



Wood County, Ohio

2015

ANNUAL REPORT



## WOOD COUNTY, OHIO 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

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## 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.

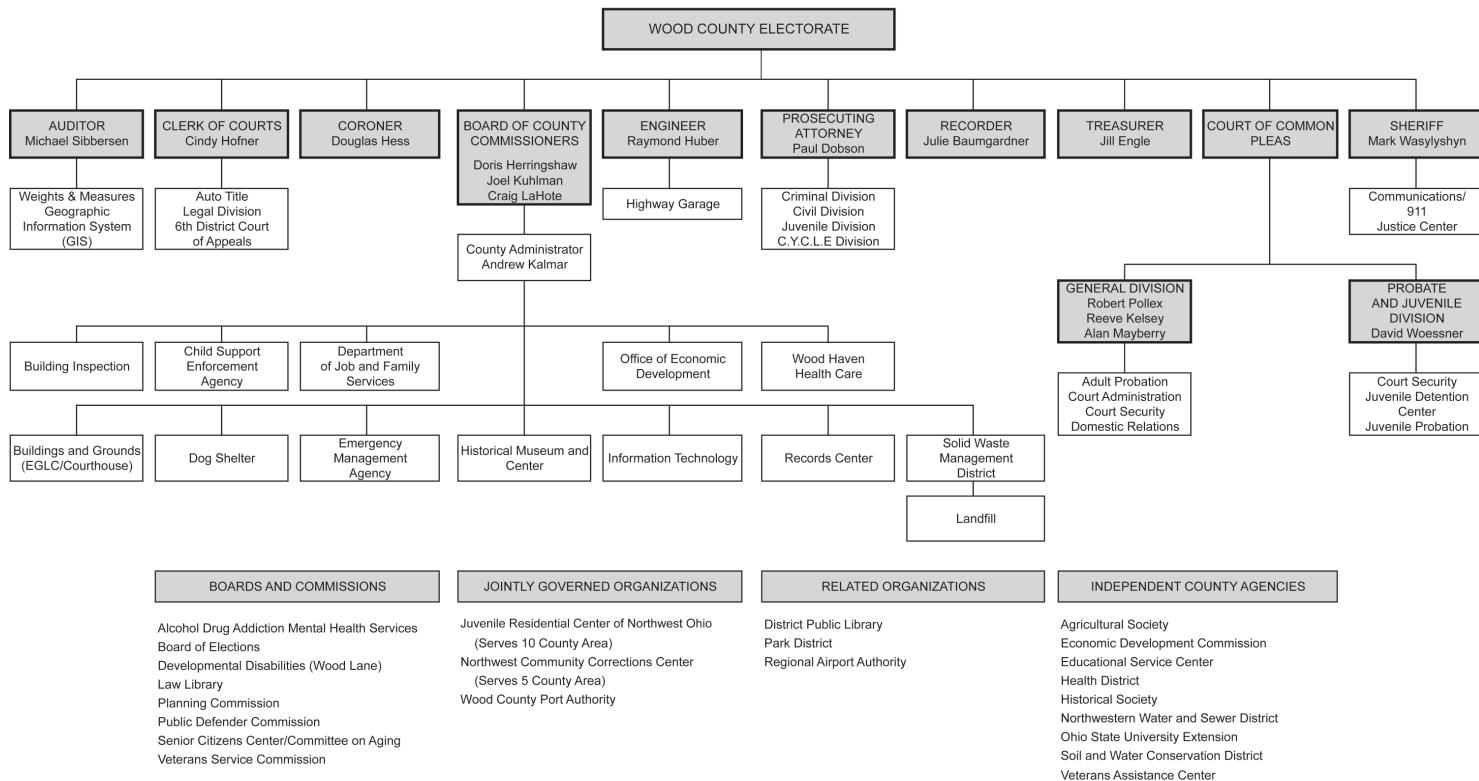
The selection of County officers took place on April 1, 1820. In May 1822, the Commissioners designated Perrysburg as the first County Seat. It remained so until 1868 when the Seat of Justice was moved to Bowling Green.

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.

## YOUR WOOD COUNTY GOVERNMENT



# A Message from the Board of County Commissioners

We are pleased to once again share this annual report with the Citizens of Wood County. There is much good news to share about our county and the work of county government. After you have had a chance to read this report, we welcome your questions and suggestions.

Water remained an important topic in 2015, and will remain so for years to come. While there was not a repeat of the 2014 water crisis, preparations were made to address a possible recurrence. Of equal importance, much planning and discussion occurred and will continue regarding a long term solution. The state of Ohio has emphasized topics to address Lake Erie water quality, while more local efforts have centered on water treatment and distribution. The abundance of fresh water from Lake Erie is a fantastic resource for much of Ohio and Michigan. Through our discussions with area local government leaders we seek a solution that addresses drinking water as a vital regional issue for the benefit of our citizens from the perspectives of good health and economic vitality.

In July 2015, County Commissioner Jim Carter announced his retirement. He had been a county commissioner since 1995, and was elected five times by Wood County voters. As Commissioner, Jim strongly believed in being a good steward of taxpayer resources and county buildings. He was the guiding force behind the exterior renovation



project for the Wood County Courthouse and Old Jail, and repurposing the Old Jail into the County Records Center and Law Library. He took great interest in economic development, agriculture and education of young people – especially through the American Legion Buckeye Boys State program that is held annually on the campus of Bowling Green State University. His calm demeanor, common sense approach and great sense of humor will be missed in the Commissioners' Office, and around county offices and departments. It was our privilege to work with him, and we look forward to continued enjoyment of our friendship with him.

This past year was filled with capital projects in many County facilities. These included: a new roof, replacement of the boiler system, and replacement of the walk-in refrigerator/freezer at Wood Haven Health Care; expansion of the Justice Center to add 60 minimum security beds, as well as remodeling two existing dorms that will result in much needed space for female inmates (this project also included replacement of the air conditioning system at the Child Support Enforcement Agency); and HVAC replacement at our building on Dunbridge Road. Projects in progress include the replacement of the HVAC system in the attic of the Courthouse and an accessibility project at the Historical Museum which includes installation of an elevator, accessible restrooms and other amenities. Wood Haven Health Care has multiple projects in progress including repiping of all HVAC and domestic water lines, installation of a new chiller to improve climate control for resident rooms, and exterior window and door replacement.

In October we traveled around the County to participate in visits to area companies with our Director of Economic Development, Wade Gottschalk. While attracting new companies

to Wood County is terrific, working with existing companies to help ensure long-term viability is vitally important for employment of county citizens. We also met with and toured the excellent training facilities of the trade unions located in Wood County. These include the Plumbers and Pipefitters, Electrical Workers, Carpenters, Sheet Metal Workers and Boilermakers. These organizations and their training facilities are highly regarded across the United States, and provide terrific opportunities for people in our area to gain valuable skills and employment. The people trained at these facilities build the buildings in which we live and work, as well as build and maintain our electrical and communications systems. We strongly encourage young people who are looking toward a career to seriously consider training and work in the trades.

It is truly a team effort that makes Wood County a great place to live. We extend sincere thanks to the elected officials and those citizens who served on a board or commission. In addition, we thank you for simply making a point to shop in Wood County. Your efforts are good for local businesses, and keeps your sales tax (which is lower than many of our neighboring counties) working for you right here in Wood County.

Sincerely,  
The Board of County Commissioners,  
Wood County, Ohio

*Doris I. Herringshaw*  
Doris I. Herringshaw, Ed.D., President

*Craig LaHote*  
Craig LaHote

*Joel M. Kuhlman*  
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. The Board is authorized to perform its duties under Chapters 305 and 307 of the Ohio Revised Code.*



Doris I. Herringshaw



Joel M. Kuhlman



Craig LaHote

In 2014, the Commissioners requested from the Wood County Budget Commission a 50 percent reduction in collection of the Protective Services levy for 2015. At the end of 2015, Job & Family Services Director Dave Wigent advised the Commissioners that another reduction could be considered for 2016. A 100 percent reduction was approved at a savings of approximately \$3.9 million to County residents. The levy was approved by voters in 2007 and the JFS staff determined that the amount of levy funds on hand is sufficient to provide necessary protective services while saving tax payers money through a temporary reduction.

Transportation to medical appointments can be difficult for some county citizens, therefore Job & Family Services, in cooperation with the Alcohol Drug Addiction Mental Health Services Board and the Children's Resource Center initiated the NET Plus (non-emergency transportation) program for County residents. This program utilizes federal funding combined with some local funding to provide transportation to appointments. Please see page six for additional details.

In addition to the Portage River cleanout project that is nearing its final hearing, property owners in the Toussaint Creek watershed petitioned its cleaning through the Wood Soil and Water Conservation District. This project extends through Wood,

Sandusky and Ottawa Counties, and involves a joint board of supervisors from the Soil and Water Conservation District from each county. Further project planning and public hearings will be handled by the joint board of county commissioners from among the three counties.

The Commissioners presented the 2015 Spirit of Wood County Awards on October 25 during a special ceremony in the Courthouse Complex Atrium. Award recipients included John Fawcett and Edward Ciecka for Self-Government, Thomas Headley for Education for Civic Responsibility, Steve Powell for Agricultural Leadership, James F. Carter for Industrial/Economic Development and Nick Ezzone and Dianna Temple for the Lyle R. Fletcher Good Citizenship Award.

In December, Dave Wigent, Director of the Wood County Department of Job & Family Services, was given the Director of the Year Award from the Ohio Job & Family Services Directors Association. At the award ceremony, his fellow directors bestowed many, many kind comments about Dave - comments about his ability and willingness to work with county and state officials, and the creativity and skill he displays to help bring solutions to difficult issues.

Also, in December, Assistant County Administrator, Joe Fawcett, left the Commissioners' Office to work for the City of

Bowling Green. Joe's good work over the past few years as the Assistant Administrator, which also included supervision of the Solid Waste Management District, was appreciated and the Commissioners wish him well in his new role.

As a means of "giving back" to the community, County employees volunteered for and participated in several special projects coordinated through the Commissioners' Office. Employees raised more than \$20,500 during the annual United Way Campaign which included a Day of Sharing basket raffle. During the campaign, employees also donated items for Project Homeless Connect. Other volunteer opportunities included blood drives and the Holiday Helping Hands Days that gave employees the opportunity to donate hats, gloves, mittens and toiletry items for distribution to agencies serving Wood County residents.

The Board continued its practice of taking county government to the residents by conducting four Town Hall meetings in 2015. These were

held in Bradner, North Baltimore, Grand Rapids Township and Middleton Township and preceded the political subdivision's regularly scheduled meeting. A vital part of the Town Hall meetings is the open forum which allows residents an opportunity to comment or ask questions. Open forum also occurs following every regularly scheduled Tuesday and Thursday session of the Board.

In an effort to provide more public access to Commissioners' sessions, agendas and meeting minutes are posted on the Commissioners' website.

It is the non-statutory duties of the Commissioners that make them different from other elected officials. By necessity the Commissioners must take a broad view of actions necessary to make the County a better place to live and work. The Commissioners are thus active in promoting public/private partnerships in human services, economic development, health and infrastructure development. The Commissioners also take an active role in improving the environment, promoting job training programs, and supporting agriculture.



The Wood County Solid Waste Management District started a project in 2015 to encourage people to use reusable bags at the grocery, rather than plastic bags. The primary reason is that plastic grocery bags are an incredible source of litter across Wood County, Ohio, and the United States. Please help combat this issue through the use of reusable bags.

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.

With gradual improvement of the local economy and continued support of the County Elected Officials, the Commissioners maintained quality services for the citizens of the County. Funding core services and needed capital projects while focusing on the overall fiscal health of county government, remained a priority for the Commissioners. As a result of the Board's cautious approach to the budget over the past five years, several capital projects that were delayed

during the economy's down-turn were completed.

Sales tax revenue, which is the largest source of revenue, showed a slight increase from 2014, with a year-end total of \$20,019,976.06. Investment income for the year was \$1,199,428.41, a 34 percent increase from 2014.

The Commissioners continued their support for many 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. Funding

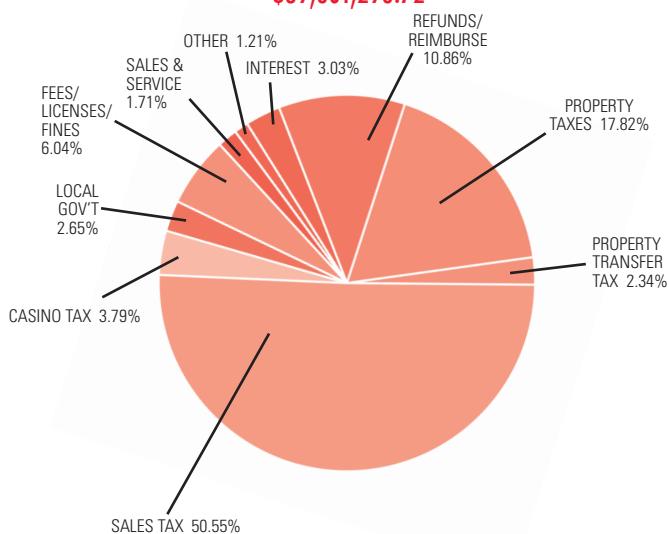
from the State has supported the Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP) and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).



The Justice Center expansion project will virtually eliminate the need to pay to house inmates at other county jails. The estimated final cost of the project is just under \$3 million.

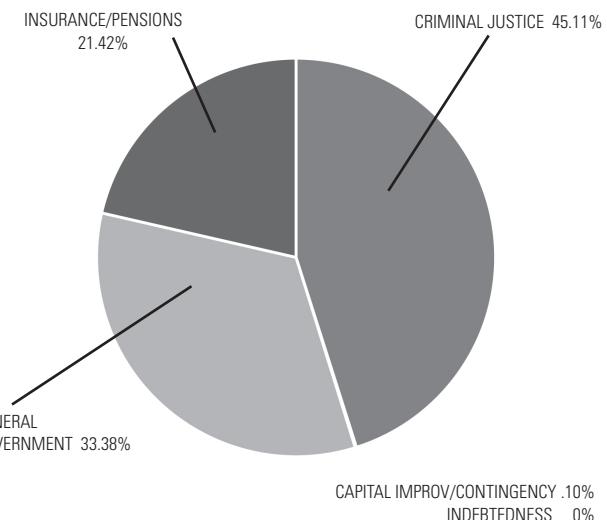
### 2015 ACTUAL RECEIPTS

**\$39,601,298.72**



### 2015 ACTUAL EXPENDITURES

**\$35,358,486.95**



### SALES TAX RECEIPTS

2015	<b>\$20,019,976.06</b>
2014	<b>\$19,785,739.82</b>
2013	<b>\$17,575,330.23</b>
2012	<b>\$17,176,636.58</b>
2011	<b>\$16,397,517.17</b>

### INVESTMENT INCOME

2015	<b>\$1,199,428.41</b>
2014	<b>\$895,851.91</b>
2013	<b>\$809,801.94</b>
2012	<b>\$1,534,545.54</b>
2011	<b>\$1,580,792.46</b>

## 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.

In November, an Elder Abuse Interdisciplinary Team (I-Team) was formed with guidance set forth by the State. The goal of the I-Team is to advise adult protective services providers on planning for comprehensive services to vulnerable elders who are abused, neglected or exploited; to coordinate the community service delivery system; and to work with I-Team members and other local agencies to provide and implement care plans for victims of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation. The I-Team is comprised of representatives from the Agency, law enforcement and other county agencies, and will meet quarterly starting in 2016.

In December, Director David Wigent was recognized as the Ohio Job and Family Services Director's Association 2015 Outstanding Director of the Year. Director Wigent was recognized for his efforts to modernize the Job and Family Services delivery system and was a leader in the creation of the multi-county system known as Collabor8 which utilizes a call center and computer technology to provide faster and easier access to public assistance services.



A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on July 23 for the new Children's Visitation Center. The Center is a 10,846 square foot expansion of the Job and Family Services building and houses three visitation rooms allowing families to interact in a family like setting. The addition also includes private interview rooms, a large multipurpose room and work areas for Children's Services Staff.

## TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AVAILABLE

County residents in need of transportation to non-emergency medical, behavioral health, or substance abuse treatment appointments can call 1-844-353-6779 to speak to a NET-Plus Transportation Coordinator.

Transportation to physical health appointments is available to those consumers who are at or below 200% of the poverty level with limited assets. Those with behavioral health or drug abuse treatment appointments within Wood County can receive transportation services without regard to income.

Since the NET-Plus program is for non-emergency transports, all calls must be made at least ten days in advance of appointments.

### INCOME MAINTENANCE UNIT

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) cash payment cases (MA) .....	232
Medicaid recipients .....	32,608
Medicaid issuance .....	\$136,171,424
Food assistance recipients .....	12,175
Food assistance issuance .....	\$5,695,765
Food assistance issuance per case (MA) .....	\$140
Children issued food stamps (MA) .....	3,119

### CHILDREN'S PROTECTIVE SERVICES UNIT

Children served .....	1,603
Children placed in substitute care .....	74
Cost for substitute care .....	\$2.2 million
Home protective services children .....	.95
Reports of child abuse/neglect investigated .....	718
Adoptions finalized .....	11
Certified foster/adoptive homes provided with services .....	18
Adult Protective Services assessments completed .....	267

### OHIO MEANS JOBS WOOD COUNTY

Individuals receiving Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) training services .....	.36
Resource room users .....	3,394
WIOA Youth Employment Program participants .....	161
Summer Youth Employment Program participants .....	.45

### SOCIAL SERVICES UNIT

Information and referrals .....	3,593
Families provided emergency assistance through Prevention, Retention and Contingency program (PRC) .....	227
Children who received child care services (MA) .....	477
Adults receiving chore services .....	62
Adults receiving home health aid services .....	63
Homemaker visits provided (MA) .....	294
Transportation (1 way trips) to Medicaid & Title XX services .....	11,881

MA = Monthly Average

Federal poverty levels are used to determine eligibility for certain programs and benefits.

### 2016 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Persons in family/household	Poverty guideline	138% of Poverty	200% of Poverty
1	\$11,880	\$16,394	\$23,760
2	\$16,020	\$22,108	\$32,040
3	\$20,160	\$27,821	\$40,320
4	\$24,300	\$33,534	\$48,600
5	\$28,440	\$39,247	\$56,880
6	\$32,580	\$44,960	\$65,160

For families/households with more than 6 persons, add the following for each additional person.

\$4,160	\$5,741	\$8,320
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## Child Support Enforcement Agency • Frank McLaughlin, Director

The Child Support Enforcement Agency provides a variety of services to ensure children receive the financial and medical support they are legally entitled to and deserve. The Agency seeks to work closely with each family to locate non-custodial parents, determine paternity and support obligations and to collect regular support payments for the children served. The CSEA also reviews and recommends modifications to the order when circumstances change for the family.

During 2015, the Child Support Enforcement Agency provided services to families on 6,486 active cases. The Agency increased its performance in two key areas: paternity establishment and current support collections, and was recognized by the State of Ohio for outperforming similar-sized counties in current support collections for Federal Fiscal Year 2015.

The Legal Support Unit resolved 131 paternity cases through genetic parentage testing, with a total of 203 individuals tested. Paternity was established for about 114 children through the signing of a Voluntary Acknowledgment of Paternity Affidavit. The unit established 104 new support orders via administrative support hearings. The unit also successfully completed 236 reviews and

adjustments of support obligations.

Case Managers met with parents at the initiation of the case to establish a relationship. Once orders were finalized, Case Managers enforced them through the attachment of wages and issued National Medical Support Notices to ensure that children are covered by available health insurance. When a parent relocated, the Case Managers worked closely with other state agencies to help enforce Ohio orders. A Case Investigator worked with obligors who were unemployed or incarcerated.

When obligor payments were not being made, Case Managers utilized administrative enforcement remedies. In 2015, the Agency was granted authority to seize casino winnings in addition to credit bureau reporting, license suspension, passport denial, tax refund interception, seizure of Ohio

lottery prizes, funds on deposit in bank accounts and insurance settlements.

The Legal Unit initiated court actions for the establishment of paternity and support when the administrative hearing process could not be utilized. In addition, the staff attorneys enforced orders through 229 civil and 32 criminal proceedings. Warrants were issued in 220 situations and approximately 215 warrants were

served. Overall, the Legal Unit collected \$101,921.78 in lump sum payments to be applied against support arrearages.

The Child Support Enforcement Agency operates under the Board of County Commissioners. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' Office of Child Support establishes policies and guidelines for the program based on federal and state laws, and processes all payments.

### 2015 CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AGENCY STATISTICS

Wood County Children Served .....	8,371
Total Collections .....	\$20,277,265.64
License Suspension Program .....	\$61,192.27
Payouts from insurance settlements .....	\$32,916.35
Payouts from casino/racino prizes .....	\$21,312.61
Collections/Disbursements to Custodial Parents .....	\$18,849,803.60
Public Assistance Returned to State of Ohio .....	\$387,459.89
Recouped through Income Tax Refund Offset .....	\$812,820.11
Reimbursements for Children in Foster Care .....	\$26,000.60

## Building Inspection • Michael Rudey, Chief Building Official

Building Inspection provides residential and non-residential building code enforcement throughout Wood County as well as non-residential enforcement in Hancock, Henry and Fulton Counties. In order to protect the health, safety and welfare of residents, all construction (including new construction, additions to existing structures, and remodeling) must meet a series of requirements set forth by specific state building codes.

The number of permits issued increased from 4,657 in 2014 to 4,842 in 2015, reflecting continued growth in commercial and residential construction in the area.

Staff incorporated technology to increase proficiency in plan submittals, reviews and inspections in the field. With plan submittals available in a PDF format, inspectors utilized tablets for daily entries along with daily schedules. The permit software tracked projects and generated reports. Alternative software is being reviewed to offer advanced features for online submittals.

The Department continued to expand its code enforcement area with the Villages of Metamora, Fayette, and Delta approved as of December 6, 2015.

Building Inspection operates under the Board of County Commissioners and is set up as an enterprise fund, operating solely on permit revenue. Building Codes utilized during 2015 included the 2011 Ohio Building Codes for non-residential structures and the 2013 Residential Code of Ohio for One, Two and Three Family Dwellings.

### 2015 BUILDING INSPECTION STATISTICS

Permits Issued .....	4,842
Total Permit Revenue .....	\$1,368,922
Wood County .....	\$979,847
Hancock County .....	\$305,913
Henry County .....	\$43,868
Fulton County .....	\$39,294
Total Inspections Completed .....	13,195
Wood County .....	10,421
7,197 Residential	
3,224 Non-Residential	
Hancock County .....	1,812
Henry County .....	476
Fulton County .....	486

## 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 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 volunteers and rescue organizations, 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.

Additional focus was placed on door-to-door license checks during 2015, and will continue to be emphasized in 2016.

Scheduled renovations to the Shelter began in 2015 including replacement of the makeup-air unit that provides heat to the kennel, refurbishing acoustical panels, converting light fixtures to LED, painting and other minor repairs. Completion of the renovations is scheduled in 2016.

### 2015 DOG SHELTER STATISTICS

Total Dogs Impounded.....	543
Adoptions .....	220
Redemptions .....	219
Euthanized .....	98
Owner Surrenders .....	83
Owner Surrenders for Euthanasia .....	17
Adoption Rate .....	82%
Incidents Investigated .....	683
Dog Licenses Sold .....	20,112
Kennel Licenses Sold .....	100
Licenses Sold Online .....	6,069
Dogs Transferred to Rescues.....	83

## Information Technology • Ben Hendricks, IT Director

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

In 2015, in addition to supporting the various County offices, the IT Department upgraded infrastructure systems that manage both phone and data operations.

## Wood Haven Health Care

Jeff Orlowski, Administrator

Wood Haven Health Care, a 95 bed short-term rehabilitation and long-term health care center, provides both skilled and intermediate level care and services. Wood Haven Health Care offers rehabilitation programs through Bordner Therapy Care which includes physical, occupational and speech therapies. 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. Alzheimer's Care, Parkinson's Care, 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 Health Care is Medicare and Medicaid certified, serves individuals covered under various nursing care insurance plans, and accepts most insurance plans. Wood Haven is a member of the Ohio Health Care Association, Leading Age Ohio and the Ohio County Home Association. The facility operates under the Board of County Commissioners.

With a focus on providing customers with an outstanding experience, Wood Haven Health Care rolled out new programs including Details Matter and music therapy.

Dining services started operating an Open Dining Program, providing customers with a choice for the time they want meals served; a café menu offering more food selections for meals; freshly prepared meals with fresh fruits and vegetables, eliminating canned and pre-made packaged food; and a homemade-style cooking program.

An existing lounge was revamped into a café where customers can get snacks such as fruit, popcorn, muffins and a hot cup of coffee.

Furthermore, 2015 marked the completion for a boiler project which included replacing the original boilers and installing new boilers to provide a more comfortable atmosphere for residents and employees.

Many outings were offered to the residents throughout the year including trips to the Hollywood Casino, the Wood County Fair and St. Aloysius Catholic Church; lunch outings; picnics at Bowling Green parks; shopping trips and a trip to Patrick Henry High School to attend their high school musical.

In December it was announced that Wood Haven Health Care would receive the Northwest Ohio Top Work Place award by The Toledo Blade.

### 2015 WOOD HAVEN STATISTICS

Registered Admissions .....	176
Residents Returning Home Following Stay.....	114
In-House Days Logged .....	26,764
Privately Funded Residents.....	15.69%
Medicaid Residents.....	44.83%
Medicare Residents.....	7.56%
Managed Care Residents .....	4.08%
Hospice Residents .....	5.03%
Occupancy Rate .....	77.19%

## Solid Waste Management District • Joe Fawcett, Director (Jan. 1 - Dec. 16, 2015)

The Solid Waste Management District manages solid waste planning and the development of recycling opportunities for residents. It also operates the Wood County Landfill, with the mission of providing 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.

Staff worked throughout 2015 to complete a draft of the required five-year update of the Solid Waste Management District Plan. The Plan establishes waste reduction and recycling goals for the County, ensuring that adequate disposal capacity is provided for solid waste generated and that residents, businesses, and industries have access to recycling programs.

The District continued its \$1 per capita recycling support to all local government entities in the County that provide

residential recycling programs. To help ensure compliance with recycling related portions of the Solid Waste Management District Plan, sixteen satellite locations continued to support residential recycling for rural areas.

Educational programs, including 66 presentations and 79 tours, were provided to more than 3,000 residents. The tours included visits to the Landfill, wind turbines and Bowling Green Recycling Center. District staff also participated in 13 community events.

District revenue increased by over \$125,000 from 2014, mainly due to increased tonnage at the Wood County Landfill. Tonnage at the Landfill was up almost 11,000 tons, and the privately owned Evergreen Landfill located in Northwood, increased by approximately 25,000 tons.

The Landfill continued to provide economical, environmentally responsible opportunities to recycle and dispose of unwanted materials including the sale of screened wood mulch made from

brush. Mulch is available for purchase beginning in late spring for \$25 per ton and can be loaded into any vehicle.

A 6.1 acre capping project for an area of the Landfill that has reached capacity was completed in 2015. Plans for additional capping of another 6 acre area is expected in 2018. The current landfill cell has approximately 14 years of capacity remaining.

The Solid Waste Management District operates under the Board of County Commissioners.

## OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Wade Gottschalk, Executive Director

The Economic Development Commission, an Ohio nonprofit corporation, strives to expand the employment base through existing industry development and the systematic recruitment of new businesses. The Commission actively markets Wood County and its communities to outside industrial prospects, while continuing to provide services to the County's communities and existing industries helping them broaden and diversify the tax base while creating and retaining jobs.

The economy in Wood County continued to improve and attract private investment and job creation in 2015. This improvement in the economy and investment by businesses helped the County's unemployment rate attain a strong 4.1 percent in December 2015, below the national average of five percent.

In Perrysburg Township, RRP Packaging announced a 32,000 square foot expansion of their facility and First Solar expanded into the former Ace Hardware distribution building and created an additional 250 jobs. As a result

of a \$42 million expansion, FedEx Ground added 260 new jobs.

The City of Perrysburg saw an expansion at Schuetz Container and additional growth at the OI Corporate Headquarters plus the opening of Costco.

The CSX Intermodal facility in Henry Township completed their \$42 million expansion and added 30 new jobs.

Finally, in Troy Township, the 1.6 million square foot Home Depot fulfillment center opened and created nearly 500 jobs, which was triple their original commitment.

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.

## 'GOOD JOBS' INITIATIVE

The Wood County Economic Development Commission continued working on a "Good Jobs" initiative, which is an effort to develop more interest among school age people in a skilled trades education in Wood County to provide the future workforce required by many area employers.

Wood County is home to several excellent union training facilities, including electrical, plumbing, carpenters, sheet metal and boilermakers, as well as Penta Career Center and Owens Community College. Skills training at these facilities can lead to good, well paying jobs and a bright future for people and their employers.

## Records Center • Brenda Ransom, Records Manager

*Created in 1998, the Records Center provides records management services to Wood County offices. The Center, which opened in 2002, offers secure, environmentally sound storage of paper records, preservation microfilming and digital imaging services. The storage rooms contain high-density mobile shelving units with a maximum storage capacity of 10,505 cubic-foot records boxes. The Records Center operates under the Board of County Commissioners.*

Records Center staff and Community Employment Services personnel scanned records from the Sheriff's Office, Probate Court, Auditor's Office, Veterans Assistance Center, Public Defender and Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Records Center and other County office personnel backed thousands of digital images to microfilm for the Clerk of Courts, Probate Court, Public Defender, Recorder's Office and Sheriff's Office, as well as for officials in Williams, Mercer and Putnam Counties. The projects from outside Wood County generated revenue that offset costs associated with equipment maintenance.

In addition, staff assisted many County Offices and Departments in managing the life cycle of both analog and digital records. More than 15 tons of obsolete records were shredded and forwarded to the County Recycling Center for disposal.

### 2015 RECORDS CENTER STATISTICS

Records stored (cubic feet) .....	7,602
New records (cubic feet).....	507
Eligible for disposal (cubic feet).....	337
Storage space recovered (cubic feet) .....	641.5
Pounds of records shredded and recycled.....	30,737
Pages/microfilm images scanned.....	412,375
Rolls of microfilm created .....	457

## Emergency Management Agency • Bradley J. Gilbert, Director

*Emergency Management is the organized analysis, planning, decision-making and assignment of available resources to mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from the effects of disasters. The concept of Emergency Management requires the input and cooperation of all first responders, local officials, community partners, businesses, residents and volunteers in order to be successful.*

The Emergency Management Agency planned for and monitored the effects of another very snowy, cold and problematic winter which included propane shortages. As a result of the brutal winter, the Agency worked closely with the American Red Cross to have emergency shelters in stand-by mode, as well as utility providers to help restore services as needed. The record setting winter led to ice jam and flooding concerns across the County. In particular, the threat of ice jam flooding threatened Grand Rapids, Pemberville and Perrysburg Township.

The Agency worked with local elected officials, political subdivisions and agencies including the Northwestern Water and Sewer District to plan for algal bloom issues that could have impacted the county's public

water supply similarly to 2014. Political subdivisions agreed that they need to assist each other should their public water supply be impacted.

The Agency assisted BGSU in the development of the University's Lightning Protection Plan, which gained recognition from the National Weather Service as the first plan of its kind for large outdoor venues in the State of Ohio. The basis of this plan will be used for numerous large outdoor events around the County. Staff also participated in numerous events to promote emergency preparedness and provided public outreach information and severe weather information via Facebook.

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



In late June, an unusual storm system caused six to seven inches of rain across the area after an already wet May and June. Considerable widespread flooding impacted residents and businesses especially in the northern part of the County. The Agency aided impacted political subdivisions as well as support agencies like the American Red Cross to help residents and businesses. Damage assessments of the area provided support for the Governor's decision to offer the State Disaster Relief Program to impacted political subdivisions.

## Buildings and Grounds • Tim Hainen, Facilities Director

*Buildings and Grounds oversees the day-to-day maintenance of the buildings at the Courthouse Complex, East Gypsy Lane Road Complex and satellite offices including the Clerk of Courts Title Office, Highway Garage, Public Defender and Veterans Assistance Center. The Department provides assistance in facility planning, remodeling and preventative maintenance.*

During 2015, Buildings and Grounds staff guided projects including boiler replacement at Wood Haven Health Care, the building expansion at Job and Family Services, the 60 bed expansion of the Justice Center, complete HVAC replacement at the Dunbridge Road building and new gas service at Wood Haven Health Care. Additionally staff completed concrete sidewalk repairs, loading dock repairs at the Justice Center, various painting projects, carpet replacement and landscaping projects. Staff also managed the freezer/cooler replacement at Wood Haven Health Care and

coordinated the accessibility project at the Historical Museum.

The Custodial Staff continued their expanded responsibilities at the Fuel Facility at the East Gypsy Lane Road Complex. Staff provided general office cleaning, carpet maintenance, floor refinishing, window cleaning and recycling duties. Additionally Community Employment Service of Wood Lane continued to provide weekly pickup of recycled materials at all facilities.

The Buildings and Grounds Department operates under the Board of County Commissioners.



A \$300,000 boiler replacement project at Wood Haven Health Care was completed by Dunbar Mechanical in July. Additional upgrades to the facility are planned in 2016 including installation of a new chiller, a piping project and window replacement.

## Historical Museum and Center • Dana Nemeth, Director

*The Historical Center, located on the grounds of the former Wood County Infirmary, actively preserves and shares the history of Wood County and the Wood County Infirmary. This historic site is one of the last county poor farms where nearly all of the original structures still remain. Financial support for the Center is derived from County tax dollars and through the private fund-raising activities of the Wood County Historical Society. The 50-acre County-owned site is part of the system of parks maintained and patrolled by the Wood County Park District.*

In preparation for the \$1.2 million accessibility project, the Museum was closed during 2015. Construction on the Museum elevator and other accessibility amenities began in December following asbestos abatement and renovations to exhibit rooms. Repairs to the property's historic stone and concrete fence were also completed during the year.

The staff focused on collection management projects throughout the year, inventorying and rehousing more than 5,000 items including agricultural equipment and

institutional archive materials. To help with these projects and other activities, more than 100 volunteers contributed over 4,000 hours of service to the Center.

Although the Museum was closed, the Center continued to offer public programs including Cabin Fever Days, a monthly tea series, Wood County Living History Day, Boomtown Demonstration Days and October Friday Night Folklore Tours. In November, a new exhibit, "Social Welfare in Wood County," opened, which outlines the relief process used to determine how residents were assisted prior to

the modern day federal welfare system.

2015 marked the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Wood County Historical Society and the 40th anniversary of the opening of the Historical Center and Museum.

In April, a plaque commemorating Wood County's role in the Civil War was installed in the Courthouse Atrium. Private funds raised by the Wood County's Civil War 150th Anniversary Committee paid for the fabrication of the plaque, which will serve as a permanent legacy about the

sacrifices soldiers and their families made during the war.

The Center served over 2,800 students, teachers and adults in educational programs during the year. Staff provided in-class presentations in area schools and served as guest speakers on history topics to a variety of adult service groups throughout the region.

The Historical Museum and Center staff are employees of the Board of County Commissioners, while the Historical Society Board sets the policy for the 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 complete an Application for Volunteer Service located on the Commissioners' website or contact their office for a copy of the application.

#### **ALCOHOL DRUG ADDICTION AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BOARD**

John Alexander\*, Heather Barnhiser, Casey Cromwell, Doug Cubberley\*, Leanne Eby, Beverley Hirzel\*, Tom Kiger\*, Stan Korducki\*, Monica Moll, Sue Moore, Harold Rosenberg, Randy Rothenbuhler\*, Jean Scech\*, H. Jay Salvage\*, Thomas Vermilya, Patrick Wise\* and two vacancies

#### **BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

Joe Catalano\*, Rebecca Ferguson, Cindy Herman\*, John Hunt\*, Ed Metzger, Pam Van Mooy\* and Martha Woelke\*

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

Tom Chidester, Dorothy Cromley, Tim Hainen, Earlene Kilpatrick, Joel Kuhlman, Dana Nemeth, Robert Pollex, Michael Sibbersen, Irma Wolf and Karen Young

## **GOVERNING BOARDS & COMMISSIONS**

#### **COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS BOARD\*\***

Joni Bretz, Steve Callejas, Thomas Clemons, Paul Dobson, Ann Garcia, Ronda Gibson, Tony Hetrick, Andrew Kalmar, Reeve Kelsey, Craig LaHote, Alan Mayberry, Daniel Paez, Robert Pollex, Mark Reddin, Melanie Stretchberry, Lori Tretter, Mark Wasylshyn, Cary Williams and Chris Zografies

#### **COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION MEMBERS**

Jon Eckel, Jill Engle, Doris Herringshaw, Andrew Kalmar, Michael Keys, Joel Kuhlman, Craig LaHote, Cathy Newlove-Wenig, Donna Schuerman, Michael Sibbersen and W. David Steiner

#### **DANGEROUS WILD ANIMAL RESPONSE TEAM**

Mark Wasylshyn, Brad Gilbert, Stephen Meredith, Michael Richardson, Dr. Daniel Schwerin, Jan Larson-McLaughlin, Joel Kuhlman, Kenneth Hetrick, Timothy Stacy, Brad Espen and Andrew Snyder

#### **HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD**

Nancy Buchanan, Dick Conrad, Dru Cunningham, Judy Ennis, Mark Hollenbaugh, Joyce Coutinho\*, Jean Ladd\*, Neil Munger, Michael Penrod, Jim Philo, George Stossel, Joann Ward, Becky White-Schooner, Irma Wolf\* and one vacancy

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

Ben Batey, Shelian Beaupre, Jeanette Bostelman, Joseph Catalano, Sue Clanton, Stephanie Lauwers, Judy Knox, Susan Miklovic, Denise Niese, Melanie Stretchberry, John Sinn and one vacancy

#### **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, Rodney Fleming, Brad Gilbert, James Hammer, Tony Hetrick, Scott Hicks, Cindy Hofner, Joel Kuhlman, Nina Hernandez, Richard Schmidbauer, Mark Wasylshyn and Karen Young

#### **NORTHWESTERN WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT**

John Cheney\*, William Davies, Bill Hirzel\*, Melinda Kale, Leonard Michaels, J. Douglas Miller\*, Lyle Schulte, Michael Scott and Mark Sheffer

#### **PLANNING COMMISSION\*\***

Anthony Allion, John Alexander, John Brossia, Doris Herringshaw, Raymond Huber, Joel Kuhlman, Craig LaHote, Donna Schuerman, Robert Stitt Black, Leslee Thompson and David Wirt

#### **PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION**

Eva Dhondt, Elizabeth Emmert, Dennis Ferrell\*, Rex Huffman\* and Fred Matthews\*

#### **PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD**

Becky Bhaer\*, Nancy Buchanan\*, Ellen Dalton, Chet Marcin, William Harbauer\*, Brian Paskran\* and Jane Robb

#### **REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY\*\***

Thomas Bamburowski, Jorge Betancourt, William J. Davis Jr., William Hayes, Rob Ridday, Matt Reger and one vacancy

#### **RESIDENTIAL BOARD OF APPEALS\*\***

Ron Bechstein, Mike Dunipace, Tim Enright, Robert Maurer, Laurie Melchior Huskisson, Carl Snyder and Connie Workman  
ALTERNATES: Jeffrey Ford and Tom Pendleton

#### **ROSSFORD TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

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

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

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

#### **WOOD COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY**

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

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

Margaret Chamberlain, Jean Ladd, Frank McLaughlin, Denise Niese, Winn Stone and Doug Troutner

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: Carolyn Marquardt, Andrew Kalmar, Jeff Orlowski and the President and Vice President of the Resident's Council

#### **WOOD SANDUSKY OTTAWA SENECA COMMUNITY ACTION COMMISSION**

Total Membership - 24

Wood County Members: Ron Andes\*, Carmen Beltran, Melvin L. Browning\*, Greg Kegler, Dean King and Jane Wengel

#### **WORKFORCE POLICY BOARD\*\***

Sue Clanton, Richard Edwards, Patrick Giamarco, Diana Herman, Leslie Head, Rhonda Hogrefe, Ronald Matter, Sandy Milligan, John Schlagheck, Pat Scholl and Cathy Newlove-Wenig  
AD HOC MEMBERS: Wade Gottschalk, Andrew Kalmar, Mary DeWitt and Dave Wigent

## AUDITOR



Michael Sibbersen

*The Auditor serves as the County's chief fiscal officer and appraiser. He prepares financial reports, acts as payroll agent and reviews and pays all County bills. The distribution of real and personal property tax settlements to the subdivisions and the distribution of local government funds are also the responsibility of the Auditor. An agent for the Ohio Department of Taxation, the Auditor 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.*

Wood County was once again the recipient of the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association. Every year since 1998, Wood County has earned this prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government comprehensive annual financial reports.

The Office assessed 74,562 parcels of real property with a taxable value of over \$2.9 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. Whenever property is sold, a deed is brought to the Auditor to convey taxable ownership before being recorded. In 2015, 4,169 such conveyances were

processed, encompassing 5,640 individual land parcels, which generated \$1,383,905. These funds were forwarded to the County's General Fund and the Economic Development Fund.

The Auditor also conducted a forfeited land sale at which 15 parcels of land were auctioned and returned to the tax rolls.

The Current Agricultural Use Value (CAUV) program, implemented by the State in 1974 as a tax saving program for farmland, brought a tax savings of more than \$3 million to landowners last year. A total of 319,640 acres of farmland in the County are enrolled in this program.

The Office administered the Ohio Homestead program which allows senior citizens and permanently and totally disabled Ohioans to reduce their property tax burden by exempting \$25,000 of the market value of their home from all property taxes. Military

veterans certified 100 percent disabled qualified for an additional exemption of \$25,000. Legislative changes have altered eligibility for the program. For 2015, the income limitation of \$31,500 had to be met in order to qualify. Income was determined by the Ohio adjusted gross income; Social Security benefits are not included. The program provided 9,930 residents (those aged 65 and older, or permanently disabled) with property tax relief, and saved taxpayers enrolled in the program \$4,435,046, compared to a savings of \$4,644,648 in 2014.

For 2015, dog license sales consisted of 19,719 regular licenses, 349 three-year licenses, and 44 permanent licenses. A total of 100 kennel licenses were also sold. The online registration of dogs remained a popular option, with 6,069 licenses utilizing this method.

The Weights and Measures division inspected 706 commercial

scales, 1,381 gas pumps and electronic scanners for retail and wholesale use. The division also investigated consumer complaints.

The Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Department continued to support residents, businesses and governmental entities by providing GIS parcel data and custom maps. In 2015, the department filled more than 120 custom map and data requests. The department also oversaw the acquisition of oblique aerial imagery. The use of oblique imagery is an integral part of the Auditor's property revaluation process.

The office offered two websites, one for general information and the other for real estate information and mapping, along with a Facebook page.

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

## TREASURER

*The Treasurer oversees the receipt and disbursement of funds for the County and collects taxes for the County, as well as for the schools, municipalities and townships within the County. The largest source of revenue is generated through real property taxes. More than 18 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. 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 and is authorized to perform her duties under Section 321 and 323 of the Ohio Revised Code.*



Jill Engle

During 2015, the Office collected \$180,929,649.74 in real estate taxes. Manufactured home taxes totaling \$725,226.37 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 2015, 486 taxpayers utilized the automatic withdrawal plan and 474 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.

Investment income increased

34 percent over the prior year's returns totaling \$1,199,428.41 in 2015. All investments made by the Treasurer's Office were fully collateralized and sufficiently liquid to enable the County to meet reasonably anticipated operating requirements.

## 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.*

In 2015, the Title Office realized its second highest year of vehicle titles processed. To assist in processing titles more efficiently, staff started preparing for the release of new software.

A grant from the Ohio Supreme Court provided a "self-help" workstation, allowing visitors access to forms and procedures to assist them in divorce, dissolution and domestic violence matters. The Law Library Resources Board assisted the Legal Office with this project and is providing the location for a workstation to allow easy accessibility to citizens.

The Legal Office collaborated with the Sheriff's Office on a new process to immediately forward felony criminal warrants and court orders for domestic violence actions electronically to the Sheriff, reducing processing time and travel time for deputies.

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	75,290
Motor Vehicle Mortgages Recorded	18,885
Salvage Titles	198
Penalties (for not transferring titles timely)	3,175
Inspections	7,123
Affidavits	21,093
Manufactured Home Archives Recorded	487
Boat titles, Duplicates and Memo Titles (includes charged replacement titles)	1,321
Watercraft Mortgages Recorded	291
Watercraft Affidavits	752
Watercraft Penalties	150
Watercraft Registrations	834

**TITLE DISBURSEMENT TOTALS** ..... **\$23,946,138.85**

Clerk of Courts	
Certificate of Title Fund Receipts	\$822,204.48
State of Ohio Motor Vehicle and Watercraft	
Casual and Dealer Tax	\$22,907,627.62
Certificate of Title Fees	\$187,825.25
Watercraft Fees	\$3,535.50
Watercraft Registrations	\$24,946.00

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

CasesAppealed to 6th District Court of Appeals	81
Domestic Relations Cases Filed	394
Domestic Violence Civil Protection	142
Civil Stalking/Sexually Oriented Offense Protection Orders	103
Foreign Support	2
Domestic Cases Reopened	203
Foreign Judgment	4
Criminal Cases Filed	558
Civil Cases Filed (Includes 253 Civil Foreclosure Cases)	673
Land Foreclosure Cases	70
Judgment Liens Filed	1,516
State Tax Liens Filed	2,140
Foreign Judgment Liens	1
Executions Filed (Aid & Writ)	12
Debtor Exams	37
Garnishments	211
Publications	145
Wrts of Possessions	28
Wrts of Partition	1
Total Number of Judgment Entries	13,725
Notary Commissions Filed	456
Passport Applications Accepted	207
Criminal Investigations	1
Search Warrants	117
Coroner's Reports Filed	104

**LEGAL DISBURSEMENT TOTALS** ..... **\$2,020,418.35**

General Fund	\$370,970.41
Legal Research Fees	\$8,407.23
Computerization Fees	\$107,170.05
Computerization Fees from Collections	\$3,310.53
Reimburse Court Diagnostic Fees	\$7,152.60
Mediation Costs	\$47,553.12
Fines Paid to the County	\$19,953.50
Fines Paid to the Law Library	\$750.00
Statutory fees paid to non-Wood County entities	\$125,710.67
Funding Shelters for Victims of Domestic Violence	\$12,583.43
Fees Paid to Adult Probation Supervision	\$11,443.13
Fees Paid to the Sheriff	\$106,460.54
Fines Paid to the Sheriff	\$10,133.70
Interest Paid to General Fund (includes interest for CDs)	\$519.22
Fees Paid to Appraisers	\$40,725.00
Indigent Application Fees	\$2,515.17
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	\$1,145,060.05

## PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



Paul Dobson

The Prosecuting Attorney's Office includes three legal divisions. The Criminal Division prosecutes all felony criminal offenses committed in the County by adults. 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 represented the County, townships and schools in proceedings before state and local administrative agencies, and state and federal courts. The Prosecutor's Office has 13 attorneys, a victim services unit, two investigators, the C.Y.C.L.E. Division and support staff.

Approximately 945 victims of or witnesses to a crime in the County received assistance through the legal process and procedures by the Victim/Witness Services unit, who served as liaisons between a crime victim and the attorney assigned to the case.

The C.Y.C.L.E. (Cooperating with Youth, Community, and Law Enforcement) Program continued use of the StreetWise program, a curriculum focused on technology safety, conflict management, suicide prevention, drug and alcohol abuse prevention and bullying prevention. The program was provided at three school districts, six community learning centers and one County agency in 2015. The Youth Olympics event is a component of this program and served more than 500 students. Additionally, almost 600 entries were received for the annual Safety Kids Calendar Contest.

JuMP (Juvenile Mediation Program) conducted 114 mediations providing an alternative for dealing with juvenile offenders with issues of truancy, delinquency or unruly behavior.

Twenty-seven members from eight different school districts served on Teen Court where 25 cases were heard throughout their term.

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

### 2015 PROSECUTING ATTORNEY STATISTICS

Criminal Division	
Indictments .....	470
Bills of Information for adult felony cases.....	50
Cases resolved by jury or court trial .....	18
(14 guilty/3 not guilty/1 not guilty by reason of insanity)	
Cases disposed.....	634
Conviction rate (%). . . . .	99.3
Juvenile Division	
Delinquency cases.....	736
Unruly cases .....	103
Permanent custody cases filed .....	5
Felony level offenses adjudicated .....	24
Juvenile traffic cases.....	491
Adult contributing to minors.....	12
Abuse/neglect/dependency cases filed.....	311
Civil Division	
Opinion requests.....	19
Contracts prepared/reviewed.....	280
Total Tax foreclosure .....	70
33 dismissed with payment/13 properties sold	
8 properties forfeited/16 cases pending	

## RECORDER



Julie Baumgardner

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 17,285 documents were recorded and/or filed, with \$993,999.34 collected in fees. Of this amount \$490,431.85 was remitted to the State of Ohio for the Ohio Housing Trust Fund; \$90,789 was deposited into the Recorder's supplemental equipment fund; and the remaining \$412,778.49 was paid into the County's general fund.

Due to the availability of new technology, the office's data entry and indexing software was updated and the Recorder's official website was redesigned. At the end of 2015 the office also started accepting eRecorded documents for faster response times.

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.

### 2015 RECORDER'S DOCUMENTS

Deeds .....	5,054
Judgment entries and certificates for transfer .....	93
Mortgages (total value \$10,437,109,081.58).....	4,461
Mortgages released (with a value of \$446,461,998.73) .....	5,349
Land Contracts .....	26
Rights of way and easements.....	193
Leases .....	64
Mechanics liens.....	36
Plats .....	14
Federal Tax Liens.....	103
Financing statements.....	53
Terminations.....	46
All Others .....	1,793

## COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

### General Division

The Court of Common Pleas, General Division, adjudicates felony criminal cases; all civil actions including those arising out of automobile accidents, product liability claims, real estate matters, contract disputes; administrative appeals, such as those in the areas of worker's compensation, unemployment compensation; and appeals from certain local governments. The Court also adjudicates divorces, dissolutions, child and spousal support enforcement and modification, and the allocation of parental rights and responsibilities. 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, Wood County Law Library Resources Board and the Wood County Public Library Board. The Court of Common Pleas operates under Title 23 of the Ohio Revised Code.

During 2015, Judge Pollex served as Presiding Judge and represented the Court on the Judicial Advisory Board for the NorthWest Community Corrections Center. Judge Kelsey served as Administrative Judge and represented the County on the Maumee Watershed Conservancy District Court. Judge Mayberry served as Court Security Judge.

The Court continued to assist families going through divorce through its online parenting seminar and the Changing Families program which is centered around the children going through this transition. Parties are utilizing the Family Matters Mediation program as an alternative to litigation to try to resolve their issues in an efficient and effective manner. This year the Court started a new service of providing a wallet-sized card to petitioners who are granted a civil protection order. The card is convenient for a protected party to have available at all times and provides police agencies with a practical way to verify and enforce such orders.

#### 2015 COURT OF COMMON PLEAS STATISTICS

Cases Completed	2,252
Pending Cases	921
General Civil Cases Completed	763
Domestic Relations Cases Completed	922
Criminal Cases Completed	567
Notary Public - New Applications	170
Notary Public - Renewal Applications	301



Robert C. Pollex  
COURTROOM 1



Reeve Kelsey  
COURTROOM 2



Alan R. Mayberry  
COURTROOM 4

### 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.

#### 2015 ADULT PROBATION STATISTICS

Pre-sentence investigations conducted	248
New offenders under department supervision	335
Offenders supervised	1,104
Individuals terminated from supervision	348
Drug tests conducted	1,524
Work Release program participants	10
Offenders placed on Intensive Supervision	88
Offenders placed on Electronic Monitoring	147

### 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.

Constable Michael (Mac) McGillivray received the Ohio Regional Court Officer of the Year award at the court officers' training conference in October.

#### 2015 COURT SECURITY STATISTICS

Registered magnetometer walk-throughs	104,387
Prohibited items held	8,699
Incident reports filed	49
Public escorts	212
Tours conducted	25

## COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

### Probate and Juvenile Division



David E. Woessner

Cases heard in Probate Court involve decedent's estates, guardianships, conservatorships, trust related actions, 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. The Probate Court Judge also makes a number of appointments to Boards and agencies as allowed by law and performs his duties under Chapter 2101 of the Ohio Revised Code.

During 2015, Wood County Probate Court processed 773 new cases as well as 46 additional cases that were filed previously but re-opened for further action. The Court also processed 778 marriage applications.

The Court experienced a sharp increase in contested civil matters filed in 2015 compared to previous years, primarily due to a number of appropriation cases brought before the Court to settle disputes between local municipalities and property owners.

A number of procedural changes occurred during the year. In June, the Ohio Supreme Court adopted new Superintendence Rules for guardianship proceedings. The new rules placed several additional requirements on Probate Courts and guardians. In the same month, the United States Supreme Court upheld same sex marriages which resulted in software, document and procedural updates.

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

The Court provided probation related services to hundreds of youth and the 48-bed Juvenile Detention Center offered programming for detained youth from Wood and surrounding counties. The Court also continued its established history of working collaboratively with service providers and schools.

Staff participated in training opportunities ranging from family and youth centered services, probation and detention matters, as well as administrative and technological support. In addition, the staff continued to adjust to changes in laws and procedures surrounding the sealing and expungement of juvenile records, traffic laws and delinquency related issues.

The Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian ad Litem (CASA/GAL) program supervised volunteers who advocated for allegedly abused or neglected children. As of December 31, volunteers continued to advocate for 63 children in pending matters. CASA was able to serve 93 percent of the abuse, neglect and dependency cases for which volunteers were requested during the year.

## CORONER

*The Coroner evaluates and rules on all violent, accidental and suspicious circumstance deaths including homicides, suicides and sudden deaths of persons in apparent good health. The Coroner generally does not investigate deaths that occur from natural causes, when the person has a family physician.*



Douglas W. Hess, M.D.

*The Coroner is a Ohio licensed physician in good standing who carries out and directs the investigation of deaths in the County. The investigation may involve the scene, as well as labs, x-rays and autopsies as needed. The Coroner is authorized to perform his duties under Chapter 313 of the Ohio Revised Code.*

The number of cases reviewed by the Coroner rose from 86 in 2014 to 116 in 2015. Deaths from auto accidents increased by 12, drug accidents increased by seven, and suicide deaths were up three from the previous year.

### 2015 CORONER CASES

• Auto Accidents .....	25
• Drug/Alcohol Accidents.....	19
• Other Accidents.....	16
• Natural .....	33
• Suicide.....	18
• Pending .....	5

### 2015 JUVENILE COURT STATISTICS

Cases filed .....	2,768
Cases disposed of.....	2,771
Cases of alleged abuse, neglect or dependent children.....	295

#### Juvenile Detention Center

Pretrial & short term commitments .....	520
Males housed .....	379
Females housed.....	141

#### Juvenile Probation

Youth and adults under supervision.....	326
Community service participants .....	239
Community service hours .....	4,893
Restitution paid to victims.....	\$9,712.92

#### CASA/GAL

Volunteers.....	41
Children served .....	121
Volunteer Hours .....	3,390

## SHERIFF



Mark Waslyshyn

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.

## 2015 WOOD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT

### CIVIL DIVISION

Sheriff foreclosure property sales .....	192
Proceeds from parcels sold .....	\$2,763,660.82
Execution of Certificates of Judgment .....	23
Service fee income to General Fund.....	\$214,427.03
Warrants, summons, subpoena & indictments served .....	2,972
Civil Protection Orders served .....	211
Child support warrants served .....	215
Inmates extradited from out of state .....	49
Prisoners transported to penal institutions .....	196
Prisoners transported between agencies.....	525

### DETECTIVE BUREAU

Cases assigned.....	557
Cases cleared by arrest/closed/inactive .....	498
Cases pending investigation.....	59
Theft/fraud/forgery.....	236
Burglary/Breaking and Entering .....	89
Suspicious incident/departmental .....	139
Death/suicide.....	34
Sex offense/child abuse.....	20
Narcotic investigations.....	96
Fines/forfeitures to Drug Fund .....	\$22,787.30
Fire/arson .....	4
Human trafficking/prostitution/solicitation .....	44
Homicide.....	0
Vehicles seized/forfeited to WCSO .....	0

### 911 DIVISION/COMMUNICATIONS

911 calls answered.....	38,462
Fire calls dispatched.....	5,717
EMS calls dispatched.....	5,503
Calls dispatched to WCSO deputies.....	32,070
Cities, Villages, Townships, & Park District calls dispatched .....	12,554
Warrants entered into state/national databases .....	2,587
Protection orders entered into national database.....	388

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

Participating School Districts: Eastwood, Elmwood, Otsego, & St. Louis	
D.A.R.E. core students.....	435
D.A.R.E. students grades K-6.....	1,809
D.A.R.E. students grade 7.....	340
Education/prevention classes.....	24
Education/prevention students.....	1,598
School staff members.....	163
Safety Towns .....	3
Children participating in Safety Towns.....	334

### ROAD PATROL DIVISION

Complaints received and investigated .....	24,183
Criminal charges.....	412
Traffic citations.....	503
Traffic warning written/verbal .....	6,341
Crashes investigated .....	903
Injury crashes .....	163
Injured persons.....	218
Fatal crashes .....	7
Driving under the influence – DUI .....	83
Driving under suspension – DUS .....	97
Miles driven by all Sheriff's vehicles .....	991,214

### WEAPON PERMITS & BACKGROUND CHECKS

Concealed Carry Weapon permits issued.....	1,291
Concealed Carry Weapons permits renewed.....	651
Persons fingerprinted for background checks .....	1,070

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ENFORCEMENT

Domestic violence arrests .....	32
Court case victim assistance .....	112
Students taught in six schools .....	314
Sex offense/crimes against children .....	15
Cases assisted .....	325
Temporary protection order violation arrests .....	11

### SEX OFFENDERS

Registered .....	274
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During 2015, the Office assumed dispatching duties for the following areas: Walbridge police; Lake Township police, fire and EMS; and North Baltimore fire and EMS.

## JUSTICE CENTER EXPANSION PROJECT COMPLETED

On November 13, 2014, the Commissioners awarded a \$2.8 million contract to Mosser Construction to increase bed capacity and make changes to the existing structure to increase safety and security at the Justice Center.

The first phase of the project included renovation of the former Work Industries building into a 60 bed male, minimum security dorm. This area is an open area which includes bunkbeds, daily living area, exercise equipment and a classroom. Inmates were moved into the new unit in September.

### JUSTICE CENTER

Inmates booked .....	3,751
Inmates released .....	3,719
Average daily population .....	124.1
Inmates transported to local courts .....	1,576
Total meals served .....	209,381
– Justice Center .....	147,339
– Juvenile Detention Center .....	26,050
– Educational Service Center .....	158
– Juvenile Residential Center .....	35,834
Average meals served per day .....	573.6
Average meal cost (with labor) .....	\$2.34

### COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Citizens Police Academy students .....	10
R.A.D. Kids Safety students .....	74
Youth identification cards.....	1,088
Active Shooter Response Training .....	264

### VOLUNTEER AUXILIARY PROGRAM

Members .....	40
Special events worked .....	54
Funeral escorts .....	217
Hours of work volunteered .....	4,311

### EXPLORER PROGRAM

Members (Young adults 15 - 20) .....	20
Hours volunteered .....	1,001
Special events .....	18
Classroom hours .....	48
Field Trips .....	1

Phase Two of the project included the renovation of three existing minimum security housing units into two open dorm areas to be identified as medium/minimum units for those inmates who fall between medium/maximum security and minimum security.

Construction was completed on this phase during 2015, but the area was not approved for use by the Bureau of Adult Detention until January 2016. The consolidation of three units into two allowed for an additional 11 beds but also increased the number of female beds within the facility from 17 to 32.

## ENGINEER



Raymond A. Huber, P.E., P.S.

*The Engineer has the responsibility of maintaining the County's 245 miles of road, 441 bridges, 2,500 culverts and traffic control signs. Under the ditch maintenance program, the Office is responsible for cleaning and debrushing more than 600 miles of open streams and ditches, which is just part of the more than 3,000 miles of open watercourses in the County. The Office also provides cost estimations for road repair projects; assists with grant applications and right-of-way location surveys; investigates drainage problems; and maintains tax map records of daily land transactions such as annexations and parcel splits. In addition to the County roads, Highway Garage staff apply surface treatment to some of the 989 miles of Township roads. The Engineer oversees staff at the County Office Building and at the Highway Garage and also serves as engineer for each of the 19 townships. He is authorized to perform his duties under Chapter 315 of the Ohio Revised Code.*

## ODOT BRIDGE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

The Ohio Department of Transportation launched a partnership with counties and cities in 2014 to fully fund the replacement or repair of some locally owned bridges. During 2015, five bridges were designed and built, bringing the total number of completed projects under this program to 10. These included Tracy Road south of the Ohio Turnpike, Five Point Road west of Thompson Road, Jerry City Road between Potter and Wingston Roads, Jerry City Road between Rudolph and Mitchell Roads, and Park Avenue west of SR 199.

Seven additional bridges are scheduled for construction through this program in 2016. These include Lemoyne Road between Garling and Gilbert Roads, Liberty Hi Road between SR 281 and Bays Road, Lime City Road south of Schreier Road, Dunbridge Road between Simonds and Nelson Roads, Collins Road between Millbury and Bradner Roads, Henry Wood County Line Road between Oil Center and Hammansburg Roads, and Liberty Hi Road between Mermill Road and Greensburg Pike.



The Ohio Bridge Partnership Program provided funding to replace the Jerry City Road Bridge between Potter and Wingston Roads along with four other bridges in 2015.

## 2015 SOURCES OF INCOME

Motor Vehicle License Fees.....	\$4,140,540.97
Gasoline Tax .....	\$2,356,712.91
Traffic Fines & Receipts.....	\$149,845.18
Reimbursements.....	\$326,688.33
Refunds.....	\$22,554.85
Grants .....	\$1,070,887.91
Other Receipts.....	\$21,090.99
Interest .....	\$28,342.90
General Fund .....	\$541,648.00
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$8,658,312.04</b>

## 2015 EXPENDITURES

Road Resurfacing & Reconstruction .....	\$1,225,745.28
Bridge Construction & Maintenance .....	\$2,659,845.80
Ditch Maintenance .....	\$401,132.46
Wages & Salary.....	\$2,339,166.00
Fringe Benefits.....	\$274,671.00
Equipment & Repairs.....	\$246,078.49
Fuel.....	\$259,502.62
Road Maintenance Materials.....	\$620,588.32
Utilities .....	\$7,025.05
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$8,033,755.02</b>

## 2015 ROAD PROJECTS COMPLETED

Resurfacing	
Huffman Rd. (Portage) - 1.5 mile .....	\$409,651.90
Poe Rd. Resurfacing(Plain) - 1 mile.....	\$267,694.47
Surface Treatment	
Bishop Rd. (Plain) 1 mile.....	\$39,345.00
New Rochester Rd. (Freedom) .67 mile .....	\$24,268.85
North River Rd. (Freedom) .63 mile.....	\$19,934.80
Poe Rd. (Plain) 2 mile.....	\$81,587.50
East Broadway St. (Lake) 2.7 mile .....	\$31,553.28
Kellogg Rd. (Washington/Plain) 2.7 mile .....	\$27,711.21
Roachton Rd. (Perrysburg) 1.9 mile.....	\$19,318.56
Bloomdale Rd. (Bloom) .77 mile.....	\$97,505.23
Huffman Rd. (Bloom) 1.2 mile.....	\$156,784.63
Pavement Markings Various Roads—106.3 miles .....	\$49,889.85

## 2015 BRIDGE PROJECTS COMPLETED

Glenwood Rd. over Grassy creek (Rossford).....	\$925,873.82
Potter Rd. over Hockenberry Run (Jackson Twp.) .....	\$195,761.40
Lime City Rd. over Cedar Creek (Perrysburg Twp.).....	\$139,357.89
Eagleville Rd. over Bull Creek (Bloom Twp.).....	\$113,460.07
Robbins Rd. over S. Br. Portage River (Perry Twp.) .....	\$40,939.52
Luckey Rd. over Packer Creek (Troy Twp.).....	\$337,918.25

## 2015 DRAINAGE PROJECTS COMPLETED

Ditch Cleanouts .....	29.5 Miles
Ditch Debrushing.....	29.58 Miles
Ditch Bank Protection and Repair.....	942 Feet
Sprayed Vegetation .....	160.92 Miles

## 2016 PROPOSED PROJECTS

(actual projects completed contingent on available budget, weather, and other factors)

### BRIDGE PROJECTS

Kramer Road	West of Shinew Road - Center & Portage Twp.
Cygnet Road	East of Emerson Road - Perry Twp.
South River Road	East of Wayne Road - Freedom Twp.
Luckey Road	Between Strail Road & US 20 - Troy Twp.
Emerson Road	North of Cygnet Road - Bloom & Perry Twp.
Cygnet Road	Between Potter & Wingston Roads - Henry Twp.
Huffman Road	Between Tank Farm & Oil Center Roads - Bloom Twp.

### ROAD PROJECTS

Tracy Road Resurfacing	Lake/Perrysburg Twp.
Pemberville Road Resurfacing	Troy Twp.

# INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

## BOARD OF ELECTIONS • Terry L. Burton, Director; Deborah S. Dorn, 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.*

Utilizing matching State monies, the Board of Elections deployed electronic poll book tablets for the first time. The new technology allowed precinct elections officials to more quickly look up and process voters at the polls and allowed voters at multiple precinct voting locations to be processed by any of the tables at a location.

Two elections were held during the year with 246 candidates running for elected offices in municipalities, township, school districts and court districts. Voters also decided 37 local tax and policy issues. Absentee ballots accounted for 10 percent of all ballots cast.

At the end of 2015, the number of registered voters in Wood County was 88,278. Registered voter numbers continued to drop

due to full implementation of the National Voter Registration Act and National Change of Address System which permits the Board of Elections to remove voters who are no longer residents or active voters from the rolls. Registrations are expected to level out and increase slightly with Presidential Elections in 2016.

The Board of Elections expanded its website to provide voters the ability to verify their registration, precinct and view sample ballots for each election. Voters will also find voter registration information, absentee ballot processes and governmental links along with news releases and other important information.

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

## LAW LIBRARY • Bev Wagener, Law Librarian

*The Wood County Law Library, operating under Section 307.51 et seq. of the Ohio Revised Code, serves the legal information needs of the courts, government and citizens. The governing board, the Law Library Resources Board is composed of five members - two appointed by the County Commissioners, and one each by the Municipal Courts, Common Pleas Court and the Prosecuting Attorney. The print collection includes Ohio primary sources: statutes, regulations and cases as well as legal encyclopedia, treatises and practice materials with an emphasis on Ohio. Online databases provide access to federal and other states' law.*

In April, Bev Wagener was hired as the Law Librarian. She came to Wood County from the Lucas County Law Library where she was an Assistant Law Librarian for six years.

In a joint venture with the Clerk of Courts, a self-help computer was installed to assist those who want to represent themselves rather than hire a lawyer to handle a divorce, dissolution and some other civil matters. Although legal advice cannot be obtained at the Law Library, the staff can assist in helping to find forms and information.

Throughout the year, more than 770 people visited the Library. In addition, the facility received 127 phone calls and 21 emails seeking information.

## HEALTH DISTRICT

**Ben Batey, RN, 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.*

The Health District worked with public health partners to complete a survey and other assessments of the health of the County. Following this process, a strategic plan was created identifying the following priorities: decrease obesity, increase behavioral health services, decrease violence and bullying among youth and children and increase healthcare access and utilization.

The Health District continued to work towards accreditation in hopes to become one of the few accredited health districts in Ohio and across the nation, well ahead of the state-required 2020 deadline.

After receiving higher than anticipated bids for a building expansion, the Board of Health decided to delay the project. To address crucial space needs, in December the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program moved to 639 Dunbridge Road. The new location provides necessary room for employees, comfort and privacy for customers, a waiting area and a dedicated education room.

The Community Health and Wellness Center opened a pharmacy, expanded behavioral health services, and assisted patients with finding and enrolling in the right insurance plan.

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.

## 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, family and consumer sciences, community development, horticulture and 4-H youth development. The Extension Office is a cooperative effort of the Ohio State University, the Wood County Commissioners and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.*

More than 145 women, ranging from 17 to 80 years of age, participated in the one-day Women in Agriculture workshop.

ServSafe training was provided to 123 public food servers training to prevent foodborne illness outbreaks in restaurants, schools, hospitals, childcare centers and nursing homes.

Family and Consumer Science staff continued to educate the public with food and nutrition programing utilizing email health challenges, a six-week Cooking Matters Course, and the Dining with Diabetes program. Staff also educated individuals on skin cancer prevention.

The Wood County 4-H CARTEENS program taught 130 first-time juvenile traffic offenders valuable safety information utilizing a "teens teaching teens" approach to traffic education while also building offenders' self-

esteem and interpersonal skills.

4-H offered educational experiences to 3,200 youth, 300 volunteer advisors and 300 teen leaders. The County is home to 54 community 4-H clubs with an enrollment of 1,300. Seventy 4-H members and young adults were heavily involved in the planning of the Junior Fair, and 85 4-H teens were camp counselors for 4-H and Kids' Outdoor Science Camp.

Hundreds of 4-H members and adult volunteers dipped 18,000 milkshakes at the county fair. This fundraising effort, along with local donor gifts, funded camp scholarships, awards and programs totaling more than \$50,000.

At the 2015 Ohio State Fair, ten youth were awarded the coveted "clock trophy" and 40 youth received outstanding of the day project honors or livestock championships. The Livestock

Judging Team was named national champions and traveled to international competitions and two youth competed in their respective STEM disciplines at the National Engineering Challenge both winning a national championship.

For the third year, OSU Extension collaborated with Bowling Green State University and Virginia Tech University through a USDA grant to conduct Kids' Tech University. Eighty area youth were taught valuable STEM concepts on the BGSU campus by professors from around the nation.

Northern Ohio Crops Day addressed topics that impact grain producers' bottom line. The 160 participants learned how new technologies and issues could be affecting their operations and management decisions for the coming crop year.

Agricultural research projects were conducted in the areas of

nutrient management, soil and water quality improvement, integrated pest management and production efficiency. Specific projects focused on cover crops, soil compaction, soil quality, pest scouting, soybean population comparisons, crop rotation and sustainable cropping systems.

The Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist program provided hands-on natural resources education coupled with volunteer service, and the Wood County Master Gardener Volunteer Program welcomed 13 Master Gardener Volunteer interns in 2015, raising the number of volunteers to 147.

Staff also assisted with horticulture questions via telephone calls, email and seminars. Pond management, tree and small fruits, general outdoor landscape questions and pest problems prevailed.

## PLANNING COMMISSION • W. David Steiner, Director

*The Planning Commission administers policy concerning zoning regulations, land use issues and residential, commercial and industrial subdivisions. 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.*

The Planning Commission selected the firm McBride Dale Clarion to assist with updates to the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The process of drafting this plan, which serves as a guide for development and conservation, will begin in 2016.

The Subdivision Rules and Regulations approved in 2014 were implemented in 2015 with additional amendments made to clarify certain aspects.

During 2015, the Commission heard and reviewed 11 rezoning requests. Of these requests, six involved text changes to

current zoning resolutions in Troy, Center and Middleton Townships. The remaining requests involved the rezoning of existing lands in Bloom, Troy, Freedom, Perrysburg and Middleton Townships.

Staff continued to undertake projects with the CHIP grant funds that assisted low and moderate income homeowners with emergency repairs and improvements to their homes.

Funds from the FY14 CDBG program were used for catch basin repairs in Bloomdale, demolition of an abandoned

building at the Weston water treatment plant, water main improvements in Bradner and ADA renovations at the Pemberville

Opera House.

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

### 2015 PLANNING COMMISSION ACTIVITY

Minor parcel split transactions	82
Total acres in minor parcel splits	1,297
Transactions split from existing lots	82
Transactions combined with existing lots	34
Residential subdivisions approved	11

### FY15 CDBG PROJECTS AWARDED FOR COMPLETION IN 2016

North Baltimore ADA sidewalk improvements	\$32,900
Bradner waterline improvements	\$45,000
Rossford ADA improvements to rec center	\$31,700
Haskins ADA sidewalk improvements	\$49,600

## 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. The Office is appointed by the courts to represent indigent defendants in the Bowling Green, Perrysburg and Fostoria Municipal Courts, Juvenile Court, Common Pleas Court and all levels of the Appellate Court. To be eligible for representation, an individual must qualify under the Ohio Public Defender Commission Standards of Indigency, as listed in the Ohio Administrative Code section 120-1-03. The Public Defender also operates a satellite office at the Perrysburg Municipal Court to accommodate the significant Northern Wood County caseload.

In 2015, the Office of the Public Defender represented approximately 2,550 clients. Cases include felonies, misdemeanors, delinquencies, status offenses, appeals and other post-conviction remedies. When a conflict exists, the Public Defender is unable to represent the individual and the case is assigned to outside counsel.

Funds for appointment of counsel are budgeted by the Commissioners and partially reimbursed by the State. Reimbursement

increased to 48 percent in July of 2015. Since 2005, Ohio law mandates individuals requesting representation to pay a \$25.00 application fee. The County retains 80 percent of the fee to offset the costs of providing legal representation.

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

## VETERANS ASSISTANCE CENTER

Mary E. Hanna, Executive Director

The goal 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 issues 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 \$76,670 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 \$68 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 2015

Veterans Residing in the County .....	<b>10,674</b>
Total Client Contacts .....	<b>14,219</b>
Veterans Transported to Medical Facilities .....	<b>391</b>
Veterans Photo I.D. Cards Issued .....	<b>175</b>
Memorial Day Appropriations .....	<b>\$10,000</b>
Flags/Grave Markers Distributed .....	<b>10,375</b>
Federal VA Claims/Documents Processed .....	<b>25,418</b>
Total Federal Dollars Brought into County .....	<b>\$30,723,000</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.

The year marked the transfer of soil and water conservation and storm water issues from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. The move comes under the umbrella of protecting water resources and stopping huge and disturbing toxic algae blooms.

Two hearings on the petitioned Toussaint Creek clean out were held in 2015. The project, involving 34 miles of creek channel, 3,223 landowners and approximately 47,000 acres, will not include dredging the channel

or clear cutting both banks of the channel, but rather removing logjams and other obstructions impeding the drainage in the watershed.

The Lake Erie Nutrient Reduction Program assisted farmers with implementing practices that keep nutrients on fields, improve water quality and combat algal blooms. Working with the ODNR through the Ohio Clean Lakes Initiative, \$1.25 million was available to assist producers in 27 Ohio counties. To date, Wood County installations include: 1,090 cover crop acres

planted, 19 control drainage structures and three collector mains with drainage structures.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provided program assistance to farmers putting conservation on 4,040 acres and providing \$467,400 in funding. Accomplishments included planting perennial crops on 295 acres, cover crops on 938 acres and conservation tillage to reduce soil erosion on 290 acres. NRCS also worked with farmers to develop four comprehensive nutrient management plans on

livestock operations. Lastly, 738 acres were enrolled in the Conservation Stewardship Program.

Two field tours were conducted for state political leaders. The tours highlighted practices implemented by farmers in the County focusing on cover crops and edge of field monitoring.

A collaborative effort formed a new area on the fairgrounds. "The Grove", formerly Pioneer Park, now serves as a conservation area where fairgoers can learn more about natural resources and conservation.

## WOOD COUNTY QUICK FACTS

Population (2010 Census).....	125,488
Population (2014 estimate) .....	129,590
Land area in square miles .....	617.4
Land in farms (acres).....	267,957
Number of farms .....	1,091
Total cash receipts from farms .....	\$227,705,000
Private sector goods/service establishments.....	2,688
Total Households.....	49,086
Median household income .....	\$52,069

### Top Five Private Sector Employers in Wood County

Magna International; First Solar Inc.; Chrysler Group LLC; Owens-Illinois, Inc; FedEx

### Other Major Employers

Bowling Green State University; Owens Community College; Perrysburg Exempted Schools; Wood County Government; Wood County Hospital Association; Johnson Controls; CSX Corporation; Walgreen Company

Source: 2014 Ohio County Profile from Ohio Office of Policy, Research and Strategic Planning

## Emergency Notification Options in Wood County

### Emergency Alert System (EAS)

All local television and radio stations are part of the EAS which has been in place for decades to disseminate local and national emergency information to the public. Newer smartphones push emergency information and severe weather alerts for the area in which the smartphone is located. To see if your smartphone has this capability, contact your cell phone provider.

### NIXLE

Utilized by the Sheriff's office, this system delivers neighborhood-level public safety and community event notifications via text message, email or web. Register at [www.woodcountysheriff.com](http://www.woodcountysheriff.com).

### CodeRED Emergency Notification System

- City of Perrysburg – [www.ci.perrysburg.oh.us](http://www.ci.perrysburg.oh.us)
- City of Rossford – [www.rossfordohio.com](http://www.rossfordohio.com)
- Perrysburg Twp. – [www.perrysburgtownship.us](http://www.perrysburgtownship.us)
- Lake Twp. – [www.laketwp.com](http://www.laketwp.com)
- NW Water/Sewer District Customers – [www.nwwsd.org](http://www.nwwsd.org)

### Social Media

Emergency Management Agency - Facebook  
Sheriff's Office - Facebook and Twitter  
Local TV and Radio Stations - Facebook, Twitter, free text alerts



Help Wherever You Turn

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

Wood County's No Wrong Door program provides information about services and resources with one call to any of the member agencies. No Wrong Door can help with the real life challenges that touch Wood County residents and provide guidance for issues like home repair, employment, food, clothing, shelter, financial assistance and more.

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

## 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.

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

Pre-Sort Standard  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Toledo, OH  
Permit 133

**Postal Customer  
ECRWSS**

**Future Land Use Plan:  
How should Wood County grow?**

The Planning Commission is seeking public input on updates to the Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

The County's existing plan was adopted in 2007, and since that time development trends and regulations have changed. As such, it is time to create a new, clear vision for the future.

Residents are invited to express their opinion. Surveys are also available on-line or at many locations throughout the County through the end of March 2016.

Look for information on the Land Use Plan at the 2016 Wood County Fair and upcoming town hall meetings.



**VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

**WWW.CO.WOOD.OH.US**

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

- Real Estate Information (Auditor)
- Real Estate Tax Payment (Treasurer)
- Real Estate Index Search (Recorder)
- Voter Location Search (Board of Elections)
- Dog Adoptions (Dog Shelter)
- Building Permit Inquiry (Building Inspection)
- Internet Auction (Commissioners)
- Marriage License and Probate Records (Probate Court)
- Dog License Purchase and Renewal (Auditor)
- Sex Offender Database (Sheriff)
- Sheriff Sales (Sheriff)
- Bids / Requests for Proposals (Commissioners)
- Court Records Search (Clerk of Courts)
- Road Closings and Interactive Maps (Engineer)
- Prescription Discount Card (Commissioners)
- Household Recycling Directory (Solid Waste Management District)
- Spirit of Wood County Awards (Commissioners)
- History of Wood County

**HOW TO CONTACT US...**

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