

**Wood County, Ohio**  
**2009**  
ANNUAL REPORT

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

## 2009 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



**2010 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.

Wood County, like most of the country, has experienced negative effects associated with the recession. At the end of 2008, we planned for these issues as we formulated the 2009 annual appropriations. For example, sales tax revenue was \$1,087,307 less in 2009 than in 2008. Investment income was \$1,191,098 less in 2009 than in 2008. This is a combined decrease of \$2,278,406. In addition, funding from the state of Ohio has been reduced to programs inside and outside the general fund. While many economists have declared that the recession has hit bottom, we expect the turnaround for the state and counties to be slow, and for the next several years to be challenging.

Through the annual appropriations process, we made a conscious decision to deal with the effects of the recession by tightening the belt and cutting the budget. The general fund appropriations for 2010 were reduced 5.36% from the previous year. We did not authorize a pay increase for county employees in 2010 and have requested that employees covered by collective bargaining units concur with this action as well. Action was taken to delay equipment purchases and projects that might be able to wait another year or two. When staff vacancies occur we will double our efforts to thoroughly review the necessity of the affected position. A description of the current economy and subsequent county budgeting is that this is the new normal. We do not know when conditions will improve, but we can communicate and work together to make the best of this situation.

In three of our departments, Wood Haven Health Care, Building Inspection, and Solid Waste Management District, staff reorganizations were implemented in order to address concerns related to diminished revenue. This involved reducing the number of

full-time staff and creating part-time positions. Maintaining quality service to customers while bringing expenses in line with revenue was the key.

For many years, Wood County government has operated conservatively so that when economic difficulties arise, good service to citizens can continue. In July 2009, representatives of Moody's Investor Services contacted county officials to determine how they were weathering the recession. Following research and discussion, Moody's reaffirmed Wood County's excellent Aa3 bond rating, the second highest rating in Ohio, and stated "The Aa3 rating reflects the county's moderately sized tax base that is expected to remain stable; satisfactory financial operations; and minimal debt profile." Further, "Moody's expects the county's financial position will remain satisfactory given the county's conservative budgeting practices and stable reserve levels."

There are some good things happening in Wood County that bode well for the future. The \$135 million expansion of First Solar in Perrysburg Township that will add 130 employees to its existing 700 is indeed good news. The investment of \$175 million by CSX Transportation to build a state-of-the-art intermodal rail terminal in Henry Township, near North Baltimore, as part of its National Gateway plan means jobs today, and tremendous opportunities for more jobs in the future. Fiat announced that the Chrysler Machining Plant in Perrysburg Township is part of the new Chrysler emerging from bankruptcy and will remain open. Our Wood County Economic Development Commission is working with us to assist existing businesses in Wood County and to provide guidance for the future.

We continue to work with our state and local elected officials to communicate our thoughts to the Ohio Department of Transportation regarding the importance of widening I-75 from Perrysburg to Findlay. With the CSX intermodal terminal well under construction, an already congested section of I-75 will experience even more traffic. We have had good and significant discussions with the state ODOT director and will continue to promote and assist this important project until it is complete.

In spite of the recession, 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. Additionally, our sales tax rate is lower than almost all of our neighboring counties. As a result, purchases of taxable items in Wood County will be less expensive overall.

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, 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

**O**n September 21, 2009, the Commissioners were the first in Ohio to enact a resolution to designate all of Wood County as a recovery zone for the purpose of issuing Recovery Zone Economic Development Bonds and Economic Recovery Facility Bonds. Both types of bonds were authorized under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). By designating the recovery zone, the Commissioners enabled political subdivisions to access \$8,835,000 in Economic Development Bonds, and private entities to access \$13,253,000 in Facility Bonds. On October 27, the Commissioners allocated \$4,700,000 of the Economic Development Bonds to the Northwestern Water and Sewer District to assist with financing several projects in Wood County.

Recognizing that many citizens were adversely impacted by the downturn in the economy, the Commissioners held numerous meetings with the director and staff of the Department of Job and Family Services. A number of programs are available to assist families in need,

including job training programs for displaced workers. Please refer to page 6 for a complete report from the JFS Director.

As part of the new phone system installed in the county offices, a toll-free phone number was added. The new number is 1-866-860-4140.

Ohio Law requires that all dogs be licensed (ORC 955.21). That statute does not require the licensing of other household pets, including cats. In July, Chief Dog Warden Rodney Cook met with the Commissioners to discuss the need to increase the dog license fee by \$2, from \$12 to \$14. The last time the license fee was increased was 2003. Since that time, the Commissioners have worked with Chief Cook to maintain a fairly aggressive door-to-door license sales program. In doing so, the Commissioners were able to maintain the license fee by encouraging dog owners to comply with the law and purchase a license. This emphasis has served the Shelter and the citizens of Wood County very well with license sales increasing from 17,587 in

2004 to 20,851 in 2009. The Dog Shelter operates from revenue generated from the license fee, and the purchase of a license is the best way to protect your pet should it become lost. County Auditor Mike Sibbersen also plays an instrumental role in the sale of dog licenses through direct and internet based sales.

On July 2, the Commissioners officially designated Wood County Flag Month. In recognition of this event, the Commissioners extended an invitation for citizens to purchase an outdoor flag at a reduced price. The County flag was created in May 2002, as part of the Ohio Bicentennial celebration. Prior to this date, there was no flag for Wood County.

The phase out of personal property tax remains a concern for the Commissioners. In 2009, personal property tax revenues to County government totaled \$774,988.40. 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 with the Commercial Activities Tax (CAT), there is currently no plan by the Legislature to share CAT revenues with local governments. With revenue already decreasing due to the economy, the phase-out of the personal property tax by the State legislature will force an even larger burden on local citizens to support core programs. 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 fifth 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 2009, Town Hall meetings, which are usually planned to precede regularly scheduled council meetings, were held in Grand Rapids, Luckey, Middleton Township, and Weston. 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 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.



**Fed Ex opened its \$90 million hub in Perrysburg Township in July. This facility acts as a sorting and distribution point for packages headed to places such as Kalamazoo, Mich., and Fort Wayne, Ind., as well as communities of northwest Ohio.**

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.

**R**evenue generated for the General Fund during 2009 totaled \$34,018,852.06. This amount combined with the beginning cash balance of \$14,683,434.96 provided \$48,702,287.02 in available funds. General Fund expenditures totaled

\$37,134,494.23 leaving an ending balance of \$11,567,792.79.

In spite of continued revenue restrictions from the State of Ohio, the appropriations and expenditures for 2009 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, and protected the County's financial position through its excellent bond rating.

The level of expenditures in 2009 was influenced by several significant factors outside of normal operating expenses including general fund contributions totaling \$280,224.56 to various grants including, Agricultural Society, Airport, Health Department, Humane Society, Violence Against Women (VAWA), D.A.R.E., Community Policing, Victims of Crime Assistance (VOCA), and the Emergency Management Agency; equipment

including computers and vehicle purchases totaling \$629,669.79; the transfer of \$2,000,000 to the permanent improvement fund; and the absorption of debt for the Landfill property acquisition at a cost of \$141,615.

Sales tax revenue showed a decrease, mirroring national trends. The year-end total was \$15,029,615.79, a 6.75 percent decrease from the previous year. Investment income for the year ended at \$2,756,898.29, a 30.17 percent decrease from 2008.

a food bank serving Wood County residents.

The Spirit of Wood County Awards program was held on June 14 at the Historical Center, in conjunction with Wood County Heritage Days. The awards honor services rendered by present and/or former Wood County citizens.

An awards ceremony was scheduled for January 14, 2010, to honor the 175 employees who completed five, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 years of service during 2009.

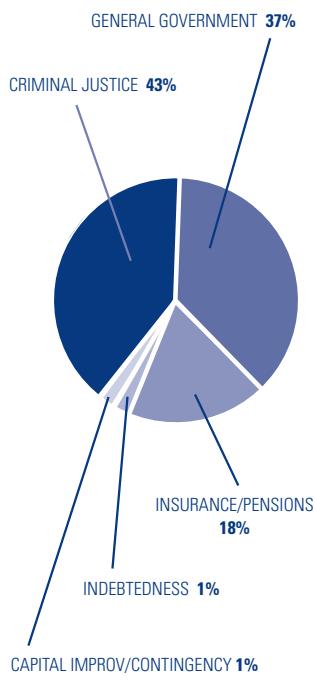
*As a means of "giving back" to the community, County employees volunteered for and participated in several special projects. These projects include the United Way campaign, the Spirit of Wood County Awards, blood drives, and canned food drives.*

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

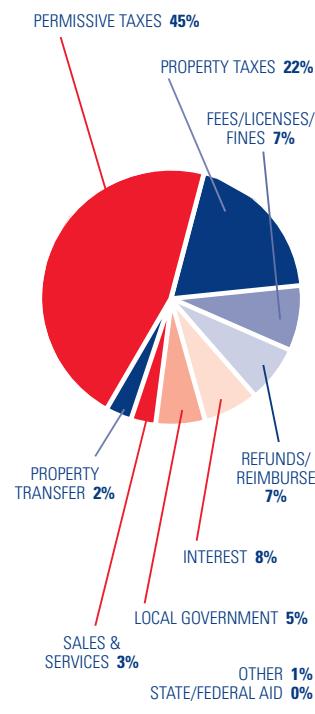
**B**y necessity the Commissioners must take a broad view of actions necessary to make the County a better place to live and work. The Commissioners are thus active in promoting public/private partnerships in human services, economic development, health, and infrastructure development. The Commissioners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

## 2009 ACTUAL EXPENDITURES



## 2009 ACTUAL RECEIPTS



## SALES TAX INCOME

2009	\$15,029,615.79
2008	\$16,116,923.64
2007	\$15,000,365.83
2006	\$14,978,818.95
2005	\$14,875,112.58

# 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.

**A**s the economic conditions throughout the nation remained uncertain, the demand for services from the Department of Job and Family Services continued to increase.

The employment resources unit of the Department, known as JOBSolutions, experienced a 32 percent increase in new job seekers during 2009. These 3,499

new consumers sought services including, but not limited to, information on employment, resume workshops, career counseling, and other job search services.

Funding provided through the Workforce Investment Act permitted 58 individuals to receive training services. Staff also provided employers with labor market information, job recruitment

opportunities, and pre-employment testing and screening services.

JOBSolutions staff also assisted 2,983 families with emergency assistance such as rent and utilities, an increase of 110 families from 2008.

Since February 2008, the number of Wood County residents receiving food assistance has increased by 60 percent. As of December 31, 2009, the Income Maintenance unit reported a total of 12,347 Wood County residents received food stamp assistance, including a monthly average of 3,274 children. A total of 23,695 Medicaid recipients reside in the County with an average overall monthly issuance of \$6,908,513 in Medicaid assistance.

The Social Services unit realized an eight percent increase in adults receiving monthly homemaker services, equating to 254 visits per month. The number of adults receiving personal care services, such as medication monitoring and bathing through the Wood County Health Department, increased by 88 percent during the year. The unit also provided 2,278 transports to and from medical appointments.

The Children's Services unit served 2,441 children and reported an increase in adoptions during 2009.

The Department is also the fiscal agent for the Wood County Family and Children First Council. •

## Local JOBSolutions Launch Website [www.jobsolutions.net](http://www.jobsolutions.net)

**I**n September 2009, JOBSolutions of Wood County, the employment resources unit of the Wood County Department of Job and Family Services, partnered with JOBSolutions in Hancock and Wyandot counties to become the first in Ohio to share databases with Ohio Means Jobs, a state-based organization for employers and jobseekers.

The new local JOBSolutions website was designed with the employer and jobseeker in mind. Both can easily register on the new website and have direct access to job postings, resumes and more. This service offers customers and area employers access to job listings from the entire region automatically, and all at no cost.

It allows employers direct access to post job openings, review resumes and candidates and get newly-posted resumes directly emailed to them.

Jobseekers will find a wealth of information available to them. They can search for jobs by specific points of interest, post their resume and get email notification when new jobs are posted. The website also offers help with resume and cover letter writing as well as providing a detailed listing of support agencies and

opportunities available for the jobseeker.

"The new website affords greater possibilities while job searching, which is especially important in these economic times," said Mary DeWitt, Wood County Workforce Development Administrator. "While the website is a great tool to use, each county's One Stop Center is a great place to visit for additional resources and training. Most people do not realize all the resources we have to offer in-house."

The Workforce Policy Board made up of local business, education, and government representatives provides oversight for JOBSolutions, which is a central point of access for employment, training, and related services provided by many area agencies and service providers. These agencies and service providers formed a collaborative partnership that allows job seekers and employers to access many services at one central location. As a result, this One-Stop service delivery system not only saves time and effort for area consumers, but also provides them with additional resources that may not otherwise be available. •

### INCOME MAINTENANCE UNIT

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

cash payment cases (MA) . . . . .	281
Medicaid recipients . . . . .	23,695
Medicaid cases (MA) . . . . .	7,444
Medicaid issuance (MA) . . . . .	\$6,908,513
Food assistance recipients . . . . .	12,347
Food assistance issuance (MA) . . . . .	\$541,393
Food assistance issuance per case (MA) . . . . .	\$180
Children issued food stamps (MA) . . . . .	3,274

### CHILDREN'S PROTECTIVE SERVICES UNIT

Children served . . . . .	2,441
Children placed in substitute care . . . . .	59
Cost for substitute care . . . . .	\$1.8 million
Home protective services children . . . . .	130
Reports of child abuse/neglect investigated . . . . .	699
Adoptions finalized . . . . .	9
Certified foster/adoptive homes provided with services . . . . .	21

### JOBSOLUTIONS UNIT

New job seekers . . . . .	3,499
Individuals receiving WIA training services . . . . .	58
Families provided emergency assistance (PRC) . . . . .	2,983
Adults without children provided rent assistance . . . . .	58
Information and referrals . . . . .	2,414

### SOCIAL SERVICES UNIT

Child care providers registered . . . . .	99
Elder chore services provided . . . . .	34
Adults receiving home health aid services . . . . .	129
Adult Protective Services assessments completed . . . . .	177
Children who received child care services (MA) . . . . .	506
Homemaker visits provided (MA) . . . . .	254

**MA** = Monthly Average

## 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.*

**I**n 2009, the Child Support Enforcement Agency collected \$17,677,249.30 and disbursed this amount to the custodial parents of children due child support. Additionally, \$170,533.75 was collected and returned to the State of Ohio for cases where public assistance was paid for families in need. Of these amounts, \$889,526.83 was recouped via an offset process on income tax refunds with the Internal Revenue Service and the Ohio Department of Taxation. Reimbursements of \$23,577.66 were paid to the Department of Job and Family Services for children in Wood County foster care living situations.

During 2009, the Agency's legal staff initiated 365 contempt of court actions in Common Pleas and Juvenile Courts, and 97 counts of misdemeanor criminal nonsupport at the Bowling Green Municipal Court. These two activities directly resulted in lump-sum payments of more than \$211,131.00 and reinitiated regular child support payments for Wood County's children. Wood County continued its aggressive felony prosecution of criminal nonsupport with 32 delinquent payors referred to the Prosecuting Attorney's Office for consideration of felony charges, with felony charges filed on 23 cases.

Throughout 2009, the Agency initiated the execution of 258 warrants by various law enforcement agencies.

Expansion of the License Suspension program continued in 2009. This program allowed 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 2009, 1,322 cases had active suspensions, and \$152,002.11 was collected through one time payments from individuals wishing to keep their license or to have a license reinstated.

Through 2009, the Agency worked to resolve 122 paternity establishment cases through genetic testing, with a total of 336 individuals tested locally. In addition, 295 parent-child relationships were acknowledged by new parents at the time of a child's birth.

As of December 31, 2009, the Agency had a total of 7,035 open cases.

On December 3, the State Employment Relations Board certified a secret ballot election held during November in which the employees chose to have no exclusive representation for purposes of collective bargaining. The employees had been represented by District 1199, The Health Care and Social Services Union, SEIU, since October 1, 1994. All CSEA employees will now operate according to county policies.

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

## Building Inspection

Michael Rudey, Chief Building Official

*As a State of Ohio Certified Building Inspection Department, Wood County's Building Inspection Department inspects all buildings covered by the state building code in Wood, Hancock, and Henry Counties. This 1,455 square mile area encompasses 38 municipalities including Bowling Green, Perrysburg, Northwood, Rossford, Fostoria, Findlay, Mt. Blanchard, Deshler, Napoleon, and Ridgeville Corners, making Wood County the largest building inspection department geographically in the State. The Building Inspection Department also conducts residential building inspections within Wood County, accounting for 31 percent of all fees collected.*

**T**he sluggish economy played a major role in the reduced activity at the Building Inspection Department. During 2009, the Department issued 3,402 permits, down 832 from the previous year. The issuance of permits resulted in 8,931 field inspections, with 417 lists of deficiencies requiring corrective action. Of the inspections conducted, 7,472 occurred inside Wood County consisting of 4,083 residential and 3,389 commercial.

Receipts for 2009 totaled \$814,282, a decrease of \$204,452 from 2008. Wood County residential and commercial receipts totaled \$606,980. Hancock County commercial inspections added \$180,131, with Henry County adding \$27,171.

As a result of decreased revenues and inspections performed, a reorganization of the department took place in

late 2009 to reduce full time staff and cut costs while continuing to serve the community's needs.

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 2009

One, two, and three family dwellings \*

**124**

Additions or alterations to single family dwellings \*

**214**

New residential garages \*

**95**

New commercial structures \*\*

**125**

Additions or alterations to commercial structures \*\*

**186**

\* (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.

### Courthouse Complex

**I**n 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 2009, maintenance staff completed remodeling and technology upgrades for Common Pleas Court 2, Clerk of Courts, and Probate Court along with numerous other up-grades and alterations throughout the complex. Staff oversaw and assisted in major energy saving revisions to the Office Building chiller, complete replacement of the Office Building air handler fans and controls, and the installation of energy efficient lighting at the Highway Garage.

The Custodial Staff implemented new procedures and cleaning products to prevent the spread of the H1N1 virus along with window cleaning, floor re-finishing, 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 which was expanded to include plastic bottles.

### East Gypsy Lane Complex

**T**he 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.

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.

A new software program was implemented to allow for paperless transmissions of work orders and preventative maintenance tasks for staff and outside contractors.

In addition to the extensive preventative maintenance program in place, staff also performed painting, snow removal, mulching, and vehicle repairs.

HVAC control upgrades continue to cut energy costs as well as improve lead times on potential equipment failure. The implementation of new technologies provided the ability to receive instant notification in the event of a mechanical breakdown.

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.

**D**og license sales exceeded the prior year's sales for a sixth consecutive year. A total of 20,851 dog licenses were sold, an increase of 165 from 2008. 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.●

## Statistics

	2009
Total Dogs Impounded	628
Adoptions	167
Redemptions	201
Euthanised	260
Incidents Investigated	477
Adoption Rate	58.6%
Dog Licenses Sold	20,851
Kennel Licenses Sold	152

## 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.

**I**n 2009, most of the IT Department functions were focused on the maintenance of the current technology infrastructure.

Initial steps were taken to start consolidating multiple infrastructure locations with the purchase of a room-size battery backup system.●

## 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.*

**W**hile 2009 saw a remarkable downturn in economic activity due to fallout from the national banking and credit crisis, Wood County benefitted from two major projects facilitated by the Economic Development Commission.

These two projects, each exceeding \$100 million, bookend the county – one at the south end, one at the north end. Furthermore, they represent the successful targeting of the Commissions' strategic plan which identified a focus on logistics/distribution and alternative energy manufacturing independently of these sectors emerging on the state and national agendas.

Construction on one of these projects, the CSX Intermodal Hub in Henry Township, began in August. When operational, the Hub will produce more than 200 jobs onsite. The Commission is hopeful that its presence will result in associated uses bringing hundreds more jobs, as projected by current trends in the logistics industry. Its emergence has also generated excitement within the agribusiness community, as it positions Northwest Ohio growers in a cost competitive export market.

At the northern end of the county, an expansion at First Solar in Perrysburg Township came to fruition, bringing employment

at North America's largest photovoltaic manufacturer close to 900 jobs.

Besides facilitating the transition of these long-term, high-investment projects, staff have been optimizing its time and efforts during this economic down period by solidifying retention activities, and by continuing to position Wood County's brand in the global marketplace.

The 2009 Marketing Plan adopted by the Commission's Executive Committee included goals of positioning Wood County as a global leader in alternative energy, and logistics/transportation. These goals have been highlighted in articles in Site Selection magazine and through a familiarization tour in which staff hosted the national publication's managing editor on visits to the solar manufacturer and intermodal site respectively. The Commission also participated as a sponsor of the Renewables



and Energy Efficiency Roadshow presented by the German American Chamber of Commerce in Columbus, Ann Arbor, and Chicago. This sponsorship provided not only visibility for Wood County as a location for international investment in alternative energy manufacturing, but also an opportunity for the Commission to do something for existing homegrown manufacturers already in the County. The Commission also assisted local manufacturers with inclusion on a supply chain index offered by the Ohio Department of Development to international manufacturers they are attracting to Ohio.

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

## Historical Museum and Center • Christie Raber, Director

*The Historical Center, located on the grounds of the former Wood County Infirmary, actively preserves and shares the history of Wood County and the Wood County Infirmary. This historic site is one of the last county poor farms where nearly all of the original structures still remain. 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.*

**W**ork was completed on the porch renovation project with a re-opening to the public scheduled for the spring of 2010. Work also continued on restoring the Log Cabin, which was brought to the museum grounds from the site of the new Penta Vocational Center.

The Museum partnered with the Genealogy Society and the Ohio Department of Agriculture to produce an exhibit entitled *Century Farms & Wood County Barns* for the Wood County Fair. The Museum also provided artifacts and assistance to the Owens Community College Walter E. Terhune Gallery for their exhibit *Terrific Teens*. The exhibit won an award from the Ohio

Association of Historical Societies and Museums.

The Trash or Cash Antique Appraisal Clinic in March raised more than \$1,000 through the appraisal of 150 items.

The Spring Opening event featured Northwest Ohio Blacksmiths and new exhibits: Spotlight on Collections, 4H in Wood County, Ancient Wood County (a geology exhibit developed in conjunction with BGSU), and updates to the Indians of Northwest Ohio exhibit.

Wood County Heritage Days, a collaborative effort between the museum, Power of Yesteryear, BGSU, Toledo Metroparks, and

other local agencies, featured fun, educational activities about farming and infirmary history.

Several hundred visitors participated in the museum's Friday Night Folklore Tours during October, with more than 1,000 people attending the annual Halloween Folklore and Funfest.

The Old Home Holiday Tour featured the Holiday Melting Pot and highlighted celebratory customs from all over the world. Ethnic chefs prepared food for guests at the Holiday Gala and Silent Auction. Record attendance at the event helped raise more than \$3,000 for educational programs.

A local history book signing by local author Tom Boltz for the Be A Tourist in Your Own Town event, organized by the Bowling Green Convention and Visitors' Bureau, was hosted by the Museum. In addition, staff worked with Susan & Simon Vaness, travel writers, who are writing a book on the I-75 corridor.

Throughout the year, the Center and its resources were enjoyed by approximately 14,500 Wood County residents and visitors to the area, including the North Baltimore Rotary Club's; guests from Aichi Prefecture, Japan; the Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure; members of the Family Motorcoach Association; TMACOG; Ribycki Bus Tours of Michigan; Bowling Green Kiwanis; automobile enthusiast groups; local civic groups; and numerous coach tours. To help with all of these visitors, individuals and groups from throughout Wood County contributed more than 1,100 volunteer hours to the museum.

Just over 3,000 Wood County students experienced educational programs about the History of Wood County, American Indians of Northwest Ohio, Thomas Edison, and Colonial Life for Children.

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. •

## 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 Emergency Management Agency assisted with two large scale hazardous materials incidents in the first half of 2009. The first incident involved the rupture of an underground petroleum pipeline near Cygnet. The other incident caused the evacuation of nearly 20 households following a rupture of an underground propane pipeline in Webster Township. The Agency worked closely with company officials and first responders to help mitigate both incidents by helping support their incident command structures and requests for county resources.

In April, the Agency assisted the Health Department with the H1N1 Influenza response. The Agency helped support the Health Department incident command structure and participated in their departmental operations center (DOC) as well as helped secure local, regional, and state resources as needed.

A Community Emergency Notification System was put in place late in the year with funding from a grant received by the Wood County Health Department. The system vendor, One Call Now, is utilized by several other political entities in Wood County for day-to-day operations as well as emergency notifications. Work

began on a policy and procedure for the use of the new system during extreme emergencies where it is imperative emergency information is disseminated quickly to residents and businesses. Residents will begin to see more information on this new system early in 2010.

The Wood County Terrorism Advisory Committee, Agency staff, and consultant continued evaluating and researching ways to improve interoperability within the County and State per the State's requirements and regulations.

The Agency and Local Emergency Planning Committee coordinated hazardous materials emergency planning and training development for first responders. A functional Emergency Operations Center exercise dealing with a hazardous materials emergency was conducted in June with help from City of Bowling Green officials.

The Agency continued to administer the Countywide Cost Recovery Program for hazardous material incidents. The Agency helped collect approximately \$53,760 for the County's first responders and the Agency in 2009.

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

## 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 Rehabilitation registered 174 admissions with 127 residents returning home following their stay. Of the 26,848 in-house days logged in the facility, privately funded residents represented 18 percent of those days, while 57 percent were Medicaid, 14 percent Medicare, 6 percent Managed Care and 5 percent Hospice. Bordner Therapy Care provided out-patient services to many individuals who were discharged to home.

Overall, in-house days logged in the facility have slowly declined over the past five years from the 31,695 resident days reported in 2004. This decline is due largely in part to the national recession and families looking for alternatives to placing elderly members in area nursing homes. Bordner Therapy Care also reported fewer patients as individuals have delayed elective surgeries.

To balance expenses with decreasing revenue, a reorganization of the staffing at Wood Haven took place during 2009. The Director, along with County Commissioners, reviewed staffing needs and made adjustments to staffing levels. Twelve full-time positions were changed to part-time to allow flexibility in staffing levels to meet the fluctuating census while continuing to provide quality care to the residents. •

Residents participated in regular outings to restaurants and shopping areas along with trips to the Toledo Zoo, Art Museum and Senior Day at the Wood County Fair. In-house activity favorites included the annual Euchre tournament; Easter Egg Hunt; Scrabble tournament; Bible study; Wii bowling, boxing, golf and racing; and OSU vs. Michigan tailgate party. Special activities included a "Sundae Funday" featuring a chicken barbecue and an ice cream sundae bar, a Western Jamboree Hoe Down and Harlem Globetrotters basketball game in Toledo. Wood Haven residents joined with seniors from other area facilities participating in bowling tournaments and bingo in the park.

The facility received an overall three star rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on its Five Star Quality Rating scale. This rating includes health inspections, staffing levels, and quality measures. Comparative information on area nursing homes is available at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) using the Nursing Home Compare tool.

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. •

## 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.

The Solid Waste Management District continued work on an update of the Solid Waste District Plan which must be submitted to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency every five years. The new plan will include as many programs as are affordable to promote recycling and proper disposal efforts within Wood County.

Reduced revenue from solid waste fees made it necessary to eliminate funding to the Health Department's Solid Waste Inspection Program and the Sheriff's Office Litter Collection and Enforcement Program. In efforts to reduce operating expenses at the Landfill, Saturday operating hours were reduced. Additional changes were made to help reduce overtime at the Landfill.

Partnerships with entities such as Community Employment Services (CES) of Wood Lane and the Bowling Green Recycling Center continued to provide County residents with recycling opportunities, including school recycling, business recycling, and rural recycling through several satellite locations. With the support of these programs, more than 6.7 million pounds of materials were captured and recycled during 2009. The SWMD continues to provide recycling containers to school and county residents to further collection efforts.

The education and public awareness program corroborated the Solid Waste District Plan to provide information and activities on responsible management of solid waste, litter prevention, and recycling. Education staff provided 90 presentations, 146 tours, and participated in 18 community events.

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.

Much discussion was held regarding the Landfill during 2009. Fuel surcharges were approved to help with rising costs, in addition to a policy for the acceptance of contaminated soil. Another issue of concern was the increasing amount of leachate at the Landfill. The cost to treat the leachate has increased along with hauling costs. The construction of a private sewer line from the Landfill to the city of Bowling Green's wastewater treatment system will eliminate the need to haul an estimated 4.3 million gallons of leachate each year.

The possibility of methane gas collection continued to be explored

## 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 10,592 cubic-foot records boxes. A small microfilm vault stores some of the County's duplicate copy microfilm.

By the close of 2009 the Center received and shelved a total of 7,982 cubic feet of County records. A total of 644 cubic feet of new records were received for storage throughout the year. Based on records retention rules, 278 cubic feet became eligible for disposal during the period. The Center is utilized by 23 County offices to store inactive and historical records.

A total of 15.7 tons of shredded paper was sent to the Bowling Green Recycling Center for further processing. The destruction of these obsolete records and condensing stored records saved 1,375 cubic feet of space throughout County facilities.

with the intent to capture existing methane and convert it to electric power for public use. In May, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources awarded a Market Development Grant totaling \$250,000 to help fund the methane gas collection project. The methane gas system will be operated by AMP-Ohio, supplied by gas currently vented from the Landfill. Not only will the project create energy, but it will also prevent greenhouse gases from entering the environment.

Ongoing projects at the Landfill include the construction of a 3-foot thick clay liner over the previous disposal area, allowing for waste to be placed on top of it, delaying the

Records Center staff continued a number of digital imaging and microfilming projects in 2009, scanning 581 Public Defender case files and creating 184 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. •

need to expand the footprint of the facility. Three acres were completed during 2009, with work to be completed on the final area in 2010.

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\*, Casey Cromwell, Judy Ennis\*, Mathew Harper\*, Margie Harris\*, Beverley Hirzel\*, Stan Korducki\*, Michael Linthicum, Frank McLaughlin\*, Eric Reynolds, Michael Rosenberg, Rickey L. Rudey\*, Steve Spinn\*, H. Jay Salvage, Thomas Vermilya, and two vacancies

#### BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Dolores Black\*, Hugh Caumartin, Timothy Harris\*, Cindy Herman\*, Shirley McFee, David C. Miller\*, and Jane Quinn\*

#### BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE \*\*

Tim Brown, Tom Chidester, Dorothy Cromley, Tim Hainen, Robert Pollex, Christie Raber, Michael Sibbersen, Karen Young, and two vacancies

## 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 and Richard Kohring

#### COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS BOARD\*\*

Joni Bretz, James F. Carter, Paul Dobson, John Fawcett, 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, Mona Contris, Ethel Green, Jan Larson, Phyllis Mercer, Neil Munger, Edie Olds, Leslie Oswald, Dorsey Sergent\*, Louis Snyder\*, Leslee Thompson, Bob Wellman, and Becky White-Schooner

#### JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES PLANNING COMMITTEE\*\*

Shelian Beaupre, Joseph Catalano, Sue Clanton, Michael George, Candelario Gunzman, Chad Huebner, Stephanie Kelley, Judy Knox, Susan Miklovic, Paul Mortimer, Denise Niese, Tim Scherer, Paulette Stephens, Timothy Tegge, Martha Woelke, Laurie Young, and one vacancy. EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: Larry Mershman and Melanie Stretchberry

#### LOCAL COURT SECURITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE\*\*

Joni Bretz, Nancy Buchanan, Tom Chidester, Brad Conner, Rodney Fleming, Scott Hicks, Cindy Hofner, 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, Bill Hirzel\*, Melinda Kale, Alex Molner\*, 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, Pam Butler, 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 Ezone, Anna Griffith\*, Chet Marcin, Scott McEwen\*, Brian Paskvan\*, Jane Robb, and David Swartz\*

#### REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY\*\*

K. Nathan Bockbrader, Walter Celley, Gaylyn Finn, Dean Hetrick, Steve Hopkins, Gerald Jones, Janet Neville, and C. Michael Solley

#### ROSSFORD TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Ron Andes\*, Ed Ciecka, Luci Flannery\*, John Hrosko, Raymond Huber, Bob Mack, Edward Pavuk, and Bob Watrol

#### TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL\*\*

John Cheney, Valerie Hovland, and Cathy Newlove-Wenig.

ALTERNATES: Chris Ewald and Tim Harris

#### TERRORISM ADVISORY TEAM\*\*

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\*\*

Margaret Chamberlain, Harold Lunde, Denise Niese, 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\*\*

Jerry Bower, Frank Day, Edward Jones, Tamela Ledford, Ronald Matter, John Quinn, John Schlagheck, Cathy Newlove-Wenig, Joyce Winters, and four vacancies.

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

#### WORKFORCE POLICY BOARD - YOUTH COUNCIL\*\*

Jesse Carnicom, Judy Didion, Annette Haskins, Doris Herringshaw, Valerie Linkey, Ronald Matter, 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.*

**W**ood County received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 13th consecutive year from the Government Finance Officers Association for 2008.

The Geographic Information System (GIS) department continued to provide digital mapping information to Wood County residents, businesses, local and county governmental entities. In 2009 the department coordinated a digital structure image project using Pictometry, Inc. for all the improved real estate parcels in the county for use in the 2011 sextennial appraisal. Aerial images in electronic format are available to be shared with other local government units for their own applications

A vast number residents received tax reductions from the State's expanded Homestead Exemption program. In 2009, the program provided property tax relief for 8,449 residents who were age 65 and older or permanently disabled. Taxpayers enrolled in this program saved \$3,108,389 in tax dollars compared to a savings of \$2,903,954 in 2008.

The personal property 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 73,849 parcels of real property with a taxable value of \$2,822,498,890. 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 3,634 such conveyances, including 5,413 individual parcels. The County real estate conveyance tax totaled \$582,003.

The Auditor's office administers the Current Agricultural Use Value (CAUV) program implemented by the state of Ohio in 1974 as a tax saving program for farmland in Ohio. A total of 323,372 acres in Wood County are currently enrolled in this program which brought a tax savings to landowners last year of over \$12,000,000.

As agent for the County Dog and Kennel Fund, the Auditor recorded record sales of dog licenses with 20,851 dog licenses and 152 kennel licenses during 2009. The online dog registration with a credit card payment option remained popular with dog owners with 3,891 licenses sold utilizing this method.

The Weights and Measures division of the Office inspected 722 commercial scales, 1,476 gas pumps, as well as electronic scanners in retail and wholesale use, and investigated 18 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.*

**A**dvancements 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 2009, 227 taxpayers utilized the automatic withdrawal plan and 306 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 \$134,552,923.30 in real estate taxes during 2009. An additional \$4,592,555.56 was collected in

personal property tax. This is payment of delinquent tax charges and current telephone utilities assessments. Manufactured home taxes in the amount of \$724,515.56 were also collected.

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 2009 was \$2,756,898.29.

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. •

### INVESTMENT INCOME

2009	<b>\$2,756,898.29</b>
2008	<b>\$3,947,996.95</b>
2007	<b>\$4,633,743.20</b>
2006	<b>\$3,427,992.27</b>
2005	<b>\$2,551,626.96</b>
2004	<b>\$1,952,511.68</b>



## 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. All documents filed since 2002 are available to court staff and others to access electronically. By statute she is a member of the Data Processing Board and Records Commission.*

**D**uring 2009, the Legal Office installed software to redact personal identifying information from documents as required by Ohio law.

In efforts to provide better customer service at the Title Office,

laser printers were installed for the issuing of titles. Fees were also adjusted at the Title Office during the year.

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	57,197
Motor Vehicle Mortgages Recorded	11,123
Salvage Titles	780
Penalties (for not transferring titles timely)	3,327
Inspections	6,900
Affidavits	19,264
Manufactured Home Archives Recorded	622
Boat titles, Duplicates and Memo Titles (includes charged replacement titles)	1,251
Watercraft Mortgages Recorded	191
Watercraft Affidavits	784
Watercraft Penalties	134

**TITLE DISBURSEMENT TOTALS** ..... **\$13,764,831.37**

Clerk of Courts	
Certificate of Title Fund Receipts	\$490,858.87
State of Ohio Motor Vehicle and Watercraft	
Casual and Dealer Tax	\$13,124,809.25
Certificate of Title Fees	\$145,723.75
Watercraft Fees	\$3,439.50

## CORONER

*The Coroner evaluates and rules on all violent, accidental, and suspicious circumstance deaths including homicides, suicides, and sudden deaths of persons in apparent good health. The Coroner generally does not investigate deaths that occur from natural causes, when the person has a family physician. The Coroner is a Ohio licensed physician in good standing who carries out and directs the investigation of deaths in the County. The investigation may involve the scene, as well as labs, x-rays, and autopsies as needed. The Coroner is authorized to perform his duties under Chapter 313 of the Ohio Revised Code.*



The Coroner's Office reviewed 176 deaths during 2009. •

### LEGAL CASES AND DOCUMENTS FILED (Partial List)

CasesAppealed to 6th District Court of Appeals	92
Domestic Relations Cases Filed	454
Domestic Violence Civil Protection	144
Civil Stalking/Sexually Oriented Offense Protection Orders	124
Foreign Support	8
Domestic Cases Reopened	415
Foreign Judgments Filed	1
Custody Proceedings	1
Criminal Cases Filed	637
Civil Cases Filed (Includes 659 Civil Foreclosure Cases)	1,266
Land Foreclosure Cases	92
Judgment Liens Filed	1,143
State Tax Liens Filed	2,037
Foreign Judgment Liens	5
Executions Filed (Aid & Writ)	46
Total Number of Judgment Entries	15,543
Notary Commissions Filed	459
Passport Applications Accepted	261
Criminal Investigations	10
Criminal Record Checks	262
Search Warrants	3
Coroner's Reports Filed	62

**LEGAL DISBURSEMENT TOTALS** ..... **\$2,222,465.36**

General Fund	\$423,788.73
Legal Research Fees	\$10,060.46
Computerization Fees	\$45,829.77
Reimburse Court Diagnostic Fees	\$19,878.90
Mediation Costs	\$77,860.90
Fines Paid to the County	\$30,747.23
Fines Paid to the Law Library	\$750.00
Statutory fees paid to non-Wood County entities	\$195,928.97
Funding Shelters for Victims of Domestic Violence	\$13,418.30
Fees Paid to the Sheriff	\$87,327.86
Fines Paid to the Sheriff	\$24,462.80
Interest Paid to General Fund (includes interest for CDs)	\$8,360.64
Fees Paid to Appraisers	\$116,617.44
Indigent Application Fees	\$1,736.09
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	\$1,165,697.27

### 2009 CORONER CASES

Auto Accidents	9
Drug Accidents	8
Other Accidents	7
Homicide	1
Natural	22
Suicide	14
Pending	4
<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>65</b>



## RECORDER

*The Recorder's Office is responsible for making a complete, accurate, and permanent record of every document pertaining to the conveyance and encumbrance of land within the county. The office takes great care to ensure that every document received is accurately filed, recorded, indexed, and retained in an archival form. As the repository of records for all property transactions in the County, the Recorder's Office safeguards every property owner's title.*

Julie Baumgardner *Though real estate documents constitute the majority of filings in the office, financing statements on personal property, military discharge papers, and a listing of veteran's graves in the county are also filed in the Recorder's Office.*

**A** total of 19,717 documents were recorded and/or filed, with \$1,013,599.49 collected in fees. Of this amount \$498,879.60 was remitted to the State of Ohio for the Ohio Housing Trust Fund, less one percent paid into the County's general fund; \$75,918.40 was deposited into the Recorder's supplemental equipment fund; and the remaining \$438,801.49 was paid into the County's general fund.

For archival purposes, all records of the Office are microfilmed on 16mm and 35mm film by the Recorder's staff and stored off premises for safekeeping. Digital imaging of records by the Recorder's staff since 1988 has eliminated the creation of more than 1,000 books.

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

## 2009 DOCUMENTS

Deeds .....	3,537
Judgment entries and certificates for transfer .....	106
Mortgages (total value \$17,107,091,609.50).....	5,557
Mortgages released (with a value of \$30,430,775,774.89) .....	6,520
Land Contracts .....	44
Rights of way and easements.....	189
Leases .....	13
Mechanics liens.....	80
Plats .....	3
Federal Tax Liens.....	178
Financing statements.....	51
Terminations.....	34
All Others .....	3,405



Help Wherever You Turn

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

Wood County's No Wrong Door program provides information about services and resources with one call to any of the member agencies. No Wrong Door can help with the real life challenges that touch Wood County residents and provide guidance for issues like home repair, employment, food, clothing, shelter, financial assistance and more. For more information on the No Wrong Door program, visit the Wood County Website, [www.co.wood.oh.us](http://www.co.wood.oh.us), and click on the No Wrong Door Logo.

No Wrong Door is a partnership of Wood County human and social service agencies, schools, law enforcement agencies, government and the courts, dedicated to assisting Wood County residents in need.

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

## NO WRONG DOOR Agencies

24 Hour Crisis Line - The Link of Behavioral Connections.....	419-352-1545 or 800-472-9411
United Way's Health & Human Services Resource .....	211
Behavioral Connections .....	419-352-5387 or 419-872-8419
Bowling Green City Schools.....	419-352-3576
Children's Resource Center .....	419-352-7588 or 1-888-466-KIDS
City of Bowling Green.....	419-354-6220
Family & Child Abuse Prevention Center.....	419-354-6220
Family Service Counseling Center .....	419-352-4624 or 1-877-352-4624
Rural Opportunities, Inc. .....	419-354-3548 or 1-800-733-6436
United Way of Greater Toledo - Wood County Office .....	419-352-2390
Alcohol, Drug, Addition, Mental Health Services .....	419-352-8475
Board of Developmental Disabilities .....	419-352-5115
Commissioners' Office .....	866-860-4140 or 419-354-9100
Committee on Aging .....	800-367-4935 or 419-353-5661
OSU Extension.....	419-354-9050
Job and Family Services .....	419-352-7566
Educational Service Center.....	419-354-9010
Health Department.....	419-352-8402 or 419-244-1610
Wood County Hospital .....	419-354-8910 (ER) or 419-354-8900
Juvenile Court .....	419-352-3554
Prosecuting Attorney's Office.....	866-860-4140 or 419-354-9250
WSOS Community Action Commission .....	419-353-7407

## 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. The Judges supervise the Grand Jury, which determines if, based upon the evidence presented by the Prosecuting Attorney, probable cause exists to charge an accused with a felony criminal offense. If the Grand Jury so finds, they return an indictment, advising the accused of the nature of the charges. The matter then goes before the Court for further proceedings. The Judges supervise the Adult Probation and Court Security Departments and appoint and supervise the Jury Commission. They also appoint members to the Veterans Service Commission, Public Defender Commission and the Wood County Public Library Board.*

### 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.*

**D**uring 2009, the magnetometers at the main entrance to the Courthouse Complex registered 136,035 walkthroughs during the year, resulting in the holding of approximately 1,001 prohibited items.

The Department filed 225 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 Alan Mayberry, who served as the Court Security Judge during 2009. •



Robert C. Pollex  
COURTROOM 1



Reeve Kelsey  
COURTROOM 2



Alan R. Mayberry  
COURTROOM 4

**D**uring 2009, Judge Kelsey served as Administrative Judge and represented the County on the Maumee Conservancy District Court. Judge Pollex served as Presiding Judge and represented the Court on the Judicial Advisory Board for the NorthWest Community Corrections Center; and Judge Mayberry served as Court Security Judge.

During 2009, the Court completed 3,142 cases and 1,185 cases remained pending. Of the total cases completed, 1,405 were general civil, 1,148 were domestic relations, and 589 were criminal. A record number of cases were filed in 2009 including 659 foreclosure actions.

Cases continued to be 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 Judges also receive and approve applications for notary public, with 109 new applications and 340 renewal applications received during the year.

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

### Adult Probation

Joni Bretz, Director

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

**I**n 2009, the Department conducted pre-sentence investigations on 279 offenders and 304 new offenders were placed under the Department's supervision.

The Adult Probation Department supervised 985 offenders. Of those, 288 individuals were terminated from supervision, leaving 697 individuals under direct control on December 31.

The Department conducted 7,039 drug tests and supervised the incarceration of 28 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 81 offenders placed on Intensive Supervision Probation and 199 on Electronic Monitoring. •



## COURT OF COMMON PLEAS • Probate and Juvenile Division

David E. Woessner

Cases heard in Probate Court involve decedent's estates, guardianships, conservatorships, testamentary trusts, civil actions, adoptions, mental illness, 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 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.

**D**uring 2009, the Probate Court received filings for 790 new cases. This represented an increase from 2008 filings. Besides the volume of standard Probate matters, new cases filed included a variety of contested civil proceedings including will contest cases, trust related litigation, as well as contested estate, guardianship and adoption matters.

In 2009, the Court continued to expand its online access to Court records and documents. Utilizing the latest technology allows Court users to obtain needed information quickly and at reduced costs and time. Also during the year, the Court began accepting credit card payments

for individuals wishing to obtain a marriage license. Previously only cash was accepted.

In July 2009, legislation was adopted prohibiting the use of certain personal identifiers within Court documents. To protect Court users, a procedure was implemented in the Wood County Probate Court to notify parties when personal identifiers, as defined in Superintendence Rule 44(H), are filed by a party within a case. This granted parties the opportunity to promptly request the removal of the information if they choose.

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.

**I**n 2009, the Juvenile Court had 3,500 cases filed and disposed of 3,502. More than half of the cases filed represented juvenile delinquency and traffic filings. Among other cases, there were 314 cases filed alleging abused, neglected or dependent children.

The 48-bed Juvenile Detention Center provided both pretrial and short term commitments for 672 residents during 2009. This figure included 463 males and 209 females.

The Juvenile Court Probation Department supervised 628 youth and adults during 2009. A total of 306 youth performed 6,738 hours of community service work and returned \$15,458.42 in restitution to victims. Programs facilitated by the Department included: 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 48 volunteers who advocated for 126 allegedly abused or neglected children and provided more than 4,530 hours of service. CASA/GAL volunteers served 97 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 39 CASA/GAL volunteers continued to advocate for 70 children.

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

### 2009 Spirit of Wood County Award Recipients

The Commissioners honored nine county residents with Spirit of Wood County Awards during a special ceremony at the Wood County Historical Center on June 14. The Spirit of Wood County Awards, presented in conjunction with Wood County Heritage Days, are awarded to citizens who show outstanding qualities in bettering Wood County as a whole. The County Commissioners has honored outstanding citizens since 1987.

*Front Row Left to Right: Robert Bettinger (Industrial/Economic Development); Rev. Kristel Asmus (Religion and Liberty); Mark Kelly (Education for Civic Responsibility); and June and Deb Van Vorhis (accepting Agricultural Leadership Award in honor of Richard and David Van Vorhis).*

*Back Row Left to Right: Douglas Troutner (Lyle R. Fletcher Good Citizenship); Jenny Brown and Jim Adams (accepting Self-Government award on behalf of David Adams); Michelle Miller (accepting a special Spirit of Wood County Award in honor of Chris Miller); and John Helm (Liberty Through Law/Human Freedom).*





## 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

## 2009 WOOD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT

### CIVIL DIVISION

Sheriff foreclosure property sales .....	343
Proceeds from parcels sold .....	\$2,212,094
Service fee income to General Fund .....	\$316,252
Warrants, summons, subpoena & indictments served .....	2,867
Civil Protection Orders served .....	250
Child support warrants served .....	258
Extradited from out of state .....	26
Prisoners transported to penal institutions .....	624
Miles traveled by the Civil Division .....	102,188

### JUSTICE CENTER

Inmates booked .....	4,296
Inmates released .....	4,323
Average daily population .....	149
Inmates transported to local courts .....	1,831
Total meals served .....	196,630
– Justice Center .....	168,373
– Juvenile Detention Center .....	25,888
– Educational Service Center .....	2,369
Average meals served per day .....	539
Average meal cost .....	\$1.31
Trustys worked in food service /laundry .....	130
Hours worked by trustys .....	43,680
Good time days granted to trustys .....	576

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT

Domestic violence incidents .....	209
Domestic violence arrests .....	100
Court case victim assistance .....	158
Domestic dispute incidents .....	125
Students taught in six schools .....	344
Law enforcement officers trained .....	131
Citizens taught at community groups .....	307

### SEX OFFENDERS

Registered .....	199
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### WEAPON PERMITS & BACKGROUND CHECKS

Concealed Carry Weapon permits issued .....	878
Concealed Carry Weapons permits renewed .....	215
Persons fingerprinted for background checks .....	2,289

### DETECTIVE BUREAU

Cases assigned .....	657
Cases cleared by arrest/closed/inactive .....	603
Cases pending investigation .....	72
Theft/fraud .....	207
Burglary/Breaking and Entering .....	178
Suspicious incident/departmental .....	106
Kidnapping/abduction/assault .....	16
Death/suicide .....	20
Sex offense/child abuse .....	26
Narcotic investigations .....	60
Fines/forfeitures to Drug Fund .....	\$66,060

### ROAD PATROL DIVISION

Complaints received and investigated .....	21,631
Criminal charges .....	763
Traffic citations .....	1,324
Traffic warning written/verbal .....	4,496
Crashes investigated .....	744
Injury crashes .....	153
Injured persons .....	207
Fatal crashes .....	3
Citations issued from crashes .....	238
Driving under the influence – DUI .....	.96
Driving under suspension – DUS .....	132
Miles driven by Sheriff's vehicles .....	866,322

### 911 DIVISION/COMMUNICATIONS

911 calls answered .....	33,078
Fire calls dispatched .....	4,421
EMS calls dispatched .....	3,864
Calls dispatched to WCSO deputies .....	21,621
Village police depts. & park ranger calls dispatched .....	4,543
Warrants entered into state/national database ..	2,387
Protection orders entered into national database ..	293

### VOLUNTEER AUXILIARY PROGRAM

Members .....	55
Special events worked .....	67
Funeral escorts .....	31
Hours of work volunteered .....	6,008

### MOTORCYCLE UNIT

Motorcycle/charity event escorts .....	38
Special event escorts .....	4
Athletic/college football .....	7
Motorcycle safety fairs/seminars .....	5
Total miles logged .....	9,865
Hours of work volunteered .....	599

### EXPLORER PROGRAM

Members (Young adults 15 - 20) .....	23
Hours volunteered .....	550
Special events .....	15
Classroom hours .....	40
Field Trips .....	2

### LITTER CONTROL DIVISION

Litter complaints/violations investigated .....	45
Open burning complaints investigated .....	17
Number of trustys worked .....	509
Hours trustys worked .....	3,157
Trash collected (lbs.) .....	14,630
Plastic collected (lbs.) .....	2,032
Glass collected (lbs.) .....	1,356
Aluminum collected (lbs.) .....	1,803
Steel collected (lbs.) .....	1,794
Tires collected (lbs.) .....	4,092
No. of tires collected .....	194
Miles walked .....	343
Fair/festival hours worked .....	31
Pounds of recyclables collected from WCSO & WCJC .....	23,846



## ENGINEER

*The Engineer has the responsibility of maintaining highways, bridges, culverts, and traffic control signs in a safe and proper manner. 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.*

**T**he Highway Garage staff completed work on five bridge replacements and four culvert replacements. Through an Ohio Department of Development, Diesel Emission Reduction Grant, two dump trucks were added to the fleet. New processes are being developed to extend the life of the county road infrastructure as revenues decrease and the cost of construction stays at levels never before seen.

To improve the safety of the county highway system, staff have been pursuing grant

funding for several safety studies. Global Positioning System (GPS) techniques are being used to improve the accuracy of the Geographic Information System (GIS). As this work is completed, new applications will be added to the Engineer's interactive website.

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. •



## PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

*The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney includes three divisions. The criminal division prosecutes all felony criminal offenses committed by adults in the County. The juvenile division prosecutes all cases involving juvenile offenders, whether felony or misdemeanor. Further, the Juvenile Division, in cooperation with the Department of Job and Family Services, prosecutes adults for acts of abuse, neglect or dependency against children (also known as "status" offenses). The civil division provides legal services to the county departments and agencies, as well as school districts and townships. The Prosecutor's Office has 14 attorneys, a victim services unit, an investigator, a youth services and programs division, and support staff.*

**I**n 2009, the Criminal Division opened 635 new adult felony cases in the Wood County Court of Common Pleas. A total of 23 cases were resolved in 2009 by jury or court trial, 17 of which were convictions. In 2009, four cases filed as murder or aggravated murder were resolved by convictions,

including the 1976 murder of Mary Brooks and the 1987 murder of Karen Hirschman.

The Juvenile Division opened more than 1,500 new cases in the Wood County Juvenile Court, including 133 felonies against juveniles. Additionally, the Juvenile Division prosecuted

### 2009 SOURCES OF MOTOR VEHICLE AND GASOLINE TAXES

Motor Vehicle License Fees	\$3,858,304.09
Gasoline Tax	\$2,331,702.91
Traffic Fines & Receipts	\$112,050.45
Reimbursements	\$977,187.22
Other Receipts	\$4,750.03
Interest	\$6,568.66
Total	\$7,290,563.36

### PROJECTS COMPLETED

#### Bridge Projects

Eagleville Road ( Perry Twp.)	\$101,000.17
Roachton Road ( Perrysburg/Middleton Twp.)	\$275,155.70
Five Point Road (Middleton Twp.)	\$93,574.85
Lemoyne Road (Troy Twp.)	\$88,333.32
Oregon Road (Perrysburg Twp.)	\$37,915.65

#### Road Projects

Roachton Road - Resurfacing (2.2 miles)	\$359,094.22
Tracy Road - Widen/resurface (.42 miles)	\$721,585.34

#### Drainage Projects

Culvert Replacements (4)	\$93,860
Ditch Cleanouts	44 Miles
Ditch Bank Mowing	33.1 Miles
Ditch Bank Debrushing	10.9 Miles
Ditch Bank Protection	.51 Miles

successfully 15 permanent custody hearings, protecting those children by keeping them in a safe environment.

The Civil Division opened 41 opinion requests from various county offices. Additionally, the division opened approximately 165 cases before the various courts of the County.

The Youth Services Division was re-named the C.Y.C.L.E. Program, Cooperating with Youth, the Community, and Law Enforcement, and continued to provide youth crime prevention programs. The Juvenile Mediation Program (JuMP) provided mediation to certain at-risk youth. The Face 2 Face Peer Mediation program

was utilized by several school districts in the County. On March 14th, approximately 500 students participated in the 11th Annual Youth Olympics focusing on "Competition without Conflict". The Safety Kids Calendar contest celebrated its 20th year.

The Prosecuting Attorney hosted the annual law enforcement conference in October. More than 100 participants learned about search and seizure from Judges Alan Mayberry and Mark Reddin and Prosecuting Attorney Paul Dobson.

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

# 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.*

**T**he Department continued to adjust to the new and ever-changing state and federal guidance pertaining to bioterrorism, pandemic flu and all hazard planning. In October, the Department tested a mass flu vaccine clinic, which served as an emergency response exercise. The clinic depleted the Department's remaining 1,200 doses of the seasonal flu vaccine

in one day. Vaccination efforts then shifted to H1N1 vaccine clinics that were held throughout the remainder of the year.

Funding cuts at the state and local levels impacted the Help Me Grow program, which identifies and addresses developmental problems in young children, and solid waste inspections.

Despite these cuts, the need for service continued to grow

as the Department witnessed a greater demand for services, including the dental clinic which experienced its own temporary shutdown due to funding and staffing issues. The Adult Clinic also saw an increase in clients receiving assistance through the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program and the prenatal program.

The lead inspection program came to a close at the end of 2009 due to aging equipment and high replacement costs. While the services will no longer be provided by the Health Department, the Ohio Department of Health will oversee the program in the future.

U.S. Geological Survey testing was completed on 13 source samples from wastewater, fields with manure applications, areas with goose droppings, and septic

systems. The study indicated a variety of contaminates including human septic, wastewater, farm animal, and wildlife, and provided a foundation to apply for additional grant dollars.

Expenditures for 2009 totaled \$4,153,922 while revenue for the year totaled \$ 4,140,080. 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 2009. •

## 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 Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and the Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP). The Planning Commission is also responsible for revising and promoting adherence to the Wood County Comprehensive Land Use Plan, and assisting townships and villages in their local zoning programs.*

**T**he Planning Commission Office began work with the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, a program that provides federal stimulus dollars to demolish abandoned and condemned homes. As of December 2009, six abandoned and condemned structures in the County were selected for demolition, which will commence in the first half of 2010.

During 2009, the Planning Commission heard and reviewed five rezoning requests totaling approximately 83 acres of land. Of these requests, four were recommended for approval and one was recommended for denial. The Planning Commission reviewed and recommended approval for text amendments to the current zoning resolutions in Washington

and Henry Townships. Staff drafted language for an overlay district for Henry Township to use in the vicinity of the CSX Intermodal Facility and provided assistance to Liberty and Grand Rapids Townships in updating their zoning resolutions.

The Commission reviewed and granted final approval to a variance request from the Wood County Subdivision Rules and Regulations.

In addition to major subdivisions, the Commission reviewed and approved 70 minor lot splits and combinations totaling approximately 600 acres of land. Of these 70 parcel transactions, 64 were parcel splits and 16 were combinations of existing parcels of land.

During fiscal year 2009, the Planning Commission received

\$276,000 in CDBG funding. These funds will be expended in 2010 and will be used for sidewalk and ADA improvements in West Millgrove and Risingsun; storm sewer improvements in the Village of Custer; Sanitary Sewer improvements in the Village of Hoytville; public facility improvements in the Village of Cygnet; and sanitary sewer tap-in assistance for income qualified residents in Wood County.

Staff began a review and update to the current Wood County Subdivision Rules and Regulations. The update will be completed in stages, with the first stage involving minor lot splits.

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.*

**E**xtension Educators provided techniques and practical tools on developing a budget, using credit wisely, finding reliable information, and money management skills to 14 residents who participated in the New Start program. This personal financial management instructional course, approved by the Department of Justice, provided the Bankruptcy Court's required certificates of completion for bankruptcy filers.

4-H Carteens, a traffic safety program for first-time juvenile traffic offenders, was provided in partnership with the Juvenile Court, Sheriff's Office, State Farm Insurance, and 4-H Committee. With 16 teens as facilitators and 10 adult support staff, this two-hour program covered traffic safety education, offenders' self-esteem, and interpersonal skills.

In 2009, Wood County 4-H offered educational experiences to 6,703 4-H members and 307 volunteers. Of this membership, 1,256 were enrolled in one of 61 community clubs; 2,251 participated in a 4-H School Enrichment project; 881 participated in an overnight camp program; and 2,211 were involved in an extra short-term program such as a leadership activity or training.

The Extension Office continued offering the ServSafe food safety certification program, the industry standard in food safety training accepted in almost all jurisdictions that require employee certification. During 2009, 49 persons completed the 16-hour program.

Dining with Diabetes, a free cooking program for people with diabetes and their families, educated 14 participants with special dietary needs. The program was held in cooperation with a large local supermarket, pharmacy and dieticians.

The Family Nutrition Program provided 331 presentations on the USDA MyPyramid Food Guidance System, Dietary Guidelines for Americans, food safety, and other nutrition topics.

More than 125 women attended the Women in Agriculture program. This annual conference provided support for families involved with agriculture by conducting educational programs and activities that address their pursuit in building independent and productive lives.

Agricultural research projects conducted by Wood County Extension in 2009 sought to increase knowledge for producers, consultants, and ag professionals in the areas of nutrient management, soil and water quality improvement, integrated pest management, and production efficiency. Specific projects focused on cover crops, soil compaction, corn rootworm scouting, western bean cutworm monitoring, nitrogen rate comparison, crop rotation, and sustainable cropping systems.

Private pesticide applicator license re-certification sessions were conducted for over 150 local farmers. Participants gained information about pesticide use including wearing

## BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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

*The Board of Elections is responsible for the administration and execution of all primary, general and special elections in Wood County. These responsibilities include the administration of Election Day, 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, detailed election records and precinct maps which are available to the public. Citizens of Wood County may register to vote 30 days prior to each election at the Board of Elections office as well as the Treasurer's Office, any Ohio License Bureau, U.S. Armed Forces Recruiting Office, public library or municipal offices.*

**T**he Wood County Board of Elections held two elections in 2009 that included 258 municipal, township and school board candidates, three state issues, and 61 local questions and issues. Of these local issues, 40 were passed by their respective electorates.

The number of registered voters for the November General Election continued to rise with a new all-time high of 101,928. Overall, the office issued absentee ballots to 4,322 voters during the year.

personal protective equipment and using pesticide management practices to protect water supplies.

The Crop Observation and Recommendation Network (C.O.R.N.) Newsletter was distributed to farmers and agri-business. The newsletter provided crop scouting, integrated pest management, cultural practice and other practical information during the growing season plus updated

The Board of Elections maintained a website featuring voter registration information, absentee ballot processes, candidate information, past election results, current office holders and governmental links. News releases and other important information are updated daily.

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

research results during the winter months.

The Master Gardener Program, a volunteer program, provided 18 individuals with extensive coursework in horticulture in exchange for a donation of volunteer hours.

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

## LAW LIBRARY

Judith Gill, Librarian

Ohio Law requires each County to have a law library for judges and elected officials. 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 Ohio primary materials in print to assure that the courts can function without the digital versions, if necessary.

**A**s a result of legislation at the State level, the Law Library witnessed a year of transition during 2009. Preparations for management by a Law Library Resources Board began with the creation of the Board on July 1. This new five member board will become the Appointing Authority for the Law Library effective January 1, 2010, making the Law Library an official county agency.

During the year, staff logged a total of 1,522 patron events ranging from quick reference to more lengthy in-depth research assistance. Of those events, 167 were with the courts, 826 with attorneys, and 529 were with residents. Visits to the library accounted for 1,033 events, with 468 via phone and 37 by email.

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.*

**T**he Western Lake Erie Basin Partnership continued with funding obtained through Marcy Kaptur's office; funding for the Western Lake Erie Basin Conservationist was also extended an additional six months. This position, headquartered in Wood County, is multi-county in scope. Primary duties include 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.

During fiscal year 2009, the Lake Erie Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program resulted in a total of 101 signed contracts for 288.8 acres including 260 acres of filter strips, 40,278 row feet of windbreaks, and 8.6 acres of other conservation plantings.

Through the Conservation Reserve Program's Continuous Sign-up, a total of 19 contracts were signed for 34.3 acres including 29.5 acres of quail buffers and 4.8 acres of other conservation plantings.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program brought \$34,347 to Wood County through five contracts. The NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program brought an additional \$618,308 to the County through five contracts.

Other conservation projects designed for landowners included the following: 16 water control structures; four secondary containment facilities and four surface drains.

The District, in cooperation with the Commissioners and Engineer, completed work on four private group drainage projects and assisted on eight other projects totaling over 28 miles of drainage improvements.

More than 3,000 youth were reached through the education programs of the district. These programs included the Area 1 Envirothon; a natural resources knowledge competition for high school students, Northwest Ohio Conservation Camp and Northwest Ohio Woodland & Wildlife Workshop.

Classroom visits utilized the groundwater model, the watershed model, the drinking water and wastewater treatment model and other hands-on opportunities for the students. Teachers from nine school districts were trained to be Qualified Data Collectors – Level 1 for participation with their students in the Portage River Basin Student Congress. This program encourages teachers to take their students to the Portage River and perform a series of tests, and then assess the quality of the river.

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.*

**I**n 2009, the Office of the Public Defender represented approximately 3,600 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. Reimbursement increased to 35 percent in 2009. 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.

**T**he 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 \$47,545 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 2009, the Veterans Assistance Center brought \$46.18 in federal money into the County. This \$15 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 2009

Veterans Residing in Wood County .....	<b>10,674</b>
Total Client Contacts: .....	<b>14,460</b>
Veterans Transported to Medical facilities .....	<b>355</b>
Veterans Photo I.D. Cards issued .....	<b>225</b>
Newsletters Distributed .....	<b>7,500</b>
Memorial Day Appropriations .....	<b>\$10,100</b>
Flags and Grave Markers Distributed .....	<b>9,216</b>
Federal VA Claims/ Documents Processed.....	<b>17,920</b>
Total Federal Dollars Brought into County .....	<b>\$15,088,000</b>

## SPIRIT OF WOOD COUNTY AWARDS

Nominations for the 2010 Spirit of Wood County Awards are being accepted through April 23, 2010. 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 13, 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](http://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.) •



## 2010 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](mailto:commissioners@co.wood.oh.us) by April 23.

**Wood County Government**  
One Courthouse Square  
Bowling Green, Oh 43402

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CALL 419.354.9000 and let us  
help you or call toll-free  
**1.866.860.4140**

## 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