

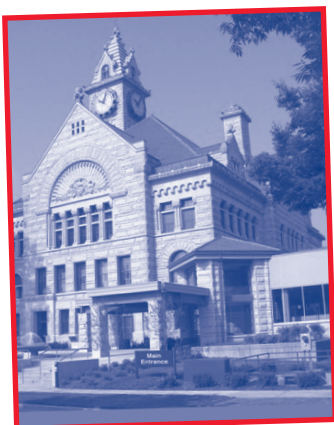
Wood County²⁰⁰⁴OHIO Annual Report

www.co.wood.oh.us

A Message from the Board of County Commissioners

We are pleased to provide this annual update to you – the citizens of Wood County – to share the many good things that are happening in County government. Through on-going efforts to manage a period of uncertainty with regard to county revenues, we have been able, with the cooperation of our fellow County elected officials, to trim expenses while continuing quality services to the citizens of Wood County.

The \$2.2 million Courthouse Atrium project that commenced in July 2003, was completed in June 2004. This project will allow for expanded security in accordance with the requirements of the Ohio Supreme Court, as well as address significant building drainage and water damage issues associated with the plaza area and basement among the three buildings. This project was made possible through the efforts of Senator Randy Gardner to obtain \$1 million from the State capital budget. The Atrium also provides a permanent home for the Ohio Bicentennial Bell that was cast at the Pemberville Free Fair in 2003. We sincerely appreciate the patience and cooperation of the visitors to the Courthouse Complex throughout the construction of the Atrium and the other renovation projects that have occurred over the past few years.



With the completion of the Atrium, and in compliance with the Bowling Green Clean Air Act, we designated the buildings and grounds of the Courthouse Complex as a smoke free environment. We appreciate the cooperation of staff and visitors to the county offices in this regard.

The success of the Wood County Economic Development Commission in reinforcing a diverse local economy is clearly evident. While 2004 may have been fairly slow in terms of industrial expansion and

attraction, the success of previous years is evident through a low unemployment rate and through the expansion of retail opportunities in Wood County. An excellent example of this is the new Levis Commons lifestyle center that opened in October 2004. We encourage our citizens to shop in Wood County. When purchases are made locally, the sales tax dollars remain in Wood County to fund county government. With all the diverse retail opportunities in Wood County, there is even more reason to shop right here at home.

With the cooperation of the County elected officials, we have made a concerted effort to rein in expenses due to our concerns about the sluggish economy, lower returns on our investments, and a decline of general fund revenues. We remain very concerned about the possibility of more cuts to local government funds by the state legislature. These are concerns that you as taxpayers should be very concerned about as well.

We remain excited about the future prospects for Wood County despite some of the challenges we face. Our challenge, as county commissioners, is to find a way to balance the needs of an expanding population, enhance the attractiveness of the County for industrial and commercial development, protect prime farmland and protect the quality of life that that citizens of Wood County have come to expect.

In October 2004, construction began on a project that will expand the physical therapy services at Wood Haven Health Care (formerly known as the Wood County Nursing Home). The project, funded by a generous contribution from the Harold and Ivalou Bordner Foundation, will allow Wood Haven to offer out-patient therapy services beginning in the spring of 2005. As you may recall, the Bordner Foundation previously funded the installation of a resident lift system, comprised of ceiling, floor and bath lifts, and fast electric beds. These important improvements focus on assuring the dignity and quality of life for Wood Haven residents, as well as providing a quality, safe working environment for Wood Haven staff.

Through a cooperative effort with the Wood County Park District, we were pleased to make the pond near I-75, at our East Gypsy Lane Complex available for fishing. The Park District will manage and operate the site.

Also at our East Gypsy Lane Complex, we were pleased to work in cooperation with the Wood County Committee on Aging to provide land for their proposed kitchen project. The Committee on Aging has done a tremendous job providing home meals to seniors to help them remain independent in their own homes. We are pleased to help with this important project.

In a renewed effort to encourage dog owners to comply with state dog license laws, we initiated a door-to-door dog license check program during 2004. Through these and other efforts from the Wood County Dog Shelter staff, 1,526 more licenses were sold in 2004 than were sold in 2003. Door-to-Door license checks will resume in 2005. In addition, dog owners can now purchase their dog licenses on-line through the Wood County Auditor's Office.

Two additional, 1.8 megawatt wind turbines were erected at the landfill to generate green power through a partnership with Wood County, the City of Bowling Green, and AMP-Ohio. The four units are the largest wind generation units east of the Rocky Mountains, and take advantage of one of Wood County's most abundant resources -- the wind.

We hope you will take time to read this annual report to learn about the many good things that area happening in Wood County. We also encourage you to actively participate in your local government through service on a board, commission, or by attending one of our town meetings that are held regularly throughout Wood County.

The Board of County Commissioners
Wood County, Ohio

James F. Carter
Alvin L. Perkins
Tim W. Brown

2004 BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

James F. Carter, President; Tim W. Brown, Vice President; Alvin L. Perkins
Andrew S. Kalmar, County Administrator
Kristy A. Muir, Clerk of the Board/Budget Director
Janese Diem, Editor

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.



Alvin L. Perkins

In a continuing effort to address Homeland Security issues in Wood County the Commissioners participated in a training exercise along with numerous county, city, village, and township agencies, in cooperation with the Wood County Emergency Management Agency. The training simulated a large-scale disease outbreak and emphasized the many stages of a cooperative response among local, state, and federal entities.

Inspection of 486 bridges throughout the County was completed in order to comply with Ohio Revised Code requirements that all bridges be inspected annually, as well as to meet a state auditor's rule that requires counties to list all their properties and indicate the value of each. Bridge work is a primary responsibility of the Engineer, with the majority of construction dollars coming from license fees and gas taxes. The Commissioners have tried to bolster bridge renovation efforts by providing \$4.9 million from the General Fund since 1999.

Humped railroad crossings remain problematic in the County. The crossing at Custar Road in Jackson Township was completed during 2004. Others will continue to be addressed.

In a continuing effort to address drainage and water quality here in what was the Great Black Swamp, Wood County supported the filter strip program through the Wood Soil & Water Conservation District. A total of \$100,000 has been made available over a five year period for improved



James F. Carter

conservation efforts in the county. Wood County is the only county in the state to supplement this program. Wood County has some of the best farmland in the State of Ohio and the nation and is home to a strong agricultural community that averages more than \$100 million in cash receipts each year. Plans to create a one-stop shop for agricultural services including, Ag Credit, Farm Service Agency, OSU Extension, Agriculture Business Enhancement Center and the

Soil and Water Conservation District are on-going.

Accessibility to the public is a priority for the Commissioners who held open forum, Town Hall meetings throughout the county. Open Forum time is also scheduled every Tuesday and Thursday during the Commissioners' regular sessions.

Citizens in Wood County helped comply with air quality standards by heeding the ozone warnings last year. The Commissioners continue to have concerns regarding air quality testing related to particulate matter. Under new regulations proposed by the EPA, Wood County was designated as being out-of-attainment for particulate air quality. Unfortunately this judgment was rendered even though there is no particulate air quality monitoring equipment located in Wood County. The Commissioners continue to play an active role in making sure that the rules that are applied to Wood County are done so in a manner that is fair and based on scientific evidence.

The housing boom in Wood County continued with 616 new housing starts during 2004.



Tim W. Brown

The workload in other County offices, such as the Clerk of Courts, Recorder, and Sheriff, grew with this trend. A significant increase in Court related activity is reflected in the fact that the Wood County Justice Center was at full capacity for most of 2004, with inmates being housed in other county jails as needed. The housing of inmates at other county facilities cost the Wood County taxpayers over \$270,000 in 2004.

The escalating cost of indigent defense is also of concern to the Commissioners. The state legislature mandates that counties must provide legal defense for indigent people. Years ago, the state legislature agreed to provide 50 percent of the funding for this, with counties picking up the remaining 50 percent. As of 2004, the state share was down to 31 percent, placing an increasingly large burden on county taxpayers.

The Commissioners appoint members to a wide variety of boards and commissions, such as the Mental Retardation and Development Disabilities Board, the Alcohol Drug Addition & Mental Health Services Board, the Airport Authority, and the Historical Society Board. Over the past several years, the Commissioners have established a process whereby they meet in public session with every person that is appointed or reappointed to these Boards and Commissions. Citizen participation in local government is imperative and these meetings provide

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 38 municipalities including Bowling Green, Perrysburg, Northwood, Rossford, Fostoria, Findlay, Mt. Blanchard, Deshler, Napoleon, and Ridgeville Corners, making Wood County the largest building inspection department in the State. The Building Inspection Department also conducts residential building inspections within Wood County, accounting for 49 percent of all fees collected.

During 2004, the Department issued 6,738 permits. The issuance of permits resulted in 22,136 field inspections, with 2,299 lists of deficiencies requiring corrective action. Of the inspections conducted, 18,409 occurred inside Wood County resulting in 13,658 residential and 4,751 commercial.

Although a 20 percent fee increase was imposed, the Department experienced a 20 percent increase in issued permits and completed inspections.

Receipts for 2004 totaled \$1,625,098.78. Wood County residential and commercial receipts totaled \$1,270,382.98. Hancock County commercial inspections added an additional \$270,140.86, with Henry County adding \$84,574.94.

Upgrades to the Department's website were discussed allowing residents to fill in forms to download. Another feature will provide access to inspection results. The changes will be in place in the spring of 2005.

With the new Ohio Building Code taking effect in March 2005, staff received training in preparation for the changes.

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

A PARTIAL LIST OF PERMITS ISSUED IN 2003

One, two, and three family dwellings (Wood County only)	616
Additions or alterations to single family dwellings (Wood County only)	305
New residential garages (Wood County only)	180
New commercial structures (Wood, Hancock, & Henry Counties)	282
Additions or alterations to commercial structures (Wood, Hancock, & Henry Counties)	331

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 2004, the Child Support Enforcement Agency collected \$18,378,613.77 and disbursed this amount to the custodial parents of children due child support. Additionally, \$469,785.33 was collected and returned to the State of Ohio for cases where Ohio Works First (OWF) was paid for families in need. Reimbursements of \$46,272.19 were paid to the Department of Job and Family Services for children in Wood County foster care living situations.

During 2004, the Agency's legal staff initiated 473 contempt of court actions and 82 counts of misdemeanor criminal nonsupport at the Bowling Green Municipal Court. These two activities alone directly resulted in lump-sum payments of more than \$211,000 and reinitiated regular child support payments for Wood County's children. The Agency's legal staff also recovered more than \$25,000 through administrative activities such as probate actions, liens, and attachment of retirement accounts. Wood County continued its aggressive felony prosecution of criminal nonsupport, with 10 delinquent payors being referred to the Wood County Prosecuting Attorney's Office for felony action in 2004.

During August, Ohio's Child Support Awareness Month, a list of active non-support warrants was placed in the *Sentinel-Tribune*, which directly resulted in the service of 24 warrants and a total collection of approximately \$24,000. Staff from the Agency was available at the Wood County Fair to answer questions

about child support and to collect information regarding the published list of warrants.

In November 2004, the Agency participated in the state-wide "Round-Up" of payors who had warrants outstanding for child support non-payment. Three individuals were apprehended who owed a combined amount of over \$63,000 at the time of the arrests. Throughout 2004, the Agency initiated the execution of more than 200 warrants by various law enforcement agencies.

Utilization of the Financial Institution Data Match (FIDM) continued to expand in 2004. This program allows for the exchange of information on the bank accounts of individuals who owe more than one month's child support. More than \$87,000 was collected from 110 bank accounts, with nearly \$6,000 seized from one account alone.

Throughout the year, the Agency worked to resolve 77 paternity establishment cases locally, in addition to approximately 334 father-child relationships acknowledged by new fathers and mothers at the time of a child's birth. Most of the 77 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, 2004, the Agency had 6,469 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.

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

Buildings and Grounds

COURTHOUSE COMPLEX: Bill Lorenzen, Superintendent
EAST GYPSY LANE COMPLEX : Harry Allison, Superintendent (Jan. 1 - Feb. 27, 2004)
Alan Stoots, Superintendent (March 24 - Dec. 31, 2004)

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.

East Gypsy Lane Complex

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

Maintenance staff performed lighting upgrades at the Justice Center, and throughout the complex as needed.

Drainage improvements at the Justice Center and Historical Center reduced standing water. Road resurfacing work south of the Work Industry and concrete work near three drains also assisted in this effort.

The installation of HVAC digital computer controls at Child Support gave staff the ability to monitor the building from remote locations.

Numerous building updates were completed during the year including roofs at the Dunbrige Road Building and the Lunatic House Porch at the

Historical Center; fans and dampers were added at the Dog Shelter; cabinets were installed at the Justice Center, Health Department, and Fuel Facility; and renovations continued at Wood Haven.

Courthouse Complex

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

During 2004, Courthouse Complex Maintenance assisted with the release and sale of used equipment in the County's Internet Auction process.

Work continued on modernizing and retro-fitting lighting systems throughout the Courthouse and Office Building to reduce costs. This project included installation of motion sensor light switches in restrooms.

Staff coordinated the construction of a new office in the Prosecuting Attorney's Office; installation of a new judge's bench for Domestic Relations's spare courtroom; installation of gas lamps on the front entrance of the Courthouse; creation of a new employee parking lot and relocation of meters to the visitor's lot.

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

Internet Auction Proves Successful

In 2003, the Board of County Commissioners authorized an Internet Auction site for the sale of unneeded or obsolete County personal property.

For purposes of the Internet Auction, personal property includes: motor vehicles, road machinery, equipment, tools, or supplies.

All items are made available first to other county departments, townships, municipalities, and other subdivisions of the State of Ohio for a period of five days. All items remaining following the five day classified posting period will be posted for a minimum of 15 days under the surplus postings.

This format resulted in the collection of \$21,344.54 during the year, up from \$11,252.50 in 2004. Of the funds collected, \$10,709.53 was deposited into the County's general fund, with the remaining funds returned to the originating departments. The Internet Auction is listed under eServices.

For more information regarding the Internet Auction, visit the County website at www.co.wood.oh.us.

Department of Job and Family Services

Ruth Larabee, Administrator (Jan. 1 - May 28, 2004)
Paulette Stephens, Administrator (May 17 - Dec. 31, 2004)

The Department of Job and Family Services, which operates under the Board of County Commissioners, administers federal, state, and county legislated and regulated basic needs assistance; workforce development; child and adult protective services; and social services in the County.

In 2004, the Department of Job and Family Services administered \$74,511,612 in various programs. Of this amount, 96.4 percent came from federal and state sources, with the remaining 3.6 percent from local sources. Over \$66 million (approx. 89%) was attributable to Medicaid.

Wood County residents received assistance with basic needs of food, clothing, shelter, and medical care as follows: 227 Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) cash payment cases per month; 5,363 Medicaid cases per month averaging \$5,515,308 per month with 74 percent for those who are aged/blind/disabled and in the community, 8 percent for nursing home care, and 18 percent for children and families; \$175,573 monthly food stamp issuance, averaging \$48 per person and \$102 per case – this includes an average of 1,683 children in Wood County; 47 adult disability assistance cases per month, at \$115 per month per person; and \$313,159 disability assistance medical expenditures in 2004.

As the Workforce Development agency for the County, the Department utilized funds to supply employment and training services for 698 adult customers and 239 dislocated workers during 2004. In addition, the Employment Resource Center assisted 3,029 individuals through the One-

Stop service delivery system, which includes referrals to and from Wood County One-Stop Partner agencies. The Wood County Workforce Development/Employment Resource Center web site, www.woodcountyjobs.com, provided a virtual resource center for job seekers and employers.

In December, the Hancock-Wood-Wyandot Regional One-Stop system was fully certified with the State of Ohio. Certification entitled the One-Stop system to additional funding and training opportunities that would otherwise not be available. Wood County received \$51,724 in Reed Act funding for Outreach/Marketing, Americans with Disabilities Act compliance in the resource center, and technological upgrades to the computer lab.

A total of 43 adults and 108 dislocated workers received funding for training to enhance their employable skills; some obtaining employment with starting wages ranging from \$5.50 to \$20.49 per hour. Strong collaboration with the Wood County Economic Development Commission helped the agency locate and contact area employers needing workforce development services and offer them opportunities for aiding in employee recruiting, upgrading of employees skills, and support for employees effected by business down-sizing.

The Children's Protective Services Unit served 3,631 children in 2004. There were 87 children placed in substitute care at a cost of \$2.1 million. In home, court-monitored protective services were provided to 149 children. The unit provided services to 1,533 children who were reported to be at risk of abuse/neglect and 5



children were placed for adoption.

The Social Services Unit provided information and referral services to 2,612 adults, with or without children. The Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) served 34 households, and the Prevention, Retention, and Contingency (PRC) program served 641 households. Through the PRC program, 89 households benefited from car repairs totaling \$74,824. In August, 710 children received \$347,872 in clothing and \$24,298 in school supplies. Transportation services were provided 1,294 times through Medicaid, Title XX and Levy Funds. Child Care was provided to an average of 341 children each month at an average cost of \$1,347,575 in 2004.

Services to senior citizens included: Homemaker Services provided an average of 180 times per month; Home Health Aide Services (under contract with the Wood County Health Department) provided to an average of 34 consumers per month; and Chore Services reimbursed for an average of 22 persons per month. Adult Protective Services staff provided services to 73 adults.

Intensive Case Management Services were provided to 121 households in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Alternative Assignment program.

The Protective Services Levy partially funded services for children and elders.

The Department of Job and Family Services is also the fiscal agent for Wood County Family and Children First Council and the Wood County Workforce Investment Act (WIA). ●

Dog Shelter

Paula Hamman, Dog Warden

The purpose of the Dog Shelter is to enforce Section 955 of the Ohio Revised Code, which includes checking licenses and the proper confinement of dogs, as well as investigating dog bites, livestock kills, and other related complaints. The Dog Shelter is self-supporting. User's fees, dog licenses, kennel fees, fines and penalties are the primary funding source for the Dog and Kennel Fund which is used to pay salaries, maintain trucks, pay utilities, maintain the building, and pay veterinarian fees.

The number of impounded dogs rose for the first time in six years. During 2004, a larger percent of impounded dogs were under five months of age, helping the Shelter maintain a 68 percent adoption rate for the year.

Realizing that the number of licensed dogs in the county was only about half of the estimated total number of dogs in the county, the Shelter began a door-to-door program to enforce licensing. Shelter staff also sold licenses at several locations throughout the County. As a result of these efforts, dog license sales increased by 1,526 tags.

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

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

2004 STATISTICS	
Miles driven	58,983
Calls answered	1,679
Law enforcement agencies	185
Owners dogs	3
Stray dogs	669
Complaints	711
Animal claims	3
Injured dogs	48
Patrol area	45
Traps set & picked up	15
Dogs impounded	853
Dogs redeemed	314
Dogs adopted	234
Pups impounded	90
Pups adopted/redeemed	78
Dogs euthanized	302
% of pups adopted/redeemed	86.67
% of total dogs adopted/redeemed	68
Kennel licenses sold	126
Dog licenses sold	17,587



Emergency Management Agency

J. Eric Larson, Director

The Emergency Management Agency is responsible for the four phases of emergency management: mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. The Agency assists County government and local communities in responding to natural disasters and special needs situations. Emergency Management is the umbrella of emergency forces that respond to and mitigate an emergency that may occur in Wood County.

In May 2004, the Agency conducted a full scale Hazardous Materials exercise that was hosted by Central Joint Fire Department and involved the following agencies: Weston EMS, Lifestar Ambulance, Wood County Hospital and the local United Way Chapter, Wood County Sheriff's Office, The Anderson's and a Boy Scout troop for volunteers. The exercise provided essential training to county emergency responders and created an opportunity to utilize the Incident Command System as well as practice their response and decontamination skills during a potential large-scale incident.

The Weapons of Mass Destruction Committee continued its involvement with equipment purchases from the

Department of Justice (DOJ) Grants. The Committee also continued to evaluate vulnerabilities, equipment, and training needs for first responders in the County.

In June 2004, the Agency received a \$452,284 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice through the Homeland Security Program Grant. Awards to various political subdivisions and county agencies totaled \$402,991. Preparedness projects for emergency response required continuous assessments of local hazards and a strategy to address those planning areas. The DOJ provided this financial support to the States for development of the equipment inventory needed by first responders for potential acts of domestic terrorism.

The Agency, via the Equipment Committee, purchased communication equipment upgrades, physical security enhancements for critical sites in Wood County, multi wheeled ATV's and assorted generators. For a second year, the Agency collaborated with the Ohio Funeral Director's Association (OFDA) to purchase an additional utility trailer with mortuary "push pack" equipment as well as meeting the equipment needs of the main morgue trailer. This project is regional in scope and can be used across the state of Ohio by any jurisdiction that may encounter a mass fatality incident. Other agencies involved in this project included the Ohio Association of Coroners, Ohio Dental Association, and the Federal Disaster Mortuary Response Team. Additional funding was secured

through the FY 2004 State Homeland Security Program Regional Grant to support this project.

Throughout the year, the Agency responded to 18 hazardous material incidents at the request of emergency responders and assisted as a resource coordinator. Containment equipment, tools, and on-site weather monitoring were made available by the Agency as needed. Working with the Wood County Hospital, monthly continuing education classes for emergency response personnel were offered to provide up-to-date information in addition to regular training required to maintain current licensing.

In October, the Director along with the Four County Career Center and the Wood County Hospital implemented a Basic Emergency Medical Technician class. A 40-hour Emergency Medical Technician Intermediate Transition Class was completed earlier in the year. The classes were comprised of EMS personnel within Wood County and the surrounding area.

The Director, who is also a Paramedic, continued to respond to Advanced Life Support requests as a Paramedic Intercept unit, with the help and support of Wood County Hospital. In 2004, he responded to 259 requests from area Fire and EMS departments for assistance.

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

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.

With the support of its 100 public and private entity members, the Commission continued its work to add value to businesses, communities, and citizens by demonstrating the importance of an aggressive, public/private partnership for economic development. As a result, Wood County has been consistently rated number one among the counties of Northwest Ohio in measures like lowest unemployment rate, new dollars invested, and productivity of the workforce.

The Commission set records in the past as measured by millions of dollars invested, thousands of jobs created, and millions of square feet constructed. The outgrowth of this effort over the past decade is reflected in the sales tax receipts generated through the increase in retail activity.

The Commission remained at the cutting edge of economic development progress in recognizing

and acting upon "value driven economic development." This development contributes to the growth of local and state economies through strategic public and private investments, increasing the productivity and competitiveness of area development resources to grow export-based businesses, industries, and institutions that create wealth for areas.

Following are examples of value added economic development by the Economic Development Commission in 2004:

- Recognition of Owens Community College's Integrated Systems Technology (IST) program by the President of the United States, George W. Bush, during a visit to Wood County highlighting economic competitiveness.
- Received a vote of confidence by Daimler Chrysler as they invested \$28M in the Wood County machining plant.
- Continued reinforcement of Wood County's pivotal location for logistics and distribution including a \$2.5M investment by TMT Logistics, \$4.5 by Kellermeyer, and \$2.5M by Timberline Co-Pack.
- Attracted a \$2.5M investment by Hartung Brothers to build a new facility in Bowling Green and the addition of Sun Seeds' 25,000 square foot homegrown expansion in Washington Township.

- Recognized as "Best of Class" by the Mid America Economic Development Council for the Commission's multilingual quality of life brochure.
- Continued technical assistance to the Employment Resource Center in developing a business plan for an employer-friendly system integrated into the County's overall economic development effort.
- Administered the Ambassador Program utilizing WCEDC members' expertise to add value for county companies.
- Participated in the Automotive Communities Program of the Center for Automotive Research linking communities to industry for automotive renewal.
- Served on Board of Erie Basin Resource, Conservation & Development (R.C.&D.) identifying, pursuing, and landing federal dollars for agricultural and/or resource related industries and for communities under 10,000 population.

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

Historical Museum and Center

Christie Raber, Director

The Historical Center, located on the grounds of the former Wood County Infirmary, actively preserves and shares the history of Wood County and the Wood County Infirmary through exhibits, research, special events, education programs, collection and conservation of artifacts, and the preservation of the Infirmary grounds. This historic site is one of the last county poor farms where nearly all of the original structures still remain. The Center includes a large museum, an herb garden and arboretum, nature trails and numerous outdoor points of interest.

Financial support for the Center is derived from County tax dollars and through the private fund-raising activities of the Wood County Historical Society. The 50-acre County-owned site is part of the system of parks maintained and patrolled by the Wood County Park District.

During 2004, the Center and its resources were made available to more than 20,000 visitors and more than 55 County agency and community groups. Visitors took tours, engaged in research activities, walked the grounds, and enjoyed education programs. The Center hosted a diversity of special events. The Spring Open House featured the opening of the Lunatic House to the public. The exhibit received an award from the Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums for its explanation of mental health care history. Other events included Earth Camp, the

Power of Yesteryear Tractor Show and Barbeque, Wood County Day, Halloween Folklore & Funfest, Old Home Holiday Tour, and the monthly tea series.

New exhibits were introduced during the year. "County in Motion," a look at Wood County's history from the glaciers to the draining of the Great Black Swamp, was made possible through a donation from State Auditor Betty Montgomery. The Hands On History Room was also redesigned and includes a working telegraph.

Additional information about the site, activities, and education programs offered by the Center is available through the Black Swamp Chanticleer newsletter and on the Center's website at www.woodcountyhistory.org.

The Historical Museum and Center staff are employees of the Board of County Commissioners, while the Historical Society Board sets the policy for operation of the Center. ●

2004 SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- Restoration of the first floor east wing
- Formation of an 1860s style base ball team: The Wood County Infirmary "Inmates"
- Completed the first phase of the hog barn renovation
- Installation of electricity in the Boomtown Area
- Retrenching around the Museum to eliminate water in the building



Records Center

Brenda Ransom,
Records Manager

Created in 1998, the Records Center provides records management services to Wood County offices. The Center, which opened in 2002, offers secure, environmentally sound storage of paper records, preservation microfilming, and digital imaging services. The storage rooms contain high-density mobile shelving units with a maximum storage capacity of 10,646 cubic-foot records boxes. A small microfilm vault stores some of the County's duplicate copy microfilm.

By the end of 2004, the Center received and shelved a total of 5,925 cubic feet of County records. Based on records retention rules, 174 cubic feet became eligible for disposal during 2004. Two additional departments utilized the Center this year, bringing the total number of participating departments to 19.

In the fall of 2004, grant funds from the Solid Waste Management District purchased a small industrial shredder, enabling staff to shred records and send them to the Bowling Green Recycling Center for further processing. At the end of the year, approximately 250 cubic feet of records awaited disposition.

Records Center staff continued a number of digital imaging and microfilming projects in 2004, scanning more than 50,000 pages of ditch files for the Commissioners' Office and also creating 100 rolls of microfilm for three County offices. In addition to records storage and

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.

During 2004, two additional wind turbines were constructed on Landfill property, bringing the total on site to four. These are the only utility scale wind powered electric generation in Ohio. The Landfill is presently investigating the use of gas produced by the Landfill to also generate power.

Plans to install a turn lane at the Landfill entrance to improve

safety are in the final stages with construction planned during 2005.

In addition to garbage disposal, the Landfill produces mulch from brush and accepts leaves and grass to compost. The facility also accepts tires and scrap metal, including appliances which contain freon, which must be removed. Concrete, brick, and rock are accepted and hammermilled into stone to construct roads and working surfaces at the facility.

Currently the North half of the Landfill is being prepared for a clay cap that will cover the old Landfill. This clay liner will capture and collect leachate (rainwater contaminated by garbage) for delivery to the Bowling Green waste water treatment plant.

At the current rate of use, the Landfill has almost 20 years of permitted space. Additional property is available and expected to be permitted for use beyond that time period.

The updated Solid Waste Plan for Wood County was submitted to

the Ohio EPA and was approved in November. The District is required to assure solid waste disposal capacity for the next 15 years. The District is also required to ensure residential recycling access. Local governments are eligible for a \$1.00 per capita grant each year to support residential recycling. They may also apply for capital grants for equipment to reduce the need to landfill materials. Most communities have received monies for leaf vacuums and wood chippers to eliminate landfilling those items.

District staff promoted proper solid waste disposal at community events and in classrooms throughout the year. In 2004, a total of 263 educational presentations, reaching over 6,533 people, were given throughout the year to Wood County schools, safety towns, nursery schools, and to various college, church, community service, business, and other public groups. These presentations included 139 classroom visits and 102 tours of the Bowling Green Recycling Center,

Landfill, and wind farm. In addition, special community events featured displays on solid waste reduction and recycling and litter prevention. Waste audits were conducted at no charge for industrial companies interested in reducing waste and recycling costs.

The Solid Waste Management District is supported by fees collected on all solid waste disposed at both landfills within the County (Waste Management Evergreen and Wood County). These funds support recycling programs, Health Department solid waste oversight, Sheriff's Office enforcement and litter collection, solid waste education and awareness, and other related programs.

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

Wood Haven Health Care

David Cecil, Administrator

Wood Haven Health Care, Senior Living & Rehabilitation, a 100-bed short-term rehabilitation and long-term health care facility, provides both skilled and intermediate level care and services. Available rehabilitation programs include physical, occupational, and speech therapies designed to meet the rehabilitative needs of residents with the goal often being regaining the ability to return home. Health care services include 24-hour professional nursing care, nutritional evaluation and meal planning, social services and family support, therapeutic recreational programs, psychological intervention and physician oversight. Hospice and short-term respite care are also available. Additional services, customized to meet the individual needs of each resident, are provided as needed.

During 2004, four resident rooms were renovated into private rehabilitation suites to accommodate the increasing number of individuals receiving therapy treatment while recuperating from surgery.

A ground breaking ceremony was held in September initiating a \$1M construction and renovation project which will include a new front entry, enclosed porch area and a therapy complex made possible with funds donated by the Harold and Ivalou Bordner Foundation.

In 2004, Wood Haven registered 156 admissions and 146 discharges, with 100 residents returning home following their rehabilitation stay. The facility logged 31,695 resident in-house days. Privately funded

residents represented 15 percent of those days, while 68 percent were Medicaid, 12 percent Medicare and five percent Managed Care or Hospice.

The resident activity program included outings to the Toledo Zoo; Senior Day at the Wood County Fair; Picnics in the Park; Devil's Lake, Michigan; a Toledo Mud Hens baseball game and meals at area restaurants. In-house activities included the annual Euchre tournament; a Native American program; April Prom Dance; Western "Ho-Down" and Long Branch Casino Day; Christmas Open House; New Year's Eve Dance and regular ice cream socials, cook-outs, cards, games, and movie nights. Wood Haven residents joined with seniors from other area facilities participating in bowling tournaments, bingo in the park, and the Senior Olympics. Volunteers from local schools, churches and service organizations assisted with many activities and events.

Wood Haven served as a training site for BGSU students offering internships in social services, human resources, and nursing home administration during the year. Other area students met class requirements working with the Activity and Dietary departments.

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



ALCOHOL DRUG ADDICTION AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BOARD

Linda Amos*, Karen Baty, John Bick*, Bradford Conner, Judy Ennis*, Sherry Gaffin McDonald, Beverly Hirzel*, Kathleen E. Kelly, Allen N. Kepke, Stan Korducki*, Mark Krautheim, Nancy Mancuso*, Terry D. Murray*, Harold Rosenberg*, Rickey L. Rudey*, Joe Rutherford*, Lottie Wilson, and two vacancies

BOARD OF MENTAL RETARDATION AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Dolores Black*, Ken Belkofer, Hugh Caumartin, Timothy Harris*, David C. Miller*, Jane Quinn*, and Suzanne Reed*

BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE **

Tim Brown, Dorothy Cromley, Joan Gordon, Bill Lorenzen, Robert Pollex, Christie Raber, Michael Sibbersen, Elaine Skoog, Gale Williamson, and Irma Wolf

BUILDING STANDARDS & APPEALS**

Fred Arn, Robert Brossia, Tim Enright, Ray Huber, David Kellermeier (alternate), Richard Marten, Robert Maurer, Laurie Melchior Huskisson, Kermit Rudolph, Carl Snyder, and Connie Workman

CLIENT COMPLAINT REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR CDBG CHIP PROGRAM**

Michael Billmaier, Robert Brossia, and Richard Kohring

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS BOARD**

Joni Bretz, James F. Carter, Floyd Craft, Richard Edwards, John Fawcett, Raymond C. Fischer, Ann Garcia, Kathleen Hamm, Scott Howard, Andrew Kalmar, Reeve Kelsey, John Kohl, Alan Mayberry, S. Dwight Osterud, Robert Pollex, Mark Reddin, Matt Reger, Tom Votava, and one vacancy

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION MEMBERS

Harold Bateson, Tim Brown, Joseph Carpenter, James Carter, Maxine Cross, Jill Engle, Andrew Kalmar, W. David Steiner, Alvin Perkins, Ronald Sheldrick, and Michael Sibbersen

GOVERNING BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Individuals from across the County provide representation on a number of Wood County governing boards and commissions. Their role is to provide knowledge and support to enhance the functioning of County government. If you are interested in serving as a member on a County Board or Commission, please contact the Commissioners' Office in writing to indicate which Board or Commission you may have an interest in and provide a copy of a resume for future reference.

* Appointed by Commissioners ** All Members Appointed by Commissioners

HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD

Tabatha Arton, Eileen Aufdencamp, Tom Balduf, Tom Bamburowski, Pat Bradford, Frances Brent, Greg Genzman, Eric Honneffer, Beverley Hirzel, Jan Larson*, Jim Miller, Neil Munger, Dennis Nemec, Louis Snyder*, Ben Waggoner, Robert Waggoner, and Paul Yon*

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Shelian Beaupre, Joseph Catalano, Sue Clanton, Kathy Ferrell, Elvira Gonzales, Mary Wood, Timothy Tegge, Judy Knox, R. Anthony Marcson, Frank McLaughlin, Paul Mortimer, Karis Murphy, Jean Smith, Diane Tellez, Martha Woelke, Laurie Young, Paulette Stephens, Susan Miklovic, and Christine Simington

Ex-Officio Members: Larry Mershman and Melanie Stretchbery

LOCAL COURT SECURITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Rebecca Bhaer, Joni Bretz, Tim J. Brown, Nancy Buchanan, Tom Chidester, Brad Conner, Rodney Fleming, Scott Hicks, John Kohl, Eric Larson, Nina Oberkirsh, Alvin Perkins, Richard Schmidbauer, Thomas Votsberger, and Irma Wolf

NORTHWESTERN WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

John Ault, Paul Brim, John Cheney*, John Current, Alex Molner*, Terry D.Murray*, Henry Moyer, Phillip Shaffer, and Lyle Schulte

PLANNING COMMISSION**

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

Non-voting Associate Members: Michael Billmaier, Jerry Greiner, Kelly Moore, Larry Sorrells, and W. David Steiner

PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION

Charles Boss*, Elizabeth Emmert, Dennis Ferrell*, Fred Matthews* and Jack Taylor

PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Suzanne Crawford, Nick Ezzone, Anna Griffith*, Sharon Hanna, Pamela Herringhaus*, Scott McEwen*, and David Swartz*

REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY**

K. Nathan Bockbrader, Walter Celley, Floyd Chamberlain, Gaylyn Finn, Dan Hoile, Richard "Dick" Martin, Janet Neville, and C. Michael Solley

ROSSFORD TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Luci Flannery*, Michael Melnyk*, Bob Mack, Anthony Allion, Bob Watrol, Edwin Pavuk, Lane Williamson, John Hrosko

TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL**

John Cheney, Valerie Hovland, and Cathleen Wenig

Alternates: Chris Ewald and Tim Harris

WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION TERRORISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

J. Eric Larson, Gary Spencer, Randy Tolles, Kathy Heyman, Mary Dennis, Alvin L. Perkins, Andrew S. Kalmar, Ken Ault, John Quinn, Ken Robinson, Len Stanish, Anthony L. Allion, Danny LaDuke, Bob Shank, Jr., David Caprara, David Weekly, Michael Instone, Ray Hahn, Rose Chambers, Thomas Pack, Chris Miller, Dan Parrott, Tim Schroeder

WOOD HAVEN ADVISORY BOARD**

Denny Barrett, Margaret Chamberlain, Warren Phillips, Terry R. Smith, Paulette Stephens, and Winn Stone

Ex-Officio Members: David Cecil, Sue Coker, Andrew Kalmar, and the President and Vice President of the Resident's Council

WOOD SANDUSKY OTTAWA SENECA COMMUNITY ACTION COMMISSION

Total Membership - 24

Wood County Members: Melvin L. Browning*, Traci DeBlasio, Alan W. Fosnaugh*, Roberta Lane, Carrie Miller, and Julia Wedemeyer

WORKFORCE POLICY BOARD**

Tammy Corral, Frank Day, Andrea Depinet, Marie Ermie, Kevin Flagg, Reggie Hohenberger, Ronald Matter, John Quinn, Mark Senecal, Jennifer Schriver, Linda Stacy, Jodie Stearns, Brent Weinmann, and Joyce Winters

Ad Hoc Members: Thomas Blaha, Douglas Garman, Andrew Kalmar, Rhonda Nicholson, and Paulette Stephens

WORKFORCE POLICY BOARD - YOUTH COUNCIL**

Judy Didion, Annette Haskins, Doris Herringshaw, Betty Kahlenberg, Valerie Linkey, R. Anthony Marcson, Ronald Matter, Elaine Skoog, Linda Stacy, and Joyce Winters

Ad Hoc Members: Thomas Blaha, Douglas Garman, Rhonda Nicholson, Richard Schemmer, and Paulette Stephens



AUDITOR

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

The Auditor, Commissioners, and the Economic Development Commission teamed up to acquire high-resolution color aerial photography of the County. The aerial photography was flown by MarkHurd Inc., of Maple Grove, Minnesota on April 6. Later, more than 67,000 images were examined by office staff for quality control. The final product, a single image overview of Wood County was completed in December and has been placed on the Real Estate website, <http://auditor.co.wood.oh.us/>.

A "Levy Calculator" function was added to the website in 2004. Property owners may use this feature to compute specific proposed millage costs.

Beginning in December, the Auditor's office became the first county in the area to offer "on line" dog registration with a credit card payment option. As agent for the County Dog and Kennel Fund, the Auditor sold 17,587 dog licenses and 126 kennel licenses.

The Office assessed 69,638 parcels of real property with a taxable value of \$2,320,750,590. Special assessments

for waterlines, sewers, ditches, etc., were also collected on the real estate tax duplicate and distributed to all the appropriate local governmental units. Whenever property is sold, the deed is brought to the Auditor to convey taxable ownership before it is recorded. During 2004, the Office processed 5,166 such conveyances, including 8,684 individual parcels. The County conveyance tax totaled \$1,423,879 and is directly based on real estate sales in the County.

The taxation of Ohio's manufactured homes requires statutory appraisals based on market value. During 2004, 686 manufactured homes changed hands, bringing the total of registered manufactured homes to 4,616 with a total taxable value of \$19,486,259. The Homestead Exemption program administered by the Office provided property tax relief for 1,698 elderly and disabled residents who met income requirements. The maximum allowable income for 2005 will be \$25,400, which is indexed for inflation and is based on a resident's 2004 income.

The Auditor's staff assisted in the preparation of 3,605 personal property tax returns, a business tax paid on inventory and equipment.

The consumer protection division of the Office inspected 774 commercial scales and 1,505 gas pumps, as well as electronic scanners in retail and wholesale use. Staff also checked packages at various locations throughout the County for correct net weight.

The Data Processing Board's Computer Training Lab and Resource Center continued to enhance computer skills and productivity of County employees. A total of 134 students attended the 37 courses offered.

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



CLERK OF COURTS

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 CASES AND DOCUMENTS FILED

Appeals cases filed	97
Civil cases filed	811
Land tax foreclosures filed	35
Domestic relations cases filed	456
Domestic violence cases filed	139
Domestic stalking civil protection cases filed	117
Domestic cases reopened	459
Criminal cases filed	602
Judgment liens filed	674
Foreign judgments filed	3
State tax liens filed	184
Executions filed	11
Judgment entries journalized (pages)	38,374
Notary commissions filed	502
Passport applications accepted	751
Criminal investigations	7
Criminal records checks	2,695
Coroner's reports	71

TITLE DOCUMENTS PROCESSED

Auto titles, duplicates & memo titles	61,569
Motor vehicle mortgages recorded	12,101
Salvage titles	189
Penalties (for not transferring titles timely)	3,582
Inspections	6,415
Affidavits	19,112
Manufactured home fee	698
Boat titles, duplicates and memo titles (includes charged replacement titles)	645
Watercraft mortgages recorded	31
Watercraft affidavits	657
Watercraft penalties	126

LEGAL DISBURSEMENT TOTALS

General fund	\$435,895.60
Legal research fees	\$7,133.50
Computerization fees	\$30,602.23
Reimburse Court Diagnostic fees	\$1,679.87
Mediation Costs	\$38,850.00
Fines paid to the County	\$16,688.88
Fines paid to the Law Library	\$750.00
Statutory fees paid to non-Wood County entities	\$83,454.77
Funding shelters for victims of domestic violence	\$14,341.05
Fees paid to the Sheriff	\$91,138.13
Fines paid to the Sheriff	\$2,766.46
Fines paid to County police depts.	\$14,504.09
Interest earned on CD accounts	\$12,292.34
Fees paid to Appraisers	\$40,725.00

Sundries—includes, but not limited to: bond refunds, deposits less costs or deposits in whole refunded, court ordered civil, domestic and criminal disbursements (i.e. restitution), and appropriation disbursements

TITLE DISBURSEMENT TOTALS

Wood County Certificate of Title Fund	\$429,128.61
Division of Watercraft Watercraft Fees	\$1,738.50
State of Ohio Motor vehicle and Watercraft Casual and dealer tax	\$15,844,935.35
Certificate of title fees	\$148,732.25



CORONER

Douglas S. Hess, M.D.
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.

Following the retirement of Douglas S. Hess in 2004, voters elected Douglas W. Hess, M.D., Coroner in the general election. ●

2004 CORONER CASES	
Auto Accidents	12
Other Accidents	9
Motorcycle Accidents	1
Suicides	13
Homicides	3
Natural Deaths	24
Total Cases	62

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS General Division



The Court of Common Pleas, General Division, handles felony criminal matters, including divorce, dissolution, change of custody,

visitation and child and spousal support enforcement and modification; general civil matters, including those arising out of auto accidents, product liability claims, real estate matters, contract disputes; and administrative appeals such as those in the area of workers' compensation, unemployment compensation and appeals from certain local government decisions.

During 2004, Judge Kelsey served as Administrative Judge and represented the County on the Maumee Conservancy District Court; Judge Pollex served as Presiding Judge; Judge Mayberry served as Chairman of the Judicial Corrections Board; and Judge Woessner of the Probate and



Reeve Kelsey COURTROOM 2

Juvenile Division served as Court Security Judge.

In 2004, the Court, along with Hancock County Common Pleas Court, conducted a joint in-house mediation program with a grant

provided by the Ohio Supreme Court. Cases were referred to mediation by the general, domestic relations, juvenile and probate divisions of the Court. In October, the Court sponsored a roundtable discussion on mediation attended by Chief Justice Thomas Moyer of the Ohio Supreme Court. Both litigants and the Court benefited by the early, and less expensive, resolution of cases resolved through mediation.

The General Division Judges supervise the Grand Jury, which determines if, based upon the evidence presented by the Prosecuting Attorney, probable cause exists to charge an accused with a felony criminal offense. If the Grand Jury so finds, they return an indictment,



Alan R. Mayberry COURTROOM 4

advising the accused of the nature of the charges. The matter then goes before the Court for further proceedings.

The Judges supervise the Adult Probation

Department and the Court Security program. They 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 2004, the Court completed 2,688 cases and 1,082 cases remained pending. Of the total cases completed, 950 were general civil, 1,223 were domestic relations, and 515 were criminal. A record number of criminal case files, 604, were opened in 2004, a 50 percent increase over 1999.

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

Court Security

Thomas G. Chidester, Chief Court Constable

Court Constables are the primary law enforcement officers at the Courthouse Complex, and provide for the safety and security of the courts, employees at the site and the visiting public. They also manage the systems that monitor fire, panic, and intrusion alarms as well as those that control access to the buildings.

During 2004, the Court Security Department reported a 39 percent increase in court appearances.

The Department routinely conducted training for new employees assigned to court related

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS Probate and Juvenile Division



David E. Woessner

Cases heard in Probate Court involve decedent's estates, guardianships, conservatorships, testamentary trusts, civil actions, adoptions, mental illness and retardation, minor settlements, and wrongful deaths. In addition, the Probate Court provides registration services for births, name changes, miscellaneous filings, and marriage applications. In addition to trial proceedings, the Probate Court Judge appoints members to the Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities as well as the Board of the Wood County Park District. He also may appoint Wood County District Library Trustees, Township Trustees, Wood County Humane Agents, and Special Deputy Clerks.

During 2004, 766 new cases were filed, while 820 cases were heard and closed in the Probate Court.

The Court granted 779 marriage applications during the year. Also, 84 cases were filed and processed in the miscellaneous category, including name changes, birth registrations, etc.

Probate Court completed several projects during 2004 including a case management software upgrade, formal adoption of a records retention schedule, as well as microfilming several years of cases. These combined projects were undertaken so the Court could retain records consistently over the years while using the best preservation methods available.

The Probate Court Judge is authorized to perform his duties under Chapter 2101 of the Ohio Revised Code. ●

The Juvenile Court hears cases concerning traffic offenses, delinquency, unruliness, neglect, abuse, dependency, and custody involving individuals under the age of 18, as well as paternity cases for adults and children. The Court may also hear misdemeanor cases involving adults charged with victimizing children. The Juvenile Detention Center is also administered through the Juvenile Court.

In 2004, the Juvenile Court had 4,219 cases filed and disposed of 4,220. The 48-bed Juvenile Detention Center provided both pretrial and short-term commitments for 954 residents during 2004. This figure included 676 males and 278 females.

The Juvenile Court Probation Department supervised 821 youth and adults during 2004. A total of

Adult Probation

Joni Bretz, Director

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

In 2004, the Department conducted pre-sentence investigations on 289 offenders, 281 of whom were then placed under the Department's supervision.

The Adult Probation Department supervised 911 offenders. Of those, 238 individuals were terminated from supervision, leaving 673 individuals under direct control on December 31.

The Department conducted 6,936 drug tests and supervised the incarceration of 42 offenders in the work release program, which is housed at the Justice Center.

With funding from the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, the staff supervised 81 offenders placed on Intensive Supervision Probation and 194 on Electronic Monitoring. ●

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.

After serving as County Engineer since 1980, Anthony Allion retired at the end of 2004. Raymond Huber was elected the new County Engineer in the November General Election.

The Engineer is authorized to perform his duties under Chapter 315 of the Ohio Revised Code. ●

SOURCES OF 2004 FUNDS

Motor Vehicle License Fees	\$3,941,622.57
Gasoline Tax	\$1,867,715.87
County General Fund	\$87,511.59
Traffic Fines & Receipts	\$142,337.82
Reimbursements	\$434,525.65

PROJECTS COMPLETED

Bridge Replacements	2
Culvert Replacements	12
Railroad Crossing Grade Improvement	1
Bridge Deck Replacements	3
Miles of Road Resurfaced	8



Raymond C. Fischer

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 has 11 attorneys, a victim services unit, an investigator, youth services and programs division, and support staff.

The Prosecutor's Office sponsored various youth violence prevention programs. 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 13th, the 6th Annual Youth Olympics were held focusing on "Competition without Conflict". The Drug Abuse Prevention Calendar contest celebrated its 15th year. Caitie Jennings, a sixth grader from Eastwood Middle School, was the year's winner. Her drawing will be featured on the 2005 calendar cover.

The Prosecuting Attorney hosted the annual law enforcement conference. The 100 participants discussed

updates in the law and related topics including "Counterfeiting" from a speaker the U.S. Secret Service and "Computer Crime" from a guest speaker from the FBI.

The speaker's bureau continued to provide 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. ●



Sue Kinder

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, easily accessible to the public, and retained in an archival form. 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.

A total of 30,321 documents were recorded and/or filed. A total of \$1,781,616.25 was collected in fees. Of this amount \$883,822.00 was remitted to the State of Ohio for the Ohio Housing Trust Fund; \$117,836.00 was deposited into the Recorder's supplemental equipment fund; and the remaining \$779,958.25 was paid into the County's general fund.

For archival purposes, all records of the Office are microfilmed by the Recorder's staff and stored off premises for safekeeping. Digital imaging of records by the Recorder's staff since 1988 has eliminated the creation of more than 710 books.

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

2004 DOCUMENTS

Deeds	4,909
Judgment entries, affidavits, agreements and certificates for transfer	1,300
Mortgages (total value \$4,205,162.79)	10,086
Mortgage assignments, assumptions, release of maker, waivers of priority, mortgage agreements and options	1,729
Land Contracts	51
Mortgages released (with a value of \$2,681,952,067.28)	9,899
Rights of way and easements	206
Leases	24
Mechanics liens	71
Plats (creating 814 lots)	36
Condominiums (creating 9 units)	3
Financing statements, security agreements	68
Terminations	104
Financing statement assignments, amendments and releases	31
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	1,803

2004 WOOD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT

CIVIL DIVISION	
Sheriff foreclosure property sales	149
Sheriff foreclosure Notice and Appraisals	228
Proceeds from parcels sold	\$3,869,875.39
Execution of certificates of Judgment	22
Money from fees & copies	\$228,303.94
Warrants received (local & foreign)	2,357
Warrants served (local & foreign)	1,707
Child Support warrants served	243
Child Support warrants - bought back from out of state	29
Cost to bring back	\$22,541.09
Court arraignments	416
Court papers served	3,365
Prisoner transports to penal institutions	337
Total prisoners transported to penal institutions	487
Miles traveled for the Civil Division	105,978

911 DIVISION	
Total number of 911 calls by WCSO	6,382
Total number of 911 calls by all answering points	17,951

DARE	
Participating School Districts: Elmwood, Eastwood, Otsego, McComb, and North Baltimore	
CORE students instructed and graduated from DARE	523
Students in grades K-6 instructed	1,124
Students in seventh grade from Eastwood Middle, Elmwood, Otsego, McComb	455
Students with Special Needs from Penta County Living Skill Center	8
Safety Towns in Weston, Perrysburg, North Baltimore	3

AUXILIARY PROGRAM	
Members	39
Worked special events	18
Working hours volunteered	3,462

JUSTICE CENTER	
Total inmates booked	4,585

Total inmates released	4,572
Average daily population	145
Total local transports	1,031
Total inmates transported	2,166
Total transport hours	2,099
Total meals served - Justice Center	193,710
- Juvenile Detention Center	38,959
Average meals served per day	531
Average daily meal cost	\$1.22

LITTER CONTROL DIVISION	
Number of inmates used	805
Hours inmates worked	6,079
Pounds of trash collected	29,951
Pounds of plastic collected	2,278
Pounds of glass collected	6,439
Pounds of aluminum collected	3,492
Pounds of steel collected	6,115
Number of tires collected	466
Pounds of tires collected	11,650
Miles walked	1,010
Recycle Center hours worked	1,236.5
Fair hours worked	680
Festival hours worked	157
Complaints received and investigated	88
Open burning complaints investigated	15

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER	
Officers assigned	2
Schools patrolled	6
Eastwood High School, Eastwood Middle School, Elmwood High School, Elmwood Middle School, Otsego High School, and Otsego Middle School	
Grades taught	6 - 12
Topics taught	12+
First Aid, First Responder, Fingerprinting, Drug Awareness, Bill of Rights, Search & Seizure, Personal Safety, Career Goals, Current Events, Dangers Law Enforcement, Dangers of DUI, Making the Right Choices Special Projects	7
Teacher In-service	8

EXPLORER PROGRAM	
Members (Young adults from 14 - 21 years old)	16
Participated in special events	20

Volunteered Hours	500
Classroom Hours	30+
Field Trips	6

COMMUNITY POLICING	
Sheriff's Citizen Academy Students	76
Festivals and fairs	9
Assisted in operational Blockwatch Programs	4
Other specialized groups	23

ROAD PATROL DIVISION	
Miles driven	1,080,339
Complaints received and investigated	18,315
Criminal charges	544
Traffic violations	4,084
Traffic citations	804
Traffic warning written	104
Traffic warning verbal	2,827
Traffic - no action taken	44
Accidents investigated	805
Injury accidents	141
Injured persons	179
Fatal accidents	6
Fatal accidents - private property	0
Citations issued from accidents	263
Driving under the influence - DUI	93
Driving under suspension - DUS	112

TYPES OF CRIMES INVESTIGATED	
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	1
Attempted or forced rape	3
Other sexual assaults	16
Aggravated assaults	5
Simple assaults	95
Domestic violence and domestic disputes	285
Arrests from domestic violence	85
Robbery	0
Breaking and entering	113
Burglary	75
Thefts	345
Motor vehicle thefts	35
Arson	2
Vandalism/criminal damaging	410
Criminal mischief	48
Trespassing	55



John W. Kohl

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 Sheriff sponsored four Citizen's Police Academies during the year. These programs, along with the existing D.A.R.E. and School Resource Officers, allowed the Sheriff to remain in touch and communication with the public.

The Sheriff's commitment to Homeland Security remained a priority as he continued to work closely with the Emergency Management Agency, local police, fire departments, and federal officials.

In November 2004, Mark Wasylshyn was elected to a four-year term as the Wood County Sheriff, beginning January 3, 2005.

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



Jill Engle

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.

Advancements in technology continued to enhance the accessibility of the Treasurer's Office. Payment for real estate tax by credit card, with a convenience fee attached, or through automatic withdrawal from bank accounts remained popular with constituents. During 2004, 134 taxpayers utilized the automatic withdrawal plan and 170 taxpayers participated in the monthly automatic withdrawal plan. Information on how to enroll in the automatic withdrawal is available on the Treasurer's website. Change of address and remission of penalty forms, as well as real estate tax information is also accessible online.

The Office collected \$112,409,905.96 in real estate

taxes during 2004. An additional \$24,732,220.84 was collected in personal property tax.

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 2004 was \$1,952,511.68.

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. ●

JUVENILE COURT CONT. FROM PG. 5...

415 youth performed 9,027 hours of community service work and returned \$28,186 in restitution to victims. Programs facilitated by the Department included: Intensive Probation, Electronic Monitoring, the Theft Offenders Program, Drug Screening, and Diversionary Tours of the Court and Detention Center. The Court also assisted with the Alternative School for at risk and expelled students.

The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program supervised 39 volunteers in 2004 who advocated for 134 children allegedly abused or neglected, providing over 2,500 hours

of service. As well, a local attorney donated almost 60 hours of legal services in 2004. CASA volunteers were able to serve 80 percent of the children needing services, with other guardians ad litem appointed by the Court for the remaining children in need. As of December 31, 2004, 34 CASA volunteers continue to advocate for 77 children.

The Juvenile Court Judge is authorized to perform his duties as outlined in, but not limited to, Section 2151.23 of the Ohio Revised Code. ●

INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

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 available to the public.

In 2004, the Board of Elections held three elections: one Special Election held on August 3; a Primary Election held on March 2 and a Presidential General Election on November 2. In addition to the Presidential race, voters made decisions on a U.S. Senate seat, Ohio Legislative seats and most County offices. Voters considered 42 local and state issues during the year.

Wood County voters cast their ballots in 105 precincts in 72 locations. The voter registration total for Wood County is approximately 91,100 voters, an increase of 16.35 percent from the 2003 voter roles. This considerable increase in voter registration numbers came mainly prior to the November Presidential Election. Citizens wishing to become a registered voter may do so at the Board of Elections office, any Bureau of Motor Vehicles location, any public library and most city or village offices.

Upon orders from Secretary of State J. Kenneth Blackwell, the Board of Elections will be discontinuing the use of the punch card voting devices after 32 years of successful elections. The County will be required to convert to an optical scan paper ballot system. The initial equipment for this conversion will be paid through the Help America Vote Act federal grants. The new voting system is currently required to be in place by November 2005.

The Board of Elections launched a voter search feature on its website. Voters can verify if they are registered to vote, the precinct they vote in, and their voting location. Also included is information on the voter's Congressional, state and school districts.

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

HEALTH DEPARTMENT • Larry M. Sorrells, RS, MSEH Health Commissioner

The Wood County Health Department promotes conditions that allow people in the County to lead healthy lives by routinely reviewing health related issues and taking action to prevent illness and injuries. Monitoring the environmental conditions, promoting healthy behaviors, and providing preventive services are the main approaches used to fulfill the mission of this public health agency.

Developing and expanding the Health Department's capacity to work within the emergency response structure of the County and region remained a major focus of the Department during 2004. The State of Ohio developed new surveillance monitoring, such as emergency room admissions and over-the-counter sales of cough medicines and anti-diarrheals, to identify illness outbreaks earlier.

The discovery of meth labs in the County created the need for new knowledge in the Environmental Division. The agricultural base of the County has proved to be a favorable environment for collecting the supplies needed to manufacture methamphetamine. Once discovered, issues of human contamination and site contamination must be addressed.

During 2004, a discovery was made that raccoons infected with rabies had broken through a barrier that had been maintained for several years along the state line. With rabid raccoons identified as close as Cuyahoga County, counties across the state

LAW LIBRARY • Judith Gill, Librarian

Ohio Law requires each County to provide a law library for 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 support 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.

formed task forces to work on plans to educate their communities and devise plans to limit exposure to this potentially deadly disease.

In 2004, the Health Department received a Women's Health grant. This grant assures that women can have the preventive care they need, regardless of income. Services include reproductive health, mammograms, pap tests, sexually transmitted disease services, and screening for domestic violence.

Flu and flu vaccine moved front and center in October. One of the two manufacturers of the vaccine was shut down, meaning that the United States would get only half of the anticipated amount of vaccine. Although this caused great concern within the populace, the CDC, the states, and the remaining American manufacturer, Aventis, worked together to direct vaccine to the populations of greatest need. In Wood County vaccine was targeted to direct care hospital employees, nursing home residents, pregnant women, high risk BGUS students, and those over age 65 or with chronic disease. Concerns continue to be raised about the likelihood of a pandemic flu. The avian flu in China is being carefully watched, because of a fear that this virus could mutate to the point that it could infect humans. There is currently no vaccine for avian flu.

The 11-member Board of Health, in addition to appointing the Health Commissioner, assumes the responsibility of overseeing the Department's activities to provide for the protection and promotion of health for those living and visiting Wood County. Lon Tonjes served as president during 2004. ●

The collection includes online access to statutes, regulations and case reports for the federal level and all 50 states. Digital technology has provided more efficient search and retrieval of information utilizing minimal space.

The hard copy collection includes scholarly works and legal practice materials, with an emphasis on matters governed by Ohio law. The Library keeps Ohio primary materials in print to assure that the courts can function without the digital versions, if necessary.

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

PLANNING COMMISSION • W. David Steiner, Director

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

During 2004, the Planning Commission reviewed 21 requests for rezoning totaling 450 acres. Of these requests, 15 were approved, four were denied and two were modified and conditionally approved. The Commission also reviewed and approved six amendments to township zoning resolutions. The Planning Commission also coordinated and offered assistance to Middleton, Milton, and Center Townships in the modification and updating of their zoning resolutions.

The Planning Commission reviewed and approved 16 preliminary/final residential

subdivisions totaling 779 acres.

In addition to the larger platted subdivisions, the Office reviewed and processed 307 unplatted land subdivisions totaling 3,392 acres. Of these 307 subdivisions, 246 were splits off of larger tracts of land, and 61 were combinations of existing tracts of land.

During fiscal year 2004, the Planning Commission received \$341,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. These funds were used to provide infrastructure improvements, ADA renovations, and economic development projects to assist and benefit low to moderate income (LMI) households for two cities, three villages, and one multi-jurisdictional public agency. Projects that were chosen for 2004 included: water and sewer upgrades for Custar and Luckey, curb and sidewalk repair and restoration for the Village of Haskins, and ADA improvements for the cities of Rossford and Northwood.

In 2004, the Commission completed an updated Community Housing Impact Study (CHIS), as required to apply to the Ohio Department of Development for CHIP Program Funds. This new report incorporates the most recent U.S. Census

data and demographic trends as they relate to housing in Wood County. Funds from this program assisted low to moderate income residents residing in Wood County's villages and unincorporated areas with emergency home repairs, home renovations, and first time homeowner down payment assistance.

The Commission also updated the current Floodplain Development Regulations. These newly revised regulations were created in response to increasing development pressure in Wood County's Special Flood Hazard Areas. Revisions include changes to the minimum elevation standards, and the addition of no-net loss provisions and requirements.

Revisions to the Open Space portion of the Wood County Subdivision Rules and Regulations promoted residential subdivisions in Wood County that have more open space available to residents.

Designated as the County agency responsible for processing applications for the Clean Ohio Fund Agricultural Easement Purchase Program, the Office processed seven applications for one landowner, for a total of 315 acres.

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

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Alan Sundermeier, Extension Agent, Agriculture & Natural Resources, 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.

The Extension Office and Wood County Hospital offered "You and Your Medications" program to 15 participants. University of Toledo pharmacy students taught the importance of taking medicine correctly.

ServSafe training was conducted, assisting in the certification of 13 food service managers who passed an exam from the National Restaurant Association. Participants indicated a better understanding of the impact of bacteria on food, the effect of time and temperature on bacteria growth, and the importance of hand washing.

Women In Agriculture attracted 150 farm business operators and partners. Participants toured the Chicago Board of Trade.

Under the Food and Nutrition program, the Extension Office distributed more than 10,000 newsletters to Wood County residents throughout the year, providing an easy-to-read resource on food safety, basic nutrition, and thrifty shopping.

An exotic, accidentally introduced, beetle from Asia, the Emerald Ash Borer, was discovered feeding on ash trees in Rossford. The Extension Office collaborated with the Ohio Department of Agriculture, and the United States Department of Agriculture in surveying and monitoring Wood County to suppress and limit the spread of the devastating insect.

Six residents accomplished all the requirements of the Master Gardener Program. Participants attended nine consecutive weeks of intense training in horticultural subject matter. Since the inception of the Wood County Master Gardener program, Master Gardener's volunteered more than 11,982 hours in horticultural service at area locations such as parks, the 577 Foundation, and OSU Extension.

Private pesticide applicator license re-certification sessions were conducted for more than 150 farmers. Participants gained information about pesticide use including wearing personal protective equipment and using pesticide management practices to protect water supplies.

The Crop Observation and Recommendation Network (C.O.R.N.) Newsletter was distributed electronically and in print to farmers and agri-business, providing crop scouting, integrated pest management, cultural practice, and other practical information during the growing season plus updated research results during the winter months. This timely information has increased yields and reduced herbicide costs for thousands of acres of crops.

In 2004, Wood County 4-H welcomed four new clubs. Of the more than 3,400 members, 1,300 were enrolled in one of 70 community clubs and 2,100 participated in a 4-H School Enrichment project. Hundreds of teen leaders, 300 adult volunteers, and five paid 4-H professionals supported these youth.

As a result of 24 hours of intensive training, 45 camp counselors were able to design a camp program for 269 youth that incorporated a positive relationship with a caring adult, an inclusive environment, engagement in learning, an emotionally and physically safe environment, and an opportunity for self-determination.

A total of 220 Wood County teens received lessons in democratic citizenship through participation on 4-H boards and committees.

Representing five youth organizations, the Junior Fair Board, with membership of 54 youth, conducted events and activities for more than 2,500 youth at the Fair. Board members received 20 hours of training to prepare them to deal with conflict, livestock program management, and working as a team. In addition, the board completed a \$90,000 fundraising project, the Livestock Exhibition Barn, education displays, concrete floors, and a donor brick patio.

In 2004, the 4-H program offered 2,100 projects in 77 classrooms. OSU Extension provided the resources and training to enable teachers to conduct programs in chick embryology, properties of water, pioneer life history, food and nutrition, and the dairy sciences.

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

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 2004, the Office of the Public Defender represented approximately 3,450 clients. The Office is appointed by the courts to represent indigent defendants. The individual must qualify under the Ohio Public Defender Commission Standards of Indigency, as listed in the Ohio Administrative Code section 120-1-03, to be eligible for public defender representation.

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

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 Commissioners and reimbursed by the State at an average of 31 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. ●

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Nicki Kale, District Administrator/Education Coordinator

The Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) includes all the lands within the County. The District, chartered in 1949, is a subdivision of the State of Ohio formed by a referendum petition. The major function of the District is to determine natural resource needs and implement programs that protect and develop these resources. The District operates on funds provided by the Wood County Commissioners, which is matched by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Soil and Water Conservation Commission. The SWCD operates under Chapter 1515 of the Ohio Revised Code. Policies are set by a five-member board of supervisors who are elected for a three-year term by residents of the District.

The District provided conservation and agricultural education programs through farm tours, camps, field days, outdoor competitions, classroom visits, teacher workshops, and scholarship opportunities. Many of the District education programs have been aligned with the State Science Standards. Correlations were established to make the educational programs of the district even more beneficial to educators.

Conservation projects designed for landowners included the following: five water control structures, five secondary containment facilities, four animal waste facilities, one wetland (3.2 acres), six certified nutrient management plans; 330.1 acres of filter strips, 102,201 feet of windbreaks, and 34.5 acres of other conservation practices.

In addition, the District completed five ditch projects totaling over 10 miles, while assisting on 12 others.

The District, Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service were jointly recognized for outstanding service with the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program brought \$68,498 to Wood County producers on six separate projects designed through the District.

A website, www.wcnet.org/~woodswcd/, maintained by the District provides program information as well as downloadable order forms for the annual seedling and fish sales. ●

VETERANS ASSISTANCE CENTER • Mary E. Hanna, Executive Director

The goal at the Veterans Assistance Center is to provide compassionate, high quality services to Wood County veterans and their families. The staff strives to accomplish this by making the clients, rather than the benefit program, the central focus. The staff seeks opportunities to increase service delivery effectiveness by implementing partnerships with other public and private agencies.

Due to the slow-down of the economy during the year, County veterans reached out for \$38,802 in emergency financial assistance through the Center. The number of claims continued to rise with an aging veteran population resulting in increased use of medical and nursing home benefits. Wood County veterans received medical care and prescription drug benefits totaling more than \$3 million.

For every dollar spent by the County on veteran assistance in 2004, the Veterans

Assistance Center brought \$41.60 in federal money into the County. This \$9.8 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 2004		Memorial Day Appropriations	\$10,075
Veterans Residing in Wood County	10,674	Flags and Grave Markers Distributed	7,111
Total Client Contacts: (includes at office and telephone interviews, claim processing, financial assistance investigations, and case management)	7,716	Emergency Financial Assistance	\$38,802
Veterans Transported to Medical facilities	220	Federal VA Claims/ Documents Processed	10,648
Newsletters Distributed	2,500	Total Federal Dollars Brought into County	\$9,794,000
		Return per County Dollar	\$41.60

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

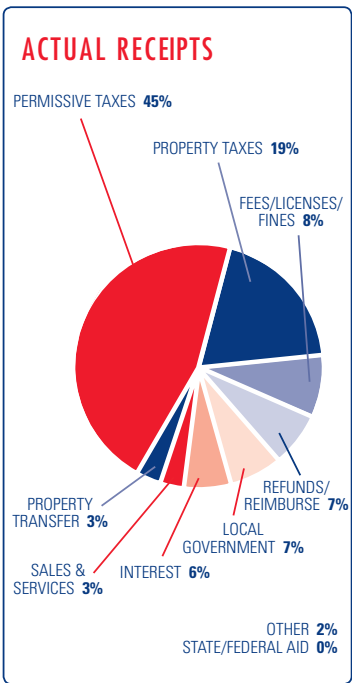
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

an excellent opportunity for the Commissioners to meet their appointees, establish good lines of communication, and thank them for their service.

The Commissioners serve as trustees of the County employees' health insurance program, which is self-insured, with a monthly average enrollment of 280 singles and 591 families. Proceeds from the insurance program provided Wellness programs for County employees and their eligible family members. Active management of the health insurance program by the Employee Health Benefits Advisory Committee allows the County to offer employees an affordable health insurance program.

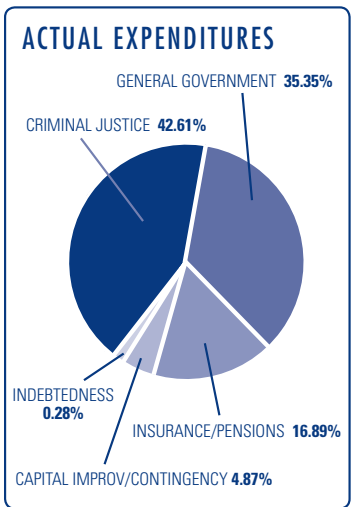
The Commissioners create and adopt the annual operating budget for the County. As required by law, the budget is balanced each fiscal year, which runs from January through December. While the Commissioners have no direct authority over other elected officials - the auditor, clerk of courts, coroner, engineer, judges, prosecuting attorney, recorder, sheriff, and treasurer - the Commissioners are required to determine funding levels for every office. Commissioners must understand the responsibilities of each of these County office holders. This allows them to allocate federal and state funds, and local tax revenue to these other offices using careful budget oversight.

Revenue generated for the General Fund during 2004 totaled \$31,447,707.93. This amount combined with the beginning cash balance of \$7,451,645.65 provided \$38,929,353.58 in available funds. General Fund expenditures totaled



\$31,583,987.27, leaving an ending balance of \$7,345,366.31.

Expenditures for calendar year 2004 reflected reduced expenditures due to revenue constraints while the commitment of the Board of County Commissioners facilitated the work of County government to better serve County residents. Overall expenditures were tempered by the current economy that manifested itself in reduced state funding and lower investment income returns. The Commissioners appreciate the support of other elected officials in maintaining a cautionary approach to all expenditures. Support for County employees through reasonable compensation, coupled with training in many areas also remained a priority of the Board.



The level of expenditures in 2004 was influenced by several significant factors outside of normal operating expenses including a general fund appropriation of \$100,000 to enhance the countywide bridge repair program; general fund contributions totaling \$171,858.43 to various grants including Violence Prevention, VOCA, EMA, Community Policing, Humane Society, Buffer Strip Program, Behavioral Connections, Educational Service Center Youth Training, and mosquito control through the Health Department; computer equipment and vehicle purchases totaling \$1,041,099.24; the transfer of \$1,000,000 to the permanent improvement fund; and the absorption of debt for the Landfill waterline and property acquisition at a cost of \$243,441.15.

Sales tax revenue showed encouraging growth despite continued sluggishness in the national economy. The year-end total was \$14,008,182.74, a 3.95 percent increase over the previous year. However, investment income for the year ended at \$1,952,511.68, a 24.34 percent decrease from 2003.

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

The annual fall United Way campaign raised more than \$28,850 from County employees to benefit United Way agencies in the local area. An additional \$2,660 was raised during special events, including the chili cook-off.

Other volunteer opportunities for County employees included: two blood drives, one in May and the second in September, which collected a total of 60 pints of blood; and the Adopt-A-Pantry campaign, held April 19 - 30, that gave employees the opportunity to donate canned goods to a food bank serving Wood County residents.

The Spirit of Wood County Awards program was held on September 18 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: Gene Nagel — Agricultural Leadership; Larry B. Dillin — Industrial/Economic Develop-

ment; Rev. Paul Eichar — Religion and Liberty; Gustava V. Oberhouse — Self Government; Allen H. Bechtel — Liberty Through Law/Human Freedom; Vicki L. Ewald — Education for Civic Responsibility; and Jean G. Smith — the Lyle R. Fletcher Good Citizenship Award.

An awards ceremony was scheduled for January 13, 2005, to honor the 176 employees who completed five, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35 years of service during 2004.

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

By necessity the Commissioners must take a broad view of actions necessary to make the County a better place to live and work. The Commissioners are thus active in promoting public/private partnerships in human services, economic development, health, and infrastructure development. The Commissioners also take an active role in improving the environment, promoting job training programs, and improving agriculture.

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



HAVE YOU PUCHASED YOUR WOOD COUNTY DOG LICENSE?

It's Not Just the Law... It's a Ride Home!

A Wood County Dog License can provide security for your lost dog.

Ohio Revised Code 955.21

All dogs three months of age or older must be licensed. No dog shall be harbored, kept, or owned without displaying a valid registration tag. (The law applies regardless of whether the dog is kept inside or out.)

Wood County Dog Shelter

- Assists in Locating Lost Dogs
- Dog Licensing and Tracking Service
- Dog Lost and Found Center
- Rescues Stray and Injured Dogs
- Shelters Stray and Unwanted Dogs
- Works to Find Permanent Homes for Stray and Unwanted Dogs
- Conducts Investigations of Livestock Kills
- Provides Educational Information
- Enforces State Dog Laws

Remember to renew your Dog License(s) annually as they expire each year on January 31.

Renew your license on-line at www.co.wood.oh.us. (A convenience fee will apply.)

Looking to Adopt a Dog?

Check the Wood County Dog Shelter website, www.co.wood.oh.us/dog-shelter, or stop by the Shelter for dogs currently available for adoption.

2005 Application for Dog Registration

Name of Owner(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail _____

To the Auditor of Wood County, Ohio: I the, Owner, Keeper or Harborer, hereby tender the legal fees of \$12 per license and apply for the registration, for all dogs on or before three months of age or within 30 days after acquired:

At the request of the Wood County District Board of Health, this form requires information relating to your dog's rabies vaccination. The Wood County District Board of Health has adopted a regulation requiring all dogs be immunized against rabies. Please indicate the expiration date of the rabies vaccination, the veterinarian, and rabies tag number.

PLEASE COMPLETE INFORMATION FOR EACH DOG:						RABIES INFORMATION			
AGE	SEX	SPAY/NEUTER	COLOR	HAIR (Short/Med/Long)	BREED	CLINIC	TAG #	EXP DATE	FEE
	M F	Yes No		S M L					\$12
	M F	Yes No		S M L					\$12
	M F	Yes No		S M L					\$12

Total License Fee: \$ _____
Penalty for Late Application (\$12 per dog): \$ _____
Total Enclosed: (Checks Payable to the Wood County Auditor) \$ _____

Your dog license fee is a primary funding source for the Dog and Kennel Fund. All license fees go directly to the operation of the Dog Shelter for the rescue, care and housing of our community's lost and stray dogs. Application can be made in person at the Wood County Auditor's Office or the Wood County Dog Shelter. Please bring the attached form when purchasing tags at either location. The form is also available on-line at www.co.wood.oh.us/auditor.

The deadline to apply for a dog license is January 31. The statutory late penalty increases the fee to \$24 per dog after January 31. If a dog is acquired after July 1, 2005, contact the Auditor's Office to inquire about prorated rates.

Mail Application in a self addressed stamped envelope with remittance to: (please do not send cash)
MICHAEL SIBBERSEN, WOOD COUNTY AUDITOR, One Courthouse Square, P.O. Box 368, Bowling Green, Ohio 43402

2004 COMMISSIONER BOARD AND COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

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	
AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE	JAMES F. CARTER
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE	TIM W. BROWN
INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE	TIM W. BROWN
COURT SECURITY COMMITTEE	ALVIN L. PERKINS
DEBT REVIEW COMMITTEE	BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY ADVISORY BOARD	ALVIN L. PERKINS
ERIE BASIN RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT (RC&D)	TIM W. BROWN
FINANCIAL REPORT REVIEW COMMITTEE	PRESIDENT — BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
INVESTMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE	PRESIDENT — BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS VICE PRES. — BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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 W. DAVID STEINER, 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
WOOD COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION	PRESIDENT — BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
EDGE COMMITTEE	VICE PRESIDENT — BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WOOD COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDRENS FIRST COUNCIL	JAMES F. CARTER

WOOD COUNTY OHIO

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

HOW TO CONTACT US...
CALL 419.354.9000 and let us help you or call toll-free from:

Deshler/Hoytville: 419.278.3797
Grand Rapids: 419.832.1541
Fostoria/Risingsun: 419.457.4545
Perrysburg/Toledo: 419.243.4223
Luckey/Stony Ridge: 419.833.5211
North Baltimore/Bloomdale: 419.257.3259