

# UTILITIES

## NATURAL GAS

Columbia Gas of Ohio is a subsidiary of the Columbia Gas System. As one of the top ten integrated gas companies in the nation, the Columbia Gas System is involved in all aspects of natural gas use from exploration and extraction through delivery. In Ohio, Columbia Gas of Ohio is the largest investor-owned natural gas utility company. Columbia Gas of Ohio provides service to 1.2 million residential, commercial and industrial customers in 65 of Ohio's 88 counties, including Belmont County. It provides gas transportation for industrial and commercial customers who purchase gas from other sources. The company is a leader in the development of natural gas technology and products such as the York Triathlon Natural Gas Heating and Cooling System, natural gas-powered vehicles (NGV's) and a new generation of automatic on-off gaslights that require no electricity to operate.

In addition to offering new products, Columbia Gas of Ohio provides a variety of services to educate and assist its customers, such as Service for a Lifetime. This program features special bill payment options, home weatherization services and other assistance for customers age 60 and over. These Columbia Gas of Ohio products and services are available to the 70,226 residents of Belmont County.

## WATER

Water is another plentiful resource in Belmont County. Wells drilled along the river valley yields more than 300,000 gallons per minute. The Ohio River itself can provide a nearly unlimited supply of processed water and water for domestic use. Normal flows measure more than six billion gallons per day (GPD). Twelve treatment plants provide public water service, the largest being the Belmont County Sanitary Sewer District.

Approximately 17% of households obtain water from private wells while the other 83% are served by public facilities. Additional private water uses include industry (1.5 million GPD), golf course, crop irrigation and livestock use. Ohio is one of only a few states that have been completely mapped for ground-water availability. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Division of Water, maintains a statewide database of more than 700,000 well logs to support the development of ground-water availability assessments.

## SEWER

Belmont County has aggressively engineered and constructed sanitary sewer lines to benefit commercial, industrial and residential development in various areas. A sanitary sewer force main and treatment plant serves a major portion of the county located between I-70 Exits 208 and 215 along U.S. Route 40, with gravity sewer lines existing at each exit and at the 125 acre Fox Commerce Park located on County Road 80. Additional pump stations and force mains exist along State Route 149 between the Bellaire and Neff regions. Belmont County has committed a portion of its general budget to a proactive water and sewer expansion as part of its countywide economic development plan.

## HOUSING

Belmont County is fortunate to have a surplus of housing from moderately priced to exclusive areas. Census data shows (31,236) homes in the county. Median home value is (\$64,600) and median contract rent is (\$362). New residential developments continue to spring up throughout the county. Many of these developments contain homes valued between \$150,000 and \$500,000. Public housing for the elderly and low-to-moderate (LMI) families is also available.



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