

Wood County²⁰⁰⁵ OHIO Annual Report

www.co.wood.oh.us

A Message from the Board of County Commissioners

We are once again pleased to provide this annual update to you – the citizens of Wood County – to share the many good things that are happening in County government. We owe the success of Wood County government to you, the citizens of Wood County, and to the excellent cooperation of the County elected officials to operate efficiently while providing quality service.

The Wood County Economic Development Commission played an integral roll in retaining O-I (Owens-Illinois) in Northwest Ohio, and in doing so, relocating and consolidating its corporate headquarters in Perrysburg. The Village of Bradner also benefited from the work of the WCEDC to retain and expand the American Warming and Ventilating facility in the village. These important projects reflect the excellent and cooperative working environment in Wood County, as well as the professionalism of the WCEDC staff. In a recent report from the U.S. Census Bureau, from 1998 to 2003, Wood County added 787 manufacturing jobs -- the only county in our 19 county region to add show positive growth.

Through an allocation of \$50,000 in travel and tourism funding over two years from the State of Ohio, the Wood County Economic Development Commission will play a significant role in promoting the many excellent attractions and events throughout Wood County. State Senator Randy Gardner was instrumental in obtaining this tourism funding that will be used to better coordinate tourism efforts around the county. Tourism is an important component of Wood County's economic development efforts.

Construction is now complete on the project at Wood Haven Health Care (formerly the Wood County Nursing Home) that expanded the physical therapy services space, and vastly improved the entire entrance of the facility. The project, which was made possible by a generous contribution from the Harold and Ivalou Bordner Foundation, allows Wood Haven to offer out-patient therapy services. The construction project also included a complete renovation and reconfiguration of the parking and



entrance areas, new signs, and a beautiful entry room and sitting area. The Bordner Foundation previously funded the installation of a resident lift system, comprised of ceiling, floor and bath lifts, and fast electric beds. These important improvements focus on assuring the dignity and quality of life for Wood Haven residents, as well as providing a quality, safe working environment for Wood Haven staff. We encourage you to visit Wood Haven to see the many improvements that have taken place over the past few years.

Continuing a program that was started in 2004, the Wood County Dog Warden went door-to-door during 2005 to assist dog owners in complying with state dog license laws. Through these and other efforts to sell dog licenses at numerous locations around the county by the Wood County Dog Shelter staff, a total of 19,071 dog licenses were sold in 2005. This is an increase of over 3,000 licenses from 2003, and has allowed the Dog Shelter to be self-sufficient, and end its reliance on the county general fund. Dog owners can also purchase their dog licenses on-line through the Wood County Auditor's Office. We continue to stress the importance of purchasing a license for your dog. It's not just the law... it's a ride home for your dog!

We were pleased to work in cooperation with the Wood County Fraternal Order of Police to install a new Police Memorial on the grounds of the Courthouse. The previous memorial had been removed during the Atrium construction project and was unsuitable for reuse. The annual memorial service for police officers killed in the line of duty is held in May of each year. Through the efforts of the Fraternal Order of Police, we now have a beautiful and fitting monument to honor the memory of these fallen heroes.

After much discussion, we agreed with the Judges on a plan to comply with the final requirement of the Ohio Supreme Court to implement a single, secure entrance to the Courthouse Complex. A trial run of this plan, whereby all visitors to the Courthouse complex must enter through the Atrium entrance on Summit Street and be screened by Court Security personnel, was held in May. Full implementation of this entrance procedure began in December and will remain in effect into the future. We appreciate the patience, understanding, and cooperation of Wood County citizens during the transition to this single, secure entrance procedure.

As we continue our work for you, the citizens of Wood County, we remain excited about the future prospects for Wood County despite some of the challenges we face. Our challenge, as county commissioners, is to find a way to balance the needs of an expanding population, enhance the attractiveness of the County for industrial and commercial development, protect prime farmland and protect the quality of life that that citizens of Wood County have come to expect.

We ask you to take time to read this annual report to learn about the many exciting things that area happening in Wood County. We also encourage you to actively participate in your local government through service on a board, commission, or by attending one of our town meetings that are held regularly throughout Wood County.

The Board of County Commissioners
Wood County, Ohio

James F. Carter
Tim W. Brown
Alvin L. Perkins

2005 BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

James F. Carter, President; Alvin L. Perkins, Vice President; Tim W. Brown
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.



Tim W. Brown

Given the Black Swamp heritage of Wood County, and the propensity for flooding during significant rain events, the Commissioners worked with the Wood County Planning Commission to develop and implement more stringent flood plain regulations. Two primary changes were made to existing regulations in order to protect homeowners and prevent landowners from passing storm water problems downstream. The new regulations require homes to be built higher to reduce flood risk, and implement a "no-net-loss" policy whereby landowners who fill in flood plains must compensate for that loss of flood capacity elsewhere on their property.

The Commissioners were pleased to welcome new leaders for two of their departments. Long-time Deputy Dog Warden, Rodney Cook, was named Chief Dog Warden. In addition, Tim Hainen was appointed to the position of Superintendent for the Courthouse Complex Buildings and Grounds Department.

With the population of the Wood County Justice Center often at capacity over the past year, the Commissioners have been pleased by the efforts of new Wood County Sheriff Mark Wasylyshyn to operate as efficiently as possible. In 2005, the County paid \$475,301 to house prisoners at other county jails. This is up from 2004 when the County paid \$272,580 for this purpose. The Commissioners will continue to work with the Sheriff, as well as the other elected officials involved with the criminal justice system to address this significant issue.



Through a renovation project started in 2005, the Commissioners will move the Ohio State University Extension office to a County owned building on Dunbridge Road. In addition, the Agricultural Business Enhancement Center will move to this building as well, providing that office an opportunity to work more closely with the Economic Development Commission to promote agricultural related economic development in Wood

County. Moving the Extension office will further the Commissioners' efforts to reduce the amount of office space that is rented by County government, thus saving tax dollars.

The continued shift of financial responsibility from the State to county government to support state mandates remains a concern to the Commissioners. Included in this shift is the escalating cost of indigent defense. This is compounded by the fact that the State Legislature agreed years ago to provide 50 percent of the funding for indigent defense. In 2005, the State's share dropped to 29 percent, leaving a greater share for the County to absorb. In addition, it is expected that the State's share will decline even further and be eliminated within the next four years. Also of concern is the continued erosion of local government funds. These funds represent the important historical partnership between the State and Counties, as well as other units of local government, to carry out the responsibilities of Ohio law as enacted by the State Legislature. The Commissioners will continue to work with the members of the State Legislature to communicate their concerns regarding the increased burden to Wood County taxpayers due to the State not fulfilling its long-standing commitments.

In 2005, the Commissioners held their first official State of the County address at the Wood County District Public Library in Bowling Green. The event was sponsored by the Bowling Green Chamber of Commerce. In addition, the Commissioners continued their practice of holding open forum, Town Hall meetings at various locations throughout the County. Open forum time is also scheduled every Tuesday and Thursday during the Commissioners' regular sessions for citizens to speak.

Shortly after the Commissioners changed the administration of the Wood County Nursing Home back to direct County management, the management company that had been operating the facility sued the Commissioners for breach of contract. The Commissioners, through the excellent work of the Wood County Prosecutors Office, prevailed in this case after the Ohio Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal to overturn the decisions of the Court of Common Pleas and the Sixth District Court of Appeals.

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

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Buildings and Grounds

COURTHOUSE COMPLEX: Tim Hainen, Superintendent
EAST GYPSY LANE COMPLEX : Alan Stoots, Superintendent

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 and Economic Development Commission.

Staff assisted with the renovations at the Dunbridge Road Building and the expansion project at Wood Haven.

Computer software purchased in 2005 allowed the Department to track preventative maintenance, inventory, and mechanical replacements.

Maintenance staff performed lighting upgrades and electrical projects at the Historical Center, and throughout the complex as needed.

The installation of HVAC digital computer controls at NorthWest Community Corrections Center, Justice Center and Sheriff's Office expanded the staff's ability to monitor the buildings from remote locations.

Numerous building updates were completed during the year including roofs at Job and Family Services, Wood Haven, Juvenile Residential Center, and the Historical Center; concrete and masonry work at Wood Haven, in the form of sidewalks and a new patio with columns and fencing, as well as other locations throughout the Complex; and painting within several buildings.

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, Auto Title, and Veterans Assistance Center. Maintenance staff performed recycling and other light maintenance functions for these offices.

During 2005, Courthouse Complex Maintenance continued to provide assistance with the release and sale of used equipment through the County's Internet Auction process.

Staff installed a variable speed frequency drive pump for the distribution of city water at the Office Building; replaced the hot water heater in the Record's Center; performed concrete sidewalk and drainage repairs; repaired and repainted public areas of the Office Building; assisted in planning the asbestos removal in the County Garage boiler room; and worked with a local contractor on the planning and placement of landscape planters throughout the Complex.

Staff also worked with the mechanical contractor on HVAC repairs and upgrades at the Courthouse Complex including repairs to the condenser fan and shaft, replacement of the electric motor on the condenser with a variable frequency drive motor, and an air conditioning unit for the Recorder's computer room.

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

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 58 percent of all fees collected.

During 2005, the Department issued 6,164 permits. The issuance of permits resulted in 21,349 field inspections, with 2,004 lists of deficiencies requiring corrective action. Of the inspections conducted, 17,808 occurred inside Wood County resulting in 12,384 residential and 5,424 commercial.

Receipts for 2005 totaled \$1,631,566.15. Wood County residential and commercial receipts totaled \$1,400,788.04. Hancock County commercial inspections added \$191,988.19, with Henry County adding \$38,789.92.

During 2005, the Department phased in a new Certificate of Occupancy. The new certificate portrays the uses of commercial buildings better for other agencies to

use including the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Daycare Division; Henry, Hancock, Seneca and Wood County Health Departments, Food Service License; State Fire Marshall's Office, Hotel and Motel Licensing; and 47 fire departments; and assures that they are maintained as approved by the Department.

Building Inspection operates under the Board of County Commissioners and uses the Ohio Building Code, and the Residential Code of Ohio 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 2005

One, two, and three family dwellings (Wood County only)	618
Additions or alterations to single family dwellings (Wood County only)	242
New residential garages (Wood County only)	157
New commercial structures (Wood, Hancock, & Henry Counties)	237
Additions or alterations to commercial structures (Wood, Hancock, & Henry Counties)	288

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 2005, the Child Support Enforcement Agency collected \$18,392,354.79 and disbursed this amount to the custodial parents of children due child support. Additionally, \$412,454.37 was collected and returned to the State of Ohio for cases where Ohio Works First (OWF) was paid for families in need. Reimbursements of \$51,490.31 were paid to the Department of Job and Family Services for children in Wood County foster care living situations.

During 2005, the Agency's legal staff initiated 513 contempt of court actions in Common Pleas and Juvenile Courts, and 117 counts of misdemeanor criminal nonsupport at the Bowling Green Municipal Court. These two activities directly resulted in lump-sum payments of more than \$280,000 and reinitiated regular child support payments for Wood County's children. The Agency's legal staff also recovered more than \$47,000 through administrative activities such as probate actions, liens, and attachment of retirement accounts. Wood County continued its aggressive felony prosecution of criminal nonsupport, with 30 delinquent payors being referred to the Prosecuting Attorney's Office for consideration of felony charges in 2005.

In October 2005, the Agency participated in the state-wide "Round-Up" of payors who had warrants outstanding for child support non-payment. Seventeen individuals were apprehended who owed a combined amount of more than \$179,000 at the time of the arrests. Throughout 2005, the Agency initiated the execution of more than 300 warrants by various law enforcement agencies.

Utilization of the Financial Institution Data Match (FIDM) continued in 2005. 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 \$58,000 was collected from 123 bank accounts, with more than \$2,100 seized from one account alone. The Agency also obtained payments of more than \$800,000 for Wood County children by capturing monies from both federal and state income tax refunds that would otherwise have been paid out to non-custodial parents who have defaulted on the child support obligation.

Throughout the year, the Agency worked to resolve 133 paternity establishment cases locally, in addition to the 362 father-child relationships acknowledged by new fathers and mothers at the time of a child's birth. Most of the 133 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.

As of December 31, 2005, the Agency had 6,489 open cases. The Agency continued placement of an employee in an office adjacent to the Domestic Relations Court 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.

During 2005, the Agency encouraged consumers to change the way they obtain child support payments. Ohio's new MasterCard debit card program, e-QuickPay, and electronic direct deposit are faster, simpler and safer methods to receive support. At the end of 2005, 43 percent of the child support payees in the County were enrolled in one of the electronic disbursement programs. In 2006, the Agency will be working with the State of Ohio to implement "e-disbursement" on all child support cases.

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

Department of Job and Family Services

Paulette Stephens, Administrator

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

In 2005, the Department of Job and Family Services administered \$83,346,728 in various programs. Of this amount, 96.9 percent came from federal and state sources, with the remaining 3.1 percent from local sources. Over \$74 million (approx. 89%) was attributable to Medicaid.

Wood County residents received assistance with basic needs of food, clothing, shelter, and medical care as follows: 241 Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) cash payment cases per month; 5,787 Medicaid cases per month averaging \$6,199,278 per month with 65 percent for those who are aged/blind/disabled and in the community, nine percent for nursing home care, and 26 percent for children and families; \$244,097 monthly food stamp issuance, averaging \$126 per month per case – this includes an average of 2,024 children in Wood County; 46 adult disability assistance cases per month, at \$115 per month per person; and \$285,712 disability assistance medical expenditures in 2005.

As the Workforce Development agency for the County, the Department utilized funds to supply employment and training services to 28 adults and 36 dislocated workers who received funding for training to enhance their employable skills, with some obtaining employment with starting wages ranging from \$5.15 to \$25 per hour. Strong collaboration with the Economic Development

Commission helped the agency locate and contact area employers needing workforce development services and offer them opportunities for aiding in employee recruiting, upgrading of employees skills, and support for employees effected by business downsizing. In addition, 2,406 individuals were served through the Employment Resource Center One-Stop service delivery system which includes referrals to and from One-Stop Partner agencies. The Workforce Development/Employment Resource Center web site, www.woodcountyjobs.com, served as a virtual resource center for job seekers and employers.

The Children's Protective Services Unit served 3,015 children in 2005. There were 102 children placed in substitute care at a cost of \$2.1 million. In home, protective services were provided to 141 children and their families. Assessment services were provided to 1,768 children who were in homes with reported child abuse/neglect. A total of four adoptions were finalized and three children are in adoptive placement awaiting finalization.

A foster/adoptive family picnic was held in July and a holiday party in January. Preparation and training began in 2005 for the new statewide Risk Assessment model (CAPMIS) and computer system (SACWIS). The Children' Services Unit also worked at writing and implementing many new procedures to achieve Council On Accreditation national accreditation status. The purpose is to ensure that best practice standards are followed to provide the highest level of service to the children and families that are served.

The Social Services Unit provided information and referral services to 2,396 people. In 2005, the Pilot Utility



program assisted 750 families, totaling \$490,000. PRC provided \$72,837 in car repair, and Child Care was provided to an average of 331 children each month at a cost of \$1,295,302 for 2005.

Transportation was provided 1,989 times for Medicaid recipients and 124 times for recipients of Title XX and levy funds.

Homeless Prevention was accomplished by providing Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) funds for rent to 40 adults without children at a cost of \$13,475. PRC provided housing assistance to 112 families with children at a cost of \$66,131.

Intensive Case Management Services were provided to 146 families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families to promote self-sufficiency.

Services to senior citizens included Homemaker Services provided at an average of 150 times per month; Home Health Aide Services (through a contract with the Health Department) were provided to elders and disabled individuals at an average of 33 per month, and Chore Services were provided to an average of 22 consumers each month. Adult Protective Services responded to 109 referrals of suspected abuse and/or neglect.

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 the Wood County Family and Children First Council which administered \$158,467.69 and the Wood County Workforce Investment Act (WIA) which administered \$343,356.34 in 2005. ●

Dog Shelter

Paula Hamman, Chief Dog Warden (Jan. 1 - May 31, 2005)
Rodney Cook, Chief Dog Warden (June 1 - Dec. 31, 2005)

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 Shelter's door-to-door program to enforce licensing continued for a second year. Shelter staff also sold licenses at several locations throughout the County. As a result of these efforts, dog license sales increased by 1,484 tags, to an all-time high of 19,071.

The Shelter continued to post photos of available dogs at numerous locations throughout the County and on their website.

2005 STATISTICS

Total Dogs Impounded	802
Adoptions	206
Redemptions	274
Euthanised	322
Complaints Received	58
Pick up of Confined Dog	143
Assistance to Law Enforcement	28
After Hour Calls	42
Owner Surrender	74
Licenses Sold	19,071
Injured Dogs	10
Complaints of Stray	34

The Shelter also received assistance from rescuers, who publicized dogs available 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. ●

HAVE YOU PURCHASED YOUR WOOD COUNTY DOG LICENSE?

It's Not Just the Law... It's a Ride Home!

A Wood County Dog License can provide security for your lost dog.

Ohio Revised Code 955.21

All dogs three months of age or older must be licensed. No dog shall be harbored, kept, or owned without displaying a valid registration tag. (The law applies regardless of whether the dog is kept inside or out.)

Remember to renew your Dog License(s) annually as they expire each year on January 31.

Renew your license on-line at www.co.wood.oh.us. (A convenience fee will apply.)

Looking to Adopt a Dog?

Check the Wood County Dog Shelter website, www.co.wood.oh.us/dogshelter, or stop by the Shelter for dogs currently available for adoption.

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. Emergency Management is the umbrella of emergency forces that respond to and mitigate an emergency that may occur in Wood County.

The Weapons of Mass Destruction Committee continued its involvement with equipment purchases from the Department of Justice grants. The Committee, formed in 2002, evaluates vulnerabilities, equipment, and training needs for first responders in the County.

In June 2005, the County received \$280,550 from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) through the Homeland Security Program Grant. Awards to local political subdivisions and county agencies totaled \$154,774. Preparedness projects for emergency response required continuous assessments of local hazards and a strategy to address those planning areas. The DOJ provided this financial support to the States for development of the equipment inventory needed by first responders for potential acts of domestic terrorism.

The Agency, via the Equipment Committee, purchased communication equipment upgrades, physical security enhancements for critical sites in the County and three 170KW portable generators. The Agency continued collaboration with the Ohio Funeral Director's Association (OFDA) to

purchase two additional utility trailers with mortuary "push pack" equipment partnering with Erie and Gallia Counties to house the trailers and equipment. This project is regional in scope and can be used across the state of Ohio by any jurisdiction that may encounter a mass fatality incident. Additional funding was secured through the Fiscal Year 2004 State Homeland Security Program Regional Grant to support this project.

In August 2005, the Agency was awarded \$14,090 for the Wood County Citizen Corps Grant Program to support citizen preparedness through public education, training and volunteer service in order to make Ohio communities safer and better prepared in close cooperation with professional public safety organizations. This is a collaborative effort among the Agency, the Bowling Green Chapter of the American Red Cross, United Way and the Wood County Health Department.

In September 2005, the Agency conducted a full scale Hazardous Materials exercise hosted by Noveon Corp. (formerly Chemron Corp.) and involved the following agencies: City of Bowling Green Fire Division, Wood County Hospital and Sheriff's Office and Special Response Team, American Red Cross, in addition to the Wood County Amateur Radio Club. The exercise provided essential training to county emergency responders and created an opportunity to utilize the Incident Command System, as well as practice their response and decontamination skills during a potential terrorist incident.

In the fall of 2005, the Director

conducted National Incident Management System (NIMS) training courses for approximately 500 people from six political subdivisions and various county agencies and departments as mandated by the federal government.

In 2005, the Agency responded to 27 hazardous material incidents at the request of emergency responders and assisted as a resource coordinator. Containment equipment, tools, and on-site weather monitoring were made available by the Agency as needed.

The EMA Director while working with the Wood County Hospital offered ongoing monthly continuing education classes for emergency response personnel to provide up-to-date information in addition to regular training required to maintain current licensing.

In spring of 2005, the Director along with Four County Career Center finished teaching a Basic Emergency Medical Technician class. In October 2005 an Emergency Medical Technician Intermediate Class was offered and should be completed early by spring of 2006. The classes are comprised of EMS personnel within Wood County and the surrounding area.

The Director, who is also a Paramedic, continued to respond to Advanced Life Support requests as a Paramedic Intercept unit, with the help and support of Wood County Hospital. In 2005, he responded to 149 requests for assistance from area Fire and EMS departments.

The Emergency Management Agency operates under the Board of County Commissioners with input from the Emergency Management Advisory Committee. ●

Historical Museum and Center

Christie Raber, 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, 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.

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 50-acre County-owned site is part of the system of parks maintained and patrolled by the Wood County Park District.

During 2005, the Center and its resources were made available to more than 12,000 visitors and more than 55 county agencies and community groups. Visitors took tours, engaged in research activities, walked the grounds, and enjoyed education programs.

The Center hosted a diversity of special events: Earth Camp, Mental Health Lecture, Wood County Heritage Days, Antique Appraisal Clinic, Halloween Folklore & Funfest, Old Home Holiday Tour, the monthly tea series, and a

monthly lecture series. The staff, along with a few of the Society's board members, participated in the Oak Grove Cemetery Living History Project.

New exhibits highlighted during the year included "Indians of Northwest Ohio" and "Victorian's Secret". The museum served more than 1,250 area students, scouts, and home schoolers through a variety of education programs. The education coordinator conducted programs for 22 county schools.

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. ●

2005 SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- Completed the second phase of the hog barn renovation
- Installation of electricity in the Ice House
- Launched an Endowment Fund Campaign in honor of the Society's 50th anniversary and the Museum's 30th anniversary

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 year 2005 saw a distinct resurgence in private sector investment in Wood County, along with new jobs in a variety of sectors. With the support of its more than 100 public and private entity members, WCEDC's aggressive and imaginative staff has continued to attract new investment to the county by existing businesses as well as newly recruited ones.

The WCEDC has continued its global approach to economic development, participating in Team Ohio business recruitment activities, as well as the Northwest Ohio Regional Economic Development Association's (NORED) foray into the European arena. The WCEDC's Executive Director was also included in the Governor's Trade and Investment Mission to Europe. Wood County continues to reap the benefits of these privately funded international endeavors. French automotive giant Faurecia was successfully recruited into Northwood's growing Accesspointe corridor, now home

to three suppliers of Daimler Chrysler's Toledo North Assembly Plant Jeep and Nitro initiatives. This company, visited, then followed up on, in suburban Paris, joins Oakley Automotive and Johnson Controls in northern Wood County's "virtual supplier park." These efforts were enhanced and cultivated through WCEDC's participation in the Center for Automotive Research's Automotive Communities Program.

Additionally, in keeping with the WCEDC's mission of diversifying Wood County's economic base, a number of non-automotive investments were successfully attracted as well. The WCEDC played a pioneering role in saving the corporate headquarters of multinational giant, O-I (Owens-Illinois) for Northwest Ohio, facilitating their new corporate headquarters investment in Perrysburg. WCEDC staff was instrumental in assisting First Solar with their massive expansion, further enhancing Wood County's position

as the renewable energy leader of Northwest Ohio. Last, but certainly not least, major expansions brokered by WCEDC staff at Perry Township's Charter Steel and Bradner's American Warming and Ventilating reinforce the WCEDC's commitment to ensure economic development in the smaller communities of eastern and southern Wood County. All told, over \$182 million of new investment was attracted to Wood County during 2005 resulting in 1,234 new jobs created, and 1,315 existing jobs retained.

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



**Wood County
Economic Development
Commission**



First Solar, manufacturer of thin film solar modules, announced the tripling of its production capacity in March 2005. This \$75 million expansion project will create 200 new jobs in Wood County.

Records Center

Brenda Ransom, Records Manager

Created in 1998, the Records Center provides 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. The storage rooms contain high-density mobile shelving units with a maximum storage capacity of 10,646 cubic-foot records boxes. A small microfilm vault stores some of the County's duplicate copy microfilm.

By the close of 2005, the Center received and shelved a total of 7,608 cubic feet of County records. A total of 1,922 cubic feet of new records were received for storage in 2005, nearly 900 more than in 2004. Based on records retention rules, 225 cubic feet became eligible for disposal during 2005. Two additional departments utilized the Center this year, bringing the total number of participating departments to 21.

The small industrial shredder purchased in late 2004 with grant funds from the Solid Waste Management

District was delivered in January and was used throughout the year to shred records that had reached the end of their required retention period or had been reformatted to ANSI-standard microfilm. The paper shredded, which saved 663 cubic feet of storage space throughout County facilities, accounted for roughly 10 tons of material sent to the Bowling Green Recycling Center for further processing.

Records Center staff continued a number of digital imaging and microfilming projects in 2004, scanning more than 50,000 pages of ditch files for the Commissioners' Office and also creating 100 rolls of microfilm for three County offices. In addition to records storage and preservation activities, staff assisted and supported 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. ●

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.

District staff promoted proper waste disposal at community events, reaching an estimated audience of 11,620 in 2005. In addition, 255 presentations reaching more than 4,659 people were given throughout the year to schools, colleges, church, community service and business groups. These presentations

included tours of the Landfill, Bowling Green Recycling Center, and the Wind Farm. Education and awareness programs included partnerships with university professors, schools, and state departments; advertising; and the development and distribution of brochures. The District also offered no charge waste audits to business and industry interested in increasing recycling and reducing waste disposal costs.

Local communities receive \$1.00 per capita to support residential recycling programs. They may also apply for capital grants for equipment to divert materials from landfill disposal. Most communities have received monies for leaf vacuums and wood chippers to eliminate landfilling those items.

In addition to waste disposal, the Wood County Landfill accepts concrete and brick, brush, and yard waste. The brush is ground into mulch. The concrete and brick is hammermilled into stone and used to construct Landfill roads. The Landfill also accepts tires and scrap metal, including appliances containing Freon, which must be removed. These materials are sent to other locations to be recycled.

At the present rate of use the Landfill permitted area has almost 20 years of space. Additional property is available and expected to be permitted for use beyond that time. Currently the North area of

the Landfill is being capped with a clay liner that will collect leachate. Leachate (water contaminated by the garbage) is taken to the Bowling Green Wastewater Treatment Plant.

A turn lane off of U.S. Route 6 originally planned for construction in 2005 is expected to be done in 2006. The project was held up by funding and the desire to utilize ground tire rubber from used tires in its construction. Wood County Landfill is the site of the first four utility scale wind turbine electric generators installed in the State of Ohio. The Landfill is working to install additional electric generators which will be powered by methane gas produced by the Landfill.

The Solid Waste Management District is supported by fees collected on all solid waste disposed at both landfills within the County (Waste Management Evergreen and Wood County). These funds support recycling programs, Health Department solid waste oversight, Sheriff's Office enforcement and litter collection, solid waste education and awareness, and other related programs.

The Wood County Solid Waste Management District operates under the Board of County Commissioners with input from a Policy Committee of seven local officials and citizens. ●



ALCOHOL DRUG ADDICTION AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BOARD

Linda Amos*, John Bick*, Bradford Conner, Judy Ennis*, Sherry Gaffin McDonald, Beverley Hirzel*, Allen N. Kepke, Stan Korducki*, Frank McLaughlin*, Terry D. Murray*, Rickey L. Rudey*, Joe Rutherford*, H. Jay Savage, Lottie Wilson, and four vacancies

BOARD OF MENTAL RETARDATION AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Dolores Black*, Ken Belkofer, Hugh Caumartin, Timothy Harris*, David C. Miller*, Jane Quinn*, and Suzanne Reed*

BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE **

Tim Brown, Dorothy Cromley, Joan Gordon, Bill Lorenzen, Robert Pollex, Christie Raber, Michael Sibbersen, Elaine Skoog, Gale Williamson, and Irma Wolf

BUILDING STANDARDS & APPEALS**

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

CLIENT COMPLAINT REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR CDBG CHIP PROGRAM**

Michael Billmaier, Robert Brossia, and Richard Kohring

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS BOARD**

Joni Bretz, James F. Carter, Floyd Craft, Richard Edwards, John Fawcett, Raymond C. Fischer, Dan Galway, Ann Garcia, Kathleen Hamm, Scott Howard, Andrew Kalmar, Reeve Kelsey, Alan Mayberry, S. Dwight Osterud, Robert Pollex, Mark Reddin, Matt Reger, Stu Sockrider, Tom Votava, and Mark Wasylyshyn

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION MEMBERS

Harold Bateson, Tim Brown, Joseph Carpenter, James Carter, Maxine Cross, Jill Engle, Andrew Kalmar, W. David Steiner, Alvin Perkins, Ronald Sheldrick, and Michael Sibbersen

GOVERNING BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Individuals from across the County provide representation on a number of Wood County governing boards and commissions. Their role is to provide knowledge and support to enhance the functioning of County government. 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.

* Appointed by Commissioners ** All Members Appointed by Commissioners

HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD

Eileen Aufdecamp, Ken Ault, Tom Bamburowski, Malcolm Campbell, Mark Hamman, Eric Honneffer*, Jim Miller, Neil Munger, Dennis Nemec, Lesley Oswald, Dorsey Sergeant*, Louis Snyder*, Ben Waggoner, and Alyce Walden

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Shelian Beaupre, Mark Blake, Joseph Catalano, Sue Clanton, Kathy Ferrell, Elvira Gonzales, Judy Knox, R. Anthony Marcson, Susan Miklovic, Paul Mortimer, Denise Niese, Charles R. Powell, Gene Tiell, Timothy Tegge, Martha Woelke, Laurie Young, Paulette Stephens, and Christine Simington

Ex-Officio Members: Larry Mershman and Melanie Stretchbery

LOCAL COURT SECURITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Rebecca Bhaer, Joni Bretz, Tim J. Brown, Nancy Buchanan, Tom Chidester, Brad Conner, Danny LaDuke, Scott Hicks, Eric Larson, Nina Oberkirsh, Alvin Perkins, Richard Schmidbauer, Mark Wasylyshyn, and Irma Wolf

NORTHWESTERN WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

John Ault, Paul Brim, John Cheney*, John Current, Alex Molner*, Terry D.Murray*, Henry Moyer, Phillip Shaffer, and Lyle Schulte

PLANNING COMMISSION**

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

Non-voting Associate Members: Michael Billmaier, Jerry Greiner, Kelly Moore, Jeff Cooper, and W. David Steiner

PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION

Charles Boss*, Elizabeth Emmert, Dennis Ferrell*, Fred Matthews* and Jack Taylor

PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Nick Ezzone, Anna Griffith*, Sharon Hanna, Scott McEwen*, Brian Paskvan*, Jane Robb, and David Swartz*

REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY**

K. Nathan Bockbrader, Walter Celley, Floyd Chamberlain, Gaylyn Finn, Dean Hetrick, Dan Hoile, Richard "Dick" Martin, and C. Michael Solley

ROSSFORD TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Luci Flannery*, John Hrosko, Raymond Huber, Bob Mack, Michael Melnyk*, Edwin Pavuk, Bob Watrol, and Lane Williamson

TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL**

John Cheney, Valerie Hovland, and Cathleen Wenig

Alternates: Chris Ewald and Tim Harris

WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION TERRORISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Ken Ault, Thomas Brice, David Caprara, Mary Dennis, Ken Fallows, Eric Hachtel, Kathy Heyman, Raymond Huber, Mark Hummer, Michael Instone, J. Eric Larson, Chris Miller, Alvin L. Perkins, John Quinn, Ron Sims, Gary Spencer, Randy Tolles, Thomas Pack, Dan Parrott, Tim Schroeder, Mark Wasylyshyn, and David Weekly

WOOD HAVEN ADVISORY BOARD**

Denny Barrett, Margaret Chamberlain, Warren Phillips, Terry R. Smith, Paulette Stephens, and Winn Stone

Ex-Officio Members: David Cecil, Sue Coker, Andrew Kalmar, and the President and Vice President of the Resident's Council

WOOD SANDUSKY OTTAWA SENECA COMMUNITY ACTION COMMISSION

Total Membership - 24

Wood County Members: Kelly Borders, Melvin L. Browning*, Traci DeBlasio, Alan W. Fosnaugh*, Roberta Lane, and Monica Thompson

WORKFORCE POLICY BOARD**

Tammy Corral, Frank Day, Andrea Depinet, Marie Ermie, Kevin Flagg, Ronald Matter, John Quinn, Mark Senecal, John Schlagheck, Jennifer Schriver, Linda Stacy, Jodie Stearns, and Joyce Winters
Ad Hoc Members: Thomas Blaha, Douglas Garman, Andrew Kalmar, Rhonda Nicholson, and Paulette Stephens

WORKFORCE POLICY BOARD - YOUTH COUNCIL**

Judy Didion, Annette Haskins, Doris Herringshaw, Betty Kahlenberg, Valerie Linkey, R. Anthony Marcson, Ronald Matter, Elaine Skoog, Linda Stacy, and Joyce Winters

Ad Hoc Members: Thomas Blaha, Douglas Garman, Rhonda Nicholson, Richard Schemmer, and Paulette Stephens

Wood Haven Health Care

David Cecil, Administrator

Wood Haven Health Care, Senior Living & Rehabilitation, a 100-bed short-term rehabilitation and long-term health care facility, provides both skilled and intermediate level care and services. Available rehabilitation programs include physical, occupational, and speech therapies designed to meet the rehabilitative needs of residents with the goal often being regaining the ability to return home. Health care services include 24-hour professional nursing care, nutritional evaluation and meal planning, social services and family support, therapeutic recreational programs, psychological intervention and physician oversight. Hospice and short-term respite care are also available. Additional services, customized to meet the individual needs of each resident, are provided as needed. Wood Haven is Medicare and Medicaid certified, is a Hill-Burton provider and serves individuals covered under various nursing care insurance plans.

Dedication ceremonies were held in June for the new 2,400 square foot Bordner Therapy Care addition. The renovation project included a new nurses station and digital call light system in the southeast wing, an enclosed front porch entry and lobby area and new parking and landscaping which included an activity patio and sidewalks installed around the building.

During 2005, Wood Haven registered 162 admissions and 143 discharges, with 97 residents returning home following their rehabilitation stay. The facility logged 32,139 resident in-house days. Privately funded residents represented 15 percent of

those days, while 68 percent were Medicaid, 12 percent Medicare and 5 percent Managed Care or Hospice. Out-patient therapy opened in July providing services to 14 individuals.

The resident activity program included outings to the Toledo Zoo; Snook's Dream Cars Museum; Senior Day at the Wood County Fair; Picnics in the Park; Devil's Lake, Michigan; a Toledo Mud Hens baseball game; shopping trips and meals at area restaurants. In-house activities included the annual Euchre tournament; the Dating Game; Staff and Resident Talent Contest; Elvis Bingo; April Prom Dance; New Year's Eve Dance and regular cook-outs, ice cream socials, cards, games, and movie nights. Wood Haven residents joined with seniors from other area facilities participating in bowling tournaments, bingo in the park, and the Senior Olympics. Several individuals and groups provided a variety of entertaining programs throughout the year. Volunteers from local schools, churches and service organizations assisted with many activities and events.

Wood Haven served as a training site for BGSU students offering internships in social services, human resources, and nursing home administration during the year. Other area students met class requirements working with the Activity and Dietary departments.

Wood Haven Health Care is a member of the American Health Care Association, the Ohio Health Care Association, and the Ohio County Home Association and operates under the Board of County Commissioners. ●



Rebecca E. Bhaer

CLERK OF COURTS

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.

LEGAL CASES AND DOCUMENTS FILED (Partial List)

Appeals cases filed	103
Civil cases filed	743
Land tax foreclosures filed	21
Domestic relations cases filed	456
Domestic violence cases filed	140
Domestic stalking civil protection cases filed	142
Domestic cases reopened	456
Criminal cases filed	635
Judgment liens filed	709
Foreign judgments filed	5
State tax liens filed	750
Executions filed	9
Judgment entries journalized (pages)	36,954
Notary commissions filed	709
Passport applications accepted	487
Criminal investigations	6
Criminal records checks	1,529
Coroner's reports	74

TITLE DOCUMENTS PROCESSED

Auto titles, duplicates & memo titles	62,289
Motor vehicle mortgages recorded	12,953
Salvage titles	163
Penalties (for not transferring titles timely)	3,050
Inspections	6,092
Affidavits	19,099
Manufactured home archives recorded	736
Boat titles, duplicates and memo titles (includes charged replacement titles)	922
Watercraft mortgages recorded	134
Watercraft affidavits	747
Watercraft penalties	159

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.

The Clerk maintains an electronic database containing a total inventory of the Clerk's records. Since 2002, all records are available to court staff and others to access electronically.

LEGAL DISBURSEMENT TOTALS

General fund	\$493,100.17
Legal research fees	\$7,271.26
Computerization fees	\$32,360.80
Reimburse Court Diagnostic fees	\$612.00
Mediation Costs	\$43,500.00
Fines paid to the County	\$25,728.21
Fines paid to the Law Library	\$750.00
Statutory fees paid to non-Wood County entities	\$95,617.41
Funding shelters for victims of domestic violence	\$13,726.83
Fees paid to the Sheriff	\$123,439.11
Fines paid to the Sheriff	\$10,870.89
Fines paid to County police depts.	\$11,605.66
Interest paid to general fund	\$21,752.52
Fees paid to Appraisers	\$47,475.00

Sundries—includes, but not limited to: bond refunds, deposits less costs or deposits in whole refunded, court ordered civil, domestic and criminal disbursements (i.e. restitution), and appropriation disbursements

TITLE DISBURSEMENT TOTALS

Wood County Certificate of Title Fund	\$425,854.22
State of Ohio Motor vehicle and Watercraft Casual and dealer tax	\$15,100,477.58
Certificate of title fees	\$150,934.50
Watercraft Fees	\$2,499.00



Michael Sibbersen

AUDITOR

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 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.

On behalf of Wood County, Auditor Sibbersen accepted the Ohio Auditor's Award for the County's exemplary 2003 annual financial report. Wood County also received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the ninth consecutive year from the Government Finance Officers Association for 2004.

The Auditor had a very productive year with regard to the Geographic Information System (GIS) on the Auditor's on-line real estate website. The 2004 aerial imagery was made available in a format with much greater detail than in the past. In addition, the Auditor completed, through a joint consortium with the State of Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and the Wood Soil and Water Conservation District, a Soils Modernization Project which reclassified and redrew soil type maps for the entire county. Agricultural values for each soil type are used to calculate taxes for all parcels in the CAUV program.

A levy calculator function, an addition to the Auditor's real estate website,

assisted property owners in figuring the cost of a proposed levy.

As agent for the County Dog and Kennel Fund, the Auditor sold a record 19,071 dog licenses and 146 kennel licenses, and was the first county in the area to offer "on line" dog registration with a credit card payment option.

The Office assessed 72,985 parcels of real property with a taxable value of \$2,584,134,090. Special assessments for waterlines, sewers, ditches, etc., were also collected with the real estate tax duplicate and distributed to all appropriate local governmental units. Whenever property is sold, the deed is brought to the Auditor to convey taxable ownership before it is recorded. The Office processed 5,040 such conveyances, including 8,067 individual parcels. The County conveyance tax totaled a record \$1,561,016, an increase of 9.6%, and is directly based on real estate sales in the County.

The taxation of Ohio's manufactured homes requires statutory appraisals based on market value. During 2005, 726 manufactured homes changed hands, bringing the total of registered manufactured homes to 4,726 with a total taxable value of \$16,856,460.

The Homestead Exemption program administered by the Office provided property tax relief for 1,762 elderly and disabled residents who met income requirements. The maximum allowable income for 2007 will be \$26,200, which is indexed for inflation and is based on a resident's 2005 income.

The Auditor's staff assisted in the preparation of 1,750 personal property tax returns, a business tax paid on inventory and equipment.

The consumer protection division of the Office inspected 693 commercial scales and 1,467 gas pumps, as well as electronic scanners in retail and whole-sale use. Staff also checked packages at various locations throughout the County for correct net weight.

The Data Processing Board's Computer Training Lab and Resource Center enhanced computer skills and productivity of County employees, with 200 students attending the 41 courses.

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



Douglas W. Hess, M.D.

CORONER

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.

The Coroner's Office was notified of 129 deaths during 2005, of those, 68 were determined not to be Coroner cases.

2005 CORONER CASES

Auto Accidents	12
Other Accidents	8
Motorcycle Accidents	1
Suicides	11
Homicides	1
Natural Deaths	28

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.

During 2005, Judge Mayberry served as Administrative Judge. Judge Kelsey served as Court Presiding Judge, Court Security Judge and represented the County on the Maumee Conservancy District Court. Judge Pollex served as Chairman of the Judicial Corrections Board.

Adult Probation

Joni Bretz, 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 placed under court-ordered supervision.

In 2005, the Department conducted pre-sentence investigations on 340 offenders, 306 of whom were then placed under the Department's supervision.

The Adult Probation Department supervised 979 offenders. Of those, 249 individuals were terminated from supervision, leaving 730 individuals under direct control on December 31.



Reeve Kelsey
COURTROOM 2

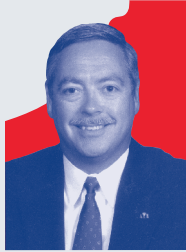
In December, the Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court recognized the joint in-house mediation program. The Court, along with Hancock County Common

Pleas Court, conducted the program as funded by a grant provided by the Ohio Supreme Court. Cases were referred to mediation by the general, domestic relations, juvenile and probate divisions of the Court. Both litigants and the Court benefited by the early, and less expensive, resolution of cases resolved through mediation.

The General Division Judges supervise the Grand Jury, which determines if, based upon the evidence presented by the Prosecuting Attorney, probable cause exists to charge an accused with a felony criminal offense. If the Grand Jury so finds, they return an indictment, advising the accused of the nature of the charges. The matter

The Department conducted 7,532 drug tests and supervised the incarceration of 39 offenders in the work release program, which is housed at the Justice Center.

With funding from the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, the staff supervised 72 offenders placed on Intensive Supervision Probation and 180 on Electronic Monitoring.



Alan R. Mayberry
COURTROOM 4

then goes before the Court for further proceedings.

The Judges supervise the Adult Probation Department and the Court Security program. They appoint

and supervise the Jury Commission, and appoint members to the Veterans Service Commission, Public Defender Commission and the Wood County Public Library Board. The Judges also receive and approve applications for notary public.

During 2005, the Court completed 2,810 cases and 1,042 cases remained pending. Of the total cases completed, 965 were general civil, 1,171 were domestic relations, and 674 were criminal. A record number of criminal case files, 635, were opened in 2005.

The Court of Common Pleas operates under Title 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. They also manage the systems that monitor fire, panic, and intrusion alarms, as well as those that control access to the buildings.

On December 12, 2005, the twelfth and final standard, initiated by the Ohio Supreme Court, was met, providing secure access to the Courthouse Complex. Additional staff was hired to monitor the entrance during business hours. During the

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Probate and Juvenile Division



David E. Woessner

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.

During 2005, 746 new cases were filed, while 862 cases were heard and closed in the Probate Court.

The Court granted 796 marriage applications during the year. Also, 89 cases were filed and processed in the miscellaneous category including name changes, birth registrations, and others.

In 2005, the Court enhanced its audio recording of court hearings, improving the quality of the recordings while making it possible to store and transfer them electronically.

The Court's website underwent continuous revisions to ensure the most current information regarding Probate practices was relayed to Court users. Finally, microfilming remained a priority to preserve records safely and permanently.

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 charged with victimizing children. The Juvenile Detention Center is also administered through the Juvenile Court.

In 2005, the Juvenile Court had 4,204 cases filed and disposed of 4,244. Over half of the cases filed represented juvenile delinquency and traffic filings. There were 357 cases filed alleging abused, neglected or dependent children.

The 48-bed Juvenile Detention Center provided both pretrial and short-term commitments for 906 residents during 2005. This figure included 659 males and 247 females.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7...



ENGINEER

The Engineer has the responsibility of maintaining highways, bridges, culverts, and traffic control signs in a safe and proper manner each day of the year. Under the ditch maintenance program, the Engineer is responsible for cleaning and debrushing more than 600 miles of open streams and ditches, which is just part of the more than 3,000 miles of ditches in the County.

The Engineer also serves as engineer for each of the 19 townships. He provides cost estimating for road repair projects, assists with grant applications, right-of-way location surveys, investigates drainage problems, and applies surface treatment to some of the 989 miles of Township roads.

The Engineer's Office maintains tax map records of daily land transactions such as annexations and parcel splits, as well as keeping an extensive file of survey field records.

Work on a new County map using electronic technology that is compatible with the County Geographical Information System (GIS), began in 2005. The project is scheduled for completion in 2007.

The Engineer oversees a staff of 15 at the County Office Building and 37 at the Highway Garage located on Poe Road. The Engineer is authorized to perform his duties under Chapter 315 of the Ohio Revised Code. ●

SOURCES OF 2005 FUNDS

Motor Vehicle License Fees	\$3,885,417.87
Gasoline Tax	\$2,098,616.19
Traffic Fines & Receipts	\$168,833.26
Reimbursements	\$638,137.84

USEAGE OF 2005 FUNDS

Labor and Fringes	\$3,315,122.90
Road Material/Contracts	\$992,482.94
Bridge Material/Contracts	\$1,258,827.83
Equipment	\$99,883.73
Repair, Supplies & Fuel	\$442,331.90

PROJECTS COMPLETED

4 Complete Bridge Replacements	\$1,373,000
6 Bridge Deck Replacements	\$475,000
2 Bridges Demolished	\$50,000
11 Culvert Replacements	\$350,000
51.6 miles of Roadway Chip/Seal	\$275,000
3 Roadway Repairs	\$115,000
1 Resurface and Widening	\$215,000
Issue II applications	8
Utility permits approved	122
Total Surveys performed	114
Ditch cleanout (silt removal)	31.5 miles
Ditch bank mowing & debrushing	8.9 miles
Ditch bank protection (Rip-Rap placement)	.9 miles



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 11 attorneys, a victim

services unit, an investigator, youth services and programs division, and support staff.

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 12th, the 7th Annual Youth Olympics were held focusing on "Competition without Conflict". The Drug Abuse Prevention Calendar contest celebrated its 16th year. Alisha Sanders, a sixth grader from Eastwood Middle School, was the year's winner.

Her drawing will be featured on the 2006 calendar cover.

The Prosecuting Attorney hosted the annual law enforcement conference in September. The 100 participants discussed updates in the law and related topics including "Alcohol and Drug Analysis in Preparation for Testifying in a Criminal Case" by Robert Dorney, Jr. PhD, a forensic toxicologist.

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

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



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, easily accessible to the public, and retained in an archival form. 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.

A total of 27,492 documents were recorded and/or filed. A total of \$1,492,599.53 was collected in fees. Of this amount \$730,754.47 was remitted to the State of Ohio for the Ohio Housing Trust Fund; \$106,586 was deposited into the Recorder's supplemental equipment fund; and the remaining \$655,259.06 was paid into the County's general fund.

For archival purposes, all records of the Office are microfilmed by the Recorder's staff and stored off premises for safekeeping. Digital imaging of records by the Recorder's staff since 1988 has eliminated the creation of more than 1,000 books.

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. ●



TREASURER

The Treasurer oversees the receipt and disbursement of funds for the County and is responsible for collecting taxes for the County, as well as for the schools, municipalities, and townships within the County. The two largest and most noted sources of revenue are generated through real and personal property taxes. More than 50 area financial offices serve the County as real estate tax payment sites. Qualifying taxpayers may utilize an available escrow program or delinquent tax repayment program. The Treasurer's Office also collects taxes on mobile homes and inheritance.

Advancements in technology continued to enhance the accessibility of the Treasurer's Office. Payment for real estate tax by credit card, with a convenience fee attached, or through automatic withdrawal from bank accounts remained popular with constituents. During 2005, 144 taxpayers utilized the automatic withdrawal plan and 207 taxpayers participated in the monthly automatic withdrawal plan. Information on how to enroll in the automatic withdrawal is available on the Treasurer's website. Change of address and remission of penalty forms, as well as real estate tax information are also accessible online.

The Office collected \$114,946,449.31

in real estate taxes during 2005. An additional \$24,701,246.71 was collected in personal property tax.

All investments made by the Treasurer's Office were fully collateralized and sufficiently liquid to enable the County to meet reasonably anticipated operating requirements. Investment income for 2005 was \$2,551,626.96.

The Treasurer serves on the Budget Commission, Board of Revision, and Data Processing Board in addition to her duties as Investing Authority for the Investment Advisory Board.

The Treasurer is authorized to perform her duties under Section 321 and 323 of the Ohio Revised Code. ●

2005 WOOD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT

ANTI-DRUG ACTIVITY

Felony drug-related arrests	51
Multi-defendant drug organizations shut down	13
Methamphetamine lab cases	6
Defendants sentenced	60
Fines received	\$207,000

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFICER

Domestic violence incidents	155
Domestic violence arrests	90
Court case victim assistance	43
Domestic dispute incidents	301
Students taught in four schools	399
Civil Protection Orders served	84

SEX OFFENDERS

Registered	244
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WEAPON PERMITS & BACKGROUND CHECKS

Concealed carry weapon permits issued	365
Background checks completed	1,016
Persons fingerprinted	1,056
Fees collected	\$30,381

DARE

Participating School Districts: Elmwood, Lakota, McComb, North Baltimore, and Otsego	
CORE students instructed and graduated from DARE	654
Students in grades K-6 instructed	1,318
Students in grade 7 instructed	437
Safety Towns in Weston, Perrysburg, North Baltimore	3

TYPES OF CRIMES INVESTIGATED

Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	1
Attempted of forced rape	5
Other sexual assaults	27
Aggravated assaults	8
Simple assaults	68
Robbery	1
Breaking and entering	70
Burglary	66
Thefts	411
Motor vehicle thefts	62
Arson	3
Vandalism/criminal damaging	346
Criminal mischief	65
Trespassing	34
Total crimes investigated	1,167

ROAD PATROL DIVISION

Complaints received and investigated	20,907
Criminal charges	690
Traffic violations	5,932
Traffic citations	1,066
Traffic warning written	101
Traffic warning verbal	4,359
Accidents investigated	577
Injury accidents	112
Injured persons	151
Fatal accidents	2
Citations issued from accidents	217
Driving under the influence – DUI	118
Driving under suspension – DUS	150
Miles driven for Sheriff's vehicles	1,103,437

911 DIVISION

Total number of 911 calls by WCSO	7,104
Total number of 911 calls by all answering points	18,990

VOLUNTEER AUXILIARY PROGRAM

Members	44
Special events	36
Volunteered hours	4,556

COMMUNITY POLICING

Sheriff's Office Citizen's Police Academy	2
Academy students graduated	23
Festivals and fairs	10
Assisted in operational Blockwatch Programs	4
Other specialized groups	24

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

Participating School Districts: Eastwood, Elmwood and Otsego	
Schools patrolled	6
Grades taught (6 - 12)	7
Topics taught	15
Students taught	1,651
Special Projects	7
Teacher In-service	8

CIVIL DIVISION

Sheriff foreclosure property sales	190
Proceeds from parcels sold	\$4,562,085
Execution of certificates of judgments	43
Money from fees & copies	\$271,648
Warrants received (local & foreign)	3,866
Warrants served (local & foreign)	1,852
Child Support warrants served	303
Child Support warrants - extradited from out of state	45
Cost to bring back	\$48,179
Court arraignments	418
Court papers served (summons, subpoena, indictments)	2,018
Transport trips to penal institutions	347
Prisoners transported to penal institutions	579
Miles traveled for the Civil Division	99,282

EXPLORER PROGRAM

Members (Young adults from 15 - 20 yrs. old)	17
Special events	20
Volunteered Hours	500
Classroom Hours	31
Field Trips	8

JUSTICE CENTER

Inmates booked	4,830
Inmates released	4,894
Average daily population	160
Inmates transported to local courts	2,480
Transport hours	2,337
Meals served – Justice Center	159,475
– Juvenile Detention Center	35,930
Average meals served per day	535
Average daily meal cost	\$1.27
Trustys worked in food service /laundry	84
Hours worked by trustys	35,040
Good time days granted to trustys	336
Trustys granted early release	54

LITTER CONTROL DIVISION

Complaints received and investigated	92
Open burning complaints investigated	54
Number of trustys worked	660
Hours trustys worked	5,857
Trash collected (lbs.)	22,805
Plastic collected (lbs.)	2,553
Glass collected (lbs.)	4,719
Aluminum collected (lbs.)	2,500
Steel collected (lbs.)	4,111
Court arraignments	385
Tires collected (lbs.)	9,625
Miles walked	375
Recycle Center hours worked	916
Fair hours worked	620
Festival hours worked	155



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 areas in the county and provides contract police services. The Office of the Sheriff is unique among law enforcement organizations. The Sheriff is the only elected law enforcement official in the State of Ohio. Additional information on the Sheriff's Office is available at www.woodcountysheriff.com. The Sheriff is authorized to perform his duties under Chapter 311 of the Ohio Revised Code. ●

INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Terry L. Burton, Director
Deborah S. Hazard, 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 available to the public.

It was a historic year in 2005 for Wood County voters as they transitioned from the 33 year-old punch card voting method to the electronic touch screen voting devices purchased through state grants utilizing Federal funds appropriated in the Help America Vote Act. On November 8, 2005, the Board of Elections deployed 488 Diebold TSX voting units to all 96 precincts.

Absentee voters also had the opportunity to experience the new voting method in November. The new optical scan absentee ballots were mailed to approximately 1,600 voters throughout the U.S. and around the world. Including the ballots cast in the Office, over 2,000 people voted utilizing the absentee provisions in the Ohio Revised Code.

The Board of Elections held five elections in 2005 including: two Special School District Elections held in February and August; two Municipal Primary Elections held in May and September and a General Election on November 8. Voters selected from 308 candidates for 245 city, village, township and school board elected positions. Voters considered 51 local and state issues during the year.

The voter registration total for Wood County is approximately 93,000 voters. 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.

The Board of Elections continued to expand the features available on its website. Voters can verify if they are registered to vote, the precinct they vote in, and their voting location. Also included is information on the voter's Congressional, state and school districts.

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

HEALTH DEPARTMENT • Jeffrey G. Cooper, MPA-MUA, 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.

One of the most prevalent public health topics in 2005 was the avian flu. Asia, especially in Turkey and China, is being carefully monitored due to the concern that this virus could mutate to the point that it could infect humans. Currently a vaccine for avian flu does not exist.

Developing and expanding the Health Department's capacity to work within the emergency response structure of the County and region remained a major focus of the Department during 2005. The Ohio Department of Health developed a state-wide surveillance system to identify illness outbreaks earlier and to disseminate that information to all concerned.

Methamphetamine laboratories in the County continued to create a public health challenge in the Environmental Division. Once discovered, issues of human contamination and site contamination must be addressed, while contamination standards are still pending. Furthermore, private home sewage and solid waste

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 support 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.

issues continued to present significant public health challenges in the County.

With rabid raccoons identified as close as Cuyahoga County, Lucas and Wood County formed a task force to develop plans to educate their communities and devise plans to limit exposure to this potentially deadly disease.

In 2005, women's and children's health issues were addressed through the Women, Infant and Children Program, the Bureau of Children with Medical Handicaps, the Help Me Grow program, immunizations, and other programs. The Women's Health grant assured that women can have the preventive care they need, regardless of income. Services include reproductive health, mammograms, pap tests, sexually transmitted disease services, and screening for domestic violence.

Despite the fact that the United States only received half of the anticipated amount of vaccine, the vaccine was available to the community as a whole.

The Board of Health gratefully acknowledges the excellent service of Health Commissioner Larry Sorrells who retired on February 28, 2005.

The 11-member Board of Health, in addition to appointing the Health Commissioner, assumes the responsibility of overseeing the Department's activities to provide for the protection and promotion of health for those living and visiting Wood County. David Chatfield served as president during 2005.

The collection includes online access to statutes, regulations and case reports for the federal level and all 50 states. Digital technology has provided more efficient search and retrieval of information utilizing minimal space.

The hard copy collection includes scholarly works and legal practice materials, with an emphasis on matters governed by Ohio law. The Library keeps Ohio primary materials in print to assure that the courts can function without the digital versions, if necessary.

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

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Alan Sundermeier, Extension Agent, Agriculture & Natural Resources, 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.

The Extension Office and Wood County Hospital offered the "You and Your Medications" program. University of Toledo pharmacy students taught the importance of taking medicine correctly.

ServSafe training was conducted, assisting in the certification of 13 food service managers. Two County schools participated in the Snackwise program to increase the nutritional value of food selection from school vending machines.

Women In Agriculture attracted 150 farm business operators and partners. Participants visited Washington D.C. and gained knowledge of the nation's capitol.

Under the Family Nutrition program, the Extension Office distributed more than 10,000 newsletters to Wood County residents throughout the year, providing an easy-to-read resource on food safety, basic nutrition, and thrifty shopping.

The Extension Office collaborated with the Ohio Department of Agriculture, and the United States Department of Agriculture in surveying and monitoring Wood County for the Emerald Ash Borer, to suppress and limit the spread of the devastating insect.

Six residents accomplished all the requirements of the Master Gardener Program. Participants attended nine consecutive weeks of intense training in horticultural subject matter. Since the inception of the Wood County Master Gardener program, Master Gardener's volunteered more than 13,500 hours in horticultural service at area locations such as parks, the 577 Foundation, and OSU Extension.

Private pesticide applicator license re-certification sessions were conducted for more than 150 farmers. Participants

gained information about pesticide use including wearing personal protective equipment and using pesticide management practices to protect water supplies.

The Crop Observation and Recommendation Network (C.O.R.N.) Newsletter was distributed electronically and in print to farmers and agri-business, providing crop scouting, integrated pest management, cultural practice, and other practical information during the growing season plus updated research results during the winter months. This timely information has increased yields and reduced herbicide costs for thousands of acres of crops.

In 2005, Wood County 4-H welcomed two new clubs and 15 new volunteers. Of the more than 3,400 members, 1,300 were enrolled in one of 70 community clubs and 2,100 participated in a 4-H School Enrichment project. Hundreds of teen leaders, 250 adult volunteers, and five paid 4-H professionals supported these youth.

Thirty youth and mentors learned the art of quilting while stitching lap quilts that were later donated to residents of the Northwest Ohio Hospice Center. To offer support to infants in the Help Me Grow program through the Health Department, 50 teens made polar fleece blankets for Ohio 4-H Make a Difference Day. An additional 400 comfort pillows were donated to hospice patients in Northwest Ohio.

Representing five youth organizations, the Junior Fair Board, with membership of 57 youth, conducted events and activities for more than 2,500 youth at the Fair.

In 2005, the 4-H program offered 2,700 projects in 50 classrooms. Two new programs featuring a traveling farm and quilts in the classroom were offered to 530 youth in the Bowling Green and Northwood school districts.

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

PLANNING COMMISSION • W. David Steiner, 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 2005, the Planning Commission heard and reviewed 15 rezoning requests totaling 500 acres of land. The Commission approved 10 of the requests.

The Planning Commission reviewed and granted final approval to a total of five residential subdivisions that covered a total area of 95 acres and contained 206 single family lots. One preliminary residential subdivision, covering 35 acres and containing 62 single family lots, was reviewed and granted preliminary approval.

The Commission also reviewed and recommended approval of four Planned Unit Developments (PUD). Of these four PUD developments, two were condominium style developments that covered a total of 11 acres and contained 44 living units. The remaining two PUD developments reviewed and approved by the Planning Commission were conventional residential developments that covered 82 acres of land and contained a total of 200 single family lots.

In addition to major subdivisions and PUD developments, the Planning Commission also reviewed and approved 271 minor lot splits and combinations totaling 2,280 acres of land in Wood County. Of these 271 total parcel

transactions, 229 were parcel splits, and 42 were combinations of existing parcels of land.

During fiscal year 2005, the Planning Commission received \$321,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. These funds were used to provide infrastructure improvements, ADA renovations, water and sewer facilities, and roadway improvement projects to assist and benefit low to moderate income (LMI) households for six villages in the County. Projects that were chosen for 2005 included: water and sewer upgrades for the Villages of Luckey, Custar and Milton Center; curb, sidewalk and street repair for the Villages of Haskins and Jerry City; and ADA improvements for the Village of Pemberville.

Designated as the County agency responsible for processing applications for the Clean Ohio Fund Agricultural Easement Purchase Program, the Office processed three applications for one landowner, for a total of 390 acres.

In May, the Planning Commission adopted new Floodplain Development Regulations. These newly revised regulations were drafted and accepted in response to increasing development pressure in Wood County's Special Flood Hazard Areas. Revisions included changes to the minimum elevation standards, and the addition of no-net loss provisions and requirements.

In addition to the new floodplain regulations, revisions to the Open Space portion of the Subdivision Rules and Regulations were also reviewed and adopted in May.

Work began on the update of the current Wood County Comprehensive Land Use Plan. A consultant was chosen in December to help in the update process, which is expected to be completed by the end of 2006.

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

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

In 2005, the Office of the Public Defender represented approximately 3,450 clients. The Office is appointed by the courts to represent indigent defendants. The individual must qualify under the Ohio Public Defender Commission Standards of Indigency, as listed in the Ohio Administrative Code section 120-1-03, to be eligible for public defender representation.

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

Funds for appointment of counsel are budgeted by the County Commissioners and reimbursed by the State at an average of 28 percent. Effective September 29, 2005, Ohio law mandated individuals requesting representation to pay a \$25 application fee. The county retains 80 percent of the new fee to offset the costs of providing legal representation.

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.

litem appointed by the Court for the remaining children in need. As of December 31, 2005, 28 CASA volunteers continue to advocate for 75 children.

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.

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Nicki Kale, District Administrator/Education Coordinator

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 funds 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.

The District provided conservation and agricultural education programs through farm tours, camps, field days, outdoor competitions, classroom visits, teacher workshops, and scholarship opportunities. Many of the District education programs have been

aligned with the State Science Standards. Correlations were established to make the educational programs of the district even more beneficial to educators.

Conservation projects designed for landowners included the following: 22 water control structures; eight secondary containment facilities; three animal waste facilities; four wetlands (25 acres); four certified nutrient management plans; 264.5 acres of filter strips; 50,373 feet of windbreaks; 5.4 acres of other conservation practices; and 418.6 general conservation reserve programs.

In addition, the District completed four ditch projects totaling over 8.8 miles, while assisting on five others totaling 8.5 miles.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program brought \$110,666 to Wood County producers on 18 separate projects designed through the District.

A website, www.wcnet.org/~wcdswcd/, maintained by the District provides program information as well as downloadable order forms for the annual seedling and fish sales.

VETERANS ASSISTANCE CENTER • Mary E. Hanna, Executive Director

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.

County veterans reached out for \$32,454 in emergency financial assistance through the Center. 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 2005, the Veterans Assistance Center brought \$45.14 in federal money into the County. This \$10.8 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.

JUVENILE COURT CONT. FROM PG. 5...

The Juvenile Court Probation Department supervised 786 youth and adults during 2005. A total of 405 youth performed 8,480 hours of community service work and returned \$13,146 in restitution to victims. Programs facilitated by the Department included: Intensive Probation, Electronic Monitoring, the Theft Offenders Program, Drug Screening, and Diversionary Tours of the Court and Detention Center. The Court

also assisted with the Alternative School for at risk and expelled students.

The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program supervised 36 volunteers in 2005 who advocated for 154 children allegedly abused or neglected, providing over 2,500 hours of service. CASA volunteers were able to serve 86 percent of the children needing services, with other guardians ad

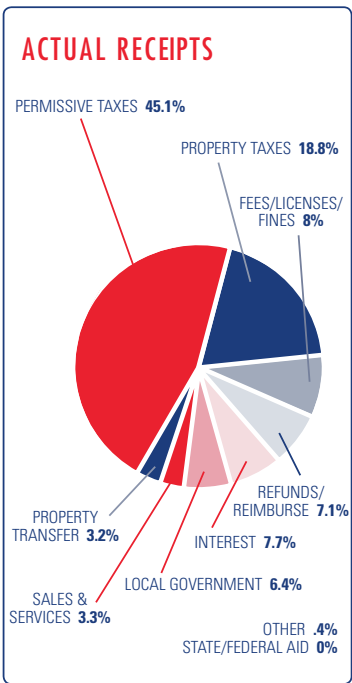
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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.

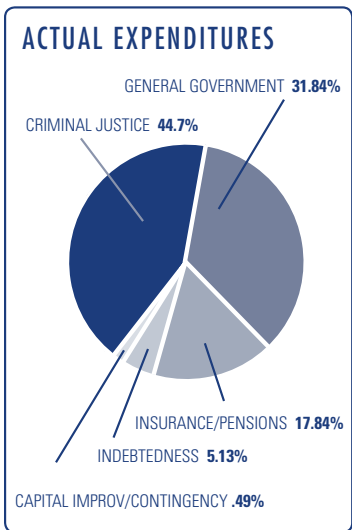
The Commissioners serve as trustees of the County employees' health insurance program, which is self-insured, with a monthly average enrollment of 338 singles and 492 families. Proceeds from the insurance program provided Wellness programs for County employees and their eligible family members. Active management of the health insurance program by the Employee Health Benefits Advisory Committee allows the County to offer employees an affordable health insurance program.

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 2005 totaled \$33,003,650.60. This amount combined with the beginning cash balance of \$7,345,366.31 provided \$40,349,016.91 in available funds. General Fund expenditures totaled \$31,622,900.47, leaving an ending balance of \$8,726,116.44.

Expenditures for calendar year 2005 reflected ongoing revenue constraints and the commitment of the Board of County Commissioners to facilitate the work of County government to better serve County residents. Overall expenditures were tempered by the current economy that manifested itself in reduced state funding and low rates of return on investments. The Commissioners appreciate the support of other elected officials in maintaining a



cautionary approach to all expenditures. Support for County employees through reasonable compensation, coupled with training in many areas also remained a priority of the Board.

The level of expenditures in 2005 was influenced by several significant factors outside of normal operating expenses including general fund contributions totaling \$104,082.80 to various grants including, VOCA, EMA, Community Policing, and Humane Society; equipment including computers and vehicle purchases totaling \$522,375.22; the transfer of \$1,000,000 to the permanent improvement fund; and the absorption of debt for the Landfill waterline and property acquisition at a cost of \$271,365.

Sales tax revenue showed encouraging growth despite continued sluggishness in the national economy. The year-end total was \$14,875,112.58, a 6.19 percent increase over the previous year. Investment income for the year ended at \$2,551,626.96, a 30.68 percent increase from 2004.

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 \$29,540 from County employees to benefit United Way agencies in the local area. An additional \$1,649 was raised during special events, including the chili cook-off.

Other volunteer opportunities for County employees included: two blood drives, one in May and the second in September, which collected a total of 64 pints of blood; and the Holiday Helping Hands Days, held in December, that gave employees the opportunity to donate hats, gloves, and mittens to the Health Department's Mitten Tree and canned goods to a food bank serving Wood County residents.

The Spirit of Wood County Awards program was held on June 12 at the Historical Center, in conjunction with Wood County Heritage Days. The awards honor services rendered by present and/or former Wood County citizens. The Commissioners pre-

sented Spirit of Wood County Awards to: William Buchman — Agricultural Leadership; Rosalea Jimison — Religion and Liberty; and Madeline Carek — the Lyle R. Fletcher Good Citizenship Award. Michael Roller and Arlouwene Harmon were honored posthumously in the Self-Government Category.

An awards ceremony was scheduled for January 12, 2006, to honor the 181 employees who completed five, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 years of service during 2005.

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



SPIRIT OF WOOD COUNTY AWARDS

Nominations for the 2006 Spirit of Wood County Awards are being accepted through April 28, 2006. Commissioners James Carter, Alvin Perkins, and Tim Brown encourage residents of Wood County to nominate current or former residents for one of seven award categories that will be presented on June 11, in conjunction with Wood County Heritage Days at the Historical Center. A listing of previous award recipients is available on the County website, www.co.wood.oh.us, under Spirit Awards.

Agricultural Leadership

This award is for a person who plays an active role in agriculture and as a leader in the strengthening and betterment of agriculture in Wood County. The individual should have an appreciation for Wood County's great resources, its soils and the rural way of life. Nominees may include active farmers or those who have maintained a close contact with farm life.

Liberty Through Law/Human Freedom

Nominees for this award will include those who support the guarantee of due process as well as those who have confirmed the principle that liberty is not a privilege of race. Also, persons who have protected liberty through the administration of justice. (Candidates may include a former judge, lawyer, police officer, former prosecuting attorney, civil liberty advocate and others. Current office holders are not eligible.)

Education for Civic Responsibility

This award is for an individual whose work in and for the educational system has helped form responsible citizens. Board members, professors, principals, teachers, parents or any other Wood County citizen active in education is eligible for this award.

Industrial/Economic Development

Individuals nominated for this award may include those who through the years have played a direct or indirect role in their community in fostering a business climate. Whether through a leadership role or direct involvement in the establishment of a business or industry, evidence of their contribution can be seen in community or county improvement.

Lyle R. Fletcher Good Citizenship Award

Individuals who have in their own way epitomized the pioneer spirit of American citizenship are eligible for this award. They

are law-abiding community builders who have a concern for their neighbor's welfare but whose activities often go unrecognized.

Religion and Liberty

This award is given to one who fosters religious liberty and recognizes his/her contribution to good government. Nominees should be those whose activities give evidence that religion and religious liberty are beneficial to society (e.g., a lay person in civic involvement, a defender of religious liberty, or a leader of a religious institution)

Self-Government

Nominees should be persons who have given exemplary service to the people through government.(e.g., past city, county or village or township office holders as well as citizens who have served on community boards, political organizations, or other civic organizations. Current office holders are not eligible.)

2006 Spirit of Wood County Award Nomination Form

WHO CAN BE NOMINATED? Current or former residents of Wood County are eligible to be nominated for a Spirit of Wood County Award.

WHO CAN NOMINATE? Any Wood County resident is invited to make one or more nominations. The nominator may also assist the Commissioners in presenting the award at the awards program.

Nominee Information:

Name _____
(FIRST) (LAST) (MI)

Address _____
(STREET) (CITY) (ZIP) (COUNTY)

Telephone _____
(HOME) (WORK)

Category: _____

Nominator Information:

Name _____
(FIRST) (LAST) (MI)

Address _____
(STREET) (CITY) (ZIP) (COUNTY)

Telephone _____
(HOME) (WORK)

Reason(s) for Nomination: On a separate sheet of paper, please describe why you believe this person should be nominated for the award listed above. Please be as detailed as possible to provide the selection committee with enough information to make an informed decision. Nominations remain active for two years.

Return completed form to: Spirit of Wood County Awards, c/o Board of County Commissioners, One Courthouse Square, Bowling Green, Ohio, 43402 or e-mail: commissioners@co.wood.oh.us

2005 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	
AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE	JAMES F. CARTER
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE	TIM W. BROWN
INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE	TIM W. BROWN
COURT SECURITY COMMITTEE	ALVIN L. PERKINS
DEBT REVIEW COMMITTEE	BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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
INVESTMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE	PRESIDENT — BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS VICE PRES. — BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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 W. DAVID STEINER, 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 FAMILY AND CHILDRENS FIRST COUNCIL	JAMES F. CARTER

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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/Risingsun: 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