

WoodCounty

2008

ANNUAL REPORT

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2008 BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

James F. Carter,
PRESIDENT

Tim W. Brown,
VICE PRESIDENT

Alvin L. Perkins,
MEMBER

Andrew S. Kalmar,
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Kristy A. Muir,
CLERK OF THE BOARD/BUDGET DIRECTOR

Janese Diem,
EDITOR



2009 Wood County Elected Officials. *Front Row:* Commissioner Alvin Perkins, Sheriff Mark Wasylshyn, Commissioner Tim Brown, Commissioner James Carter, and Auditor Michael Sibbersen. *Center Row:* Treasurer Jill Engle, Clerk of Courts Cindy Hofner, Judge Robert Pollex, Recorder Julie Baumgardner, and Prosecuting Attorney Paul Dobson. *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

Annually, we are pleased to provide this comprehensive report to you – the citizens of Wood County – to share important information about our county government. Over the years we have received many positive comments about this annual report and the effective team of County elected officials who work together to provide quality services in Wood County. Most important, we work every day to uphold the trust of Wood County's citizens and are most appreciative of your support.

While much of 2008 was like most other years, it ended with what has been described as the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression. From a revenue perspective Wood County ended 2008 on sound footing. However, based on forecasts from the State of Ohio and other economists, we expect 2009 to be difficult, with reductions in state funding, further erosion of investment income, and a decrease in sales tax collection. With this in mind, we used a very cautious and conservative approach in our planning for 2009.

The effect of the financial crisis is evident in several departments of County government. With home and commercial construction at near record lows, the Building Inspection Department witnessed a sharp decline in permits issued and permit income. As trash tonnage deposited at local landfills has ebbed, the Wood County Solid Waste Management District experienced a corresponding decline in revenue. This resulted in the suspension of community grants for solid waste and recycling based projects, as well as other reductions in services. Increasingly, citizens have been seeking help from the Wood County Department of Job & Family Services to obtain public assistance, as well as job training and other employment resources, while vital state funding to support these important services has been reduced, and will likely be cut further.

Because from year-to-year we have utilized a conservative approach to the finances of County government, by exercising continued caution, we believe we are well-positioned to weather the worst of the financial crisis.

There are some bright spots to note that give us good reason to be optimistic for the future of Wood County. Specifically, in June, Bass Pro Outdoor World opened the doors of its new Rossford retail facility. Located at the intersection of I-75 and the Ohio Turnpike, this \$67 million destination retail facility is an important component of the continued commercial investment in Wood County. As a result of this important project, we received the Best Innovation in Ohio Economic Development Award from the Ohio Economic Development Association. Wood County was praised by the OEDA because of our innovative work with our state legislators regarding a permissive sales tax financing tool that balanced corporate and community needs.

Another bright spot is the plan by CSX Transportation to construct an \$80 million intermodal rail terminal near North Baltimore, Ohio. While the CSX terminal is expected to produce 100 jobs, the potential for job growth associated with this facility is estimated at 2,000 to 3,000 jobs from warehousing and distribution companies that will likely build nearby. The North Baltimore project is part of the \$700 million CSX National Gateway plan that will vastly improve access to east coast ports.

While other industries are scaling back production, First Solar, located in Perrysburg Township announced plans to construct a \$123 million expansion. This will include additional manufacturing space and a new technology center. First Solar produces thin-film photovoltaic cells that turn sunlight into electricity. The current facility employs 700, with 134 employees being added with the expansion.

Prior to the onset of the economic crisis, we met with Governor Ted Strickland to voice support for his Building Ohio Jobs Initiative, a \$1.57 billion proposal to create jobs in Ohio. The County Commissioners Association of Ohio was instrumental in providing support for this initiative that is intended to create more than 80,000 new jobs by investing in infrastructure and innovative industries.

In spite of the struggling economy, we remain steadfast in our optimism for the future of Wood County. Our challenges as County

Commissioners remain the same: serve the needs of an expanding population, continue to promote Wood County as an excellent place for industrial and commercial development, protect prime farmland and advocate the importance of agriculture, and protect the quality of life that the citizens of Wood County have come to expect.

You can help us in this effort by continuing to shop locally. The most significant benefit of this is to support local retailers and the local economy. Additionally, 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.

Finally, we ask you to take time to read this annual report to learn about your Wood County government. We also encourage you to actively participate in your local government through service on a board or commission, or by attending one of our town meetings that are held regularly throughout the county. We live in a great county and by working together we can address the current economic situation and look forward to a bright future.

The Board of County Commissioners,
Wood County, Ohio


James F. Carter

James Carter, President


Tim Brown

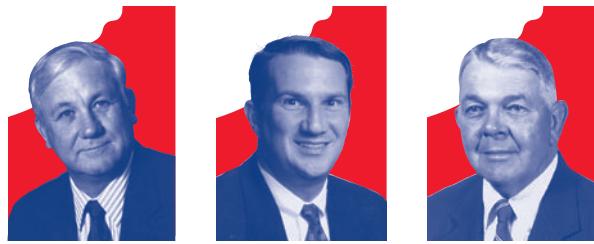
Tim Brown, Vice President


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

The Commissioners welcomed Mike Rudey as the new Chief Building Official for the Wood County Building Inspection Department. Mike was hired to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of long-timed Chief Building Official Mike Billmaier.

Replacement of the 10 year old phone system for County offices was completed in the second half of 2008, with more than 700 phones installed. The new system serves the Courthouse and East Gypsy Lane complexes utilizing current technological advances, such as voice over IP. Although the new software and equipment cost more than \$561,700, long term savings are anticipated concerning maintenance, repairs, and long distance charges. The old system had increasing operating costs and much of the hardware was beyond its useful life and could not be replaced if it failed. The new system will be managed internally by the Information Technology Department.

The Dog Shelter continued to show positive results regarding dog license sales in 2008. Total dog and kennel license sales totaled 20,817 with \$264,601 in revenue from license sales and penalties, compared to the sale of 20,458 licenses in 2007 with revenue reaching \$265,194. 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. The costs of a dog or kennel license has remained the same since December 2002, at \$12 and \$60 respectively, while

neighboring counties charge significantly more, and in one case, more than twice that amount. However, the Commissioners may have to consider increasing the license fees due to higher costs of operation. Auditor Sibbersen is also instrumental in the sale of dog licenses by providing the public the option to purchase by mail, in the office, and on-line.

As a way to encourage County employees to take an active role in their health and wellbeing, the Commissioners, as trustees of the health benefits plan, offered wellness programming for the sixteenth consecutive year. Introduction of the Wellness Rewards Program in 2008 provided employees an opportunity to receive a future credit of \$50 or \$100 on their medical benefits deductible; increased financial reimbursement levels for higher participation in fitness related activities; and challenge events to encourage better eating habits. While it is the choice of each employee to participate in the programming, it was designed to encourage increased participation by offering point-based incentives. As a result, participation increased 25% from 2007 to 2008. At the end of 2008, a total of 121 employees were eligible to receive the deductible credit, with 39 reaching the \$100 credit level. This creative plan design rewarded employees who met the challenge to increase their role in actively managing their health status. The program was developed by the Wellness Subcommittee, which works in conjunction with the Employee Health Benefits Committee, to help employees control medical costs by living a healthy lifestyle.

The phase out of personal property tax remains a concern for the Commissioners. In 2008, personal property tax revenues to County government totaled \$725,105. 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 Commercial Activities Tax (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 fourth 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 2008, Town Hall meetings, which are usually planned to precede regularly scheduled council meetings, were held in North Baltimore, Haskins, Perrysburg, and Risingsun. Open forum time for citizen comments and questions is also scheduled every Tuesday and Thursday during the Commissioners' regular sessions.

In an effort 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 2008 totaled \$37,021,048.69. This amount combined with the beginning cash balance of \$14,185,133.52 provided \$51,206,182.21 in available funds. General Fund expenditures totaled \$36,522,747.25 leaving an ending balance of \$14,683,434.96.

In spite of continued revenue restrictions from the State of Ohio, the appropriations and expenditures for 2008 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 2008 was influenced by several significant factors outside of normal operating expenses including general fund contributions totaling \$350,143.24 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 \$1,164,828.71; the transfer of \$1,500,000 to the permanent improvement fund; and the absorption of debt for the Landfill property acquisition at a cost of \$140,215.08.

Sales tax revenue showed a minuscule increase, mirroring the sluggishness in the national economy. The year-end total was \$16,116,923.64, a 7.44 percent increase over the previous year. Investment income for the year ended at \$3,947,996.95, a 14.8 percent decrease from 2007.

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 \$24,000 from County employees to benefit United Way agencies in the local area. An additional \$1,744 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 60 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 15 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: Harold Weihl - Agricultural Leadership; Rex Huffman - Industrial/Economic Development; Rev. Thomas Gaiser - Religion and Liberty; Dorothea Barker - Lyle R. Fletcher Good Citizenship; and Dr. Christa Adams - Education for Civic Responsibility. Dr. Sidney Ribeau from Bowling Green State University was also recognized with a special Spirit of Wood County Award.

An awards ceremony was scheduled for January 8, 2009, to honor the 156 employees who completed five, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35 years of service during 2008.

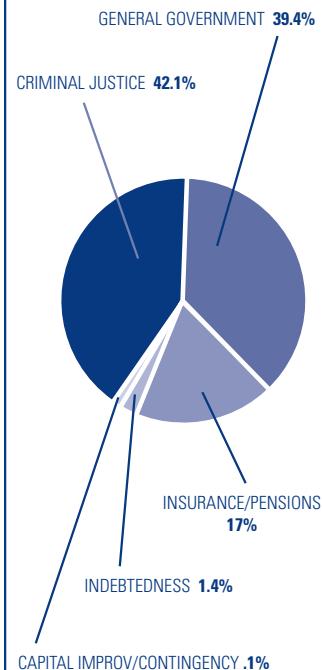
It is the non-statutory duties of the Commissioners that make them different from other elected officials.

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

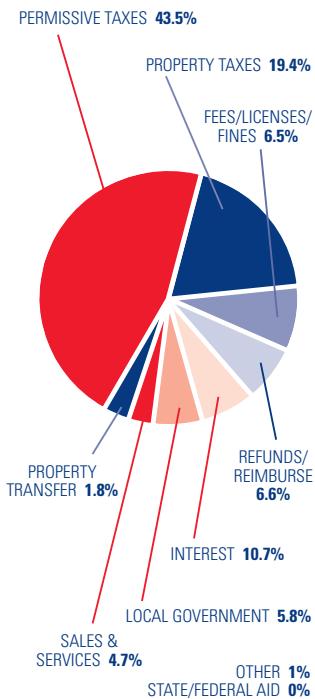
partnerships in human services, economic development, health, and infrastructure development. The Commissioners also take an active role in improving the environment, promoting job training programs, and improving agriculture.

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

2008 ACTUAL EXPENDITURES



2008 ACTUAL RECEIPTS



2008 SALES TAX INCOME

2008	\$16,116,923.64
2007	\$15,000,365.83
2006	\$14,978,818.95
2005	\$14,875,112.58
2004	\$14,008,182.74

What's in a Name?

The recent issue regarding wage increases for staff at the Wood County Park District presents an opportunity to clarify the authority of county commissioners. While the name Wood County is applied to many things, for example: Wood County Hospital, Wood County Insurance, Wood County Memory Gardens, Wood County Auto Club, Wood County Internet Council – county commissioners have authority only for those departments and agencies noted in the Ohio Revised Code. The Wood County Commissioners have 13 departments under their jurisdiction (as noted in this report) and have budgeting authority with regard to the other county elected officials (also noted in this report).

While the County Commissioners received many phone calls and emails regarding the Park District wage issue and expressed

their concerns publicly, the governing board for the Park District is the Board of Park Commissioners whose members are appointed by the Probate Judge (as defined in the Ohio Revised Code). As representatives of the citizens of Wood County, the County Commissioners forwarded all of the complaints they received on this subject to the Park Commissioners. A similar issue occurred a few years ago when the Commissioners started receiving complaints about maintenance at Wood County Memory Gardens. While this facility is not affiliated with Wood County government, the Commissioners forwarded these complaints to the owners and to the appropriate state agency that regulates cemeteries.

Issues such as these arise regularly. If the Commissioners have authority to act, they will. If not, they will review the issue and take steps to help citizens communicate with those who have authority. •

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.



Economic conditions throughout the nation fueled increased demand for services from the Department.

The Wood County One-Stop realized an increase in new job seekers, with 2,641, compared to 2,317 in 2007. Staff provided employment services to job seekers including information on employment opportunities, resume workshops, career counseling and other job search related services.

The Workforce Investment Act permitted 32 individuals to receive training services, with training in truck driving and medical field occupations in high demand. The Workforce Investment Act also provided services to residents,

aged 14-21, who needed assistance with completing education and employment goals. In 2008 more than 200 youth were served.

Staff also provided employers in the County with labor market information, job recruitment opportunities and pre-employment testing and screening services. Assistance was also provided to employers who downsized or ceased operations in the County.

In April, the Children's Services Unit participated in the statewide Pinwheels for Prevention campaign to kick off Child Abuse Prevention month.

The Department is also the fiscal agent for the Wood County Family and Children First Council which administered \$200,215.22 in 2008. •

INCOME MAINTENANCE UNIT

Total funds administered	\$82,598,886.87
TANF cash payment cases (MA)	214
Medicaid cases (MA)	6,615
Medicaid issuance (MA)	\$6,175,944
Food stamp issuance (MA)	\$296,272
Food stamp issuance per case (MA)	135
Children issued food stamps (MA)	2,327

CHILDREN'S PROTECTIVE SERVICES UNIT

Children served	2,605
Children placed in substitute care	80
Cost for substitute care	\$1.8 million
Home protective services children	123
Reports of child abuse/neglect investigated	737
Adoptions finalized	7
Certified foster/adoptive homes provided with services	22

JOB SOLUTIONS UNIT

New job seekers	2,641
Individuals receiving WIA training services	32
Families provided emergency assistance (PRC)	2,473
Adults without children provided rent assistance	43
Information and referrals	1,751

SOCIAL SERVICES UNIT

Child care providers registered	80
Elder chore services provided	32
Adults receiving home health aid services	24
Adult Protective Services assessments completed	162
Children who received child care services (MA)	463
Homemaker visits provided (MA)	234

MA = Monthly Average

Information Technology

Ben Hendricks, IT Director

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

In 2008, most of the IT Department functions were focused on the installation of a new phone system to replace an aging system with growing maintenance expenses. Based on the results of a competitive process, a Cisco voice over IP phone system was purchased, through Meyer Hill Lynch which configured and installed the system

over the last six months of 2008. The new phone system expands Wood County's usage of current technology and relies on an infrastructure that was installed years ago. The combination of the new phone technology and this infrastructure allows the County to grow and change without network or phone system limitations. •

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 2008, the Child Support Enforcement Agency collected \$18,447,916.31 and disbursed this amount to the custodial parents of children due child support. Additionally, \$172,555.74 was collected and returned to the State of Ohio for cases where public assistance was paid for families in need. Of these amounts, \$1,231,759.74 was recouped via an offset process on income tax refunds with the Internal Revenue Service and the Ohio Department of Taxation. Reimbursements of \$28,827.74 were paid to the Department of Job and Family Services for children in Wood County foster care living situations.

During 2008, the Agency's legal staff initiated 350 contempt of court actions in Common Pleas and Juvenile Courts, and 83 counts of misdemeanor criminal nonsupport at the Bowling Green Municipal Court. These two activities directly resulted in lump-sum payments of more than \$191,000 and reinitiated regular child support payments for Wood County's children. The Agency's legal staff also recovered more than \$35,500 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 with seven delinquent payors referred to the Prosecuting

Attorney's Office for consideration of felony charges.

Throughout 2008, the Agency initiated the execution of nearly 250 warrants by various law enforcement agencies.

Expansion of the License Suspension program continued in 2008. 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 2008, 978 cases had active suspensions, and \$180,86.09 was collected through one time payments from individuals wishing to keep their license or to have a license reinstated.

Through 2008, the Agency worked to resolve 146 paternity

establishment cases through genetic testing, with a total of 414 individuals tested locally. In addition, 305 parent-child relationships were acknowledged by new parents at the time of a child's birth.

As of December 31, 2008, the Agency had a total of 6,965 open cases. The Agency exceeded all the incentive goals and standards set by the federal government for establishment of paternity, establishment of support orders, collections of current support, and collection of support arrearages for the federal fiscal year ending September 30, 2008.

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

Building Inspection

Michael J. Billmaier, Chief Building Official (January 1 - March 31, 2008)

Michael Rudey, Chief Building Official (March 31, 2008 - December 31, 2008)

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 31 percent of all fees collected.

During 2008, the Department issued 4,225 permits, down 15 percent from 2007. The issuance of permits resulted in 13,655 field inspections, with 857 lists of deficiencies requiring corrective action. Of the inspections conducted, 11,312 occurred inside Wood County resulting in 5,907 residential and 5,405 commercial.

Receipts for 2008 totaled \$1,018,734. Wood County

residential and commercial receipts totaled \$861,978. Hancock County commercial inspections added \$133,446, with Henry County adding \$23,310.

In late 2008, the Commissioners approved changes to the Department's administrative code. These changes which will be effective in January 2009, include a requirement for contractors to have a current state license to perform

work within the County for specific trades, along with adjustments to commercial permit fees.

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 2008

One, two, and three family dwellings *

178

Additions or alterations to single family dwellings *

226

New residential garages *

118

New commercial structures **

173

Additions or alterations to commercial structures **

286

* (Wood County only)

** (Wood, Hancock, & Henry Counties)

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 repairs to roofs, concrete, plumbing and HVAC units.

Work was completed on the footer tile and sealing of the foundation at the Dunbridge Road Building.

Energy efficiency and cost savings remained priorities for the department. As aging equipment was replaced, more energy efficient and durable products were selected for future cost savings. For example, high maintenance floor tile in one of the wings at the Juvenile Detention Center was replaced with solid epoxy floor.

Additional upgrades at the fuel facility provided inventory control and leak testing.

HVAC control upgrades in three buildings were started in 2008 and will assist in cutting energy costs as well as improve lead times on potential equipment failure.

Maintenance staff also assisted with the porch replacement project 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 2008, maintenance staff completed remodeling work in the Prosecutor, Public Defender, EMA and Maintenance offices along with numerous other up-grades and alterations through out the complex. Staff oversaw and assisted in major repairs to the Office Building support columns and the replacement of the Courthouse chiller.

Staff was instrumental in the design and implementation of many energy conservation measures including the installation of lumen sensors for the Atrium lighting, timed controls for various air handlers and the installation of low volume hands free faucets.

The Custodial Staff provided window cleaning, floor refinishing, carpet maintenance, recycling and general office cleaning for the Courthouse Complex. Community Employment Services of Wood Lane continued to provide weekly pickup service 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.

For a fifth consecutive year, the sale of dog licenses reached an all-time high. A total of 20,686 dog licenses were sold, an increase of 367 from 2007. 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 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. •

2008 Statistics

Total Dogs Impounded	768
Adoptions	247
Redemptions.....	238
Euthanised	283
Pit Bulls Impounded.....	62
Incidents Investigated	559
Adoption Rate.....	63.2%
Dog Licenses Sold	20,686
Kennel Licenses Sold.....	131

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.

While 2008 was a relatively slow year economically at the national and international level due to a number of macroeconomic issues, Wood County was the beneficiary of some economic development transactions that grew out the long range strategic plan of the Wood County Economic Development Commission.

In May, CSX Transportation announced a new \$80 million Intermodal Freight Hub to be built in 2009 and 2010 in southwestern Wood County. Part of CSX's National Gateway project, the hub is consistent with one of the targeted sectors of the Strategic Plan adopted

by the WCEDC's Board of Directors in 2006—logistics and transportation. Located in Henry Township, the 500 acre project is expected to create 50-100 jobs directly, with the potential of generating hundreds more jobs through associated uses attracted by this state-of-the-art intermodal hub bringing containerized freight of the global marketplace directly to Wood County, Ohio for distribution, sub-assembly, and logistics activity.

At the opposite end of the County, home grown First Solar announced in October they would invest over \$100 million and add 500,000 square feet to their manufacturing and research/development facility in Perrysburg

Township, bringing 134 new jobs to the 700 already employed there in North America's largest photovoltaic solar panel facility.

This too, is consistent with the Strategic Plan of the WCEDC, which targets future growth of alternative energy as an existing strength of Wood County built upon by expanding and attracting new investment.

In between these two landmarks on the economic landscape was the acquisition by German multinational Vitakraft of Wood County-based Sun Seed Co. The acquisition, facilitated by the Commission, took place in June and resulted in the home grown

pet food company located in Wood County's Washington Township becoming a wholly-owned subsidiary of the 180 year old Bremen-based Vitakraft. In addition to keeping 100 existing jobs in Wood County, an additional 25 will be added through growth and consolidation of Vitakraft's previous North American presence from New Jersey to rural 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. •



Wood County, Ohio Small towns. Big events.

www.woodcountytourism.com

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 2008, the Center and its resources were enjoyed by approximately 14,000 Wood County residents and visitors to the area.

In addition to existing events and programs, the Center hosted a number of new events including, Dating through the Decades, a look at dating and marriage from the speakeasy of the 1920s through today's speed dating.

The Halloween Folklore and Funfest, held in collaboration with the Wood County Park District, saw a record attendance of 1,500 people. The 2008 Old Home Holiday Tour and Gala highlighted handmade crafts and decorations with the theme of Homespun Holiday. Museum staff worked with BGSU and the Bowling Green Convention and Visitors' Bureau to develop a

Culinary Tourism Trail brochure and website highlighting local foodways, many of which are influenced by the history and ethnic diversity of our area.

Individuals and groups from throughout the County gave back to the community by contributing more than 8,200 volunteer hours.

The museum's rapidly deteriorating two story porches were dismantled and rebuilt. Partial funding for the project was obtained through an appropriation from the State of Ohio. The project should be completed in the spring of 2009.

New exhibits in 2008 included Dating through the Decades and The Grange in Wood County. Considerable progress was made scanning photos and entering data about artifacts into a new collections management software program.

The education coordinator taught nearly 3,100 students about Wood County's history by visiting 25 Wood County schools and conducting 59 programs in the classroom. Six schools with 300 students and teachers traveled to the museum for programs. The museum also hosted various tours from area daycare centers, BGSU, and boy/girl scout troops.

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.

Wood Haven registered 145 admissions with 108 residents returning home following their rehabilitation stay. Of the 26,912 in-house days logged in the facility, privately funded residents represented 17 percent of those days, while 59 percent were Medicaid, 14 percent Medicare, 7 percent Managed Care and 3 percent Hospice. Bordner Therapy Care provided out-patient services to many individuals who were discharged to home.

The resident activity program included regular outings in addition to trips to the Toledo Zoo and Senior Day at the Wood County Fair. In-house activities included the annual Euchre tournament; Easter Egg Hunt; Scrabble tournament; Bible study; Wii bowling, boxing, golf and racing; and OSU vs. Michigan tailgate party. Two special activities, inspired by the election year, were a mock presidential campaign and election and a "Meet the Candidates Breakfast" which was well attended by several

local candidates. Wood Haven residents joined with seniors from other area facilities participating in bowling tournaments and bingo in the park. Several individuals and groups also 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 and offered BGSU students internships in social services, human resources, and nursing home administration during the year. Other area students met class requirements working with the Activity and Dietary departments.

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

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 Wood County Terrorism Advisory Team and Agency staff continued evaluating and researching ways to improve interoperability within the County and State per the State's requirements and regulations. In an effort to improve interoperability and to expend the limited grant funds available efficiently, Wood County utilized Department of Homeland Security grant funds to hire a third-party consultant to review the County's existing communication systems and make recommendations for improvements.

A Community Emergency Notification Advisory Committee was formed to research the idea of implementing a countywide emergency notification system that could provide emergency information to residents and businesses via their telephone or cellular phone. The Committee is made up of representatives from potential funding partners including the Northwestern Water and Sewer District and cities of Bowling Green, Perrysburg, Rossford, and Northwood. An important option for the system would include notices of severe weather.

The Agency and Local Emergency Planning Committee continued work on hazardous materials emergency planning and training development for first

responders. A tabletop exercise dealing with a hazardous materials emergency was conducted in June with help from City of Northwood officials. The Agency continued to administer the Countywide Cost Recovery Program for hazardous material incidents. The Agency helped collect approximately \$21, 450 for the County's first responders and the Agency in 2008.

The Agency participated in numerous planning meetings and exercises across the County in the areas of pandemic influenza, regional medical response, BGSU active shooter, and other large scale disasters. In August, the Agency assisted with, and participated in, a week long disaster exercise at Owens Community College with the Ohio National Guard. In November, the Agency participated in a tabletop exercise with Hancock-Wood Electric Coop simulating a large scale power outage across Wood and Hancock counties.

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.

During an uncertain financial time, the support of grant money became increasingly necessary to continue to provide residents with innovative recycling programs. The District worked with the City of Bowling Green and the Bowling Green Recycling Center to secure state funded grants allowing for commingled recycling collection throughout the city and a sort line facility at the center. The District also anticipates the construction of a Biodegester, implemented by NAT Transportation Inc., and continues to work with Hirzel Canning to increase composting opportunities within the County.

Partnerships with entities such as Community Employment Services of Wood Lane and the Bowling Green Recycling Center continued to provide County residents with recycling opportunities through several satellite locations. During 2008, more than 6.8 million pounds of recyclables were captured and recycled.

Financial support for the litter collection programs through the Sheriff's Office and Juvenile Court continued in 2008. Each program has been successful in keeping county roads, streams, and surrounding areas free of litter.

The District continued to provide information and activities on responsible management of solid waste, litter prevention, and recycling. Education staff provided 92 presentations, 166 tours, and participated in 27 community events to encourage individuals and groups to change habits, as well as, utilize existing recycling and solid waste services within the County and surrounding areas for proper waste disposal.

The Wood County Landfill, a disposal and recovery facility, is a state of the art Ohio EPA approved facility. Aside from refuse disposal, several recycling programs continue at this location. Concrete and brick are recovered and used for stone, leaves and grass are composted, brush is ground into mulch, which is screened and sold, and scrap metal is captured for recycling, as well as car batteries and tires.

Ongoing projects at the Landfill included the construction of a 3-foot thick clay liner over the previous disposal area, allowing for waste to be placed on top of it, reducing the need to expand the footprint of the facility. Six acres were completed, with work remaining on eight additional acres. The possibility of methane gas collection continued to be

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.

In October, the Records Center was recognized by the Northwest Ohio Placement Association with its Crystal Apple award for utilizing the services of the two Wood County Community Employment Services workers. The CES workers are employed in the creation of microfilm for the Wood County Sheriff's Office

By the close of 2008, the Center received and shelved a total of 8,556 cubic feet of County records. A total of 850 cubic feet of new records were received for storage throughout the year. Based on records retention rules, 335 cubic feet became eligible for disposal during the period. The Center is utilized by 22 County offices to store inactive and historical records.

A total of 14.7 tons of shredded paper was sent to the Bowling Green Recycling Center for further processing. The destruction of these

obsolete records saved 615 cubic feet of storage space throughout County facilities.

Records Center staff continued a number of digital imaging and microfilming projects in 2008, scanning nearly 2,200 Auditor's payroll files of former County employees, scanning 430 Public Defender case files, and creating 188 rolls of microfilm for the Auditor's Office, Board of Elections, Probate Court, Sheriff's Office, and Clerk of Court's Office. 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. •

explored with the intent to capture existing methane and convert it to electric power for public use.

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



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*, Margie Harris*, Stan Korducki*, Michael Linthicum, Frank McLaughlin*, Eric Reynolds, Rickey L. Rudey*, Steve Spirl*, H. Jay Salvage, Thomas Vermilya, and five 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, Tom Chidester, 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 Mike Dunipace

CLIENT COMPLAINT REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR CDBG CHIP PROGRAM**

Mike Rudey, 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 Waslyshyn

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION MEMBERS

Harold Bateson, Tim Brown, James Carter, Maxine Cross, John Eckel, Jill Engle, Andrew Kalmar, Cathy Newlove-Wenig, W. David Steiner, Alvin Perkins, 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, Dennis Parish, Paulette Stephens, Timothy Tegge, Martha Woelke, and Laurie Young. EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: Larry Mershman and Melanie Stretchberry

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 Waslyshyn, and Karen Young

NORTHWESTERN WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

John Ault, John Cheney*, John Current, Melinda Kale, Alex Molner*, Terry D. Murray*, Phillip Shaffer, Adam Seibert, 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: Mike Rudey, 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, John Hrosko, Raymond Huber, Bob Mack, Edward Pavuk, Bob Watrol, and two vacancies*

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 Waslyshyn

WOOD HAVEN ADVISORY BOARD**

Denny Barrett, Margaret Chamberlain, Warren Phillips, Terry R. Smith, Paulette Stephens, and Winn Stone. EX-OFFICO 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, Edward Jones, Ronald Matter, John Quinn, John Schlagheck, Linda Stacy, and Cathy Newlove Wenig, Joyce Winters, and three vacancies.

AD HOC MEMBERS: Thomas Blaha, Andrew Kalmar, Mary DeWitt, and Paulette Stephens

WORKFORCE POLICY BOARD - YOUTH COUNCIL**

Jesse Carnicom, Judy Didion, Annette Haskins, Doris Herringshaw, Valerie Linkey, Ronald Matter, Linda Stacy, and Joyce Winters. AD HOC MEMBERS: Wade Gottschalk, Mary DeWitt, and Ed Plazer



AUDITOR

The Auditor serves as the County's chief fiscal officer and appraiser. He prepares financial reports, acts as payroll agent, and reviews and pays all County bills. The distribution of real and personal property tax settlements to the subdivisions and the distribution of local government funds are also the responsibility of the Auditor. An agent for the Ohio Department of Taxation, the Auditor processes and distributes estate tax payments and sells vendor's licenses. He is the sealer of weights and measures and is also secretary of the Budget Commission, Board of Revision, and Data Processing Board.

The County was the recipient of the Auditor of State's "Making Your Tax Dollars Count" Award. Fewer than 5 percent of all Ohio government agencies are eligible for this award. Wood County also received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 12th consecutive year from the Government Finance Officers Association for 2007.

Software and hardware upgrades were implemented during 2008 to assist with fiscal and payroll functions. This upgrade will eventually permit the county to move toward a "paperless" purchasing system to streamline the operation of payment of county bills.

The GIS department coordinated digital mapping and analysis to support the real estate assessment process. Updates to the digital orthophotography system improved the quality of the cadastral basemap, providing three inch resolution for the entire county. The GIS department also implemented off-site data replication for disaster recovery preparedness, and continues to assist individuals and other government entities with their GIS needs.

A vast number residents received tax reductions from the Homestead Exemption program. In 2008, the program provided property tax relief for 8,272 residents who were age 65 and older or permanently disabled. Taxpayers enrolled in this program saved \$2,903,954.37 in tax dollars compared to a savings of \$413,883.76 in 2007.

The staff assisted in the preparation of personal property tax returns, a business tax paid on inventory and equipment. This particular tax was phased out at the end of 2008 due to the

legislature's tax restructuring, but reimbursements to subdivisions will occur until 2010 and then diminish until elimination in 2018. Delinquent amounts will continue to be billed and collected.

The Office assessed 73,681 parcels of real property with a taxable value of \$2,742,363,770. 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 3,835 such conveyances, including 5,905 individual parcels. The County real estate conveyance tax totaled \$675,132.

As agent for the County Dog and Kennel Fund, the Auditor recorded record sales of dog licenses with 20,686 dog licenses and 131 kennel licenses during 2008. The online dog registration with a credit card payment option remained popular with dog owners with 3,600 licenses sold utilizing this method.

The Weights and Measures division of the Office inspected 730 commercial scales, 1,495 gas pumps, as well as electronic scanners in retail and wholesale use, and investigated 28 complaints. Staff also checked packages at various locations throughout the County for correct net weight.

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

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



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 2008, 196 taxpayers utilized the automatic withdrawal plan and 279 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 \$124,902,420.57 in real estate taxes during 2008. An additional \$8,192,615.33 was collected in

personal property tax. This is the final year for collection of this tax as the State implemented a new CAT tax that is administered by the Ohio Department of Taxation.

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 2008 was \$3,947,996.95.

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. •

2008 INVESTMENT INCOME

2008	\$3,947,996.95
2007	\$4,633,743.20
2006	\$3,427,992.27
2005	\$2,551,626.96
2004	\$1,952,511.68



CLERK OF COURTS

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

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. In the November 2008 general

election, Cindy Hofner was elected to serve as Clerk of Courts effective January 5, 2009.

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

TITLE DOCUMENTS PROCESSED

Auto Titles, Duplicates & Memo Titles	51,671
Motor Vehicle Mortgages Recorded	11,798
Salvage Titles	143
Penalties (for not transferring titles timely)	2,493
Inspections	5,271
Affidavits	17,466
Manufactured Home Archives Recorded	638
Boat titles, Duplicates and Memo Titles (includes charged replacement titles)	848
Watercraft Mortgages Recorded	148
Watercraft Affidavits	623
Watercraft Penalties	121

TITLE DISBURSEMENT TOTALS

\$12,666,100.95

Clerk of Courts	
Certificate of Title Fund Receipts	\$369,257.72
State of Ohio Motor Vehicle and Watercraft	
Casual and Dealer Tax	\$12,168,983.73
Certificate of Title Fees	\$125,483.50
Watercraft Fees	\$2,376.00

CORONER



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

LEGAL CASES AND DOCUMENTS FILED (Partial List)

CasesAppealed to 6th District Court of Appeals	82
Domestic Relations Cases Filed	413
Domestic Violence Civil Protection	145
Civil Stalking/Sexually Oriented Offense Protection Orders	145
Foreign Support	5
Domestic Cases Reopened	358
Parental Rights	2
Foreign Judgments Filed	1
Criminal Cases Filed	656
Civil Cases Filed (Includes 526 Civil Foreclosure Cases)	1,229
Land Foreclosure Cases	57
Judgment Liens Filed	1,166
State Tax Liens Filed	1,423
Foreign Judgment Liens	4
Executions Filed (Aid & Writ)	26
Total Number of Judgment Entries	15,962
Notary Commissions Filed	460
Passport Applications Accepted	272
Criminal Investigations	12
Criminal Record Checks	1,667
Search Warrants	5
Coroner's Reports Filed	71

LEGAL DISBURSEMENT TOTALS

\$2,589,317.21

General Fund	\$427,267.22
Legal Research Fees	\$9,789.78
Computerization Fees	\$42,430.02
Reimburse Court Diagnostic Fees	\$15,708.57
Mediation Costs	\$72,835.18
Fines Paid to the County	\$23,572.92
Fines Paid to the Law Library	\$750.00
Statutory fees paid to non-Wood County entities	\$167,949.21
Funding Shelters for Victims of Domestic Violence	\$13,009.20
Fees Paid to the Sheriff	\$120,858.37
Fines Paid to the Sheriff	\$23,172.19
Interest Paid to General Fund	\$18,416.98
Fees Paid to Appraisers	\$91,954.01
Indigent Application Fees	\$1,504.59
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	\$1,560,098.97

2008 CORONER CASES

Auto Accidents	12
Drug Accidents	8
Other Accidents	13
Homicide	1
Natural	23
Suicide	9
Pending	3
Total Cases	69



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 18,948 documents were recorded and/or filed, with \$918,3282.97 collected in fees. Of this amount \$451,222 was remitted to the State of Ohio for the Ohio Housing Trust Fund; \$72,348 was deposited into the Recorder's supplemental equipment fund; and the remaining \$394,814.97 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.

Following the retirement of Sue Kinder in 2008, voters elected Julie Baumgardner Recorder in the general election. Her term begins January 5, 2009.

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. •

2008 DOCUMENTS

Deeds	3,486
Judgment entries, affidavits, agreements and certificates for transfer	1,001
Mortgages (total value \$6,707,827,710.35).....	5,025
Mortgage assignments and waivers of priority	801
Land Contracts	28
Mortgages released (with a value of \$2,776,002,946.62).....	6,186
Rights of way and easements.....	184
Leases	37
Mechanics liens	85
Plats (creating 70 lots)	5
Condominiums (creating 1 unit).....	1
Federal Tax Liens.....	205
Financing statements, security agreements	55
Terminations.....	20
Financing statement assignments, amendments and releases	44
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	1,785



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 12 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) helped reduce juvenile crimes 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 8th, the 10th Annual Youth Olympics were held focusing on "Competition without Conflict". The Safety Kids Calendar contest celebrated its 19th year. Shelby Antonacci, an eighth grader from Lake Middle School, was the year's winner. Her drawing will be featured on the 2009 calendar cover.

The Prosecuting Attorney hosted the annual law enforcement

conference in September. The 100 participants learned about Search and Seizure and Miranda: A Judicial Perspective from the Wood County Common Pleas Court Judge Alan Mayberry.

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

Paul Dobson was elected Prosecuting Attorney following the retirement of Ray Fischer. His term is effective January 5, 2009.

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, adjudicates felony criminal cases; all civil actions including those arising out of automobile accidents, product liability claims, real estate matters, contract disputes; administrative appeals, such as those in the areas of worker's compensation, unemployment compensation; and appeals from certain local governments. The Court also adjudicates divorces, dissolutions, the allocation of parental rights and responsibilities, child and spousal support enforcement and modification.

During 2008, the Court completed 3,029 cases and 1,177 cases remained pending. Of the total cases completed, 1,273 were general civil, 1,181 were domestic relations, and 575 were criminal. A record number of cases were filed in 2008 including 656 criminal cases and 583 foreclosure actions.

Cases were referred to mediation by the general,

domestic relations, juvenile and probate divisions of the Court. The Court, having adopted the foreclosure mediation model set forth by the Ohio Supreme Court, offered mediation as an option in foreclosure cases. Both litigants and the Court benefited by the early, and less expensive, resolution of cases settled through mediation.

The General Division Judges supervise the Grand Jury, which



Robert C. Pollex
COURTROOM 1



Reeve Kelsey
COURTROOM 2



Alan R. Mayberry
COURTROOM 4

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 150 new applications and 320 renewal applications received during the year.

During 2008, 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.

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

Court Security

Thomas G. Chidester, Chief Court Constable

Court Constables are the primary law enforcement officers at the Courthouse Complex, and provide for the safety and security of the courts, employees at the site, and the visiting public. They also manage the systems that monitor fire, panic, and intrusion alarms, as well as those that control access to the buildings.

During 2008, the magnetometers at the main entrance to the Courthouse Complex registered 157,531 walkthroughs during the year, resulting in the holding of approximately 1,494 prohibited items.

The Department filed 124 incident reports during the year.

Staff conducted school tours and mock trials for students.

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

The Department reported to Judge Reeve Kelsey, who served as the Court Security Judge during 2008. •

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 2008, the Department conducted pre-sentence investigations on 271 offenders and 256 new offenders were placed under the Department's supervision.

The Adult Probation Department supervised 975 offenders. Of those, 295 individuals were terminated from supervision, leaving 680 individuals under direct control on December 31.

The Department conducted 6,947 drug tests and supervised the incarceration of 32 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 94 offenders placed on Intensive Supervision Probation and 241 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 2008, 777 new cases were filed, while 817 cases were heard and closed in the Probate Court. The Court granted 780 marriage applications during the year.

In 2008, the Court continued to take a proactive role in managing its docket. It is an objective of the Court that any party to a Probate Court proceeding can reasonably expect to have their case proceed as smoothly and expeditiously as allowed by law. To this end, the Court routinely has contact with attorneys and Court users in an effort to insure cases continue to move forward.

The Court's 2008 annual inventory and statistical report reflects this objective as evidenced by timely filing of 96 percent of required accountings in applicable estate, guardianship and trust cases.

Also in 2008, an updated guardianship informational pamphlet was made available to the public in response to a growing interest in guardianship actions.

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 2008, the Juvenile Court had 3,643 cases filed and disposed of 3,637. More than half of the cases filed represented juvenile delinquency and traffic filings. Among other cases, there were 407 cases filed alleging abused, neglected or dependent children.

The 48-bed Juvenile Detention Center provided both pretrial and short term commitments for 780 residents during 2008. This figure included 555 males and 225 females.

The Juvenile Court Probation Department supervised 646 youth and adults during 2008. A total of 281 youth performed 7,253 hours of community service work and returned \$12,470.11 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 42 volunteers who advocated for 135 allegedly abused or neglected children and provided more than 4,700 hours of service. CASA/GAL volunteers served 87 percent of the children needing services, with other guardian ad litem appointed by the Court for the remaining children in need. As of December 31, a total of 31 CASA/GAL volunteers continued to advocate for 69 children.

The Juvenile Court's jurisdiction is outlined in, but not limited to, Section 2151.23 of the Ohio Revised Code. •

2008 Spirit of Wood County Award Recipients

The Commissioners honored six area residents with Spirit of Wood County Awards during a special ceremony at the Wood County Historical Center on June 15. 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.

Left to Right: Alvin Perkins, Harold Weihl (Agricultural Leadership), Rex Huffman (Industrial/Economic Development), Rev. Thomas Gaiser (Religion and Liberty), Dorothea Barker (Lyle R. Fletcher Good Citizenship), Dr. Christa Adams (Education for Civic Responsibility), Jim Carter, and Tim Brown. Dr. Sidney Ribeau from Bowling Green State University was also recognized with a special Spirit of Wood County Award.





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. •

Mark Wasylshyn

2008 WOOD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT

ANTI-DRUG ACTIVITY

Felony drug-related arrests.....	61
Multi-defendant drug organizations shut down.....	5
Defendants sentenced.....	31
Fines received.....	\$53,549

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFICER

Domestic violence incidents.....	331
Domestic violence arrests	67
Court case victim assistance	110
Domestic dispute incidents	16
Students taught in schools	106
Law enforcement officers trained.....	51
Presentations to community groups.....	7

SEX OFFENDERS

Registered	208
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WEAPON PERMITS & BACKGROUND CHECKS

Concealed carry weapon permits issued	484
Concealed carry weapons permits renewed.....	394
Persons fingerprinted for background checks	2,532

DETECTIVE BUREAU

Cases assigned.....	452
Cases cleared by arrest/closed/inactive	312
Cases pending investigation.....	92
Theft/robbery/ID theft/fraud	153
Breaking and entering/burglary	143
Suspicious incident/departmental	58
Kidnapping/abduction/assault	2
Death/suicide	12
Sex offense/child abuse.....	28

911 DIVISION

911 calls answered by WCSO	32,178
Fire calls dispatched by WCSO.....	4,353
EMS calls dispatched by WCSO.....	3,786
Calls dispatched to WCSO deputies.....	21,449
Village police depts. & park ranger calls dispatched	4,720
Warrants entered into state/national database ..	2,410
Protection orders entered into national database ..	295

ROAD PATROL DIVISION

Complaints received and investigated	21,450
Criminal charges.....	1,244
Traffic citations	1,154
Traffic warning written/verbal	4,400
Crashes investigated	880
Injury crashes	261
Injured persons.....	276
Fatal crashes	5
Citations issued from crashes	279
Driving under the influence – DUI	103
Driving under suspension – DUS	141
Miles driven by Sheriff's vehicles	1,133,379

VOLUNTEER AUXILIARY PROGRAM

Members	45
Special events worked	70
Hours of work volunteered	4,006

EXPLORER PROGRAM

Members (Young Adults 15 - 20)	19
Hours volunteered	625
Special events	16
Classroom hours.....	42
Field Trips	3

COMMUNITY POLICING

Sheriff's Office Citizen's Academy	1
Academy students graduated.....	21
Crisis Intervention Team members trained.....	25

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

Participating School Districts: Eastwood, Elmwood, Lakota, McComb, Milton Center, North Baltimore, Otsego, and St. Louis	
D.A.R.E. students graduated.....	648
K-6 students instructed	1,316
7th grade students instructed.....	160
Safety Towns in Weston, North Baltimore	2

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

Participating School Districts:	
Eastwood, Elmwood and Otsego	
Schools patrolled	6
Grades taught (6 - 12).....	8
Topics taught	25
Students taught	731
Special Projects	2
In-service training for school staff	3

CIVIL DIVISION

Sheriff foreclosure property sales	326
Proceeds from parcels sold.....	\$2,600,089
Execution of certificates of judgment.....	106
Fee income to General Fund.....	\$282,762
Warrants received	2,415
Warrants served	1,956
Civil Protection Orders served	105
Child support warrants served	246
Extradited from out of state	28
Cost to bring back.....	\$21,250
Court arraignments.....	455
Court papers served (summons, subpoena, indictments)	1,890
Transport trips to penal institutions	357
Prisoners transported to penal institutions	601
Miles traveled by the Civil Division	105,965

JUSTICE CENTER

Inmates booked	4,402
Inmates released	4,351
Average daily population	159
Inmates transported to local courts	1,978
Meals served	
– Justice Center	163,773
– Juvenile Detention Center	30,229
Average meals served per day	550
Average daily meal cost	\$1.28
Trustys worked in food service /laundry	122
Hours worked by trustys	40,800
Good time days granted to trustys	220

LITTER CONTROL DIVISION

Litter complaints/violations investigated.....	170
Open burning complaints investigated.....	9
Number of trustys worked	728
Hours trustys worked	3,829
Trash collected (lbs.)	21,944
Plastic collected (lbs.)	2,418
Glass collected (lbs.)	3,229
Aluminum collected (lbs.)	2,156
Steel collected (lbs.)	1,939
Number of tires collected	509
Tires collected (lbs.)	11,198
Miles walked	354
Recycle Center hours worked	680
Fair/festival hours worked	1,557
Pounds of recyclables collected from WCSO & WCJC	33,444



ENGINEER

The Engineer has the responsibility of maintaining highways, bridges, culverts, and traffic control signs in a safe and proper manner each day of the year. Under the ditch maintenance program, the Engineer is responsible for cleaning and debrushing more than 570 miles of open streams and ditches, which is just part of the more than 3,000 miles of open water courses 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 at the Highway Garage included the construction of a new salt shed to replace the deteriorating structure. When salt bids were received for the 2008-2009 winter season, record prices were reported. The shortage of salt resulted in conservative use during an unusually icy winter.

In conjunction with the completion of a new County map using electronic technology that is compatible with the County Geographical Information System

(GIS), the Engineer introduced an interactive website. The site features an interactive GIS mapping tool along with access to individual township maps. Road and bridge projects and closures are also noted on the site.

The Engineer oversees a staff of 14 at the County Office Building and 35 at the Highway Garage located on Poe Road. The Engineer is authorized to perform his duties under Chapter 315 of the Ohio Revised Code. •

2008 SOURCES OF MOTOR VEHICLE AND GASOLINE TAXES

Motor Vehicle License Fees.....	\$3,981,900.22
Gasoline Tax	\$2,415,819.46
Traffic Fines & Receipts	\$149,392.14
Reimbursements.....	\$544,642.27
Other Receipts.....	\$12,636.15
Total	\$7,104,390.24

PROJECTS COMPLETED

Bridge Projects

Mermill Road (Milton Twp.)	\$517,000
Needles Road (Henry Twp.)	\$136,000
Potter Road (Henry Twp.).....	\$137,000
Buck Road (Perrysburg Twp./Rossford).....	\$261,500
Carter Road (Center Twp.).....	\$188,000
Tontogany Road (Washington Twp.)	\$74,000
Liberty Hi Road (Plain Twp.).....	\$108,000
Napoleon Road (Center Twp.).....	\$158,000
Pemberville Road (Pemberville).....	\$64,000
Maplewood Road (Milton Twp.)	\$138,000
Poe Road (Plain Twp.)	\$121,000
Pemberville Road (Freedom Twp.).....	\$105,000

Road Projects

Tontogany Road - Microsurfacing (5.5 miles)	\$160,704.14
Wapakoneta Road - Microsurfacing (ft.)	\$114,771.38
Pemberville Road - Widen/resurface/drainage improvements.....	\$680,154.39
North River Road - Widen & resurface.....	\$853,902.40

Drainage Projects

Culvert Replacements (7).....	\$208,000
Ditch Cleanouts	24.7 Miles
Ditch Bank Mowing/Debrushing.....	14 Miles
Ditch Bank Protection07 Miles



The bridge replacement project on Mermill Road in Milton Township utilized \$321,350 of State Issue I funds.



During heavy rains and a melting snow pack in February, the Portage River and Maumee River crested just into the "major flood" category causing flooding issues for homes and businesses in Pemberville (shown above) and Grand Rapids.

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.

In 2008, a multi-agency health assessment of Wood County was completed. This assessment helped guide department spending towards areas that have the biggest impact on the community's health. Some key findings in the assessment noted that 23 percent of Wood County adults and 15

percent of youths are current smokers; 30 of adults percent and 16 percent of youths are obese; 35 percent of Wood County adults have been diagnosed with high blood pressure and 31 percent have high blood cholesterol; heart disease and cancer accounted for 54 percent of all deaths from 2003-2005.

The Department joined BGSU in an EPA grant for Capacity Building for Lead Outreach and Training in Northwest Ohio. This grant developed awareness of lead-based paint and the importance of having children tested and to have safe work practices when remodeling homes built before 1978.

The Department, along with four neighboring county health districts and the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG), concluded a program that replaced 75 failed home sewage treatment systems within the Portage River watershed. Of those, 34 were located in Wood County. This program, which was funded by a grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

(OEPA), aided homeowners with failing systems by paying up to 50 percent of the cost of installing a whole new replacement sewage treatment system.

Expenditures for 2008 totaled \$4,001,481, while revenue for the year totaled \$4,042,325. A more comprehensive report on the Health Department's activity is available on the Department's website.

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 of the Board of Health during 2008. •

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.

The two year process to update the Land Use Plan was finalized with adoption of the Plan by the County Commissioners in March.

The Planning Commission heard and reviewed nine zoning requests during 2008. Of these, seven involved text changes to current zoning resolutions in Webster, Weston, Milton, Freedom, Troy, and Middleton townships. Another involved approving a zoning resolution and map for Jackson Township to place on the November 2008 General Election Ballot. The

other involved a total of five acres of land in Lake Township. Of these nine requests, eight were recommended for approval. Zoning language for residential wind turbines was modified and a planned business district overlay zone for Henry Township was drafted.

The Commission reviewed and granted final approval to two commercial subdivisions. The Commission also reviewed and approved 167 minor lot splits and combinations totaling approximately 1,914 acres of land.

Of these 167 parcel transactions, 133 were parcel splits and 34 were combinations of existing parcels of land.

During fiscal year 2008, the Commission received \$276,000 in Community Development Block Grant funding. Projects scheduled with these funds include: a storm sewer project in the Weston; the purchase of a storm warning siren in the Bairdstown; the construction of a new roof for the Civic Center in Liberty Township; ADA improvements to the restrooms and entrance of the Village Hall in the Tontogany; and the construction of ADA compliant curbs and ramps in the Wayne.

Block grant funds from 2006 and 2007 were utilized to assist income qualified residents of Luckey, Risingsun, Custar and Milton Center with costs associated with tapping into new sanitary sewer systems; to construct ADA compliant restrooms in the Village of Pemberville Village Hall; for

storm sewer improvements in the Custar and Hoytville; and for the replacement of three failing septic systems for income qualified residents of the County.

Assistance with updates on current zoning resolutions was provided to Webster, Weston, and Freedom Townships.

The Planning Commission continued to perform housing projects under the Fiscal Year 2007 Community Housing Improvement Program including housing rehabilitation, emergency repairs, and down payment assistance to low and moderate (LMI) homeowners and homebuyers in the County.

The staff worked with the Auditor's Office to integrate newly issued rural addresses into the Location Based Response System (LBRS) database to better aid emergency responders.

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 grew to 3,875 members during 2008. Of this membership, 1,645 were enrolled in one of 70 community clubs; 2,230 youth participated in a 4-H School Enrichment project; 832 members participated in an overnight camp program; and 2,286 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 300 adult and teen volunteers. 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 \$40,000 to 4-H members and volunteers in 2008.

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.

Ten residents completed the Master Gardener program in 2008. They joined the ranks of 48 re-certified Wood County Master Gardeners, and together volunteered more than 3,400 hours back to the community. Since the program's inception, Wood County Master Gardener's have volunteered 24,375 hours in horticultural service throughout the County.

Approximately 2,750 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.

The shift in the economy boosted participation in financial programs offered through the Extension Office. Sessions on using credit wisely, budgeting, financial management, and information for first time home buyers were provided to residents.

Annie's Project offered education for farm wives on risk management topics. Eighteen farm women participated in the six week program. Fifty percent of the attendees adopted new risk management practices as a result.

Fifty-three 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.

The Sun Safety program provided individuals with information on how to protect themselves from the sun's harmful rays.

Throughout the year, more than 1,510 people attended 326 demonstrations or presentations on the USDA My Pyramid Food Guidance System, Dietary Guidelines for Americans, and other nutrition topics. Seventy-nine percent indicated they planned to make changes in their nutritional habits and dietary quality.

Under the Family Nutrition program, the Office distributed 11,000 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.

Three elections were held in 2008. In addition to the Presidential Primary and General Elections, Special Elections were held in Anthony Wayne Local School District, Lake Local School District and Perrysburg City. Federal, State and County candidates were on the ballot as well as five state issues and 48 local questions and issues.

The number of registered voters for the November General Election hit an all-time high of 101,891, an increase of 9.2% from the previous November Election. The majority of the new voter registered from August to October.

The effects of "No Fault" absentee voting were noteworthy as this marked the first Presidential election since this legislation was enacted. "No Fault" absentee voting allows voters to vote in person or request a ballot by mail up to 35 days before the election without the need to provide a reason. Previously voters were required to attest to being out of the county on Election Day or provide other reasons they would be unable to appear at their polling place.

Overall 19,452 voters cast absentee ballots at one of the three elections in 2008. In the General Election alone 14,788 voters chose

to vote before Election Day which represented 22.5% of the total vote. Significant lines formed in the office as 6,366 voters chose to cast their absentee ballot in person. In comparison the last Presidential Election in 2004 had 874 voters appear to vote at the Board of Elections and an overall absentee vote of 6,665.

In September a drop box was installed in the Enterprise Street parking lot at the Courthouse Complex. This box provided the public with the ability to drop off voter registration cards, absentee applications and absentee ballots without the need to park. Additionally the Board continued reviewing ways to expand the in-office voting to allow for more voting units.

A redesigned website expanded many voter services and record offerings.

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 fines 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 nine other projects totaling over 26 miles of drainage improvements.

Through Marcy Kaptur's office, funding for the Western Lake Erie Basin Conservationist was extended an additional year. 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 fiscal year 2008, the Lake Erie Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (Lake Erie CREP) resulted in a total of 88 signed contracts for 261.4 acres including 243 acres of filter strips and 29,115 row feet of windbreaks.

Through the General Conservation Reserve Program, a total of 17 contracts were signed for 40.8 acres including 37.7 acres of quail buffers and 6,680 row feet of shelterbelts.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

brought \$36,344.82 to Wood County through three contracts. The Conservation Security Program (CSP) brought \$81,061 to the County through two five-year contracts.

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

Youth education programs included NorthWest Ohio conservation camp, Area 1 Envirothon, Stream Quality Monitoring, and classroom presentations.

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 2008, the Office of the Public Defender represented approximately 3,675 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 25 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. •

VETERANS ASSISTANCE CENTER

Mary E. Hanna, Executive Director

The goal at the Veterans Assistance Center is to provide compassionate, high quality services to Wood County veterans and their families.

The staff strives to accomplish this by making the clients, rather than the benefit program, the central focus. The staff seeks opportunities to increase service delivery effectiveness by implementing partnerships with other public and private agencies.

The Veterans Assistance Center continued its contract with Life Star Ambulance to provide County veterans transportation services to VA medical facilities.

The Center continued issuing Veteran Identification Cards to all Wood County veterans containing the veteran's photo, address, branch of service, dates of active military service, and character of discharge.

Veterans reached out for \$69,899 in emergency financial assistance through the Center. The number of claims continued to rise with an aging veteran population resulting in increased use of medical and nursing home benefits.

For every dollar spent by the County on veteran assistance in 2008, the Veterans Assistance Center brought \$37 in federal money into the County. This \$12.1 million benefited those veterans who were directly receiving these funds. In addition, the economy benefited because these federal funds increased the purchasing power of veterans and their families.

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

STATISTICS FOR 2008

Veterans Residing in Wood County	10,674
Total Client Contacts:	14,431
Veterans Transported to Medical facilities	474
Veterans Photo I.D. Cards issued	265
Newsletters Distributed	8,000
Memorial Day Appropriations	\$9,970
Flags and Grave Markers Distributed	8,497
Federal VA Claims/ Documents Processed.	17,429
Total Federal Dollars Brought into County	\$12,073,000

SPIRIT OF WOOD COUNTY AWARDS

Nominations for the 2009 Spirit of Wood County Awards are being accepted through April 24, 2009. Commissioners James Carter, Tim Brown, and Alvin Perkins encourage residents of Wood County to nominate current or former residents for one of seven award categories that will be presented on June 14, in conjunction with Wood County Heritage Days at the Historical Center. A listing of previous award recipients is available on the County website, www.co.wood.oh.us, under Spirit Awards.

Agricultural Leadership

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

Liberty Through Law/Human Freedom

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

Education for Civic Responsibility

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

Industrial/Economic Development

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

Lyle R. Fletcher Good Citizenship Award

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

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

Religion and Liberty

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

Self-Government

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



2009 Spirit of Wood County Award Nomination Form

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

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

Nominee Information:

Name _____	(FIRST)	(LAST)	(MI)
Address _____	(STREET)	(CITY)	(ZIP)
Telephone _____	(HOME)	(WORK)	(COUNTY)

Category: _____

Nominator Information:

Name _____	(FIRST)	(LAST)	(MI)
Address _____	(STREET)	(CITY)	(ZIP)
Telephone _____	(HOME)	(WORK)	(COUNTY)

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

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

Wood County Government
One Courthouse Square
Bowling Green, Oh 43402

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Permit 133



HOW TO CONTACT US...

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

1.866.860.4140

Effective July 6, 2009, the lines that
provide toll-free telephone service to
County Offices will be disconnected.
These include the following numbers:

Deshler/Hoytville: **419.278.3797**

Grand Rapids: **419.832.1541**

Fostoria/Rising Sun: **419.457.4545**

Perrysburg/Toledo: **419.243.4223**

Luckey/Stony Ridge: **419.833.5211**

North Baltimore/Bloomdale: **419.257.3259**

As a replacement, the County implemented
a standard toll-free number 1.866.860.4140.
This toll-free number is already in place
and working.

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)
- Interactive Map (Engineer)
- Road Closings (Engineer)
- Spirit of Wood County Awards (Commissioners)
- History of Wood County