meeting will be held in the very near future to educate the citizens about this target area. Applications will be available at the meeting, and Bel-O-Mar representatives will be on hand to assist anyone in completing an application. Residents living in this target area will be given extra points when the application is “graded”, therefore giving them a better opportunity to be considered for assistance.

The CHIP Staff is busy receiving applications, qualifying applicants, and inspecting houses. All houses are assessed in the following areas: Building Structure; Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning Systems; Electrical; Plumbing; Environmental; and Lead-Based Paint Hazards. All



activities have certain stipulations that must be followed. Bel-O-Mar also administers a CHIP Grant for The City of St. Clairsville, which was funded in 2008, and provides inspection and lead -based paint assessment services for the City of Martins Ferry, in conjunction with their CHIP Program. For more information, contact Housing Rehab Specialist Rick Healy, of Bel-O-Mar Regional Council, at 304-242-1800 or by e-mail at rhealy@belomar.org.

Village of Barnesville - WWTP Sludge Improvements Project

The project will consist of:

1. Installation of Belt filter Sludge Press and storage building.
2. Addition of two, 304,000 gallon glass-lined steel sludge storage tanks with aeration laterals, aeration diffusers, flow metering, level sensors and sludge mixing system
3. Addition of blower building to house three blowers for sludge aeration.
4. Addition of pump station to transfer sludge between storage/treatment tanks.
5. Addition of sludge removal pump station.
6. Replacement of return and waste activated sludge pumps.
7. Replacement of wastewater treatment plant laboratory.

This project will correct the EPA violations with sludge rules.

The Village recently signed contracts for construction and a pre-construction conference was held January 29, 2010.

Total project cost: \$3,176,616

Funding for this project:

WPCLF Loan	\$ 415,776
EPA ARRA Grant	\$ 1,682,924
OPWC Loan	\$ 49,000
OPWC Grant	\$ 400,000
CDBG ARRA Grant	\$ 500,000
Local	\$ 128,916

Construction will begin in the next couple weeks and the project completion date is March 1, 2011.

Belmont County FEMA Hazard Mitigation Program Grant (HMPG) Update

The FEMA HMPG awarded to the Belmont County Commissioners on April 2, 2007 for the Buy-out of 53 flooded residential homes in the Neffs area is nearing completion. Of the 53 properties approved for potential buy-out, 36 properties have been acquired. Of the 17 property owners not participating, 4 rehabilitated their homes, 4 declined the County's "Offer to Purchase", 5 properties were owned by the same person who chose not to participate in the program, 3 were foreclosed and



unable to participate and 1 property owner was deceased and there was no one to probate the estate.

The County is now in the process of bidding out the demolition of the remaining structures acquired. The grant will be closed out by April 22, 2010. Any questions regarding this program should be directed to A.C. Wiethe, Project Manager at (304) 242-1800.

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program Information Sheet

What it is? West Virginia Department of Energy will be allocating funds for the 11 Regional Councils to distribute to eligible local governments within their respective regions. Bel-O-Mar communities may compete for EECBG funds for projects designed to reduce energy dependency and increase energy efficiency. This program has been created under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus.)

Amount - Approximately \$536,400 will be allocated to the Region 10 Planning and Development Council (Bel-O-Mar) for distribution to its Cities, Towns and County Commissions in Ohio, Marshall and Wetzel Counties. The maximum award per community is \$200,000, however, we encourage communities to take into consideration the limited amount of funds available and the anticipated demand for those funds when developing their project

Activities Eligible - Consideration will be limited to proposals that conform to the guidelines for eligible activities. Applications should be limited to the following activities:



- Low energy lighting
- Heating and Cooling Systems (HVAC)
- Door/Window replacement
- Insulation



Priorities - County Courthouses and City/Town Halls are a priority. Other stand-alone city/county buildings would be given a low priority.



Application Process - Bel-O-Mar will be sending out EECBG applications to its eligible communities as soon as we receive a grant agreement and finalized application forms from the WV DOE. A deadline for submitting applications will be included along with the rating process and selection criteria. Communities will be notified the status of their applications once they have been reviewed and ranked.

What can I do now? Start thinking about what project you will be submitting for, if any. All projects will be subject to review by the WV Department of Culture and History. Interested communities should contact Bel-O-Mar as soon as they have determined what they will be applying for so that the state historic review process can be started.



Questions? Please call **Eric Fecat of Bel-O-Mar at (304) 242-1800** for more information and to discuss your projects.

Governor Manchin Announces the Sale of \$150 Million in Bonds by the WV Housing Development Fund for Low Interest Rate Mortgages

Governor Joe Manchin has announced the sale of \$150 million in bonds by the West Virginia Housing Development Fund to provide low interest rate mortgages to as many as 1,000 West Virginia families.

“This is the largest bond issuance by the Housing Development Fund in its history and will offer its borrowers rates, terms and assistance never offered before. The Housing Development Fund has gone all out to provide qualified West Virginia borrowers the best mortgage program ever,” said the governor. Borrowers can apply for a fixed rate loan at approximately 5 percent with as little as no down payment. The Housing Development Fund will provide low cost funds for up to \$15,000 in closing and down payments when required.

“Every qualifying West Virginia family wanting to purchase a home will be provided the opportunity to purchase. Families needing homebuyer counseling to prepare to take on the responsibility of a mortgage can call the Housing Development Fund for more information” stated Joe Hatfield, Executive Director of the Housing Development Fund.

With low cost financing, down payment and closing cost assistance and homebuyer counseling, most West Virginia families should qualify to own a home. Applications for loans through banks, mortgage lenders and credit unions started this month.

Interested persons should contact their realtor, builder, lending institution or the Housing Development Fund for more information about how to apply for a mortgage loan, visit the Housing Development Fund’s website at www.wvhdf.com.

For a list of participating lenders or call the West Virginia Housing Development Fund for a mortgage information packet at 1-877-WVADREAM.

The West Virginia Housing Development Fund is a public body corporate and governmental instrumentality of the State of West Virginia established to increase the supply of residential housing for persons and families of low- and moderate-income, and to provide construction

and permanent mortgage financing to public and private sponsors of such housing. To date, the Housing Development Fund has sold over \$3 billion in tax-exempt bonds to finance more than 100,000 housing units since it began operation in 1968. No tax dollars were utilized to provide this information. The West Virginia Housing Development Fund is an Equal Housing Opportunity Lender.



West Virginia Responsible Government Launches New Website to Provide Valuable Project Information

Governor Joe Manchin announced the launch of a new web site for the West Virginia Responsible Government program, an initiative coordinated through the Pew Center on the States. The web site is available at www.responsible.wv.gov.

The goal of this initiative is to strengthen state operations by adopting best practices to make government run even more efficiently and transparently. Gov. Manchin developed a vision of West Virginia in 2012, called “West Virginia Responsible Government,” by identifying quality of life, economic, and government improvements in a state-wide, strategic plan that requires all state agencies and employees to begin working toward creating more fiscally accountable operations. The governor’s vision is posted on this web site. Other features of this site include a project overview, impact and results, a news center, frequently asked questions, and resources. Continued enhancements to this site are forthcoming.

The West Virginia Responsible Government initiative is part of a partnership with the Pew Center on the States that began in early 2009. West Virginia is one of three states, including Georgia and **Ohio**, chosen for Pew’s Management Lab, focusing on specific challenges to improve statewide results to be shared with other states to spur government improvements nationwide. Pew has been examining all 50 states’ management of money, people, information, and infrastructure for more than ten years.

Transportation Department

ODOT Announcement for Community Projects

The Ohio Department of Transportation is accepting funding request applications for Transportation Enhancement and Municipal Bridge projects. The programs provide federal funding for a variety of transportation infrastructure projects throughout the state.

Transportation Enhancement Program

Federal funding is available to preserve historic transportation sites, scenically enhance local roadways, and add pedestrian bicycle and walking paths throughout Ohio. Citizen groups or other private organizations can also sponsor a project by coordinating with the local government having jurisdiction over the transportation facility involved. The funding will be provided for projects to be awarded in State Fiscal Year 2012 and 2013.



Municipal Bridge Program

The Municipal Bridge Program provides federal funds to municipal corporations and transit authorities for bridge replacement or bridge rehabilitation projects. Bridges must carry vehicular traffic to be eligible for funding. Bridges that exist solely for railroad or pedestrian facilities are not eligible for funding. The funding will be provided for projects to be awarded in State Fiscal Year 2012 and 2013.

Program applications and corresponding policies and guidance are available on the ODOT Office of Local Projects' website at <http://www.dot.state.oh.us/local>.

ODOT District 11 contacts are Amber Hewitt for the Enhancement Program and Roxanne Kane for the Municipal Bridge Program. Amber and Roxanne may be reached at 330-339-6633.



Freight Shipper and Receiver Survey

Addressing freight mobility to, from and through our region is one of the emphasis areas in the long range transportation plan required under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). In addition, the truck traffic is increasing nationwide and in our region it is expected to grow by 2% annually over the next decade. This increase reflects a shift to e-trade, e-shopping and on time deliveries where trucks essentially are warehouses on wheels.

Bel-O-Mar is in the process of conducting a survey of major shippers and receivers in our region to better understand their needs and expectations, with an ultimate objective to plan for the efficient and timely movement of freight to, from and through our area. This is a two step survey. First a mail back response is sought from the major shippers and receivers. Secondly, the truck drivers are invited to respond to an electronic survey on Bel-O-Mar's website.

Announcements for the availability of the truck driver survey was mailed recently with the major shipper and receiver survey questionnaire with a request to post the announcement on the bulletin boards at the job sites. The announcement was also posted in local rest areas and truck stops along Interstate 70.

The results of the surveys will play a vital role in the freight planning for our region.



IT'S IN OUR HANDS

United States
**Census
2010**

In less than two months, every household and living quarter in the country will receive a 10 question Census questionnaire. Unlike previous Censuses, no one will receive the long form. The response to the 10 questions will tell us how we, as a community, region and nation have changed. It will affect our representation in the congress and our share of federal funds. Millions of dollars will be at stake for our region. In Belmont

County, we have seen Shadyside lose its city status after the 1980 Census, while Bellaire became a village after the 2000 Census. St. Clairsville barely met the threshold of 5,000 persons to maintain city status. On the West Virginia side, the City of Wheeling fell behind Parkersburg in population ranking, dropping from the third largest city to fourth in the state. Moundsville's population dropped below 10,000. At stake, based on available estimates for 2008, is Wheeling dropping behind Morgantown in population ranking and the Wheeling Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) falling behind Parkersburg (MSA). Depending on the final 2010 count, this will result in substantial loss of revenue for our communities and region as a whole.

You have it in your hands to minimize this loss. We cannot afford to be undercounted. Undercounting has been an issue with previous censuses. After the 2000 Census, one small community in our region contested the preliminary census count, with the assistance from Bel-O-Mar staff. An undercount was verified and numbers were revised by the Census Bureau. Census count challenges are hard, time consuming and resource intensive and that is why in the previous three decades, there was only one successful challenge in our region.

You have it in your hands to stop undercounting. The undercounting happens when due to errors or a lack of most up to date address lists, some households do not receive a questionnaire or not all persons living in a household or group quarters are counted. Persons without mailing addresses and persons having more than one residence such as "Snowbirds" can be easily missed. A separate article in this newsletter addresses how "Snowbirds" can make sure they are counted. Undercounting may also happen in census identified hard to count areas and in rooming houses or other shared living arrangements where only one person may receive and mail the questionnaire without including others. Apprehensions about confidentiality of information provided also play a role in undercounting. Counting everyone is a daunting challenge.

How can we eliminate or minimize undercounting? The Census Bureau will spend millions of dollars in a publicity blitz to educate the public and to improve the questionnaire mail back rate. The households that fail to respond will be visited by Census takers. For those who are going to fall through the cracks and will not receive a questionnaire or will be unwilling to respond, the following options can be explored:

The Census Bureau had invited the local jurisdictions and other private groups with interest in complete count to form Complete Count Committees (CCC). A Complete Count Committee will increase your constituent's understanding of the Census and hopefully their willingness to return a questionnaire. Some local communities have already established CCCs.

For those who missed out, it may be too late to start a CCC, but communities can still help with outreach efforts by inviting Census Bureau staff to meetings/events. A visit to the website www.2010census.gov will be helpful to identify outreach ideas that may work in your community. Promotional material will also be available from the Census Bureau. For more information on outreach efforts, our designated contact is as follows:

For jurisdictions in Belmont County:

Ben Holbert
1350 Euclid Avenue, Suite 650
Cleveland, OH 44115
216-338-5039
benjamin.i.holbert.iii@census.gov

For jurisdictions in Ohio, Marshall and Wetzel Counties:

Elizabeth Guthrie
304-218-1632
elizabeth.j.guthrie@census.gov

Identifying and implementing the most effective outreach efforts will reduce undercounting. The 2010 Census will be here on April 1st (Census Day), how many of us will be counted is in our hands.

Sample Census Frequently Asked Questions

For your information, a sample of frequently asked questions from the Census Bureau website are reproduced on the next page.

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Do I have to fill the form in?

Yes. Respondents are required by law to answer all questions to the best of their ability.

What if I don't receive the form?

If you did not receive a form, call the Telephone Questionnaire Assistance center at 1-866-872-6868. (If you prefer a Spanish-speaking operator, then dial 1-866-928-2010.) The lines will be open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. (your local time) seven days a week from February 25, 2010 through July 30, 2010. For the hearing-impaired, TDD 1-866-783-2010 (during the times noted above).

Is there another way to get the form other than the mail?

Be Counted forms are census forms that are available at various community locations for use by people who either did not receive a form in the mail or whose info. was not collected on any other form. Be Counted forms are available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese and Russian. These forms can be picked up in various community locations and mailed back in the attached postage-paid envelope.

Can I respond on the Internet?

No, this option is not available. Please fill out and mail back your form so that we can get a complete and accurate count for your community in the 2010 Census. Census data directly affects how more than \$400 billion per year in federal and state funding is allocated to local, state and tribal governments - that's \$4 trillion over a 10-year period.

What happens if someone releases confidential info.?

It is against the law to publish or disclose any data that identifies an individual or company - no names, no addresses, no Social Security numbers. Violating the law is a federal crime with serious penalties, including a prison sentence of up to five years and a \$250,000 fine.

Who should be included on the questionnaire that is mailed to the residence?

The person filling out the questionnaire should include information about all household members (including him/herself) who live and sleep at the address most of the time. The person should also include people who are staying there on April 1, 2010, who have no permanent place to stay. The Census Bureau is mandated by the Constitution to count everyone who lives in this country, regardless of immigration or citizenship status.



“Snowbirds” Need to Know How to Accurately Respond to 2010 Census *

With Census Day 2010 less than two months away, the Ohio Department of Aging is reaching out to Ohioans who live in warmer climates during the winter months, informally known as “snowbirds,” to make sure they know how to correctly fill out their 2010 Census form. “Many federal programs that provide services to Ohio’s seniors, including our home delivered meals, long-term care ombudsman program and senior employment program, use census data to determine how much funding Ohio will receive,” said Barbara E. Riley, director of the department. “It’s vital that we have an accurate count of our residents to ensure we can continue to meet the needs of our state’s two million seniors.” Complete and accurate census count is equally important for the West Virginia side of our region. Forms are sent to every residence, meaning if you have two residences, such as one here and one in Florida, you will receive forms at both addresses. Snowbirds should list their Ohio/West Virginia residence as their permanent household if they spend the majority of the year here. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, to be counted once, in the right place and at the right time, a snowbird should fill out both of the forms they receive: - On the form that you receive at your seasonal residence (meaning you spend less than the majority of your year here), the only questions that should be answered are question one and question 10. For question one, enter a “zero.” For question 10, select “yes, at seasonal or second residence.” - On the form that you receive at your permanent household (where you spend the majority of your year), you should fill out the entire survey even if you are still at your seasonal residence on April 1. For example, if you live eight months a year locally and four months elsewhere (even within the same state), your local residence is your permanent residence and that is where you should be counted. The United States Post Office will not forward census questionnaires. In May and June, U.S. Census Bureau employees will visit residences that do not return a form. To avoid a knock on your door, complete your form and mail it back. If you know someone who is away from the area for winter months, please share these tips with them so they are counted at their permanent residence and not the seasonal residence. For more information about the 2010 Census, visit www.2010census.gov.

* This article is an adaptation of an article that first appeared in Buckey Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District's newsletter.

Northwestern Area Agency on Aging

AoA FY 2010 Budget Signed into Law



Assistant Secretary Kathy Greenlee has announced that President Obama signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2010 on December 16, 2009. This legislation provides appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Defense, Education, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Justice, Labor, State, Transportation, the Treasury, Veterans Affairs and other agencies. It also contains AoA's budget for FY 2010.

The AoA budget, which totals \$1,516,297,000, is \$22 million over last year's level. It contains a nearly \$10 million increase for nutrition services for older Americans and an increase of \$7 million for home and community-based services. Increases have also been included for Native American programs and long term care ombudsman programs that advocate for and help nursing home residents and their families.

To view the entire AoA FY 2010 budget, please visit: <http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/About/Budget/index.aspx>

Videocaregiving.org: A Groundbreaking New Resource for Family Caregivers

The new website www.videocaregiving.org features an almost-exclusive use of streaming videos aimed at helping the nation's estimated 50 million family caregivers— family members, friends, even neighbors -- all of whom provide some form of unpaid, in-home continuing care. Among the goals of the site are to help the caregiver better understand and deal with their situation, but also to remind them they are neither isolated or alone in their struggle.

Facts about the site:

The videos on the Web site are original footage, documentary in style, focusing on real stories of real people in real circumstances. All are drawn from films either produced or distributed by Terra Nova Films, a company that has for more than 27 years been a leader in the use of video in the training and development of tens of thousands of professional caregivers, ranging from doctors and nurses to college professors and social workers, even lawyers and police. An advisory team of representatives from the leading caregiving organizations and a production team of experts on caregiving and Alzheimer's disease came together to create this resource, which offers specific caregiving topics on dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

The 5-8 minute videos are simple, clear and to the point.

Every video can be played by itself or alongside a text portion that summarizes the piece and offers information that takes the user "beyond the video."



Preliminary users call the site groundbreaking for its use of video -- going beyond the statistics and numbers -- to show the human struggle taking place in millions of households throughout this country. The Web site is a place

where "seeing is not only believing...but also caring." Long-time journalist and award-winning documentary producer Bill Kurtis speaks to the storytelling power of the visual imagery on the site in his introduction.

The launch is only the first phase of a Web site that -- with future funding -- will include videos on other diseases like Multiple Sclerosis and Parkinson's, and will include a "Storytelling Center" where visitors can offer their own visual treatments of their caregiving circumstances, either with video or through still photos. The site has been launched in November, 2008, in time for National Family Caregivers Month and National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month.

Facts about caregiving in the U.S.:

There are approximately 50 million family caregivers in America providing over 80% of all of the long term care in

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this country. And the estimated value of family caregivers "free" caregiving services was more than \$375 BILLION dollars in 2007—more than the total Medicaid spending in 2007 (\$311 million) and as much as the sales of the world's largest companies, Wal-Mart (\$379 billion, the most of any company) and ExxonMobil (\$359 billion). These caregivers are largely invisible, part of a process that helps to prop up our nation's healthcare system and that turns the architecture of the family upside down, turning children into parents and parents into children.

Quick Facts about: www.videocaregiving.org A Visual Education Center for Family Caregivers

• What is it?

Videocaregiving.org is a first-of-its-kind, video based Web site that includes all-original, documentary video material showing real people facing real challenges in real life scenarios.

• Who created this site?

This visual education center for family caregivers is presented online by Chicago-based Terra Nova Films. Terra Nova has the expertise to present this resource, with 27 years of storytelling about later life, aging and healthcare through documentary-style films. Terra Nova is the only company in the U.S. focusing on these issues with video.

• Who is the intended audience?

The Web site is a FREE resource to the estimated 50 million in-home caregivers in the U.S.

• What is on the site?

The site features exclusive documentary-style videos, created by a team of award-winning film producers, which follow real life people as real life stories and issues unfold. The

The launch of videocaregiving.org was underwritten in part by the Retirement Research Foundation, the nation's largest private foundation devoted solely to serving the needs of older Americans and enhancing their quality of life.

videos are the primary messenger on the site, but informative tips and educational text also is offered.

• Why is a resource such as this Web site necessary?

In households throughout the country --and the world -- family members, friends, even neighbors -- provide some form of unpaid continuing care in the home. The mission of this site is to provide these caregivers tools to better understand and deal with their situation, and let them know that they are neither isolated nor alone in their struggle.

• What makes this site unique among caregiving Web sites?

The video-based site uses films and related essays to examine real life scenarios to connect caregivers. This never-seen footage is a lifeline for everyday caregivers, presented by Terra Nova Films, which for 27 years has created and distributed videos to train doctors, nurses and professional caregivers. The advisory council for this project includes representatives from the major caregiving associations in the country.



The cost and preparation of producing this newsletter was financed through contributions of local member governments and various federal and state grants. It also has been partially defrayed through contributions from firms whose names you will find displayed in this issue. We appreciate their support!

The Northwestern Area Agency on Aging is a department within the Bel-O-Mar Regional Council and Interstate Planning Commission, and a member of the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging. The "Regioner" may be freely reprinted with the customary crediting of the sources.

Bel-O-Mar Announces the Hiring of Two New Staff



Trina Donaldson joined us as our new Secretary/Receptionist replacing Trisha Carrothers.

Trina attended Ohio State University in the College of Human Ecology. She has worked in many different fields. She has one son and resides in St. Clairsville.



Eric Fecat joins the staff in the newly created position as Management Specialist/Grants Administrator with our Management Services Department. Eric has a B.S. Degree from West Virginia Wesleyan College. Initially Eric will be working with communities in Ohio, Marshall and Wetzel Counties through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program.

TRIGG

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Notices were mailed for the upcoming Bel-O-Mar/BOMTS/AAA Regional Council meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 25th at Stratford Springs Restaurant, Wheeling, WV. Lunch will be provided to the membership only.

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