

2002 Wood County, OHIO Annual Report

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A Message from the Board of County Commissioners

Over the past year much progress was made on several major projects and initiatives, as we continue to focus on assuring the stability of Wood County government.

Perhaps the biggest news in 2002 was the state of Wood County's economy. Despite the downturn in the nation's economy and the severe strain on budgets in most of our surrounding counties, Wood County's economy performed well. Unemployment averaged below the state and national average and the Wood County Economic Development Commission continued to announce new and local business expansions. Wood County was one of only a few in Ohio whose sales tax revenues showed encouraging growth, allowing the Commissioners to move forward on a number of important infrastructure projects.

The County's Aa3 bond rating was reaffirmed twice in 2002. This excellent bond rating benefited the Wood County District Library in the financing of the library renovation and expansion project. In addition Wood County saved our taxpayers \$50,000 per year over a 10 year period through the refinancing of five County bonds.

In a cooperative effort, the State of Ohio, the County Engineer, and Commissioners are working to address problems associated with humped railroad crossings throughout the County. Each partner in this effort allocated \$150,000 in an initial attempt to fund projects that will begin to ease this problem.

In an effort to continue accelerated progress on Countywide bridge renovations, the Commissioners appropriated \$1 million dollars for use by the County Engineer. The Commissioners have contributed \$4.3 million over a four year period in order to fund bridge replacement and refurbishment for the safety of Wood County citizens.

A gift of \$1.9 million from the Bordner Foundation to the Wood County Nursing Home in 2001 and 2002 will provide for several improvements at the facility. A lift system, composed of ceiling, floor and bath lifts was installed in 2002, and will greatly reduce strain injuries for employees, ultimately reducing costs related to workers compensation claims, and provide a safer, more dignified means of lifting residents.

Plans continued in 2002 for the Courthouse Atrium project. This \$2.2 million project will allow for expanded security in the future, as required by the State, for the Courthouse Complex, as well as address critical building drainage and water damage issues associated with the plaza area and basement between the three buildings. This was made possible by the efforts of State Senator Randy Gardner, who helped to obtain \$1 million through the State's capital budget.

The Wood County Records Center and Law Library officially opened in November 2002 at the Courthouse Complex. Construction of this \$2.4 million project that revitalized the historic Old Jail building, began in 2001. The adaptive reuse of this building, located on the Courthouse campus, is significant because of the new function the structure houses, as well as the fact that it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Returning the Law Library to the Courthouse campus, as is required by law, will save taxpayers money because the County will no longer pay rent to house this facility.



The Juvenile Court expansion and renovation project was completed in 2002. This \$1.4 million project added 5,288 square feet to the existing building including a second courtroom and office space, while approximately 8,000 square feet of the existing building was updated in the renovation portion of the project.

For all of the major capital projects mentioned, the County was able to pay cash rather than issue debt. The funds that enabled these cash payments were the result of the previous robust economy in our County.

A plan to combat the West Nile Virus and control the mosquitoes in Wood County was devised through a cooperative effort between the Wood County Health Department and the Commissioners. Last summer County residents were able to pick up free larvicide dunks at various locations throughout the County or ask the Health Department to place long lasting briquettes containing mosquito hormone interrupters in areas of standing water.

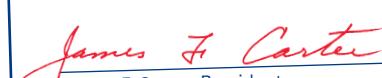
Plans for the Wood County Center for Agriculture progressed in 2002. This project will create a one-stop shop for agricultural services including, Ag Credit, Farm Service Agency, OSU Extension, Agriculture Business Enhancement Center and the Soil and Water Conservation District. Wood County was granted \$1 million for this project through the State of Ohio's capital budget.

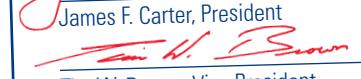
Plans for the placement of one, and possibly up to four wind turbines on acreage owned by the Wood County Landfill were initiated through a partnership with the City of Bowling Green, as part of their green power initiative.

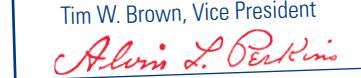
As part of the Ohio Bicentennial Celebration, a Wood County flag was introduced and adopted on May 1, 2002. The County flag, the first for Wood County, was designed by the members of the Courthouse Buildings and Grounds Committee.

With recent changes in our economy we are continually working to be proactive in our approach to County government. We hope that you will take the opportunity to read this annual report to see the many good things that are happening in Wood County. We also invite and encourage you to actively participate in your local government.

The Board of County Commissioners
Wood County, Ohio


James F. Carter, President


Tim W. Brown, Vice President


Alvin L. Perkins

2002 BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

James F. Carter, President; Tim W. Brown, Vice President; Alvin L. Perkins
Andrew S. Kalmar, County Administrator
Kristy A. Muir, Clerk of the Board/Budget Director
Janese Diem, Editor

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The Board of County Commissioners is the administrative coordinator of County Government and has direct oversight responsibility for 11 agencies and departments. Together the Commissioners manage County funds, buildings and property, and also serve as the County's contracting and tax authority.



With continued emphasis on public accessibility to County government, the Commissioners held Town Hall meetings in two locations to provide citizens the opportunity to bring questions or concerns before a formal meeting of the Board. The first meeting was held on February 19 in Perrysburg, while the second was held on September 17 in North Baltimore. In addition, Open Forum sessions are included as an item on the Commissioners' regular meeting agendas, every Tuesday and Thursday, to provide constituents further opportunity to discuss issues with the Board.

In concert with efforts to develop a one-stop facility for agricultural services, to be known as the Wood County Center for Agriculture, the Commissioners continued to work with agriculture related entities to promote this significant sector of the Wood County economy. This included working with the Wood Soil & Water Conservation District in support of the establishment of buffer strips along stream and ditch banks throughout Wood County. Funding provided by the County for these buffer strips, which are important for improving water quality and wildlife habitat, is utilized in conjunction with funding available through the Conservation Reserve Program. Payments are based on the first 30 feet of buffer strips in a nine-township targeted area. This commitment provides \$20,000 annually for improved conservation efforts in Wood County.

Another important drainage issue affecting agricultural land was addressed through a cooperative effort among the County Engineer, Building Inspection, the Health Department, and the Planning Commission. With a primary purpose of ensuring the proper placement of driveway and culvert crossing structures, this group developed a brochure, *A Guide To Rural Residential Construction*. This brochure guides potential rural homeowners through a 5-step process that covers floodplain designation, driveway and culvert permits, zoning, water and sewer issues, and building permits.

The Commissioners appoint members to a wide variety of boards and commissions, such as the Mental Retardation and Development Disabilities Board, the Alcohol Drug Addition & Mental Health Services Board, the Airport Authority, and the Historical

Society Board. Over the past several years, the Commissioners have established a process whereby they meet in public session with every person that is appointed or reappointed to these Boards and Commissions. Citizen participation in local government is imperative and these meetings provide an excellent opportunity for the Commissioners to meet their appointees, establish good lines of communication, and thank them for their service.

The Commissioners remain pleased with the high level of cooperation and communication among many County offices including the Sheriff, Emergency Management Agency, and the Health Department, to assess the County's emergency preparedness procedures.

The Commissioners also manage the County employee's health insurance program with a monthly average enrollment of 280 singles and 591 families. Wellness programs were provided for County employees and their family members who were eligible for coverage under the Wood County Employee's Group Health Insurance. Active management of the health insurance program by the Employee Health Benefits Advisory Committee allows the County to offer employees an affordable health insurance program.

As a means of "giving back" to the community, County employees volunteered for and participated in several special projects. These projects include the United Way campaign, the Spirit of Wood County Awards, blood drives, and canned food drives.


The annual fall United Way campaign raised more than \$31,000 to benefit United Way agencies in the local area. An additional \$1,049 was raised during special events, including the employee picnic and chili cook-off.

James F. Carter
Other volunteer opportunities for County employees included: two blood drives, one in May and the second in September, which collected a total of 73 pints of blood; and the Adopt-A-Pantry campaign, held April 15 through 26, that gave employees the opportunity to donate canned goods to a food bank serving Wood County residents.

The Spirit of Wood County Awards program was held on September 14 at the Historical Center, in conjunction with Wood County Day. The awards honor services rendered by present and/or former Wood County citizens. The Commissioners presented Spirit of Wood County Awards to: James F. Bostdorff — Agricultural Leadership; Craig Dixon — Industrial/Economic Development; Paul H. Davis - Self Government; Laurie J. Pangle - Liberty Through Law/Human Freedom; Rev. Dale Schaefer - Religion and Liberty; and Mervin Ballard and Floyd Craft — the Lyle R. Fletcher Good Citizenship Award.

An awards ceremony was scheduled for January 9, 2003, to honor the 158 employees who completed five, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of service during 2002.

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COUNTY COMMISSIONERS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

The Commissioners create and adopt the annual operating budget for the County. As required by law, the budget is balanced each fiscal year, which runs 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. Commissioners must understand the responsibilities of each of these County office holders. This allows them to allocate federal and state funds, and local tax revenue to these other offices using careful budget oversight.

Revenue generated for the General Fund during 2002 totaled \$30,619,087.81. This amount combined with the beginning cash balance of \$9,298,469.94 provided \$39,917,557.15 in available funds. General Fund expenditures totaled \$32,104,720.84.

Expenditures for calendar year 2002 reflected the ongoing commitment of the Board of County Commissioners to complete much needed capital improvements in order to facilitate the work of County government and better serve County residents. Plans and preparations were undertaken for several major capital improvements that will commence in 2003. These projects included

a space study for the Building Inspection Department, Auditor's Reappraisal office, and the Clerk of Courts. Engineering and planning for the \$2.2 million atrium project to address water damage in the plaza area, provide additional security and to connect the office building, courthouse, and records center also began. The exterior restoration of the Courthouse and Old Jail; converting the Old Jail to the Records Center and Law Library; and an addition to the Juvenile Court Center were completed.

Sales tax revenue showed encouraging growth despite a downturn in the national economy. The year-end total was \$13,157,613.45, a 7.95 percent increase over the previous year. However, investment income for the year ended at \$2.7 million, a 17.98 percent decrease from 2001.

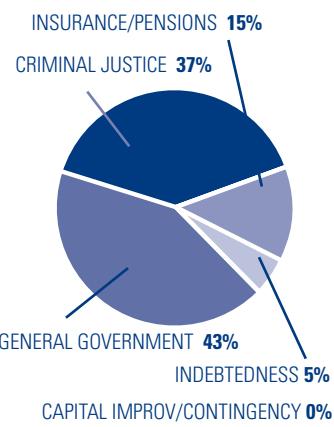
It is the non-statutory duties of the Commissioners that make them different from other county elected officials.

By necessity the Commissioners must take a broad view of actions necessary to make the County a better place to live and work. The Commissioners are thus active in promoting public/private partnerships in human services, economic development, health, and infrastructure development. The Commissioners also take an active role in improving

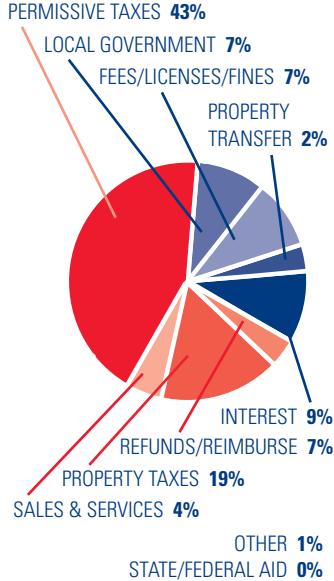
the environment, promoting job training programs, and improving agriculture.

The Board of County Commissioners is authorized to perform its duties under Chapters 305 and 307 of the Ohio Revised Code. ●

ACTUAL EXPENDITURES



ACTUAL RECEIPTS

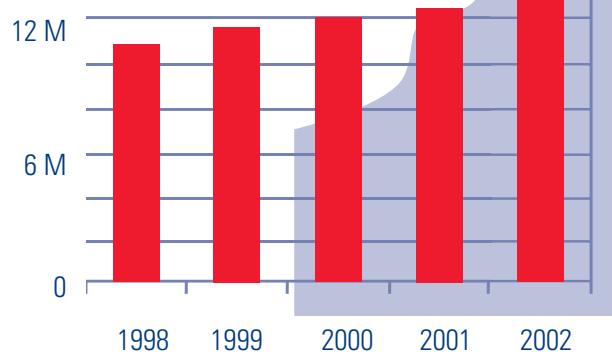


COMMISSIONER BOARD AND COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING BOARD	TIM W. BROWN
BOARD OF REVISIONS	PRESIDENT - BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE	TIM W. BROWN
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION OF OHIO	
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE	TIM W. BROWN
INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE	TIM W. BROWN
COURT SECURITIES COMMITTEE	ALVIN L. PERKINS
DEBT REVIEW COMMITTEE	BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, AUDITOR, TREASURER, & FINANCIAL ADVISORS
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY ADVISORY BOARD	ALVIN L. PERKINS
ERIE BASIN RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT (RC&D)	TIM W. BROWN
FINANCIAL REPORT REVIEW COMMITTEE	PRESIDENT - BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AUDITOR AND TREASURER
INVESTMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE	PRESIDENT - BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS VICE PRES. - BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MICROFILM BOARD*	TIM W. BROWN
RECORDS COMMISSION	PRESIDENT - BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SOLID WASTE POLICY COMMITTEE	PRESIDENT - BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
TOLEDO METROPOLITAN AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (TMACOG) BOARD OF TRUSTEES	JAMES F. CARTER, TIM W. BROWN AND DAVID K. MIESMER, ALT
PORTAGE RIVER BASIN COUNCIL	ALVIN L. PERKINS
AIR QUALITY TASK FORCE	TIM W. BROWN
ROADWAY TREE/BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE	TIM W. BROWN
STORMWATER COMMITTEE	ALVIN L. PERKINS
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE	JAMES F. CARTER
Freight Committee	ALVIN L. PERKINS
GROWTH STRATEGIES COUNCIL	JAMES F. CARTER
COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS BOARD	JAMES F. CARTER
OSU EXTENSION SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE	TIM W. BROWN
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE	ALVIN L. PERKINS
WOOD COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION	PRESIDENT - BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
EDGE COMMITTEE	VICE PRESIDENT - BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WOOD COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S FIRST COUNCIL	JAMES F. CARTER

*DISSOLVED JUNE 1, 2002

SALES TAX



Building Inspection

Michael J. Billmaier, Chief Building Inspector

As a State of Ohio Certified Building Inspection Department, Wood County's Building Inspection Department inspects all buildings covered by the state building code in Wood, Hancock, and Henry Counties. This 1,455 square mile area encompasses 38 municipalities including Bowling Green, Perrysburg, Northwood, Rossford, Fostoria, Findlay, Mt. Blanchard, Deshler, Napoleon, and Ridgeville Corners, making Wood County the largest building inspection department in the State. The Building Inspection Department also conducts residential building inspections within Wood County, accounting for 52 percent of all fees collected.

During 2002, the Department issued 6,445 permits. The issuance of permits resulted in 21,721 field inspections, with 2,644 lists of deficiencies requiring corrective action. Of the inspections conducted, 18,506 occurred inside Wood County resulting in 13,171 residential and 5,335 commercial.

Receipts for 2002 totaled \$1,121,706.10, the most active return year to date. Wood County residential and commercial receipts

totaled \$925,292.24. Hancock County commercial inspections added an additional \$150,099.75, with Henry County adding \$46,314.11.

In July, the Department implemented the 2002 International Building Code. This code is the state mandated code for the regulation of all commercial and industrial buildings.

The Department commenced residential inspections within the village limits in Tontogany on September 1, 2002. Inspections are conducted on all one, two, & three family dwellings for new construction, additions and remodel work. Inspections for commercial construction will begin in 2003. Tontogany makes the 38th municipality to adopt Wood County Building Inspection as their agent. Municipalities that do not adopt the department as their agent are subject to regulation by the State of Ohio and must go to Columbus for permits.

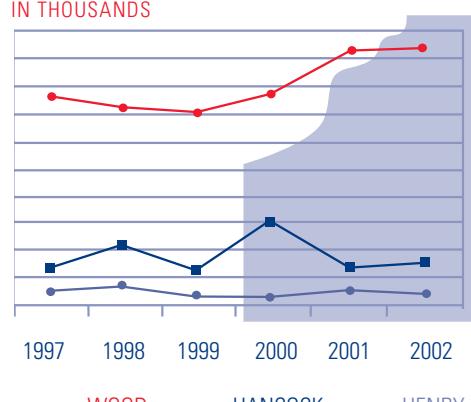
For the sixth consecutive year, the Building Inspection Department extended its hours during the summer months to keep pace with the growing building demands in the area.

Building Inspection operates under the Board of County Commissioners and uses the Ohio Building Code, and the Ohio Residential Code for One, Two, and Three Family Dwellings. These are uniform codes that are used to enforce the commercial/industrial and residential building codes. ●

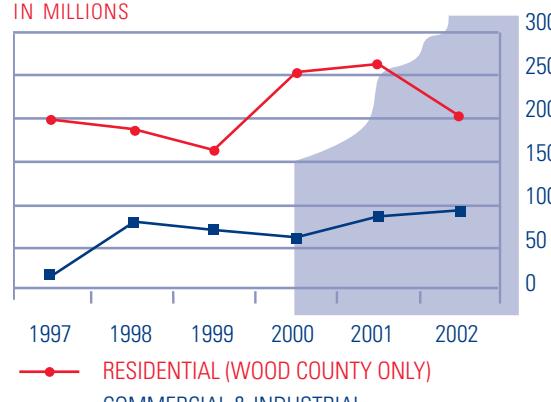
A PARTIAL LIST OF PERMITS ISSUED IN 2002

One, two, and three family dwellings (Wood County only)	611
Additions or alterations to single family dwellings (Wood County only)	325
New residential garages (Wood County only)	169
New commercial structures (Wood, Hancock, & Henry Counties)	239
Additions or alterations to commercial structures (Wood, Hancock, & Henry Counties)	277

TOTAL REVENUE PER COUNTY IN THOUSANDS



ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COST IN MILLIONS



Buildings and Grounds

COURTHOUSE COMPLEX: Bill Lorenzen, Superintendent

EAST GYPSY LANE COMPLEX : Harry Allison, Superintendent

Courthouse Complex
The Buildings and Grounds Departments oversee the day-to-day maintenance of County office facilities located primarily in the Courthouse Complex and the East Gypsy Lane Complex, as well as at satellite locations. Both provide assistance in facility planning, remodeling, and preventative maintenance.

East Gypsy Lane Complex

The East Gypsy Lane Complex Maintenance staff maintained the County-owned Office Buildings off of East Gypsy Lane and Dunbridge Roads. They also provided services to the Historical Center and Dunbridge Road Building, which houses the Solid Waste Management District, Economic Development Commission, and Educational Service Center.

Construction of a 50' x 100' metal building began in the spring of 2002. Completed in July, the building provides storage for mowers, snow plows, back-hoes, and other equipment previously stored outdoors.

Maintenance staff installed new sidewalks and additional parking areas at Juvenile Court, wrapping up the expansion and renovation project. Other parking areas throughout the complex were resurfaced and repaired.

Numerous building updates were also completed during the year including removal of the fence outside the WORK Industry, installation of a washer and dryer and repairs to the roof top unit for the Dog Shelter, and painting of second story windows at the Dunbridge Road Building. Deterioration of roadway storm-sewer catch basins prompted the replacement of two basins during the year.

Maintenance staff provided assistance with the carpet and painting project at Job and Family Services by moving office furniture as needed.

Courthouse Complex

In addition to duties at the Courthouse and Office Building, the Courthouse Complex Maintenance Department provided assistance to satellite agencies, including OSU Extension, Highway Garage, Law Library, Auto Title, and Veterans Assistance Center. Maintenance staff performed recycling and other light maintenance functions for these offices.

With the completion of the Old Jail renovation into the Records Center and Law Library, maintenance staff assisted with the relocation of the Law Library to the Old Jail in the fall. This included the removal of shelving in the old location and transfer of furniture to the new location.

During 2002, Courthouse Complex Maintenance coordinated the roof replacement and lead paint abatement for the Public Defender's Office, installation of new entry doors at the Highway Garage, creation of an additional office and carpet replacement for Courtroom #1. Repairs to the parking garage entrance ramp, as well as surfacing and installation of lighting for the new parking lot were also coordinated.

Maintenance staff provided assistance in wiring for a new trash compactor that replaced dumpsters, resulting in decreased costs for waste removal.

Work continued on modernizing and retro-fitting lighting systems throughout the Courthouse and Office Building to reduce costs. This project included installation of motion sensor light switches in restrooms.

The Buildings and Grounds Departments operate under the Board of County Commissioners. ●

Child Support Enforcement Agency

Frank McLaughlin, Director

The Child Support Enforcement Agency manages the collection and distribution of child support monies, locates absent parents, establishes support and paternity, modifies support orders, and enforces medical and child support orders.

In 2002, the Child Support Enforcement Agency collected \$19,337,060.12 and disbursed this amount to the custodial parents of children due child support. Additionally, \$479,272.92 was collected and returned to the State of Ohio for cases where Ohio Works First (OWF) was paid for families in need. Reimbursements of \$56,062.15 were paid to the Wood County Department of Job and Family Services for children in Wood County foster care living situations.

During 2002, the Agency's legal staff initiated 371 contempt of court actions and 84 counts of misdemeanor criminal nonsupport at the Bowling Green Municipal Court. These two activities alone directly resulted in lump-sum payments of more than \$222,000 (up from \$160,000 in 2001) and reinitiated regular child support payments for Wood County's children. The Agency's legal staff also recovered more than \$65,000 through administrative activities such as probate actions, liens, and attachment of retirement accounts, a substantial increase over the \$4000 collected by this manner in 2001.

Wood County continued its aggressive felony prosecution of criminal nonsupport, with 20 delinquent payers being referred to the Wood County Prosecuting Attorney's Office for felony action in 2002. In the last few years, more than 200 "deadbeat" parents have been indicted for felony criminal nonsupport.

The Agency worked to resolve 80 paternity establishment cases locally, in addition to approximately 252 more father-child relationships being acknowledged in local hospitals by new fathers and mothers at the time of a child's birth. Most of the 80 relationships

established by the Agency were handled by administrative hearings, during which both parents agreed to be bound by the results of on-site genetic testing. Additionally, the Agency established 94 new child support orders and 71 new orders for medical support alone by the administrative process.

As of December 31, 2002, the Agency had 6,253 open cases.

The Agency continued placement of an employee in an office adjacent to the Domestic Relations Court facility in the Courthouse. This employee provided up-to-the-minute case information to the Court, computed child support budgets, and set up cases to expedite payment processing for new child support orders.

In 2002, the Agency began and completed a manual review of 1,288 cases affected by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996. In 2001, the Governor's Executive Order designated that current and former public assistance and OWF cases which received child support payments between October 1997 and September 2000 may not have received all the support to which they were entitled under federal law. In Wood County, the households eligible for a payment received a total of \$97,462.46 as a result of the review.

The Financial Institution Data Match (FIDM) was implemented by the Agency in 2002. This program allows for the exchange of information on the bank accounts of individuals who owe more than one month's child support. More than \$34,000 was collected from about 50 payers, with nearly \$5,000 seized from one account alone.

The Child Support Enforcement Agency operates under the Board of County Commissioners. ●

Dog Shelter

Paula Hamman, Chief Dog Warden

The purpose of the Dog Shelter is to enforce Section 955 of the Ohio Revised Code, which includes checking licenses and the proper confinement of dogs, as well as investigating dog bites, livestock kills, and other related complaints. The Dog Shelter is self-supporting. User's fees, dog licenses, kennel fees, fines and penalties are the primary funding source for the Dog and Kennel Fund which is used to pay salaries, maintain trucks, pay utilities, maintain the building, and pay veterinarian fees.

The number of impounded dogs declined for a fifth straight year. During 2002, a larger percent of the impounded dogs were unadoptable, either because of age, health, or attitude. Despite this the Dog Shelter has maintained nearly a 58 percent adoption rate.

The Shelter continued to post photos of available dogs at numerous locations throughout the County. The Shelter also received assistance from rescuers, who publicized available dogs from the shelter. The use of e-mail has also proved to be a valuable tool in the rescue and adoption of dogs.

The Dog Shelter operates under the Board of County Commissioners. ●

2002 STATISTICS

Miles driven	56,655
Calls answered	1,970
Law enforcement agencies	180
Owners dogs	5
Stray dogs	844
Complaints	840
Animal claims	5
Injured dogs	48
Patrol area	30
Traps set & picked up	18
Dogs impounded	822
Dogs redeemed	247
Dogs adopted	228
Pups impounded	75
Pups adopted/redeemed	53
Dogs euthanized	334
% of pups adopted/redeemed	70.67
% of total dogs adopted/redeemed	57.79
Kennel licenses sold	122
Dog licenses sold	15,953

Emergency Management Agency

J. Eric Larson, Director

The Emergency Management Agency is responsible for the four phases of emergency management: mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. The Agency assists County government and local communities in responding to natural disasters and special needs situations.

The Emergency Management Agency received a \$107,129.39 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) through the State Domestic Preparedness Equipment Program to provide equipment for Wood County's first responders. Preparedness for emergency response required continuous assessments of local hazards and a strategy to address those planning areas. The DOJ provided financial support to states for development of the equipment inventory needed by first responders for potential acts of domestic terrorism.

The Agency created a Weapons of Mass Destruction Committee during the year. The Committee is involved with the purchase of personal protective first response equipment from the DOJ. Officials from the Agency, Bowling Green State University, the Sheriff's Office, the Health Department, Wood County Hospital, the City of Bowling Green, and local fire chiefs and emergency medical services worked together and evaluated vulnerabilities and training needs for first responders.

In May 2002, the Agency hosted Ohio State Capabilities Assessment for Readiness (OS-CAR) on the campus of Bowling Green State University. This two-day program brought together County Commissioners, political subdivisions, police, fire, emergency medical services, County and Ohio EMA, first responders, and various other community organizations and agencies to identify requirements and needs to successfully implement a "total emergency response" to a disaster situation.

A bio-terrorism tabletop exercise, a joint effort of the Agency and the Health Department, provided essential training to those persons involved in decision-making and response during a local biological terrorism incident. The exercise evaluated several areas, including but not limited to, the adequacy of response plans, the medical capabilities for treating victims of a terrorist attack; and review of local medical,

Department of Job and Family Services

Ruth Larabee, Administrator

The Department of Job and Family Services, which operates under the Board of County Commissioners, administers federal, state, and county legislated and regulated public assistance; employment resources; child and adult protective services; and social services in the County.

In 2002, the Department of Job and Family Services administered \$60,729,016 in various programs. Of this amount, 96.75 percent came from federal and state sources, with the remaining 3.75 percent from local sources. Over \$54 million (89 percent) was attributable to Medicaid.

Wood County residents were assisted with basic essentials of food, clothing, shelter, and medical care as follows: 219 Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) cash payment cases per month; 4,696 Medicaid cases per month averaging \$4,508,220 per month with 73 percent for aged/blind/disabled, nine percent for nursing home care, and 18 percent for children and families; \$120,512 monthly food stamp issuance, averaging \$44 per person and \$92 per case; 38 disability assistance cases per month, averaging \$115 a month per person; and \$448,311 disability assistance medical expenditures in 2002.

As the administrative and fiscal agent for Workforce Investment Act (WIA) services in the County, the Wood County Department of Job and Family Services utilized funds to supply employment or training services for 189 adult customers and 273 dislocated workers during 2002. In addition, 1,263 individuals were served through the Wood County Employment Resource Center One-Stop service delivery system. A wide range of services were coordinated for these individuals through referrals made to other agencies in the One-Stop service delivery system network. Services included in-depth assessment of needs, skill testing, resume development, GED classes, job

search assistance, professional counseling, and occupational training. The unique and comprehensive Job Find program at the Employment Resource Center helped 112 individuals secure employment with starting wages ranging from \$5.15 to \$21.75 per hour. In addition, 24 adults and 37 dislocated workers who came to the agency for career assistance were determined to need additional academic or vocational training in order to be employable in their occupational fields. These customers received funding for training to enhance their skills. In 2002, 17 adults and 11 dislocated workers completed their educational programs and were employed with starting wages ranging from \$8.50 to \$21.50 per hour.

The Wood County Workforce Development website, www.woodcountyjobs.com, became operational on July 1, offering online services to area job seekers and employers. Job seekers will find easy to use employment tools including a resume writer, cover letter writer and after-interview letter writer. Additionally, a vast array of employment and training, counseling and supportive services can be accessed through the network of Wood County One-Stop partner agencies listed on the website. Employers will find a convenient job posting section, links to local, state and national labor market information plus information about services available to assist with their employment and training needs.

The Children's Services Unit served 3,591 children, placed 57 children in substitute care, and provided in-home protective services to 180 children. The unit worked with 1,441 children who were reported to be at risk and nine children were placed for adoption.

The Social Services Unit provides services to adults with or without children and elders. Information and referral services were provided to 2,903 individuals. The Emergen-

cy Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) served 22 households, Adult Emergency Assistance served 36 adults and the Prevention, Retention and Contingency (PRC) program served 438 households. Through the PRC program, 172 car repairs totaling \$111,517 were provided for people who were working or trying to become employed. Transportation services were provided 1,800 times through Medicaid, Title XX and Levy Funds. Child Care was provided to an average of 400 children each month averaging \$120,000 per month.

Services to senior citizens included: homemaker services provided an average of 193 times per month, Home Health Aide services (under contract with Wood County Health Department) were provided to an average of 36 consumers per month, and Chore services were reimbursed for an average of 21 persons per month. Adult Protective Services were provided to 70 people over the age of sixty and 12 under age sixty.

Intensive Case Management services were provided to an average of 25 households per month for those participating in the New Possibilities, Student Find, Project Newcomers and/or the Alternative Assignment programs.

Services for children and elders were partially funded by the Protective Services Levy.

The Department of Job and Family Services is also the fiscal agent for Wood County Family and Children First Council, coordinating grants and contracts. ●



Historical Museum and Center

Stacey Hann-Ruff, Director

The Historical Center, located on the grounds of the former Wood County Infirmary, actively preserves and shares the history of Wood County and the Wood County Infirmary through exhibits, research, an internship program, special events, education programs, collection and conservation of artifacts, and the preservation of the Infirmary grounds. This historic site is one of the last county poor farms where nearly all of the original structures still remain. The Center includes a large museum, an herb garden and arboretum, nature trails and numerous outdoor points of interest. The site was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979, and in 2000, the Infirmary was awarded a historical marker by the Ohio Bicentennial Commission.

Financial support for the Center is derived from County tax dollars and through the private fund-raising activities of the Wood County Historical Society. The Center has a staff of four full time County employees, one part time Experience Works employee, and a volunteer base of over 400 people. The 50-acre County-owned site is part of the system of parks maintained and patrolled by the Wood County Park District.

During 2002, the Center and its resources were made available to more than 20,000 visitors, including students, tourists, families, school and reunion groups, and more than 55 County agency and community groups. Visitors took tours, engaged in research activities, walked the grounds, and enjoyed education programs. During 2002, the Center's interns and volunteers worked more than 6,000 hours on a myriad of education and recreation projects.

The Center hosted a diversity of special events, including the Spring Open House, Civil War Days Encampment, Earth Camp, Ohio County Commissioners' Picnic, County Employee Picnic and Safety Fair, Wood County Day, Cub Scout Family Camp Out, Halloween Folklore & Funfest, Old Home Holiday Tour, and the monthly tea series.

Additional information about the site, activities, and education programs offered

by the Center is available through the Black Swamp Chanticleer newsletter and on the Center's website at www.woodcountyhistory.org.

The Historical Museum and Center staff are employees of the Board of County Commissioners, while the Historical Society Board sets the policy for operation of the Center. ●

2002 SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- Restoration of the Front Hallway & the Government Room
- \$20,000 donation from Ohio Attorney General Betty Montgomery for restoration work in the East Wing in honor of the State of Ohio Bicentennial
- Installation of six new exhibits, including life at the Infirmary, a resident's bedroom, World War II America, political memorabilia, mourning practices, and Wood County families
- Plaster repair of the "Lunatic House" made possible by a donation made in memory of Wilbert & Helen Mathile
- Completion of a five-year Strategic Plan for the Historical Center
- Completion of the Phase I Archaeological Survey of the 50-acre grounds
- Exterior Painting of the Infirmary, the Lunatic House, the Ice House, and Power House
- Continuation of the restoration of the Brandeberry Wall by County maintenance staff
- Replacement of the Ice House roof
- Awarding of a \$3,000 grant from the Board of County Commissioners to research the history of the Wood County Courthouse and Jail
- Awarding of a \$3,200 grant from BGSU's Partnership for Community Action to research Music Memories of Wood County
- Relocation of the Asmus Granary to the Boom Town area to create a Blacksmith Shop

Nursing Home

David Cecil, Administrator

The Wood County Nursing Home is a 125-bed health care facility providing both skilled and intermediate level care and services. Available resident 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. Physical, occupational, and speech therapy programs are designed to meet the rehabilitative needs of residents with the goal often being the ability to return home. Short-term respite care is also available. Additional services, customized to meet the individual needs of each resident, are provided as needed. Wood County Nursing Home is dually certified for Medicare and Medicaid.

During 2002, the Wood County Nursing Home logged 35,996 resident in-house days. Privately funded residents represented 24 percent of those days, while 67 percent were Medicaid, eight percent Medicare and one percent Managed Care or Hospice. Many residents came to the facility for a period of rehabilitation and therapy and then returned to their homes. During 2002, a total of 72 residents were discharged to home following their stay.

With many elderly individuals covered under some form of nursing home care insurance plan, the facility continued to expand its use of managed care contracts with several providers such as Medical Mutual of Ohio and Paramount Elite enabling residents to choose Wood County Nursing Home with much of the cost covered under their plan.

Among improvement projects completed in 2002 was an upgrade of the door alarm security system with state-of-the art "smart locks" providing a more secure environment for all residents. With funds donated by the Harold and Ivalou Bordner Foundation, the Nursing Home moved closer to its goal of becoming a "no-lift" facility by installing ceiling mounted resident lifts in four private and 38 semi-private rooms. Several special-

ized floor lifts, designed to assist residents in sit-to-stand, transfers, ambulation and bathing, were also purchased. High-low beds with fast-electric motors replaced older manually operated beds in several rooms. An additional gift of \$1.5 million received from the Bordner Foundation during 2002 will enable the facility to proceed with renovation plans.

The Nursing Home implemented a website during 2002, which can be accessed at www.woodcountynursinghome.com or through a link on the County's website.

A dedicated staff of 115 continued to provide a combination of experience, professionalism and love to the residents.

The resident activity program included outings to the Toledo Zoo; Wood County Fair; Picnics in the Park; Devil's Lake, Michigan; weekly shopping trips and a van ride down Slippery Elm Trail with a park ranger as their guide. In-house activities included the annual Euchre tournament, ice cream social, cook-outs, Ohio State vs. Michigan game tailgate party, cards, games and movie nights. Volunteers from local schools, churches and service organizations assisted with many activity programs. The residents joined with seniors from other area facilities participating in bowling tournaments, bingo in the park and the Senior Olympics. At the Valentines Day party two resident couples renewed their wedding vows in a special ceremony before family and friends complete with a wedding cake reception and the Bowling Green Eagles sponsored a St. Patrick's Day pizza party. Additional annual events such as the Halloween party, family Christmas party and resident New Year's Eve party were well attended and enjoyed by residents, staff, families, entertainers and visitors alike.

The Wood County Nursing Home operates under the Board of County Commissioners. ●

Solid Waste Management District

Ken Rieman, Director

The Solid Waste Management District manages solid waste planning and the development of recycling opportunities for residents. It also operates the Wood County Landfill, established under 1968 garbage district legislation. All cities, villages, and unincorporated areas of Wood County are part of the Wood County Garbage District and thereby share financial responsibility for the Wood County Landfill. The mission of the County-owned facility is to provide an environmentally responsible disposal facility for citizens, businesses, and industry that is self-supporting and meets or exceeds all regulations.

The Solid Waste Management District operates under a five-year plan, approved by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency in May 1998. An update of this plan began in 2002 and is due for submittal in 2003.

Wood County has solid waste disposal capacity (permitted through the EPA) exceeding the required minimum of 10 years. This capacity is provided by the two solid waste landfills located in Wood County: the Evergreen Landfill, operated by Waste Management, located in Northwood; and the Wood County Landfill, operated by the Solid Waste District, located west of Bowling Green, on U.S. Route 6 on Tontogany Road. District funds are generated from disposal fees paid by users of the two landfills and a generation fee paid on all Wood County waste disposed in Ohio landfills.

A vertical expansion, increasing the height of the Landfill, is pending Ohio EPA approval. With this expansion, the existing landfill cell has an expected life of 20 years at the current input of 30,000 tons per year. More than 200 acres of Landfill property is available to provide for future disposal cells.

In 2002, the Landfill received 31,363.63 tons of waste for disposal. The Landfill accepts yard waste and pallets that are ground into mulch and composted. Concrete and asphalt are also accepted and used for Landfill road base. Tires are accepted for recycling and disposal. A tire collection program is scheduled for the spring of 2003 to reduce the number of used tires, which can hold water and breed mosquitoes. ●

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The Wood County Nursing Home operates under the Board of County Commissioners. ●

Office of Economic Development Economic Development Commission

Thomas Blaha, Executive Director

The Economic Development Commission, an Ohio nonprofit corporation, strives to expand the employment base through existing industry development and the systematic recruitment of new businesses. The Commission actively markets Wood County and its communities to outside industrial prospects, while continuing to provide services to the County's communities and existing industries helping them broaden and diversify the tax base while creating and retaining jobs.

The efforts of the Economic Development Commission resulted in an aggregate of 846 jobs created (238) or retained (608), and a private sector investment of over \$72 million in economic activity during a relatively austere 2002.

The Commission continued to identify and respond to the economic development needs of the communities it serves. Among those initiatives were international marketing, economic diversification, responsiveness to the agribusiness community, and further productive partnering with the County's educational establishment.

Significant accomplishments in the area of international marketing include participation in the Ohio Business and Investment Mission to Europe. Director Blaha was one of 34 business and community leaders from Ohio invited to participate with Governor Taft and State Development Director Johnson in promoting Ohio as an excellent place to do business. Accompanied by the Governor, Director Blaha made personal calls on the corporate offices of German-based companies currently doing business in Wood County. Additionally, participation at the Hannover Industrial Fair resulted in industrial contacts which continue to be pursued toward bringing further outside investment to Wood County. Director Blaha also represented Wood County with a northwest Ohio delegation at the Canadian Metalfab and Welding Technology trade show in Toronto

which produced some contacts with Wood County business potential.

In the area of diversification, the Commission continued its agribusiness initiatives. These included a German technology identified at the Hannover Industrial Fair which uses agricultural by-products as biomass fuel for heating of greenhouses, grain drying, etc. Commission staff and membership continue to work with the patent holder in an effort to determine market demand and eventual production capacity for this technology in Wood County. Other agribusiness and environmental interests assisted include a commercial green bean producer and several recyclers and re-processors of industrial and consumer packaging products. The Commission's participation on the Revolving Loan Fund Committee of the (10 county) Lake Erie Basin Resource, Conservation and Development Agency resulted in bringing some of that agency's federal funding to Wood County in aid of a Bradner company providing environmental services.

In addition to the protection of the financial interests of all Wood County school districts in tax incentive arrangements, the Commission continues its partnering and dialogue with the local educational community. A Community Outreach Ambassador team called on the Bowling Green Superintendent of Schools addressing subjects ranging from employment preparation to daycare, transportation, housing and other "wrap-around" services. Ambassadors and staff have also provided assistance to the Otsego, Lake, Northwood, Eastwood, and North Baltimore school districts in pursuing their complementary agendas of community service.

The Office of Economic Development staff are employees of the Board of County Commissioners, while the Economic Development Commission coordinates planning and policy for the Office. ●

Records Center

Brenda Ransom,
Records Manager

Created by the Board of County Commissioners in 1998, the Records Center is designed to provide records management services to Wood County offices. The Center, which opened in 2002, offers secure, environmentally sound storage of paper records, preservation microfilming, and digital imaging services.

After years of planning, the Records Center became reality in 2002, with construction of the Center completed in July. An open house was held on November 19 allowing the public tours of the renovated building.

The Records Center is located on the first three floors of the Old Jail. Records processing and the records manager's office are located on the lower level. A microfilming and digital imaging lab is located on the first floor, which also houses a records storage room. The second floor is dedicated to records storage.

The storage rooms contain high-density mobile shelving units with a maximum storage capacity of 10,500 records boxes. A small microfilm vault stores some of the County's duplicate copy microfilm.

The Center is equipped with a variety of devices aimed at preserving important permanent records. Records of enduring historical value can be protected through microfilming on 16 millimeter or 35 millimeter film. Improved accessibility of other records is possible through digital imaging using the OnBase system first installed at the Clerk of Courts Office. Paper records stored at the Center are more easily accessed through a barcode tracking system that provides information regarding contents, retention periods, and user authorization in addition to tracking the physical location of records.

Two records clerks were hired in August to complete microfilm, imaging, and records tracking projects for the County under the direction of the Records Manager. In addition to records storage and preservation activities, staff is available to assist and support County offices regarding development of records retention schedules and destruction of records that have reached their retention periods.

The Records Center operates under the Board of County Commissioners. ●

GOVERNING BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Appointments as of December 31, 2002.



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. If you are interested in serving as a member on a County Board or Commission, please contact the Commissioners' Office in writing to indicate which Board or Commission you may have an interest in and provide a copy of a resume for future reference.

ALCOHOL DRUG ADDICTION AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BOARD

Linda Amos*, Galen L. Ash*, Karen Baty, John Bick*, Jeffrey A. Bunkers*, Reina Calderon*, Warren Fauer*, Scott Howard, Allen N. Kepke, Lottie Kern, Stan Korducki*, Mark Krautheim, Nancy Mancuso*, Harold Rosenberg*, Tom Votova*, Lottie Wilson, and three vacancies

BOARD OF MENTAL RETARDATION AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Dolores Black*, Ken Belkofer, Hugh Caumartin, Timothy Harris*, David C.

Miller*, and Jane Quinn*

BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Tim Brown, Dorothy Cromley, Joan Gordon, Stacey Hann-Ruff, Bill Lorenzen, Robert Pollex, Michael Sibbersen, Gale Williamson, and Irma Wolf

BUILDING STANDARDS & APPEALS**

Fred Arn, Robert Brossia, Tim Enright, Ray Huber, David Kellemeier (alternate), Richard Marten, Robert Maurer, Laurie Melchior Huskisson, Kermit Rudolph, Carl Snyder, and Connie Workman

CLIENT COMPLAINT REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR CDBG CHIP PROGRAM**

Michael Billmaier, Robert Brossia, and Richard Kohring

NORTHWESTERN WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

John Ault, Paul Brim, John Cheney*, John Current, Karl Hirzel, Jr.*; Alex Molner*, Henry Moyer, Phillip Schaffer, and Lyle Schulte

NURSING HOME ADVISORY BOARD**

Denny Barrett, Maxine Cross, William Culbertson, Ann Fuerst, Warren Phillips, and Paulette Stephens, and the President and Vice President of the Resident's Council

Ex-Officio Members: Andrew Kalmar and David Cecil

PLANNING COMMISSION**

Anthony Allion, Phillip Bresler, John Brossia, Tim Brown, James Carter, Chris Ewald, Patrick Fitzgerald, Richard Kohring, Alvin Perkins, Donna Schuerman, and Tom Weidner

Non-voting Associate Members: Michael Billmaier, Jerry Greiner, David Miesmer, Larry Sorrells, and David Steiner

PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION

Charles Boss*, John Dunipace*, Elizabeth Emmert, Dennis Ferrell*, and Jack Taylor, Jr.

PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Suzanne Crawford, Nick Ezzone, John Gibson*, Sharon Hanna, Pamela Herringhaus*, Scott McEwen*, and David Swartz*

REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY**

James Atkinson, Floyd Chamberlain, Gaylyn Finn, Henry Lehrer, Rick Martin, Janet Neville, lone Shelton, and George Stossel

TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL**

John Cheney, Valerie Hovland, and Cathleen Wenig

WOOD SANDUSKY OTTAWA SENeca COMMUNITY ACTION COMMISSION

Total Membership - 24

Wood County Members: Melvin L. Browning*, Traci DeBlasio, Roberta Lane, Carrie Miller, Jane Robb*, and Julia Wedemeyer

WORKFORCE POLICY BOARD

Tammy Corral, Frank Day, Andrea Depinet, Kevin Flagg, Reggie Hohenberger, Sandy Latchem, Tamlea Ledford, Ronald Matter, John Quinn, Mark Senecal, Jennifer Schriver, Linda Stacy, Jodie Stearns, and Joyce Winters

Ad Hoc Members: Thomas Blaha, Douglas Garman, Andrew Kalmar, Kenneth Kitzar, and Ruth Larabee

WORKFORCE POLICY BOARD - YOUTH COUNCIL

Judy Didion, Annette Haskins, Doris Herringshaw, Betty Kahlenberg, R. Anthony Marson, Ronald Matter, Linda Stacy, and Joyce Winters

Ad Hoc Members: Thomas Blaha, Douglas Garman, Kenneth Kitzar, Ruth Larabee, and Richard Schemmer

AUDITOR



Michael Sibberson
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 personal property tax settlements to the local 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 processes and distributes estate tax payments, sells vendor's licenses, and is the sealer of weights and measures. He is also secretary of the Budget Commission, Board of Revision, and Data Processing Board.

The statutory triennial update of values for the 67,621 parcels of real property was completed in 2002. Value changes were applied as required based on sales history from the prior three years, resulting in a total real estate value of \$2,201,097,540. Special assessments for waterlines, sewers, ditches, etc., were also collected on the real estate tax duplicate and distributed to subdivisions.

During 2002, the GIS (computerized mapping system) improved access to real estate information. New aerial photos taken in April were accessible to all County residents, agencies, and organizations. These photos can be viewed in conjunction with the last (1998) aerial photos to view changes that have occurred during these years. Real estate information

was placed online, auditor.co.wood.oh.us, allowing 24-hour access to individual parcel information, maps and aerial photos. The Auditor's Office also began producing large format printing of all map data, including aerial photography, at a very low cost that can be produced at any scale necessary.

Whenever property is sold, the deed is brought to the Auditor to convey official ownership before it is recorded. During 2002, the Office processed 4,814 such conveyances, including 7,659 different parcels. The County conveyance tax totaled \$1,136,650 and is directly based on real estate sales in the County.

The taxation of manufactured homes continued to evolve requiring sexennial and triennial appraisals of manufactured homes based on market value. During 2002, 436 manufactured homes were conveyed, bringing the total of registered manufactured homes to 4,910 with a total taxable value of \$19,026,583.

The Homestead Exemption program administered by the Office provided property tax relief for 1,700 elderly and disabled residents who met income requirements. The maximum allowable income continues to be indexed annually for inflation.

The Office assisted in the preparation of 5,784 personal property tax returns, a business tax paid on inventory and equipment.

As agent for the County Dog and Kennel Fund, the Auditor sold 15,953 dog licenses and 121 kennel licenses. In 2002, the Office

implemented new software for the issuance of dog licenses.

The consumer protection division inspected 658 commercial scales, 1,838 gas pumps and electronic scanners for retail and wholesale use.

The Data Processing Board Computer Training Lab and Resource Center continued to enhance computer skills and productivity of County employees. A total of 134 students attended the 26 courses offered.

For the sixth consecutive year the Auditor's Office received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government annual financial reports, from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for the County's 2001 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

The Wood County Citizen's Financial Report is available from the Auditor's Office and is also provided on the Auditor's website. It provides a brief financial analysis of the County's revenues and expenditures along with information about the County and local economy. Though not required by statute, this document provides a higher level of public accountability.

The Auditor is authorized to perform his duties under Section 319, 322, 323, 5701-5743, et al. of the Ohio Revised Code. ●

CLERK OF COURTS



Rebecca E. Bhaer
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. She is a member of the Data Processing Board and Records Commission. In 1998 she was appointed to the Automated Title Processing Board and continues to serve at the pleasure of Governor Taft. The duties of the Clerk of Courts are authorized under many sections of the Ohio Revised Code. ●

LEGAL DOCUMENTS PROCESSED 42,274

	42,274	LEGAL DISBURSEMENT
Appeals cases filed	77	TOTALS \$1,563,373.85
Civil cases filed	820	General fund \$393,597.14
Land tax foreclosures filed	1	Legal research fees \$9,067.50
Domestic relations cases filed	477	Computerization fees \$29,474.10
Domestic violence cases filed	137	Fines paid to the County \$18,255.96
Domestic stalking civil protection cases filed	118	Fines paid to the Law Library \$750.00
Domestic cases reopened	482	Statutory fees paid to non-Wood County entities \$64,525.04
Criminal cases filed	497	Funding shelters for victims of domestic violence \$13,712.00
Judgment liens filed	618	Fees paid to the Sheriff \$38,293.05
Foreign judgments filed	11	Fines paid to the Sheriff \$0
State tax liens filed	503	Fines paid to Ohio Board of Pharmacy \$0
Executions filed	5	Fines paid to County police depts. \$11,252.81
Total journal entry pages processed	35,335	Interest earned on CD accounts \$55,038.13
Optometry licenses filed	0	Fees paid to guardian ad litem \$1,701.75
Notary commissions filed	466	Fees paid to Arbitrators \$1,022.00
Passport applications accepted	997	Fees paid to Appraisers \$20,700.00
Criminal investigations	16	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), and appropriation disbursements. \$905,806.37
Criminal records checks	1,647	
Coroner's reports	67	

TITLE DOCUMENTS PROCESSED 111,399

Auto titles, duplicates & memo titles	64,023
Mortgages recorded	13,108
Salvage titles	264
Penalties	3,395
Inspections	6,874
Affidavits	21,095
Manufactured home fee	727
Boat titles, duplicates and memo titles (includes charged replacement titles)	791
Mortgages recorded	65
Watercraft affidavits	942
Watercraft penalties	115
Total Cases	57

TITLE DISBURSEMENT TOTALS \$14,763,625.59

Wood County Certificate of Title Fund	\$427,424.92
Division of Watercraft Watercraft Fees	\$2,176.50
State of Ohio Motor vehicle and Watercraft casual and dealer tax	\$14,172,399.67
Certificate of title fees	\$154,750.50
Motor vehicle inspection fees	\$6,874.00

CORONER



Douglas S. Hess, M.D.
The Coroner evaluates and rules on all violent, accidental, and suspicious circumstance deaths, homicides, suicides, and sudden deaths of persons in apparent good

health. A licensed physician, the Coroner performs lab tests, x-rays, or autopsies as needed. The Coroner generally does not investigate deaths that occur from natural causes, when the person has a family physician. An official report of the Coroner's findings is filed with the Clerk of Courts. The Coroner is authorized to perform his duties under Chapter 313 of the Ohio Revised Code. ●

2002 CORONER CASES

Auto Accidents	13
Other Accidents	1
Motorcycle Accidents	1
Train Accidents	0
Homicides	2
Natural Deaths	27
Suicides	13
Total Cases	57

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

General Division



Robert C. Pollex
COURTROOM 1
The Court of Common Pleas, General Division, handles felony criminal matters; domestic relations matters, including divorce, dissolution, change of custody, visitation and child and spousal support enforcement and modification; general civil matters, including those arising out of auto accidents, product liability claims, real estate matters contract disputes; and administrative appeals such as those in the area of workers compensation, unemployment compensation and appeals from certain local government decisions.



Public Library Board. The Judges also review and approve applications for notary public. During 2002, the Court completed 2,442 cases and 1,160 cases remained pending. Of the total cases completed, 801 were general civil, 1,225 were domestic relations, and 416 were criminal.

Judge Kurfess retired on December 31 after 12 years of service to the bench. The Court of Common Pleas operates under Title 23 of the Ohio Revised Code. ●

Adult Probation

Eva Dhondt, Director

The Adult Probation Department, under the authority of the Common Pleas Court, conducts pre-sentence investigations for purposes of sentencing, and supervises felony level offenders, who are placed under court-ordered supervision. The Department operates an intake/pretrial division, a drug testing division, and the work release program.

In 2002, the Adult Probation Department conducted pre-sentence investigations on 243 offenders, 219 of whom were then placed under the Department's supervision.

Throughout the year, the Department supervised 774 offenders. Of those, 201 individuals were terminated from supervision, leaving 573 individuals under direct control on December 31, 2002.

With funding from the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, the Department supervised 55 offenders placed in the Intensive Supervision Probation and 112 placed in the Electronic Monitoring programs.

The Department conducted 1,680 drug tests and supervised the incarceration of 51 offenders in the work release program, which is housed at the Justice Center. ●

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Probate and Juvenile Division



Cases heard in Probate Court involve decedent's estates, guardianships, conservatorships, testamentary trusts, civil actions, adoptions, mental illness and retardation, minor settlements, and wrongful deaths. In addition, the Probate Court provides registration services for births, name changes, miscellaneous filings, and marriage applications. In addition to trial proceedings, the Probate Court Judge appoints members to the Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities as well as the Board of the Wood County Park District. He also may appoint Wood County District Library Trustees, Township Trustees, Wood County Humane Agents, and Special Deputy Clerks.

As of January 1, 2002, a total of 1,067 cases were pending in Probate Court. During 2002, 801 new cases were filed, and 789 cases were disposed of, leaving a balance of 1,079 cases pending as of December 31, 2002.

The Court granted 807 marriage applications during the year. Also, 75 cases were filed and processed in the miscellaneous category, including name changes, birth registrations, etc.

In June, a new microfilm reader and printer was installed. This was the first event of many to provide better public access, improved availability and quality of records, and one-on-one service. With the opening of the Records Center, several years worth of records were moved to set up a public workstation, relocate our genealogy personnel to assist the public, and make room for the records scanner which is expected in 2003.

The Probate Court Judge is authorized to perform his duties under Chapter 2101 of the Ohio Revised Code. ●

The Juvenile Court hears cases concerning traffic offenses, delinquency, unruliness, neglect, abuse, dependency, and custody, involving individuals under the age of 18, as well as paternity cases for adults and children. The Court may also hear misdemeanor cases involving adults who have victimized children and juvenile traffic offenses. The Juvenile Detention Center is also administered through the Juvenile Court.

Following a groundbreaking in November 2001, the renovation and expansion project at the Juvenile Court came to a close in September 2002. The renovation and expansion project provided more lobby area for the public, new public restrooms, additional waiting and conference areas for court users, and the separation of administrative offices from Court traffic.

The Juvenile Court had 4,270 cases filed and 4,140 cases disposed of in 2002.

The 48-bed Juvenile Detention Center provided both pretrial and short-term commitments for 1,019 residents during 2002. This figure included 768 males and 251 females.

The Juvenile Court Probation Department supervised 708 youth and adults on Probation during 2002. The year also saw 320 youth perform 6,298 hours of community service work and \$10,550 in restitution was returned to victims of delinquent acts through the Probation Department. Programs facilitated by the Probation Department included: Intensive Probation, the Theft Offenders Program, Electronic Monitoring, and Diversionary Tours of the Court and Detention Center. The Court also continued to assist with the Alternative School for at risk and expelled students.

Another Juvenile Court Department, the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program, supervised 44 volunteers in 2002 who advocated for 147 children allegedly abused or neglected, providing over 3,000 hours of service. Fifteen new CASA volunteers received 40 hours of pre-service training and were sworn into service by

Judge Woessner during the year. The CASA program received State certification in 2002 from the Ohio CASA program and was recognized for its accomplishments by the Attorney General's Office. As of December 31, 2002, 36 CASA volunteers continue to advocate for 86 children.

The Court successfully obtained major grant funding during the year. These grants included "Reclaim Ohio" funds from the Ohio Department of Youth Services; the Solid Waste Management District; Americorps; the office of Criminal Justice Services; and a United States/State of Ohio Detention Center funding grant.

The Juvenile Court Judge is authorized to perform his duties as outlined in, but not limited to, Section 2151.23 of the Ohio Revised Code. ●

Court Security

Thomas G. Chidester, Chief Court Constable

Court Constables are the primary law enforcement officers at the Courthouse Complex, and provide for the safety and security of the courts, employees at the site and the visiting public. Each Court Constable is a State Certified Peace Officer responsible for enforcing the law, conducting investigations, and providing first aid. They also manage the systems that monitor fire, panic and intrusion alarms as well as those that control access to the buildings. Court Security provides a variety of ancillary services to other departments at the Courthouse Complex and assists other agencies, upon request, with input on the development of security efforts at their remote facilities.

During 2002, the Court Security Department provided assistance with several major projects at the Courthouse Complex. Security assistance was provided during the extensive restoration of the courthouse and old jail facades. The large volume of scaffolding surrounding the Courthouse required

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6...

ENGINEER

Anthony Allion

The Engineer has the responsibility of maintaining highways, bridges, culverts, and hundreds of traffic control signs in a safe and proper manner each day of the year. Under the ditch maintenance program, the Engineer is responsible for 550 miles of the more than 3,000 miles of ditches in the County. The Engineer's Office performs engineering work on all ditch construction and maintenance projects. The Engineer is also required to maintain tax maps and survey records. He is a member of the Planning Commission and serves as engineer for each of the 19 townships.

The Engineer is authorized to perform his duties under Chapter 315 of the Ohio Revised Code. ●

SOURCES OF 2002 FUNDS

Motor Vehicle License Fees	\$3,697,203.10
Gasoline Tax	\$1,377,268.16
County General Fund	\$311,322.92
Traffic Fines & Receipts	\$95,833.96
Reimbursements	\$449,458.39

USAGE OF 2002 FUNDS

Labor and Fringes	\$2,036,647.82
Road Material and Contracts	\$1,928,517.53
Bridge Material and Contracts	\$2,360,657.50
Equipment	\$224,050.07
Repair Supplies & Fuel	\$248,884.54

**PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**

The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney includes three divisions. The criminal division prosecutes all felony criminal offenses occurring in the County. This duty includes presenting cases to the Grand Jury. The juvenile division prosecutes all cases involving juvenile offenders. Cases range from serious felonies to "status" offenses (i.e., abused, neglected and dependent children). The civil division provides legal services to the County, including school districts and townships. The Prosecutor's Office has nine attorneys, a victim services unit, an investigator, youth violence prevention program staff, and support staff.

Alan Mayberry
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The Prosecutor's Office sponsored various youth violence prevention programs. The Juvenile Mediation Program (JuMP) received grant funding to help reduce juvenile crime by providing mediation to certain offenders. In an effort to prevent school violence, the 4-S student mediation program continued in each school district in the County. On March

16th, the 4th Annual Wood County Youth Olympics were held. This event focused on "Competition without Conflict". The Drug Abuse Prevention Calendar contest celebrated its 13th year. Kayla McCloskey, an eighth grader from the Lake School District, was the year's winner. Her drawing is featured on the 2003 calendar cover.

The Prosecuting Attorney hosted the annual law enforcement conference. The 100 participants discussed updates in the law and related topics including terrorism and seizure of computers.

The speaker's bureau continued to provide presentations on a variety of subjects to various organizations within the County.

In November, Prosecuting Attorney Mayberry was elected to serve as Common Pleas Court Judge commencing January 1, 2003. The Republican Central Committee met on January 6, 2003, and appointed Raymond Fischer, assistant prosecuting attorney, to fill Mr. Mayberry's remaining term.

The Prosecuting Attorney is authorized to perform his duties under Chapter 308 of the Ohio Revised Code. ●

COURT SECURITY CONT. FROM PG. 5...

additional attention from the staff. With the transformation of the Old Jail into functional office space, Court Security coordinated the security system for the new County Records Center and Law Library and provided oversight for the installation of equipment. The Department also coordinated upgrades for the public address system in all buildings.

Using guidelines of the Ohio Supreme Court and the Ohio Judicial Conference, the Department routinely conducted training for new employees assigned to court related functions. In September, the Department hosted a

training exercise with the Sheriff's SRT (Special Response Team) and local first responder agencies to facilitate inter-departmental cooperation and communication relating to courthouse emergencies. The Department also participated in the annual on-site training conducted for bomb threats, fires and tornados throughout the year.

Operating under the authority and supervision of the Common Pleas Court Judges, the Department reported to Judge David E. Woessner, who served as the Court Security Judge during 2002. ●

**RECORDER**

The Recorder's Office is a service office committed to and responsible for keeping and maintaining accurate records of real estate documents, ensuring that the documents are up-to-date, legible, and easily accessible to the public. The meticulous and timely handling of documents is the essence of the Recorder's responsibility. As the repository of records for all property transactions in the County, the Recorder's Office safeguards every property owner's title. Real estate documents constitute a major portion of the recordings and/or filings. Financing statements on personal property and military discharge papers are also filed in the Recorder's Office.

Ongoing growth in the County and lower mortgage interest rates brought record numbers to the Recorder's Office again in 2002. A total of 36,404 documents were recorded and/or filed. A total of \$1,123,551.28 was collected in fees, of which \$142,552 was deposited into a supplemental equipment fund. Total fees collected in previous years are as follows: \$988,079 in 2001; \$595,982 in 2000; \$653,785 in 1999; and \$690,785 in 1998.

The Recorder is authorized to perform her duties under numerous sections of the Ohio Revised Code. The Recorder also serves on the Data Processing Board and the Records Commission Board. ●

2002 DOCUMENTS

Deeds	4,560
Judgment entries, affidavits, agreements and certificates for transfer	1,486
Mortgages (total value \$4,322,602,304)	13,063
Mortgage assignments, assumptions, release of maker, waivers of priority, mortgage agreements and options	2,565
Land Contracts	44
Mortgages released (with a value of \$1,487,683,718)	11,517
Rights of way and easements	220
Leases	29
Mechanics liens	101
Lease assignments	23
Plats (creating 548 lots)	37
Condominiums (creating 24 units)	8
Financing statements, security agreements	102
Terminations	320
Financing statement assignments, amendments and releases	33
Miscellaneous documents (including release of easements, mechanic lien releases, notice to commence, lease releases, powers of attorney, partnerships, state liens, release of state liens, federal tax liens, and release of federal tax liens)	2,186

SHERIFF

As the County's chief law enforcement officer, the Sheriff provides law enforcement, correctional services, and civil services to residents. The Sheriff polices and serves all unincorporated areas and villages, provides contract police services to townships and municipalities, and assists municipalities upon request.

Although the workload continued to increase and the jail population reached capacity, major incidents of random crime or violence were virtually nonexistent in Wood County during 2002.

The Sheriff's commitment to Homeland Security remained a priority as he assigned deputies to local FBI and DEA tasks forces to help combat widespread crimes throughout the region. Staff continued to receive training in the areas of disaster relief and defense against weapons of mass destruc-

tion in efforts to remain prepared to protect the citizens of Wood County.

The Sheriff is authorized to perform his duties under Chapter 311 of the Ohio Revised Code. ●

2002 WOOD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT**CIVIL DIVISION**

Sheriff foreclosure property sales	89
Sheriff foreclosure Notice and Appraisals	151
Proceeds from parcels sold	\$1,410,813.51
Execution of certificates of Judgment	19
Money from fees & copies	\$160,132.84
Warrants received (local & foreign)	2,061
Warrants served (local & foreign)	1,557
Court papers served	1,782
Prisoner transports to penal institutions	486
Miles traveled for the Civil Division	110,745

JUSTICE CENTER

Total inmates booked	3,873
Total inmates released	3,937
Average daily population	119
Total local transports	814
Total inmates transported	1,425

Total meals served - Justice Center and Juvenile Detention Center

182,977

Average daily meal cost

\$1.08

LITTER CONTROL DIVISION

Miles of road debris collection	241.1
Amount of debris and litter collected (lbs.)	42,943
Recycled from WCSO & WCJC (lbs.)	37,234
Tires picked up and disposed of per state law	478
Number of inmates who participated	698

Inmate hours worked on roadside

5,121

Inmate hours worked at WC Landfill & Recycling Center

864

Inmate hours worked at WC Fair & Festivals

600

Inmate hours worked at Landfill

20

Complaints received and investigated

49

911 DIVISION

Total number of 911 calls by WCSO	6,833
Total number of 911 calls by all answering points	22,876

DARE

Participating School Districts: Elmwood, Eastwood, Otsego, McComb, and North Baltimore	
CORE students instructed and graduated from DARE	502
Students in grades K-5 instructed	961
Students in seventh grade from Eastwood Middle	79

Students with Special Needs from Penta County Living Skill Center

12

Safety Towns in Weston, Perrysburg, North Baltimore

3

COMMUNITY POLICING

Bicycle Registration Program

262

Human Service Agencies

9

Schools

30

Concerned Citizens (non-affiliated parent)

7

Volunteer Service Organization (Lion's, Rotary, Etc.)

7

Local Government (town or city government)

33

Law Enforcement

15

Business Community

15

Health Care

7

Faith Community

5

Block Watch

3

Other Specialized Group

4

ROAD PATROL DIVISION

Miles Dr

INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

ALCOHOL, DRUG ADDICTION AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BOARD

Larry Mershman, Executive Director

The purpose of the Wood County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board is to ensure that Wood County residents have access to a high quality array of community-based behavioral health care services. The Board's statutory requirements are to plan, monitor, evaluate and fund necessary alcohol, drug addiction and mental health services. While the Board does not provide services, it does contract with service providers for these necessary services. Effective management by the Board maximizes the success of mental health, alcohol and drug addiction services in Wood County. The Board contracts with the following service providers to provide the System of Care: Children's Resource Center, Family and Child Abuse Prevention Center, Family Service of Wood County, and Behavioral Connections of Wood County.

The community-based system successfully created a continuum of care for mental health and alcohol/drug addiction services ranging from prevention and counseling

to crisis intervention and inpatient care. The union of Board and contract agencies enabled the system of care to be locally accountable, accessible and flexible in order to facilitate collaboration with all community resources in Wood County.

The Board purchased more than \$13 million in alcohol, drug and mental health services in fiscal year 2002 and expanded the following services: enhanced consumer choice in psychiatric facilities; managed psychiatric hospital admissions; developed additional support services and activities through the Connection Center; and provided essential support for the No Wrong Door project. The Board also continued planning for compliance with the Health Insurance and Portability Accountability Act (HIPAA).

Revenue for fiscal year 2002 totaled \$10,727,216. Expenses for the fiscal year totaled \$11,224,370.

The office of Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services operates under the direction of an 18-member board. Ten of the board members are appointed by the County Commissioners, four by the Ohio Department of Mental Health, and the remaining four by the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services. ●

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER

Douglas M. Garman, Ph. D., Superintendent

The Educational Service Center strives to provide and enhance student-centered educational services and programs in order to realize the full potential of each student in the communities served. This is accomplished by providing leadership, consultation and direct student services within Wood County school districts. A broad range of quality, cost-effective services are available to local school districts including, curriculum development, student recognition and enrichment programs, professional development for instructional staff, technical assistance to administrators, and many collaborative special education programs and services. The Center provides local educational options such as

the Virtual Learning Academy, an Alternative School, and education for adjudicated youth through the Juvenile Detention Center and Juvenile Residential Center. Extended learning opportunities and enrichment programs are available through five after-school and summer Community Learning Centers.

The Educational Service Center secures federal and state grants, as well as other funding sources, that keep local costs to a minimum. Revenue for fiscal year 2002 totaled \$11,932,395. This was comprised of 22 percent state support, 12 percent federal support, and 66 percent from the local level. Expenditures for the fiscal year totaled \$11,455,258.

A grant in the amount of \$10,000 was

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Deborah S. Hazard, Director
Terry L. Burton, Director

The Board of Elections is responsible for the administration and execution of primary, general and special elections. These responsibilities include the administration of the absentee voter program, coordination of the polling official volunteers, auditing of all campaign financial reports, and verification of all candidates and ballot issues for compliance with all Ohio Revised Code requirements. In addition the office maintains all current and historical voter information, as well as detailed election records, which are made available to the public.

In 2002, the Board of Elections held four elections: two Special Elections held on February 5 and August 6; a Primary Election held on May 7 and a General Election on November 5. Voters selected federal, state and county office holders as well as state and county party central committee representatives. In addition voters considered 50 local issues during the year including six city charter amendments, one proposed ordinance, two proposed zoning plans and 41 tax issues.

Wood County voters cast their ballots in 104 precincts in 74 locations. The voter registration total for Wood County is approximately 77,000 voters. This is an increase of 2.6 percent from the 2001 voter roles. Citizens wishing to become a registered voter may do so at the Board of Elections office, any Bureau of Motor Vehicles location, any public library and most city or village offices.

Due to the passage of federal legislation, the Help America Vote Act of 2002, a massive overhaul is planned for the elections process. For the first time all of Ohio's 88 counties will be part of one centralized voter registration database administered by the Secretary of State's office. In addition, ballot tabulation systems will be modernized.

The Wood County Board of Elections website at www.co.wood.oh.us/boe, contains information regarding the current election calendar, elected officials, voting information as well as election results.

The Board of Elections operates under the direction of a four-member board and the Ohio Secretary of State. ●



HOW TO CONTACT US...

CALL 419.354.9000
and let us help you or
call toll-free from:

Deshler/Hoytville: 419.278.3797

Grand Rapids: 419.832.1541

Fostoria/Rising Sun: 419.457.4545

Perrysburg/Toledo: 419.243.4223

Luckey/Stony Ridge: 419.833.5211

North Baltimore/Bloomdale: 419.257.3259

Visit our website: www.co.wood.oh.us

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Larry M. Sorrells,
RS, MSEH Health Commissioner

The Wood County Health Department promotes conditions that allow people in the County to lead healthy lives by routinely reviewing health related issues and taking action to prevent illness and injuries. Monitoring the environmental conditions, promoting healthy behaviors, and providing preventive services are the main approaches used to fulfill the mission of this public health agency. An independent Board of Health governs the 53 employees that provide over 100 health services for the people of Wood County.

During 2002, the Health Department completed the Community Health Assessment. Supported generously by the Wood County Hospital Foundation, the advisory committee engaged Ned Baker, MPH, to facilitate the project. More than 1,200 residents participated in a community health survey and approximately 100 individuals, representing all segments of the community, looked at the health system, local environmental issues, and personal health concerns of residents of all ages and circumstances in the County. The final report provides direction to local health and human service agencies so that, working together, improvements to the health of the people living and working in the County will continue. The report, released in January 2003, can be viewed on the Department's website.

The West Nile Virus, first detected in Wood County birds in 2001, continued to spread with the first human case reported in the summer of 2002. Mosquito-control efforts help prevent the disease, but individuals still need to protect themselves during breeding season. The Wood County Commissioners awarded funding to the Health Department to provide local residents with mosquito dunks, a larvacide that kills the larva of the mosquito that carries the West Nile Virus. While West Nile Virus infections are a new threat, there are significantly greater risks to health from old foes like flu and pneumonia that claim 3,000 Ohio lives annually.

Periodic shortages of a number of vaccines over the past few years have affected

the availability of childhood vaccines. While the Health Department provides over 10,000 immunizations annually to children and adults, a number of children entered school without receiving all of the recommended immunizations in the fall of 2002. On the other hand, flu and pneumonia vaccines, especially important for older residents, were available in adequate quantities this year.

The federal government provided financial assistance to improve the capacity to identify possible biological terrorist attacks early, and to respond to such events if necessary. These funds supported an emergency epidemiologist and response coordinator. The Department, working with regional, state and federal partners, responded to the call for plans to vaccinate portions of our population against an old villain, smallpox. Responding to large emergencies and implementing mass immunization programs will require more staff than the Health Department has available. Volunteers willing to be trained for specific tasks are currently being sought. Forms to register for volunteer duty are available the Department's website.

The Department continued to assist communities to remove/demolish structures that have become hazardous to the health and safety of the community. During 2002, the Department was directly involved in the management of the demolition of 19 structures, a 20 percent increase over the previous year.

Wood County established a Child Fatality Review process and annually reviews all resident deaths for those under 18 years of age.

The Department's website provided

useful information regarding current health issues including West Nile Virus, Smallpox vaccinations, and clinic schedules.

The 11-member Board of Health, in addition to appointing the Health Commissioner, assumes the responsibility of overseeing Department activities to provide for the protection and promotion of health for those living and visiting Wood County. Alice Davis served as president during 2002. The Board generally meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month in the Board Room at 1840 East Gypsy Lane Road. ●

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LAW LIBRARY

Judith Gill, Librarian

Ohio Law requires each County to provide a law library for judges and elected officials. A six member Board of Trustees determines policy matters and general governance, while the Law Librarian is responsible for daily administration. The County provides funding for the facility and staff. Operating expenses, books, and supplies are funded by fine monies from the Courts. The Library's primary mission is to provide for the information needs of the Courts and local government. Although the Library is a private library, the Board of Trustees has extended access to the public as a matter of community service.

With the completion of the Renovation work at the Old Jail, the Law Library moved back to the Courthouse Complex Campus. Just

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Doris Herringshaw, Extension Agent,
Family & Consumer Sciences & County Chair

The Ohio State University Extension Office strives to provide current, up-to-date information on agriculture and natural resources, community development, family and consumer sciences and 4-H youth development.

During 2002, the Extension Office hosted an Agriculture Outlook and Policy Meeting that informed farmers and agri-business about crop and livestock market forecasts, environmental policy, and impacts of the Farm Bill. The Office also hosted the Ohio County Commissioners' Days, co-sponsored by the County Commissioners Association of Ohio. More than 175 participants from across Ohio toured the sights and learned about available services.

Community development programming permitted 210 teens from the County to receive lessons in democratic citizenship through participation in 4-H boards and committees. Teens learned the importance of teamwork, communication, and how to conduct effective meetings as a basis for 4-H programs and junior fair.

The Wood County Master Gardeners volunteered more than 8,440 hours in horticulture service at area locations. Non-commercial pond owners were educated on usage of their ponds utilizing Integrated Pest Management

over a decade ago, the bulk and weight of the Law Library collection required relocation to a facility outside Courthouse Square. New technologies in data storage and retrieval allowed the collection to shrink in size and weight, while still maintaining the needed information.

The Law Library collection includes online access to statutes, regulations and case reports for the federal level and all 50 states. The conversion to digital format provided a more space-efficient facility, as well as better research through electronic search methods and up-to-the-minute information.

The hard copy collection includes scholarly works and legal practice materials, with an emphasis on matters governed by Ohio law.

The Law Library operates under Section 3375.48 et. seq. of the Ohio Revised Code. ●

concepts and gained knowledge in weed control, pond construction, and renovation techniques.

More than 150 local farmers participated in private pesticide applicator license re-certification sessions that focused on information about development and issues in pesticide use including wearing personal protective equipment and using pesticide management practices to protect water supplies. Farm Land Rental workshops assisted landowners and farmer tenants reach agreement on land lease issues. Six meetings, held with the local Farm Service Agency, provided Farm Bill education. More than 300 farmers received information about the Extension Farm Bill calculator computer program to help them make informed decisions as they enroll in the new Farm Bill.

A total of 4,050 youth ages five to 18 experiences hands-on learning through 4-H. Hundreds of teen leaders, 275 adult volunteers, and five paid 4-H professionals supported the 4-H programs. As a result of 24 hours of intensive training, 43 camp counselors designed a camp program that incorporated the critical elements needed in a positive 4-H experience.

Four overnight camp experiences were conducted to provide 624 youth opportunities to explore the natural surroundings and learn personal development skills. Camps

NORTHWESTERN WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

Jerry Greiner, Executive Director

The Northwestern Water and Sewer District is responsible for providing water and wastewater treatment services to County residents. The District provides these services through agreements with Lucas County, Bowling Green, Fostoria, Oregon, Perrysburg and Toledo. The District operates more than 50 pump stations, 2 water towers, thousands of water fire hydrants and more than 200 miles of water lines and sanitary sewers.

The Regional Water and Sewer District was renamed in January 2002 to the Northwestern Water and Sewer District. The name change better reflects the District's coverage area.

Continued strong growth in residential and commercial development fueled the continued need for utilities in the County. The District issued 150 sanitary sewer permits and 100 water permits for services. This in turn increased the District's customer base. Highly visible growth occurred in areas such as US Route 20. Residential needs were met in Lake Township, Perry Township, Perrysburg Township, and Middleton Township. Repair and replacement projects required attention in Millbury, Jerry City and Walbridge. Planning continued for service to Rudolph, Custer, Milton Center, Risingsun, and Lake Township, in addition to new water needs in Jerry City and Moline.

In October, the District moved into its new location at 12560 Middleton Pike, Middleton Township. The new facility houses the District's 32 employees from which they operate north, south, east and west within Wood County. Of the employees working for the District, 15 are professional, licensed operators for water treatment and distribution and/or wastewater treatment collection.

A nine-member board led by Lyle Schulte, President; Phil Shaffer, Vice President; and John Current, Secretary-Treasurer oversees the District's operations. Board members serve six-year terms and are appointed by three different entities: townships, municipalities that are members of the District, and the County Commissioners.

The Northwestern Water and Sewer District operates under Section 6119 of the Ohio Revised Code. ●

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8...

INDEPENDENT AGENCIES CONT.

PARK DISTRICT

George E. Thompson, Chair
C. Robert Boyd, Vice Chair
Dorothea Barker, Vice Chair
Neil A. Munger, Director/Secretary

The Wood County Park District was established in 1934, under section 1545 of the Ohio Revised Code as a separate political subdivision of the State of Ohio. Principle funding for the Park District is in the form of a tax levy approved by the voters of Wood County. The current 10-year levy, which was passed by Wood County voters in May of 1998, provides income for operations, permanent improvements and land acquisition. Additional funding is obtained through direct donations, grants and the collection of fees, rentals, and fines.

In March of 2002, the Park District began discussions with John Sponsler and the family of David Sponsler to explore the possibility of acquiring property owned by the Sponslers for parkland, preserving it for future generations. In May, a purchase agreement was signed allowing the Park District to purchase the new park land. Park District staff immediately began writing a grant through the newly established Clean Ohio Fund, attempting to gain 45 percent of the agreed purchase price through grant funding. In July, the Governor announced the recipients of the first ever Clean Ohio Funds, and the Wood County Park District was awarded funds for purchasing the Sponsler property. The new property, located just one-quarter mile west of the Slippery Elm Trail, between Cygnet and

Freyman Roads to the north and south, is comprised of approximately 40 acres of natural meadow area, 80 acres of wet woodland, and an additional 40 acres that are presently in production as tilled farmland. The 160-acre parcel will be the second largest parcel owned by the Park District, second only to the 182-acre Bradner Preserve acquired in 1999. Future plans for the property are undetermined at this time. As has been the past practice of the Park District, staff will study the area and a citizens' advisory committee will be established to carefully explore future land use.

The most exciting addition to the District's array of activities was the opening of the Otsego Canoe Livery in May 2002. Adventure seekers of all ages came to Otsego Park, where they were transported by bus to Grand Rapids. From there, canoeists journeyed down the mighty Maumee River and viewed the River from a different perspective. Despite one of the driest summers in recent memory, the Canoe Livery enjoyed a successful first year of operation, and the Park District will again be launching its canoes on the Maumee beginning Memorial Weekend.

Numerous major capital improvements kept the Operations staff busy throughout the year. At Otsego Park, several improvements were made in conjunction with the new Canoe Livery operation. Additional parking was added to accommodate the added park visitors, and the path leading from the Stone Hall and parking area to the River was widened. A stone path was added for easier access to the river. The lower parking lot

and fishing access was redesigned to better accommodate multiple usage of the area. Boat launching and drop off areas were designated, as well as an area for handicapped parking. General parking was rerouted to the upper parking lots to alleviate ongoing problems of congestion in the small area.

At the W.W. Knight Preserve, operations staff constructed the final trail included in the Park Master Plan. The trail now connects the Preserve with the Hospice Center, allowing easy access for Hospice guests. In addition, the trail features a boardwalk that takes visitors through the wet woods, allowing a unique educational experience. Construction of the trail was made possible by the generous support of the Country Garden Club of Perrysburg and a Recreational Trails Grant awarded through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

The Cedar Creeks Preserve saw completion of the first phase of the Park Master Plan with the construction of a new park entrance and parking facility. The new drive, located on Walbridge Road, takes the park entrance off the very busy and hazardous Woodville Road and allows for much easier access to the Preserve. This year trails will be added, along with park entrance signage, landscaping and fencing, at which time the new entrance will officially be opened for public use. Other park improvements, such as sidewalk construction, new signage, and trail projects were completed at William Henry Harrison Park, the Carter Loomis Farm, Bradner Preserve, and the Slippery Elm Trail. ●

PUBLIC DEFENDER

Kathleen Hamm, Chief Public Defender

Established in 1979, 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, Common Pleas Court, and all levels of the Appellate Court.

In 2002, the Office of the Public Defender represented approximately 3,700 clients. The Office is appointed by the courts to represent eligible defendants. To be eligible for Public Defender representation, individuals must qualify under the Ohio Public Defender Commission Standards of Indigency, as listed in the Ohio Administrative Code section 120-1-03.

Cases included felonies, misdemeanors, delinquencies, status offenses, appeals and other post-conviction remedies. When a conflict existed, the case was assigned to outside counsel.

Since 1994, the Public Defender has operated a satellite office at the Perrysburg Municipal Court to accommodate the significant Northern Wood County caseload.

Funds for appointment of counsel are budgeted by the County and reimbursed by the State at an average of 33 percent.

The duties of the Public Defender are outlined in Section 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. ●

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Nicki Kale, District Coordinator

Our Mission: Dedicated to the care of the environment through the conservation of soil, water and other natural resources; to enhance the quality of life for present and future generations.

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 formed by a referendum petition. The major function of the District is to determine natural resource needs and implement programs that protect and develop these resources. The district operates on money provided by the Wood County Commissioners, which is matched by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Soil and Water Conservation Commission. The SWCD operates under Chapter 1515 of the Ohio Revised Code. Policies are set by a five-member board of supervisors who are elected for a three-year term by residents of the district.

Available for the third consecutive year, the Wood Soil and Water Conservation District

PRACTICE	# OF CONTRACTS	LINEAR FEET	ACRES
Field Windbreaks	32	211,367	74.1
Filter Strips in grant area	37	638,000	81
Filter Strips in targeted townships	117	282,000	358
Filter Strips outside targeted areas	122	340,000	297
Wetlands	6		61.5

Buffer Strip Program continued to offer eligible landowners a \$250 per acre, one time bonus, for any buffer strips located within the two watersheds. For projects outside of the grant watersheds but in the targeted townships, (the southeast quadrant of the County including Montgomery, Portage, Perry, and Bloom townships) a \$100 per acre one-time bonus for new buffer strips was offered. Continued sign up in the Packer and Toussaint watersheds, utilizing funding from an Ohio EPA 319 Non-Point Source grant, proved the success of this initiative. The program is administered through the District office with funding of \$20,000 provided by the Wood County Commissioners. As an additional incentive for landowners to sign

up for a buffer strip, the Wood SWCD and the Wood-Lucas Pheasants Forever chapter seeded the filter strips at no cost to the landowner.

Conservation and agricultural education programs were provided to Wood County residents through farm tours, camps, field days, outdoor competitions, classroom visits and scholarship opportunities.

The District answered landowners' request for assistance on over 51 miles of Wood County ditches on private group bottom cleanout projects. In addition the following table identifies additional conservation practices established. ●

VETERANS ASSISTANCE CENTER

Mary E. Hanna, Executive Director

Mission Statement — The Wood County Veterans Assistance Center advises and assists persons in the Armed Forces of the United States, veterans, and their families in obtaining rights and benefits under any law of the United States. We advocate for the protection of these benefits and rights.

The goal at the Veterans Assistance Center is to provide compassionate, high quality services to Wood County veterans and their families. The staff strives to accomplish this by making the clients, rather than the benefit program, the central focus. The staff seeks opportunities to increase service delivery effectiveness by implementing partnerships with other public and private agencies.

Due to the slow-down of the economy during the year, County veterans reached out for \$59,064.80 in emergency financial assistance through the Center, up \$8,063.28

STATISTICS FOR 2002			
Veterans Residing in Wood County	10,674	Memorial Day Appropriations	\$6,155
Total Client Contacts: (includes at office and telephone interviews, claim processing, financial assistance investigations, and case management)	7,012	Flags and Grave Markers Distributed	7,435
		Emergency Financial Assistance	\$59,064.80
		Federal VA Claims/ Documents Processed	10,760
Veterans Transported to Medical facilities	266	Total Federal Dollars Brought into County	\$5,642,436
Newsletters Distributed	2,400	Return per County Dollar	\$23.55

from last year's disbursements. The number of claims continued to rise with an aging veteran population resulting in increased use of medical and nursing home benefits.

For every dollar spent by the County on veteran assistance in 2002, the Veterans Assistance Center brought \$23.55 in federal money into the County. This \$5.6

million benefited those veterans who were directly receiving these funds. In addition, the economy benefited because these federal funds increased the purchasing power of veterans and their families.

The Veterans Service Commission is outlined in Ohio Revised Code 5901.01 et seq. ●

PLANNING COMMISSION

David Miesmer, Director

The Planning Commission administers policy concerning residential, commercial and industrial subdivisions, zoning regulations, and land use issues. The staff approves parcel splits, assigns rural addresses, and issues floodplain development permits. They also administer the County's Community Block Grant Development (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 in their local zoning programs.

During 2002, the Wood County Planning Commission reviewed 13 requests for rezoning totaling 485 acres. Of the 13 requests, eight were approved, three were denied and two were modified and conditionally approved. The Planning Commission also reviewed and approved seven amendments to township zoning resolutions. The Planning Commission assisted Perrysburg, Montgomery, and Jackson Townships with establishing individual township zoning resolutions and helping prepare these resolutions for the November 2002 general election. In addition to helping townships create their own zoning resolutions, the Planning Commission worked with Portage and Liberty Township to modify and update their current zoning resolutions.

The Planning Commission reviewed and approved 13 preliminary/final residential subdivisions totaling 777.983 acres. One preliminary/final commercial subdivision totaling 20 acres was also reviewed and approved by the Planning Commission.

In addition to the larger platted subdivisions, the Planning Commission reviewed and processed 193 unplattd land subdivisions totaling 2320.83 acres. Of these 193 subdivisions, 153 were splits off of larger tracts of land, 10 were expansions of existing parcels of land, and 30 were combinations of existing tracts of land.

During fiscal year 2002, the Planning Commission received \$365,000 in Commu-

nity Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. These funds are used to provide infrastructure improvements, ADA renovations, and economic development projects to assist and benefit low to moderate income (LMI) households for three Cities, four Villages, and one Township in Wood County. Projects that were chosen for 2002 include: water and sewer upgrades for the Villages of Weston and Cygnet, curb and sidewalk repair and restoration for the City of Perrysburg and the Village of Portage, street and parking lot improvements for the Village of West Millgrove and the City of Northwood, and ADA renovations for Washington Township and the City of Rossford.

The Planning Commission is continuing to assist low and moderate income residents in the County through its CHIP program. Funds from this program are used to assist low to moderate income residents residing in Wood County's villages and unincorporated areas with emergency home repairs, home renovations, and first time homeowner downpayment assistance.

In February 2002, the Planning Commission was designated to be the County agency responsible for in taking and processing applications for Clean Ohio Fund Agricultural Easement Purchase Program. The Agricultural Easement Purchase Program is one of four programs formed out of the Clean Ohio Fund, which was passed by Ohio Voters in the 2000 general election. The Easement Purchase Program involves the Ohio Department of Agriculture paying farmers and landowners a per acre price for easements. In 2002, the Planning Commission processed seven applications for five landowners, for a total of 438 acres. The Planning Commission will continue to process applications for this program, and as more funds become available for the program, the Planning Commission is hopeful that Wood County landowners and farmers will benefit financially from the program, while at the same time saving prime farmland for future generations and preserving Wood County's agricultural heritage.

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

WOOD LANE/WOOD COUNTY BOARD OF MENTAL RETARDATION AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

William G. Clifford, Superintendent

The Wood County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MR/DD), known throughout the County as Wood Lane, provides community-based support for eligible infants, children, and adults who wish to live, learn, work and participate in the community.

As Wood Lane continues to adjust services based upon the changing needs of the individuals and families served, staff and families spent a great deal of 2002 discussing needed changes which include meeting the needs of aging adults who have developmental disabilities, individuals with significant and/or unique medical needs, and individuals with significant physical challenges.

The Board approved needed renovations at Wood Lane Industries, which include additional accessible restrooms, a larger luncheon room, a therapy room, and redesigned office space.

In the fall of 2002, Wood Lane's early intervention program moved to a new home at the Jordon Center on the Bowling Green State University campus. Infants and children under the age of three with a developmental disability or delay will now receive support and services with typically developing children at the Jordan Center.

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included NW Ohio Conservation Camp, the largest of its kind in the nation, which hosted 225 youth from 12 counties, including 25 youth and 24 counselors from Wood County.

The 4-H In-School Enrichment enrollment served 2,852 projects in 70 classrooms. With OSU Extension resources and training, teachers conducted programs in chick embryology, bubbleology, pioneer life history, food and nutrition, and the dairy sciences.

The Wood County Family and Children First Wellness Block Grant awarded \$5,400 for pregnancy prevention. These funds allowed 50 youth and teen mentors to

In late 2002, the Board approved its involvement with the building of a community center, which includes a gymnasium added onto the new community center. While the Board has looked for more than eight years for an acceptable building plan, the opportunity to be part of the joint effort with the City of Bowling Green and the National Guard saved money by being part of a facility rather than a stand alone facility.

Funding for all three projects were part of the capital construction plan which utilized monies from federal sources as well as local taxpayer dollars generated from the March 2000 levy campaign.

Wood Lane continues to be aggressive in finding ways to maximize the use of local, state, and federal funds. Individual's funding sources have been converted to a Medicaid-based system called Individual Option Waivers. This change has resulted in additional match monies available to help serve the needs of individuals on the residential waiting list.

The Board provided a letter of support as well as land for a HUD approved building project for Wood Lane Residential Properties, Inc. The Board was notified in October 2002 that funding had been approved for the construction of two, four-bedroom homes for senior citizens with developmental disabilities. These homes, slated to be built in 2003, will assist in meeting the unmet need to people with mental retardation who are aging.

The Board of MR/DD operates under Section 5126 of the Ohio Revised Code. ●

participate in the "Peer Power" program. During the three month program, youth gained skills needed in making healthy potentially life changing decisions.

During the year, six master clothing volunteers became certified to teach youth clothing construction techniques, selection, and care. The Women in Agriculture program, which provided information on building stronger family relationships and improving farm management techniques, attracted 165 women. Sun safety programs were also conducted.

The Extension Office is a cooperative effort of the Ohio State University, the Wood County Commissioners, and the US Department of Agriculture. ●