

New GIS maps to enhance 9-1-1 service

WILMINGTON

Mapping to give responders more accurate locations for 9-1-1 callers

By ROSE COOPER
rcooper@wnewsj.com

A mapping project currently underway in Clinton County will gather information that will

make a significant impact on service provided by all public safety officials responding to 9-1-1 calls in the county by showing the exact location of the caller.

Work began today on data gathering which will be used for Clinton County's GIS (Geographic Information System) Enhanced 9-1-1. The information will update the county's existing address database which will also enable dispatchers to accurately map

landline and wireless calls to 9-1-1.

"We had to have a system in place in our dispatch that would be able to find those people which requires us to have a mapping system," said Col. Brian Prickett, chief deputy at the sheriff's office. "Right now we're working on a temporary mapping system that doesn't have as good a percentage rate of address verification as what we'll have after this project takes place."

Digital Data Technologies Inc. (DDTI) of Columbus has been hired to collect information as part of the state's Location Based Response System (LBRS). Workers will be driving all public and private roads in the county.

Jeff Linkous, Clinton County engineer, said Clinton County has 1,100 miles of roads.

Addresses throughout Clinton County will be needed in the data-gathering process.

Clinton County Sheriff Ralph D. Fizer Jr. urges all residents and businesses to make sure addresses are posted and visible.

"The other thing they will do is go out to every apartment complex and trailer park complex and plot those numbers so when we get the call in here, even on the land line 9-1-1, that's going to help us going into a trailer park. We don't

See 9-1-1, Page 7A

9-1-1

Continued from Page 1A

have that advantage right now," Prickett said.

"This will plot cell phones within 50 feet of where the call is coming from," added Sheriff Fizer.

Numbers on apartments and lot numbers in trailer parks are hard to find at night, Fizer stressed. "With this and if you have a laptop in the cruiser, dispatch can send it to the road officer and the map is actually there that shows the building and everything which makes our response so much quicker. Again, you're not searching up and down the road for the right address."

The state's LBRS initiative, led by the Ohio Geographically Referenced Information Program (OGRIP) was designed to improve the state's overall road inventory, including the identification of unreported roads and update of municipal road inventories.

Company protocol entails the collection of additional information that can impact emergency

vehicle routing, including one-way restrictions, traffic control devices, railroad crossings, speed limits, school zones and bridge and culvert locations.

Other information collected includes street and road centerlines, alley intersections, road signs, boundary points, fire hydrants, landmarks, mileposts, overpasses, underpasses, road centerlines, stop signs, turn-arounds and yield signs.

"We'll send out two-person teams in highly equipped vans to drive every road and field-verify every address in Clinton County," said DDTI project coordinator Tony Collura. "Then we'll process that data in a way that's accessible to all levels of government, which will have a significant impact on the quality of data that public safety officials rely on to respond to 9-1-1 calls."

Collura said field verification, being there and seeing it first-hand, is the only way the company "can accurately capture the data that the counties will ultimately use to save lives."

Fizer said no General Fund money from the county is being used for the work. The project is primarily funded by two grants obtained by the Clinton County

Engineer's Office, including a \$16,364 grant from the Governor's Highway Safety and a \$17,500 from the County Engineer's Association of Ohio. Clinton County Commissioners also received a \$50,277 grant from the Ohio Geographic Reference Information Program. "The balance of the project will be paid for out of the wireless 9-1-1 fee that is accessed to every home that is billed in Clinton County," Prickett said. "Previous to Dec. 31, 2008, there was a 32 cents surcharge per wireless phone. As of Jan. 1, the Ohio legislature backed that off to 28 cents per line billed in Clinton County," he said.

Sheriff Fizer said the money collected for wireless cell phones can only be used for the wireless 9-1-1 and the CAD (computer aided dispatch) system, which includes the mapping.

"They are using a lot of our GIS data that we've already established and also with the aerials that the GIS has developed and all the base data. This will work hand-in-hand," Linkous said.

"They don't have to start from scratch," Fizer said, "because they already have a



Contributed art

Vans used for the mapping project will be clearly identified with this company logo.

good data base. This will just enhance it and make it more detailed."

Prickett pointed out that Clinton County does not have the manpower to field-verify every address.

Establishing this LBRS data provides for more detailed local map data that can oftentimes introduce additional roadway safety funding opportunities.

The company projects an implementation date within 90 days.

Anyone who has questions should contact the Clinton County Sheriff's Office at 382-1611. License numbers of all vehicles used for the project are available at the sheriff's office.