

WoodCounty

2007

ANNUAL REPORT

Office of County Commissioners	4
Department of Job and Family Services.....	6
Building Inspection	6
Child Support Enforcement Agency	7
Information Technology.....	7
Buildings and Grounds	8
Dog Shelter.....	8
Economic Development Commission	9
Historical Museum and Center	9
Wood Haven Health Care.....	10
Records Center	10
Emergency Management Agency	11
Solid Waste Management District	11
Governing Boards & Commissions	12
Auditor.....	13
Treasurer	13
Clerk of Courts.....	14
Coroner	14
Recorder	15
Prosecuting Attorney.....	15
Court of Common Pleas – General Division	16
Court Security.....	16
Adult Probation	16
Court of Common Pleas – Probate/Juvenile Division.....	17
Sheriff.....	18
Engineer	19
Independent Agencies	20
Health Department	20
Planning Commission	20
Ohio State University Extension.....	21
Board of Elections.....	21
Law Library	22
Soil and Water Conservation District	22
Public Defender	22
Veterans Assistance Center	23

2007 BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

James F. Carter,
PRESIDENT

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EDITOR



Wood County Elected Officials. Front Row: Commissioner Alvin Perkins, Sheriff Mark Wasylyshyn, Commissioner Tim Brown, Commissioner James Carter, and Auditor Michael Sibbersen. Center Row: Treasurer Jill Engle, Clerk of Courts Rebecca Bhaer, Judge Robert Pollex, Recorder Sue Kinder, and Prosecuting Attorney Raymond Fischer. Back Row: Coroner Douglas W. Hess, Judge Reeve Kelsey, Judge Alan Mayberry, Engineer Raymond Huber, and Judge David Woessner.

A Message from the Board of County Commissioners

We are 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. It is through the support of citizens and the excellent cooperation of the County elected officials that we are able to provide effective, quality services in an efficient manner.

While the national and state economies have struggled, positive economic progress in Wood County has continued. Moody's Investors Service completed a review of the County's financial status during 2007 and affirmed the excellent bond rating of Aa3. The Aa3 rating reflects the County's moderately sized and modestly growing tax base; satisfactory financial operations; and modest debt profile. Moody's expects the County's financial position will remain satisfactory given the County's conservative budgeting practices and stable reserve levels. Of the 88 Ohio counties, only 12 have a higher bond rating than Wood County.

Transportation related economic development projects were the highlights of 2007. FedEx Ground announced plans to relocate and expand its NW Ohio hub to Perrysburg Township. To be located in the Ampoint Industrial park, the 395,000 square feet, \$87 million project takes advantage of the highway access available from I-75 and the Ohio Turnpike. An agreement among Perrysburg Township, Wood County, and the City of Toledo was key to keeping this significant employer in northwest Ohio. A total of 530 retained and new full and part-time jobs are expected.

CSX Transportation announced plans to construct an intermodal rail facility on a 500 acre site in Henry Township, just west of North Baltimore. The facility which is expected to employ 100 people will be used to unload and sort shipping containers from the west and redirect them on trains headed east. It is anticipated that within 10 years, this facility will generate 2,600 direct and indirect jobs.

Bass Pro Outdoor World officially broke ground in August for their new Rossford retail facility, to be located at the intersection of I-75 and the Ohio Turnpike. With an anticipated opening in June 2008, this 150,000 square foot retail destination is expected to draw visitors

from a 100 mile radius. In a similar manner, retail and commercial development at Levis Commons in Perrysburg is continuing. Phase two of the town center is well underway featuring a signature clock tower—guiding visitors to the new Nagoya Japanese restaurant; St. Julian's Fitness facility; The Hilton Garden Inn, a premier hotel and conference center; as well as office space. These and other retail developments across the county offer significant opportunities for Wood County citizens to shop locally, as well as opportunities to draw visitors to our county.

In 2007, we provided \$50,000 to the Wood County Health Department to support their environmental programs related to housing, sewage, nuisance programs, and concentrated animal feeding operations. With this funding, the Health Department was able to improve their ability to do air sample testing, conduct baseline surface water testing related to proposed dairies, and continue efforts to demolish hazardous structures. An additional \$6,000 was provided to support the mosquito larvicide program that allows County residents to obtain supplies to assist with mosquito control. We very much appreciate the work of the Health Department and the important role they play in the lives of all Wood County residents.

Environmental stewardship plays an increasing role in our efforts to conserve natural and economic resources. We completed a project to install capacitors on major electric equipment, such as chillers and air handlers, in county buildings. Capacitors help to even the flow of electricity from the source to the equipment to allow these units to operate more efficiently. A vapor recovery system was installed on the pumps at the County Fuel Facility. This system will prevent ozone causing gasoline fumes from escaping into the atmosphere. Finally, the staff at the Wood County Landfill has continued to make steady progress on a system to capture methane produced by the landfill, and use it to generate electricity.

In July we were delighted to provide recognition to the staff at the Wood County Child Support Enforcement Agency for their work to promote Child Support Enforcement Month. With a theme of "Making a Difference in a Child's Life" staff members participated in many community activities to help educate citizens about the role of the agency in the lives of children and their families.

We were pleased to participate with a community art project on Poe Road that was a collaborative effort among the BGSU School of Art, the City of Bowling Green, Wood County, the BGSU Alumni Association, and many donors. Artists Megan Small, Jason Karas, and Stephen Williams, along with their instructor Greg Mueller, planned, fund raised, labored, and constructed the project entitled "The People: A Portrait of the Community," over a two year period. We offer our sincere thanks to these terrific individuals, and the many people who came together to make this project a reality.

We remain excited about the future prospects for Wood County. 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 the citizens of Wood County have come to expect.

One thing we encourage you to do as citizens is shop locally. The primary source of funding to pay for the services of county government comes from our one penny sales tax. When you and your family make purchases in Wood County, that one penny remains here to help pay for county services. If you shop in another county, that county keeps the sales tax for their use. The most significant benefit of shopping locally is your support of local retailers and our local economy.

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
James Carter, President

Tim W. Brown
Tim Brown, Vice President

Alvin L. Perkins
Alvin Perkins

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The Board of County Commissioners is the administrative coordinator of County Government and has direct oversight responsibility for 13 agencies and departments. Together the Commissioners manage County funds, buildings and property, and also serve as the County's contracting and tax authority.



James F. Carter



Tim W. Brown



Alvin L. Perkins

Over the past several years the Wood County Employee Health Benefits Plan has included components that focus on wellness for employees and their family members. These components are based on the premise that people who live a healthy lifestyle will likely have lower medical costs – saving them money and saving the taxpayers money. In 2007, Wood County received a Healthy Ohio Healthy Worksite Silver Award through the Ohio Department of Health, in recognition of these wellness programs. Components of the Wellness Plan include health assessments, fitness challenge events, tobacco termination, reimbursement for fitness facility memberships (based on active use), nutrition programs, and other similar opportunities. Based on a recommendation from the Employee Health Benefits Committee, the Commissioners agreed to further expand this wellness effort in 2008, further encouraging County employees to take active responsibility for their own health. The Commissioners serve as trustees of the County employees' health insurance program, which is self-insured, with a monthly average enrollment of 314 singles and 434 families. Active management of the health insurance program by the Employee Health Benefits Advisory Committee allows the County to offer employees a high quality and affordable health insurance program.

The Commissioners welcomed Ben Hendricks as the new Information Technology Director for Wood County. This new position is a collaboration between the Commissioners and the Data Processing Board, and reflects the

growing importance of technology in providing county services to citizens.

The Dog Shelter continued to show positive results regarding dog license sales in 2007. Total dog and kennel license sales for 2007 were 20,458 licenses sold, with total revenue of \$265,194, compared to 19,597 licenses sold, with total revenue of \$241,476 in 2006. The Commissioners have instructed Chief Dog Warden Rodney Cook to focus on making sure that dogs in Wood County are licensed. The purchase of a dog license is required by state law, and is the best way to protect your pet should it become lost. Increased license sales since 2003 have allowed the Commissioners to maintain the current license fee of \$12, while neighboring counties charge significantly more, and in one case, more than twice that amount. Through the efforts of the Dog Warden to sell licenses, as well as the continued good work of Auditor Michael Sibbersen to sell licenses on-line, overall licenses sales have increased by 27.37 percent since 2003.

While overall economic news for Wood County remains positive, areas of concern are evident in the rate of home foreclosures, as well as a decline in the total number of building inspections performed. In 2007, Wood County Building Inspection performed 15,792 inspections versus 18,608 in 2006. For people in need of employment assistance, the Wood County Department of Job & Family Services, through its employment resource center – Job Solutions – has increased its efforts to provide information

regarding job placement, job training, and career counseling.

In cooperation with State legislators, the Commissioners hosted a luncheon to welcome the new director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture, former Ashtabula County Commissioner Robert Boggs. Agriculture is of vital importance to Wood County and this luncheon provided an opportunity for Mr. Boggs to learn about Wood County and for local citizens to meet and discuss issues with him.

The Commissioners were pleased with action by the Ohio Legislature to return the distribution of Local Government Funds to a formula basis. Local Government Funds are a direct reflection of the historic partnership between the state and counties. A remaining concern however, is the phase out of personal property tax which was replaced by the State Legislature with the Commercial Activities Tax (CAT). In 2006, personal property tax revenues to County government totaled \$775,356. In 2006, the State began making reimbursements to local governments for personal property tax revenues based on 2004 values. This will continue until 2010. From 2011 to 2018, the State will gradually decrease the amount of reimbursement until this revenue source is eliminated. While the State has replaced its personal property tax revenue with the CAT, there is currently no plan by the Legislature to share CAT revenues with local governments. 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.

The third official State of the County address was presented by the Commissioners in March 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 locations around the County. During 2007, Town Hall meetings, which are usually planned to precede regularly scheduled council meetings, were held in Walbridge, Northwood, Risingsun, Rossford, Wayne, and Pemberville. Open forum time for citizen comments and questions is also scheduled every Tuesday and Thursday during the Commissioners' regular sessions. In efforts to provide more public access to Commissioners' sessions, agendas and meeting minutes are posted on the Commissioners' website.

The Commissioners appoint members to a variety of boards and commissions, such as the Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Board, the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board, the Airport Authority, and the Historical Society Board. 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 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 2007 totaled \$36,444,637.55. This amount combined with the beginning cash balance of \$11,043,492.33 provided \$47,488,129.88 in available funds. General Fund expenditures totaled \$33,302,996.36, leaving an ending balance of \$14,185,133.52.

In spite of continued revenue restrictions from the State of Ohio, the appropriations and expenditures for 2007 reflected a cautious, yet optimistic outlook by the Commissioners. The appropriations resulted in expenditures that maintained quality services to the citizens of Wood County, allowed for modest equipment purchases and capital improvements, provided recognition for County staff, and protected the County's financial position through its excellent bond rating.

The level of expenditures in 2007 was influenced by several significant factors outside of normal operating

expenses including general fund contributions totaling \$276,239.53 to various grants including, Agricultural Society, Airport, Health Department, Humane Society, Violence Against Women (VAWA), D.A.R.E., Victims of Crime Assistance (VOCA), and the Emergency Management Agency; equipment including computers and vehicle purchases totaling \$738,683.44; the transfer of \$500,000 to the permanent improvement fund; and the absorption of debt for the Landfill waterline and property acquisition at a cost of \$277,327.48.

Sales tax revenue showed a miniscule increase, mirroring the sluggishness in the national economy. The year-end total was \$15,000,365.83, a 0.14 percent increase over the previous year. Investment income for the year ended at \$4,633,743.20, a 35.17 percent increase from 2006.

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 \$28,900 from County employees to benefit United Way agencies in the local area. An additional \$1,650 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 62 pints of blood; and the Holiday Helping Hands Days, held in December, 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 10 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 presented Spirit of Wood County Awards to: Margie Harris - Education for Civic Responsibility; Daniel T. Spitler - Liberty Through Law/Human Freedom; Sharon Bronsink - Religion and Liberty; Betty D. Montgomery - Self-Government; and Marcella Duncan - Lyle R. Fletcher Good Citizenship Award. Keith Sibbersen was honored posthumously with the Agricultural Leadership Award.

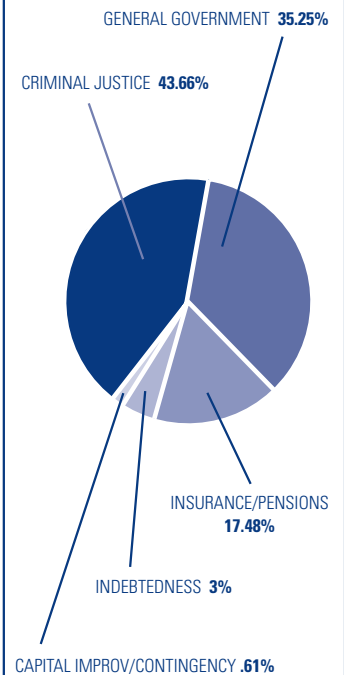
An awards ceremony was scheduled for January 10, 2008, to honor the 148 employees who completed five, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, and 40 years of service during 2007.

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

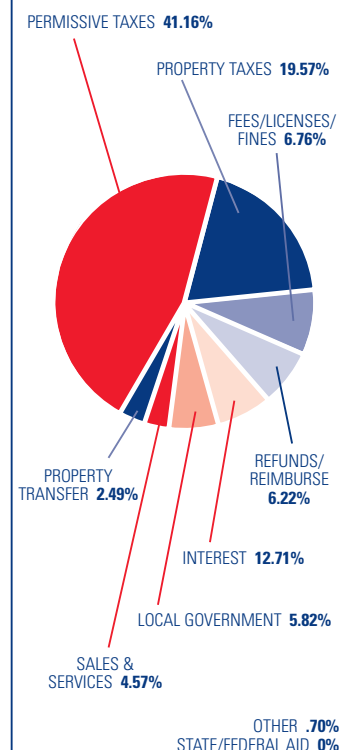
By necessity the Commissioners must take a broad view of actions necessary to make the County a better place to live and work. The Commissioners are thus active in promoting public/private partnerships in human services, economic development, health, and infrastructure development. The Commissioners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

2007 ACTUAL EXPENDITURES



2007 ACTUAL RECEIPTS





Department of Job and Family Services • Paulette Stephens, Director

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

The Department of Job and Family Services administered \$79,322,788 in various programs in 2007. Over \$70 million, approximately 88 percent, was attributable to Medicaid.

Wood County residents received assistance with basic needs of food, clothing, shelter, and medical care as follows: 200 Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) cash payment cases per month; 6,217 Medicaid cases per month averaging \$5,893,606 per month with 61 percent for those who are aged/blind/disabled and in the community, nine percent for nursing home care, and 30 percent for children and families; \$231,301 monthly food stamp issuance, averaging \$119 per month per case – this includes an average of 2,017

children in Wood County; 48 adult disability assistance cases per month, at \$115 per month per person.

As the Workforce Development agency for the County, the Department utilized funds to supply employment and training services to 31 adults and 18 dislocated workers who received funding for training to enhance their employable skills. The Jobs Solutions Unit worked with businesses throughout the County providing them Rapid Response services for dislocated workers and On-the-Job training dollars. Interviewing, pre-employment testing, and screening services were also provided.

In addition, 2,317 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 2,727 children in 2007. There were 73 children placed in substitute care at a cost of \$2.4 million. In home protective services were provided to 117 children and their families. Assessment services were provided to 1,742 children in homes with reported child abuse/neglect. A total of 771 child abuse/neglect investigations were completed in 2007. Three adoptions were finalized and four children are in adoptive placements awaiting finalization. The agency maintains 16 Wood County certified foster/adoptive parents. After hours emergency child abuse/neglect services continued to be provided.

Training and implementation occurred of the new statewide Risk Assessment Model (CAPMIS). Training and implementation occurred of the new statewide computer system (SACWIS). The Children's Services Unit participated for the first time in the statewide "Pinwheels for Prevention" campaign to kick off child abuse/neglect prevention activities during the month of April. The Protective Services Levy campaign occurred in the fall and resulted in the successful passage of the 10 year levy. The annual Holiday Party for agency foster children and foster/adoptive parents was held in December.

In 2007, the Social Services unit provided \$630,560 to 2,497 households in Prevention Retention, and Contingency (emergency assistance) to families in need of rent, utility, car repair, appliances, utility and gasoline assistance. Emergency Food and Shelter Program (FEMA) allotment of

continued on page 7

Building Inspection • Michael J. Billmaier, Chief Building Official

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, and is the largest area covered by a single building inspection department in the State. The Building Inspection Department also conducts residential building inspections within Wood County, accounting for 38 percent of all fees collected.

In accordance with a change in the State legislation, the Department became a state certified residential building inspection department. This change moved the authority for one, two, and three family dwelling units from the Wood County Commissioners to the Ohio Board of Building Standards.

During 2007, the Department issued 4,992 permits. The

issuance of permits resulted in 15,792 field inspections, with 1,079 lists of deficiencies requiring corrective action. Of the inspections conducted, 13,051 occurred inside Wood County resulting in 7,672 residential and 5,379 commercial.

Receipts for 2007 totaled \$1,129,194. Wood County residential and commercial receipts totaled \$941,570. Hancock County commercial

inspections added \$161,267, with Henry County adding \$26,357.

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 2007

One, two, and three family dwellings *

281

Additions or alterations to single family dwellings *

237

New residential garages *

122

New commercial structures **

236

Additions or alterations to commercial structures **

388

* (Wood County only)

** (Wood, Hancock, & Henry Counties)

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 2007, the Child Support Enforcement Agency collected \$18,272,664.65 and disbursed this amount to the custodial parents of children due child support. Additionally, \$150,165.97 was collected and returned to the State of Ohio for cases where public assistance was paid for families in need. Of these amounts, \$709,886.90 was recouped via an offset process on income tax refunds with the Internal Revenue Service and the Ohio Department of Taxation. Reimbursements of \$25,433.38 were paid to the Department of Job and Family Services for children in Wood County foster care living situations.

During 2007, the Agency's legal staff initiated 429 contempt of court actions in Common Pleas and Juvenile Courts, and 102 counts of misdemeanor criminal nonsupport at the Bowling Green Municipal Court. These two activities directly resulted in lump-sum payments of more than \$202,000 and reinitiated regular child support payments for Wood County's children. The Agency's legal staff also recovered more than \$43,000 through administrative activities such as probate actions, liens, and attachment of retirement accounts

and insurance settlements. Wood County continued its aggressive felony prosecution of criminal nonsupport; 12 delinquent payors were referred to the Prosecuting Attorney's Office for consideration of felony charges, resulting in seven successful prosecutions.

As part of Child Support Awareness Month in August 2007, the Agency published six of the most-wanted payors in Wood County on a litter bag. The bags were distributed at both the Wood County Fair and a Toledo Mud Hens baseball game. Three of the six payors printed on the bags were apprehended. Throughout 2007, the Agency initiated the execution of more than 300 warrants by various law enforcement agencies.

Expansion of the License Suspension program continued in 2007. This program allows the Agency to suspend the driver's or professional license of individuals who are in default of their support obligations or have outstanding warrants. By December 2007, 271 cases had active suspensions, and a total of \$45,645.44 was collected via lump sums from individuals wishing to keep their licenses. Through interstate cooperation the Agency collected

\$16,564.00 from an individual so that he could keep his California Driver's license. Additionally, the Ohio State Lottery was able to make three of Wood County's cases winners, too. A total of \$4,594.79 was collected from lottery winnings, allowing two of the cases to be paid in full.

Through 2007, the Agency worked to resolve 141 paternity establishment cases with a total of 399 individuals tested locally, in addition to the 305 parent-child relationships acknowledged by new parents at the time of a child's birth. All of the 141 relationships established by the agency were handled by administrative or court orders for genetic testing.

As of December 31, 2007, the Agency had a total of 6,851 open cases.

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

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

Information Technology

Ben Hendricks, IT Director

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

The IT Director position was filled in January and much of the year was spent evaluating the systems and processes in place. Early in the year, the IT Director was selected to lead the phone system upgrade project that is scheduled for completion in 2008.

In cooperation with the Automatic Data Processing Board, a central data storage system was implemented, new software packages were purchased and installed, and the core network processing hardware was approved for replacement.

An IT Support Coordinator was added to the staff in August. This full-time position is the first point of contact for Wood County offices seeking assistance with technology issues or questions.

Job and Family Services *continued from page 6.*

\$14,323 provided rent assistance to 43 adults without children.

Child Care services were provided to an average of 406 children a month. Child Care staff worked with 75 different child care providers.

Transportation Services provided 1597 one-way trips to

Medicaid and Title XX eligible consumers.

Information and Referral was provided to 2,346 consumers.

In the Adult Services programs, staff provided an average of 192 homemaker visits a month. Chore services were provided to 29 elders, and home health aide services were provided to 24

adults. Adult protective services assessments were completed for 25 adults under the age of 60, and 99 adults over the age of 60. Adult Services are funded through the protective services levy.

Intensive Case Management was provided to 296 individuals working on self-sufficiency before their OWF cash assistance expired.

Services provided in the Social Services unit increased by 17.5 percent during 2007.

The Department is also the fiscal agent for the Wood County Family and Children First Council which administered \$181,729.83 and the Wood County Workforce Investment Act (WIA) which administered \$486,649.10 in 2007. •

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, Economic Development Commission, and OSU Extension.

In addition to the extensive preventative maintenance program in place, staff performed numerous building updates including remodeling, relocating and painting projects throughout the complex.

Proposals were received for replacement of the footer tile and sealing of the foundation at the Dunbridge Road Building with work on the project expected to be completed during 2008.

Staff oversaw the installation of a new fire alarm system at Wood Haven Health Care.

Needed upgrades to the fuel facility to replace rusted and deteriorating pumps resulted in the installation of a vapor recovery system to keep gasoline vapors from escaping into the environment.

The Department facilitated renovations to the control booth at the Juvenile Detention Center. Staff also worked with Juvenile Residential Center staff to attain accreditation for the facility.

At the Justice Center, utilities were connected to the computer in real time.

Maintenance also assisted with the moving of the Log Cabin to a new foundation at the Historical Center.

Courthouse Complex

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

During 2007, maintenance staff completed remodeling work in Courtroom 2, Board of Elections, Adult Probation, Court Administration, and Clerk of Courts along with numerous office alterations throughout the complex.

Staff oversaw repairs to the Courthouse tunnel roof and replacement of the southeast Courthouse sidewalk and steps. The Office Building hot water heater was replaced and a hot water boiler was installed at the Highway Garage.

The Custodial Staff provided window cleaning, floor re-finishing, carpet maintenance, recycling and general office cleaning for the Complex. Community Employment Services of Wood Lane continued to provide containers and weekly pickup services for the complex recycling efforts.

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

Dog Shelter

Rodney Cook, Chief Dog Warden

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

In June, the Northwest Ohio Dog Warden and Animal Control Officers Association recognized the Wood County Dog Shelter as Dog Shelter of the Year. Nora Davis, Deputy Dog Warden, was named Deputy of the Year. The Association membership represents 25 counties and seven cities in the region.

For a fourth consecutive year, the sale of dog licenses reached an all-time high. A total of 20,319 were sold, compared to 19,445 in 2006. In addition to regular license sales, the Shelter's staff sold licenses at several locations throughout the County during the

annual renewal period. The Shelter's door-to-door program resumed in June with the addition of a part time deputy to enforce licensing.

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

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. •

2007 Statistics

Total Dogs Impounded	727
Adoptions	215
Redemptions.....	256
Euthanised	256
Calls Answered	596
Dog Licenses Sold	20,319
Kennel Licenses Sold.....	139

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.

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 2007 saw the ground breaking of the 150,000 square foot BassPro Outdoor World destination facility in Rossford, Ohio near the intersection of Interstate highways 75, 80, and 90. Construction on the \$50 million facility got underway in August 2007 with a projected opening date of June 2008. Expected to employ between 250 and 300 people by itself, the presence of this destination facility is expected to have a significant multiplier effect attracting more economic activity and creating "spin-off" jobs.

Further reinforcement of Wood County's comparative advantage

for transportation and logistics comes through two projects—one at each end of the county—in which major transportation entities are investing millions of dollars and bringing hundreds of jobs to Wood County. Fed Ex Ground Package Systems acquired 127 acres of land in Perrysburg Township near Interstate 75, upon which they plan to build an \$87 million regional hub. It will initially employ 152 full-time and 259 part-time workers, with projected expansion to result in an additional 31 full-time and 91 part-time employees. At the southern end of the county, CSX Transportation continued to acquire

the land it needs, mostly in Henry Township, to create a state-of-the-art intermodal hub, which expected to create 100 jobs and attract many more "spin-off" jobs through its continued presence.

In Lake Township, longtime corporate citizen Jones-Hamilton broke ground on an expansion to their facility. Jacobs Industries consummated an arrangement with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey whereby they would lift containerized freight off oceangoing ships in New York harbor, taking them by rail directly to their Foreign

Trade Zone facility in Lake Township to break bulk and add value.

The Wood County Economic Development Commission continued its work to position Wood County well in the global marketplace, having paid a retention call along with the Lt. Governor of the State of Ohio, to Nippon Sheet Glass, owners of Pilkington LOF, which employs more than 300 people in Wood County.

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. •



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.

During 2007, the Center and its resources were made available to more than 14,500 visitors and more than 50 county agencies and community groups. Visitors took tours, engaged in research activities, participated in education programs, and hiked the site's grounds and nature trails.

The Center hosted a variety

of special events: Artifact Appraisal Clinic, Mental Health Lecture Series, Earth Camp, Wood County Heritage Days and the Spirit of Wood County Awards, Wood County Employee Picnic and Safety Fair, Soil and Water Conservation's Envirothon, Soil and Water Conservation District's Woodland and Wildlife Workshop, Annual Dinner, Halloween Folklore

and Funfest, Old Home Holiday Tour and Gala Opening Event, the monthly tea series and the monthly Curator's Lecture Series.

New exhibits in 2007 included the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit, Key Ingredients: America by Food. Programs focusing on food traditions in Northwest Ohio were held at the museum every month. The museum staff partnered with BGSU to develop a locally themed foodways exhibit called "Northwest Ohio Foodways Traditions".

The education coordinator traveled to 33 schools, while 12 schools traveled here to the museum. The education coordinator taught 1,763 students about Wood County's history. The museum also hosted tours from area daycare centers, BGSU,

and boy/girl scout troops. 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.

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.

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. •

Wood Haven Health Care

David Cecil, Administrator

Wood Haven Health Care, Senior Living & Rehabilitation, a 99-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.

The bed capacity at Wood Haven was adjusted from 108 beds to 99 beds with the conversion of seven semi-private rooms to fully furnished deluxe private rooms to be used primarily for Medicare rehabilitation and hospice residents. One additional semi-private room was converted into a family lounge for the southeast wing. The facility now has 23 private rooms which are highly desired and in constant use.

Short-term rehabilitation stays and therapy services continued as a major focus in 2007. Wood Haven registered 167 admissions with 121 residents returning home following their rehabilitation stay. The average length of stay for Medicare residents was 39 days. Of the 29,998 in-house days logged in the facility, privately funded residents represented 18 percent of those days, while 60 percent were Medicaid, 13 percent Medicare and 9 percent Managed Care or Hospice. Bordner Therapy Care continued to provide out-patient services to many individuals who were discharged to home.

The resident activity program included outings to the Toledo Zoo; Senior Day at the Wood County Fair; Picnics in the Park; and shopping trips and meals at area restaurants. In-house activities included the annual Euchre tournament; Easter egg

hunt; staff and resident talent contest; OSU vs. Michigan party; Christmas open house; New Year's Eve party; and regular cook-outs, ice cream socials, cards, games, and movie nights. The ladies organized as a chapter of the "Red Hat Society" and the men countered with their own "Black Cap Club". Wood Haven residents joined with seniors from other area facilities by participating in bowling tournaments and bingo in the park. Several individuals and groups provided a variety of entertaining programs throughout the year, and volunteers from local schools, churches and service organizations assisted with many activities and events.

Wood Haven served as a clinical training site for nursing students from Brown Mackie College and offered BGSU students internships in social services, human resources, and nursing home administration. 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. ●

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 10,598 cubic-foot records boxes. A small microfilm vault stores some of the County's duplicate copy microfilm.

By the close of 2007, the Center received and shelved a total of 8,291 cubic feet of County records. A total of 754 cubic feet of new records were received for storage in 2007. Based on records retention rules, 288 cubic feet became eligible for disposal during the year. The Center is utilized by 22 County offices to store inactive and historical records.

With the small industrial shredder purchased in 2004, a total of 6.5 tons of paper was sent to the Bowling Green Recycling Center for further processing. The shredding of these obsolete records saved approximately 530 cubic feet of storage space throughout County facilities.

Records Center staff continued a number of digital imaging and microfilming projects in 2007, scanning more than 6,600 Auditor's payroll files of former County employees and creating 75 rolls of microfilm for the Health Department, Probate Court, Sheriff's Office, and Clerk of Courts. 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. ●



Emergency Management Agency

Bradley J. Gilbert, 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 and Equipment Committee was renamed the Wood County Terrorism Advisory Team per State requirements and continued to evaluate the County's preparedness and vulnerabilities in accordance with State and Federal requirements. In accordance with State requirements, the Advisory Team evaluated interoperability and identified some "gaps" in the primary law enforcement communications system. This will be addressed utilizing the FY07 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Grant being awarded to Wood County in the amount of \$122,371 in 2008.

The Agency worked with six Wood County Public Service Answering Points (PSAPs), under the FY06 DHS Grant, to have a statewide radio system (MARCS) installed in the PSAPs to provide increased interoperability with State agencies. Local Wood County talkgroups were also established in the statewide MARCS radio system to provide increased interoperability between the local PSAPs and other first responder agencies that have MARCS capabilities.

Numerous agencies and entities within the County began researching information on the possibility of implementing a county-wide emergency notification system which could notify people of serious emergencies via their telephone or cell phone. Research of available technology and funding sources for this type of system will continue into 2008.

The Agency was awarded \$10,900 for the Citizen Corps Grant program under the Department of Homeland Security Grant Programs. Citizen Corps is a grass-roots movement that actively involves everyone in making communities across

America safer, stronger, and better prepared. The purpose of this grant is to support citizen preparedness through public education; training and volunteer service in close cooperation with professional public safety organizations. Two programs were developed under Citizen Corps; Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). The MRC Program is administered by the Wood County Health Department.

In September 2007, Wood County held a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training course countywide for volunteers. CERT is a training program that prepares participants to help themselves, their family and their neighbors in the event of a disaster. The training also promotes a partnering effort between emergency services and the people they serve. If a disastrous event overwhelms or delays the community's professional response, CERT members can assist others by applying basic response and organizational skills that they learned during the training course. These skills can help save and sustain lives following a disaster until help arrives.

In 2007, the Agency and the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) continued to work together on hazardous materials emergency planning and training development for Wood County's first responders. A successful tabletop exercise on hazardous materials was conducted in May with the help of the City of Perrysburg and Perrysburg Township officials.

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

Solid Waste Management District

Ken Rieman, Director

The Solid Waste Management District manages solid waste planning and the development of recycling opportunities for residents. It also operates the Wood County Landfill, established under 1968 garbage district legislation. All cities, villages, and unincorporated areas of Wood County are part of the Wood County Garbage District and thereby share financial responsibility for the Wood County Landfill. The mission of the County-owned facility is to provide an environmentally responsible disposal facility for citizens, businesses, and industry that is self-supporting and meets or exceeds all regulations. The District is required to assure there is sufficient disposal capacity for solid waste generated within Wood County. It also must assure that 90 percent of the citizens have access to curbside or drop-off recycling and educate people on proper waste disposal.

Due to the success of the "Everyday Solutions" education and awareness campaign, the District continued its promotion throughout 2007. The education staff made 264 presentations to more than 4,500 people. These included 79 classroom visits and 185 tours of the Bowling Green Recycling Center, the Wood County Landfill and Wind Farm.

Displays, advertising, brochures, and partnerships with entities such as Community Employment Services (CES) of Wood Lane and the Bowling Green Recycling Center continued to provide County residents with recycling opportunities and solid waste reduction/disposal and litter prevention information. The District also provided containers and recycling collection to all Wood County schools in cooperation with CES.

The District continued to provide financial support to the Health Department for landfill oversight and the Sheriff's Office for support of a litter collection crew and enforcement of solid waste related regulations. The Juvenile Court litter collection program also received support from the District.

In an effort to reach electronic users, the District updated its website during the year. The site was enhanced to include grant information and requirements as well as general information on recycling, educational programs and tour information.

The Wood County Landfill, a disposal and recovery facility, is a state of the art Ohio EPA approved facility. Materials such as concrete and brick are recovered and used for stone. Yard waste is also accepted and either composted or ground into mulch, which is screened and sold, providing a convenient and cost effective means for County residents to dispose of this material.

At the Landfill, construction of a 3-foot thick clay liner over 4.9 acres of the original disposal area was completed, with work remaining on 15 additional acres. This clay liner covers the previous disposal area and allows waste to be placed on top of it reducing the need to expand the footprint of the facility. Also constructed was a permanent haul-road to the next level of the present disposal area.

continued on page 19



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

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

ALCOHOL DRUG ADDICTION AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BOARD

Linda Amos*, Jerome Carpenter*, Bill Culbertson*, Judy Ennis*, Christopher Goliver, Allen N. Kepke, Stan Korducki*, Michael Linthicum, Frank McLaughlin*, Eric Reynolds, Rickey L. Rudey*, Steve Spirn*, H. Jay Salvage, Lottie Wilson, and four vacancies

BOARD OF MENTAL RETARDATION AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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

BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE **

Tim Brown, Dorothy Cromley, Joan Gordon, Tim Hainen, Robert Pollex, Christie Raber, Michael Sibbersen, Elaine Skoog, and Karen Young

GOVERNING BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

BUILDING STANDARDS & APPEALS**

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

CLIENT COMPLAINT REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR CDBG CHIP PROGRAM**

Michael Billmaier, Robert Brossia, and Richard Kohring

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS BOARD**

Joni Bretz, James F. Carter, John Fawcett, Raymond C. Fischer, Dan Galway, Ann Garcia, Ronda Gibson, Kathleen Hamm, Scott Howard, Andrew Kalmar, Reeve Kelsey, Alan Mayberry, S. Dwight Osterud, Robert Pollex, Mark Reddin, Matt Reger, Gary Spencer, and Mark Wasylshyn

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION MEMBERS

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

HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD

Ken Ault, Rebecca Bhaer*, Millie Broka, Malcolm Campbell, Ethel Green, Mark Hamman, Jan Larson, Neil Munger, Edie Olds, Leslie Oswald, Dorsey Sergeant*, Louis Snyder*, Leslee Thompson, Alyce Walden, and Becky White-Schooner

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Shelian Beaupre, Joseph Catalano, Sue Clanton, Kathy Ferrell, Candelario Gunzman, Judy Knox, Susan Miklovic, Paul Mortimer, Denise Niese, Paulette Stephens, Christine Simington, Timothy Tegge, Martha Woelke, and Laurie Young. EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: Larry Mershman and Melanie Stretchbery

LOCAL COURT SECURITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Rebecca Bhaer, Joni Bretz, Nancy Buchanan, Tom Chidester, Brad Conner, Rodney Fleming, Scott Hicks, Nina Oberkirsh, Alvin Perkins, Richard Schmidbauer, Rick Schmidt, Anthony Thompson, Mark Wasylshyn, and Karen Young

NORTHWESTERN WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

John Ault, Paul Brim, John Cheney*, John Current, Melinda Kale, Alex Molner*, Terry D. Murray*, 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 Leslee Thompson. NON-VOTING ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: Michael Billmaier, Jerry Greiner, Kelly Hemminger, and W. David Steiner

PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION

Charles Boss*, Eva Dhondt, Elizabeth Emmert, Dennis Ferrell*, and Fred Matthews*

PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Nick Ezzone, Anna Griffith*, Chet Marcin, Scott McEwen*, Brian Paskvan*, Jane Robb, and David Swartz*

REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY**

K. Nathan Bockbrader, Walter Celley, Gaylyn Finn, Larry Garzony, Dean Hetrick, Steve Hopkins, Richard "Dick" Martin, and C. Michael Solley

ROSSFORD TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Ed Ciecka, Luci Flannery*, John Hrosko, Raymond Huber, Bob Mack, Michael Melnyk*, Edward Pavuk, and Bob Watrol

TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL**

John Cheney, Valerie Hovland, and Cathleen Wenig. ALTERNATES: Chris Ewald and Tim Harris

TERRORISM ADVISORY TEAM (FORMERLY WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION TERRORISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE)**

Thomas Bentley, Thomas Brice, Gary Britten, Pam Butler, Tammy Feehan, Brad Gilbert, Jerry Greiner, Thomas Gross, Gerald Herman, Raymond Huber, Andrew Kalmar, Jeff Klein, Rod Lucas, Tim McGiffin, Alvin Perkins, John Quinn, Gary Spencer, Joan Stevens, Janet Stoudinger, and Mark Wasylshyn

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 Melvin L. Browning*, Alan W. Fosnaugh*, Connie Gauthier, Roberta Lane, Monica Thompson, and one vacancy.

WORKFORCE POLICY BOARD**

Frank Day, Andrea Depinet, Marie Ermie, Kevin Flagg, Ronald Matter, John Quinn, John Schlagheck, Linda Stacy, and Cathy Newlove Wenig, Joyce Winters, and four vacancies. AD HOC MEMBERS: Thomas Blaha, Douglas Garman, Andrew Kalmar, Mary DeWitt, and Paulette Stephens

WORKFORCE POLICY BOARD - YOUTH COUNCIL**

Judy Didion, Annette Haskins, Doris Herringshaw, Betty Kahlenberg, Valerie Linkey, Ronald Matter, Elaine Skoog, Linda Stacy, and Joyce Winters. AD HOC MEMBERS: Thomas Blaha, Douglas Garman, Richard Schemmer, and Paulette Stephens



AUDITOR

Michael Sibbersen

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.

As agent for the County Dog and Kennel Fund, the Auditor recorded record sales of dog licenses with 20,319 dog licenses and 139 kennel licenses sold during 2007. The online dog registration with a credit card payment option remained popular with dog owners with 2,833 licenses sold utilizing this method.

The Office assessed 73,698 parcels of real property with a taxable value of \$2,742,737,010. 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 4,378 such conveyances, including 6,567 individual parcels. The County conveyance tax totaled \$904,258, and is directly based on real estate sales prices in the County.

The GIS department provided digital geospatial mapping and analysis to support the real estate assessment process. In addition, the Office continued to provide GIS analysis and map output for other county and municipal agencies. The Auditor and Engineer successfully completed the Location Based Response System project that will provide the County with a complete centerline and address database.

A vast expansion in the number of County residents receiving tax reductions from the Homestead Exemption was the result of a 2007 change in Ohio law. Income

requirements were removed and tax savings increased. The Auditor's Office concerted effort to reach eligible property owners resulted in a total of 8,404 in the program, up from the 1,792 in 2006. Applications for the Homestead Exemption are accepted on an on-going basis.

The Auditor's staff assisted in the preparation of 1,424 personal property tax returns, a business tax paid on inventory and equipment. This particular tax is being phased out in 2008 due to the legislature's tax restructuring.

The consumer protection division of the Office inspected 720 commercial scales, 1,464 gas pumps, as well as electronic scanners in retail and wholesale use, and investigated 16 complaints. Staff also checked packages at various locations throughout the County for correct net weight.

Wood County received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 11th consecutive year from the Governmental Finance Officers Association for 2006. The County was also the recipient of the Auditor of State's "Making Your Tax Dollars Count" Award for excellence in financial reports as represented by the office's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

The Office continued to operate two websites: one for general office information, forms, and dog registration and one for real estate and mapping.

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



Jill Engle

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 2007, 179 taxpayers utilized the automatic withdrawal plan and 257 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 \$140,910,764.90 in real estate taxes during 2007. An additional \$15,766,630.75 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 2007 was \$4,633,743.20.

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. •



CLERK OF COURTS

Rebecca E. Bhaer

The Clerk of Courts maintains the records of Common Pleas Court, issues motor vehicle and watercraft titles, and serves as Clerk for the Sixth District Court of Appeals. She is a member of the Data Processing Board and Records Commission. In 1998 she was appointed to the Automated Title Processing Board and continues to serve at the pleasure of Governor Strickland.

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. The duties of the Clerk of Courts are authorized under many sections of the Ohio Revised Code. •

LEGAL CASES AND DOCUMENTS FILED (Partial List)

Appeals cases filed	86
Civil cases filed	1,072
Land tax foreclosures filed	35
CV foreclosure cases	514
Domestic relations cases filed	452
Domestic violence cases filed	139
Domestic stalking civil protection cases filed	205
URESAs	1
Foreign support	9
Domestic cases reopened	354
Criminal cases filed	562
Judgment liens filed	781
Foreign judgments filed	13
State tax liens filed	1,205
Executions filed	5
Total number of Judgment Entries	13,124
Notary commissions filed	505
Passport applications accepted	405
Criminal investigations	1
Criminal record checks	2,248
Search warrants	4
Coroner's reports filed	85

TITLE DOCUMENTS PROCESSED

Auto titles, duplicates & memo titles	55,851
Motor vehicle mortgages recorded	13,493
Salvage titles	150
Penalties (for not transferring titles timely)	2,672
Inspections	5,652
Affidavits	17,865
Manufactured home archives recorded	647
Boat titles, duplicates and memo titles (includes charged replacement titles)	776
Watercraft mortgages recorded	77
Watercraft affidavits	701
Watercraft penalties	124

LEGAL DISBURSEMENT TOTALS \$2,939,900.37

General fund	\$380,032.85
Legal research fees	\$8,280.69
Computerization fees	\$34,822.67
Reimburse court diagnostic fees	\$13,416.80
Mediation costs	\$67,466.26
Fines paid to the County	\$32,216.68
Fines paid to the Law Library	\$750.00
Statutory fees paid to non-Wood County entities	\$142,811.32
Funding shelters for victims of domestic violence	\$14,213
Fees paid to the Sheriff	\$126,496.04
Fines paid to the Sheriff	\$10,072.04
Interest paid to general fund	\$30,853.80
Fees paid to Appraisers	\$84,450
Indigent application fees	\$752.58
Guardian ad litem fees	\$0
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	\$1,993,265.64

TITLE DISBURSEMENT TOTALS \$13,192,666.37

Clerk of Courts	
Certificate of Title Fund Receipts	\$389,229.45
State of Ohio Motor vehicle and Watercraft Casual and dealer tax	\$12,664,679.17
Certificate of title fees	\$136,632.25
Watercraft Fees	\$2,125.50



CORONER

Douglas W. Hess, M.D.

The Coroner evaluates and rules on all violent, accidental, and suspicious circumstance deaths, homicides, suicides, and sudden deaths of persons in apparent good health. A licensed physician, the Coroner performs lab tests, x-rays, or autopsies as needed. The Coroner generally does not investigate deaths that occur from natural causes, when the person has a family physician. An official report of the Coroner's findings is filed with the Clerk of Courts. The Coroner is authorized to perform his duties under Chapter 313 of the Ohio Revised Code.

The Coroner's Office was notified of 173 deaths during 2007, of those, 88 were determined not to be Coroner cases. •

2007 CORONER CASES

Auto Accidents	17
Homicide	5
Natural	31
Other Accidents	14
Pending	3
Suicide	13
Undetermined	2
Total Cases	85



Sue Kinder

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 22,150 documents were recorded and/or filed, with \$1,120,070.46 collected in fees. Of this amount \$550,910.50 was remitted to the State of Ohio for the Ohio Housing Trust Fund; \$85,172 was deposited into the Recorder's supplemental equipment fund; and the remaining \$483,387.96 was paid into the County's general fund.

For archival purposes, all records of the Office are microfilmed on 16mm and 35mm film 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. •

2007 DOCUMENTS

Deeds	4,027
Judgment entries, affidavits, agreements and certificates for transfer	1,099
Mortgages (total value \$31,081,955,129.36)	6,552
Mortgage assignments and waivers of priority	1,000
Land Contracts	64
Mortgages released (with a value of \$4,480,568,644.64)	6,873
Rights of way and easements	194
Leases	31
Mechanics liens	86
Plats (creating 228 lots)	9
Condominiums (creating 24 units)	5
Federal Tax Liens	159
Financing statements, security agreements	76
Terminations	47
Financing statement assignments, amendments and releases	47
Miscellaneous documents including addendums, assignments of lease/rents, assignments of rents/lease, abstract judgments, amendments (partnerships, townships), annexations, anti-terrorism, cancellations, certificates, complaints, consents, covenants, declarations (condo), disclaimers, license, liens (condo, federal estate tax, mechanics, homeowners, personal tax, recognizance, state), medicaid recipients, memo of trusts, mergers, master mortgage forms, notices (notice to commence suits, notice of liens), nunc pro tunc, options, ordinances, orders, partnerships, power of attorneys (durable, military), perf bond, partial releases, premium dues, ratifications, easement releases, federal tax lien releases, federal estate tax lien releases, lease releases, mechanical lien releases, personal tax releases, premium due releases, state lien releases, ucom releases, workers comp releases, renewals, resolutions, restrictions, revocations, right of refusals, surveys, terminations, unemployment compensations and waivers	1,881



Raymond C. Fischer

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 was offered to school districts in the County. On March 10th, the 9th Annual Youth Olympics were held focusing on "Competition without Conflict". *USA Today* sports columnist, Christine Brennan, was the special guest speaker. The Safety Kids Calendar contest celebrated its 18th year. Tiffany Borders, an eighth grader from Lake Middle School, was the year's winner. Her drawing will

be featured on the 2008 calendar cover.

The Prosecuting Attorney hosted the annual law enforcement conference in September. The 100 participants heard from Special Agent Dan Winterich, Major Crimes Section/Crime Scene Unit and Julie Fox, Forensic Scientist in the DNA Lab, both of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Identification.

The speakers' 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. •

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

General Division

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 2007, Judge Pollex served as Administrative Judge and represented the Court on the Judicial Advisory Board for the NorthWest Community Corrections Center; Judge Mayberry served as Presiding Judge; and Judge Kelsey served as Court Security Judge and represented the County on the Maumee Conservancy District Court.

In 2007, the Court, along with Hancock County Common Pleas Court, continued the joint in-house mediation program. 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 settled through mediation.

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.

The single, secure entrance to the Courthouse Complex during business hours was implemented at the end of 2005. During 2007, the magnetometers at this entrance registered 152,323 walk-throughs during the year, resulting in the holding of approximately 2,077 prohibited items.

The Department conducted 17 informative school tours of the Complex.

The Department also maintained a website to provide the public with information regarding the Complex.

The Department reported to Judge Reeve Kelsey, who served as the Court Security Judge during 2007. •



Robert C. Pollex
COURTROOM 1



Reeve Kelsey
COURTROOM 2



Alan R. Mayberry
COURTROOM 4

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 then goes before the Court for further proceedings.

The Judges supervise the Adult Probation and Court Security Departments. 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, with 164 new applications and 353 renewal applications received during the year.

During 2007, the Court completed 2,799 cases and 1,178 cases remained pending. Of the total cases completed, 1,111 were general civil, 1,150 were domestic relations, and 538 were criminal. A record number of civil cases were filed in 2007, including 553 foreclosure actions.

The Court of Common Pleas operates under Title 23 of the Ohio Revised Code. •

Adult Probation

Joni Bretz, Director

The Adult Probation Department, under the authority of the Court of Common Pleas, conducts pre-sentence investigations for purposes of sentencing, and supervises felony level offenders placed under court-ordered supervision.

In 2007, the Department conducted pre-sentence investigations on 272 offenders and 270 new offenders were placed under the Department's supervision.

The Adult Probation Department supervised 1,007 offenders. Of those, 288 individuals were terminated from supervision, leaving 719 individuals under direct control on December 31.

The Department conducted 7,268 drug tests and supervised the incarceration of 36 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 88 offenders placed on Intensive Supervision Probation and 226 on Electronic Monitoring. •



David E. Woessner

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS • Probate and Juvenile Division

Cases heard in Probate Court involve decedent's estates, guardianships, conservatorships, testamentary trusts, civil actions, adoptions, mental illness, minor settlements, and wrongful deaths. In addition, the Probate Court provides registration services for births, name changes, miscellaneous filings, and marriage license 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, School Board Members, Wood County Humane Agents, and Special Deputy Clerks.

During 2007, 798 new cases were filed, while 783 cases were heard and closed in the Probate Court. The Court granted 716 marriage applications during the year.

In 2007, a major initiative in Probate Court was to conserve

valuable county office space. The Court attempted to balance the statutory records retention requirements with the public's interest in historical preservation. As a result, many newer records were transferred to microfilm so that the older, historical records could be maintained in their original format. The Court's records retention efforts also involved an agreement between the Probate Court and the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center for future preservation of Probate Court records.

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 2007, the Juvenile Court had 3,994 cases filed and disposed of 4,130. Juvenile delinquency and traffic filings accounted for 2,335 of the newly filed cases. Among other cases, there were 371 cases filed alleging abused, neglected or dependent children.

The 48-bed Juvenile Detention Center provided both pretrial and post adjudication commitments for 867 residents during 2007. This figure included 628 males and 239 females.

The Juvenile Court Probation Department supervised 753 youth and adults during 2007. A total of 474 youth performed 7,153.25 hours of community service work and returned \$18,219.90 in restitution to victims. Programs facilitated by the Department included: the Truancy Program, Electronic Monitoring, the Theft Offenders Program, Drug Screening, Gun Safety courses, a

Goals for Gals/Guys program and Diversionary programming involving the Court and Detention Center.

The Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian ad Litem (CASA/GAL) program supervised 35 volunteers in 2007 who advocated for 150 allegedly abused or neglected children and provided more than 3,650 hours of service. As of December 31, 33 CASA/GAL volunteers continued to advocate for 73 children. The program also supervised 10 volunteers serving on the Citizens Review Board - a board which reviews case plans that have been developed by the Department of Job and Family Services Children Services unit to assist families involved with the Court. In 2007, the Citizens Review Board reviewed more than 190 case plans.

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. •

Juvenile Court Control Booth Renovation

The Juvenile Detention Center control booth was renovated during 2007. This \$104,279 project provided a substantial upgrade to accommodate cameras and the digital video recording system, and afforded greater work and storage space for staff and records.

The Detention Center is the 24 hour per day, seven days per week focal point for security for the entire Juvenile Court complex. Spacial issues were addressed to accommodate growth to the court's intercom station system, panic alarm system, digital video recording system and fire alarm/suppression system.

The project also allowed for growth of future incoming systems, such as a computerized data management system.





Mark Wasylshyn

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

2007 WOOD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT

ANTI-DRUG ACTIVITY

Felony drug-related arrests	42
Multi-defendant drug organizations shut down	6
Methamphetamine lab cases	0
Defendants sentenced	39
Fines received	\$107,405

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFICER

Domestic violence incidents	258
Domestic violence arrests	80
Court case victim assistance	90
Domestic dispute incidents	178
Students taught in six schools	403
Law enforcement officers trained	77
Presentations to community groups	16

SEX OFFENDERS

Registered	183
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WEAPON PERMITS & BACKGROUND CHECKS

Concealed carry weapon permits issued	320
Persons fingerprinted for background checks	1,540
Fees collected	\$54,140

TYPES OF CRIMES INVESTIGATED

Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	0
Attempted or forced rape	3
Other sexual assaults	22
Aggravated assaults	0
Simple assaults	83
Robbery	1
Breaking and entering	74
Burglary	54
Thefts	440
Motor vehicle thefts	17
Arson	2
Vandalism/criminal damaging	274
Criminal mischief	31
Trespassing	26
Total crimes investigated	1,027

911 DIVISION

911 calls answered by WCSO	33,750
Fire calls dispatched by WCSO	1,357
EMS calls dispatched by WCSO	2,231
Calls dispatched to WCSO deputies	20,657
Village police depts. & park ranger calls dispatched	5,721
Warrants entered into state/national database	1,825
Protection orders entered into national database	224

ROAD PATROL DIVISION

Complaints received and investigated	22,107
Criminal charges	809
Traffic violations	5,935
Traffic citations	1,483
Traffic warning written	136
Traffic warning verbal	4,499
Accidents investigated	915
Injury accidents	211
Injured persons	277
Fatal accidents	7
Citations issued from accidents	275
Driving under the influence – DUI	210
Driving under suspension – DUS	188
Miles driven for Sheriff's vehicles	1,121,567

VOLUNTEER AUXILIARY PROGRAM

Members	52
Special events worked	84
Hours of work volunteered	4,563

EXPLORER PROGRAM

Members (Young Adults 15 - 20)	18
Hours volunteered	500
Special events	14
Classroom hours	28
Field Trips	7

COMMUNITY POLICING

Sheriff's Office Citizen's Academy	1
Academy students graduated	15
Crisis Intervention Team members trained	73

D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education)

<i>Participating School Districts: Eastwood, Elmwood, Lakota, McComb, North Baltimore, and Otsego</i>	
CORE students instructed and graduated from D.A.R.E.	552
K-6 students instructed	1,405
7th grade students instructed	392
Safety Towns in Weston, Perrysburg, North Baltimore	3

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

<i>Participating School Districts: Eastwood, Elmwood and Otsego</i>	
Schools patrolled	11
Grades taught (6 - 12)	27
Topics taught	32
Students taught	1,135
Special Projects	6
In-service training for school staff	13

CIVIL DIVISION

Sheriff foreclosure property sales	261
Proceeds from parcels sold	\$4,368,138
Execution of certificates of judgment	87
Fee income to General Fund	\$277,019
Warrants received (local & foreign)	2,510
Warrants served (local & foreign)	1,912
Civil Protection Orders served	89
Child support warrants served	272
Extradited from out of state	26
Cost to bring back	\$19,006
Court arraignments	402
Court papers served (summons, subpoena, indictments)	2,120
Transport trips to penal institutions	357
Prisoners transported to penal institutions	642
Miles traveled for the Civil Division	105,564

JUSTICE CENTER

Inmates booked	4,582
Inmates released	4,449
Average daily population	157
Inmates transported to local courts	1,981
Transport hours	1,919
Meals served	
– Justice Center	178,579
– Juvenile Detention Center	33,596
Average meals served per day	581
Average daily meal cost	\$1.21
Trustys worked in food service /laundry	91
Hours worked by trustys	50,370
Good time days granted to trustys	439
Trustys granted early release	51

LITTER CONTROL DIVISION

Litter complaints investigated	97
Open burning complaints investigated	35
Number of trustys worked	815
Hours trustys worked	4,425
Trash collected (lbs.)	20,491
Plastic collected (lbs.)	2,593
Glass collected (lbs.)	4,206
Aluminum collected (lbs.)	2,194
Steel collected (lbs.)	2,742
Number of tires collected	367
Tires collected (lbs.)	7,795
Miles walked	298
Recycle Center hours worked	1,142
Fair hours worked	698
Festival hours worked	57
Pounds of recyclables collected from WCSO & WCJC	38,855



ENGINEER

Raymond A. Huber, P.E., P.S. *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 570 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) continued in 2007. The project is scheduled for completion in 2008.

The Engineer oversees a staff of 18 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. •

2007 SOURCES OF MOTOR VEHICLE AND GASOLINE TAXES

Motor Vehicle License Fees.....	\$4,046,638.71
Gasoline Tax.....	\$2,396,839.15
Traffic Fines & Receipts.....	\$180,818.55
Reimbursements.....	\$696,789.32
Miscellaneous - Refunds, Grants, etc.....	\$76,758.72
Total	\$7,397,844.45

PROJECTS COMPLETED

Bridge Replacements

Tontogany Road (Washington Twp.)	\$100,100
Fast Road (Bloom Twp.)	\$96,100
Mermill Road (Milton Twp.).....	\$147,400
Mandell Road (Perrysburg Twp.).....	\$257,158
Schrier Road (Rossford)	\$203,000
Luman Road (Perry Twp.).....	\$133,000
Bradner Road (Lake Twp.).....	\$127,100
Sand Ridge Road (Weston/Milton Twps.).....	\$120,800
Fostoria Road (Northwood).....	\$311,000
Portage Road (Portage Twp.)	\$434,000

Road Projects

Sand Ridge Road - Resurface (5.5 miles).....	\$730,000
Emerson Road - Reconstruction (700 ft.)	\$175,000

Drainage Projects

Culvert Replacements (7).....	\$175,000
Ditch Cleanouts	28.25 Miles
Ditch Bank Debrushing	7.9 Miles
Ditch Bank Mowing	1 Mile
Ditch Bank Protection90 Mile

Solid Waste Management District

continued from page 11...

Testing of methane gas from the Landfill was completed in 2007. Evaluation of electrical generation equipment and possible arrangements to supply power for public use are in process.

The Solid Waste Management District is supported by fees (taxes) collected on all solid waste disposed at both landfills within the County (Waste Management – Evergreen and Wood County). The Wood County Landfill is a government enterprise operation intended to be a self-supporting operation from monies charged for services.

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. •

2007 Spirit of Wood County Award Recipients

Left to Right: Jim Carter, Alvin Perkins, Margie Harris (Education for Civic Responsibility), Diane Sibbersen accepting a posthumous award for Keith Sibbersen (Agricultural Leadership), Daniel Spitler (Liberty Through Law/Human Freedom), Betty Montgomery (Self-Government), Marcella Duncan (Lyle R. Fletcher Good Citizenship), Sharon Bronsink (Religion and Liberty) and Tim Brown.

The Commissioners honored these six area residents with Spirit of Wood County Awards during a special ceremony at the Wood County Historical Center on June 10. The Spirit of Wood County Awards, presented in conjunction with Wood County Heritage Days, are awarded to citizens of Wood County who show outstanding qualities in bettering Wood County as a whole. The County Commissioners have been honoring outstanding citizens since 1987.



INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

HEALTH DEPARTMENT • Pamela Butler, MPH, 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 environmental conditions, promoting healthy behaviors, and providing preventive services are the main approaches used to fulfill the mission of this public health agency. The Department provides services to address the needs of County residents – from the medical clinic to restaurant inspections, to dealing directly with potential epidemics.

The long awaited sewage rules were finally set into law effective January 1, 2007. The new requirements provided a consistent set of statewide regulations designed to improve water quality and end the

confusion created by 88 separate regulations. However, the sewage rules produced much discussion and controversy which resulted in the State legislature passing a bill to suspend the rules for two years. To meet this challenge,

the Department readopted local sewage rules.

Educating the community about the potential for a pandemic flu epidemic remained the focus of public health preparedness this year. The work of the Pandemic Flu Committee brought together government, non-profit groups, agencies, and schools to plan for the community response to a pandemic.

Emergency preparedness activities kept the Department working with other public health agencies, hospitals, emergency management, private health care providers, fire departments, law

enforcement and others. By working with these agencies, the Department developed and practiced plans of action, as well as watched and responded to signs of unusual disease, trained staff and provided the public with information on how to prepare and respond in an emergency.

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 in and visiting Wood County. Dr. Steve Dood served as president during 2007. •

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 2007, the Planning Commission heard and reviewed 13 rezoning requests totaling 477 acres of land. Of these 13 requests, 10 were recommended for approval and three were modified and recommended for approval.

Text amendments to the current zoning resolutions in Center, Plain, Middleton and Troy Townships were reviewed and recommended for approval by the Commission, along with an overlay zoning district to provide additional zoning regulations to the Route 25 and 582 corridors in Middleton Township.

The Commission also reviewed and granted final approval to two residential subdivisions that covered approximately eight acres and contained a total of 22 lots.

In addition to major subdivisions, the Planning Commission reviewed and approved 195 minor lot splits and combinations totaling approximately 2,420 acres of land. Of these 195 parcel transactions, 147 were parcel splits and 48 were combinations of existing parcels of land.

During fiscal year 2007, the Commission received \$282,000 in Community Development

Block Grant (CDBG) funding. These funds will be expended in 2008, and will be used for a sewer project in the Village of Risingsun, a storm sewer repair project in the Village of Hoytville, ADA improvements to the Village of Pemberville's Village Hall, sanitary sewer tap-in assistance for income qualified Northwestern Water and Sewer District customers and replacement of failing septic systems for income qualified residents of the County.

The Commission assisted Webster, Weston and Portage Townships with updates to their current Zoning Resolutions.

The update process to the current Land Use Plan continued in 2007 with the drafting of a final version of the plan as well as two public viewings of the final version of the plan. The final plan will be scheduled for Commissioners' adoption in 2008.

The staff conducted an informational meeting on the issue of zoning for residential wind turbines. Input and

concerns from all townships in attendance was gathered and sample language was drafted by the Planning Commission office for interested Townships to add to their current zoning resolutions.

Under the Fiscal Year 2005 and 2007 Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP), the Commission completed projects including housing rehabilitation, emergency repairs, and down payment assistance to low and moderate homeowners and homebuyers in Wood County. Funds were also used from Wood County's CHIP Program to help fund the construction of a Habitat for Humanity house in the Village of Weston.

Revolving Loan Funds (RLF) were utilized to assist the Village of North Baltimore with the demolition of a condemned and vacant downtown building, as well as the City of Rossford with improvements to their senior center.

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

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Alan Sundermeier, Extension Educator,
Agriculture & Natural Resources, Chair

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

Wood County 4-H welcomed one new club and the enrollment totaled 3,126 members during 2007. Of this membership, 1,442 were enrolled in one of 70 community clubs; 1,684 youth participated in a 4-H School Enrichment project; 921 members participated in an overnight camp program; and 2,600 members were involved in an extra short-term program such as a leadership activity or training. These youth were taught life skills with the support of 321 adult and teen volunteers and five paid 4-H professionals. Under the leadership of the 4-H Committee, hundreds of 4-H members, parents and advisors dipped 17,000 milk shakes at the county fair and tractor pulls. This fundraising effort, along with local donor gifts, funded camp scholarships, awards, and programs worth \$30,000 to 4-H members and volunteers in 2007.

Agronomic conferences were held to share research based production information for Wood County farmers including: Conservation Tillage & Technology Conference, Northern Ohio Crops Day, Winter Farm Fair, and OARDC Field Day.

On-farm research projects conducted during the year included: soybean fungicide study – what benefit will pesticides have if the economic threshold is not reached; corn rootworm sticky trap – what amount of infestation of rootworm beetles is occurring in soybean fields; soybean insect scouting – determining threshold levels weekly throughout the County; cover crop comparison-comparing nutrient cycling and biomass production of oilseed radish and annual ryegrass cover crops; and nitrogen rate study – what amount of nitrogen is needed for economic corn production.

Twelve residents completed the Master Gardener program in 2007. They joined the ranks of 47 re-certified Wood County Master Gardeners, and together volunteered

more than 2,400 hours back to the community. Since the program's inception, Wood County Master Gardener's have volunteered 20,688 hours in horticultural service, at area locations such as the Wood County Parks, Bowling Green City Parks, Perrysburg in Bloom, 577 Foundation, and O.S.U Extension. The Wood County Extension Master Gardener program is a cooperative effort among City of Bowling Green Parks and Recreation, Wood County Park District, and Ohio State University Extension Wood County. This collaboration has significantly improved the beautification of the landscape for all Wood County citizens.

Approximately 2,500 residents gained information on horticultural subject matter via telephone calls, email, and horticultural seminars. Important issues during the year were questions and site visits responding to gypsy moth infestations, emerald ash borer, pond management, tree and small fruits, general outdoor landscape questions, and pest problems. Based on direct observations and comments, approximately 80 percent of the clients adopted one or more of the practices taught. This resulted in savings to the consumer based on the question and the overall scope of the project between a few dollars to upwards of a thousand dollars.

Seventy individuals completed a four hour course in food safety training covering the essentials of cleaning and sanitizing, personal hygiene, purchasing, storing, preparing and serving foods. Pre and post-test evaluations revealed an average 14 percent increase in knowledge as a result of attending the class.

The Sun Safety program provided more than 700 individuals with information on how to protect themselves from the sun's harmful rays. Individuals also viewed their skin under an ultraviolet light to

determine if sun damage was present. Ninety percent of participants responded positively to recommendations to protect themselves from the sun's harmful rays.

Over 600 consumer inquiries were addressed in the areas of food preservation, food safety and stain removal during the year. All participants gained knowledge and 66 percent of the consumers indicated they would make changes in behavior as a result of the consultation.

Annie's Project offered education for farm wives on risk management topics. Twenty-six farm women participated in the six week program. Eighty percent of the attendees indicated an increase in the knowledge and skills to manage liability, life, health, farm, property and crop insurance. Eighty-two percent

increased communication skills and eighty percent gained knowledge and began developing new skills in legal liability, contracts, and marketing plans.

Throughout the year, more than 975 people attended demonstrations or presentations on the USDA My Pyramid Food Guidance System, Dietary Guidelines for Americans, and other nutrition topics. Sixty-nine percent indicated they planned to make changes in their nutritional habits and dietary quality. Under the Family Nutrition program, the Office distributed 9,000 newsletters to residents throughout the year, providing an easy-to-read resource on food safety, basic nutrition and thrifty shopping.

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

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.

The Board of Elections held five elections (February, May, November, and December) including a special congressional primary and general election. Voters selected from six county candidates and 272 candidates for municipal, township, and school districts around the County. Voters also considered 43 local issues during the year.

Special congressional elections were called by the Governor after the death of Congressman Paul E. Gillmor. A Writ of Elections was issued on September 14 establishing the special primary date of November 6 to coincide with the regular general election and the special general election date of December 11. Five republicans, two democrats and one write-in candidate filed for the unexpired term.

The voter registration total for Wood County is approximately 94,000 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 continues to offer many helpful features 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. •

LAW LIBRARY

Judith Gill, Librarian

Ohio Law requires each County to have 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.

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. •

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 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, in cooperation with the Commissioners and Engineer, completed work on seven private group drainage projects and assisted on 12 other projects totaling over 26 miles of drainage improvements.

Through Marcy Kaptur's office, the District received a \$60,000 grant renewable for three years to employ a Western Lake Erie Basin Conservationist. This position, headquartered in Wood County, is multi-county in scope. Primary duties included conservation planning and implementation, farm bill assistance, nutrient management and waste utilization assistance, assistance to landowners in implementing USDA farm bill programs, and public information and outreach activities

for the Western Lake Erie Basin Partnership. This position allows the District to further accelerate the clean water goals for the Western Lake Erie Basin.

During 2007, the Lake Erie Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (Lake Erie CREP) resulted in a total of 104 signed contracts for 383.6 acres including 325.1 acres of filter strips and 50,215 row feet of windbreaks.

Through the General Conservation Reserve Program, nearly 1,300 acres of native grasses were planted. Continuous CRP signed 69 contracts for 241.4 acres including 237.1 acres of quail buffers, 0.6 acre of marginal pasture, 2.1 acres of shallow water areas, and 6,680 row feet of shelterbelts.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) brought \$36,403 to Wood County through three contracts.

Other conservation projects designed for landowners included the following: 18 water control structures; two secondary containment facilities; one access road; one wetland; and five certified nutrient management plans.

A website maintained by the District provides current program information as well as downloadable order forms for the annual seedling and fish sales. •

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 2007, the Office of the Public Defender represented approximately 3,635 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. Since 2005, Ohio law mandates individuals

requesting representation to pay a \$25 application fee. The County retains 80 percent of the 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. •

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

Wood County Government
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VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.co.wood.oh.us

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

- Real Estate Information (Auditor)
- Real Estate Tax Payment (Treasurer)
- Real Estate Index Search (Recorder)
- Voter Location Search (Board of Elections)
- Bids / Requests for Proposals (Commissioners)
- Court Records Search (Clerk of Courts)
- Internet Auction (Commissioners)
- Dog Adoptions (Dog Shelter)
- Dog License Purchase (Auditor)
- Marriage License and Probate Records (Probate Court)
- Building Permit Inquiry (Building Inspection)
- Sex Offender Database (Sheriff)
- Sheriff Sales (Sheriff)
- Spirit of Wood County Awards (Commissioners)
- History of Wood County