

# **Wood County, Ohio**

# **2012**

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## 2012 BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

James F. Carter,  
PRESIDENT  
Tim W. Brown,  
VICE PRESIDENT  
Joel M. Kuhlman,  
MEMBER  
Andrew S. Kalmar,  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF WOOD COUNTY

Wood County was organized on February 12, 1820, when the Legislature carved 14 counties from the lands purchased from the Indians as a result of the Lower Maumee Treaty of September 29, 1817. Lucas County was then a part of Wood County. By law, Maumee was named as the temporary Seat of Justice. The Act further provided that the unorganized counties of Hancock, Henry, Putnam, Paulding, and Williams should be attached to Wood County for civil purposes until further provisions were made by law.

Wood County was named for Colonel Eleazar D. Wood, a graduate of West Point, a gallant soldier and the engineer who planned Fort Meigs.

The selection of county officers took place on April 1, 1820. In May 1822, the Commissioners designated Perrysburg as the first County Seat. It remained so until 1868 when the Seat of Justice was moved to Bowling Green.

The County lines were the same as now, except that the northern boundary extended to Michigan. In 1835, Wood County was dismembered when Lucas County was formed and the Maumee River became its northern boundary.

Out of the Great Black Swamp of yesterday has emerged a well drained, rich, fertile, and productive county.

Today, Wood County covers 617.4 square miles and consists of five cities, 21 villages and 19 townships. The 2010 Census listed the population of Wood County at 125,488.



**2013 Wood County Elected Officials.** **Front row:** Sheriff Mark Wasylshyn, Commissioner James Carter, Commissioner Doris Herringshaw, Commissioner Joel Kuhlman, Auditor Michael Sibbersen. **Middle row:** Treasurer Jill Engle, Clerk of Courts Cindy Hofner, Recorder Julie Baumgardner, Judge David Woessner, Prosecuting Attorney Paul Dobson. **Back row:** Judge Robert Pollex, Judge Reeve Kelsey, Judge Alan Mayberry, Engineer Raymond Huber, Coroner Douglas Hess.

# A Message from the Board of County Commissioners

We began 2013, in similar fashion to 2012, with a change in the Commissioners' Office. In November 2012, Tim W. Brown, who served as Wood County Commissioner since 1997, was elected to the Ohio House of Representatives and left the Commissioners' Office on December 31. We look forward to working with Tim in his new role representing the citizens of Wood County in the state legislature. We also welcome Doris Herringshaw who was appointed to fill the remainder of Tim's term, officially taking office on January 14, 2013.

Total general fund appropriations for 2013 were set at \$37,304,773.43, which remains at the lowest level since 2006. We extend sincere thanks to our fellow elected officials, department heads, and county employees who continue to work together through this difficult economic period. Continued fiscal challenges are anticipated in the year ahead. However, there are promising signs in our local economy with business expansions and positive sales tax receipts. We will participate in the debate regarding the Governor's recent budget proposal that includes changes to sales tax - the largest single revenue source for county government.

In October, we were pleased to announce an agreement with the Wood Soil & Water Conservation District that will result in a set of construction plans and specifications to be used in conjunction with other documents for the clean out and perpetual maintenance of the 46-mile area along the South and East branches of the Portage River in Wood, Hancock and Seneca Counties.

The agreement was developed with the cooperation of Wood County Engineer Ray Huber. Wood County landowners filed a petition with the Wood County Commissioners in August 2007 to initiate this project that includes approximately 9,700 parcels of land.

The staff of our Building Inspection Department was awarded the David E. Smith Jr. Award for Building Department Excellence, by the Ohio Board of Building Standards in March. The award was established to recognize certified building departments in Ohio for contributions to the public sector and to encourage innovations to improve public service, governance, and quality of life in the community. Good staff, leadership, and teamwork were the reasons cited in making this award. Congratulations to the members of the Building Inspection Department for continued good work and excellent customer service.

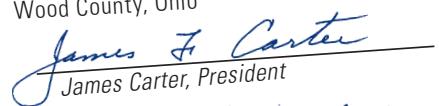
The Department of Job & Family Services provides many important services such as Medicaid eligibility, employment resources, and children's services. After the deaths of two children and serious injury to another, from abusive head trauma in 2012, JFS staff teamed up with Wood County Hospital to provide new parents information from the National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome. While at the hospital, new parents are now required to watch a DVD that reviews ways to soothe a crying baby, steps to take when a parent is frustrated by a crying baby, and information about the damage that shaking a baby can cause. A folder of information with parenting tips, discipline help, and baby care is also provided.

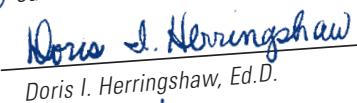
A direct reflection of our conservative fiscal management is the fact that Wood County maintains an excellent bond rating. The County's bond rating saves the taxpayer's money in many ways. When the County borrows for its own purposes such as for roads, bridges or other capital improvements, the bond rating helps keep interest rates and debt payments low. Community partners affiliated with Wood County, such as the Falcon Health Center (Wood County Hospital) and St. Clare Commons, also benefit from our excellent bond rating. They are able to access our bond rating to help their own borrowing needs, without the county incurring liability for their debt.

Please take a few moments to read this annual report to see and better understand the many components of county government. As you do, please consider becoming involved by volunteering to serve on a county board or commission. Remember to shop in Wood County because doing so helps local businesses and keeps your sales tax dollars working for you right here at home.

We look forward to seeing you at a town hall meeting in the coming year. Wood County is a great place to call home.

The Board of County Commissioners,  
Wood County, Ohio

  
James F. Carter, President

  
Doris I. Herringshaw, Ed.D.

  
Joel M. Kuhlman

## 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



Joel M. Kuhlman

**S**ome significant staffing changes within the Commissioners' departments occurred in 2012. Three key employees left county government; two announced their retirement, Tom Blaha from Economic Development and Ken Rieman from the Solid Waste Management District (SWMD), and Christie Weininger, Director of the Historical Center, took the Executive Director position at the Hayes Presidential Center.

The Commissioners welcomed two new department heads - Dana Nemeth, the new Director at the Historical Center, and Wade Gottschalk, who was named as the new Executive Director for Wood County Economic Development. Dana is a native of Wood County and has much experience with the Historical Center, as well as

museum experience at Greenfield Village and the Museum of the Moving Image in New York. Wade has worked for Wood County Economic Development since 2001, and brings an energetic and knowledgeable approach to this department. With these changes, the Commissioners again took the opportunity to evaluate staffing needs. They agreed to postpone hiring an Associate Director of Economic Development until an assessment of staffing needs is completed.

The Commissioners found it prudent to forgo filling the vacant Solid Waste Director position while the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the State legislature work to revamp House Bill 592, the solid waste law in Ohio, until this issue is resolved. During this period, Joe Fawcett, Assistant

County Administrator, will provide leadership to the SWMD office and the Landfill. Operations at the Landfill will continue to be led by Superintendent Ken Vollmar.

The Commissioners were pleased to see the realignment of State Route 18 in North Baltimore completed. The Ohio Department of Transportation recognized the importance of the project work in conjunction with the new CSX Intermodal facility in Henry Township. Additionally, this realignment adds to the marketability of the Southwood Jobs Ready Site which is located across from the Intermodal facility.

During 2012, the Emergency Management Agency (EMA) in conjunction with Sheriff Mark Wasylshyn finalized plans to upgrade the current radio canopy system. The total project cost is \$174,572, with \$144,557 coming from a Homeland Security grant along with \$30,015 of general fund assistance. The project is scheduled to be completed in 2013. The current canopy system has eight receiving sites around the County that enhance the Sheriff's two-way radio system, which in turn allows for better portable radio coverage throughout the County.

The upgrade to the system will include making the existing Fire 2 channel and a new fire operations channel repeater channels, which will allow for enhanced coverage and more options for fire and EMS departments. The existing Sheriff 2 channel, used by many village police departments and the Park District Rangers, will also be integrated into the canopy system for enhanced coverage. This is the

first major upgrade to any of the countywide fire channels in several decades.

Wood Haven Health Care recently completed the sale of certified Medicare/Medicaid bed licenses for just over \$1 million. The facility now operates with 95 beds, which includes more private rooms than previously. These funds will be used for capital improvements to the facility. The staffs at Wood Haven and the East Gypsy Lane Complex maintenance department are working to identify energy efficiency related and other large scale projects for the Commissioners to consider.

The Commissioners worked with Mary Hanna, Executive Director of the Wood County Veterans Assistance Center, to add a Medal of Honor monument to the existing set of veteran monuments at the Courthouse Complex. Ms. Hanna worked hard to ensure that the new monument would match the current monuments and keep with the high standards of the Medal of Honor. The monument was unveiled Veterans Day weekend.

During 2012, Town Hall meetings, which are usually planned to precede regularly scheduled council meetings, were held in Fostoria, Northwood, Rossford, Pemberville and Perrysburg Township. 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.

## CASINO TAX FUNDS RECEIVED BY COUNTY

In 2009, Ohio voters approved a constitutional amendment that authorized gambling and the building of four casinos.

The first three casinos were built in Cleveland, Toledo, and Columbus, with the fourth on schedule to be completed in 2013 in Cincinnati.

The legislation imposed a tax of 33 percent on gross casino revenue, which is the total amount bet minus payouts. The amendment authorized that 51 percent of this amount be allocated on a per capita basis among all 88 counties, along with percentages to schools, host cities, and certain municipalities with over 80,000 residents. Until all four casinos are in operation the full potential of this revenue source is unknown.

The County received \$330,438 in casino tax funds in 2012. The Commissioners allocated the entire first payment of \$110,296 to the County Engineer to fund the Tracy Road bridge project in Perrysburg Township and Lake Township.

While the Commissioners are very pleased to see this new form of revenue, they remain cautious with its use due to the unpredictability of the amount to be received.

*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 through careful budget oversight.*

**R**evenue generated for the General Fund during 2012 totaled \$35,112,146.43. General Fund expenditures totaled \$33,813,059.25 leaving an unencumbered ending balance of \$12,944,162.71 in 2013.

In spite of continued revenue reductions from the State of Ohio, the appropriations and expenditures for 2012 reflected a cautious, yet optimistic approach by the Commissioners. This 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.

Despite these revenue restrictions from the State, the Commissioners continued their support for various grants including the Agricultural Society, Airport, OSU Extension, Humane Society, Violence Against Women (VAWA), D.A.R.E., Community Policing, Victims of Crime Assistance (VOCA), the Emergency Management Agency, and the Wood Soil and Water Conservation District. Equipment including computers and vehicle purchases totaling \$567,619.27 and the

transfer of \$1,000,000 to the permanent improvement fund were also included.

Sales tax revenue showed an increase, mirroring national trends. The year-end total was \$17,176,636.58, a 4.75 percent increase from the previous year. Investment income for the year ended at \$1,534,545.54, a 2.93 percent decrease from 2011.

*As a means of "giving back" to the community, County employees volunteered for and participated in several special projects.*

**T**he annual United Way campaign raised more than \$25,000 from County employees to benefit United Way agencies in the local area. An additional \$1,448 was raised during special events, including the annual chili cook-off.

Other volunteer opportunities for County employees included three blood drives and the Holiday Helping Hands Days that gave employees the opportunity to donate hats, gloves, and mittens to the Heath District, CASA, and Job and Family Services and canned goods to a food bank serving Wood County residents.

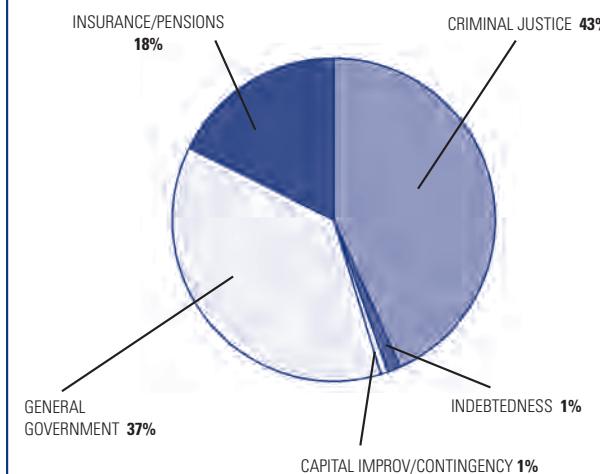
An awards ceremony was scheduled for January 10, 2013, to honor the 158 employees who completed five, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35 years of service during 2012.

*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

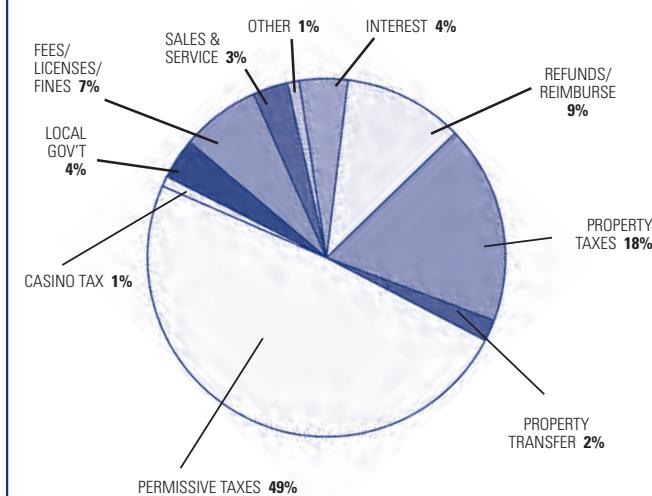
## 2012 ACTUAL EXPENDITURES

**\$33,813,059.25**



## 2012 ACTUAL RECEIPTS

**\$35,112,146.43**



## SALES TAX RECEIPTS

2012	<b>\$17,176,636.58</b>
2011	<b>\$16,397,517.17</b>
2010	<b>\$15,505,828.48</b>
2009	<b>\$15,029,615.79</b>
2008	<b>\$16,116,923.64</b>

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. •

## Department of Job and Family Services

Dave Wigent, 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.

**A** The Collabor8 program completed its first year of operation. This seven county call center allowed customers to interview for benefits by phone following submission of a completed application. The participating counties shared a common document imaging and workflow system. Collabor8 won national recognition when it won the 2012 Best of Category Award from the National Association of Counties.

Medicaid expansion, under the Affordable Care Act, is driving change within the Collabor8 project and the Income Maintenance Unit of the

Department. Significant effort was expended during the second half of 2012 trying to understand the upcoming changes and to prepare for the estimated 5,000 additional Medicaid clients in the County. These changes are scheduled to take effect in October 2013.

Job Solutions of Wood County assisted several local employers including Rosenboom Machine and Tool, DS Brown, Centaur Tool and Die, and NovaVision with on the job training funds for new employees.

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

### INCOME MAINTENANCE UNIT

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

cash payment cases (MA) .....	257
Medicaid recipients .....	29,180
Medicaid cases (MA) .....	8,855
Medicaid issuance (MA) .....	\$8,518,296
Food assistance recipients .....	13,887
Food assistance issuance (MA) .....	\$680,629
Food assistance issuance per case (MA) .....	\$180
Children issued food stamps (MA) .....	3,784

### CHILDREN'S PROTECTIVE SERVICES UNIT

Children served .....	1,685
Children placed in substitute care .....	60
Cost for substitute care .....	\$2.2 million
Home protective services children .....	157
Reports of child abuse/neglect investigated .....	782
Adoptions finalized .....	0
Certified foster/adoptive homes provided with services .....	21

### JOB SOLUTIONS UNIT

Information and referrals .....	1,451
Families provided emergency assistance (PRC) .....	325
Emergency food and shelter .....	19
Ohio Fuel Fund funds administered .....	\$4,736
Individuals receiving WIA training services .....	105
New job seekers .....	3,169
Youth Employment Program participants .....	255

### SOCIAL SERVICES UNIT

Child care providers registered .....	76
Elder chore services provided .....	42
Adults receiving home health aid services .....	84
Adult Protective Services assessments completed .....	248
Children who received child care services (MA) .....	643
Homemaker visits provided (MA) .....	240
Transportation (1 way trips) to Medicaid and Title XX services .....	2,629

MA = Monthly Average

## JFS Offers Program to Educate Parents on Ways to Comfort Crying Infants

Wood County Children's Services teamed up with Wood County Hospital in 2012 to give new parents information and tips on how to comfort a crying baby, and what they can do when they find themselves getting frustrated. The information is part of the Period of PURPLE Crying program from the National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome (NCSBS).

The NCSBS reminds parents that this "period" is only temporary and will come to an end. They use the acronym PURPLE to describe the characteristics of an infant's crying.

P - Peak of Crying

U - Unexpected

R - Resists Soothing

P - Pain-Like Face

L - Long Lasting

E - Evening

### Sound Familiar

Learn about the  
Period of PURPLE Crying®  
[www.purplecrying.info](http://www.purplecrying.info)



To learn more about the Period of PURPLE crying, visit [www.purplecrying.info](http://www.purplecrying.info). The NCSBS also operates a Child Help Hotline at 1.800.4.A.CHILD.

Newspaper ads along with 10 billboards have been posted throughout the County to alert residents about Shaken Baby Syndrome and also the importance of reporting child abuse and neglect.

## Building Permits Often Overlooked for Home Renovations

Did you know that replacing a hot water heater or furnace within your home requires a permit?

Homeowners can perform this work themselves, but they are encouraged to review the manufacturer's specifications for proper installation as they can be hazardous if installed incorrectly. In most cases, the equipment needs to be installed by a certified installer to comply with the product's warranty. If a contractor is secured to perform the work, be sure the contractor provides you with a permit record and inspection approvals to verify that the required permit was obtained.

While many residents who live in unincorporated or unzoned areas believe they are exempt from the building code enforcement, this may not always be the case. Only a few communities within the County have not adopted the Residential Code of Ohio: Bloomdale, Fostoria, Jerry City, Portage, Wayne and West Millgrove. Outside of these areas, residents must comply with the applicable building codes and apply for any necessary permits.

Permits are required for any new construction, addition, alterations, repairs, installation of equipment and replacement of any electrical, plumbing, gas, or mechanical systems. This includes the replacement or installation of hot water heaters, furnaces, central air conditioning units, gas fireplaces, etc. These permits typically run \$30 to \$40 depending on the type of permit needed. The fee structure is posted on the Building Inspection website that can be found by visiting [www.co.wood.oh.us](http://www.co.wood.oh.us).

Please contact the Building Inspection Department with any questions relating to permits/approvals for your next construction project. The department is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday with the exception of legal holidays.

## Child Support Enforcement Agency

Frank McLaughlin, Director

*The Child Support Enforcement Agency is comprised of six units: Legal Support, which handles paternity and support establishment as well as review and adjustment of existing orders; two Case Management units, which conduct location and enforcement activities; Legal, which initiates court proceedings for establishment and enforcement; and Fiscal and Clerical, which provide various accounting, audit and supportive functions.*

The Legal Support Unit worked to resolve 102 paternity cases through genetic parentage testing, with a total of 250 individuals tested locally. In addition, 274 parent-child relationships were acknowledged by new parents at the time of their child's birth. Legal Support successfully established 82 new support orders through the administrative process and completed 228 review and adjustments on active orders.

The Case Management Units diligently enforced support orders through the issuance of income and bank account withholdings; medical support notices to ensure that children

were covered by available health insurance; license suspensions; passport denials; and tax refund interception. When appropriate, the Case Management units initiated interstate action or referred the case for legal intervention. Through their combined work, the CSEA collected over \$18,024,439 in child support payments. The license suspension program alone accounted for \$78,014.43 in payments to families.

The Legal Unit filed actions with the Courts for the establishment of paternity and support, when the administrative process could not be utilized. In addition, the unit enforced

orders through contempt of court actions; criminal non-support prosecution; placement of liens against property and intervention into various legal proceedings to intercept lump sum payments. In 2012, the unit filed 344 new contempt of court motions and initiated 42 criminal non-support prosecutions. In all, the unit brought in an additional \$166,882.24 in payments.

The Agency continued to offer a variety of other services, including: outreach and consumer

education through its Early Intervention program and Court Liaison; seek work services for parents in need of employment; and Criminal Non-Support Diversion to give Obligors the opportunity to avoid a criminal conviction; account auditing and fiscal management; and filing terminations at the conclusion of the case.

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

### CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AGENCY STATISTICS

Wood County Children Served	8,704
Collections/Disbursements to Custodial Parents	\$18,024,439.00
Public Assistance Returned to State of Ohio	\$442,250.37
Recouped through Income Tax Refund Offset	\$951,151.86
Reimbursements to WCJFS for Foster Children	\$7,539.66
Contempt of Court Actions	344
Misdemeanor Criminal Nonsupport Cases	42
Active Warrants Initiated	102
Warrants served	229

## Building Inspection

Michael Rudey, Chief Building Official

*Wood County Building Inspection Department is certified by the Ohio Board of Building Standards to provide building code enforcement throughout Wood County as well as commercial enforcement in Hancock and Henry Counties. The area covers a total of 1,455 square miles and encompasses over 40 municipalities including Bowling Green, Perrysburg, Northwood, Rossford, Fostoria, Findlay, Bluffton, Deshler, Napoleon, just to name a few, making the Inspection Department the largest geographically in the State. The department is setup as an enterprise fund and operates solely on permit revenue. Permit revenue from within Wood County accounts for 77 percent of all fees collected.*

In March, the Department received the David E. Smith Jr. Award of Building Department Excellence by the Ohio Board of Building Standards in recognition of outstanding customer service and innovative programs which support Ohio's citizens and construction community. This award is presented to a single certified inspection department. Wood

County was selected out of the 288 certified departments in Ohio.

During 2012, the Department issued 4,450 permits. The issuance of these permits resulted in 11,398 inspections with 586 inspections requiring corrective action. Of the inspections conducted, 9,078 occurred in Wood County, 1,769 in Hancock County and

551 in Henry County. Within Wood County 4,208 inspections were conducted for residential structures and 4,870 for non-residential structures. Total receipts for all three counties in 2012 was \$1,127,832.23; Wood County \$920,364.75, Hancock County \$158,951.69, and Henry \$48,515.94.

The Building Inspection Department operates under the

Board of County Commissioners and uses the 2011 Ohio Building Codes for non-residential structures and the 2013 Residential Code of Ohio for One, Two and Three Family Dwellings. These are uniform codes adopted throughout the State of Ohio and promote energy conservation, life safety, and sanitation of all buildings for the intended use and occupancy. •

## Buildings and Grounds

**COURTHOUSE COMPLEX:** Tim Hainen, Superintendent

**EAST GYPSY LANE COMPLEX :** Alan Stoots, Superintendent

*Buildings and Grounds oversees 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. Two maintenance departments provide assistance in facility planning, remodeling, and preventative maintenance.*

### Courthouse Complex

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

During 2012, maintenance staff completed painting of the Probate office and remodeling of a new IT office. Staff also assisted and supervised with the Highway Garage Sign Shop Roof maintenance, Auditor's office remodel, IT server room modifications, sidewalk replacements and generator transfer switch replacements. Additionally an Arc Flash study was preformed on all buildings and changes made to bring them into compliance.

The Custodial Staff continued their refinishing of the original Courthouse ceramic tiled floor. Additionally window cleaning, floor re-finishing, and carpet maintenance, along with recycling and general office cleaning was performed at the Courthouse Complex. Community Employment Services of Wood Lane continued to provide weekly pickup service for the complex recycling efforts.

### East Gypsy Lane Complex

The East Gypsy Lane Complex Maintenance staff maintained the County-owned office buildings on East Gypsy Lane Road; the Dunbridge Road Building which during 2012 housed the Solid Waste Management District, OSU Extension and the Office of Economic Development; and the Historical Center.

A major masonry project was completed at the Dunbridge Road Building as well as other masonry and concrete projects at Child Support, Historical Center, Juvenile Detention, Health District, Justice Center and Wood Haven. Nine buildings had drainage projects and/or fire system repairs completed. The walls behind the mansard roof at Job and Family Services were sealed and waterproofed while correcting a roof drain problem. HVAC upgrades and repairs were completed at the Health District, Justice Center, Northwest Community Corrections Center, Sheriff's Office and Wood Haven Health Care.

Prairie Grass was planted in two large areas in the complex to return the sites to their natural settings and to reduce mowing costs in those areas.

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

## Wood Haven Health Care David Cecil, Administrator

*Wood Haven Health Care, Senior Living & Rehabilitation, a 95-bed short-term rehabilitation and long-term health care facility, provides both skilled and intermediate level care and services. Available rehabilitation programs through Bordner Therapy Care 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 and serves individuals covered under various nursing care insurance plans.*

Wood Haven completed a re-sizing and room conversion process resulting in 27 private and 34 semi-private rooms for a total bed capacity of 95. Resident room furnishings include new night stands and over-bed tables with flat screen TVs installed in many of the rooms. Sale of the 32 excess certified bed licenses was finalized during 2012 with the \$1,050,000 received being designated for future capital improvements of the facility.

Wood Haven received a good report in its annual health inspection survey conducted by the Ohio Department of Health. The facility also maintained an overall four 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.

Residents participated in regular outings along with special activities including a monthly mystery tour.

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

### 2012 WOOD HAVEN STATISTICS

Registered Admissions	172
Residents Returning Home Following Stay	118
In-House Days Logged	28,000
Privately Funded Residents	18%
Medicaid Residents	62%
Medicare Residents	8%
Managed Care Residents	8%
Hospice Residents	4%

## 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.

In 2012 the District experienced an increase of approximately \$100,000 in revenue from solid waste tonnage fees, compared to 2011. This was mainly due to unexpected additional tonnage taken in from special projects at Evergreen Landfill, located in Northwood.

The District began collecting designation fees from facilities located outside of Wood County who were accepting waste generated within the County, which captured additional revenue of approximately \$78,000.

This additional revenue allowed the District to continue its \$1 per capita recycling support to all local government entities that provide

residential recycling programs. A bid for weekend residential recycling collection at 16 Wood County community locations was awarded to the Bowling Green Recycling Center which will allow the District to continue ensuring compliance with the recycling related portions of the Solid Waste Management District Plan.

As required by the Plan, the District provided education and awareness presentations on responsible solid waste management, litter prevention, and recycling to schools, community organizations, and businesses. During 2012, the District provided 71 presentations; led 114 tours of the Wood County Landfill, Wind

Turbines, and Bowling Green Recycling Center; and participated in more than 20 community events. The District also hosted several organizations that toured local recycling operations, participated in workshops, and spent time in Wood County.

The focus of construction operations at the Landfill included extending the main haul road in the North Disposal Area; seeding slopes completed in 2011; reshaping the south slope to proper slope and grade; cleaning of all ditches; and preparing the clean hard fill area for capping. The purchase of a Tarpomatic machine and tarps has improved daily cover and reduced costs.

The major construction project for 2013 will be capping the clean hard fill area.

Generating electricity using methane gas from the Landfill has been a goal for several years. Due to the small size of the Landfill and low value offered per kilowatt of electricity, it has not been possible to install an economically sustainable electrical generation facility at the current time. The District continues to investigate and evaluate options for beneficial use of the methane gas.

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

## Information Technology

Ben Hendricks, IT Director

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

In 2012, the IT Department continued tasks to consolidate computer hardware equipment and reduce the resources required to serve technology to the other offices in the County. In addition to the consolidation steps, the department spent some time building up the infrastructure used by various systems to provide future disaster recovery enhancements. As part of the IT Department's normal function, support was provided to assist with technology related projects and planning. •

## Records Center

Brenda Ransom, Records Manager

Created in 1998 by the Board of County Commissioners, the Records Center provides records management services to Wood County offices. The Center 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 10,122 cubic-foot records boxes. A small microfilm vault stores some of the County's duplicate copy microfilm, with other copies stored offsite.

### 2012 RECORDS CENTER STATISTICS

Records stored (cubic feet)	7,207
New records (cubic feet)	654
Eligible for disposal (cubic feet)	153
Storage space recovered (cubic feet)	625
Tons of paper recycled	13.4
Pages scanned	593,144
Rolls of microfilm created	419

## 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 Agency, along with the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), spent a good part of the year planning a full scale hazardous materials exercise, as required by the State of Ohio to be conducted once every four years. The exercise took place on September 22 in North Baltimore and simulated an incident involving a railcar. First responders practiced hazardous material response, containment, and traffic/access control. Evacuations, shelters, and decontamination for both people and animals were also included in the exercise. A total of 137 participants representing 21 agencies took part in the exercise which received a concurrence (approval) from the State of Ohio.

Utilizing Homeland Security Grant funding, the Agency continued to work with Sheriff Wasylshyn, the Wood County Fire/EMS Chief's Association, and RCC Consultants to plan for improvements to the County's first responder communication system. The Commissioners

awarded a contract in mid-December and the project is scheduled to be completed by June 2013 utilizing some assistance from the County's general fund. Wood County also completed the FCC narrow banding requirements in February well in advance of the 2013 Federal deadline.

The Agency provided public outreach information and severe weather information via its Facebook page.

The Agency completed a year-long project to update the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The EOC is used by County and local officials to coordinate a response to, and recovery from, large scale emergencies and disasters. The new technology upgrades to the EOC will allow officials to more efficiently monitor situations and track vital resources.

These improvements were made utilizing Homeland Security Grant funding.

The Emergency Management Agency operates under the Board of County Commissioners. •

## Dog Shelter • Andrew Snyder, Chief Dog Warden

The Dog Shelter enforces Section 955 of the Ohio Revised Code which includes issuing and checking dog licenses, ensuring proper housing of dogs, impounding and caring for stray dogs, investigating dog bites and livestock claims, and other related issues. 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 for all aspects of the Shelter's operations. The Shelter receives assistance from rescuers, who publicize dogs available from the Shelter, which further assists in the staff's ongoing effort to find permanent homes for sheltered dogs. The Dog Shelter operates under the Board of County Commissioners.

Statistics	2012
Total Dogs Impounded	671
Adoptions	312
Redemptions	191
Euthanized	168
Surrendered for Euthanasia	23
Unadoptable Dogs	141
Adoption Rate	74.9%
Adoption Rate (Adoptable Dogs)	94.9%
Incidents Investigated	595
Dog Licenses Sold	20,903
Licenses Sold On-Line	4,941
Kennel Licenses Sold	135
Dogs Transferred to Rescues	129

### Dangerous and Vicious Dog Law

On May 22, 2012, the Ohio dangerous and vicious dog law became effective. Therefore, the vicious dog designation is no longer breed specific, and is now based on behavior.

If a dog is deemed to be a dangerous or vicious dog, the owner may be subject to the following additional legal requirements:

- Stricter Confinement Requirements
- Minimum of \$100,000 in liability insurance – Vicious dogs only
- Possible liability insurance requirements – Dangerous dogs only, determined by judge
- Annual dangerous/vicious dog registration – \$50 cost in addition to regular license
- Dog must be spayed/neutered
- Dog must be microchipped
- Dog must have current rabies vaccinations
- Owner must post clearly visible, dangerous dog signs on their property
- Notification to dog warden and auditor for certain actions
- Certain felony offenders are prohibited from owning or residing with dangerous/vicious dogs

It is important that all dog owners familiarize themselves with their new responsibilities or contact the Dog Shelter to learn more about the new laws.

## Office of Economic Development

Thomas Blaha, Executive Director (Jan. 1 - July 31, 2012) Wade Gottschalk, Executive Director (Effective Aug. 14, 2012)

*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.*

**T**he economy in Wood County picked up steam in 2012, with the unemployment rate falling from 8.1 percent in January to 6.1 percent by year's end on the back of numerous new investments throughout the County.

The Ohio Department of Transportation constructed and opened a new configuration of State Route 18, providing better access to the CSX Intermodal Terminal in Henry Township with an eye towards future development in the area.

FedEx Freight, following the FedEx Ground Distribution

Center investment, decided to locate its distribution center in Northwood and is currently under construction.

Also in Northwood, Johnson Controls announced an expansion of its existing facility that will lead to the creation of 86 new jobs.

In Perrysburg Township, locally owned Northwood Industries doubled the size of its building, while in the City of Perrysburg OH announced an investment of \$35 million for a new research and development facility.

Bowling Green saw the continued expansion of Vehtek

and an expansion at Rosenboom Machine and Tool.

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. •



Calphalon, a division of Newell Rubbermaid, constructed a 360,000 square foot distribution center in Middleton Township and will also retain their manufacturing operation located in Perrysburg Township.

## Historical Museum and Center

Christie Weininger, Director (Jan. 1 - Aug. 31, 2012) Dana Nemeth, Director (Effective Nov. 13, 2012)

*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.*

**T**he 2012 spring opening of the Museum featured two new exhibits – “I Love the 1980s” and one commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Girl Scouts. The Center also hosted the Ohio Humanities photography exhibition “Images of the Great Depression in Ohio: Documentary Portraits Revisited.”

The annual Wood County Heritage Days weekend featured a Saturday night square dance and hog roast.

In September, the vintage

baseball team ended its final season and the Center hosted its third annual Society Social with the theme “Wood County Cultures,” which included ethnic dance demonstrations. The anniversary of the War of 1812 was the underlying theme of Wood County Living History Day at Oak Grove Cemetery as well as for the October Friday Night Folklore Tours. Costumed interpreters added new elements to the Old Home Holiday Tour, by bringing scenes from Christmases past to life.

Site improvements completed during the year included masonry work on the stone fence; a new foundation and roof added to the Pestilence House; brick tuck-pointing on the main building; and the installation of doors and windows on the Log Cabin.

The time capsule discovered in the cornerstone of Bowling Green's 1913 former high school building was donated to the Center, and the Center was featured on WBGU-TV's “Scenic Stops” program in December.

Throughout the year, 16 area schools visited the Center and more than 2,900 students were served through schoolroom educational programs and site tours. To help with these and other visitors, 392 individuals contributed over 2,200 volunteer hours.

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. •



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

Jerome Carpenter\*, Casey Cromwell, Judy Ennis\*, Beverly Hirzel\*, Michael Linthicum, Tom Kiger\*, Frank McLaughlin\*, David C. Miller\*, Monica Moll, Harold Rosenberg, Randy Rothenbuhler\*, Jean Scech\*, Steve Spirl\*, H. Jay Salvage, Thomas Vermilya, Patrick Wise\*, and two vacancies

#### BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Joe Catalano\*, Frank Day, Cindy Herman\*, Ed Metzger, Pam Van Mooy\*, Martha Woelke\*, and Jane Zipperer\*

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

Tim Brown, Tom Chidester, Dorothy Cromley, Tim Hainen, Earlene Kilpatrick, Robert Pollex, Michael Sibbersen, Irma Wolf, and Karen Young

## GOVERNING BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

#### BUILDING STANDARDS & APPEALS\*\*

Fred Arn, Ron Bechstein, Tim Enright, Ray Huber, Robert Maurer, Laurie Melchior Huskisson, Carl Snyder, and Connie Workman. ALTERNATES: David Kellermeyer and Mike Dunipace

#### CLIENT COMPLAINT REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR CDBG CHIP PROGRAM\*\*

Mike Rudey and Richard Kohring

#### COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS BOARD\*\*

Valerie Amidon, Joni Bretz, James Carter, Steve Callejas, Thomas Clemons, Brad Conner, Paul Dobson, John Fawcett, Ann Garcia, Ronda Gibson, Scott Howard, Andrew Kalmar, Reeve Kelsey, Alan Mayberry, Daniel Paez, Robert Pollex, Mark Reddin, Melanie Stretchberry, Mark Wasylshyn, and Chris Zografies

#### COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION MEMBERS

Tim Brown, James Carter, Maxine Cross, John Eckel, Jill Engle, Andrew Kalmar, Joel Kuhlman, Cathy Newlove-Wenig, W. David Steiner, and Michael Sibbersen

#### HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD

Rebecca Bhaer\*, Nancy Buchanan, Dick Conrad, Gloria Enriquez-Pizana, Mark Hollenbaugh, Joyce Johnson\*, Becky Mancuso, Neil Munger, Edie Olds, Jim Philo, Louis Snyder\*, Elmer Spreitzer, Wendy Stram, Bob Willman, and Irma Wolf\*

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

Shelian Beaupre, Joseph Catalano, Sue Clanton, Chad Huebner, Stephanie Kelley, Judy Knox, Mark Lerrick, Paul Mortimer, Denise Niese, John Sinn, and Laurie Young EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: Melanie Stretchberry, and Dave Wigent

#### LAW LIBRARY RESOURCES BOARD

Dennis East\*, Ann Bowers\*, Reina Calderon, Thomas Teet, and Jeffrey Nelson

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

Joni Bretz, Nancy Buchanan, Tom Chidester, Brad Conner, Rodney Fleming, Brad Gilbert, Scott Hicks, Cindy Hofner, Joel Kuhlman, Nina Oberkirsh, Richard Schmidbauer, Rick Schmidt, Anthony Thompson, Mark Wasylshyn, and Karen Young

#### NORTHWESTERN WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

John Cheney\*, John Current, Bill Hirzel\*, Melinda Kale, Alex Molner\*, Leonard Michaels, Adam Seibert, and Lyle Schulte

#### PLANNING COMMISSION\*\*

Anthony Allion, John Brossia, Tim Brown, James Carter, Patrick Fitzgerald, Raymond Huber, Richard Kohring, Joel Kuhlman, Donna Schuerman, Robert Stitt Black, and Leslee Thompson. NON-VOTING ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: Mike Rudey, Pam Butler, Jerry Greiner, and W. David Steiner

#### PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION

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

#### PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Nancy Buchanan\*, Ellen Dalton, Chet Marcin, Scott McEwen\*, Brian Paskvan\*, Jane Robb, and one vacancy

#### REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY\*\*

Thomas Bamburowski, William J. Davis Jr., Dean Hetrick, Steve Hopkins, Gerald Jones, Matt Reger, and one vacancy

#### ROSSFORD TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

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

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

John Cheney, Valerie Hovland, Cathy Newlove-Wenig, and one vacancy ALTERNATES: Tim Harris

#### TERRORISM ADVISORY TEAM\*\*

Alan Baer, Thomas Bentley, Thomas Brice, Gary Britten, Pam Butler, Brad Conner, Richard Edwards, Tammy Feehan, Brad Gilbert, Jerry Greiner, Thomas Gross, Raymond Huber, Andrew Kalmar, Jeff Klein, Stan Korducki, Joel Kuhlman, Rod Lucas, Tim McGiffin, Janet Stoudinger, and Mark Wasylshyn

#### WOOD COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY

Tony Damon\*, Cheryl Johnson\*, Milton F. Knight, Mike Liebenthal\*, John Rust Jr., Thomas Uhler\*, and Martha Woelke\*

#### WOOD HAVEN ADVISORY BOARD\*\*

Margaret Chamberlain, Jean Ladd, Denise Niese, Winn Stone, Doug Troutner and one vacancy EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: David Cecil, 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: Carmen Beltran, Melvin L. Browning\*, Alan W. Fosnaugh\*, Dean King, Paul Smith, and one vacancy

#### WORKFORCE POLICY BOARD\*\*

Frank Day, Mary Gregory, Diana Herman, Tamela Ledford, Ronald Matter, Richard Edwards, John Schlagheck, Cathy Newlove-Wenig, Joyce Winters, and two vacancies. AD HOC MEMBERS: Wade Gottschalk, Andrew Kalmar, Mary DeWitt, and Dave Wigent

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

Judy Didion, Valerie Linkey, Ronald Matter, Joyce Winters, and two vacancies. 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 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.*

**T**he Auditor conducted a forfeited land sale during 2012, at which 26 parcels of land were auctioned and returned to the tax rolls.

In May, the Office held its first ever training seminar for township fiscal officers, covering background relating to values, levies, tax rates, estimated income, tax settlement, and related forms.

For the 16th consecutive year, Wood County received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association for 2011.

The Office assessed 74,238 parcels of real property with a taxable value of over \$2.7 billion. Special assessments for waterlines, sewers, ditches and other services were also collected with the real estate tax duplicate and distributed to all appropriate local governmental units.

In 2012, 4,071 conveyances were processed, encompassing 6,628 individual land parcels, which generated \$1,012,305 for the County's General Fund and the Economic Development Fund.

The County's Land Transfer Policy was revised by mutual agreement of the Auditor and Engineer, following a series of meetings and hearings which also included input from the Recorder and Planning Commission, as well

as local associations of attorneys, realtors, and surveyors.

The Auditor's office administered the Current Agricultural Use Value (CAUV) program, implemented by the State in 1974 as a tax saving program for farmland. A total of 320,332 farmland acres are enrolled in this program, which brought a tax savings of over \$9.7 million to landowners last year.

The State's expanded Homestead Exemption program provided 8,984 residents (those aged 65 and older, or permanently disabled) with property tax relief. Taxpayers enrolled in this program saved \$3,788,423, a nine percent increase in savings from 2011.

As agent for the County Dog and Kennel Fund, the Auditor logged the sale of 20,903 dog licenses and 135 kennel licenses during 2012. Of those, 4,941 licenses were sold online.

The Weights and Measures division inspected 722 commercial scales, 1,401 gas pumps, as well as electronic scanners in retail and wholesale use, and investigated consumer complaints.

The Geographic Information System (GIS) Department continued to support residents, businesses, and governmental entities by providing GIS parcel



## 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.*

**T**he Office collected \$155,853,891.39 in real estate taxes during 2012. Manufactured home taxes in the amount of \$706,997.14 were also collected.

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 2012, 442 taxpayers utilized the automatic withdrawal plan and 480 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.

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 2012 was \$1,534,545.54.

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

2012	<b>\$1,534,545.54</b>
2011	<b>\$1,580,792.46</b>
2010	<b>\$2,089,635.01</b>
2009	<b>\$2,756,898.29</b>
2008	<b>\$3,947,996.95</b>

data and custom maps. In the fall of 2012 Pictometry oblique aerial photography was conducted to assist in the appraisal process. Oblique imagery was captured at multiple angles, providing the ability to view structures and topography from the North, South, East, and West.

The Office continued to offer 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. •

## CLERK OF COURTS



Cindy Hofner

*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. By statute she is a member of the Data Processing Board and Records Commission.*

**I**n 2012, the Title Office processed a record number of titles.

The Clerk of Courts Legal Office prepared for e-filing records by scanning documents as they were received and conducted all processes required off of the electronic image. The Office

also contracted with the Ohio Attorney General's Office for court fee collections, allowing the Office to process tax intercepts for collection of fees due to the County.

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	68,772
Motor Vehicle Mortgages Recorded	16,760
Salvage Titles	182
Penalties (for not transferring titles timely)	2,696
Inspections	6,335
Affidavits	20,043
Manufactured Home Archives Recorded	538
Boat titles, Duplicates and Memo Titles (includes charged replacement titles)	1,226
Watercraft Mortgages Recorded	246
Watercraft Affidavits	700
Watercraft Penalties	117
Watercraft Registrations	721

### TITLE DISBURSEMENT TOTALS

Clerk of Courts	
Certificate of Title Fund Receipts	\$707,738.47
Wood County General Fund	\$311.00
State of Ohio Motor Vehicle and Watercraft	
Casual and Dealer Tax	\$19,346,882.67
Certificate of Title Fees	\$172,079.75
Watercraft Fees	\$3,279.00
Watercraft Registrations	\$22,046.00

## CORONER



Douglas W. Hess, M.D.

*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.*

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

CasesAppealed to 6th District Court of Appeals	74
Domestic Relations Cases Filed	452
Domestic Violence Civil Protection	137
Civil Stalking/Sexually Oriented Offense Protection Orders	172
Foreign Support	7
Domestic Cases Reopened	375
Criminal Cases Filed	727
Civil Cases Filed (Includes 485 Civil Foreclosure Cases)	943
Land Foreclosure Cases	112
Judgment Liens Filed	1,293
State Tax Liens Filed	2,834
Foreign Judgment Liens	15
Executions Filed (Aid & Writ)	24
Debtor Exams	60
Garnishments	313
Publications	49
Wrists of Possessions	62
Total Number of Judgment Entries	16,492
Notary Commissions Filed	433
Passport Applications Accepted	149
Criminal Investigations	1
Search Warrants	3
Coroner's Reports Filed	82

### LEGAL DISBURSEMENT TOTALS

General Fund	\$408,404.15
Legal Research Fees	\$6,146.76
Computerization Fees	\$39,638.90
Computerization Fees from Collections	124.55
Reimburse Court Diagnostic Fees	\$6,981.53
Mediation Costs	\$65,159.36
Fines Paid to the County	\$27,705.53
Fines Paid to the Law Library	\$750.00
Statutory fees paid to non-Wood County entities	\$184,838.83
Funding Shelters for Victims of Domestic Violence	\$14,074.27
Fees Paid to Adult Probation Supervision	\$11,044.76
Adult Probation Substance Fees	\$50.00
Fees Paid to the Sheriff	\$132,921.61
Fines Paid to the Sheriff	\$12,793.72
Interest Paid to General Fund (includes interest for CDs)	\$1,279.66
Fees Paid to Appraisers	\$86,775.00
Indigent Application Fees	\$2,342.10
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	\$1,823,178.05

### 2012 CORONER CASES

Total Deaths Reviewed	212
Cases Determined by Coroner	81
• Auto Accidents	15
• Drug Accidents	6
• Other Accidents	11
• Natural	28
• Suicide	12
• Homicide	4
• Pending	5



Julie Baumgardner

## 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. 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 21,111 documents were recorded and/or filed, with \$1,164,342.86 collected in fees. Of this amount \$576,220.77 was remitted to the State of Ohio for the Ohio Housing Trust Fund, less one percent paid into the County's general fund; \$82,183 was deposited into the Recorder's supplemental equipment fund; and the remaining \$505,939.09 was paid into the County's general fund.

In response to dwindling revenues, the Recorder automated office procedures, updated outdated and inefficient equipment, and collaborated with other offices to save taxpayer dollars.

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. •

## 2012 DOCUMENTS

Deeds .....	4,600
Judgment entries and certificates for transfer .....	134
Mortgages (total value \$4,986,523,017.85) .....	5,639
Mortgages released (with a value of \$488,688,079.50) .....	7,202
Land Contracts .....	51
Rights of way and easements .....	140
Leases .....	52
Mechanics liens .....	35
Plats .....	6
Federal Tax Liens .....	181
Financing statements .....	50
Terminations .....	57
All Others .....	2,896



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 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 program of the Family and Children First Council of Wood County, 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 Information and Referral - United Way 2-1-1 .....	Dial 2-1-1
Crisis Line - The Link of Behavioral Connections .....	419-352-1545 or 800-472-9411
Behavioral Connections .....	419-352-5387 or 419-872-2419
Bowling Green City Schools .....	419-352-3576
Children's Resource Center .....	888-466-KIDS or 419-352-7588
City of Bowling Green .....	419-354-6203
Family Service Counseling Center .....	877-352-4624 or 419-352-4624
American Red Cross .....	419-352-4575
United Way of Greater Toledo - Wood County Office .....	419-352-2390
Alcohol, Drug Addiction, Mental Health Services .....	419-352-8475
Board of Developmental Disabilities .....	800-356-3218 or 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 .....	888-282-1118 or 419-352-7566
Educational Service Center .....	419-354-9010
Health District .....	866-861-9338 or 419-352-8402
Wood County Hospital .....	419-354-8910 (ER) or 419-354-8900
Juvenile Court .....	866-860-4140 or 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 including foreclosures, and 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, Law Library Resources Board and the Wood County Public Library Board.*



Robert C. Pollex  
COURTROOM 1



Reeve Kelsey  
COURTROOM 2



Alan R. Mayberry  
COURTROOM 4

**D**uring 2012, Judge Kelsey served as Presiding Judge, Court Security Judge and represented the County on the Maumee Conservancy District Court; Judge Mayberry served as Administrative Judge; and Judge Pollex represented the Court on the Judicial Advisory Board for the NorthWest Community Corrections Center.

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

### 2012 STATISTICS

Cases Completed	2,986
Pending Cases	1,157
General Civil Cases Completed	1,183
Domestic Relations Cases Completed	1,132
Criminal Cases Completed	671
Notary Public - New Applications	124
Notary Public - Renewal Applications	318

## 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.*

**T**he Department was awarded a \$50,000 federal grant in 2010 to provide training and other resources to Wood County agencies to educate personnel on Violence against Women. In 2012, this grant provided two training sessions for Wood and surrounding counties with professionally known instructors.

### 2012 STATISTICS

Registered magnetometer walk-throughs	126,010
Prohibited items held	1,249
Incident reports filed	80

## 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.*

### 2012 STATISTICS

Pre-sentence investigations conducted	356
New offenders under department supervision	375
Offenders supervised	1,181
Individuals terminated from supervision	349
Drug tests conducted	1,711
Work Release program participants	29
Offenders placed on Intensive Supervision	118
Offenders placed on Electronic Monitoring	196



David E. Woessner

## COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

### Probate and Juvenile Division

Cases heard in Probate Court involve decedent's estates, guardianships, conservatorships, testamentary trusts, civil actions, adoptions, mental illness, minor settlements, and wrongful deaths. In addition, the Probate Court provides registration services for births, name changes, miscellaneous filings, and marriage license applications. In addition to trial proceedings, the Probate Court Judge makes a number of appointments to Boards and agencies as allowed by law.

**D**uring 2012, the Probate Court processed 707 new cases as well as 37 additional cases that were filed previously but re-opened for further action. The Court also processed 789 marriage applications.

In an effort to increase efficiency and utilize expanding technology, the Court established a local rule which allows parties

to certain actions to receive notice by electronic means. Upon initial filing, attorneys and applicants may sign an authorization allowing the Court to issue notice of Court proceedings and Judgment Entries via electronic means if they desire.

Also in 2012, a local rule was established to address Wills

which were placed on deposit with the Court, but never claimed. Any Last Will and Testament on deposit for more than 90 years is deemed to be an "Ancient Will." A list of these Ancient Wills shall be published annually. Lineal descendants of the testator or others who are interested in obtaining an Ancient Will may then file a

request with the Court to claim it.

The Probate Court's Volunteer Guardian Program, established in 2011, has seven active volunteers, all of whom are either appointed as guardian or assigned to a pending case.

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.*

**T**he 48-bed Juvenile Detention Center continued to offer and expand upon a variety of programming for detained youth.

The Probation Department worked closely with Wood County schools, law

enforcement and service providers to insure Court orders are complied with and programming options are available.

The Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian ad Litem (CASA/GAL) program supervised

41 volunteers who advocated for 116 allegedly abused or neglected children and provided more than 3,500 hours of service. As of December 31, a total of 36 CASA/GAL volunteers continued to advocate for 72 children. CASA was able to

serve 95 percent of the abuse, neglect, and dependency cases for which CASA volunteers were requested during the year.

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

## Looking for a way to give back to your community?

Become a CASA/GAL Volunteer. Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian ad Litem (CASA/GAL) volunteers bring with them a variety of life experiences including various professions and educational backgrounds. People of all cultural backgrounds and experiences are encouraged to become CASA/GAL volunteers.

CASA/GAL volunteers gather information about the life of a child who has allegedly been abused, neglected, or dependent; reports the facts to the court; makes recommendations and advocates for the best interest of the child in court; and monitors the situation until a safe permanent home is made for the child.

To learn more about the volunteer opportunities available, contact the Juvenile Court at 419.352.3554 or email [casa@co.wood.oh.us](mailto:casa@co.wood.oh.us).



## 2012 Juvenile Court Statistics

Cases filed	3,179
Cases disposed of	3,135
Cases of alleged abuse, neglect or dependent children	279
<b>JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER</b>	
Pretrial & short term commitments	554
Males housed	397
Females housed	157
<b>JUVENILE PROBATION</b>	
Youth and adults under supervision	485
Community service participants	367
Community service hours	5,968.75
Restitution paid to victims	\$9,512.46



## 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 Waslyshyn

## 2012 WOOD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT

### CIVIL DIVISION

Sheriff foreclosure property sales .....	344
Proceeds from parcels sold .....	\$4,980,116
Execution of Certificates of Judgment .....	56
Service fee income to General Fund .....	\$293,444
Warrants, summons, subpoena & indictments served .....	2,961
Civil Protection Orders served .....	198
Child support warrants served .....	261
Inmates extradited from out of state .....	23
Prisoners transported to penal institutions .....	228
Prisoners transported between agencies .....	541

### WEAPON PERMITS & BACKGROUND CHECKS

Concealed Carry Weapon permits issued .....	1,099
Concealed Carry Weapons permits renewed .....	146
Persons fingerprinted for background checks .....	949

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ENFORCEMENT

Domestic violence arrests .....	57
Court case victim assistance .....	160
Students taught in six schools .....	361
Sex offense/crimes against children .....	8
Cases assisted .....	442
Temporary protection order violation arrests .....	23

### SEX OFFENDERS

Registered .....	373
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### 911 DIVISION/COMMUNICATIONS

911 calls answered .....	43,070
Fire calls dispatched .....	1,789
EMS calls dispatched .....	2,423
Calls dispatched to WCSO deputies .....	21,505
Village police depts. & park ranger calls dispatched .....	4,081
Warrants entered into state/national databases .....	2,699
Protection orders entered into national database .....	443

### D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education)/ S.R.O. (School Resources Officers)

Participating School Districts: All Saints, Eastwood, Elmwood, North Baltimore, Otsego, and Rossford	
D.A.R.E. core students .....	727
D.A.R.E. students grades K-6 .....	1,063
D.A.R.E. students grade 7 .....	419
Education/prevention classes .....	10
Education/prevention students .....	531
School staff members .....	365
Safety Towns .....	2
Children participating in Safety Towns .....	178

### ROAD PATROL DIVISION

Complaints received and investigated .....	22,858
Criminal charges .....	609
Traffic citations .....	1,169
Traffic warning written/verbal .....	5,981
Crashes investigated .....	815
Injury crashes .....	189
Injured persons .....	240
Fatal crashes .....	6
Driving under the influence – DUI .....	74
Driving under suspension – DUS .....	103
Miles driven by all Sheriff's vehicles .....	987,918

### DETECTIVE BUREAU

Cases assigned .....	776
Cases cleared by arrest/closed/inactive .....	730
Cases pending investigation .....	46
Theft/fraud/forgery .....	241
Burglary/Breaking and Entering .....	110
Suspicious incident/departmental .....	127
Death/suicide .....	28
Sex offense/child abuse .....	26
Narcotic investigations .....	84
Fines/forfeitures to Drug Fund .....	\$20,691
Fire/arson .....	3
Human trafficking/prostitution/solicitation .....	65
Homicide .....	1
Vehicles seized/forfeited to WCSO .....	5

### Drop Boxes Available for Disposal of Unwanted Prescription Medications

Residents may dispose of unwanted prescription medications at drop boxes available at the Wood County Sheriff's Office or Bowling Green Police Station. The usual disposal methods - flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash - pose potential safety and health hazards. However, due to restrictions on processes of disposal, the following cannot be accepted: liquids, plastics, glass, bio-hazards, radioactive waste, syringes, drug paraphernalia or other medical waste.



### JUSTICE CENTER

Inmates booked .....	4,570
Inmates released .....	4,640
Average daily population .....	155
Inmates transported to local courts .....	2,226
Total meals served .....	208,922
– Justice Center .....	168,137
– Juvenile Detention Center .....	25,687
– Educational Service Center .....	6,264
– Juvenile Residential Center .....	8,834
Average meals served per day .....	572
Average meal cost (with labor) .....	\$2.02

### COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Citizens Police Academy students .....	24
R.A.D. Kids Safety students .....	36
Youth identification cards .....	1,022

### VOLUNTEER AUXILIARY PROGRAM

Members .....	50
Special events worked .....	34
Funeral escorts .....	170
Hours of work volunteered .....	4,353

### EXPLORER PROGRAM

Members (Young adults 15 - 20) .....	17
Hours volunteered .....	728
Special events .....	16
Classroom hours .....	90
Field Trips .....	4

### Sign-Up for Community Alerts from the Sheriff's Office through [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com).

The Sheriff's Office launched a new Community Information Service designed to deliver important and timely information to residents. This free service, Nixle, delivers trustworthy and important neighborhood-level public safety and community event notifications instantly by text message, email, and web (standard text message rates apply for cell phone subscribers who do not have text plans). Stay connected to your world, from the public safety alerts that are relevant to you, to the important neighborhood advisories you want to know about, and other valuable community information.

You decide what information you want and whether you want it sent to your cell phone, email, or just simply over the web.



## ENGINEER

Raymond A. Huber, P.E., P.S. The Engineer has the responsibility of maintaining highways, bridges, culverts, and traffic control signs in a safe and proper manner. 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.

**F**ollowing a three and a half year closure, the bridge at the Dunbridge Road crossing of the CSX Transportation Corp. railroad tracks in Middleton Township reopened to traffic in late 2012. The original structure, located on CSX property, was closed in May 2009 due to structural deficiencies. Construction of a new structure was delayed pending design approval by CSX. Ultimately,

a new location outside CSX property limits was secured which impacted a family home to the point that the family was relocated, which led to additional delays. The final cost of the project was \$732,719.20.

The Engineer oversees staff at the County Office Building and at the Highway Garage and is authorized to perform his duties under Chapter 315 of the Ohio Revised Code. •



## PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Paul Dobson The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney includes three legal 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, the C.Y.C.L.E. Division, and support staff.

**I**n 2012, the Criminal Division received 549 indictments and 104 Bills of Information for adult felony cases, with 15 cases resolved by jury or court trial.

The Juvenile Division handled 1,038 delinquency cases. A total of 103 unruly cases were filed and 28 felony level offenses committed by juveniles were adjudicated. Further, eight permanent

### 2012 SOURCES OF MOTOR VEHICLE AND GASOLINE TAXES

Motor Vehicle License Fees	\$4,014,762.00
Gasoline Tax	\$2,290,681.00
Traffic Fines & Receipts	\$166,946.16
Reimbursements	\$995,782.61
Refunds	\$5,472.91
Grants	\$164,658.08
Transfer from General Fund (Casino Tax Revenue)	\$110,296.00
Other Receipts	\$4,416.58
Interest	\$13,195.17
Total	\$7,766,211.20

### ROAD PROJECTS COMPLETED

Huffman Road (Portage/Center Twp.)	\$709,079.54
Fostoria Road (Troy Twp.)	\$189,899.85
Kellogg Road (Washington Twp.)	\$350,169.21
Tracy Road (Lake/Perrysburg Twp.)	\$175,500.20
Pelton Road (Bloom/Perry Twp.)	\$85,031.62
Pavement Markings	\$37,462.55

### BRIDGE PROJECTS COMPLETED

Greensburg Pike - S. Br. Portage River (Montgomery Twp.)	\$410,000.00
Tracy Road - Nelots Creek (Perrysburg/Lake Twp.)	\$116,000.00
Jerry City Road - Rocky Ford (Portage/Bloom Twp.)	\$375,000.00
Jerry City Road - Bull Creek (Portage/Bloom Twp.)	\$412,000.00
Dunbridge Road - Lois Harbor Ditch (Middleton Twp.)	\$732,719.20
Ault Road - Cedar Creek (Perrysburg Twp.)	\$204,000.00

### DRAINAGE PROJECTS COMPLETED

Culvert Replacements (2)	\$152,138.00
Ditch Cleanouts	31.7 Miles
Ditch Bank Mowing	19.8 Miles
Ditch Bank Debrushing	11.7 Miles
Ditch Bank Protection and Repair	0.4 Miles
Sprayed Vegetation	110.2 Miles

custody cases and 119 juvenile traffic cases were filed.

The Civil Division opened 22 opinion requests from various county offices or agencies. Additionally, the division opened more than 600 bank foreclosure and tax foreclosure, nuisance and zoning variance cases.

The C.Y.C.L.E. (Cooperating with Youth, the Community and Law Enforcement) Division, provided Conflict Management classes in two school districts and seven different community learning centers. Classes were also provided for approximately 250 adults in the Job Find program. Approximately 650 students from three different

school districts participated in Technology Safety training. JuMP, the Juvenile Mediation Program, conducted 79 mediations. Teen Court heard 28 cases throughout the year and included 14 members from seven different school districts. The 24th annual Safety Kids Calendar Contest and Youth Olympics were also coordinated through the C.Y.C.L.E. Division.

Approximately 410 victims or witnesses to a crime in the County were helped through the legal process and procedures by the victim/witness services unit.

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

# INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

## 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.

**I**n 2012, the Planning Commission Office worked with the Engineer, Auditor, Recorder, and a consortium of stakeholders from the private sector to update the Wood County Land Transfer Policy which sets forth the requirements that need followed whenever a parcel of land is conveyed in Wood County.

Wood County secured approximately \$614,000 under the Moving Ohio Forward grant program, which is designed for the demolition of abandoned and blighted residential buildings. Owner consent for the demolition of 12 residential structures throughout the County was granted with demolition scheduled for 2013.

During 2012, the Planning

Commission reviewed 15 zoning requests. Of the submitted requests, 13 were recommended for approval.

The Planning Commission reviewed eight residential subdivisions. Three were "re-plats" or adjustments to existing lots in existing subdivisions. Two were plats that dedicated right of way to allow for the construction of a new road. Two were final plats of residential subdivisions and one was a preliminary plat of a residential subdivision. Of these eight subdivisions, seven were granted final approval.

Block grant funds were utilized for storm sewer upgrades in Weston, street rebuilding on Florence Avenue and Sharon Drive in Northwood, street repair and storm sewer improvements

in Portage, and waterline replacements and upgrades along Douglas Road in Brander.

Utilizing FY 12 CHIP (Community Housing Improvement Program) funding, housing rehabilitation and emergency repairs were provided to homes owned by low and moderate residents in the County. The Commission also used a portion of the funds to assist Wood County Habitat for Humanity with the construction of one new home for an income qualified resident.

The Planning Commission continued the process of updating the current Wood County Subdivision Rules and Regulations. The end goal of this update process is to have a completely new document that regulates residential, commercial, and industrial subdivisions that will be constructed in Wood County.

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

### 2012 PLANNING COMMISSION ACTIVITY

Rural addresses assigned	36
Minor parcel split transactions	114
Total acres in minor parcel splits	2,913
Transactions split from existing lots	81
Transactions combined with existing lots	33
Residential subdivisions approved	7

### FY12 CDBG PROJECTS AWARDED FOR COMPLETION IN 2013

Bradner water main replacements	\$52,000
Hoytville sidewalk improvements	\$53,000
Weston storm sewer system improvements	\$50,300
Countywide (Health Dept) sewer tap-in assistance	\$25,000

## HEALTH DISTRICT

Pamela Butler, MPH, Health Commissioner

The Wood County Health District 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.

**H**ealth District expenditures for 2012 totaled \$5,177,208 while revenue for the year totaled \$5,542,963. A more comprehensive 2012 annual report of the Health District's activity will be available on the Health District's website by mid-March.

The 11 member Board of Health, in addition to appointing the Health Commissioner, assumes the responsibility of overseeing the Wood County General Health District's activities to provide for the protection and promotion of health for those living in and visiting Wood County. •

## LAW LIBRARY • Judith Gill, Librarian

The Wood County Law Library's mission is to serve the information needs of the courts, government and citizens of the county. The governing board is comprised of five members, two appointed by the County Commissioners, and one each by the Municipal courts, Common Pleas courts and Prosecuting Attorney. The county provides the space, while funding for the collection and staff comes from fines for state traffic violations, as well as bond forfeitures. The print collection includes Ohio primary sources: statutes, regulations and cases. Other print resources include legal encyclopedias, treatises and practice materials, with an emphasis on those that are Ohio-specific. Online databases provide access to Federal law well as the other 49 states, yet allow the library to contain its physical growth.

**T**he Law Library staff logged a total of 1,480 patron interactions. Of those events, 188 were with the courts or county government, 800 with attorneys, and 492 were with county

residents. Visits to the library accounted for 1,146 events, with 314 via phone and 20 by email.

The Law Library operates under Section 307.51 et. seq. of the Ohio Revised Code. •

## OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

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

*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.*

**S**trengthening families and communities continued to be a focus of OSU Extension in Wood County. Through a partnership with Meijer Stores Healthy Living Program and Bowling Green State University Dietetics Program, Dining with Diabetes classes were offered with 40 attendees participating in the sessions. Presentations on the USDA MyPlate Food Guidance System, Dietary Guidelines for Americans, food safety, and other nutrition topics were presented along with 24 classes on nutrition and physical activity at four of the congregate meal sites offered to youth through the Summer Food Service Program.

CarTeens, a traffic safety program, covered traffic safety education, offenders' self-esteem, and interpersonal skills for 130 first-time juvenile traffic offenders. The classes were instructed by 20 teen facilitators utilizing a teens teaching teens approach.

During 2012, 4-H offered educational experiences to 5,873 youth, 398 volunteer advisors, and 303 teen leaders. Wood County has 55 4-H clubs with an enrollment of 1,302, while 4-H In-School units instruct 2,190 4-H projects.

Camp Palmer once again hosted 4-H Camp with 202

County members attending. Forty-five camp counselors received training to enable them to design a camp program that incorporated many of the critical elements needed in a positive 4-H experience.

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.

Approximately 2,700 Wood County residents received information on horticultural subject matter via telephone calls, email, and seminars. Areas of the most importance during 2012 were questions and site visits responding to gypsy moth infestations, emerald ash borer, pond management, tree and small fruits, general landscape questions, and pest problems.

The Master Gardener Program, a volunteer program, provided extensive coursework in horticulture in exchange for a donation of volunteer hours. Fifteen individuals completed the necessary requirements through the program in 2012.

Wood County farmers attended agronomy updates at the Conservation Tillage Conference, Northern Ohio Crops Day, and NW Ag Research Field

## 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 both of which are available to the public. Citizens of Wood County may register to vote at the Board of Elections office as well as the Wood County Treasurer's Office, any Ohio License Bureau, U.S. Armed Forces Recruiting Office, public library or municipal offices. The voter registration deadline is 30 days prior to each election.*

**T**he Board of Elections held three elections in 2012. In addition to the Presidential Primary and General Elections, a Special Election was held in the Lake Local School District. Federal, state and county candidates were on the ballot as well as two state issues and 41 local questions and issues.

The trend toward absentee/early voting continued to rise with 21,788 absentee ballots cast between the three elections. In the General Election alone 19,048 voters choose to vote

before Election Day.

As part of two new State initiatives, the Board of Elections began issuing overseas and military ballots by e-mail. Additionally the state began providing on-line access for changes of address by current Ohio registered voters. This service is available on the Secretary of State website and by link on the Board of Elections website.

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

Crops Day and learned about the 4R's of applying the right fertilizer source at the right rate, at the right time, and in the right place. More than 150 local farms received pesticide applicator license recertification sessions. Extension agents also provided commercial pesticide certification training to County and Township employees to assist in

preparation for the Ohio Department of Agriculture's exam for Commercial Pesticide Applicator's licensure.

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

## VETERANS ASSISTANCE CENTER

Mary E. Hanna,  
Executive Director

*The goal of 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 Center funded a new monument at the Courthouse Complex to recognize the County's Medal of Honor recipients. Six individuals from the Civil War are memorialized on the monument with room for future Medal of Honor recipient names to be added.

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

Veterans reached out for \$60,282 in emergency financial assistance through the Center. The number of claims continued to rise with increased use of medical and nursing home benefits. Transportation to VA medical facilities continued to be provided through a contract with Life Star Ambulance.

For every dollar spent by the County on veteran assistance, the Veterans Assistance Center brought \$49.82 in federal money back into the County. These funds benefited those veterans directly receiving assistance. In addition, the economy benefited because these federal funds increased the purchasing power of veterans and their families.

The Veterans Service Commission operates under Chapter 5901 of the Ohio Revised Code. •

### STATISTICS FOR 2012

Veterans Residing in the County . . .	<b>10,674</b>
Total Client Contacts . . . . .	<b>15,747</b>
Veterans Transported to Medical Facilities . . . . .	<b>467</b>
Veterans Photo I.D. Cards Issued . . . . .	<b>265</b>
Newsletters Distributed . . . . .	<b>6,300</b>
Memorial Day Appropriations . . .	<b>\$10,200</b>
Flags/Grave Markers Distributed . . .	<b>9,436</b>
Federal VA Claims/ Documents Processed. . . . .	<b>19,472</b>
Total Federal Dollars Brought into County . . . . .	<b>\$21,392,000</b>

## 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.*

**D**uring fiscal year 2012, the Lake Erie Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program resulted in 163 signed contracts for 299.1 acres including 284.2 acres of filter strips.

Through the Conservation Reserve Program's Continuous Sign-up, 31 contracts were signed for 73.2 acres including 60.6 acres of filter strips.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program brought \$247,713 to Wood County through 13 contracts.

Two positions were filled during the year including the Strategic Watershed Area Teams (SWAT) Conservationist

position who purpose focused on 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; and the grant funded Portage River Watershed Coordinator who implemented practices outlined in the state approved Portage River Watershed Plan.

As a part of a state-wide focus on reducing the runoff of nutrients from agricultural cropland, called the Clean Lakes Initiative, the Western Lake Erie Basin Nutrient Reduction Program was initiated. Covering

five counties in the Maumee and Portage watersheds, the goal is to promote practices aimed at reducing the load of phosphorus entering Lake Erie. The first sign-up enrolled 3,816 acres of nutrient management, resulting in \$168,971 being brought into the County.

More than 2,500 youth were reached through the education programs of the District.

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

### 2012 CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Erosion Structures	4
Animal Waste Storage Structures	2
Private Group Drainage Projects	5
Assistance on Other Projects	7

## 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. To be eligible for public defender representation, the individual must qualify under the Ohio Public Defender Commission Standards of Indigency, as listed in Ohio Administrative Code section 120-1-03. Individuals are represented in the Bowling Green, Perrysburg, and Fostoria Municipal Courts, Juvenile Court, Common Pleas Court, and all levels of the Appellate Court. The Public Defender also operates a satellite office at the Perrysburg Municipal Court to accommodate the significant Northern Wood County caseload.*

**I**n 2012, the Office of the Public Defender represented approximately 3,300 clients. Cases included felonies, misdemeanors, delinquencies, status offenses, appeals and other post-conviction remedies.

Funds for appointment of

counsel were budgeted by the County Commissioners and were reimbursed by the State at 35 percent. Since 2005, Ohio law mandates individuals requesting representation to pay a \$25 application fee. The County retains 80 percent of the fee to offset the costs of

providing legal representation.

The duties of the Public Defender are outlined in Section 120 of the Ohio Revised Code. A five-member commission, appointed by the Common Pleas Judges and County Commissioners, oversees the Office Administration. •

## SPIRIT OF WOOD COUNTY AWARDS

Nominations for the 2013 Spirit of Wood County Awards are being accepted through April 30, 2013. The Commissioners encourage residents of Wood County to nominate current or former residents for one of seven award categories that will be presented on June 10 in conjunction with Wood County Heritage Days at the Historical Center. The County Commissioners have honored outstanding citizens since 1987. A listing of previous award recipients is available on the County website.

### Agricultural Leadership

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

### Liberty Through Law/ Human Freedom

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

### Education for Civic Responsibility

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

### Industrial/Economic Development

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

### Lyle R. Fletcher Good Citizenship Award

Individuals who have in their own way epitomized the pioneer spirit of American citizenship are eligible for this award. They are law-abiding community builders who have a concern for their neighbor's welfare but whose activities often go unrecognized.

### Religion and Liberty

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

### Self-Government

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

### 2012 Spirit of Wood County Award Recipients



Front Row Left to Right: William Hirzel (Agricultural Leadership); George Thompson (Lyle R. Fletcher Good Citizenship); Alvin Perkins (Special Spirit of Wood County Award); Pat Bacon (Self-Government); Hugh Caumartin (Education for Civic Responsibility); and Gary Spencer (Liberty Through Law/Human Freedom).

## 2013 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)	
Category: _____			

### Nominator Information:

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

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

**Return completed form by April 30 to:** Spirit of Wood County Awards, c/o Board of County Commissioners, One Courthouse Square, Bowling Green, Ohio, 43402 or e-mail: commissioners@co.wood.oh.us

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

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## **ARE YOU A VETERAN LIVING IN WOOD COUNTY?**

The Veterans Assistance Center wants to ensure you are registered with their office to make sure you are receiving all the benefits you are entitled to receive. Contact their office to learn more 419.354.9147.



## **HOW TO CONTACT US...**

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](http://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)
- Prescription Discount Card (Commissioners)
- Spirit of Wood County Awards (Commissioners)
- History of Wood County