

Wood County OHIO Annual Report

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A Message from the Board of County Commissioners

This past year marked a period of significant progress for several major projects initiated in 2001.



Leading the list of projects was the exterior restoration of the Courthouse and Old Jail. The project involved replacement of the clay tile roofs and the accompanying gutter systems, cleaning of the stone surfaces, tuck pointing, and replacement of weather damaged stones. On the Courthouse, the stone work involved replacement of some of the ornate carved elements which have been lost over time to water damage. During the year, the north and east sides of the Courthouse and the Old Jail were completed. Work will continue on the south and west sides of the Courthouse in the spring of 2002.

Construction to convert the Old Jail into the new Records Center and Law Library began with the demolition of the remainder of the interior of the building. The adaptive reuse of this building, located on the campus of the Courthouse, is significant because of the new function the structure will house, as well as the fact that it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The creation of the Records Center will provide records management assistance to all county offices, records storage and retrieval services, as well as a centralized digitizing and microfilming operation. Construction is expected to be complete in mid-2002.

Initial planning for the Courthouse Atrium Project began in 2001, with SSOE Studios taking the lead design role in the project. The primary purpose for the atrium will be to address security issues for the entire Courthouse Complex.

In a continuing effort to address energy use issues, a lighting upgrade in the Courthouse dome was completed. The results of this project included better lighting, significantly reduced electric use, and subsequent lower utility bills.

At the East Gypsy Lane Complex, the findings from the space study for the Juvenile Court Center were utilized to complete construction documents for this much needed project. Construction work began in November 2001, and will be complete by the fall of 2002.

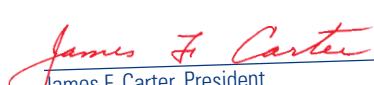
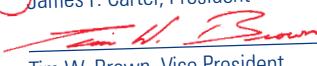
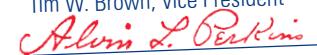
Fiber-optic cabling among the buildings in the East Gypsy Lane Complex was completed. By partnering with the City of Bowling Green through shared use of its new fiber-optic loop, the Courthouse Complex and the East Gypsy Lane Complex are now linked electronically, allowing for enhanced communication and information sharing.

Significant and exciting changes occurred during 2001 as the Wood County Nursing Home celebrated its 30th Anniversary. In order to address management and facility improvement issues at the Nursing Home in a more proactive manner, a change was made to end a management agreement with a private company, and hire a new Nursing Home Administrator who is a County employee. In addition, a \$420,000 gift was received from the Harold and Ivalou Bordner Foundation, which will be used for the installation of a lift system for every resident room, greatly reducing strain injuries for employees and providing a safer means of lifting residents. With renewed commitment to operating a modern, quality facility, many new improvements and innovations are expected in future years.

The countywide bridge replacement project remained a high priority for the Commissioners. To accelerate the efforts of the County Engineer for these important projects, the Commissioners appropriated an additional \$1.4 million, bringing the total over the past four years to \$4.3 million.

Many positive changes took place during the past year; we look forward to much exciting progress for County government in the future. We sincerely hope you will spend some time reviewing this annual report. At the same time, we encourage your participation, extend our thanks for your support, and invite your comments and questions.

The Board of County Commissioners
Wood County, Ohio


James F. Carter, President

Tim W. Brown, Vice President

Alvin L. Perkins

2001 BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

James F. Carter, President

Alvin L. Perkins, Vice President

Tim W. Brown

Andrew S. Kalmar, County Administrator
Kristy A. Muir, Clerk of the Board/Budget Director
Janese Diem, Editor



Tim W. Brown

With accessibility to the public as a priority, the Commissioners continued the practice of scheduling Town Hall meetings around the County to provide citizens the opportunity to bring questions or concerns before a formal meeting of the Board. Open Forum sessions are included as an item on the Commissioners' regular meeting agendas and provide constituents further opportunity to discuss issues with the Board. In February, the Commissioners hosted an information session for the public regarding the exterior restoration of the Courthouse and Old Jail. Another public meeting was held in March to discuss the future of the Wood County Nursing Home. As a result of this meeting the Commissioners ended 15 years of contract management and hired an administrator to oversee the day-to-day operations of the Home, as well as to guide it into the future.

Efforts to emphasize the importance of Agriculture in Wood County received considerable attention throughout the year. The Commissioners formalized the creation of an Agricultural Advisory Committee that began meeting in February. The concept of a one-stop facility for agricultural services was advanced through the completion of a study to determine options for the proposed Wood County Center for Agriculture. The Center would put agricultural-related agencies such as the Ohio State University Cooperative Extension Service, the Agricultural Business Enhancement Center, Agricultural Credit, the Wood Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Farm Services Agency under one roof.

The Commissioners are one of three organizations across the state to be recognized by Buffer Ohio, a program to acknowledge excellence in conservation. The Commissioners support the establishment of buffer strips for water quality and wildlife habitat by offering funds to provide landowners financial assistance if they enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program. Payments were based on the first 30 feet

of buffer strips in a nine-township targeted area. This commitment provides \$20,000 annually for improved conservation efforts in Wood County.

In the wake of September 11, the Commissioners coordinated meetings with the Sheriff, Emergency Management Agency, and the Health Department, to assess the County's emergency procedures.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The Board of County Commissioners is the administrative coordinator of county government and has direct oversight responsibility for 11 agencies and departments. Together the Commissioners manage County funds, buildings and property, and also serve as the County's contracting and tax authority.

During the first part of 2001, the Commissioners' Office underwent extensive remodeling. The office layout was redesigned to better utilize available space and improve office functionality, including modernization of the office filing system and additional office space for the new Risk Coordinator.

The Commissioners also manage the County employees' health insurance program with a monthly average enrollment of 271 singles and 591 families. Wellness programs were provided for County employees and their family members who were eligible for coverage under the Wood County Employees' Group Health Insurance. Active management of the health insurance program by the Employee Health Benefits Advisory Committee allows the County to offer one of the most highly regarded and affordable health insurance programs available in northwest Ohio.

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



The Spirit of Wood County Awards program was held on September 15 at the Historical Center, in conjunction with Wood County Day. The awards honor services rendered by present and/or former Wood County citizens. The Commissioners presented Spirit of Wood County Awards to:

*Richard Bostdorff & Joseph R. Hirzel
Agricultural Leadership
Jo Beth Gonzalez
Education for Civic Responsibility
Jennifer Shriver
Industrial/Economic Development
Edwin Borelli
Religion and Liberty
Marilyn R. Baker
Self-Government
Virgil Frost
Liberty Through Law/Human Freedom
Dr. Jack Whittaker
Lyle R. Fletcher Good Citizenship Award.*

The annual fall United Way campaign raised more than \$41,500 to benefit United Way agencies in the local area. An additional \$902 was raised during special events, including the employee picnic and chili cook-off. Employees directed the proceeds from the chili cook-off to the United Way's September 11 Fund.

Other volunteer opportunities for County employees included two blood drives, one in May and the second in September, which collected a total of 103 pints of blood, and the Adopt-A-Pantry canned food drive, held April 20 through May 4, that gave employees the opportunity to donate to a food bank serving Wood County residents.

An awards ceremony was scheduled for January 9, 2002, to honor the 100 employees who completed five, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35 years of service during 2001.

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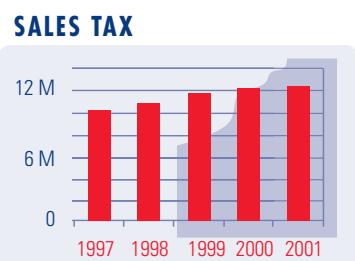
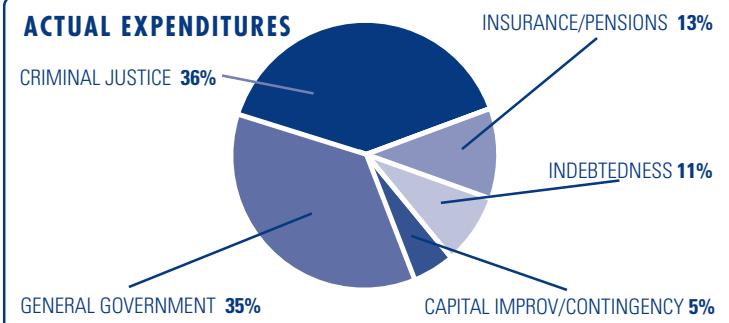


Courthouse Lighting Project

Project Cost: \$29,000

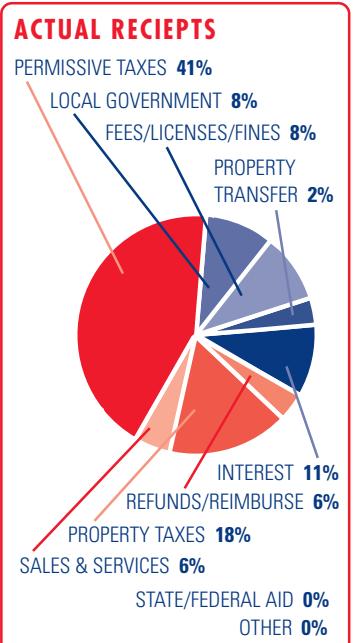
Contractor: Energy Pro-Formance, Inc.

Description of Work: Upgrade in lighting behind the stained-glass dome in the Courthouse, the old high-pressure sodium system was replaced with a fluorescent tube system, resulting in lower energy costs by about \$6,500 a year



Revenue generated for the General Fund during 2001 totaled \$29,898,049. This amount combined with the beginning cash balance of \$10,459,335 provided \$40,357,384 in available funds. General Fund expenditures totaled \$31,058,914, leaving an ending balance of \$9,298,470.

The total budget amount for Wood County in 2001 was \$118,036,266.81. Appropriations included \$2.2 million for renovation work at the Old Jail which is being converted into the County Records Center; \$1.4 million for designing and building four new bridges, and \$1 million for the first phase of the Courthouse restoration project.



view of actions necessary to make the County a better place to live and work. The Commissioners are active in promoting public/private partnerships in human services, economic development, health, and infrastructure development. They also take an active role in

improving the environment, promoting job training programs, and improving agriculture in the County.

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

COMMISSIONER BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING BOARD	Tim W. Brown
BOARD OF REVISIONS	PRESIDENT – BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE	Tim W. Brown
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION OF OHIO	
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE	Tim W. Brown
INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE	Tim W. Brown
DEBT REVIEW COMMITTEE	BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, AUDITOR, TREASURER, & FINANCIAL ADVISORS
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	PRESIDENT – BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION EDGE COMMITTEE	VICE PRES. – BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY ADVISORY BOARD	ALVIN L. PERKINS
ERIE BASIN RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT (RC&D)	Tim W. Brown
FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S FIRST COUNCIL	JAMES F. CARTER
FINANCIAL REPORT REVIEW COMMITTEE	PRESIDENT – BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AUDITOR AND TREASURER
INVESTMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE	PRESIDENT – BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS VICE PRES. – BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MICROFILM BOARD	Tim W. Brown
RECORDS COMMISSION	PRESIDENT – BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SOLID WASTE POLICY COMMITTEE	PRESIDENT – BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
TOLEDO METROPOLITAN AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (TMACOG) BOARD OF TRUSTEES	JAMES F. CARTER, Tim W. Brown and DAVID K. MIESMER, ALT
PORTAGE RIVER BASIN COUNCIL	ALVIN L. PERKINS
AIR QUALITY TASK FORCE	Tim W. Brown
ROADWAY TREE/BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE	Tim W. Brown
STORMWATER COMMITTEE	ALVIN L. PERKINS
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE	JAMES F. CARTER
Freight Committee	ALVIN L. PERKINS
GROWTH STRATEGIES COUNCIL	JAMES F. CARTER
COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS BOARD	JAMES F. CARTER
OSU EXTENSION SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE	Tim W. Brown
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE	ALVIN L. PERKINS

Building Inspection

Michael J. Billmaier, Chief Building Inspector

As a State of Ohio Certified Building Inspection Department, Wood County's Building Inspection Department inspects all buildings covered by the state building code in Wood, Hancock, and Henry Counties. This 1,455 square mile area encompasses 37 municipalities including Bowling Green, Perrysburg, Northwood, Rossford, Fostoria, Findlay, Mt. Blanchard, Deshler, Napoleon, and Ridgeville Corners, making Wood County the largest building inspection department in the State. The Building Inspection Department also conducts residential building inspections within Wood County, accounting for 45 percent of all fees collected.

During 2001, the Department issued 6,248 permits. The issuance of permits resulted in 22,206 field inspections, with 2,940 lists of deficiencies requiring corrective action. Of the inspections conducted, 18,528 occurred inside Wood County resulting in 12,059 residential and 6,469 commercial.

Receipts for 2001 totaled \$1,112,133, the most active return year to date, more than double the income from 1992. Wood County residential

and commercial receipts totaled \$920,532.34. Hancock County commercial inspections added an additional \$132,655.67, with Henry County adding \$58,944.71.

In August the Department implemented a manufactured home code. This code provided regulation for HUD manufactured housing on permanently sited foundations. The Department prepared for the implementation of the International Building Code that will apply to commercial work effective January 1, 2002.

For the fifth consecutive year, the Building Inspection Department extended its hours during the summer months to keep pace with the growing building demands in the area.

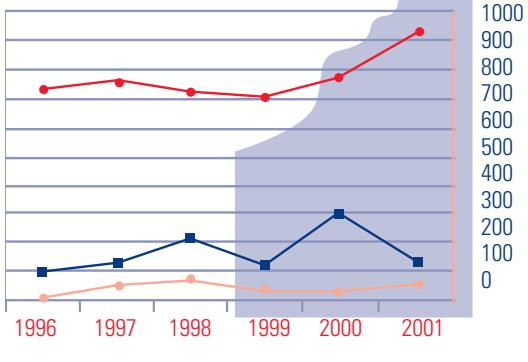
ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COST

IN MILLIONS



TOTAL REVENUE PER COUNTY

IN THOUSANDS



Building Inspection operates under the Board of County Commissioners and uses the Ohio Basic Building Code, and the Ohio Residential Code for One, Two, and Three Family Dwellings. These are uniform codes that are used to enforce the commercial/industrial and residential building codes. ●

A PARTIAL LIST OF PERMITS ISSUED IN 2001

One, two, and three family dwellings (Wood County only)	519
Additions or alterations to single family dwellings (Wood County only)	294
New residential garages (Wood County only)	219
New commercial structures (Wood, Hancock, & Henry Counties)	238
Additions or alterations to commercial structures (Wood, Hancock, & Henry Counties)	331

Buildings and Grounds

COURTHOUSE COMPLEX: Bill Lorenzen, Superintendent

EAST GYPSY LANE COMPLEX : Harry Allison, Superintendent

The Buildings and Grounds Departments oversee the day-to-day maintenance of County office facilities located primarily in the Courthouse Complex and the East Gypsy Lane Complex, as well as at satellite locations. Both provide assistance in facility planning, remodeling, and preventative maintenance.

Courthouse Complex

In addition to their duties at the Courthouse and Office Building, the Courthouse Complex Maintenance Department provided assistance to satellite agencies, including OSU Extension, Highway Garage, Law Library, Auto Title, and Veterans Assistance Center. Maintenance staff performed recycling and other light maintenance functions for these offices.

In an effort to reduce renovation costs, maintenance staff assisted in numerous projects throughout the year. They performed preparation work, ranging from moving furniture to wiring, and clean-up.

During 2001, Courthouse Complex Maintenance staff completed work on the Treasurer's Office renovation project and assisted contractors with Court Administration office relocation, window seal replacement in the Office Building, partial ceiling replacement in Probate Court office and 2nd Floor of the Office Building hallway, clean-up from water damage in the Courthouse, and preparation work for the demolition of houses for the new parking lot. Maintenance staff provided assistance in planning and preparation for major Courthouse Complex construction projects such as the exterior restoration of the Courthouse and the conversion of the Old Jail to the Records Center.

Work began on modernizing and retro-fitting lighting systems throughout the Courthouse and Office Building to reduce costs. Under the new lighting system, ballasts and light tubes are recycled reducing contamination of the environment.

East Gypsy Lane Complex

The East Gypsy Lane Complex Maintenance staff maintained the County-owned office buildings on East Gypsy Lane Road and Dunbridge Roads. They also provided services to the Historical Center and Dunbridge Road Building, which houses the Solid Waste Management District, Economic Development Commission, and Educational Service Center.

Improving the appearance of the grounds was a priority during 2001. Dead trees and shrubbery were replaced and windbreaks were installed west of the Fuel Facility. New sidewalks and parking areas were added in several locations, while others were resurfaced and repaired. Lighting was installed on the main directional sign for the facility.

Numerous building repairs were also completed during the year including the repair of the overhang on the front porch of the Dunbridge Road Building, and the installation of new rooftop units at the Nursing Home. Work at the Historical Center included repairs to the Brandenberry Wall, insulation of the Linwood Road Radio Tower Building and renovation of the Chicken Coop. Maintenance staff provided assistance in planning and preparation for major East Gypsy Lane Complex construction projects, specifically the expansion and renovation of the Juvenile Court Center.

The Buildings and Grounds Departments operate under the Board of County Commissioners. ●

Child Support Enforcement Agency

Frank McLaughlin, Director

The Child Support Enforcement Agency manages the collection and distribution of child support monies, locates absent parents, establishes support and paternity, modifies support orders, and enforces medical and child support orders.

In 2001, the Child Support Enforcement Agency collected \$21,396,741.66 and disbursed this amount to the custodial parents of children due child support. Additionally, \$498,699.29 was collected and returned to the State of Ohio for cases where Ohio Works First (OWF) was paid for families in need. Reimbursements of \$29,207.83 were paid to the Wood County Department of Job and Family Services for children in Wood County foster care living situations.

During 2001, the Agency's legal staff initiated 232 contempt of court actions and 79 counts of misdemeanor criminal nonsupport at the Bowling Green Municipal Court. These two activities directly resulted in lump-sum payments

of more than \$160,000.00 and reinitiated regular child support payments for Wood County's children. The Agency's legal staff also recovered more than \$4,000.00 through administrative activities such as probate actions, liens, and attachment of retirement accounts.

Wood County continued its aggressive felony prosecution of criminal nonsupport, with about 35 delinquent payers being referred to the Wood County Prosecuting Attorney's Office for felony action in 2001. In the last few years, more than 200 "deadbeat" parents have been indicted for felony criminal nonsupport.

The Agency worked to resolve 208 paternity establishment cases locally, in addition to approximately 125 more father-child relationships being acknowledged in local hospitals by new fathers and mothers at the time of a child's birth. Most of the 208 relationships established by the Agency were handled by administrative hearings, during which both parents

agreed to be bound by the results of on-site genetic testing.

As of December 31, 2001, the Agency had 6,376 open cases.

The Agency continued placement of an employee in an office adjacent to the Domestic Relations Court facility in the Courthouse. This employee provided up-to-the-minute case information to the Court, computed child support budgets, and set up cases to expedite payment processing for new child support orders.

In 2001, SETS (the State of Ohio's Support Enforcement Tracking System) allowed Wood County to be even more effective in enforcing support orders for Wood County children by giving the Agency access to statewide and national databases, and by offering new enforcement tools such as license suspension and the use of credit reporting agencies.

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

Department of Job and Family Services

Ruth Larabee, Director

The Department of Job and Family Services administers federal, state, and county legislated and regulated public assistance; employment resources; child and adult protective services; and social services in the county.

The Department of Job and Family Services administered \$58,892,946 in various programs throughout the year. Of this amount, 96 percent came from federal and state sources, with the remaining four percent from local sources. Over \$48 million (82 percent) was attributable to Medicaid.

Wood Countians were assisted with basic essentials of food, clothing, shelter, and medical care as follows: 190 Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) cash payment cases per month; 4,023 Medicaid cases per month averaging \$4,036,814 per month with 69 percent for aged/blind/disabled, and 11 percent for nursing home care; \$90,400 monthly food stamp issuance, averaging \$43 per person and \$83 per case; 24 disability assistance cases per month, averaging \$115 a month per person; and \$167,595 disability assistance medical expenditures in 2001.

As the administrative and fiscal agent for Workforce Investment Act (WIA) services in the County, the Department utilized funds to supply employment or training services for 244 adult customers and 51 dislocated workers during 2001. A wide range of services coordinated for these individuals through the Employment Resource Center One-Stop System included in-depth assessment of needs, skills testing, resume development, GED classes, job search assistance, professional counseling, and occupational training. The unique and comprehensive Job Find program at the

Employment Resource Center helped 92 customers gain employment with starting wages ranging from \$5.15 to \$24.00 per hour. Additionally, 14 adult customers and 14 dislocated workers received funding for academic and vocational training to upgrade or enhance their employable skills. Ten adult customers have completed their training and are employed with starting wages ranging from \$9.00 to \$20.00 per hour. Twelve dislocated workers completed their training and were employed with starting wages ranging

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Emergency Management Agency

J. Eric Larson, Director

The Emergency Management Agency (EMA) is responsible for the four phases of emergency management: mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. The Agency assists County government and local communities in responding to natural disasters and special needs situations.

As part of the Ohio Domestic Preparedness Program (ODPP), the State of Ohio awarded the Agency a \$15,000 grant for the purchase of training equipment for response to weapons of mass destruction. The ODPP is an Ohio EMA initiative to expand the effectiveness of the federal-level program provided to the Nunn-Lugar-Domenici (NLD) cities. In addition to the \$15,000 grant, the Agency received a \$2,500 grant for the training component of the ODPP to offset costs associated with travel, training needs, and future training.

Grant funding, in the amount of \$14,000, was secured for the purchase of two outdoor warning sirens for Northwood and Washington Township. The grant funded 50 percent of expenses with the balance to be paid by the awarded political subdivision. The sirens were fully functional in September.

In the spring of 2001, Heidelberg Distributing donated a beverage truck for use as a hazardous materials response vehicle. Minor exterior repair and painting was completed and work on the interior pods to hold equipment will begin in 2002.

Exterior work to the communications bus/mobile command post was completed and the interior renovations began. Once completed, the Communications Vehicle will be available to all Wood County Emergency Response personnel for use at large-scale incidents or events.

In March 2001, a full-scale Hazardous Materials Exercise brought together several agencies including, Woodlane School MR/DD, Wood County Hospital Emergency Department staff, the American Red Cross, Sheriff's Office,

personnel from Jones-Hamilton, Ohio EMA and several Wood County Firefighters and EMS volunteers. The Emergency Operations Center was opened and county emergency responders utilized the Incident Command System to practice their response skills during a simulated large-scale incident.

Revisions to the County's All Hazards Emergency Response Plan, including the Terrorism Annex, was completed in August with distribution to all the villages, political subdivisions, police, fire, EMS, township trustees, public libraries, and many County agencies.

Following the terrorist attacks on September 11, the Agency responded to more than 55 anthrax hoaxes throughout the County. The Agency worked closely with the Sheriff's Office, Health Department, Bowling Green State University, the City of Bowling Green, county emergency responders, and other agencies to review and re-review the response plans and procedures for the handling of suspicious anthrax cases. Work began on response plans and procedures for dealing with small pox outbreaks and the effect that it would have on the County's resources.

The Agency responded to 20 hazardous material incidents and assisted as a resource coordinator, providing containment equipment, tools, and on-site weather monitoring.

The Director, who is also a Paramedic, responds as a Paramedic Intercept unit, with the help and support of St. Vincent's Life Flight, to EMS requests for Advanced Life Support assistance. In 2001, he responded to over 200 requests for assistance. This year, with the help of a State EMS grant, the Agency was able to purchase a new heart monitor, LifePak 12 for use on cardiac patients, providing more in-depth monitoring of patients.

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

Historical Museum and Center

Stacey Hann-Ruff, Director

The Historical Center, located on the grounds of the former Wood County Infirmary, actively preserves and shares the history of Wood County and the Wood County Infirmary through building preservation, exhibits, research, an internship program, special events, education programs, and the collection and conservation of artifacts. This unusual historic site is one of the last county poor farms where nearly all of the original structures still stand. Situated along the Portage River, the Center includes a large museum, an herb garden, nature trails and numerous outdoor points of interest. The site was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979, and in 2000, the Infirmary was awarded an historical marker in recognition of its unique place in Ohio history.

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 Center has a staff of four full-time county employees, one part-time Green Thumb employee, and a volunteer base of over 400. The 50-acre grounds of the Center are part of the system of parks maintained and patrolled by the Park District.

More than 20,000 visitors, including students, tourists, families, school and reunion groups, and more than 40 County agency and community groups took tours, engaged in research activities, walked the grounds, and enjoyed special events and lectures. During 2001, the Center's interns and volunteers worked more than 5,000 hours on numerous education and recreation programs.

The Center hosted a diversity of free annual community events including the Spring Open House, Civil War Days, Wood County Day, Halloween Folklore & Funfest, Old Home Holiday Tour, and the monthly tea series.

Dog Shelter

Paula Hamman, Chief Dog Warden

2001 STATISTICS

Miles driven	55,321
Calls answered	1,995
Law enforcement agencies	175
Owners dogs	21
Stray dogs	852
Complaints	875
Animal claims	7
Injured dogs	45
Patrol area	5
Traps set & picked up	15
Dogs impounded	923
Dogs redeemed	272
Dogs adopted	328
Pups impounded	154
Pups adopted/redeemed	112
Dogs euthanized	324
% of pups adopted/redeemed	72
% of total dogs adopted/redeemed	65
Kennel licenses sold	138
Dog licenses sold	16,108

was implemented as part of the mandatory spay/neuter program, authorized in June by the Board of County Commissioners. In addition to a dog license, adopters receive a \$30 certificate, which is to go toward the cost of the mandatory spaying or neutering of their new dog. The certificate can be used at any veterinarian office.

The Shelter continued to post photos of available dogs at numerous locations throughout the County. The Shelter also received assistance from rescuers, who publicized available dogs from the shelter. The use of e-mail has also proved to be a valuable tool in the rescue and adoption of dogs.

The Dog Shelter operates under the Board of County Commissioners. ●

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from \$5.50 to \$15.00 per hour.

The Children's Services Unit served 3,552 children, placed 65 children in substitute care, and provided in-home protective services to 127 children. The unit worked with 1,281 children who were reported to be at risk and four children were placed for adoption.

The Social Services Unit served young families, childless adults, and senior citizens. Information and referral services were provided to 2,748 individuals. Twenty-four households received Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) funds to prevent homelessness. Eighteen households received "New Possibilities" intensive case management services. Adult Emergency Assistance was approved for 102 individuals. Emergency assistance via Prevention/Retention/Contingency (PRC) was approved for 271 families. Under Project Thaw, 257 families and 151 adult households without children received assistance in paying high heating bills. Through the use of Enhanced Medicaid Transportation, Title XX and levy funds, 1,318 transports were provided for medical and other needs. During the year, 104 car repairs were completed. An average of 279 families qualified for employment-related childcare assistance each month.

Each month 153 adults qualified for homemaker services. Another 26 qualified for chore services or temporary care. Also, 64 qualified for bathing assistance and five qualified for medication assistance via contract with the Health Department. Investigations of alleged abuse, neglect, or exploitation were conducted for 83 elders and 10 younger adults.

Services for children and elders were partially funded by the Protective Services Levy.

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

The Department of Job and Family Services operates under the Board of County Commissioners. ●

Nursing Home

David Cecil, Administrator

The Wood County Nursing Home is a 125-bed health care facility providing both skilled and intermediate level care and services. Available resident 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. Physical, occupational, and speech therapy programs are designed to meet the rehabilitative needs of residents with the goal often being the ability to return home. Short-term respite care is also available. Additional services, customized to meet the individual needs of each resident, are provided as needed. Wood County Nursing Home is dually certified for Medicare and Medicaid.

In 2001, the County Commissioners ended 15 years of contract management and hired an administrator to oversee the day-to-day operations. A staff of

115 provided services with a combination of experience and professionalism, while demonstrating loving care and dedication on a daily basis. During the year, one staff member reached her 30-year service milestone, while two others completed 25 years.

With more elderly residents covered under some form of nursing home care insurance plan, the facility entered into managed care contracts with several providers, such as Medical Mutual of Ohio and Paramount Elite, enabling individuals to choose Wood County Nursing Home with much of the cost covered under their plans.

The Nursing Home logged 37,176 resident in-house days. Privately funded residents represented 27 percent of those days, while 63 percent were Medicaid, 9 percent Medicare, and 1 percent Managed Care. An increasing number of residents came to the facility for a period of therapy and rehabilitation and then returned to their homes. During 2001, a total of 76 residents

were discharged to their homes following their stay.

Throughout the year, several projects to improve the appearance of the facility were initiated including new window curtains in the lounge areas and the painting of all the door frames. Several resident rooms were upgraded with new countertops, tile floors, and fresh paint along with new privacy curtains and bed spreads.

In November, the Nursing Home received a substantial gift from the Harold and Ivalou Bordner Foundation to provide a system of ceiling mounted resident lifts throughout the facility to enable staff to care for residents more safely and with less physical stress.

Annual events such as the Halloween party, family Christmas party and resident New Year's Eve party were well attended and enjoyed by residents, staff, families, entertainers, and visitors alike.

The Nursing Home operates under the Board of County Commissioners. ●

Records Center

Brenda Ransom, Records Manager

Created by the Commissioners in 1998, the Records Center is designed to provide records management services to Wood County offices. When the Center opens in 2002, it will offer secure, environmentally sound storage of paper records, preservation microfilming, and digital imaging services.

The Records Center became closer to reality in 2001, with the beginning of construction of the Center and the employment of a Records Manager in the fall. The Old Jail, part of the Courthouse Complex, was gutted to allow for the construction of proper

weight-bearing floors and environmental controls to accommodate the Records Center.

Upon being hired in August, Records Manager Brenda Ransom began the task of developing and implementing Records Center procedures, including the operation of the microfilm/digital imaging lab and a system for tracking stored records. Assistance and support was provided to County offices for records retention schedules and records maintenance.

The Records Center operates under the Board of County Commissioners. ●

Solid Waste Management District

Ken Rieman, Director

The Solid Waste Management District manages solid waste planning and the development of recycling opportunities for residents. It also operates the Wood County Landfill, established under 1968 garbage district legislation. All cities, villages, and unincorporated areas of Wood County are part of the Wood County Garbage District and thereby share financial responsibility for the Wood County Landfill. The mission of the County-owned facility is to provide an environmentally responsible disposal facility for citizens, businesses, and industry that is self-supporting and meets or exceeds all regulations.

The Solid Waste Management District operates under a five-year plan, approved by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency in May 1998. An update of this plan will begin in 2002 and is due for completion by May of 2003.

Solid Waste Districts are required to document a 25 percent residential/commercial recycling rate or 90 percent access to recycling services. Curbside recycling programs are available in 14 communities, or 71 percent of the population. The number of drop-off locations increased to 14, with one added in Perrysburg Township during the year. Together, the curbside and drop-off locations exceeded the 90 percent access requirement. Documented industrial recycling of more than 70 percent exceeded the minimum goal of 50 percent industrial recycling.

All local government entities are eligible for \$1.00 per capita support for residential recycling. Capital grants are available to assist in reducing waste and providing recycling infrastructure. Waste audits to assist industry in reducing waste and increasing recycling are also available upon request.

District staff promoted proper solid waste management in classrooms and at community events. During 2001, 263 educational presentations were made

to 6,200 individuals throughout Wood County. These included 139 classroom visits, 61 meetings, 10 workshops, and 53 tours of the Bowling Green Recycling Center and Wood County Landfill.

Wood County has permitted solid waste disposal capacity exceeding the required minimum of 10 years. This disposal capacity is provided by the two landfills located in Wood County: the Evergreen Landfill, operated by Waste Management, located in Northwood; and the Wood County Landfill, operated by the Solid Waste District, located west of Bowling Green, off U.S. Route 6 on Tontogany Road. District funds are generated from disposal fees paid by users of the two landfills and a generation fee paid on all Wood County waste disposed in Ohio landfills.

In 2001, the Wood County Landfill received 31,041 tons of waste for disposal. The Landfill accepts yard waste and pallets that are ground into mulch and composted. Concrete and asphalt are also accepted and used for Landfill road construction. Tires are accepted and shipped elsewhere for recycling and disposal.

The Landfill is a best available technology (BAT) facility with clay and plastic liners, leachate collection, groundwater and methane monitoring, and surface water control, and is licensed by Ohio EPA. Construction of 6 acres of clay liner on top of the previous disposal area is planned for 2002. The Landfill's present permitted area has capacity for an estimated eleven more years. A proposed vertical expansion, increasing the final height by 38 feet and increasing the life of the Landfill by six additional years, is pending Ohio EPA approval. Additional adjacent property (200 acres) is available to provide for future disposal.

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

Office of Economic Development Economic Development Commission

Thomas Blaha, Executive Director

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

The efforts of the Commission resulted in an aggregate of 1,157 jobs being created (411) or retained (746), and a private sector investment of over \$400 million in economic activity during 2001.

In addition to these quantitative accomplishments in 2001, the Commission continued to identify and respond to the economic development needs of the communities it serves. Among those initiatives were economic diversification, communication, responsiveness to the agribusiness community, and further productive

partnering with the County's educational establishment.

Significant accomplishments in the area of economic diversification included a 650,000 square foot state-of-the-art distribution facility for the Walgreen's Corporation in Perrysburg Township. The \$58 million building will house \$75 million worth of conveying and accumulating equipment and create 318 new jobs initially. This comes in a part of the County that has seen the closure of three manufacturing and distribution facilities in the past year, and is expected to absorb much of the resultant unemployment.

In the area of communication, the staff continued to hold self-help forums in smaller, rural Wood County communities as part of the strategic planning process. In addition to partnering with communities, areas of concentration include: retention and expansion of existing industry, attraction of new industry, organizational efficiency, and identification of opportunities for further public/private partnering.

During 2001, the Commission continued its agribusiness initiatives. This included working through Wood County's Community Improvement Corporation to induce an Industrial Revenue Bond in the amount of \$5 million for the Sun Seed Company of rural Washington Township to modernize its facility, keeping it competitive in the world marketplace, while providing meaningful employment to rural Wood County residents.

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

Records Center and Law Library



Awarded Bids:

\$2,236,082

Contractor:

Rudolph/Libbe, Inc.

Architect/Engineer:

Poggemeyer Design Group

Estimated Completion:

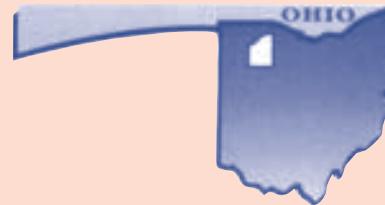
Summer 2002

Description of Work: Interior renovations of the Old Jail for conversion into the County Records Center and Law Library

GOVERNING BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

* Appointed by Commissioners **All Members Appointed by Commissioners

WOOD COUNTY



NURSING HOME ADVISORY BOARD**

Maxine Cross, William Culbertson, Bradley D. Foster, Ann Fuerst, Warren Phillips, and Paulette Stephens, and the President and Vice President of the Resident's Council

Ex-Officio Members: Andrew Kalmar and David Cecil

PLANNING COMMISSION**

Anthony Allion, Phillip Bresler, John Brossia, Tim Brown, James Carter, Chris Ewald, Patrick Fitzgerald, Richard Kohring, Alvin Perkins, Donna Schuerman, and Tom Weider

Non-voting Associate Members: Michael Billmaier, Jerry Greiner, David Miesmer, Larry Sorrells, and David Steiner

PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION

Charles Boss*, John Dunipace*, Elizabeth Emmert, Dennis Ferrell*, and Jack Taylor, Jr.

PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Suzanne Crawford, Nick Ezzone, John Gibson*, Sharon Hanna, Pamela Herringhaus*, Scott McEwen*, and David Swartz*

REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY**

James Atkinson, Floyd Chamberlain, Gaylyn Finn, Henry Lehrer, Janet Neville, Ione Shelton, James Smith, and George Stossel

TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL**

John Cheney, Valerie Hovland, and Cathleen Wenig

WOOD SANDUSKY OTTAWA SENeca COMMUNITY ACTION COMMISSION

Total Membership - 24

Wood County Members: Melvin L. Browning*, Traci DeBlasio, Roberta Lane, Carrie Miller, Jane Robb*, and Julia Wedemeyer

NORTHWESTERN WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

John Ault, Paul Brim, John Cheney*, John Current, Karl Hirzel, Jr.*, Alex Molner*, Henry Moyer, Phillip Schaffer, and Lyle Schulte

AUDITOR

The Auditor serves as the County's chief appraiser and fiscal officer. 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 local subdivisions and the distribution of local government funds are also the responsibility of the Auditor. An agent for the Ohio Department of Taxation, the Auditor processes and distributes estate tax payments, sells vendor's licenses, and is the sealer of weights and measures. He is also secretary of the Budget Commission, Board of Revision, and Data Processing Board.

Whenever property is sold, the deed is brought to the Auditor to convey official ownership before it is recorded. During 2001, the Office processed 4,730 such conveyances, including 7,814 different parcels. The County conveyance tax totaled \$1,106,027 and is directly based on real estate sales in the County.

The Auditor's Office assessed 66,867 parcels of real property with a taxable value of \$1,966,295,720. Special assessments for waterlines, sewers, ditches, etc., were also collected on the real estate tax duplicate and distributed to all the appropriate subdivisions.

The taxation of manufactured homes continued to evolve requiring sexennial and triennial appraisals of manufactured homes based on market value. During 2001, 357 manufactured homes were conveyed, bringing the total of registered manufactured homes to 4,898 with a total taxable value of \$41,160,463.

The Homestead Exemption program administered by the Office provided property tax relief for 1,781 elderly and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6...

disabled residents who meet income requirements.

The Office also assisted in the preparation of 5,836 personal property tax returns, a business tax paid on inventory and equipment.

As agent for the County Dog and Kennel Fund, the Auditor sold 16,108 dog licenses and 138 kennel licenses. In 2001, the Office implemented a new software program for the issuance of dog licenses.

The consumer protection division of the Auditor's Office inspected 648 commercial scales, 1,843 gas pumps and electronic scanners for retail and wholesale use throughout the county.

The Data Processing Board Computer Training Lab and Resource Center continued to enhance computer skills and productivity of County employees. A total of 213 students attended the 23 courses offered during the year.

Two levels of improvements were made on the Wood County Auditor's GIS (computerized mapping system). A full coordination of real estate parcel lines with aerial photography was completed increasing the usefulness of the maps. On another level, automated updating and maintenance of the digital maps was instituted. This enhancement allowed parcel splits, combinations, and new plats to be completed electronically. Both projects improved the integrity and accuracy of computer map use for customers of the Auditor's Office, as well as other County agencies.

For the fifth consecutive year the Auditor's Office received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government annual financial reports, from the Government

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6...

CLERK OF COURTS

Rebecca E. Bhaer

The Clerk of Courts maintains the records of Common Pleas Court, issues motor vehicle, and watercraft titles and serves as Clerk for the Sixth

District Court of Appeals. She is a member of the Data Processing Board and Records Commission. In 1998 she was appointed to the Automated Title Processing Board and continues to serve at the pleasure of Governor Taft. The duties of the Clerk of Courts are authorized under many sections of the Ohio Revised Code. ●

LEGAL DOCUMENTS PROCESSED 39,062

	TOTALS	\$1,459,089.39
Appeals cases filed	70	
Civil cases filed	701	\$540,529.30
Land tax foreclosures filed	31	\$6,029.00
Domestic relations cases filed	490	\$26,930.04
Domestic violence cases filed	137	\$12,415.75
Domestic stalking civil protection cases filed	73	\$750.00
Domestic cases reopened	464	\$49,926.00
Criminal cases filed	425	\$15,174.00
Judgment liens filed	499	\$27,081.95
Foreign judgments filed	5	\$0
State tax liens filed	282	\$500.00
Executions filed	10	\$1,772.50
Total journal entry pages processed	32,603	\$8,477.74
Optometry licenses filed	0	\$14,147.33
Notary commissions filed	535	\$61.01
Passport applications accepted	863	\$11,925.00
Criminal investigations	29	\$1,772.50
Criminal records checks	1,776	\$603.59
Coroner's reports	69	\$743,369.77

TITLE DOCUMENTS PROCESSED 110,150

	TOTALS	\$12,324,752.03
Auto titles, duplicates & memo titles	62,578	\$400,243.50
Mortgages recorded	12,680	\$2,854.50
Salvage titles	285	\$11,769,112.19
Penalties	3,695	\$145,482.25
Inspections	6,456	\$6,456.00
Affidavits	21,349	\$603.59
Manufactured home fee	826	
Boat titles, duplicates and memo titles (includes charged replacement titles)	1,064	
Mortgages recorded	167	
Watercraft affidavits	896	
Watercraft penalties	154	

**CORONER**

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

2001 CORONER CASES

Auto Accidents	16
Other Accidents	10
Motorcycle Accidents	0
Train Accidents	0
Homicides	2
Natural Deaths	26
Suicides	10
Total Cases	64

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS**General Division**

The Court of Common Pleas, General Division, handles felony criminal matters; domestic relations matters, including divorce, dissolution, change of custody, visitation and child and spousal support enforcement and modification; general civil matters of all kinds, including those arising out of auto accidents, product liability claims, real estate matters, and contract disputes; and administrative appeals such as those in the area of workers compensation, unemployment compensation and appeals from certain local government decisions.



The Judges supervise the Adult Probation Department, the Court Security program, appoint and supervise the Jury Commission, and appoint members to the Veterans Service Commission, Public Defender Commission, and the Wood County Public Library Board. The Judges also receive and approve applications for notary public.

During 2001, the Court completed 2,152 cases and 1,061 cases remained pending. Of the total cases completed, 674 were general civil, 1,137 were domestic relations, and 341 were criminal.

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

Adult Probation

Eva Dhondt, Director

The Adult Probation Department conducts pre-sentence investigations, monitors probationer's compliance with court orders, and supervises community corrections programs.

Under the authority and supervision of the Common Pleas Court, the Adult Probation Department conducted 227 pre-sentence investigations on offenders convicted of committing a criminal violation.

Throughout the year, the Department supervised 709 offenders placed under court-ordered community control. Of those defendants, 215 were

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6...

ENGINEER

Anthony Allion

The Engineer has the responsibility of maintaining highways, bridges, culverts, and hundreds of traffic control signs in a safe and proper manner each day of the year. Under the ditch maintenance program, the Engineer is responsible for 550 miles of the more than 3,000 miles of ditches in the County. The Engineer's Office performs engineering work on all ditch construction and maintenance projects. The Engineer is also required to maintain tax maps and survey records. He is a member of the Planning Commission and serves as engineer for each of the 19 townships. The Engineer is authorized to perform his duties under Chapter 315 of the Ohio Revised Code. ●

AUDITOR CONT. FROM PAGE 5

Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for the County's 2000 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

The Wood County Citizen's Financial Report is available from the Auditor's Office and is also provided on the Auditor's website. It provides a brief and easily understood financial analysis of the County's revenues and expenditures along with general information about the County and local economy. Though not required by statute, this document is intended to provide a higher level of public accountability.

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

SOURCES OF 2001 FUNDS

Motor Vehicle License Fees	\$3,655,209.21
Gasoline Tax	\$1,385,530.99
County General Fund	\$1,400,000.00
Traffic Fines & Receipts	\$91,493.38
Reimbursements	\$528,404.11

USAGE OF 2001 FUNDS

Labor and Fringes	\$2,394,336.28
Material & Contracts	
Road	\$1,019,645.26
Bridge	\$2,999,948.46
Equipment	\$33,611.99
Repair Supplies & Fuel	\$570,803.10

COURT SECURITY CONT. FROM PG. 5

Operating under the authority and supervision of the Common Pleas Court Judges, the Court Security Department reports to the Court Security Judge. Judge David E. Woessner served in that capacity during 2001. ●

2001 STATISTICS

Court Appearances & Court Coverage Requests	952
Individuals Taken Into Custody for the Courts	23
for Adult Probation	23
Custody of Prisoners for Deputy	229
Incident Reports	106
Alarm Reports, i.e. fire, door, panic	62
Building Check Incidents	101
Requests for Assistance from Other Departments	60
Aid to Ill/Injured Persons	3
Conduct/Assist Tours	20
Escorts of victims, judges, jurors, & public	47

The speaker's bureau provided presentations on a variety of subjects to various organizations within the County.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney includes three divisions. The criminal division prosecutes all felony criminal offenses occurring

in the County. This duty includes presenting cases to the Grand Jury. The juvenile division prosecutes all cases involving juvenile offenders. Cases range from serious felonies to "status" offenses (i.e., abused, neglected and dependent children). The civil division provides legal services to the County, including school districts and townships.

The Prosecutor's Office sponsored various youth violence prevention programs. For the third consecutive year, the Juvenile Mediation Program (JuMP) received grant funding to help reduce juvenile crime by providing mediation to certain offenders. In an effort to prevent school violence, the 4-S student mediation program continued in each school district in the County. On March 17th, the 3rd Annual Wood County Youth Olympics were held. This event focused on "Competition without Conflict". The Drug Abuse Prevention Calendar contest celebrated its 12th year. Lori Michel a fifth grader from the Eastwood School District was the year's winner. Her drawing will be featured on the 2002 calendar cover.

The Prosecuting Attorney hosted the annual law enforcement conference. The 100 participants discussed updates in the law and related topics including terrorism and seizure of computers. The speaker's bureau provided presentations on a variety of subjects to various organizations within the County.

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

RECORDER

The Recorder's Office is a service office committed to and responsible for keeping and maintaining accurate records of real estate

documents, ensuring that the documents are up-to-date, legible, and easily accessible to the public. The meticulous and timely handling of documents is the essence of the Recorder's responsibility. As the repository of records for all property transactions in the County, the Recorder's Office safeguards every property owner's title. Real estate documents constitute a major portion of the recordings and/or filings. Financing statements on personal property and

military discharge papers are also filed in the Recorder's Office.

Ongoing growth in the County brought record numbers to the Recorder's Office in 2001. A total of 33,482 documents were recorded and/or filed, up 8,416 from 2000. A total of \$988,079.69 was collected in fees, an increase of 66 percent, of which \$129,399 was deposited into a supplemental equipment fund. A large portion of the revenue was attributed to a rush in the fall for mortgage refinancing.

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

2001 DOCUMENTS

Deeds (conveying over 8,000 parcels of real estate)	4,472
Judgment entries, affidavits, agreements and certificates for transfer	2,036
Mortgages (total value \$19,041,0366,661)	12,152
Mortgage assignments, assumptions, release of maker, waivers of priority, mortgage agreements and options	3,124
Land Contracts	25
Mortgages released (with a value of \$2,682,403,694)	10,416
Rights of way and easements	411
Leases	30
Mechanics liens	105
Lease assignments	8
Plats (creating 346 lots)	25
Condominiums	0
Financing statements, security agreements	919
Terminations	594
Financing statement assignments, amendments and releases	64
Miscellaneous documents (including release of easements, mechanic lien releases, notice to commence, lease releases, powers of attorney, partnerships, state liens, release of state liens, federal tax liens, and release of federal tax liens)	1,580

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 unincorporated areas and villages, provides contract police services to townships and municipalities, and assists municipalities upon request.

The Wood County Sheriff's Office appointed two deputies to local school districts with matching funds from the Ohio Criminal Justice System. These school resource officers acted as liaisons with all parties of the school system, counseled students, and

performed law enforcement duties within the schools.

In response to the events of September 11, a deputy from the Office was assigned to the FBI Homeland Security Task Force. The cooperative efforts of the task force will help combat the terrorist organizations that directly affect the State of Ohio and will expedite intelligence gathering regarding apprehension of such individuals. The Office continued to provide increased surveillance to sensitive target areas in addition to mutual aid for critical sites in Ottawa County.

Making national news during a runaway train incident, the collective efforts of personnel involved proved Wood County's well-organized emergency response protocol.

The Wood County Sheriff's Office investigated two homicide during the year. One incident involved the wife of a former Bowling Green business owner. The victim was found within the County on the campus of Bowling Green State University. The investigation was turned over to the Michigan authorities. The second homicide in Wood County was a body found in a shallow grave in the Cygnet area. The Wood County Sheriff's Office in cooperation with the Findlay Police, Fostoria Police, Wood County Prosecutor's Office and the FBI were able to obtain indictments on four individuals for their involvement. These cases are currently in the Wood County Common Pleas Court.

The Sheriff is authorized to perform his duties under Chapter 311 of the Ohio Revised Code. ●

Robbery	4
Breaking and entering	145
Burglary	89
Thefts	521
Motor vehicle thefts	77
Arson	4
Vandalism/criminal damaging	505
Trespassing	66

TREASURER

The Treasurer oversees the receipt and disbursement of funds for the County and is responsible for collecting taxes for the County as well as for the schools, municipalities, and townships within the County. The two largest and most noted sources of revenue are generated through real and personal property taxes. More than 50 area financial offices serve the County as real estate tax payment sites.

Qualifying taxpayers may utilize an available escrow program or delinquent tax repayment program. The Treasurer's Office also collects taxes on mobile homes and inheritance.

All investments made by the Treasurer's Office were fully collateralized and sufficiently liquid to enable the County to meet reasonable anticipated operating requirements. Investment income for 2001 was \$3,344,417.40, slightly lower than 2000's all-time high of \$3,492,380.93.

Modifications were completed on the Treasurer's website. Through the website taxpayers can print and fill out agreements for automatic withdrawal of payments from checking accounts or use credit cards for tax payments. Also added to the website were change of address and remission of penalty forms and real estate tax information.

The Treasurer's Office was remodeled during the year. The changes provided more public workspace and handicap accessibility.

The Treasurer serves on the Budget Commission, Board of Revision, and Data Processing Board in addition to her duties as Investing Authority for the Investment Advisory Board.

The Treasurer is authorized to perform her duties under Section 321 and 323 of the Ohio Revised Code. ●

ADULT PROBATION CONT. FROM PG. 5

new assignees. During the year, 154 individuals were terminated from supervision, leaving 555 individuals under direct control on December 31, 2001.

The Department received two state grants to operate the Intensive Supervision Probation (ISP) and Electronic Monitoring (EM) programs. The ISP program provided services to felony offenders in the Common Pleas Court and the EM program served both the Common Pleas and Municipal Courts. In fiscal year 2001, 60 offenders were placed in the ISP program and 94 in the EM program.

The Adult Probation Department also operated an Intake Department, the Drug Testing Program, and the Work Release Program. In 2001, 44 individuals were placed in the Work Release Program, allowing inmates incarcerated in the Justice Center to maintain their employment in the community.

Juvenile Court Renovations & Addition

Awarded Bids: \$1,417,262

Contractor: Rudolph/Libbe, Inc.

Estimated Completion: Fall 2002

Description of work: Addition of 5,288 square feet for a second courtroom and additional office space, approximately 8,000 square feet of existing building will be updated in the renovation portion of the project

LITTER CONTROL DIVISION

Miles of road debris collection	371.1
Amount of debris and litter collected (lbs.)	77,156
Recycled from WCSO & WCJC (lbs.)	30,680
Tires picked up and disposed of per state law	417
Inmate hours worked on roadside	6,762

INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

ALCOHOL, DRUG ADDICTION AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BOARD

Larry Mershman, Executive Director

The purpose of the Wood County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board is to ensure that Wood County residents have access to a high quality array of community-based behavioral health care services. The Board's statutory requirements are to plan, monitor, evaluate and fund necessary alcohol, drug addiction and mental health services. While the Board does not provide services, it does contract with service providers for these necessary services. Effective management by the Board maximizes the success of mental health, alcohol and drug addiction services in Wood County. The Board contracts with the following service providers to provide the System of Care: Children's Resource Center, Family and Child Abuse Prevention Center, Family Service of Wood County, and Behavioral Connections of Wood County.

The community-based system successfully created a continuum of care for mental health and alcohol/drug addiction services ranging from prevention and counseling to crisis intervention and

inpatient care. The union of Board and contract agencies enabled the system of care to be locally accountable, accessible and flexible in order to facilitate collaboration with all community resources in Wood County.

The Board purchased more than \$12.7 million in alcohol, drug and mental health services in fiscal year 2001 and expanded the following services: enhanced consumer choice in psychiatric facilities; managed 302 psychiatric hospital admissions; developed additional support services and activities through the Connection Center; and provided essential support for the No Wrong Door project. The Board also initiated planning for compliance with the Health Insurance and Portability Accountability Act (HIPAA).

Revenue for fiscal year 2001 totaled \$10,813,471. Expenses for the fiscal year totaled \$10,719,528.

The office of Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services operates under the direction of an 18-member board. Ten of the board members are appointed by the County Commissioners, four by the Ohio Department of Mental Health, and the remaining four by the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services. ●

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER

Douglas M. Garman, Ph. D., Superintendent

The Educational Service Center furnishes leadership and consultation to area school districts to assist them in achieving their goals for students. The Center provides curriculum development, student recognition and enrichment programs, professional development for instructional staff, cooperative grant-writing initiatives, technical assistance to administrators collaborative special education programs, and educational programs to adjudicated youth. Services designed to meet the diverse needs of the schools are offered to nine districts within the County. In addition, the Center holds 226 service contracts with 73 school districts and agencies throughout the state.

During the fiscal year 2001, the Educational Service Center's 339 employees provided services to 11,810 students in Wood County. The Center's teachers had an average of 11 years of experience and nearly half held at least a master's degree.

Revenue for fiscal year 2001 totaled \$11,431,741. The state provided 22 percent of the revenue funds. The federal government supplied 9 percent and 69 percent was contributed on the local level. Expenditures for the fiscal year totaled \$11,251,522.

Administrative organizational changes were implemented to streamline the operation of the Center. Four administrative positions — Director of Instructional Services/Personnel, Director of Special Needs, Director of Preschool and Director of

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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

The Board of Elections is responsible for the administration and execution of primary, general and special elections. These responsibilities include the administration of the absentee voter program, coordination of the polling official volunteers, auditing of all campaign financial reports, and verification of all candidates and ballot issues for compliance with all Ohio Revised Code requirements. In addition the office maintains all current and historical voter information, as well as detailed election records, which are made available to the public.

In 2001, the Board of Elections held five elections: two Special Elections held on February 6 and August 7; two Primary Elections held on May 8 and September 4 and a General Election on November 6. Voters selected office holders from more than 240 candidates for city, village, township and school board offices throughout the County. In addition voters considered 48 local issues during the year including seven city charter amendments, five proposed ordinances, four local liquor options and 32 tax issues.

Wood County voters cast their ballots in 104 precincts in 74 locations. The voter registration total for Wood County is approximately 75,000 voters - a decrease of 10,000 voters from the number of registered voters in 2000. This decrease in registered voters was the result of purging inactive voters from the rolls, the first allowed under the National Voter Registration Act of 1993. Prior to this Act voters could be purged from the system after four years of not voting or contact with the Board of Elections. Under this Act voters are held in the system as eligible voters for a maximum of eight years.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Larry M. Sorrells, RS, MSEH Health Commissioner

The Health Department, with its 47 full-time and six part-time staff members, takes the initiative to assure that conditions in the County permit residents to lead healthy lives by assessing health issues and taking steps to prevent disease. Residents are protected from health risks by numerous services including WIC (Women and Infant Children), immunization clinics, child health clinics, licensing, inspections, and education programs administered through the Board of Health.

Following the tragic events of September 11, the Health Department in, cooperation with the Emergency Management Agency, Sheriff's Office, local law enforcement, and the Wood County Hospital faced new challenges dealing with Anthrax and other bio-terrorism concerns. Threats from whatever source took on new meaning and top priority nationally and locally.

On the state front, Governor Taft led a new initiative calling for greater coordination in assistance to children and families. Eligible children, families and pregnant women in Wood County and throughout the state received free or low cost health care insurance provided by Healthy Start Healthy Families. The State also combined three existing programs — Early Intervention, Early Start, and Welcome Home — into one

A combined retail food protection program was introduced during the year and was administered by the environmental division of the Health Department. This state-mandated program combined all licensing and inspection of retail food

The Wood County Board of Elections web site was moved to the new county web server. This move allowed the Board of Elections to reduce costs and allow for future expansion of web services. The web page, www.co.wood.oh.us/BOE, contains information regarding the current election calendar, elected officials, voting information as well as election results.

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

unified program called Help Me Grow that focused on supporting the needs of children birth to three years and their families.

In Liberty Township, the construction of a large dairy provoked citizen concerns. The Health Department responded by assisting neighbors of the dairy with testing and evaluating wells so residents could monitor their individual water supplies. Many questions remain about the impact that such a facility will have on the surrounding community and the environment.

Promoting healthy people in healthy communities remained a primary focus of the Health Department. One of the major, ongoing challenges is the prevention of contagious disease. Additional programs were designed to prevent injuries, disabilities, and chronic disease. The key to success for public health professionals can be summed up in one word, PREVENTION!

The Health Department provided flu vaccinations for those at risk as a priority and then offered vaccines to others who wanted the protection. Recent analysis of immunization activity showed that the Health Department administered approximately 10,000 immunizations in 2001.

A combined retail food protection program was introduced during the year and was administered by the environmental division of the Health Department. This state-mandated program combined all licensing and inspection of retail food

CONTINUED BELOW...

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Doris Herringshaw, Extension Agent, Family & Consumer Sciences & County Chair

The Ohio State University Extension Office strives to provide current, up-to-date information on agriculture and natural resources, community development, family and consumer sciences and 4-H youth development.

In 2001, the Livestock Education Junior Team placed first at the Ohio State Fair, while the Senior Team placed third. This was just a small representation of Wood County's 79 4-H Clubs and 1,300 members. During 2001, 240 4-H advisors provided assistant to the Clubs. A total of 560 youth attended 4-H Camp Palmer and other special youth camps, while 120 older youth were trained and participated in 4-H leadership positions.

The 4-H In-School Enrichment enrollment served 3,200 children in grades one through five in 50 different classrooms. Participants developed an understanding of scientific principles and concepts and were exposed to science in a fun, hands-on environment.

In July, Wood County hosted the 50th Anniversary of the Ohio Cattlemen's Summer Roundup. The Ohio Cattlemen's Association represents beef producers throughout the State and within Wood County through its grassroots efforts to promote the economic, political and social needs of Ohio's cattle producers, while increasing the demand for beef and beef product. More than 300 people participated from all across Ohio.

Through the Extension Office's horticulture programs, 1,900 residents received horticulture information and knowledge. Continuing education for crop producers was provided through the agriculture re-certification program and Northern Ohio Crops Day.

A total of 1,229 adults participated in a variety of family and consumer science programs such as food safety, nutrition, family life, and financial management. In northern Wood County, 387 families participated in the Expanded Food and Nutrition Program. Community Development programs assisted 275 individuals with training for leadership skills, while three Master Clothing Volunteers logged 75 hours each teaching youth audiences the skills of clothing

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LAW LIBRARY

Judith Gill, Librarian

Ohio Law requires each county to provide a law library for county judges and elected officials. A six member Board of Trustees determines policy matters and general governance, while the Law Librarian is responsible for daily administration. The County provides funding for the facility and staff. Operating expenses, books, and supplies are funded by fine monies from the Courts. The Library's primary mission is to provide for the information needs of the Courts and local government. Although the Library is a private library, the Board of Trustees has extended access to the public as a matter of community service.

Renovation work began at the Old County Jail to move the Library closer to the courts.

NORTHWESTERN WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

Jerry Greiner, Executive Director

The Northwestern Water and Sewer District is responsible for providing water and wastewater treatment services to County residents. The District provides these services through agreements with Lucas County, Bowling Green, Fostoria, Oregon, Perrysburg, and Toledo. The District operates over 50 pump stations, 2 water towers, thousands of water fire hydrants and more than 200 miles of water lines and sanitary sewers. A nine-member board led by Alex Molner, President; Lyle Schulte, Vice President; and John Current, Secretary-Treasurer oversees the District's operations. Board members serve six-year terms and are appointed by three different entities: townships, municipalities that are members of the district, and the County Commissioners.

The District was renamed in January from the Regional Water and Sewer District to the Northwestern Water and Sewer District to better reflect the District's coverage area. Continued strong growth in residential and commercial development fueled the continued need for utilities in the County. The District issued 150 sanitary sewer permits and 84 water permits for services. This in turn increased the District's customer base.

Just over a decade ago, the bulk and weight of the Law Library collection required relocation to a facility outside Courthouse Square. New technologies in data storage and retrieval will allow the collection to shrink in size and weight, while still maintaining the needed information.

The Law Library collection was expanded to include online access to statutes, regulations and case reports for the federal level and all 50 states. The conversion to digital format provided a more space-efficient facility, as well as better research through electronic search methods and up-to-the-minute information.

The hard copy collection includes scholarly works and legal practice materials, with an emphasis on matters governed by Ohio law.

The Law Library operates under Section 3375.48 et. seq. of the Ohio Revised Code. ●

Highly visible growth occurred in areas such as US Route 20. Residential needs were met in Lake Township, Perry Township, Perrysburg Township, and Middleton Township. Repair and replacement projects required attention in Millbury, Jerry City and Walbridge.

Planning continued for service to Rudolph, Custar, Milton Center, Risingsun, and Lake Township, in addition to new water needs in Jerry City and Moline.

Several grants were secured from local, state, and federal funding agencies. These directly benefited the users and reduced capital spending and operating costs. The combined assets of the District are approximately \$80,000,000.

Construction began on a new facility to house the District's 30 employees. The new facility, located off State Route 582, will be completed in fall 2002. Currently, 10 of the employees work in Bowling Green, while the remaining 20 employees work from the field office on State Route 51, Woodville Road. Of these employees, 15 are professional, licensed operators for water treatment and distribution and/or wastewater treatment collection.

The Northwestern Water and Sewer District operates under Section 6119 of the Ohio Revised Code. ●

HEALTH DEPARTMENT CONTINUED...

protection into one local health department program. The new retail food protection program eliminated the confusing practice of duplicate inspectors and licensing and resulted in improved retail food safety.

The second Community Health Assessment of Wood County was distributed. With a generous contribution by the Wood County Hospital Foundation, Ned Baker, MPH, was retained as project facilitator. The objectives of the assessment are to identify the significant health needs in our community and to provide direction to allied health and human service agencies to work towards improvement of health status.

NORTHWEST COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS CENTER WORK INDUSTRY

Michael A Crawford, Coordinator

The WORK Industry is an employment training program operated by the Northwest Community Corrections Center Judicial Corrections Board and supported by the Wood County Commissioners. Referrals are accepted from the Wood County Common Pleas and Municipal Courts, Northwest Community Corrections Center and other Wood County Community Agencies. The mission of the WORK Industry is to assist offenders in leading productive, pro-social lives through the development of a meaningful work ethic.

Planning, development, and improvement at the WORK Industry initiated in calendar year 2000 affected programming growth in 2001. An upgrade in environmental controls and the implementation of certified lift truck training were the greatest enhancements. The expansion of the transitional employment sites also influenced program effectiveness. Planning is underway to provide more skilled training in the next fiscal year.

Barriers to employment were assessed through on-the-job evaluations. Training was provided in a "real work," factory workshop environment and at transitional employment work sites. The WORK Industry linked participants to other community agencies, various training institutions and employers.

Amended Substitute Senate Bill 136 became law in late November 2001. Among other things this bill established a health district licensing committee with the responsibility of appointing one member to the Board of Health.

The 11-member Board of Health, in addition to appointing the Health Commissioner, assumes the responsibility of overseeing department activities to provide for the protection and promotion of health for those living and visiting Wood County. Alice Davis is the current president. The Board generally meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month in the Board Room at 1840 East Gypsy Lane Road. ●

The WORK Industry workshop provided work to participants through subcontracts with local manufacturers and contractors. Workshop participants learn assembly, packaging and woodworking.

The transitional employment program is a powerful practical approach to integrating offenders back into the productive workforce. Participants of transitional employment gained valuable work experience in the mainstream workplace while benefiting Wood County employers with much needed labor participants.

By the end of fiscal year 2000, the WORK Industry had enrolled 85 participants and assisted in the placement of 44 workers in full-time gainful employment. The 85 participants worked a total of 15,564 hours paid from the revenue of generated sales, service and labor contracts. Participants performed 8,191 hours of labor in the workshop for minimum wage, with 7,373 hours performed at community transitional work sites for wages varying between \$7.50-\$8.50 per hour.

As participants work for wages, pay child support Wood County taxes, the community benefits and the offenders begin to live productive, pro-social lives. While at the WORK Industry, participants contributed toward their responsibilities by paying child support and taxes totaling \$12,218.00.

The WORK Industry is a division of Northwest Community Corrections Center that operates under a Judicial Corrections Board. ●

INDEPENDENT AGENCIES CONT.

PARK DISTRICT

George E. Thompson, Chair
C. Robert Boyd, Vice Chair
Dorothea Barker, Vice Chair
Neil A. Munger, Director/Secretary

The Wood County Park District was established in 1934, under section 1545 of the Ohio Revised Code as a separate political subdivision of the State of Ohio. Principle funding for the Park District is in the form of a tax levy approved by the voters of Wood County. The current 10-year levy, which was passed by Wood County voters in May of 1998, provides income for operations, permanent improvements and land acquisition. Additional funding is obtained through direct donations, grants and the collection of fees, rentals, and fines.

After being approached by a group of citizens concerned about the preservation of a 38-acre parcel of land located adjacent to the Slippery Elm Trail within Bowling Green city limits, the Board of Park Commissioners took action and acquired the parcel. Plans for the property have not been finalized, however initial plans include parking and access for the Slippery Elm Trail, with restroom facilities. In addition, through an agreement with the City of Bowling Green, a storm water retention pond will be constructed, providing another recreational opportunity for County residents.

Capital improvements in the Wood County Parks remained a high priority with the final preparations made to the first phase of development at the Bradner Preserve on Caldwell Road, including trails and a meadow parking area. On Sunday, August 30, 2001, the Park District opened the County's newest preserve. The day's festivities included a

ribbon cutting, naturalist-led hikes, informational displays, refreshments provided by the Friends of the Parks, and an informational presentation by Nature's Nursery Wildlife Rehabilitation Education Center. Other improvements in the south district included the completion of the Rudolph Rest Stop on the Slippery Elm Trail, and numerous improvements to William Henry Harrison Park in Pemberville.

The north district kept extremely busy with remodeling jobs at Otsego Park and Park District Headquarters. Growth in the Park District staff has translated into a shortage of office space. Plans were made for an addition to Park District Headquarters; however, due to cost constraints, Park District staff were forced to explore other options. As a result, the existing maintenance storage area in the Marlow River Overlook at Otsego Park was remodeled and divided into a maintenance office and an office for the interpretive naturalist staff. This not only provided relief to the overcrowding at the Headquarters, but also allowed the naturalist staff to better serve the public by opening an office in one of the County's most popular parks. Improvements at the Park District Headquarters included remodeling offices and replacing carpet throughout the building. The final renovation was the addition of a kitchenette for use by both groups utilizing the Community Classroom meeting facility and Park District staff, which should be completed by mid February 2002. Additional improvements in the north district included a joint project with the county maintenance department for the remodeling of the chicken coop at the Wood County Historical Center, and various improvements to the grounds, including the installation of a historical marker and several landscaping projects. ●

HOW TO CONTACT US...

CALL 419.354.9000

and let us help you or call toll-free from:

Deshler/Hoyville: 419.278.3797

Grand Rapids: 419.832.1541

Fostoria/Rising Sun: 419.457.4545

Perrysburg/Toledo: 419.243.4223

Luckey/Stony Ridge: 419.833.5211

North Baltimore/Bloomdale: 419.257.3259

Visit our website: www.co.wood.oh.us



PUBLIC DEFENDER

Kathleen Hamm, Chief Public Defender

Established in 1979, the Public Defender's Office provides constitutionally mandated legal representation for indigent defendants in juvenile and criminal cases. Individuals are represented in the Bowling Green, Perrysburg, and Fostoria Municipal Courts, Juvenile Court, Common Pleas Court, and all levels of the Appellate Court.

In 2001, the Office of the Public Defender represented approximately 2,750 clients. The Office is appointed by the Courts to represent eligible defendants that qualified for Public Defender representation under the Ohio Public Defender Commission Standards of Indigency, Admin. Code Sec. 120-1-03. Cases included felonies,

misdemeanors, delinquencies, status offenses, appeals and other post-conviction remedies. When a conflict existed, the case was assigned to outside counsel.

Since 1994, the Public Defender has operated a satellite office at the Perrysburg Municipal Court to accommodate the significant Northern Wood County caseload.

Funds for appointment of counsel are budgeted by the County and reimbursed by the State at an average of 42 percent.

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

MISSION STATEMENT — The Wood County Veterans Assistance Center advises and assists persons in the Armed Forces of the United States, veterans, and their families in obtaining rights and benefits under any law of the United States. We advocate for the protection of these benefits and rights.

Our goal is to provide compassionate, high quality services to Wood County veterans and their families. We strive to accomplish this by making our clients, rather than the benefit program, our central focus. We seek opportunities to increase service delivery effectiveness by implementing partnerships with other public and private agencies.

Due to the slow-down of the economy during the year, County veterans reached out for \$51,001.52 in emergency financial assistance through the Center, up \$11,334.18 from last year's disbursements. The number of claims continued to rise with an aging veteran population resulting in increased use of medical and nursing home benefits.

For every dollar spent by the County on veteran assistance in 2001, the Veterans Assistance Center brought \$28.37 in federal money into the County. This \$5.7 million benefited those veterans who were directly receiving these funds. In addition, the

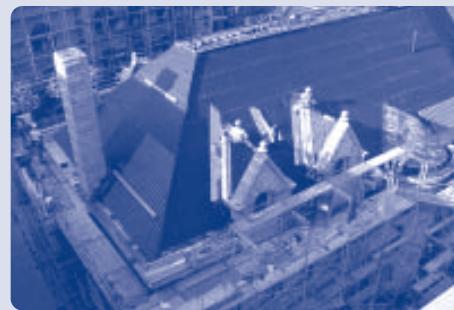
economy benefited because these federal funds increased the purchasing power of veterans and their families.

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

STATISTICS FOR 2001

Veterans Residing in Wood County	10,217
Total Client Contacts:	7,917
(includes at office and telephone interviews, claim processing, financial assistance investigations, and case management)	
Veterans Transported to Medical facilities	267
Newsletters Distributed	8,000
Memorial Day Appropriations	\$7,105
Flags and Grave Markers Distributed	5,170
Emergency Financial Assistance	\$51,001.52
Federal VA Claims/ Documents Processed	13,115
Total Federal Dollars Brought into County	\$5,752,603
Return per County Dollar	\$28.47

Exterior Restoration of the Courthouse & Old Jail



Award Contracts: \$2,845,650

Contractor: Grunwell-Cashero, Inc.

Architect: Historical Design Group

2001 Work Completed: Phase I of project — Old Jail and north and west sides of Courthouse



PLANNING COMMISSION

David Miesmer, Director

The Planning Commission administers policy concerning residential and commercial subdivisions, zoning regulations, and land use issues. The staff approves parcel splits, assigns rural addresses, and issues floodplain development permits. They also administer the County's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP). The Commission is also responsible for revising and promoting adherence to the Wood County Comprehensive Plan and assisting townships and villages in their local zoning programs.

During 2001, the Wood County Planning Commission reviewed 14 requests for rezoning totaling 622.062 acres. Of the requests, 12 were approved, one was modified, and one was denied. The Commission also reviewed and approved seven amendments to township zoning resolutions.

The Commission reviewed and approved 11 preliminary/final residential subdivisions totaling 566.789 acres. One preliminary/final industrial subdivision and three preliminary/final commercial subdivisions totaling 110.6 acres were also reviewed and approved.

In addition to the larger platted subdivisions, the Planning Commission staff also reviewed and processed 359 unplatated land subdivisions totaling 3,276 acres. Of these 359 subdivisions, 314 were splits from larger tracts of land, 35 were combinations of existing parcels, and 10 were expansions of existing parcels of land.

An award of \$356,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for fiscal year 2001 provided infrastructure improvements, ADA renovations, and economic development projects assistance and benefits to low and moderate-income (LAG) households in the County. These funds also enhance quality of life through the development of recreational and cultural facilities. Nine construction projects throughout the County benefited from the

monies including: ADA renovations in the Cities of Perrysburg, Rossford, Northwood, the Villages of Wayne, and West Milgrove. These funds are providing public facilities and utilities in the Villages of Custer and Portage, and are also being used to assist residents of the unincorporated Village of Rudolph in Liberty Township with septic tank testing and abandonment, and for tap in fees for sanitary sewer services.

Wood County also received \$500,000 in CHIP funds in August 2001. These funds were used to assist low and moderate income residents residing in Wood County's villages and townships with emergency home repair, home renovations, and first time homeowner down payment assistance.

An award of \$500,000 in CDBG funds in November 2001 aided the Northwestern Water and Sewer District with sanitary sewer projects in the unincorporated Village of Rudolph.

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

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Nicki Kale, District 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 money provided by the Wood County Commissioners, which is matched by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Soil and Water Conservation District. SWCD operates under Chapter 1515 of the Ohio Revised Code. Policies are set by a five-member board of supervisors who are elected for a three-year term by residents of the district.

The year 2001 was very successful for the Wood Soil and Water Conservation District

Buffer Strip Program. An Ohio EPA 319 Non-Point Source Grant was funded for the establishment of filter strips in the Toussaint and Packer Creek Watersheds. This program offered eligible landowners a \$250 per acre, one time bonus, for any buffer strips located in the above listed watersheds. For projects outside the grant area but in the targeted townships, Wood County offered a \$100 per acre, one time bonus, for new buffer strips. As an additional incentive for landowners to sign up for a buffer strip, the Wood SWCD and the Wood-Lucas Pheasants Forever Chapter seeded the filter strips at no cost to the landowner. The northeast quadrant of the county (Center, Webster, Freedom, Troy, and Lake Townships) was targeted with promotional and incentive programs provided through our office and funding provided by the Wood County Commissioners.

Conservation Day Camp was established in 2001. With cooperation from several agencies, the week long camp for fifth and

sixth graders was held at the Agriculture Incubator Foundation site located off State Route 582.

The modernization of the soil survey continued with soils information being digitized for computer format. The digitized version of the Soil Survey for Wood County is complete and should be ready for distribution in the near future.

The District operates on money provided by the Wood County Commissioners, which is matched by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

The Soil and Water Conservation District operates under Chapter 1515 of the Ohio Revised Code. Policies are set by a five-member board of supervisors who are elected for a three-year term by residents of the District. ●

WOOD LANE/WOOD COUNTY BOARD OF MENTAL RETARDATION AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

William G. Clifford, Superintendent

The Wood County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MR/DD), known throughout the County as Wood Lane, provides community-based support for eligible infants, children, and adults who wish to live, learn, work and participate in the community.

Wood Lane received a three-year accreditation (2001 – 2004) from the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.

Families participated in a state-wide grass roots effort to communicate to legislators the need for funding for residential services for individuals. A campaign entitled "It's Our Turn Now", focused on the need to secure funds for needed residential services for individuals, especially individuals who are living at home with aging parents/caregivers. As a result, new funding systems are being developed to access additional Medicaid dollars.

The support of voters in 2000 enabled Wood Lane to fulfill promises made during

the levy campaign. Personal attendants were hired to work with individuals at Wood Lane Industries while the shuttle service has expanded to provide reliable transportation to and from work for individuals who cannot drive. As a result, workers with disabilities through Wood Lane Industries and Community Employment Services have grossed over \$1.1 million dollars in wages. Each individual has also paid his or her share of taxes.

A joint agreement will move Wood Lane's early intervention services to the Jordan Center in 2002. Infants and children under the age of three who have a developmental disability or delay will receive support and services with typically developing children at the Jordan Center on the campus of Bowling Green State University.

The Wood Lane Friendship Wall was established with numerous families, friends and board members paying tribute to a person(s) who has been of support to them or Wood Lane. Also honored this year were David C. Miller, Mark Pickard, Dr. Thomas Wojciechowski, Sr., Dr. Jack Whittaker and Dr. Theodore Sipes for their significant contributions to the program.

The Wood Lane Foundation distributed grants to Wood Lane Residential Services, Inc. for recreational opportunities for individuals. Wood County Special Olympics

received a grant to fund a full-time undergraduate student intern to work with Special Olympics for a semester.

The Board of MR/DD operates under Section 5126 of the Ohio Revised Code. ●

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construction, care, and storage. Thirteen people completed an 18-hour food safety training program for food business managers and 138 participants learned new food safety information.

Eighty Master Gardeners volunteered more than 6,218 hours of beautification work at 20 Wood County locations. The Homemakers Club sponsored fair demonstrations, heritage skills and holiday happenings for communities within the county.

Skin cancer awareness and sun safety techniques were discussed with more than 500 people.

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