

Wood County, Ohio

2023

ANNUAL REPORT
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WOOD COUNTY, OHIO 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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Structure of County Government

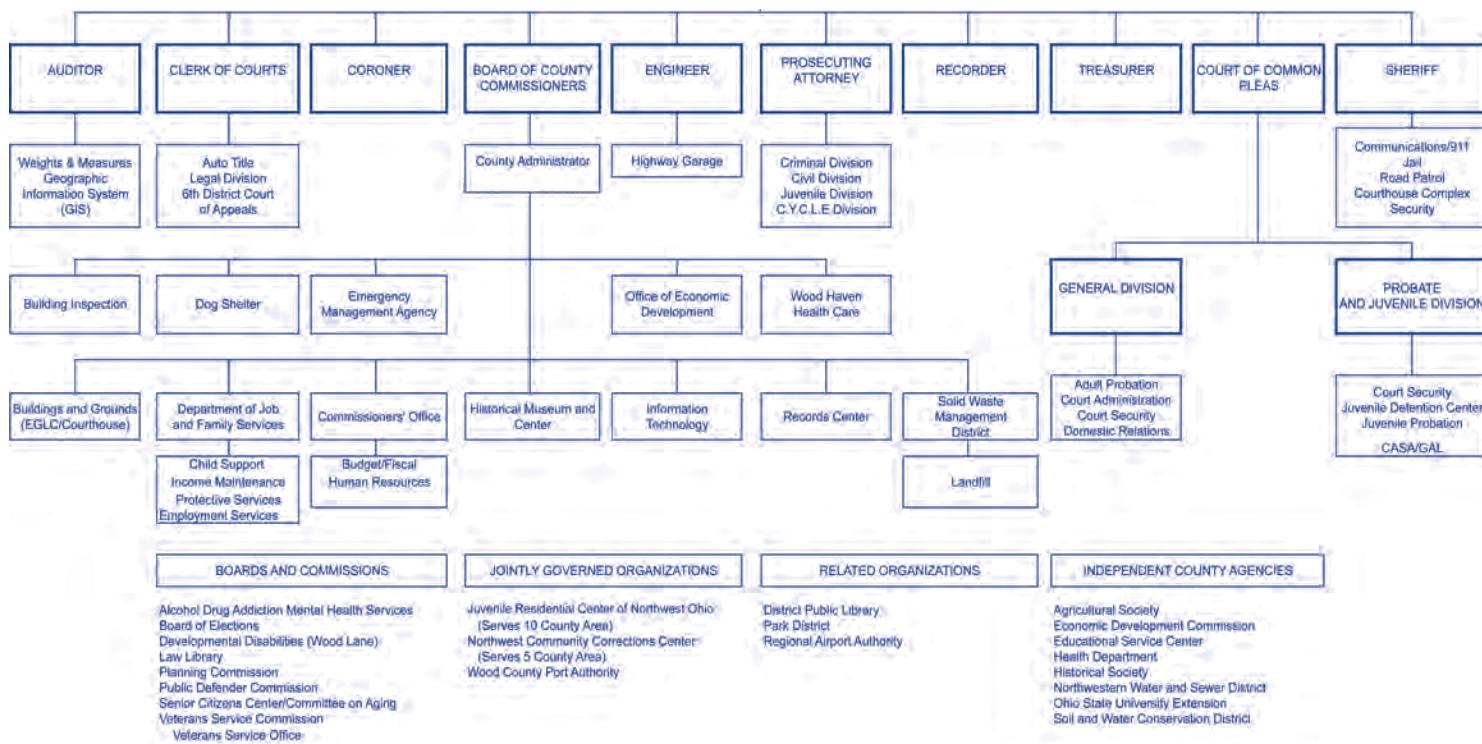
Each Ohio county organized under general statutory law has 11 elected officials consisting of three county commissioners and an auditor, treasurer, prosecuting attorney, clerk of courts of common pleas, engineer, coroner, recorder and sheriff. In addition, Wood County has four common pleas judges. Each elected official has independent authority to perform the statutory duties of his or her office.

The judges are elected to six-year terms, and all other county elected officials are elected to four-year terms in even numbered years. All county elected officials are elected in the presidential election year, except for one county commissioner and the auditor, who are elected in the gubernatorial election year.

County government does not possess home rule authority. County officials may act only when and as specifically authorized by state law.



Wood County Elected Officials pictured from Left to Right: Front Row: Judge Joel Kuhlman, Engineer John Musteric, Judge Mary "Molly" Mack, Judge Matthew Reger, Clerk of Courts Douglas Cubberley, Commissioner Craig LaHote, Sheriff Mark Wasylshyn, Treasurer Jane Spoerl. Back Row: Auditor Matthew Oestreich, Commissioner Theodore Bowlus, Coroner Douglas Hess, Commissioner Doris Herringshaw, Judge David Woessner, Recorder Jim Matuszak, Prosecutor Paul Dobson. Photo taken June 29, 2021.



A Message from the Board of County Commissioners

We are pleased to share this annual report to highlight the many good things happening throughout our County and in county government.

County finances remained strong in 2023. While sales tax growth slowed for the first time in several years, investment income grew considerably due to increased interest rates. This allowed the County to meet revenue goals and proceed with necessary projects and purchases. We will continue our conservative budgetary approach and closely monitor revenue and expenditures as we move forward in the coming year.

Attracting and retaining employees continues to be a challenge as the labor market tightens and wage pressures increase. We are exploring new and creative solutions to ensure we can maintain an experienced and qualified workforce.

Significant progress was made on the \$28 million jail renovation and expansion project that began in late 2022. The new booking and intake area has been completed and was recently approved for occupancy by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections. Construction and renovation efforts have shifted to the female housing unit and medical area. The projected completion date is August 2024. We have been

fortunate to have good weather and an excellent team of contractors on this project.

The Landfill expansion project also continued to advance. In May of 2022, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency approved the County's expansion permit for the landfill. The permit provides for nearly 100 years of expansion capacity on land purchased by the Commissioners decades ago. The expansion will be completed in phases, with the first phase kicking off in 2024. This project will cost \$2.8 million and will provide solid waste disposal space for approximately 5-7 years based on current volume. We believe environmentally responsible landfill capacity is important to the future of Wood County.

The County experienced another banner year of economic development. The largest announcement in 2023 was a data center project by a Fortune 200, United States owned, technology company that will involve a minimum investment of \$750 million and be located on over 700 acres in Middleton Township. Long-time county business, First Solar, announced expansions at its two Lake Township facilities and continued construction on an approximately 1.5 million square foot research and development facility in Perrysburg Township. UPS opened a new

facility in Henry Township and has begun the process of hiring over 600 employees. As a result of existing businesses and new growth, the county unemployment rate remained at a record low, with a December rate of 2.8%.

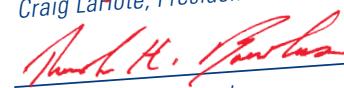
Wood County is fortunate to have many people willing to volunteer their time and talents. We encourage you to get involved with local government by volunteering to serve on a County board or commission. If you are interested, please visit our website, and complete a volunteer application.

Finally, we thank you, the citizens of Wood County, for the opportunity to serve you as County Commissioners. We continue to be optimistic about the future of Wood County and look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

The Board of County Commissioners,
Wood County, Ohio


Craig LaHote, President


Dr. Theodore H. Bowlus


Doris I. Herringshaw, Ed.D.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The Board of County Commissioners is the administrative coordinator of County Government and has direct oversight responsibility for 12 agencies and departments. Together the Commissioners manage County funds, buildings and property, and also serve as the County's contracting and tax authority. The Board is authorized to perform its duties under Chapters 305 and 307 of the Ohio Revised Code.



Craig LaHote



Dr. Theodore H. Bowlus



Doris I. Herringshaw, Ed.D.

In 2021, Wood County government received \$25.6 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The Commissioners allocated these funds to various entities, focusing on eligible projects that would impact a large number of County residents and provide lasting benefit to our community. On-going projects include water and sewer improvements, stormwater improvements, identification and replacement of lead water service lines, air-handling system upgrades in county-owned buildings, financial assistance to the Cocoon Shelter and Habitat for Humanity, Health Department renovations, and a county-wide computer aided dispatch, records management, and jail management (CAD/RMS/JMS) system upgrade. The County's ARPA funds must be expended by December 31, 2026.

Several years ago, the State of Ohio and local governments formed the OneOhio Memorandum

of Understanding (MOU) to create a procedure to disburse settlement proceeds from national opioid litigation to local communities. Wood County is a participant under the MOU, and has received payments from OneOhio settlements, totaling \$290,265. The County will continue to receive payments under these settlements for up to 17 years and more settlements are pending. In addition to local settlement dollars, Wood County is also a member of OneOhio Region 17, which is also receiving funds under the OneOhio settlements. The settlement funds, both local and regional, may only be used for approved purposes defined in the MOU, including expanding the availability of substance use treatment, implementing prevention strategies for substance use, providing substance use avoidance and education, decreasing the oversupply of opioids, and

supporting addiction recovery services. The Commissioners and Region 17 will be evaluating proposals for the use of these funds in 2024.

In April, the Commissioners were pleased to appoint Rob Cendol as Chief Building Official for the Building Inspection Department. He replaced former Chief Building Official Mike Rudey who retired after 15 years of service with the County. Prior to his promotion, Mr. Cendol served as Assistant Chief Building Official in Wood County for three years and previously worked for the City of Toledo as Residential Building Official.

In June, as part of the state budget bill, the General Assembly established Healthy Aging Grants to be distributed to all Ohio counties. The Healthy Aging Grants must be used to address social determinants of health and to foster an improved quality of life for older Ohioans, by enabling them to remain in their homes and stay connected to their communities, preserve their personal assets, and promote a healthy independent and active lifestyle. Wood County received \$466,495 under this program. The Commissioners will be providing this funding to the Wood County Committee on Aging to ensure these dollars

are spent locally on projects and programs that will benefit older adults in the County.

In November, the Commissioners received a letter from Clerk of Courts Doug Cubberley indicating he would be providing \$500,000 of title funds to the County general fund. Under the Ohio Revised Code, the Clerk of Courts may transfer excess title funds to the general fund to be used for other county purposes. The Commissioners are appreciative of the conservative fiscal management that made this contribution possible. The Commissioners allocated \$250,000 of this funding to the Wood County Park District to support a grant to purchase 33 acres of land adjacent to the J.C. Reuthinger Memorial Preserve in Perrysburg Township. The additional land will allow for expansion of the park and will preserve the natural habitat in this highly developed area. The Commissioners intend to allocate the remaining \$250,000 to the County Engineer for road and bridge projects.

Residents are welcome to attend the Commissioners' Session held on Tuesday and Thursday of each week. As a reminder, Commissioners' session agendas and minutes are posted on the County's website.

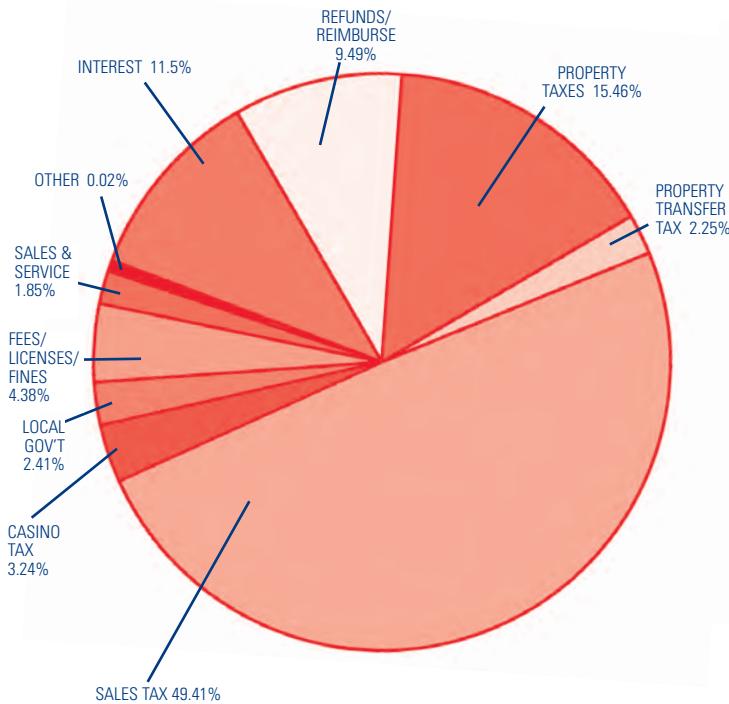
Total Solar Eclipse Coming April 8, 2024

Significant planning and outreach efforts were made throughout the year in preparation for the total solar eclipse occurring on April 8, 2024. Wood County is located in the "path of totality" viewing area. The Wood County Emergency Management Agency has worked closely with the Ohio Emergency Management Agency to ensure that local governments and agencies understand the challenges that may result due to the influx of people into our region to view this once-in-a-lifetime event. Some of these challenges may include limited travel ability, cell phone disruption, and short-term gasoline shortages. More information about the eclipse and how it can be viewed safely can be found on the Wood County EMA website.

The Commissioners create and adopt the annual operating budget for the County. The County's fiscal year extends from January through December. While the Commissioners have no direct authority over other elected officials - the auditor, clerk of courts, coroner, engineer, judges, prosecuting attorney, recorder, sheriff and treasurer - the Commissioners are required to determine funding levels for every office. Fortunately in Wood County, there is a great working relationship among all of the Elected Officials as they strive to contain costs while providing quality services to County Residents.

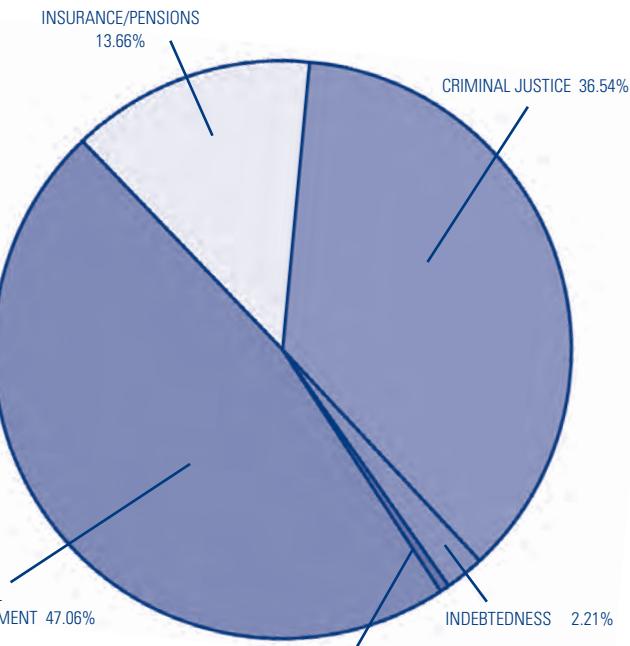
2023 GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS

\$58,539,790.75



2023 GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES*

\$59,275,593.06



* includes internal transfers to other County funds

SALES TAX RECEIPTS

| | |
|------|------------------------|
| 2023 | \$28,922,814.52 |
| 2022 | \$28,538,142.65 |
| 2021 | \$26,403,972.18 |
| 2020 | \$24,529,961.15 |

PROPERTY TAX RECEIPTS

| | |
|------|-----------------------|
| 2023 | \$9,048,765.16 |
| 2022 | \$8,910,523.87 |
| 2021 | \$8,830,646.53 |
| 2020 | \$8,359,944.24 |

NOMINATE SOMEONE YOU KNOW FOR A SPIRIT OF WOOD COUNTY AWARD

Nominations for the 2024 Spirit of Wood County Awards are being accepted through August 15.

Award categories include Self-Government, Agricultural Leadership, Religion and Liberty, Liberty Through Law/Human Freedom, Education for Civic Responsibility, Industrial/Economic Development, and the Lyle R. Fletcher Good Citizenship Award.

Nomination forms and a listing of prior award recipients can be found on the County's website. The 2024 awards will be presented in October during a special ceremony in the Alvin L. Perkins Atrium.

With the exception of 2020, the Spirit of Wood County Awards have been presented annually since 1988 to honor services rendered by Wood County citizens.



2023 Spirit of Wood County Award recipients Judy Ennis, Self-Government; Michael Marsh, Liberty Through Law/Human Freedom; Kris Swartz, Lyle R. Fletcher Good Citizenship Award; Lee Sundermeier, Agricultural Leadership; Michael Shertzer, Education for Civic Responsibility; and Sharon K. Bitter, Religion and Liberty.

Buildings and Grounds

Steve Blausey, Facilities Director

Buildings and Grounds staff oversee the day-to-day maintenance of the buildings at the Courthouse Complex, East Gypsy Lane Road Complex, and satellite offices including the Clerk of Courts Title Office, Highway Garage, Public Defender, and Veterans Service Office. Department staff provide maintenance, repair, and groundskeeping for the buildings owned by the Wood County Commissioners. Custodial services are also provided to various County Offices.

Two significant construction projects at the East Gypsy Lane Complex included the Jail renovation and expansion project, which started in 2022, and the female addition project at the NorthWest Community Corrections Center. Both projects are set to be completed in 2024.

Staff spent considerable time assisting with repairs at the Museum after water damage from burst radiators in late 2022. The Museum reopened to the public in October 2023.

Projects at the Courthouse Complex included renovation work in Common Pleas Court 2, an office reconfiguration in the Commissioners' Office, installation of two exterior doors for the Office Building, and installation of new countertops in the Courthouse restrooms.



Maintenance staff oversaw renovations to Common Pleas Court 2 during 2023. Staff built a new witness stand, with the structure put in place in early 2024.

At the Highway Garage facility on Poe Road, seven man doors and 18 skylights were replaced. New flooring was also installed in the scale house at the Landfill.

At the East Gypsy Lane Complex, a new ramp and steps were installed at the Juvenile Residential Center. Additional projects included concrete work for a new shed at the Juvenile Detention Center and construction of an obstacle course for the Sheriff's Office. Staff also assisted the Health Department with installation of a Narcan Vending machine and oversaw the medical office renovations.

The custodial staff provided cleaning services for the Highway Garage, Records Center, Courthouse, Office Building, Landfill, and Fuel Facility. Their responsibilities include daily and weekly cleaning cycles and the handling of recycled materials at each location.

The Buildings and Grounds Department operates under the Board of County Commissioners.

Jail Project Update

The Wood County Jail renovation and expansion project will add approximately 30,000 square feet to the 74,386 square foot building. A new entrance to the facility is complete along with the updated intake/booking area. A designated medical area will be constructed and includes medical observation cells. Work on converting the indoor recreation area into female dorms is underway, along with the relocation of the master control. New offices and classrooms are included in the plan. The mechanical room equipment will also be updated. The estimated completion date is August 2024.



Building Inspection

Michael Rudey, Chief Building Official
(Jan. 1 - April 7, 2023)
Robert Cendol, Chief Building Official
(eff. April 10, 2023)

Building Inspection provides residential and non-residential building code enforcement throughout Wood County. In order to protect the health, safety and welfare of residents, all construction (including new construction, additions to existing structures, and remodeling) must meet a series of requirements set forth by specific state building codes. In addition, the department provides non-residential enforcement in Hancock, Henry, and Fulton Counties as well as residential code enforcement for Napoleon and Wauseon.

Inspection requests and permits for 2023 remained steady. The completion of large projects (Arche Solar, First Solar PGT-3 and Liberty Benton schools) and the start of large projects (Hancock County Justice Center, Lake Elementary and First Solar PG-4) kept the staff busy all year.

For the second year in a row Wood County saw the start of numerous multi-family units, while manufactured home applications decreased sharply in 2023. The majority of new single family home construction occurred in Perrysburg and Perrysburg Township.

More than 75% of plan reviews were completed electronically, allowing staff to expedite plan review and reduce paper usage. This process also provided a more efficient way to archive construction documents.

Building Inspection operates under the Board of County Commissioners and is designated an enterprise fund, operating solely on permit revenue. Building codes utilized during 2023 included the 2017 Ohio Building Codes for non-residential structures and the 2019 Residential Code of Ohio for One, Two, and Three Family Dwellings. These are mandatory codes used throughout the State, even if there is not a residential certified department.

2023 BUILDING INSPECTION STATISTICS

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Permits Issued | 5,137 |
| Total Permit Revenue | \$2,573,547 |
| Wood County | \$1,904,378 |
| Hancock County | \$394,093 |
| Henry County | \$108,939 |
| Fulton County | \$166,137 |
| Total Inspections Completed | 13,868 |
| Wood County | 10,006 |
| 6,215 Residential/3,791 Non-Residential | |
| Hancock County | 2,031 |
| Henry County | 909 |
| 354 Residential (Napoleon)/555 Non-Residential | |
| Fulton County | 922 |
| 169 Residential (Wauseon)/753 Non-Residential | |

Dog Shelter

Jodi Harding, Chief Dog Warden

The Dog Shelter is a department operated under the direction of the Wood County Commissioners. The Dog Warden and deputies enforce Chapter 955 of the Ohio Revised Code. They issue dog licenses through the County Auditor; impound and care for stray dogs; investigate injuries and bites caused by dogs; designate dogs as nuisance, dangerous or vicious; and other related duties. User fees, dog licenses, kennel fees, fines, and penalties are the primary funding sources for the Dog and Kennel Fund which is used to pay for the Shelter's operations.

The Dog Shelter held its first ever adoption event in April, with four dogs finding their forever homes during the event. Later in the year, the Shelter partnered with the Wood County Humane Society for an off-site adoption event that featured available dogs from the Shelter and cats from the Humane Society.

Deputies visited local schools and talked to students in Kindergarten through Fourth grade about how to be safe around dogs. Shelter staff also continued hosting monthly enrichment nights.

2023 DOG SHELTER STATISTICS

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| Total Dogs Impounded..... | 382 |
| Redemptions | 136 |
| Adoptions | 159 |
| Euthanized | 18 |
| Owner Surrenders for Euthanasia | 19 |
| Dogs Transferred to Rescues..... | 48 |
| Live Release Rate..... | 90.3% |
| Owner Surrenders | 46 |
| Incidents Investigated | 455 |
| Total Licenses Sold | 17,395 |
| One Year Dog Licenses Sold | 15,510 |
| Three Year Dog Licenses Sold..... | 1,357 |
| Permanent Dog Licenses Sold | 276 |
| Total Licensed Dogs | 21,245 |
| Kennel Licenses Sold | 252 |

DOG PARK OFFERS MEMBERSHIPS

The Wood County Dog Park registered 103 members in 2023. Located next to the Dog Shelter, the Park features three fenced enclosures and water stations. The cost of an annual membership is \$40. Visit the Dog Shelter or County website for membership information.

Department of Job and Family Services • Dave Wigent, Director

The Department of Job and Family Services, which operates under the Board of County Commissioners, administers federal, state, and county legislated and regulated basic needs assistance; workforce development; child and adult protective services; child support; and social services.

The Income Maintenance Unit worked on returning to pre-pandemic operational rules for the Food Assistance and Medicaid programs in 2023. February was the final month that additional Food Assistance was issued to all households, and April was the start of the "return to normal" process for Medicaid recipients. Staff were required to re-evaluate eligibility of all Medicaid recipients, applying normal rules which had not been done since the beginning of the pandemic. Some individuals and families lost, or will lose, eligibility for the federal assistance programs because of the "return to normal" rules.

The Child Protective Services Unit received approximately \$90,000 in incentive funding from the State for meeting benchmarks for visitation with children and families and intake timeliness. The agency was number one for the visitation benchmark for large counties in the state. Work on implementing a treatment foster program began and is in the early stages of policy development and foster care per diem rates were raised for the first time since 2011. The Adult Protective Services Unit hosted the annual APS Informational Luncheon in June and partnered with Wood County Committee on Aging for the annual flag day event.

The Child Support Unit received recognition from the State Office of Child Support for best performance on current support collections, cases with arrears and best overall performance for medium-sized caseloads. The unit enhanced customer service by using child support staff for genetic testing collections and increased efficiencies through specialized caseloads and cross training of staff.

The Employment and Support Services Unit held a Career Premiere event that provided more than 350 high school students with the chance to explore careers in manufacturing, trades, health care, IT, and logistics while connecting with area employers. A pre-apprenticeship pilot program was established in collaboration with local school districts and allowed high school seniors to explore the field of manufacturing, earning credits towards both their high school diploma and the Ohio Readiness Seal. Additionally, the unit aided 650 children by providing essential school supplies, coats, and shoes.

Federal poverty levels are used to determine eligibility for certain programs and benefits.

2024 POVERTY GUIDELINES

| Persons in Family/ Household | Poverty Guideline | 138% of Poverty of Poverty | 200% of Poverty of Poverty |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | \$15,060 | \$20,783 | \$30,120 |
| 2 | \$20,440 | \$28,207 | \$40,880 |
| 3 | \$25,820 | \$35,632 | \$51,640 |
| 4 | \$31,200 | \$43,056 | \$62,400 |
| 5 | \$36,580 | \$50,480 | \$73,160 |
| 6 | \$41,960 | \$57,905 | \$83,920 |

For more than 6 persons, add the following for each additional person.
\$5,380 \$7,424 \$10,760

INCOME MAINTENANCE UNIT

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) | 204 |
| cash payment cases (MA) | 204 |
| Medicaid recipients (MA) | 20,839 |
| Medicaid issuance (estimated) | \$157,385,104 |
| Food assistance recipients | 10,290 |
| Food assistance issuance | \$13,515,729 |
| Food assistance issuance per case (MA) | \$293 |
| Children issued food stamps (MA) | 2,520 |

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Wood County children served | 5,149 |
| Average case load size | 573 |
| Total collections | \$18,067,930.69 |
| License suspension program | \$138,792.74 |
| Financial institution data match | \$25,597.94 |
| Insurance settlements | \$6,878.58 |
| Payouts from casino/racino prizes | \$23,233.14 |
| Other legal unit collections | \$107,222.39 |
| Public assistance returned to State of Ohio | \$284,572.50 |
| Recouped through income tax refund offset | \$586,863.98 |
| Reimbursements for children in foster care | \$41,648.81 |
| Civil and criminal proceedings initiated (accepted referrals) | 431 |
| Completed requests for modifications | 163 |

OHIO MEANS JOBS WOOD COUNTY

| | |
|---|-------|
| Resource room users | 1,060 |
| Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) adult | |
| and dislocated worker participants | 31 |
| CCMEP Youth Employment Program participants | 31 |
| On the job training contracts | 20 |
| Incumbent worker training contracts | 16 |

PROTECTIVE SERVICES UNIT

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Children served | 2,169 |
| Children placed in substitute care | 36 |
| Cost for substitute care | \$3,100,000 |
| Home protective services children | 159 |
| Reports of child abuse/neglect investigated | 948 |
| Adoptions finalized | 3 |
| Certified foster/adoptive homes provided with services | 26 |
| Adult protective services assessments completed | 315 |
| Adults receiving chore services | 32 |
| Homemaker visits provided | 216 |

SOCIAL SERVICES UNIT

| | |
|--|--------|
| Information and referrals | 1,257 |
| Families provided emergency assistance through Prevention, Retention and Contingency program (PRC) | 622 |
| Children who received child care services (MA) | 298 |
| Transportation (1 way trips) to Medicaid & Title XX services | 11,952 |
| MA = Monthly Average | |

Emergency Management Agency • R. Jeffrey Klein, Director

Emergency Management is the organized analysis, planning, decision-making, and assignment of available resources to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from the effects of disasters. The concept of Emergency Management requires the input and cooperation of all first responders, local officials, community partners, businesses, residents, and volunteers in order to be successful. The Agency operates under the Board of County Commissioners.

Preparations for the April 8, 2024, total solar eclipse continued in 2023 with staff performing planning and outreach efforts throughout the County. With Ohio being a day's drive or less to 70% of the U.S. population, this event has the potential to bring thousands of people to the area and may affect travel and daily activities. The last total solar eclipse in Ohio was in 1806, and the next will occur in 2444.

The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) conducted a successful full-scale exercise engaging the EMA staff, the City of Bowling Green, Bowling Green Police and Fire Divisions, Mid County 120, Wood County Amateur Radio Emergency Services, Middleton Township Fire and EMS, Wood County Hospital, Perrysburg Township Fire and HazMat, Wood County Sheriff, American Red Cross, Ohio EPA, US EPA, Ohio EMA, and more. The exercise simulated a hazmat incident involving a chemical stabilizer stored past its expiration.

The LEPC conducted two in-person and one virtual meeting, and continued to monitor material reports, spills and assist with recovery of costs for first responders. The LEPC monitored one

significant pipeline release and several fuel spills from motor vehicle accidents.

EMA staff aided public safety forces during the Wood County Fair and National Tractor Pulling Championships. Staff also participated in four public safety community fairs, made presentations to local senior centers and other agencies, and conducted weekly interviews with Clint Corpe on the Morning Show BG.

The EMA worked with county and community partners to update, build capabilities, and train users on CodeRED, the mass communication system used to provide emergency, weather, and community specific alerts. EMA also coordinated access to the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS), which is the national system for local alerting through cell phones, radio and television.

Outreach via social media continued, along with publication of a quarterly newsletter (both in-print and electronic format) to help better communicate and prepare residents in the event of a disaster.

Office of Economic Development

Wade Gottschalk, Executive Director

The Wood County Office of Economic Development operates in partnership with the Wood County Economic Development Commission, an Ohio nonprofit corporation, to expand Wood County's employment base through existing industry development and the systematic recruitment of new businesses. The office actively markets Wood County and its communities to outside industrial prospects, while continuing to provide services to the County's communities and existing industries by helping them broaden and diversify their tax base and create and retain jobs.

Many existing companies in Wood County continued to have success by making capital expenditures and increasing employment in 2023. The County also saw another successful year of new development. The largest project announcement (and the largest project announcement in Wood County history) was a data center project by a Fortune 200 US tech company that will involve a minimum investment of \$750 million. The data center will be located on 700 acres of land purchased off SR 582 to the west of I-75 (and east of SR25) in Middleton Township.

Long time Wood County business First Solar continued its growth with expansions at its two Lake Township facilities. First Solar also continued construction on an approximately 1.5 million square foot research and development facility in Perrysburg Township between Oregon and Tracy Roads, just west of their existing manufacturing plants in Lake Township.

Recent projects in Rossford enabled the Wood County Port Authority to leverage over \$2 million in federal grants to rebuild Deimling Road. The project included installation of multiple roundabouts to increase safety and traffic flow in that rapidly developing area.

In Henry Township, across from the CSX intermodal facility, UPS opened a facility and began the process of hiring more than 600 employees. A few miles east of that project, in North Baltimore, Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative in partnership with Nooter (Toledo) and Delventhal, completed a 100,000 square foot spec building off the Insley Road I-75 interchange.

Due to existing businesses and continued economic growth, the unemployment rate in the County remained in record low territory, posting a rate of 2.8% in December 2023 (county unemployment rate data goes back to 1992).

The Office of Economic Development staff are employees of the Wood County Commissioners.

Historical Museum and Center

Annette Wells, Director

In 1816, the Ohio General Assembly authorized Boards of County Commissioners to construct poor houses to care for those unable to provide the basic necessities of life for themselves. The County Commissioners opened Wood County's Poor Farm in 1869, which remained in operation until 1971 before becoming a museum in 1975. Financial support for the Museum is derived from County tax dollars and through the private fundraising activities of the Wood County Historical Society. The 50-acre County-owned site is part of the system of parks maintained and patrolled by the Wood County Park District.

In the aftermath of 11 radiators breaking during the below-zero ice storm on December 23-25, 2022, the Museum was forced to close the exhibits for ten months. The Museum's three exhibits (For Comfort & Convenience: Public Charity in Ohio by Way of the Poor Farm, Allure & Illusion: A Rose-Colored Romance, and the Mary & Carl Bach Story) were dismantled to allow items to dry and to repair ceilings, floors, and walls. The installation of custom-built, conservation quality cabinets in the attic in 2022 protected the collections stored there from water damage from the broken radiators.

Due to the Museum's 10-month closure, efforts went into updating and beautifying the surrounding 50-acre grounds and outbuildings.

Events and programs in 2023 moved outdoors onto the grounds. Music At the Museum Concerts were very popular with the community, as were the Museum's first-ever countywide Safety Fair & Car Cruise-In, the five Teas & Talks, a Boiler BBQ Bash, and a Foam Turkey Drop. Off-site there were 95 traveling educational programs offered, with 3,696 people attending.

The Staff happily welcomed visitors back when the Museum reopened on October 16, 2023.

The Commissioners employ four Museum staff. The Historical Society employs part-time staff and oversees the collections, programs, and events at the Museum.

MUSEUM STATISTICS

| | |
|--|-------|
| Visitors (museum/events/grounds): | 5,407 |
| Members: | 492 |
| Donations to the collection (objects): | 100+ |
| Research requests: | 78 |
| Adult Education (66 programs): | 1,345 |
| Student Education (29 programs/tours/trunks) | 2,351 |

Are You a Veteran Living in Wood County?

Call and schedule a phone, virtual, or in person appointment with the Veterans Service Office to make sure you are receiving all the benefits to which you are entitled. Call 419-354-9147 or visit the County website to learn more.

Information Technology

Ben Hendricks, IT Director

Under the direction of the County Commissioners, the Information Technology (IT) staff provides technical related support to many County offices. Staff is responsible for maintaining PCs, servers, networking hardware, phone hardware, and other IT-related equipment. The IT Director provides strategic guidance, policies, and procedures for County government and assists the Automatic Data Processing Board with research and discussion related to technical issues.

An additional full-time support staff member was hired to assist offices with unexpected issues or technology questions.

The department began an enterprise-wide project to blanket all of the computer systems with standardized security software and next-generation auditing. In addition multi-factor authentication was introduced for employees to protect their computers and associated accounts.

Records Center

Brenda Ransom, Records Manager

The Records Center provides records management services to County offices. The Center offers secure, environmentally sound storage of paper records, preservation microfilming, and digital imaging services. The storage rooms contain high-density mobile shelving units with a maximum storage capacity of 10,500 cubic-foot records boxes. The Records Center operates under the Board of County Commissioners.

Records Center staff completed a productive year with near-record numbers of documents reformatted and obsolete materials shredded. Records were digitized for the County Auditor, Commissioners, Public Defender, and Sheriff. Nearly 500 rolls of microfilm were created to preserve information for those offices as well as Probate Court, Clerk of Courts, and Recorder. Staff provided records management assistance to 30 County departments.

Staffing changes included the creation of a new assistant records manager position and filling of a records technician vacancy. The Center continued its 16-year relationship with Work Leads to Independence via the contracting of on-premises scanning services.

In addition to County jurisdictions, assistance was provided to Wood County townships and municipalities and paid microfilming services were performed for offices in Mercer, Putnam, Seneca, and Williams counties.

2023 RECORDS CENTER STATISTICS

| | |
|---|----------|
| Records stored (cubic feet) | 8,639 |
| New records (cubic feet) | 613 |
| Eligible for disposal (cubic feet) | 490 |
| Storage space recovered (cubic feet) | 1,076 |
| Pounds of records shredded and recycled | 23,827.5 |
| Pages/microfilm images scanned | 420,057 |
| Rolls of microfilm created | 498 |

Solid Waste Management District • Dan Scherer, Assistant County Administrator

A department under the Board of County Commissioners, the Solid Waste Management District (SWMD) prepares and implements an Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) approved Solid Waste Management Plan. The Commissioners also operate the Wood County Landfill and ensures adequate landfill capacity for local waste disposal.

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency approved the update to the Solid Waste Management District five-year plan in November. The plan assured sufficient disposal capacity for a minimum period of 15 years; documented reference year data to measure waste reduction and recycling progress; and established strategies to meet the waste reduction and recycling goals through education, promotion, and individual initiative.

The residential recycling drop-off contract with Republic Services expired in June 2023. A request for proposals was issued for these services and a five-year contract was awarded to Rumpke of Ohio, Inc.

As a result of the lower contract rate and an Ohio EPA Recycling and Litter Prevention Grant, the District expanded the drop-off program and implemented site updates. In July, a residential

drop-off site opened in North Baltimore. The containers at all sites received updated signage and replacement of worn or damaged lids will begin in early 2024.

Visitors to the District's booth at the Wood County fair more than doubled last year, with 748 people stopping by the booth for information. The Recycling Outreach Coordinator accumulated a total of 2,395 interactions through presentations and events in 2023.

In December the Commissioners advertised for bids for the first phase of the Landfill expansion project. Construction covering approximately 7.2 acres will begin in the spring of 2024 and will add five to seven years of additional capacity based on current annual volume. The estimated cost of the project is \$2.8 million, with a target completion date of October 2024.

Looking to increase recycling at your event?

The Solid Waste Management District can help your group with recycling efforts. Clear Stream recycling containers and trash barrels are available for loan. Contact the District office at 419.354.9297 at least one week prior to your event to complete a Container Loan Application.

The District also provides a Household Recycling Guide to answer common disposal questions. Visit the County website for a copy.

Wood Haven Health Care

Jeff Orlowski, Administrator

Wood Haven Health Care, a 93 bed short-term rehabilitation and long-term health care center, provides both skilled and intermediate level care and services. Rehabilitation programs offered through Bordner Therapy Care include physical, occupational, and speech therapies. Health care services include 24-hour professional nursing care; nutritional evaluation and meal planning; social services and family support; therapeutic recreational programs; psychological intervention; and physician oversight. Alzheimer's Care, Parkinson's Care, Hospice, and short-term Respite Care are also available. Wood Haven Health Care is Medicare and Medicaid certified, serves individuals covered under various nursing care insurance plans, and accepts most insurance plans. Wood Haven is a member of the Ohio Health Care Association, Leading Age Ohio, and the Ohio County Home Association. The facility operates under the Board of County Commissioners.

In 2023, Wood Haven Health Care was voted Best Nursing Home in Wood County and received the Northwest Ohio Top Workplaces award for the eighth consecutive year.

2023 WOOD HAVEN STATISTICS

Admissions by Pay Type:

| | |
|--|--------|
| Privately funded residents | 4.64% |
| Medicaid residents | 8.43% |
| Medicare residents | 42.62% |
| Insurance/Managed care residents | 43.04% |
| Hospice | 1.27% |

JOIN THE WOOD COUNTY TEAM

Wood Haven Health Care is looking for dependable, caring, and compassionate Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, State Tested Nursing Assistants, Dietary Aides, and Environmental Services Aides.

View all available positions on the County website, www.woodcountyohio.gov.



GOVERNING BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Individuals from across the County provide representation on a number of Wood County governing boards and commissions. Their role is to provide knowledge and support to enhance the functioning of County government. The Board of County Commissioners greatly appreciates the willingness of so many citizens to accept appointments and serve on these Boards and Commissions to help keep Wood County a great place to work, live, and raise a family.

If you are interested in serving as a member on a County Board or Commission, please complete an Application for Volunteer Service located on the Commissioners' web page on the County website or contact their office for a copy of the application.

ALCOHOL, DRUG ADDICTION AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BOARD

Karen Baron*, Katina Bostic, Matthew Battiato*, Judy Ennis*, Scott Kleiber*, Dan Lambert*, Brandy Laux, Frank McLaughlin*, Leslie Miller, Dr. Carol Mowen, Erica Parish*, Corey Speweik*, and six vacancies

BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Tim Brown*, Rebecca Ferguson, John Janas*, Ed Metzger, Jerry Miller*, Marlene North*, and Martha Woelke*

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS BOARD**

Brent Baer, Justin Daler, Paul Dobson, Ann Garcia, Tony Hetrick, Patrick Jones, Amanda Kern, Joel Kuhlman, Craig LaHote, Molly Mack, Rebecca McMonigal, Mark Reddin, Matthew Reger, Carri Stanley, Lori Tretter, Mark Wasylyshyn, Cary Williams, Ryan Wolaver, and Chris Zografides

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION MEMBERS

Dr. Theodore Bowlus, John Eckel, Doris Herringshaw, Carri Stanley, Michael Keys, Craig LaHote, Cathy Newlove-Wenig, Matthew Oestreich, Donna Schuerman, Jane Spoerl, and W. David Steiner

As of December 31, 2023

* Appointed by Commissioners

** All Members Appointed by Commissioners

COURTHOUSE COMPLEX BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE **

Steve Blausey, Rob Eaton, Doris Herringshaw, Earlene Kilpatrick, Cathleen Nelson, Matthew Oestreich, Matthew Reger, Michael Sibbersen, Annette Wells, Irma Wolf, and Karen Young

DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Ellen Dalton, Greg Esposito, Kenneth Frisch*, Kris James*, Brian Paskvan*, Michael Sibbersen, and one vacancy

FLOODPLAIN VARIANCE AND APPEALS BOARD**

Jim Carter, Rob Cendol, and John Musteric

GREAT LAKES COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP

Total Membership - 24
Wood County Members:
Sue Clanton*, Ashley Dickey, Dean King, Carmen Ortega*, Kristie Peek, and Jane Wengel

HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Julie Baumgardner*, Lois Bowlus, Gordon Bowman*, Denise Brennen, Hal Brown, Frank Butwin, Sandy Gill, Michael Ginnetti, Corinne Gordon, Scott Gross, Dave Hollinger, Becky Mancuso, Erika Miklovic, Brenda Ransom, W. Dave Steiner*

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Bridget Ansberg, Brent Baer, Tim Brown, Sandi Carsey, Julie Launstein, Stephanie Lauwers, Denise Niese, Cathleen Wenig, David Wigent, and two vacancies

LAW LIBRARY RESOURCES BOARD

Linda Brown*, Sara Bushong*, Justin Daler, Carrie Mancuso, and Kelly Persinger

NORTHWESTERN WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

Steve Arnold, Bill Barnhart, Brooke Hahn, Bill Hirzel*, Melinda Kale, Chuck Latta, J. Douglas Miller*, Tim Phillips, Mark Sheffer and Elizabeth Wick*

PLANNING COMMISSION**

Steve Arnold, Dr. Theodore Bowlus, John Brossia, Brendyn George, Doris Herringshaw, Craig LaHote, John Musteric, Jeffrey Schaller, John Schuerman, Brian Swope, and Matthew Tewers

PORT AUTHORITY

Cheryl Johnson*, Milton F. Knight, Ed Nagle*, James Rossler*, John Rust Jr., Thomas Uhler*, and Martha Woelke*

PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION

David Drain, Rex Huffman*, Richard Karcher, Frederic Matthews*, and Phillip Walton*

REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY**

David Anderson, William Davis, Don Deters, Marissa Muniz, Nancy VanderLugt, Jamie Weidner, and one vacancy

RESIDENTIAL BOARD OF APPEALS**

Ron Bechstein, Tim Enright, Robert Maurer, Laurie Melchior Huskisson, Connor Rose, and Connie Workman

ALTERNATES: Tom Pendleton and one vacancy

TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL**

John Cheney, Valerie Hovland, and Cathy Newlove-Wenig

ALTERNATES: Tim Harris and Michael Sibbersen

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Jim Bagdonas, Roger Bostdorff*, Jon Eckel, Bob Mack, John Musteric, Megan Newlove, Brian O'Connell, Mike Rywalski, Jonathon Smith, Robert Watrol, and one vacancy

WOOD HAVEN ADVISORY BOARD**

Norman Carney, Melanie Davis, Frank McLaughlin, Laurie Newlove, Denise Niese, and one vacancy

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: Jeff Orlowski, Carri Stanley, Shawn Oberhouse, and the President and Vice President of the Resident's Council

AUDITOR

Matthew Oestreich

The Auditor serves as the County's chief fiscal officer and appraiser. He prepares financial reports, acts as payroll agent, and reviews and pays all County bills. The distribution of real and manufactured home tax settlements to the subdivisions and the distribution of local government funds are also the responsibility of the Auditor. An agent for the Ohio Department of Taxation, the Auditor sells vendor's licenses. He is the sealer of weights and measures and is also secretary of the Budget Commission, Board of Revision, and Data Processing Board. The Auditor is authorized to perform his duties under Chapters 319, 322, 323, 5701-5743, et al. of the Ohio Revised Code.

To reduce costs and increase efficiencies, the Auditor's Office provided online applications for Homestead Exemptions, Homestead Exemption for Disabled Veterans and Surviving Spouses, and the Application for Owner-Occupancy Tax Reduction. These online applications are reliable, use less paper and postage, and have a more expedient turn-around process.

Distribution of Real Estate, Public Utility Tax, and Special Assessments by the County Auditor in 2023

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Wood County | \$8,127,976 |
| Northwestern Water & Sewer District | \$1,326,958 |
| County Ditch Maintenance/Construction | \$1,024,203 |
| Maumee Watershed Conservancy | \$110,992 |
| Board of Developmental Disabilities | \$21,417,894 |
| Alcohol, Drug Addiction, & Mental Health Services | \$8,100,992 |
| Park District | \$2,953,235 |
| Committee on Aging | \$3,190,305 |
| Board of Health | \$1,615,440 |
| Historical Center | \$171,792 |
| Job & Family Services | \$3,839,218 |
| Wood County Library Bond | \$250,566 |
| Townships | \$23,091,240 |
| Municipalities | \$15,261,809 |
| Schools | \$149,348,343 |
| Libraries | \$3,619,635 |

Visit the Auditor's web page on the County website for a complete breakdown.

2023 AUDITOR STATISTICS

| | |
|---|---------|
| Parcels of real property assessed (valued at over \$4.3 billion)..... | 76,806 |
| Conveyances processed..... | 4,214 |
| Individual land parcels | 6,103 |
| Forfeited land sale proceeds..... | \$6,040 |
| Parcels..... | 3 |
| Manufactured homes..... | 3 |
| Acres of farmland enrolled in CAUV | |
| (Current Agricultural Use Value)..... | 314,902 |
| Residents enrolled in Homestead Exemption program | 6,713 |
| Dog licenses sold | 17,143 |
| Weights and Measures Inspections: | |
| Commercial Scales..... | 622 |
| Gas Pumps..... | 1,496 |
| GIS requests..... | 112 |

TREASURER

Jane Spoerl

The Treasurer oversees the receipt and disbursement of funds for the County and collects taxes for the County, as well as for the schools, municipalities, and townships within the County. Twenty area financial offices serve the County as real estate tax payment sites. Qualifying taxpayers may utilize an available escrow program or delinquent tax repayment program. The Treasurer's Office also collects taxes on manufactured homes and inheritance. The Treasurer serves on the Budget Commission, Board of Revision, and Data Processing Board in addition to her duties as Investing Authority for the Investment Advisory Board and is authorized to perform her duties under Chapters 321 and 323 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Investment income for 2023 increased substantially over the prior year due to increased interest rates.

2023 TREASURER STATISTICS

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Real estate tax collected | \$246,014,076.81 |
| Manufactured home tax collected..... | \$1,355,031.11 |
| Investment income..... | \$6,729,629.64 |
| Taxpayers enrolled in monthly automatic withdrawal plan | 2,054 |
| Taxpayers enrolled in semi-annual/yearly ACH plan..... | 1,419 |

CORONER

The Coroner, an Ohio licensed physician in good standing, evaluates and rules on all violent, accidental, and suspicious circumstance deaths including homicides, suicides, and sudden deaths of persons in apparent good health.

The Coroner is authorized to perform his duties under Chapter 313 of the Ohio Revised Code.

The Coroner reviewed 330 cases in 2023, of which 104 were determined by the Coroner.

2023 CORONER CASES

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Auto Accidents | 16 |
| Drug Accidents | 12 |
| Other Accidents | 15 |
| Natural..... | 40 |
| Suicide..... | 13 |
| Homicide..... | 3 |
| Undetermined..... | 0 |
| Pending..... | 5 |

CLERK OF COURTS



Douglas Cubberley

The Clerk of Courts maintains the records of Common Pleas Court, issues motor vehicle and watercraft titles, and serves as Clerk for the Sixth District Court of Appeals. By statute he is a member of the Data Processing Board, Investment Advisory Board, and Records Commission.

The Clerk of Courts continued being good stewards of the public's money. The Title Office collects fees with every title issued to fund daily operations. As a result of sound fiscal management, the Clerk declared a surplus in the Certificate of Title Administration Funds account and made a \$500,000 contribution to the County's General Fund. This money may be used at the County Commissioners' discretion for general operations.

TITLE DOCUMENTS PROCESSED

| | |
|---|--------|
| Auto Titles, Duplicates & Memo Titles | 63,153 |
| Motor Vehicle Mortgages Recorded | 15,359 |
| Salvage Titles | 237 |
| Penalties (for not transferring titles timely) | 3,326 |
| Inspections | 6,095 |
| Affidavits | 20,400 |
| Manufactured Home Archives Recorded | 565 |
| Boat titles, Duplicates and Memo Titles (includes charged replacement titles) | 1,508 |
| Watercraft Mortgages Recorded | 334 |
| Watercraft Affidavits | 889 |
| Watercraft Penalties | 170 |
| Watercraft Registrations | 731 |

TITLE DISBURSEMENT TOTALS

\$30,389,640.90

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Clerk of Courts Certificate of Title Fund Receipts | \$824,187.30 |
| Wood County General Fund | \$8.00 |
| State of Ohio Motor Vehicle and Watercraft | |
| Casual and Dealer Tax | \$29,382,575.35 |
| BMV Certificate of Title Fees | \$158,832.25 |
| DNR Watercraft Fees | \$3,897.00 |
| DNR Watercraft Registrations | \$20,141.00 |

ACCESS UNCLAIMED FUNDS

Unclaimed (or abandoned) money and other assets not used for a length of time or whose rightful owner cannot be located are turned over to the Ohio Department of Commerce Division after a specific period of time has passed.

You can search to see if you have unclaimed funds at the State level by visiting www.com.ohio.gov/unfd.

The Wood County Clerk of Courts also provides a list of local unclaimed funds from the court system. To see if your name is on the Unclaimed Funds Report, visit the Wood County website, www.woodcountyohio.gov, and select the Clerk of Courts under Elected Officials link.

LEGAL CASES AND DOCUMENTS FILED (Partial List)

| | |
|--|--------|
| CasesAppealed to 6th District Court of Appeals | 70 |
| Domestic Relations Cases Filed | 315 |
| Domestic Violence Civil Protection | 151 |
| Dating Violence Civil Protection Order | 11 |
| Domestic Cases Reopened | 127 |
| Foreign Support | 2 |
| Civil Stalking/Sexually Oriented Offense Protection Orders | 196 |
| Foreign Judgment | 2 |
| Interstate Child Support | 1 |
| Custody and Support | 10 |
| Criminal Cases Filed | 598 |
| Civil Cases Filed (Includes 111 Civil Foreclosure Cases) | 673 |
| Land Foreclosure Cases | 44 |
| Mobile Home Foreclosure Cases | 25 |
| Certificate of Qualification | 1 |
| Foreign Subpoena | 8 |
| Miscellaneous | 1 |
| Judgment Liens Filed | 993 |
| State Tax Liens Filed | 3,681 |
| Foreign Judgment Liens | 4 |
| Executions Filed (Aid & Writ) | 3 |
| Debtor Exams | 12 |
| Garnishments | 273 |
| Publications | 57 |
| Writs of Possessions | 14 |
| Total Number of Judgment Entries | 14,404 |
| Passport Applications Accepted | 367 |
| Criminal Investigations | 1 |
| Search Warrants | 139 |
| Coroner's Reports Filed | 94 |

LEGAL DISBURSEMENT TOTALS

\$2,190,197.00

| | |
|---|----------------|
| General Fund | \$393,083.43 |
| Legal Research Fees | \$8,450.72 |
| Computerization Fees | \$118,922.70 |
| Interlock Fees | \$572.50 |
| Traffic Fines | \$4,031.41 |
| Mediation Fees | \$45,034.00 |
| Fines Paid to the Law Library | \$1,250.00 |
| Statutory fees paid to non-Wood County entities | \$91,922.80 |
| Funding Shelters for Victims of Domestic Violence | \$10,216.10 |
| Fees Paid to Adult Probation Supervision | \$11,666.46 |
| Fines to Prosecutor Law Enforcement Trust Fund | \$150.00 |
| Fees Paid to the Sheriff | \$93,697.37 |
| Fines Paid to the Sheriff | \$10,804.72 |
| Fees Paid to Realauction.com | \$8,580.00 |
| Fees Paid to Appraisers | \$20,100.00 |
| Sundries – includes, but not limited to: bond refunds; deposits less costs or deposits in whole refunded; court ordered civil, domestic, and criminal disbursements (i.e. restitution, garnishments); and appropriation disbursements | \$1,371,714.79 |

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



Paul Dobson

In 2023, the Prosecutor's Office opened nearly 600 new adult criminal case files. This included the successful prosecution of Bruce Vermett for his embezzlement of thousands of dollars from his former employer, Bowling Green-based Mr. Spot's Restaurant. The office indicted Xiaosong Wang for a Bowling Green double homicide. Additionally, the office completed a protracted prosecution of ISOH/Impact, aka Impact with Hope, founder Linda Greene, who was found guilty of fraudulent usage of the charity's funds totaling approximately \$300,000.

The Prosecuting Attorney's Office consists of four legal divisions: criminal, juvenile, civil, and appellate. The Prosecuting Attorney manages a staff including a director, 16 attorneys, a victim services unit, two investigators, two Addiction Response Collaborative (A.R.C.) staff, and support staff. The Prosecuting Attorney is authorized to perform his duties under Chapter 309 of the Ohio Revised Code.

In the Civil Division, James Hoppenjans was named as the new Chief of the Division, succeeding Arlen de la Serna, who accepted a new role in the Prosecutor's Office, focusing on contract review and preparation for the Board of County Commissioners.

At the annual law enforcement seminar, Wood County Sheriff's Office Det. Sgt. Patrick Mormile was presented with the Prosecutor's Office Servant and Sword Award. Additionally, nearly 400 Wood County elementary and junior high students participated in the Safety Kids Calendar Contest with the printed calendar featuring 12 monthly award winners and 12 honorable mentions being distributed in December.

2023 PROSECUTING ATTORNEY STATISTICS

CRIMINAL DIVISION

| | |
|--|-------|
| Cases opened | 598 |
| Indictments..... | 479 |
| Bills of Information for adult felony cases..... | 2 |
| Cases resolved by jury or court trial | |
| (10 guilty/0 not guilty)..... | 10 |
| Cases disposed..... | 845 |
| Cases disposed in Municipal Court | 212 |
| Victims of crimes served..... | 1,554 |

CIVIL DIVISION

| | |
|--|-----|
| New client matter files opened | 268 |
| Contracts prepared/reviewed..... | 509 |
| Formal opinions issued..... | 4 |
| Public records requests | 81 |
| Total bank foreclosures | 113 |
| Total real estate tax foreclosure..... | 44 |
| 37 dismissed with payment/0 sold/3 forfeited/4 pending | |
| Total mobile home tax foreclosure | 25 |
| 23 dismissed with payment/1 sold/0 forfeited/1 pending | |

JUVENILE DIVISION

| | |
|---|-----|
| Delinquency cases..... | 698 |
| Unruly cases | 95 |
| Traffic cases..... | 427 |
| Permanent custody cases filed | 7 |
| Felony level offenses adjudicated | 23 |
| Adult contributing to minors..... | 55 |
| Abuse/neglect/dependency cases filed..... | 364 |

APPELLATE DIVISION

| | |
|--|----|
| Sixth District Court of Appeals Merit Briefs submitted | 35 |
| Cases decided (39 successful/4 unsuccessful)..... | 43 |
| Ohio Supreme Court Merit decisions (successful) | 5 |
| Jurisdictional decisions (successful) | 5 |

ADDICTION RESPONSE COLLABORATIVE (A.R.C.)

| | |
|---|----|
| Referrals | 59 |
| (24 Entered Treatment/Jail with 19 ongoing; 12 Referred to Other Programs; 11 Rejected A.R.C./Could not be located) | |
| Fatal Overdoses Reported to the Program..... | 6 |
| AHEAD Program participants (81 successful/9 terminated)..... | 90 |

RECORDER



James Matuszak

The Recorder's Office is responsible for making a complete, accurate, and permanent record of every document pertaining to the conveyance and encumbrance of land within the County. As the repository of records for all property transactions in the County, the Recorder's Office safeguards every property owner's title. The Office also records and maintains financing statements relating to personal property, military discharge papers, and a listing of veterans' graves in the County. The Recorder is authorized to perform duties under numerous sections of the Ohio Revised Code. The Recorder serves on the Data Processing Board and the Records Commission Board.

A total of 13,222 documents were recorded and/or filed, with \$897,548.65 collected in fees. Of this amount, \$442,263.38 was remitted to the State of Ohio for the Ohio Housing Trust Fund; \$50,744.00 was deposited into the Recorder's supplemental technology fund; and the remaining \$404,541.27 was paid into the County's general fund.

2023 RECORDER'S DOCUMENTS

| | |
|--|-------|
| Deeds | 3,268 |
| Judgment entries and certificates for transfer | 138 |
| Mortgages | 3,094 |
| Mortgages released | 3,337 |
| Land Contracts | 17 |
| Rights of way and easements..... | 144 |
| Leases | 34 |
| Mechanics liens | 26 |
| Plats | 11 |
| Federal Tax Liens..... | 27 |
| Financing statements | 85 |
| Terminations | 70 |
| All Others | 2,971 |

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

General Division

The Court of Common Pleas, General Division, adjudicates felony criminal cases, civil actions, divorces, and dissolutions; allocates parental rights and responsibilities; and enforces child and spousal support. The Judges work collaboratively with the appointed Court Administrator to supervise the Domestic Relations, Adult Probation, and Court Security Departments. The Judges also appoint members to the Veterans Service Commission, Public Defender Commission, Law Library Board, and Public Library Board. The Court operates under Title 23 of the Ohio Revised Code.



Matthew Reger
COURTROOM 1



Mary "Molly" Mack
COURTROOM 2



Joel M. Kuhlman
COURTROOM 4

During 2023, Judge Mary "Molly" Mack served as Administrative Judge; Judge David Woessner served as Presiding Judge; Judge Matthew Reger served as a member of the judicial advisory board of the Northwest Community Corrections Center and the Maumee Watershed Conservancy District Court; and Judge Joel Kuhlman served as the Court Security Judge.

In August, the Court engaged in a Caseflow Management Process Mapping initiative, in accordance with Sup. R 5(B)(1) requirements, facilitated by Case Management Manager Chris Geocaris from the Supreme Court of Ohio. Throughout the session, discussions centered on Wood County's adherence to best practices and standards in caseflow management, resource allocation, and staffing considerations. Notably, the performance of the Court, as reflected in the Supreme Court Statistical Report, stood out among other counties in the state, underscoring the efficacy of its case management approach.

COURT ADMINISTRATION

Brandy Hartman, Court Administrator

Court Administration is responsible for overseeing functions of the Court, pursuant to the Ohio Supreme Court's Rules of Superintendence. The Court Administrator is responsible for policy implementation, human resources management, fiscal administration, strategic planning, information management, technology management, jury management, mediation services, community relations, and research and advisory services.

ADULT PROBATION

Ryan N. Wolaver, Chief Probation Officer/Director

The Adult Probation Department conducts pre-sentence investigations for purposes of sentencing and supervises felony level offenders placed under court-ordered supervision. Adult Probation serves to aid in the reduction of criminal behavior through supervision, treatment, and rehabilitation of offenders, while protecting the public's safety.

COURT SECURITY

Scott Kleiber, Chief Court Constable

The Court Security Department consists of constables serving under the appointing authority of the judiciary to ensure the safety and security of the Judges, staff, and citizens in all the courtrooms and adjacent offices, Domestic Relations area, and the Adult Probation Department. Constables are trained law enforcement officers and are required to complete annual continuing education and qualifications.

DOMESTIC RELATIONS

Jill Varnes-Richardson, Magistrate

Michelle Christie, Magistrate

Two magistrates preside over the Domestic Relations Court hearing civil protection order cases and termination of marriage cases including dissolution, divorce, legal separation, and post-decree motions.

2023 COURT OF COMMON PLEAS STATISTICS

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| Cases completed | 1,499 |
| Pending cases..... | 529 |
| General Civil cases completed..... | 853 |
| Criminal cases completed..... | 646 |

COURT ADMINISTRATION

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Cases referred to Mediation | 149 |
| Jury/Court trials | 18 |
| Panels of jurors summonsed | 39 |

ADULT PROBATION

| | |
|--|-------|
| Pre-sentence investigations conducted..... | 243 |
| Intervention in Lieu reports | 72 |
| Pre-arraignement reports | 474 |
| Expungement/Record sealing reports..... | 76 |
| New offenders under department supervision | 460 |
| Offenders on probation..... | 1,026 |
| Individuals terminated from supervision | 497 |
| Drug tests conducted..... | 2,585 |
| Offenders referred to Intensive Supervisor Program | 84 |
| Offenders placed on Intensive Supervision | 125 |
| Offenders placed on Electronic Monitoring | 142 |
| Offenders committed to Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) | 176 |

COURT SECURITY

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Public escorts | 985 |
| Persons taken into custody | 160 |
| Prisoner escorts..... | 938 |

DOMESTIC RELATIONS

| | |
|---|-------|
| Cases completed | 1,018 |
| Stalking/Domestic Violence hearings | 358 |

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Probate and Juvenile Division

Cases heard in Probate Court involve decedent's estates, guardianships, conservatorships, trust related actions, civil actions, adoptions, mental illness, minor settlements, and wrongful deaths. In addition, the Probate Court provides registration services for births, name changes, miscellaneous filings, and marriage license applications. The Judge also makes a number of appointments to Boards and agencies as allowed by law and performs his duties under Chapter 2101 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Probate Court experienced another spike in guardianship filings, primarily in the incompetent category. There were 77 new cases filed, leaving 500 pending guardianships and conservatorships at year's end.

To address the increase in guardianship filings and the related shortage of guardians, Wood County partnered with Ottawa and Hancock counties to create a Guardianship Services Board. These boards are authorized by Ohio law to serve as the guardian to community members found incompetent by the court. Area service agencies, including Job and Family Services, the Alcohol Drug Addiction and Mental Health Service Board, the Wood County Committee on Aging, as well as the Board of Developmental Disabilities all participated in and/or contributed to this Board.

Consistent with recent years, miscellaneous cases increased once again in 2023. This 20% increase relates to vital records changes such as birth registrations, birth corrections, and name changes. Miscellaneous cases have nearly doubled in the last ten years.

Probate Court filings totaled 1,650 for 2023.

2023 PROBATE COURT STATISTICS

| | |
|--|-----|
| New cases opened | 856 |
| Re-opened cases | 45 |
| Estates..... | 548 |
| Guardianships and Conservatorships | 77 |
| Adoptions | 17 |
| Civil actions | 18 |
| Trusts | 4 |
| Marriage applications | 749 |
| Minor settlements | 18 |
| Name changes | 137 |
| Birth registrations/corrections..... | 11 |
| Mental Illness..... | 7 |
| Emergency actions (Guardianships, Mental Illness, Adult Protective Services) | 13 |
| Other miscellaneous..... | 19 |
| Active volunteer guardians..... | 19 |

ARE YOU OKAY? PROGRAM AVAILABLE TO RESIDENTS

Do you know a Wood County senior who lives independently or is disabled in some way? The Are You Okay program is free to County residents and is a pre-recorded message that calls a participant at a specific, designated time on a day(s) of their choosing. This software system will then acknowledge that the participant answered the call and will call them at their next scheduled time. If the participant does not answer, the system will call back a determined number of times before a deputy is sent to check on the individual. To learn more about this program contact the Sheriff's Office at 419.354.9005.

The Juvenile Court has jurisdiction over juvenile delinquency and unruly cases; juvenile traffic cases; abuse, neglect, and dependency cases; paternity, custody and child support cases; as well as limited adult criminal cases. The Juvenile Court provides a wide variety of services and support for youth and families throughout the county and works regularly with service providers and schools throughout Wood County and surrounding areas. In his capacity as Wood County's Juvenile Court Judge, in addition to the daily case work and court administration, Judge David Woessner also oversees the administration of the Wood County Juvenile Detention Center and the Juvenile Residential Center of Northwest Ohio. The Juvenile Court's jurisdiction is described in part in Section 2151.23 of the Ohio Revised Code.



David E. Woessner

In 2023, overall case filings decreased by 4.6%. The reduction in case filings can be attributed to, in part, the full implementation of a Community Based Diversion program which, by working with the Wood County Educational Service Center and other providers, diverted 240 youth and families from formal intervention with the court.

2023 JUVENILE COURT STATISTICS

| | |
|--|-------|
| Cases filed | 2,565 |
| Cases disposed of..... | 2,580 |
| Cases of alleged abuse, neglect or dependent children..... | 364 |

JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER

| | |
|--|-----|
| Pretrial and short-term commitments..... | 403 |
| Males housed | 261 |
| Females housed..... | 142 |

JUVENILE PROBATION

| | |
|--|------------|
| Youth and adults under supervision..... | 233 |
| Families served under Intervention/Diversion | 57 |
| Community Based Diversion participants | 240 |
| Community service participants | 113 |
| Community service hours..... | 1,939 |
| Restitution paid to victims..... | \$9,914.59 |

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE/ GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM (CASA/GAL)

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Volunteers | 33 |
| Children served | 106 |
| Child cases appointed..... | 61 |

SHERIFF



Mark Wasylshyn

As the County's chief law enforcement officer, the Sheriff preserves the peace and provides correctional and civil services to residents. The Office of the Sheriff is unique among law enforcement organizations as the Sheriff is the only elected law enforcement official in the State of Ohio. The Sheriff is authorized to perform his duties under Chapter 311 of the Ohio Revised Code.

2023 WOOD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT

911 DIVISION/COMMUNICATIONS

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| Calls answered: | |
| 911..... | 39,413 |
| Administrative calls | 56,385 |
| Dispatched calls: | |
| WCSO deputies | 24,975 |
| Non WCSO law enforcement | 44,075 |
| Fire/EMS..... | 19,552 |
| State/National database entries: | |
| Warrants | 1,654 |
| Protection Orders..... | 631 |

CIVIL DIVISION

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Sheriff foreclosure property sales | 44 |
| Proceeds from parcels sold..... | \$1,540,239.89 |
| Execution of Certificates of Judgment | 18 |
| Service fee income to General Fund..... | \$110,955.72 |
| Warrants, summons, subpoena | |
| & indictments served | 2,362 |
| Civil Protection Orders received..... | 603 |
| Child support warrants served | 102 |
| Inmates extradited from out of state | 57 |
| Prisoners transported to penal institutions | 172 |
| Prisoners transported between agencies | 655 |

DETECTIVE BUREAU

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Cases assigned..... | 246 |
| Cases cleared by arrest/closed/inactive | 190 |
| Cases pending investigation..... | 56 |
| Theft/fraud/forgery..... | 103 |
| Burglary/Breaking and Entering | 30 |
| Suspicious incident/departmental | 15 |
| Death/suicide..... | 35 |
| Sex offense/child abuse..... | 40 |
| Narcotic investigations..... | 74 |
| Fines/forfeitures to Drug Fund..... | \$29,554.05 |
| Task Force Seizures | \$5,332.68 |
| Vehicles seized/forfeited | 1 |
| Fire/arson | 1 |

CODERED EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

Residents can sign up for CodeRED to receive phone calls, text messages, and/or email alerts of critical communications including weather alerts, road closures, boil water advisories, etc., based on location. To register for this service, visit the County's website and select CodeRED under Quick Links.

ROAD PATROL DIVISION

| | |
|--|---------|
| Complaints received and investigated | 24,975 |
| Criminal charges..... | 284 |
| Traffic citations..... | 132 |
| Traffic warning written/verbal | 3,591 |
| Weight enforcement stops..... | 83 |
| Weight enforcement citations | 32 |
| Crashes investigated | 870 |
| Injury crashes..... | 122 |
| Injured persons..... | 163 |
| Fatal crashes | 9 |
| Driving under the influence – DUI | 85 |
| Driving under suspension – DUS | 137 |
| Miles driven by all Sheriff's vehicles | 971,745 |

SEX OFFENDERS REGISTERED

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ENFORCEMENT

| | |
|--|-----|
| Domestic violence arrests | 7 |
| Court case victim assistance | 104 |
| Sex offense/crimes against children | 9 |
| Cases assisted | 305 |
| Temporary protection order violation arrests | 15 |

COURTHOUSE COMPLEX SECURITY

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Individuals checked upon entry | 77,787 |
| Packages scanned | 44,586 |
| Prohibited items held | 828 |
| Calls for service | 29 |
| Defendants processed/booked..... | 221 |

WEAPON PERMITS & BACKGROUND CHECKS

| | |
|---|-------|
| Concealed Carry Weapon Permits: | |
| Issued | 321 |
| Renewed | 1,205 |
| Denied | 18 |
| Revoked | 0 |
| Persons fingerprinted for background checks | 1,151 |

JAIL

| | |
|---|----------|
| Inmates booked | 2,513 |
| Inmates released | 2,509 |
| Average daily population | 106 |
| Inmates transported to local courts | 1,079 |
| Total meals served | |
| – Jail | 119,084 |
| – Juvenile Detention Center | 17,734 |
| – Juvenile Residential Center | 34,002 |
| Average meals served per day | .500 |
| Average meal cost (with labor)..... | \$2.00 |
| Out-of-county inmate housing income | \$20,408 |

D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education)/S.R.O. (School Resources Officers)

Participating School Districts: Eastwood, Elmwood, Otsego & St. Louis

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| D.A.R.E. core students | 434 |
| D.A.R.E. students grades K-6 | 1,992 |
| D.A.R.E. students grade 7 | 323 |
| Education/prevention classes | 22 |
| Education/prevention students | 423 |
| School staff members | 355 |

VOLUNTEER AUXILIARY PROGRAM

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Members | 33 |
| Special events worked | 18 |
| Funeral escorts | 190 |
| Hours of work volunteered | 3,132 |

EXPLORER PROGRAM

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Members (Young adults 15 - 20) | 18 |
| Hours volunteered | 652 |
| Special Events | 32 |
| Classroom hours | 60 |
| Field Trips | 4 |

SPECIAL RESPONSE/CRISIS NEGOTIATION TEAM

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Callouts | 5 |
| Community outreach events | 12 |

COUNTY UTILIZES ON-LINE AUCTION SITES

Wood County utilizes the on-line auction site GovDeals for the disposal of unneeded, obsolete, or unfit Wood County personal property. Members of the public can view and purchase available items by registering as a buyer at GovDeals.com or using the Internet Auction Quick Link available on the County's website, www.woodcountyohio.gov.

The Sheriff's Office conducts the sale of all real estate subject to foreclosure on a website operated by Realauction. The process and procedures are detailed on the Sheriff's Sale Quick Link on the County website. Tax sales and Probate Sales continue to be sold on location in the Alvin L. Perkins Atrium at the Courthouse Complex.

2023 COMPLETED PROJECTS

ROAD PROJECTS

| ROAD RECONSTRUCTION/REHABILITATION COUNTY ROADS | |
|---|-----------------|
| Cygnet Road (Liberty Hi to SR 25)..... | 2.70 mi |
| Liberty Hi Road (SR 281 to Mermill Road)..... | 0.99 mi |
| Luckey Road (Sugar Ridge to SR 582)..... | 1.57 mi |
| Luckey Road (SR 582 to US 20)..... | 3.21 mi |
| Mermill Road (SR 235 to Liberty Hi) | 4.03 mi |
| Various Township roads | 30.66 mi |
| GRAND TOTAL..... | 43.16 mi |

SURFACE TREATMENT (CHIP SEAL) COUNTY ROADS

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Mermill Road (Milton Center Corp/Milton Road to SR 235) | 2.01 mi |
| Wayne Road (US 6 to South River Road)..... | 1.58 mi |
| Wapakoneta Road (US 6 to Poe Road)..... | 2.01 mi |
| Wapakoneta Road (Poe Road to Grand Rapids Corp) | 1.29 mi |
| Liberty Hi Road (Bowling Green Road West to Poe Road)..... | 1.01 mi |
| Liberty Hi Road (Poe Road to Kellogg Road)..... | 2.01 mi |
| Six Other County roads less than 0.5 miles each | 1.81 mi |
| Various Township roads | 40.26 mi |
| GRAND TOTAL..... | 51.98 mi |

MICROSURFACING COUNTY ROADS

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| East Broadway Road | 2.74 mi |
| Pemberville Road | 1.69 mi |
| Tracy Road | 1.74 mi |
| Dowling Road | 1.16 mi |
| Various Township roads | 3.97 mi |
| TOTAL | 11.30 mi |

PAVEMENT MARKINGS

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Various County roads (centerline) | 84.50 mi |
| Various County roads (edge lines)..... | 154.15 mi |

CULVERTS/STORM SEWERS

| | |
|--|--|
| Mears Road over Ditch 1116 (Bloom Twp); Sugar Ridge Road over Ditch 1007 (Center Twp); Wayne Road over Ditch 1924 (Montgomery Twp) | |
|--|--|

BRIDGE PROJECTS

| | |
|---|--|
| 2-55D Bays Road over Bills Ditch (Liberty Twp) | |
| 2-11E Drouillard Rd Sidewalk over Cedar Creek (Lake Twp) | |
| 1-10D East Broadway Street over Cedar Creek (Lake Twp) | |
| Gypsy Lane Road over N. Branch Portage River (Center Twp) | |
| Lemoyne Road over Dry Creek (Lake Twp) | |
| Lime City Road over Ditch 2395 (Perrysburg Twp) | |
| Long Judson Road over Ditch 2426 (Plain Twp) | |
| Luckey Road over Ditch 2250 (Troy Twp) | |
| Mermill Road over Bull Creek (Portage Twp) | |
| Rudolph Road over Ditch 2267 (Liberty Twp) | |

DRAINAGE PROJECTS

| | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| DITCH CONSTRUCTION | 3.58 mi |
|--------------------------|---------|

MAINTENANCE DITCHES

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Cleanouts | 19.60 mi |
| Debrushing | 4.84 mi |
| Bank Protection & Repair..... | 2.88 mi |
| Vegetation Sprayed..... | .265.43 mi |
| Mowing | 20.06 mi |

STORM WATER

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Construction site inspections..... | 263 |
| Outfalls screened | 71 |
| Storm water drainage complaints | 16 |
| Illicit Discharges..... | 8 |

PERMITS ISSUED

| | |
|---|-----|
| Storm Water | 39 |
| Special Haul (Overweight/Oversize)..... | 397 |
| Drive Culvert | 51 |
| Utilities..... | 29 |
| Road Cuts/Bore..... | 14 |

TAX MAP REVIEWS

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Deed pre-approvals..... | 1,835 |
| Deed final approvals | 3383 |
| New parcels reviewed..... | 503 |
| Total parcels reviewed..... | 8,886 |

ENGINEER



John M. Musteric, PE, PS.

The Engineer has the responsibility of maintaining the County's 244 miles of road, 437 bridges, more than 2,500 culverts, 3,725 traffic signs, and four traffic control signals. In addition to managing the County's Storm Water Management Plan, the Office

also manages ditch construction and is charged with maintaining 673 miles of open streams and ditches under the Maintenance Ditch program, which is just part of the more than 3,000 miles of open watercourses in the County. The Office serves as the Engineer for the County's 19 townships providing cost estimates for road repair projects, assisting with grant applications, right-of-way location surveys, investigating drainage problems, and applying surface treatment to some of the 968 miles of Township roads. The Engineer's Office also reviews surveys, subdivision plats, annexations, vacations of roads, and maintains an extensive file of survey field records. The Office maintains tax map records of daily land transactions and reviews new and existing legal descriptions for all land transactions. The Engineer is authorized to perform his duties under Chapter 315 of the Ohio Revised Code.

2023 SOURCES OF INCOME

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Motor vehicle license fees | \$5,433,766 |
| Gasoline tax..... | \$3,827,153 |
| Permits..... | \$39,575 |
| Other receipts..... | \$1,126 |
| Refunds..... | \$28,780 |
| Traffic fines | \$110,612 |
| Grants..... | \$0 |
| Interest | \$292,875 |
| Reimbursements..... | \$1,375,333 |
| Storm Water MS4 | \$57,655 |
| General Fund | \$685,107 |
| Capital Improvement Fund 315 | \$200,000 |
| TOTAL | \$12,051,982 |



Luckey Road south of SR 582 was one of five County road improvement projects completed in 2023.

INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

BOARD OF ELECTIONS • Julie Baumgardner, Director; Terry L. Burton, Director

The Board of Elections is responsible for voter registration, voter database management, and election administration within the boundaries of Wood County. Activities include administration of Election Day; management of the early vote program; precinct election official recruitment and training; auditing of campaign financial reports; verification of candidates and ballot issues; and the securing, programming, and testing of all electronic voting devices. In addition, the office maintains all current and historical records for voter information, election documentation, and precinct maps.

The Board of Elections administered three elections in 2023. A Primary Election on May 2 was held in Fostoria City and the Tiffin-Fostoria Municipal Court. A Statewide Constitutional Amendment election was ordered by the Ohio Legislature for August 8. The November 7 General Election included all successful candidates from the May Primary as well as city, village, township and school board candidates. Additionally, there were two statewide issues and 45 local questions/issues.

With the implementation of Ohio House Bill 458, voters saw many changes in voting process. In person voters must provide valid photo ID which include; Ohio driver's license, state ID card, or interim ID form issued by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles; U.S. passport or passport card; or U.S. military ID card, Ohio National Guard ID card, or U.S. Department of

Veterans Affairs ID card. The deadline to request an absentee ballot moved to the close of business on the seventh day before Election Day and the deadline for mailed absentee ballots to arrive at a board of elections office moved to the fourth day after Election Day. The early voting schedule now ends on the Sunday before Election Day and additional hours were added during the week before Election Day.

In 2023, Wood County ended the year with 92,528 registered voters. Voter participation in 2023 was 5.37% for the May Election, 40.16% for August Second Primary Election and 51.98% for the November General Election.

The Wood County Board of Elections operates under the Laws of the State of Ohio. Directives and advisories from the Ohio Secretary of State provide additional guidance along with the four-person local board.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Benjamin Robison, MPH, Health Commissioner

The Wood County Health Department works to prevent disease, promote healthy lifestyles, and protect the health of those living in the County. The Health Department also provides essential medical care through the Community Health Center, protects the County's food and water, and ensures women and children have access to nutritious food.

In 2023, the Health Department achieved national reaccreditation, and the Community Health Center earned reaccreditation as a Patient-Centered Medical Home with Distinction in Behavioral Health Integration by the National Committee for Quality Assurance.

A renovation project at the Health Center increased the number of exam rooms, added a behavioral health wing, and expanded the pharmacy.

The federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency declaration ended in May 2023. Staff continued to promote measures to reduce severe illness from COVID, with a focus on those at increased risk. Staff also conducted community outreach and education activities, including tick and mosquito prevention, nicotine cessation, mental health, nutrition, physical activity, immunizations, and air quality.

The 10-member Board of Health appoints the Health Commissioner and oversees the Wood County General and Combined Health District activities.

LAW LIBRARY

Sarah Renda, Law Librarian

The Wood County Law Library, operating under Section 307.51 et seq. of the Ohio Revised Code, provides legal resources to the citizens, courts, and government with both print and electronic materials. The print collection includes Ohio primary sources: statutes, regulations, and cases as well as legal encyclopedias, treatises, and practice materials with an emphasis on Ohio law. Online databases provide access to federal and other states' law. The governing board, the Law Library Resources Board, is composed of five members: two appointed by the County Commissioners and one member appointed by the Municipal Courts, Common Pleas Court, and the Prosecuting Attorney.

The Law Library received approximately 518 visitors in 2023 by in person visits, phone calls, and emails.

The Law Library staff cannot provide individuals with legal advice, but can provide assistance in finding forms and information during regular Courthouse hours.

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Megan Arnold, Area Leader

The mission of The Ohio State University Extension Office is to create opportunities for people to explore how science-based knowledge can improve social, economic, and environmental conditions. The Extension Office is a cooperative effort between The Ohio State University, the Wood County Commissioners, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) program sponsored a local Agronomic Field Day with 65 growers from throughout the region in attendance. ANR staff continued to provide pesticide training for township, county, and village employees.

Master Gardener volunteers remained active within the community and helped educate the public about horticulture. Volunteers served over 1,500 hours helping to maintain parks throughout the County.

The Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) team continued to provide programming to help build strong and healthy families. Staff focused on addressing diabetes by conducting Diabetes Dialogue sessions throughout the county and Dining with Diabetes classes. Wellness Wednesday Lunch and Learns were also conducted with County staff throughout the year, and the FCS team offered one-time nutrition and wellness programs on a variety of topics for county residents. The SNAP-Ed program staff provided healthy resource programming in collaboration with local non-profits, head start centers, and Wood County agencies and schools.

The 4-H program celebrated yet another successful year in 2023 with more than 1,000 members and 175 volunteers enrolled. Members from 46 clubs completed over 1,500 4-H projects and served 23,000 milkshakes at the Wood County Fair and National Tractor Pulling Championships. Additionally, 4-H staff continued building new programs and initiatives including 4-H Family Info Night, Beginner Quality Assurance, and the Wood County Alumni and Friends Organization. As part of the Senior Smiles community service project, 22 4-H clubs made 735 "goodie bags" for seniors receiving delivered meals through the Wood County Committee on Aging. This community service program received recognition at the State and regional levels.

LOOKING TO BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME IN WOOD COUNTY?

A Guide to Rural Residential Construction offers guidance to help you navigate the home building process. From considering the purchasing a lot in a rural area to Building Inspection's final inspections, the guide provides a list of required steps to building the home of your dreams. The guide is available as a Quick Link on the County website.

PLANNING COMMISSION

W. David Steiner, Director

The Planning Commission administers policy concerning zoning regulations, land use issues, and residential, commercial, and industrial subdivisions. The staff approves parcel splits, assigns rural addresses, and issues floodplain development permits. They administer the County's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and the Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP). The Planning Commission is also responsible for revising and promoting adherence to the Wood County Comprehensive Land Use Plan and assisting townships and villages with their local zoning programs.

The Commission heard and reviewed 19 rezoning requests throughout the year. Eight requests involved text changes to zoning resolutions in Troy and Middleton Townships. The remaining 11 requests involved the rezoning of existing lands in Troy, Perrysburg, Lake and Middleton Townships. Staff also assisted with a comprehensive update to the Plain Township zoning resolution and aided Liberty Township with an update to its land use plan. An update to the Wood County Subdivision Rules and Regulations also commenced.

In 2023 Wood County began using PY2022 CHIP funds on various homes throughout Wood County. A partnership between Wood County and the Cities of Rossford, Northwood and Bowling Green resulted in increased funding amounts and assisted low to moderate homeowners within these cities.

A \$383,000 CDBG grant received in 2022 resulted in completion of ADA renovations to the Village Hall restrooms in Bradner; storm sewer improvements in Bloomdale; ADA restroom modifications for The Cocoon Shelter in Bowling Green; and funding assistance for low to moderate income households to cover the costs of tapping into sanitary sewers through the Northwestern Water and Sewer District.

An Ohio Building and Site Demolition Grant assisted with demolition of five vacant homes throughout the County. Grant funds were also used to assist the Village of Bloomdale with storm sewer projects and a sanitary sewer project in the Sugar Ridge area.

Office staff worked with the Ohio Department of Development to expand the existing Village of Bairdstown Enterprise Zone to encompass Perry Township in efforts to promote more economic development within the township.

The Planning Commission operates under Chapter 713 of the Ohio Revised Code.

2023 PLANNING COMMISSION ACTIVITY

| | |
|--|----------|
| Minor parcel split transactions..... | 525 |
| Total acres in minor parcel splits..... | 525.7024 |
| Transactions involving parcel combinations..... | 852 |
| Total acres in parcel combinations | 852.061 |
| Rural addresses issued..... | 80 |
| Residential subdivisions approved (final approval only)..... | 7 |

PUBLIC DEFENDER • Justin Daler, Chief Public Defender

The Public Defender's Office provides constitutionally mandated legal representation for indigent defendants in juvenile and criminal cases. Individuals are represented in the Bowling Green, Perrysburg, and Fostoria Municipal Courts; Juvenile Court; and Common Pleas Court. A satellite office located at the Perrysburg Municipal Court accommodates the significant case load in the northern part of the County. To be eligible for representation, an individual must qualify under the Ohio Public Defender Commission Standards of Indigency, as listed in the Ohio Administrative Code section 120-1-03.

In 2023, the Office of the Public Defender represented approximately 2,300 clients.

Funds for appointment of counsel were budgeted by the Commissioners, with an average of 80 percent of the budget reimbursed by the State in 2023. Ohio law mandates that individuals requesting representation pay a \$25 application fee.

The County retained 80 percent of the fee to offset the costs of providing legal representation.

The duties of the Public Defender are outlined in Chapter 120 of the Ohio Revised Code. A five-member commission, appointed by the Common Pleas Judges and the Board of County Commissioners, oversees the office administration.

WOOD SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT • James Carter, District Administrator

The Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) includes all the lands within the County. The District, chartered in 1949, is a subdivision of the State of Ohio operating under Chapter 940 of the Ohio Revised Code. The major function of the District is to determine the natural resource needs and implement programs to protect and develop these resources. The County Commissioners provide annual funding to the District, which is matched by the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Soil and Water Conservation Commission. Policies are set by a five-member board of supervisors who are elected to serve a three-year term.

A large part of the workload for Wood SWCD involved administration of H2Ohio, specifically incentivizing farmers to implement best management practices that target reducing phosphorus and improving water quality. As a result of H2Ohio, Wood County has over 66,577 acres covered under nutrient management plans that follow Tri-State Fertilizer Recommendations, with over 36,319 of those acres using precision technology to apply crop nutrients at a variable rate. Additionally, 13,728 acres were seeded with overwintering cover crops and 26 Drainage Water Management structures were designed and installed under the program last year.

Three private ditch cleanouts for woody vegetation removal, culvert cleaning and excessive sediment deposits were completed totaling over

four miles. In addition, five projects totaling over 17 miles have been assisted with and are nearing construction.

The District investigated reports of agricultural pollution violations and worked with the appropriate agencies to enforce Ohio's agricultural pollution laws and regulations.

In 2023, the Natural Resources Conservation Service worked with Wood County producers and the Wood SWCD to plan five new Environmental Quality Incentives Program contracts on 943 acres for \$752,000 in cost-share funds to local producers. Contracted practices included manure storage facilities, cover crops and nutrient management. Twenty new Conservation Stewardship Program contracts provided \$1.14 million over five years for conservation efforts on 20,169 acres.

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE • Zach Migura, Executive Director/County Veterans Service Officer

The Wood County Veterans Service Office provides advocacy and representation for veterans and their eligible dependents before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The Office also assists service members and the veteran community in obtaining benefits at the state and local levels, provides transportation for veterans' VA medical appointments, provides emergency financial assistance, issues state Veteran Identification Cards, and has an Honors Detail that presents the final honors at a veteran's burial. The Veterans Service Commission operates under Chapter 5901 of the Ohio Revised Code.

A Morale, Welfare and Recreation program was created that began with the formation of a veterans' woodworking group to build burial flag display cases. The Office assisted local governments with Veteran Banner projects and has started a project with the Engineer's Office to identify and mark locations of veterans graves for cemetery maps.

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE STATISTICS FOR 2023

| | |
|--|----------|
| Estimated Veterans residing in the County | 7,008 |
| Total client contacts | 4,804 |
| Veterans transported to medical facilities | 448 |
| Veterans photo I.D. cards issued | 118 |
| Memorial Day appropriations | \$15,000 |
| Flags/grave markers distributed | 13,636 |
| Federal VA claims/benefits/appeals submitted | 279 |
| Number of persons assisted - emergency financial | 47 |



Many Wood County residents may not know where to turn when they need help.

Wood County's No Wrong Door program provides information about services and resources with one call to any of the member agencies.

No Wrong Door can help with the real life challenges that touch Wood County residents and provide guidance for issues like home repair, employment, food, clothing, shelter, financial assistance, and more.

If you need help and don't know where to turn, just call any one of the agencies listed and they will guide you to the services you need.

WOOD COUNTY QUICK FACTS

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Population: 2020 Census: | 132,248 |
| 2010 Census: | 125,488 |
| 2000 Census: | 121,065 |
| Land area in square miles: | 617.4 |
| Land in farms (acres): | 268,767 |
| Number of farms: | 1,069 |
| Total cash receipts from farms: | \$159,265,000 |
| Private sector goods/service establishments: | 2,979 |
| Total households: | 53,010 |
| Estimated median household income: | \$66,337 |

Major employers in Wood County:

Bowling Green State University, Amazon, FedEx Ground, Magna International, First Solar, Inc., Home Depot, Wood County Government, Owens Community College, NSG Group, Wood County Hospital

Sources: Ohio County Profile from the Ohio Department of Development Office of Research - 2023 Edition, U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



A BRIEF HISTORY OF WOOD COUNTY

Wood County was organized on February 12, 1820, when the Legislature carved 14 counties from the lands purchased from the Indians as a result of the Lower Maumee Treaty of September 29, 1817. Lucas County was then a part of Wood County. By law, Maumee was named as the temporary Seat of Justice. The Act further provided that the unorganized counties of Hancock, Henry, Putnam, Paulding, and Williams should be attached to Wood County for civil purposes until further provisions were made by law.

Wood County was named for Colonel Eleazer Derby Wood, a graduate of West Point, a gallant soldier and the engineer who planned Fort Meigs.

The selection of County officers took place on April 1, 1820. In May 1822, the Commissioners designated Perrysburg as the first County Seat. It remained so until 1868 when the Seat of Justice was moved to Bowling Green.

The County lines were the same as now, except that the northern boundary extended to Michigan. In 1835, Wood County was dismembered when Lucas County was formed and the Maumee River became its northern boundary.

Out of the Great Black Swamp of yesterday has emerged a well drained, rich, fertile, and productive county.

Today, Wood County covers 617.4 square miles and consists of five cities, 21 villages, and 19 townships.

HOW TO CONTACT US... Call 419-354-9000 and let us help you or call toll-free 1-866-860-4140.

WOOD COUNTY HOTLINES

Report Child/Elder Abuse
419-354-9669 or
1-866-860-4136

Report Welfare Fraud
419-373-6964 or
1-800-627-8133
jfs.ohio.gov/fraud/index.htm

Public Assistance Call Center
1-844-640-6446

Medicaid Consumer Hotline
1-800-324-8680

**NetPlus Transportation
Network**
1-844-353-6779

**Addiction Response
Collaborative (ARC)**
419-373-3900

VISIT OUR UPDATED WEBSITE

www.woodcountyohio.gov

The County's website provides links to Elected Official and Departmental websites as well as quick links to the following information:

- CodeRED (Emergency Management Agency)
- Real Estate Information (Auditor)
- Real Estate Tax Payment (Treasurer)
- Real Estate Index Search (Recorder)
- Voter Location Search (Board of Elections)
- Dog Adoptions (Dog Shelter)
- Building Permit Inquiry (Building Inspection)
- Internet Auction (Commissioners)
- Marriage License and Probate Records (Probate Court)
- Dog License Purchase and Renewal (Auditor)
- Sex Offender Database (Sheriff)
- Sheriff Sales (Sheriff)
- Bids/Requests for Proposals (Commissioners)
- Court Records Search (Clerk of Courts)
- Road Closings, Storm Water Management & Interactive Maps (Engineer)
- Household Recycling Information (Solid Waste Management District)
- Spirit of Wood County Awards (Commissioners)
- History of Wood County

