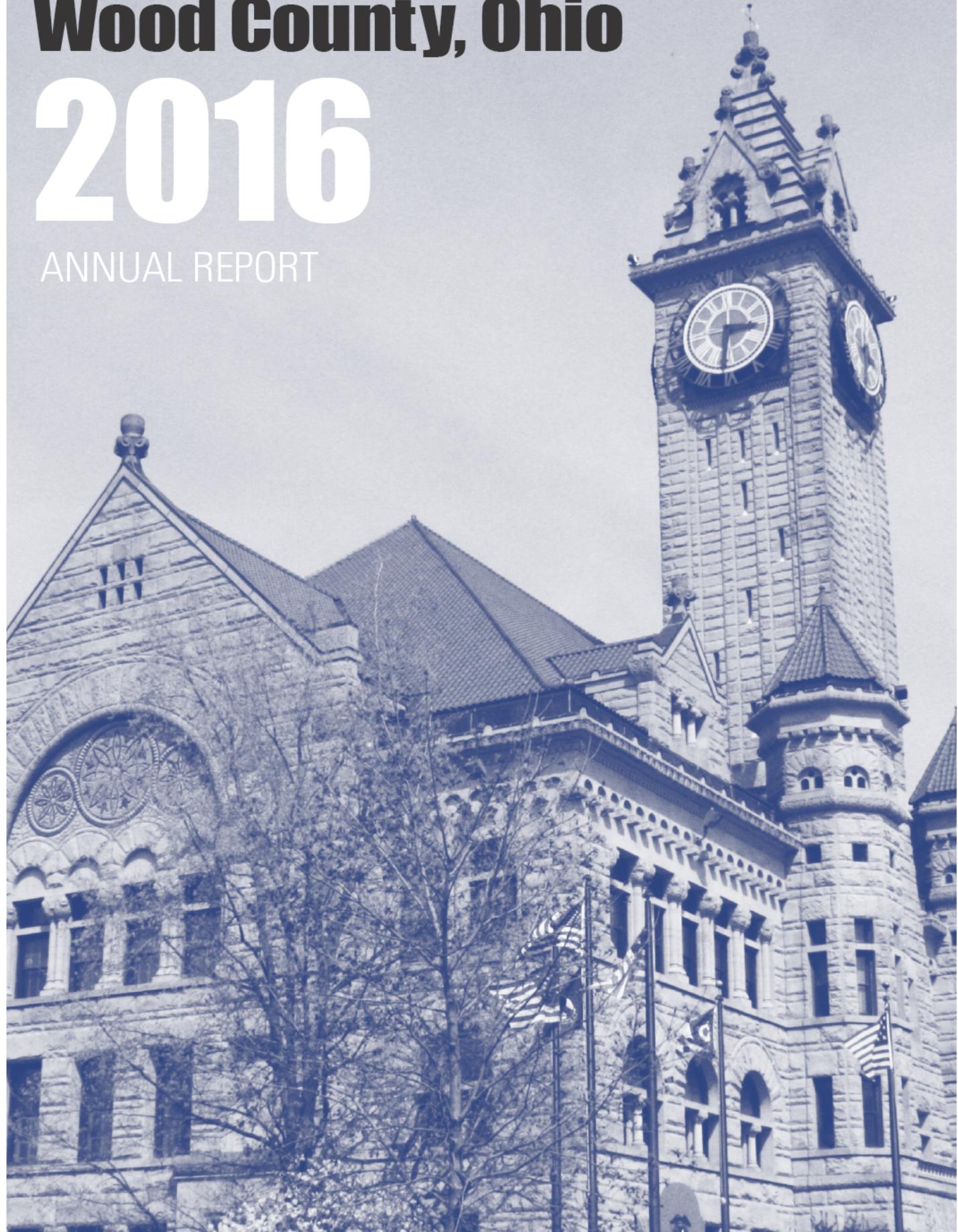


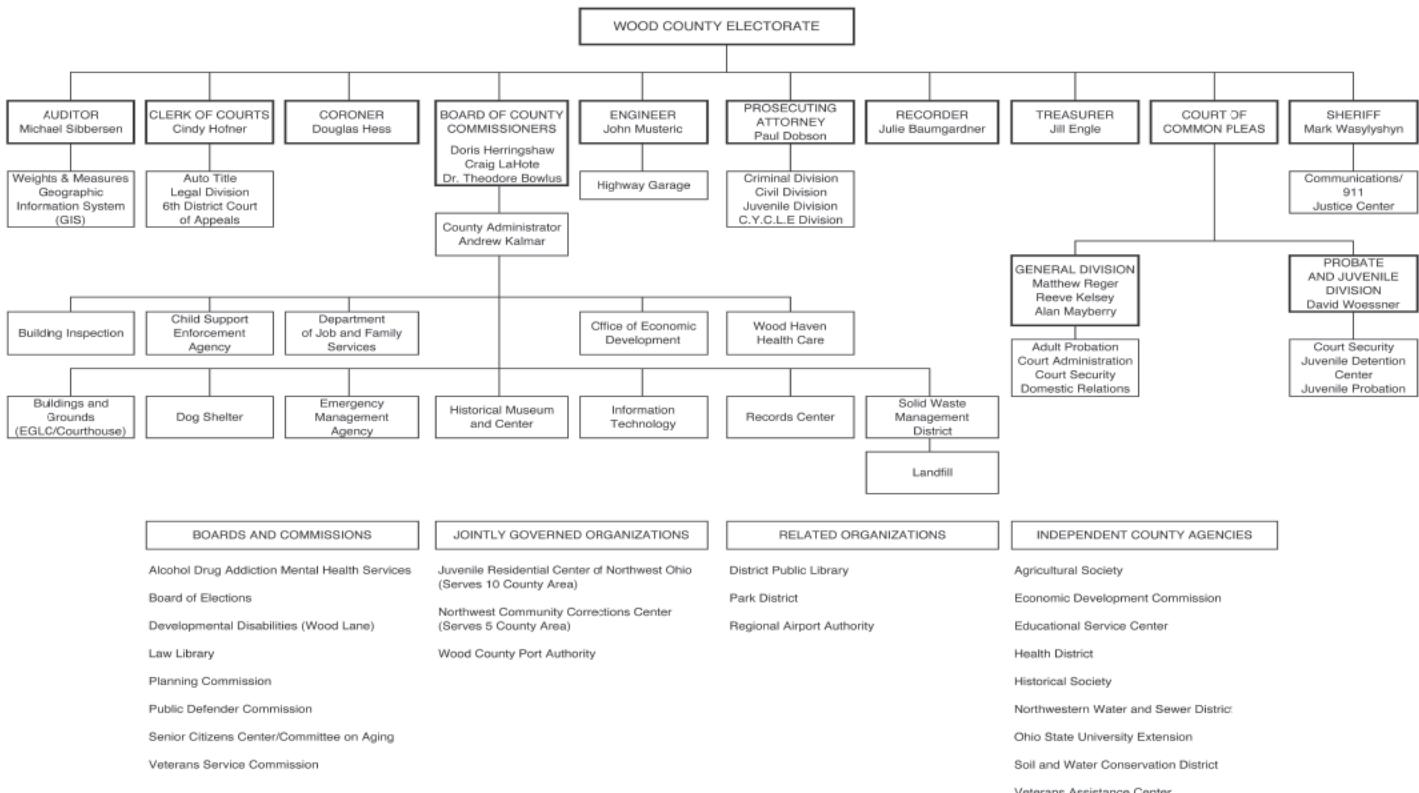
# Wood County, Ohio

# 2016

ANNUAL REPORT



## YOUR WOOD COUNTY GOVERNMENT



## WOOD COUNTY, OHIO 2016 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, Paunder, and Williams should be attached to Wood County for civil purposes until further provisions were made by law.

Wood County was named for Colonel Eleazor 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.

# A Message from the Board of County Commissioners

Each year we look forward to the opportunity to share this annual report with you, to discuss the many good things happening throughout Wood County government, and communicate about important projects and priorities. We encourage you to read this report and contact us if you have questions or suggestions.

Water. An important topic on two fronts. First, water quality. Over the course of this past year we had discussions with concerned citizens, scientists, state officials, farmers, and local government officials about the algae issue in Lake Erie and its effect on the quality of raw water necessary to produce drinking water. Additionally, much research is ongoing through the State of Ohio, the State of Michigan, and Canada. What is clear is that many resources are being focused on identifying the cause of the problem, as well as broad agreement on what needs to be done within the Lake Erie watershed to lessen the proliferation of harmful algae. At this point, we are pleased with the research, action, and significant attention being paid to this issue.

Drinking water is the other side of this topic. As we have discussed previously, water is an essential regional resource for all of northwest Ohio and southern Michigan. The Lake Erie algae issue, as well as wide variations in contract terms for drinking water have brought about significant discussion, research, and action regarding how much of northern Wood County and the suburban areas of Lucas County get their water. Officials from these areas want a voice in the water supply. Studies have been completed that show the availability of water resources, options regarding governance of a regional drinking water system, and options if regional

governance of the current system cannot be achieved. We are all in this together. We would like nothing better than a broad agreement that brings regional governance to this very regional resource. We will work to ensure that the best interests of Wood County residents are met.

Some exciting capital projects were completed over this past year. At Wood Haven Health Care, a significant piping project that brought new climate control units to each resident room was completed, along with a project to replace all windows and doors throughout the facility. The final step at Wood Haven is renovation of interior spaces in the first half of 2017. Finally, an accessibility project at the Wood County Historical Museum included a much needed and long sought-after elevator, accessible restrooms, improved meeting facilities, and accessible parking.



**Accessibility project at the Wood County Historical Museum.**

We extend sincere thanks to Joel Kuhlman, who served as Wood County Commissioner from 2012 to the end of December 2016. Joel brought enthusiasm, intelligence, and good humor to his work as a commissioner – traits that were widely appreciated in county government offices and departments. We wish Joel well and look forward to his future successes in Wood County.

Similarly, there are new faces among the County Elected Officials. We welcome our new County Engineer, John Musteric; our new Judge in the Court of Common Pleas, Matt Reger; and next September we will welcome our new County Treasurer, Jane Spoerl.

We appreciate the involvement of Wood County residents in their local government. It is truly pleasing to meet with people we appoint to serve on boards and commissions – people who have great interest in these entities and a willingness to share their time and talents. And as we have done for many years, we encourage you to shop locally – in Wood County! Your support helps local businesses, and your sales tax stays right here at home to fund the work of county government. Wood County's sales tax rate is less than that of most of our neighboring counties.

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

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

*Craig LaHote*  
Craig LaHote

*Theodore H. Bowlus*  
Dr. Theodore H. Bowlus

## 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 the past few years, several significant ditch projects have been petitioned by citizens. The Toussaint Creek, a cleanout project in Wood, Sandusky, and Ottawa Counties went out to bid at the end of the year. Although the Portage River cleanout project had a slow start, it picked up some momentum by the end of 2016 and the final hearing will be held in the first half of 2017. The Commissioners held initial hearings for the Moser and Pratt Ditches and the Emch Ditch was prepared for bidding.

Established through Job and Family Services in 2014, the NET Plus (non-emergency transportation) program provided approximately 1,000 rides per month to health, mental health and substance abuse related appointments. While primarily funded through Medicaid, this program also receives dollars from the Commissioners, the Alcohol, Drug Addiction, Mental Health Services Board and the Board of Health in order for those individuals that do not qualify for

the Federal funding to be able to take advantage of this valuable service.

In February, the Commissioners welcomed Kelly O'Boyle as the new Assistant County Administrator. As part of her role, she is also the Director of the Solid Waste Management District, which includes the Landfill. Kelly has a Master of Public Administration degree and came to Wood County with 15 years of county finance and operations experience.

The Commissioner also welcomed Nicholas Foos of Risingsun to serve as Facilities Director In-Training. Mr. Foos will serve along-side the current Facilities Director, Tim Hainen, to become familiar with county facilities, as Hainen is set to retire in 2017. Mr. Foos is a graduate of Lakota High School and is a Pipefitter Journeyman trained by the Piping Industry Training Center in Northwood – United Association, Local Union #50.

At the 2016 State of the County Address, the Commissioners

formerly named the Courthouse Complex Atrium in honor former Commissioner Alvin L. Perkins, who envisioned the concept of the atrium on a paper napkin.

The Commissioners presented the 2016 Spirit of Wood County Awards on October 23 during a special ceremony in the Alvin L. Perkins Atrium. Award recipients included Dan Henry for Agricultural Leadership; Brian Tucker for Education for Civic Responsibility; Jean Gamble for the Lyle R. Fletcher Good Citizenship Award; and Janet Stoudinger, the former mayor of Wayne, who was recognized posthumously for Self-Government.

County employees volunteered for and participated in several special projects coordinated through the Commissioners' Office. Employees raised more than \$20,000 during the annual United Way Campaign which included a Day of Sharing basket raffle. 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 Commissioners traveled to different locations throughout the County to conduct Town Hall Meetings to reach citizens and provide updates, as well as allow them the opportunity to pose questions and make comments in a convenient setting. The 2016 Town Hall Meetings were held in Perrysburg, Portage, Rossford, Freedom Township and Milton Township.

Residents were also welcome to attend the open forum portion of the Commissioners' session held every Tuesday and Thursday during the year. As a reminder, Commissioners' session agendas and minutes are posted on the County website.

In the November general election, Ted Bowlus was elected to serve as Commissioner for the term commencing January 3, 2017.

### NOMINATE SOMEONE YOU KNOW FOR A SPIRIT OF WOOD COUNTY AWARD

Nominations for the 2017 Spirit of Wood County Awards are being accepted through August 15.

Nomination forms, descriptions of the seven award categories, and a listing of prior award recipients can be found on the County's website.

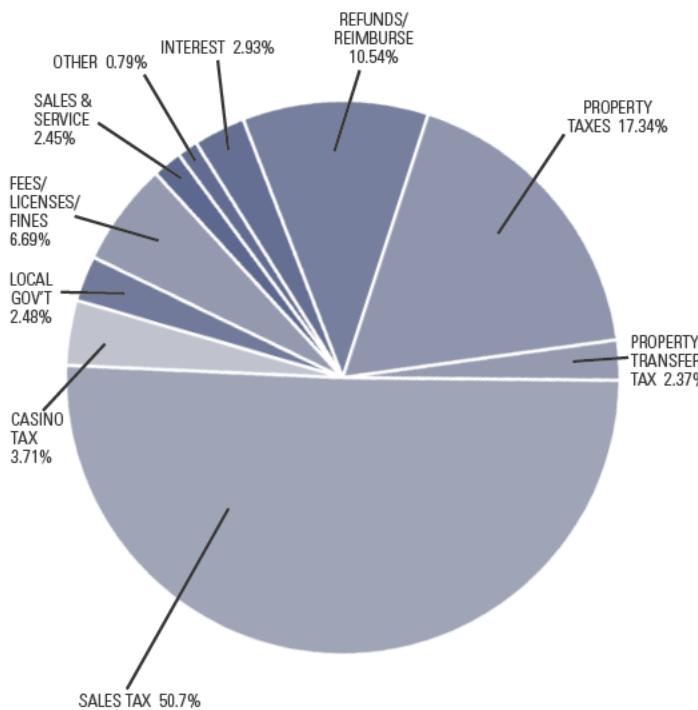
The 2017 Awards will be presented on October 22 at 2 p.m. in the Alvin L. Perkins Atrium.

The Solid Waste Management District encourages individuals to utilize reusable bags to reduce the number of plastic bags sent to the landfills and blowing around the county. Meetings with local grocery and retail stores are underway to seek assistance and/or partnerships in promoting this important message in the community. To schedule a presentation for your organization contact the Environmental Educator at 419.354.9297.



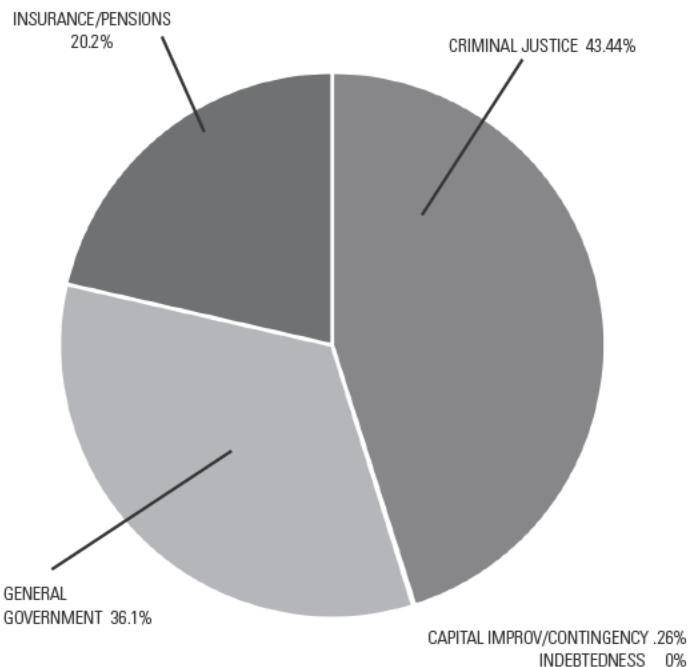
## 2016 ACTUAL RECEIPTS

**\$41,384,914.27**



## 2016 ACTUAL EXPENDITURES

**\$38,480,288.13**



### SALES TAX RECEIPTS

2016	<b>\$20,984,098.38</b>
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>

### INVESTMENT INCOME

2016	<b>\$1,211,312.14</b>
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>

The largest mandated duty for the Commissioners is preparing, adopting, and monitoring the operating budget for the County. The County fiscal year extends from January through December. Annually, the Commissioners prepare and adopt a balanced operating budget before December 31, although the Ohio Revised Code allows for the adoption to occur up until March 1. The Commissioners work with all County Elected Officials in preparing the budget and sincerely appreciate their efforts to contain costs while providing quality services. Fortunately in Wood County, there is a great working relationship among all of the Elected Officials as they strive to provide good local government to residents.

Sales Tax is the largest general fund revenue source at approximately 50 percent of the budget, totaling nearly \$21 million. The State of Ohio announced in 2016 that sales tax will be reduced in July 2017 and beyond due to the removal of a tax on Medicaid managed care organizations. This will mean an annual reduction of approximately \$900,000 to Wood

County. The Commissioners have requested assistance from our State legislators to address this revenue loss through the State Budget.

Other sources of general fund revenue include property tax, investment income, casino tax, fees and fines, etc.

Along with the operating budget, the Commissioners fund capital projects each year based

on revenue availability. The projects are based on life/safety,

infrastructure protection and energy efficiencies.

## WOOD COUNTY ENEWS

The Commissioners began distribution of an electronic newsletter, Wood County eNews. The first issue was distributed in May.

The newsletter is designed to provide periodic updates regarding County government to the public.

Residents interested in receiving the electronic newsletter may enroll by visiting [www.co.wood.oh.us](http://www.co.wood.oh.us).

## 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.

Children Services received a \$15,000 research grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, a charitable organization, to determine the effectiveness of Adventure Therapy for children ages 12 to 18 who have gone through traumatic experiences. Adventure Therapy, which has been around nearly 20 years, blends experiential activities and evidence-based treatment and is designed to help establish trust, social skills, self-confidence, and help-seeking behavior. Through games, problem-solving, and adventure activities, children are allowed to regain some control over their behaviors and emotions. The Agency partnered with the Children's Resource Center in offering these services to children who have been removed from their homes and placed in foster care or those who have witnessed other traumatic situations.

In August, Job and Family Services provided 501 children from 230 families in grades K to 12 with a backpack filled with school supplies and a pair of shoes to begin the new school year. The program assisted families whose household income was at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level, or about \$4,000 gross monthly income for a family of four. The Agency partnered with Meijer to purchase the school supplies and the local Shoe Sensation store measured and fit the children with quality shoes. A total of \$36,110 was spent on school supplies and backpacks, with an additional \$29,707 spent on shoes and socks.

### 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 2016, the Department added an additional staff member to assist with installing, updating and troubleshooting computers. Staff also upgraded infrastructure systems that manage both phone and data operations.

#### INCOME MAINTENANCE UNIT

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)	
cash payment cases (MA)	227
Medicaid recipients (duplicated counts)	53,167
Medicaid issuance	\$137,068,686
Food assistance recipients	11,547
Food assistance issuance	\$4,905,656
Food assistance issuance per case (MA)	\$123
Children issued food stamps (MA)	3,012

#### CHILDREN'S PROTECTIVE SERVICES UNIT

Children served	1,869
Children placed in substitute care	59
Cost for substitute care	\$2.5 million
Home protective services children	155
Reports of child abuse/neglect investigated	894
Adoptions finalized	4
Certified foster/adoptive homes provided with services	14
Adult Protective Services assessments completed	260

#### OHIO MEANS JOBS WOOD COUNTY

New Resource Room users	1,990
WIOA adult and dislocated worker participants	85
WIOA Youth Employment Program participants	93
Summer Youth Employment Program participants	59

#### SOCIAL SERVICES UNIT

Information and referrals	3,454
Families provided emergency assistance through Prevention, Retention and Contingency program (PRC)	365
Children who received child care services (MA)	466
Adults receiving chore services	70
Adults receiving home health aid services	78
Homemaker visits provided (MA)	211
Transportation (1 way trips) to Medicaid & Title XX services	13,094

MA = Monthly Average

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

#### 2017 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	\$12,060	\$16,643	\$24,120
2	\$16,240	\$22,411	\$32,480
3	\$20,420	\$28,180	\$40,840
4	\$24,600	\$33,948	\$49,200
5	\$28,780	\$39,716	\$57,560
6	\$32,960	\$45,485	\$65,920

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

\$4,180	\$5,768	\$8,360
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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 2016, the Child Support Enforcement Agency delivered services to families on 6,451 active cases.

The Legal Support Unit resolved 61 paternity cases through genetic parentage testing, with a total of 169 individuals tested. The Unit also established 106 new support orders through administrative support hearings.

Case Managers strived to establish cooperative working relationships with consumers and reached out to non-paying parents. Staff utilized a wide variety of enforcement techniques and were recognized by the State of Ohio

for outstanding performance in current support collections for a third year.

Agency staff are involved with the Continuum of Care Coalition and Project Connect, while a staff investigator worked with parents seeking new employment. Staff also provided modification of support obligations when circumstances changed for families. In 2016, the Legal Support Unit completed 178 reviews and adjustments.

The staff attorneys enforced orders through 413 civil and criminal prosecutions. Warrants were issued in 86 court actions and 189 outstanding warrants were served. In addition,

the attorneys accepted 158 other referrals to establish new orders, register orders from another state, and other miscellaneous actions. Overall, the Legal Unit collected \$88,320.43 to be applied against past due arrears.

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.

### 2016 CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AGENCY STATISTICS

Wood County Children Served .....	6,522
Average Case Load Size .....	840
Total Collections .....	\$18,873,638.60
License Suspension Program .....	\$83,206.16
Payouts from insurance settlements .....	\$6,276.63
Payouts from casino/racino prizes .....	\$6,744.36
Interceptions from unclaimed funds .....	\$11,276.27
Public Assistance Returned to State of Ohio .....	\$297,398.00
Recouped through Income Tax Refund Offset .....	\$829,311.40
Reimbursements for Children in Foster Care .....	\$42,839.45

## 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.

Continued growth in the region was illustrated through the issuance of 5,375 permits, an increase of 533 over the prior year.

Plan reviews and inspections for school construction projects kept staff busy throughout the year as projects were submitted for Perrysburg, Northwood, Eastwood, Liberty Center, and Patrick Henry school districts. One school construction project can account for approximately 150 inspections to comply with Ohio Building Codes.

Staff continued to utilize technology to increase proficiency in plan submittals, reviews, and inspections in the field.

Additional staff was secured to assist with the increasing demands of the Department.

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 2016 included the 2011 Ohio Building Codes for non-residential structures and the 2013 Residential Code of Ohio for One, Two and Three Family Dwellings.

### 2016 BUILDING INSPECTION STATISTICS

Permits Issued .....	5,375
Total Permit Revenue .....	\$1,513,052
Wood County .....	\$1,119,661
Hancock County .....	\$295,848
Henry County .....	\$85,868
Fulton County .....	\$67,674
Total Inspections Completed .....	14,357
Wood County .....	11,193
7,437 Residential	
3,605 Non-Residential	
Hancock County .....	2,387
Henry County .....	485
Fulton County .....	443

## Dog Shelter • Andrew Snyder, Chief Dog Warden

*The Dog Shelter is a department operated under the direction of the Wood County Commissioners. The Dog Warden and deputies enforce section 955 of the Ohio Revised Code. They issue and check dog licenses, ensure proper housing of dogs, impound and care for stray dogs, investigate injuries and bites caused by dogs, adopt out dogs and work with rescue groups on adoption of stray dogs, designate dogs as nuisance, dangerous and vicious, and other related duties. 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 residents of the Northwest Community Corrections Center who provide exercise and socialization by walking impounded dogs.*

The Commissioners revised the Shelter's fee schedule at the end of 2016 to address increased operational costs and to provide additional benefits for dog owners who affix valid licenses on their dogs. The revised fee schedule eliminated seizure and daily boarding costs for dog owners whose dogs are wearing their current dog license upon impound. The Commissioners also waived fees upon purchase of a multiyear dog license under certain circumstances thereby increasing license compliance and reducing expenses for dog owners.

The Dog Shelter applied for and was awarded a \$2,500 grant in 2016 offered by the Ohio Pet Fund to assist with providing spay/neuter to dogs residing at the shelter and to cover the cost of the spay/neuter certificates issued to adopters. Ohio Pet Fund grants are made possible by the purchase of Ohio Pet License Plates.

### 2016 DOG SHELTER STATISTICS

Total Dogs Impounded.....	475
Redemptions .....	185
Adoptions .....	210
Euthanized .....	80
Live Release Rate.....	83%
Owner Surrenders .....	.83
Owner Surrenders for Euthanasia .....	17
Dogs Transferred to Rescues.....	98
Incidents Investigated .....	541
Total Licenses Sold .....	19,962
One Year Dog Licenses Sold .....	19,423
Three Year Dog Licenses Sold.....	475
Permanent Dog Licenses Sold.....	.64
Total Licensed Dogs .....	21,080
Kennel Licenses Sold .....	104

## 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 continued focus on providing customers an outstanding experience, Wood Haven Health Care rolled out new programs including a Discharge to Home Meal Program; Tour Gift Program; Rehab Resident of the Week Program; Welcome Gift Program; and a Bi-annual Resident/Family Satisfaction Survey Program.

Dining Services increased the items on the café menu and added more in-season items to its menu including fresh fruits and vegetables and items from the outside grill. A coffee and juice bar was also installed in the dining room to provide additional beverage choices to residents.

Updates to the facility included the installation of new exterior windows and doors, providing a modern look and

preventing drafts during colder months. Resident room climate control units were added allowing residents to control the temperature of their rooms. This project was included as part of a complete replacement of the aging piping systems within the facility. Additional updates to the facility's interior are planned for 2017.

Many outings were offered to the residents throughout the year including: trips to the Hollywood Casino; the Wood County Fair; shopping trips; lunch and dinner outings; picnics at Bowling Green parks; and Mystery Tours.

In December it was announced that Wood Haven Health Care would receive the Toledo Blade's Northwest Ohio Top Work Place award. This is the second consecutive year for this honor.

### 2016 WOOD HAVEN STATISTICS

Registered Admissions .....	170
Privately Funded Residents.....	7.05%
Medicaid Residents.....	8.23%
Medicare Residents.....	41.78%
Insurance/Managed Care Residents .....	42.94%
Total Admissions Returning Home.....	.80%

## Solid Waste Management District • Kelly O'Boyle, Director

The Solid Waste Management District manages solid waste planning and the development of recycling opportunities for residents. It also operates the Wood County Landfill, 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 2016 to finalize the five-year update of the Solid Waste Management District Plan. The Plan, required by the Ohio EPA, establishes waste reduction and recycling goals for the County.

In addition to establishing educational programs to provide awareness regarding access to curbside and drop-off recycling, staff provided 73 presentations and 85 tours of the Landfill, wind turbines, and Bowling Green Recycling Center to more than 3,500 residents and participated in 13 community events.

The District continued its \$1

per capita recycling support. This \$1 per capita recycling program is awarded to every local government, along with Bowling Green State University, for residential recycling programs. The 16 satellite locations continued to support residential recycling for rural areas and helped ensure compliance with the recycling related portions of the Solid Waste Management District Plan.

District revenue decreased approximately \$90,000 from 2015, mainly due to decreased tonnage at the privately owned Evergreen Landfill located

in Northwood. However, the Wood County Landfill realized an increase of 10,000 tons.

Site preparation for the capping of an additional 6 acre area is underway with completion anticipated in 2018. Information is also being gathered to submit an expansion permit to the Ohio EPA, which if granted would extend the life of the Landfill by approximately 100 years; The current remaining capacity of the Landfill is approximately 12 years.

The Solid Waste Management District operates under the Board of County

Commissioners, with guidance from the Solid Waste District Advisory Committee.

The Landfill provides 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. For more information visit [recyclewoodcounty.org](http://recyclewoodcounty.org) or call 419.352.0180.

## 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 attract private investment and job creation in 2016.

In Rossford, Pilkington began rebuilding its glass furnaces making a strong commitment to future operations in the city. Another major project underway in Rossford is the restoration of the Ford Building into the new corporate headquarters for Industrial Power Systems, Inc. (IPS). An entertainment district was also discussed for the area to attract additional businesses.

Schutz Container Systems, Inc., a plastic drum and intermediate bulk container manufacturer located in Perrysburg, completed a \$6 million expansion. Principle Business Enterprises began construction on a \$4 million expansion in Middleton Township. Finally, the Home Depot Fulfillment Center in Troy Township continued to add jobs bringing the total to more than 700 employees, almost five times their initial commitment.

The improvement in the

economy and investment by businesses resulted in a strong County unemployment rate of 3.9 percent in December 2016, below the national average of 4.7 percent.

The Wood County Economic Development Commission is also helping to coordinate county efforts to examine potential alternate drinking water sources in order to ensure future economic viability.

Finally, an updated website was launched to better serve economic development in the

County, [www.woodcounty.com](http://www.woodcounty.com).

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



**Wood County, Ohio**  
Small towns. Big events.

[www.woodcountytourism.com](http://www.woodcountytourism.com)

## 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 Agency operates under the Board of County Commissioners.*

Mild weather throughout the year lead to minimal impacts from natural disasters. However, the Agency remained active with an extraordinary number of diesel, oil, and other hazardous materials spills primarily due to the extensive construction on Interstate 75.

With minimal weather impacts in the County, the Agency was able to concentrate on a variety of emergency plan updates, trainings, and exercises including the long process of completing a comprehensive update of the countywide Emergency Operations Plan. This Plan covers many topics including: notifications and warnings; public works; damage assessment; and hazardous materials response – to name a few.

The Agency guided County departments in developing Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP). The purpose of this Plan is for offices and departments to be prepared in the event their workspace is unavailable due to some type of disaster. Testing of the plan is scheduled for 2017 to help Wood County government better suited to resume standard services to its residents in a timely manner.

Staff assisted local school administrators to comply with a directive from Ohio Homeland Security which required development of comprehensive emergency plans for each building in their school district. The plans focused on interaction among schools, first responders, and the public.

The Agency also worked closely with BGSU on several new emergency plans and exercises to help BGSU staff respond to internal events, as well as increased communication and cooperation with community partners.

The three Wood County staff members completed the professional development series training from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The Agency participated in events around the County to promote emergency preparedness and also provided public outreach information and severe weather information via its Facebook page.



Brad Gilbert, EMA Director, obtained certification as an Ohio Certified Emergency Manager. As of 2016, he is one of only 23 in the State to achieve this status from the Emergency Management Association of Ohio and the Ohio Emergency Management Agency.

## Records Center

Brenda Ransom, Records Manager

*Created in 1998, the Records Center provides records management services to 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 10,535 cubic-foot records boxes. The Records Center operates under the Board of County Commissioners.*

Records Center staff along with Community Employment Services personnel reformatted records for purposes of preservation and accessibility. Staff began inventorying audio and video recordings to determine which records to transfer from analog to digital medium to ensure future access.

Efforts continued to assist all County departments in efficiently and effectively managing the total life cycle of both paper and electronic records. Following the County's records retention schedule, nine tons of obsolete, shredded records were forwarded to the Bowling Green Recycling Center for disposal.

Projects from outside Wood County generated revenue that offset costs associated with equipment maintenance.

### 2016 RECORDS CENTER STATISTICS

Records stored (cubic feet) .....	7,810
New records (cubic feet).....	545.5
Eligible for disposal (cubic feet).....	300
Storage space recovered (cubic feet) .....	300
Pounds of records shredded and recycled .....	18,025
Pages/microfilm images scanned .....	622,667
Rolls of microfilm created .....	526

## 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

## Buildings and Grounds • Tim Hainen, Facilities Director

*Buildings and Grounds staff oversee 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. Department staff provide maintenance, repair, and grounds keeping for the buildings owned by the Wood County Commissioners. Custodial services are also provided at the Courthouse Complex.*

Upgrades to Wood Haven Health Care continued in 2016. Resident room climate control units were added as part of a project to completely replace the aging piping system throughout the building. All windows and doors were replaced and a new security access system was installed. Staff also assisted in painting resident rooms. More interior updates to the facility are planned for 2017.

At the Juvenile Residential Center, replacement of the dry sprinkler fire suppression system

was completed. The system included the addition of a dry nitrogen charging system.

Upgrades at the Dog Shelter included painting, along with the installation of LED lighting, additional sound proofing and a new kennel ventilation system. Repairs to the dog park landscape were also completed.

A roof replacement project was completed at the Northwest Community Corrections Center (NWCCC).

Staff continued to provide

assistance with the ongoing accessibility project at the Historical Museum. Construction of the elevator shaft and ADA accessible restrooms were completed during the year.

The Health District HVAC was completely overhauled with high efficiency boilers and air conditioning systems.

At the Courthouse, staff assisted in the replacement of heating and chiller water pipes and added new fan coil units to service courtrooms and common areas.

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

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

## 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.*

For most of 2016 the Museum was under construction to make the main building at the Historical Center fully accessible. Completed at the end of the year, the \$1.2 million accessibility project included the installation of a service-grade elevator that opens from both the exterior as well as the interior of the building, four new handicap accessible restrooms, handicap parking, and bus access from County Home Road. A time capsule was placed in a wall of the newly renovated portion of the museum in November. The capsule will be removed in 2075, the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Museum.

Two exhibitions were featured during the year. "Be Your Own Museum: Our Community's Collections" opened in February,

providing visitors the ability to tour portions of the museum not affected by construction. This display highlighted unique collections from 14 County residents that examined what and why they collect. In June, the Museum opened the photography exhibit, "J.D. Pooley: A 20-Year Retrospect of Wood County."

The Center offered a variety of public programs throughout the year, including Cabin Fever Days, a monthly tea series, Living History Day, a German-American Story Slam and October Folklore activities, including a corn maze and a Friday Night Folklore Tour. In December, the Old Home Holiday Tour focused on international traditions, highlighting countries from which Infirmary residents had immigrated.

Despite being under construction, almost 6,800 people visited the

Museum in 2016. In addition, 46 educational programs were conducted; 21 to adult groups and 25 to school groups. Staff also provided 19 educational tours. The 65 combined tours and programs served over 2,500 students, teachers and adults. More than 300 volunteers and interns

contributed to all aspects of the museum's functions, donating over 2,800 hours of service.

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\*, Allan Baer, Casey Cromwell, Jennifer Cumming\*, Doug Cubberley\*, Leanne Eby, Beverley Hirzel\*, Marcus Jensen, Tom Kiger\*, Stan Korducki\*, Sue Moore, Randy Rothenbuhler\*, Cary Wise\*, Patrick Wise\*, and four 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, Tim Hainen, Earlene Kilpatrick, Joel Kuhlman, Cathleen Nelson, 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, Lori Tretter, Mark Waslyshyn, 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

Victoria Dugger, Brad Gilbert, Lana Glore, Joel Kuhlman, Michael Richardson, Tom Sanderson, Andrew Snyder, and Mark Waslyshyn

#### HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD

Nancy Buchanan, Joyce Coutinho\*, Dru Cunningham, Judy Ennis, Elizabeth Geer-Fry, Mark Hollenbaugh, Becky Mancuso, Neil Munger, Michael Penrod, Wynn Perry\*, Jim Philo, Lori Parratt, George Stossel, Becky White-Schooner, and Irma Wolf\*

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

Ben Batey, Joseph Catalano, Sue Clanton, Stephanie Lauwers, Judy Knox, Susan Miklovic, Denise Niese, and John Sinn

#### LAW LIBRARY RESOURCES BOARD

Ann Bowers\*, Sarah Bushong\*, 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 Waslyshyn, and Karen Young

#### NORTHWESTERN WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

Steve Arnold, John Cheney\*, Bill Hirzel\*, Melinda Kale, Leonard Michaels, J. Douglas Miller\*, Lyle Schulte, Mark Sheffer, and Bill Verbosky

#### 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, Nathan Eikost\*, Chet Marcin, Brian Paskvan\*, and Jane Robb

#### REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY\*\*

Jorge Betancourt, Jeffrey Hamons, William Hayes, Ken Hermes, Mike Liebenthal, Rob Riday, and Chad Thompson

#### 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

Walt Celley, Raymond Huber, Bob Mack, Joseph Minarcin, Jr., Doug Miller, Edward Pavuk, Bob Watrol, and one vacancy

#### 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\*\*

Richard Barker, Norman Carney, Margaret Chamberlain, Frank McLaughlin, Denise Niese, and Doug Troutner

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: Rita Logsdon, 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: Carmen Beltran\*, Dr. William Donnelly\*, Greg Kegler, Dean King, Felicia Otte, and Jane Wengel

#### WORKFORCE POLICY BOARD\*\*

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.*

In March, the Auditor sponsored fraud protection training for county employees that was facilitated by the Auditor of State's Office. Wood County was one of the first counties in the State to offer such training.

The Office accepted the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association. Since 1996, the County has earned this prestigious national award that recognizes conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government comprehensive annual financial reports.

The Office assessed 75,036 parcels of real property with a taxable value of over \$3 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 2016, 4,517 such conveyances were processed, encompassing 7,000 individual land parcels, which generated \$1,466,246. These funds were forwarded to the County's General Fund and the Economic Development Fund.

Implemented in 1974 as a tax saving program for Ohio's farmland, the Current Agricultural Use Value (CAUV) program brought a tax savings of more than \$3 million to landowners last year. A total of 318,785 acres in the County are enrolled in this program.

Ohio's Homestead Exemption program provided 9,768 residents (those aged 65 and older, or permanently disabled)

with property tax relief, and saved taxpayers enrolled in the program \$4,402,787. The program 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. For 2016, the income cap was raised to \$31,500, and excludes social security benefits received.

Dog license sales consisted of 19,423 regular licenses, 475 three-year licenses, and 64 permanent licenses. A total of 104 kennel licenses were also sold. The online registration of dogs remained a popular option, with 6,625 licenses utilizing this method.

The Weights and Measures division inspected 671 commercial scales, 1,418 gas pumps and electronic scanners for retail and wholesale use

and investigated consumer complaints. In cooperation with many other Ohio counties a gas pump scanner sweep for illegal skimming devices was conducted in September.

The Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Department supported residents, businesses and governmental units by providing GIS parcel data and custom maps for more than 130 individual requests. The GIS Department provided analysis to assist in the 2017 sexennial appraisal. Structure photos were also added to the on-line real estate information.

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 2016, the Office collected \$185,861,457.36 in real estate taxes. Manufactured home taxes totaling \$774,027.77 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, 496 taxpayers utilized the automatic withdrawal plan and 504 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 for the year totaled \$1,211,312.14. All investments made by the Treasurer's Office were fully collateralized and sufficiently liquid to enable the County to

meet reasonably anticipated operating requirements.

Following Treasurer Engle's announcement that she would not seek a fifth term as Treasurer, Jane Spoerl was elected in the November General Election to serve effective September 4, 2017.

## 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.*

The State of Ohio worked to transition titling information to a shared, statewide, secure virtual server, eliminating the need for local servers in each of Ohio's 88 counties. Along with the virtual server, the State implemented new software to process all of Ohio's vehicle and watercraft titles. As a result, all Title Office staff underwent training beginning in June. A set of five training modules were released per month, and all five modules had to be completed by each employee before the next set of modules were released the next month. This process went on for five months. The Office also received hardware upgrades including the installation of new computers and Driver's License scanners. All upgrades were installed and successfully implemented January 3, 2017.

The Legal Office explored electronic filing options to allow faster and more secure methods for documents to be submitted by attorneys on behalf of their clients. A contract for this service was signed at the end of 2016, with implementation scheduled for 2017.

The number of cases filed continued to rise, particularly in the felony criminal and domestic relations areas.

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	73,358
Motor Vehicle Mortgages Recorded	18,314
Salvage Titles	226
Penalties (for not transferring titles timely)	3,550
Inspections	6,595
Affidavits	20,450
Manufactured Home Archives Recorded	535
Boat titles, Duplicates and Memo Titles (includes charged replacement titles)	1,426
Watercraft Mortgages Recorded	342
Watercraft Affidavits	140
Watercraft Penalties	704
Watercraft Registrations	1,028

**TITLE DISBURSEMENT TOTALS** ..... **\$23,288,803.61**

Clerk of Courts	
Certificate of Title Fund Receipts	\$808,825.04
County General Fund (Unclaimed Affidavits)	\$0.72
State of Ohio Motor Vehicle and Watercraft	
Casual and Dealer Tax	\$22,261,718.60
Certificate of Title Fees	\$184,683.25
Watercraft Fees	\$3,774.00
Watercraft Registrations	\$29,802.00

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

CasesAppealed to 6th District Court of Appeals	72
Domestic Relations Cases Filed	424
Domestic Violence Civil Protection	138
Civil Stalking/Sexually Oriented Offense Protection Orders	142
Foreign Support	2
Domestic Cases Reopened	266
Foreign Judgment	3
Criminal Cases Filed	651
Civil Cases Filed (Includes 206 Civil Foreclosure Cases)	712
Land Foreclosure Cases	80
Judgment Liens Filed	1,527
State Tax Liens Filed	1,584
Foreign Judgment Liens	5
Executions Filed (Aid & Writ)	7
Debtor Exams	28
Garnishments	232
Publications	125
Writs of Possessions	19
Total Number of Judgment Entries	14,748
Notary Commissions Filed	424
Passport Applications Accepted	226
Criminal Investigations	12
Search Warrants	112
Coroner's Reports Filed	88

**LEGAL DISBURSEMENT TOTALS** ..... **\$2,352,353.02**

General Fund	\$370,829.80
Legal Research Fees	\$8,694.55
Computerization Fees	\$109,545.00
Computerization Fees from Collections	\$2,411.61
Reimburse Court Diagnostic Fees	\$3,581.86
Mediation Costs	\$50,341.85
Fines Paid to the County	\$90,483.76
Fines Paid to the Law Library	\$750.00
Statutory fees paid to non-Wood County entities	\$135,125.72
Funding Shelters for Victims of Domestic Violence	\$13,189.57
Fees Paid to Adult Probation Supervision	\$12,284.34
Fees Paid to the Sheriff	\$136,580.58
Fines Paid to the Sheriff	\$7,705.71
Interest Paid to General Fund	\$899.56
Fees Paid to Appraisers	\$44,700.00
Indigent Application Fees	\$2,690.20
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	\$1,362,538.91

## 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 represents all County officials, offices, and agencies, as well as townships, libraries, and school districts 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.

In addition to many other cases, 2016 saw the successful prosecution of Jack D. Welinski for the attempted murder of local police officers, Terrence Phillips for shooting at a State Highway Patrol Trooper, and Russell Adkins for the 1982 murder of Dana Rosendale.

Illegal drug use, especially opiates continued to drive a substantial portion of the criminal division docket, as well as some of the juvenile delinquency docket. Many cases beyond drug trafficking and possession, including theft, robbery and burglary, were found to have been caused in part by drug abuse and addiction. The Office continues to look for new and innovative ways to treat those addicted to drugs while maintaining its

primary focus on the safety of the public.

StreetWise is a curriculum of multiple safety and prevention programs offered by the C.Y.C.L.E. (Cooperating with Youth, the Community and Law Enforcement) Division. C.Y.C.L.E. also coordinated the Youth Olympics event, Teen Court, and the Safety Kids Calendar Contest.

In December, Prosecuting Attorney Paul Dobson received the Auditor of State's inaugural Public Integrity Award. Also in December, Prosecutor Dobson was named president of the Ohio Prosecuting Attorney's Association.

The Prosecuting Attorney is authorized to perform his duties under Chapter 309 of the Ohio Revised Code.

## 2016 PROSECUTING ATTORNEY STATISTICS

### Criminal Division

Cases opened .....	741
Indictments .....	451
Bills of Information for adult felony cases.....	66
Cases resolved by jury or court trial .....	23
(16 guilty/7 not guilty)	
Cases disposed.....	647

### Juvenile Division

Delinquency cases.....	813
Unruly cases .....	82
Permanent custody cases filed .....	10
Felony level offenses adjudicated .....	47
Adult contributing to minors.....	36
Abuse/neglect/dependency cases filed.....	339
Adult Protection Services petitions .....	3

### Civil Division

New client matter files opened .....	179
Contracts prepared/reviewed.....	280
Total bank foreclosures .....	223
Total tax foreclosure.....	80

    40 dismissed with payment/22 properties sold  
 7 properties forfeited/11 cases pending

### Other Divisions

Victims of crime assisted.....	945
Mediations conducted (C.Y.C.L.E.).....	112
StreetWise program locations (C.Y.C.L.E.).....	7

## 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.

The ability to file documents electronically was expanded with the addition of another company to help banks, attorneys, and title companies eRecord their documents. A total of 2,452 documents were electronically filed, about 13 percent of the total documents for the year.

The Office received 18,624 documents that were recorded and/or filed, with \$1,121,029.42 collected in fees. Of this amount, \$553,877.30 was remitted to the State of Ohio for the Ohio Housing Trust Fund; \$72,796 was deposited into the Recorder's supplemental equipment fund; with the remaining \$494,356.12 paid into the County's general fund.

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.

## 2016 RECORDER'S DOCUMENTS

Deeds .....	5,484
Judgment entries and certificates for transfer .....	115
Mortgages (total value \$15,267,353,757.05).....	4,897
Mortgages released (with a value of \$516,651,250.79).....	5,729
Land Contracts .....	40
Rights of way and easements.....	334
Leases .....	101
Mechanics liens .....	48
Plats .....	10
Federal Tax Liens.....	91
Financing statements.....	50
Terminations.....	64
All Others .....	1,661

## COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

### General Division

*The Court of Common Pleas, General Division, adjudicates felony criminal case; all civil actions including those arising out of automobile accidents, product liability claims, real estate matters, and contract disputes; administrative appeals, such as those in the areas of workers' compensation and unemployment compensation; and appeals from certain local governments. The Court also adjudicates divorces, dissolutions, the allocation of parental rights and responsibilities, as well as child and spousal support enforcement and modification. The Judges oversee the Grand Jury, which determines if, based upon the evidence presented by the Prosecuting Attorney, probable cause exists to charge an accused with a felony criminal offense. If the Grand Jury so finds, they return an indictment, advising the accused of the nature of the charges. The matter then goes before the Court for further proceedings. The Judges supervise the Adult Probation and Court Security Departments and appoint and supervise the Jury Commission. They also appoint members to the Veterans Service Commission, Public Defender Commission, Law Library Resources Board, and the Wood County Public Library Board. The Court of Common Pleas operates under Title 23 of the Ohio Revised Code.*

During 2016, 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 with an online parenting seminar and the Changing Families program which are centered on 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. The Court continued to provide wallet-sized cards to petitioners granted a civil protection order, providing a convenient, practical way to verify and enforce such orders with local law enforcement.

Cases continued to be referred to mediation by all divisions of the Court with 173 such referrals occurring in 2016. Approximately 78 percent of the cases referred were resolved without further court proceedings.

Judge Pollex retired on December 31 after nearly 32 years on the bench, 18 of which were with the General Division. Matt Reger was elected to the bench in November for the term beginning January 1, 2017.



Robert C. Pollex  
COURTROOM 1



Reeve Kelsey  
COURTROOM 2



Alan R. Mayberry  
COURTROOM 4

### 2016 COURT OF COMMON PLEAS STATISTICS

Cases Completed	2,475
Pending Cases	966
General Civil Cases Completed	850
Domestic Relations Cases Completed	1,006
Criminal Cases Completed	619
Notary Public - New Applications	148
Notary Public - Renewal Applications	294

### 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.*

### 2016 ADULT PROBATION STATISTICS

Pre-sentence investigations conducted	294
New offenders under department supervision	344
Offenders supervised	1,101
Individuals terminated from supervision	357
Drug tests conducted	2,163
Work Release program participants	9
Offenders placed on Intensive Supervision	101
Offenders placed on Electronic Monitoring	129

### Court Security

Thomas G. Chidester, Chief Court Constable

*Court Constables are the primary law enforcement officers at the Courthouse Complex. They are responsible for the safety and security of the courts, employees and the visiting public. They also manage the systems that monitor fire, panic and intrusion alarms, as well as those that control access to the buildings. The department also maintains a website to provide the public with information regarding the Courthouse Complex, including parking information.*

### 2016 COURT SECURITY STATISTICS

Registered magnetometer walk-throughs	124,233
Prohibited items held	10,353
Incident reports filed	.29
Public escorts	216
Subjects taken into custody by request of Adult Probation	112
Tours conducted	16

## COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

### Probate and Juvenile Division

*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.*

David E. Woessner

Over the past ten years, a steady increase in Probate Court's miscellaneous case category has led to a more substantive and varied Court docket. A notable change is an increase in name change filings. Compared to ten years ago, name change filings have increased 61 percent.

During 2016, Probate Court processed 782 new cases as well as 32 additional cases that were filed previously but re-opened for further action. The Court also processed 759 marriage applications.

A major activity in 2016 was the offering of, monitoring of, and tracking compliance with guardianship training requirements enacted by legislation passed the previous year. At year's end, 369 guardians had completed their initial training or otherwise complied with the requirement by obtaining waivers for good cause shown. Court oversight of guardians has also increased by verifying compliance with newly established guidelines for family contacts and activities, investigating complaints or concerns received, and tracking background checks as necessary.

### COMBATING THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

A growing health issue locally is the misuse of opioids, namely prescription pain relievers and heroin throughout Ohio and the United States. This epidemic has severely strained law enforcement, criminal justice and health care resources.

In November 2016, a grant from the National Sheriff's Association supplied two units of the overdose blocking serum for each of the Sheriff's Road Deputies. The Health District assisted by providing train-the- trainer training on the identification of opioid overdose and the administration of naloxone (Narcan). Within the first two months of its availability, deputies successfully administered Narcan on four occasions.

To ensure drugs are not entering the Justice Center, a body scanner is utilized to screen inmates for drugs or other contraband.

Residents are reminded that they can dispose of unused, unwanted, or expired prescription medications at RX drop boxes available at the Wood County Sheriff's Office, Bowling Green Police Station, Perrysburg Police Department, or the Perrysburg Township Police Department.

If you or someone you love needs help, contact the Recovery Helpline at 2-1-1 or text 4HOPE to 741 741.

*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.*

Juvenile Court records reveal 2,781 cases were filed in 2016, an increase of 341 cases from 2015. Increases occurred in a number of areas – including the number of abuse, neglect and dependency cases filed with the Court. The Juvenile Detention Center also saw an increase in the number of youth detained from Wood and surrounding counties in 2016.

The Court's Probation Department overall caseload also increased in 2016 – rising to 347 youth and adults under supervision during 2016 – an increase from 295 in 2015. Youth performed 3,731 hours of community service work with more than \$8,200 in restitution paid to victims of crime from juvenile offenders. The Court continued to provide a wide variety of services and support for youth and families throughout the County and continued its long standing collaborative working relationship with service providers and schools.

The Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian ad Litem (CASA/GAL) program continued to provide invaluable services for youth in need. Forty-five volunteers advocated for 134 allegedly abused or neglected children and provided over 3,400 hours of service for youth and families. As of December 31, 2016, CASA/GAL volunteers continued to advocate for 78 children in pending matters. CASA was able to serve 94 percent of the abuse, neglect and dependency cases for which CASA volunteers were requested during the year.

### 2016 JUVENILE COURT STATISTICS

Cases filed .....	2,781
Cases disposed of.....	2,625
Cases of alleged abuse, neglect or dependent children.....	339

#### Juvenile Detention Center

Pretrial & short term commitments .....	503
Males housed.....	367
Females housed.....	136

#### Juvenile Probation

Youth and adults under supervision.....	347
Community service participants .....	158
Community service hours .....	3,731
Restitution paid to victims.....	\$8,267.32

**NEED HELP? LET'S TALK.**



Connect to Mental Health and Addiction Treatment

# SHERIFF

As the County's chief law enforcement officer, the Sheriff provides law enforcement, correctional services and civil services to residents. The Sheriff polices and serves all areas in the County and provides contract police services. The Office of the Sheriff is unique among law enforcement organizations. The Sheriff is the only elected law enforcement official in the State of Ohio. The Sheriff is authorized to perform his duties under Chapter 311 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Mark Waslyshyn

## 2016 WOOD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT

### CIVIL DIVISION

Sheriff foreclosure property sales .....	206
Proceeds from parcels sold .....	\$4,649,509.45
Execution of Certificates of Judgment .....	25
Service fee income to General Fund.....	\$233,020.76
Warrants, summons, subpoena & indictments served .....	3,031
Civil Protection Orders served .....	217
Child support warrants served .....	185
Inmates extradited from out of state .....	54
Prisoners transported to penal institutions .....	198
Prisoners transported between agencies .....	589

### DETECTIVE BUREAU

Cases assigned.....	543
Cases cleared by arrest/closed/inactive .....	487
Cases pending investigation.....	56
Theft/fraud/forgery.....	185
Burglary/Breaking and Entering .....	70
Suspicious incident/departmental .....	57
Death/suicide.....	36
Sex offense/child abuse .....	34
Narcotic investigations.....	68
Fines/forfeitures to Drug Fund .....	\$28,629.30
Fire/arson .....	9
Human trafficking/prostitution/solicitation .....	23
Homicide.....	0
Vehicles seized/forfeited to WCSO .....	4

### 911 DIVISION/COMMUNICATIONS

911 calls answered.....	38,411
Fire calls dispatched.....	4,323
EMS calls dispatched.....	7,885
Calls dispatched to WCSO deputies.....	28,261
Cities, Villages, Townships, & Park District calls dispatched .....	27,429
Warrants entered into state/national databases .....	3,024
Protection orders entered into national database.....	403

### 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.....	330
D.A.R.E. students grades K-6 .....	1,647
D.A.R.E. students grade 7 .....	322
Education/prevention classes.....	24
Education/prevention students.....	1,045
School staff members.....	250
Safety Towns .....	3
Children participating in Safety Towns.....	310

### ROAD PATROL DIVISION

Complaints received and investigated .....	28,261
Criminal charges.....	426
Traffic citations.....	704
Traffic warning written/verbal .....	5,535
Crashes investigated .....	931
Injury crashes .....	191
Injured persons.....	243
Fatal crashes .....	8
Driving under the influence – DUI .....	74
Driving under suspension – DUS .....	112
Miles driven by all Sheriff's vehicles .....	968,479

### WEAPON PERMITS & BACKGROUND CHECKS

Concealed Carry Weapon permits issued.....	1,864
Concealed Carry Weapons permits renewed .....	900
Persons fingerprinted for background checks .....	1,079

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ENFORCEMENT

Domestic violence arrests .....	64
Court case victim assistance .....	115
Students taught in six schools .....	290
Sex offense/crimes against children .....	10
Cases assisted .....	304
Temporary protection order violation arrests .....	13

### SEX OFFENDERS

Registered .....	203
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## CORONER



Douglas W. Hess, M.D.

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

The Coroner reviewed 247 cases in 2016, of which 97 were determined by the Coroner.

### 2016 CORONER CASES

Auto Accidents .....	7	Suicide .....	21
Drug/Alcohol Accidents .....	13	Homicide .....	1
Other Accidents .....	24	Could Not Be Determined .....	1
Natural .....	25	Pending .....	5

## ENGINEER

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

*The Engineer has the responsibility of maintaining the County's 245 miles of road, 440 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 18 townships within the County. He is authorized to perform his duties under Chapter 315 of the Ohio Revised Code.*

The Ohio Department of Transportation fully funded the replacement or repair of seven bridges during 2016, bringing the total number of completed projects under the bridge partnership program to 17. Completed projects included Lemoine Road south of Garling Road, Lime City Road south of Schreier Road, Dunbridge Road south of Simonds Road, Collins Road east of Bradner Road, Liberty Hi Road south of SR 281, Liberty Hi Road north of Mermill Road and Henry Wood County Line Road south of Hammansburg Road. One additional bridge, Latcha Road east of Tracy Road, is scheduled for construction in 2017.

Engineer Huber announced his retirement in 2016 and did not seek re-election to the Office. In the November general election, John Musteric was elected to serve as Engineer for the term commencing January 1, 2017.

### 2016 SOURCES OF INCOME

Motor Vehicle License Fees.....	\$4,274,261.22
Gasoline Tax .....	\$2,338,615.75
Traffic Fines & Receipts .....	\$151,510.90
Refunds.....	\$6,671.81
Grants .....	\$295,552.91
Other Receipts.....	\$364,592.23
Interest .....	\$38,002.99
General Fund .....	\$530,608.87
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$7,999,816.68</b>

### 2016 EXPENDITURES

Road Resurfacing & Reconstruction .....	\$781,629.19
Bridge Construction & Maintenance .....	\$1,067,010.89
Ditch Maintenance .....	\$553,891.09
Culverts.....	\$257,802.86
Wages & Salary.....	\$2,384,602.47
Fringe Benefits.....	\$331,897.22
Equipment & Repairs .....	\$504,448.36
Fuel .....	\$196,918.99
Road Maintenance Materials .....	\$556,571.63
Utilities.....	\$38,039.75
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$6,672,812.45</b>

## FARM DRAINAGE. ASK BEFORE YOU CHANGE.

If you currently have farmland that drains into one watershed, but are considering re-tiling so that the land drains into a different watershed, please contact the Engineer's Office to discuss this process.

Ohio Revised Code section 6131 outlines the petition process required to make this kind of drainage change. An initial meeting with the County Engineer will determine if such a change is feasible based on the drainage capacity of the proposed new watershed.

### 2016 COMPLETED PROJECTS

#### ROAD PROJECTS

##### Resurfacing

Tracy Rd. (Lake/Perrysburg) - 1.75 miles.....	\$428,357.89
Sand Ridge Rd. (Weston/Milton/Plain) – 5.7 miles.....	\$189,015.04

##### Surface Treatment

Huffman Rd. (Portage) 1.5 miles.....	\$16,390.01
Poe Rd. (Plain) 1 mile.....	\$10,702.09
East Broadway (Lake) 3.55 miles.....	\$34,877.04
Genoa Rd. (Lake/Troy) .75 miles.....	\$11,997.92
Bloomdale Rd. (Bloom) .75 miles.....	\$3,957.72
Huffman Rd. (Bloom) 4.7 miles.....	\$33,200.01
Stony Ridge Rd. (Webster/Troy) 3.75 miles.....	\$32,173.92
Pavement Markings Various Roads—45.1 miles .....	\$20,957.55

#### BRIDGE PROJECTS

Kramer Rd. over N. Branch Portage River (Center/Portage) .....	\$513,804.25
South River Rd. over Baker Ditch (Freedom).....	\$381,166.85
Cygnets Rd. over Rader Creek (Henry).....	\$172,039.79

#### CULVERT PROJECTS

Cygnets Rd. Culvert No. 4-3C .....	\$86,244.33
Portage Rd. Culvert No. 3-21A.....	\$47,221.33
Sugar Ridge Rd. Culvert No. 6-19D.....	\$61,345.27
Lime City Rd. Culvert No. 4-9A.....	\$23,165.00
Jerry City Rd. Culvert No. 1-23C .....	\$39,826.93

#### DRAINAGE PROJECTS

Ditch Cleanouts .....	40.03 Miles
Ditch Debrushing .....	41.44 Miles
Ditch Bank Protection and Repair .....	.29 Miles
Sprayed Vegetation .....	115.59 Miles
Ditch Mowing .....	41.44 Miles

### 2017 PROPOSED PROJECTS

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

#### BRIDGE PROJECTS

Cygnets Rd., East of Emerson Rd. - Perry Twp.  
 Emerson Rd., North of Cygnets Rd. - Bloom & Perry Twp.  
 Huffman Rd., between Tank Farm & Oil Center Rds. - Bloom Twp.  
 Latcha Rd., between Baker & Lemoine Rds. - Lake Twp.  
 Luckey Rd., between Strail Rd. & US 20 - Troy Twp.

#### ROAD PROJECTS

Pemberville Rd. Resurfacing, Troy Twp.  
 Roachton Rd. & Hull Prairie Roundabout, Middleton Twp., Perrysburg Twp. & City of Perrysburg

# INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

## BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Terry L. Burton, Director; Carol DeJong, 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 workers, 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.*

The Board of Elections held two elections in 2016. Federal, State and County candidates were on the ballot as well as 39 local tax and policy issues.

As predicted, voter registrations increased with the Presidential Election in 2016. The number of registered voters rose to 93,817, an increase of 5,539 from 2015.

More than 22,000 voters cast their ballot by absentee, either by requesting and returning a ballot by mail or by voting in-person at the Board of Elections during the 30 days preceding the election. During the 2016 Presidential General Election, 28.5 percent of all ballots cast occurred before election day.

The Board of Elections continued to offer a website to provide voters the ability to verify their registration, precinct and view sample ballots for each election. The site also allowed voters to find voter registration information, information on the absentee ballot process 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.

## 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.*

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.

Northern Ohio Crops Day addressed topics that impact grain producers' bottom line. Participants learned how new technologies and issues could be affecting their operations and management decisions for the coming crop year. Of those participating, 80 received private or commercial pesticide re-certification credits and 25 Certified Crop Advisors obtained continuing education credits.

In March women ranging from 17 to 80 years of age participated in the one-day Women in Agriculture workshop.

The Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist program provided hands-on natural resources education coupled with volunteer service, and individuals in the Master Gardener Volunteer Program hosted their annual plant exchange.

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.

Family and Consumer Science staff continued to educate the public with food and nutrition programing through a six-week Cooking Matters course.

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.

Educational experiences to 3,200 youth, 300 volunteer advisors and 300 teen leaders were offered through 4-H. 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.

## PEREGRINE FALCONS NEST IN CLOCK TOWER

Since 2010, peregrine falcons have nested in the Courthouse clock tower. In partnership with Bowling Green State University, a webcam has been placed at the nesting box to view their activity, most of which occurs in March, April and May. The live feed, FalconCam 2017, can be viewed at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=SC4lesFReGA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SC4lesFReGA).

## 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.

In 2016, the consulting firm of McBride, Dale, and Clarion developed an update to the Comprehensive Land Use Plan designed to provide a guide to growth throughout the County, as well as actions that can be taken to ensure growth is managed as logically as possible. The firm worked with staff and a steering committee to conduct public open houses to gather comments and concerns from residents. Surveys were created and distributed, and all political subdivisions and social service agencies were interviewed independently to gather comments and concerns. The plan is complete and will

be presented to the County Commissioners for their approval in March of 2017. The Commission heard and reviewed 12 rezoning requests. Of these requests, five involved text changes to current zoning resolutions in Middleton, Troy, Center, and Liberty Townships. The remaining requests involved the rezoning of existing lands in Middleton, Liberty, Perrysburg, and Lake Townships.

Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP) funds were used to assist low and moderate income homeowners in Wood County with emergency repairs and

improvements to their homes. The County was awarded \$800,000 in CHIP Funds for the fiscal year 2016 program.

Grant funds from the fiscal year 2015 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) were used to repair

and improve an existing water main in Bradner, ADA sidewalk improvements in the Haskins, and ADA sidewalk improvements in North Baltimore.

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

### 2016 PLANNING COMMISSION ACTIVITY

Minor parcel split transactions	175
Total acres in minor parcel splits	2,992
Transactions split from existing lots	122
Transactions combined with existing lots	53
Residential subdivisions approved	5

### FY16 CDBG PROJECTS AWARDED FOR COMPLETION IN 2017

North Baltimore ADA improvements for park restroom:	\$35,500
Bradner waterline improvements:	\$50,000
Walbridge ADA improvements to senior center	\$36,500
Sanitary sewer taps countywide:	\$40,000

## HEALTH DISTRICT

Ben Batey, RN, MPH, Health Commissioner

The Wood County Health District works to prevent disease, promote healthy lifestyles and protect the health of those living in the County.

In May, the Health District was accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board, making the District one of only a few in Ohio and across the nation to reach this goal.

The Community Health and Wellness Center developed plans to add a dental health center to its list of available services. The project is scheduled to go out for bid in 2017.

The Health District worked with agency partners to develop a three year plan which identified the most important health issues in the County: decrease obesity, increase behavioral health services, decrease violence and bullying, and increase access to healthcare. Also completed was a new strategic plan with priorities and goals for the next four years. This included updating the mission, vision, and values and beliefs statements. Both of these plans may be viewed on the Health District's web page.

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 the County.

## 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.

The self-help computer was utilized by 152 people who visited the Library to print divorce, dissolution, or other domestic relations forms. 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 570 people visited the Library. In addition, the Library received 139 phone calls and 25 emails seeking information. The Law Library is open to the public during regular Courthouse hours.

## PUBLIC DEFENDER

Kathleen Hamm, Chief Public Defender

Established in 1979, the Public Defender's Office provides constitutionally mandated legal representation for indigent defendants in juvenile and criminal cases. To be eligible for 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 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. Funds for appointment of counsel are budgeted by the Commissioners and partially reimbursed by the State. Since 2005, Ohio law mandates individuals requesting representation to pay a \$25 application fee. The County retains 80 percent of the fee to offset the costs of providing legal representation. A satellite office located at the Perrysburg Municipal Court accommodates the significant Northern Wood County caseload.

In 2016, the Office of the Public Defender represented approximately 2,530 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.

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 \$71,729 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 2016

Veterans Residing in the County.....	10,674
Total Client Contacts .....	14,424
Veterans Transported to Medical Facilities .....	301
Veterans Photo I.D. Cards Issued.....	155
Memorial Day Appropriations .....	\$10,000
Flags/Grave Markers Distributed .....	10,197
Federal VA Claims/Documents Processed.....	23,037
Total Federal Dollars Brought into County .....	\$31,844,000

## 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.

## 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.

Improving surface water quality remained a focus of the District. These efforts were aided with a grant of nearly \$500,000 from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provided program assistance to farmers to apply conservation practices on 10,439 acres and providing \$ 1,084,693 in funding. Accomplishments included cover crops on 3,746 acres and a manure storage system. NRCS also

worked with farmers to develop five comprehensive nutrient management plans on livestock operations to help better utilize on farm nutrients and manage animal manure. Another 3,746 acres received management planning to more effectively utilize nutrients applied to cropland. Lastly, 1,384 acres were enrolled in the Conservation Stewardship Program in which producers commit to a five year contract implementing conservation

practices on land to reduce soil erosion and improve water quality.

Over 100 participants, including political leaders, representatives from local governments, agencies, and institutes of higher learning participated in a day-long bus tour of the County highlighting what farmers are doing to help Lake Erie.

Six private ditch improvement projects were completed representing ten miles and more

than 2,639 acres.

More than 10,276 adults and youth were reached through nearly 192 educational programs. The Wood SWCD also hosted 20 teams of five members each at the Ohio Envirothon, which tests high school students on natural resources topics.

Public input was sought and compiled, helping the board and staff to formulate goals and vision for an update to the District's long range plan.



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 .....	800-775-9767 or 419-353-7407



**2017 Wood County Elected Officials.** **Front Row:** Sheriff Mark Wasylshyn, Auditor Michael Sibbersen, Recorder Julie Baumgardner, Clerk of Courts Cindy Hofner, Judge Matt Reger. **Second Row:** Treasurer Jill Engle, Engineer John Musteric, Commissioner Craig LaHote, Judge David Woessner, Prosecuting Attorney Paul Dobson. **Third Row:** Commissioner Theodore Bowlus, Judge Reeve Kelsey, Judge Alan Mayberry, Commissioner Doris Herringshaw, Coroner Douglas Hess

## WOOD COUNTY QUICK FACTS

Population (2010 Census):	125,488
Population (2015 estimate):	129,730
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:	2,701
Total Households:	49,561
Median household income:	\$52,758

## Major & Notable Employers in Wood County

Magna International; First Solar Inc.; Chrysler Group LLC; Owens-Illinois, Inc; FedEx; Home Depot; Bowling Green State University; Owens Community College; Perrysburg Exempted Village Schools; Wood County Government; Wood County Hospital Association; CSX Corporation; Walgreen Company

Source: 2015 Ohio County Profile from Ohio Office of Policy, Research and Strategic Planning

**Wood County Government**

One Courthouse Square  
Bowling Green, Oh 43402

**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.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE****[www.co.wood.oh.us](http://www.co.wood.oh.us)**

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

- Real Estate Information (Auditor)
- Real Estate Tax Payment (Treasurer)
- Real Estate Index Search (Recorder)
- Voter Location Search (Board of Elections)
- 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)
- 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.