

# WoodCounty

# 2006

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## 2006 BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

James F. Carter,  
PRESIDENT

Tim W. Brown,  
VICE PRESIDENT

Alvin L. Perkins,  
MEMBER

Andrew S. Kalmar,  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Kristy A. Muir,  
CLERK OF THE BOARD/BUDGET DIRECTOR

Janese Diem,  
EDITOR



*Alvin Perkins, James Carter, and Tim Brown with a stone from the Wood County Courthouse that was donated to the Heritage Garden at the Ohio Governor's Residence.*

*Commissioners Tim Brown, James Carter, and Alvin Perkins sign the paperwork bringing Bass Pro to Wood County as witnessed by Bass Pro President Jim Hagale, Senator Randy Gardner, Governor Bob Taft, and Representative Bob Latta.*



# A Message from the Board of County Commissioners

We are once again 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. We owe the success of Wood County government to you, the citizens of Wood County, and to the excellent cooperation of the County elected officials to operate efficiently while providing quality service.

Perhaps the most exciting news for Wood County during 2006, was the announcement that Bass Pro Outdoor World is planning to build a retail facility in Rossford. The Bass Pro investment will be at least \$50 million to construct a 150,000 square foot store, that will employ 250 people near the intersection of I-75 and the Ohio Turnpike. The announcement of this project was the result of excellent teamwork from the City of Rossford, the Wood County Economic Development Commission, State Senator Randy Gardner, State Representative Bob Latta, the Northern Wood County Port Authority, and many others.

The County was able to play a significant role in attracting Bass Pro because of state legislation that was enacted to enable counties to offer an incentive based on county sales tax. By meeting five specific criteria, the Bass Pro project was designated as an "Impact Facility" by the Ohio Department of Development. Therefore, we worked with Bass Pro to negotiate a 75% sales tax refund over a ten year period on Wood County's one-penny sales tax. This historic agreement, a first for any county in the State of Ohio, is a true performance-based tax incentive. We are proud of the historic role we were able to play in bringing this mega retailer to Wood County.

The Bass Pro project fits well with other efforts in the county to promote tourism. In 2006, an allocation of \$50,000 was provided by the State of Ohio to the Wood County Economic Development Commission (WCEDC) to better coordinate tourism efforts in Wood County. Because the Bass Pro facility is expected to draw visitors from a 100-mile radius, it is considered a destination retail opportunity. The WCEDC has been working with the Bowling Green Convention and Visitors

Bureau, and the Perrysburg Chamber of Commerce to gather information from around Wood County to promote tourism opportunities in a coordinated manner. The initial result is a logo and website for [www.woodcountytourism.com](http://www.woodcountytourism.com), with a new Wood County tourism guide to follow. Wood County has many excellent attractions, events, and shopping opportunities that play a significant economic development role.

Fulfilling the announcement made in 2005, OI (Owens-Illinois) completed construction of its new building and relocated its corporate headquarters to Perrysburg in 2006. We are thrilled that Wood County is home to its first ever corporate headquarters for a fortune five hundred company. In addition, the Jones-Hamilton Company, a long-time component of our local economy relocated its corporate headquarters from California to its facility in Wood County. The confidence both of these significant employers have shown in Wood County and its workforce is gratifying.

We were pleased to work with the Wood County Committee on Aging by providing land at our East Gypsy Lane Complex for their new kitchen facility that will serve the needs of their home delivered meals program. This exciting project, completed in December 2006, will play a vital role in this important program that allows seniors to live independently in their own home for as long as possible.

In 2006, we provided \$50,000 to the Wood County Health Department to support their environmental programs related to housing, sewage, mosquitoes, nuisance programs, and concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO). While we as County Commissioners have no authority under Ohio law to permit or regulate CAFOs, we fully support the efforts of the Health Department as they work to protect public health. With this funding, the Health Department was able to improve their ability to do air sample testing, conduct baseline surface water testing related to proposed dairies, reinstate the mosquito larvicide program, and continue efforts to demolish hazardous structures. We very much appreciate the work of the Health Department and the important role they play

in the lives of all Wood County residents.

All visitors to the Courthouse Complex have been required to pass through a single secure entrance for a full year. This was started in December of 2005, and fulfilled the final requirement of the Ohio Supreme Court for providing security to local courts. We appreciate the cooperation of Wood County's citizens to work with this process to make it a success. The Wood County Court Security staff has been recognized by the state as a model for other counties to follow.

We remain excited about the future prospects for Wood County. 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 the citizens of Wood County have come to expect.

One thing we encourage you to do as citizens is shop locally. The primary source of funding to pay for the services of county government comes from our one penny sales tax. When you and your family make purchases in Wood County, that one penny remains here to help pay for county services. If you shop in another county, that county keeps the sales tax for their use. The most significant benefit of shopping locally is your support of local retailers and our local economy.

We ask you to take time to read this annual report to learn about the many exciting things that are 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.

  
James Carter, President

  
Tim Brown, Vice President

  
Alvin Perkins



## OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

*The Board of County Commissioners is the administrative coordinator of County Government and has direct oversight responsibility for 12 agencies and departments. Together the Commissioners manage County funds, buildings and property, and also serve as the County's contracting and tax authority.*

**W**hile the capacity of the Wood County Justice Center remains a concern, the Commissioners were pleased with the efforts of Sheriff Wasylyshyn to control costs in this regard. In 2006, the County spent \$153,462.50 to house inmates at other county jails because the Wood County Justice Center was periodically at capacity. This is down considerably from the \$475,301 spent for the same purpose in 2005. This savings is a result of creativity on the part of the Sheriff and his staff, efficient work by Wood County Prosecutor Raymond Fischer and his staff, and the efforts of the Courts to fully utilize the services of the Wood County Adult Probation Department.

The Commissioners were pleased to welcome Brad Gilbert as the new Emergency Management Agency Director for Wood County. Brad came from Ottawa County and has a strong background in fire and emergency medical services, as well as county government.

While there continues to be positive economic news for Wood County, three significant employers announced closings and employment reductions in 2006. To assist the employees of these companies, the Wood County Department of Job & Family Services, through its employment resource center – Job Solutions – provided information regarding placement, job training, and career counseling to people affected by these announcements.

The Wood County Dog Shelter continued to show positive results regarding dog license sales in 2006. Total dog and kennel license sales for 2006 were 19,597, with total revenue of \$241,476,

compared to 19,217 licenses sold, with total revenue of \$236,156 in 2005. The purchase of a dog license is required by state law, and is the best way to protect your pet should it become lost. Through the efforts of the Dog Warden to sell licenses door-to-door, as well as the good work of Wood County Auditor Michael Sibbersen to sell licenses on-line, overall license sales have increased by 3,536 since 2003.

While the State of Ohio rejected the effort to place strict controls on revenue and expenditures that would have been harmful to citizens served by local governments, concerns remain regarding revenue streams from the State to the County that have been frozen or will be phased out over the next several years. Local government funds, which represent the important historical partnership between the State and counties, as well as other units of local government, have been frozen since 2003.

The result of this freeze is that Wood County has lost over half a million dollars since 2003. The State is phasing out the personal property tax and has replaced it with the Commercial Activities Tax (CAT). In 2006, personal property tax revenues to County government totaled \$775,356. In 2006, the state began making reimbursements to local governments for personal property tax revenues. This will continue until 2010, and is based on 2004 property values. Beginning in 2011, the State will decrease the amount of reimbursement until 2018, at which time this revenue source will be eliminated. While the state has replaced its personal property tax revenue



James F. Carter



Tim W. Brown



Alvin L. Perkins

## Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations / Large Livestock Operations

**O**ur office continues to hear from many citizens, both for and against CAFOs locating in Wood County and we wanted to take this opportunity to address some important aspects of the issue. First Commissioners and Township Trustees are prohibited by law from regulating agriculture. In fact, all authority for regulating CAFOs is held by the State of Ohio. We do not provide tax abatements or incentives for CAFOs to locate in our County. Wood County cannot even require a building permit for these facilities because agriculture is exempt from this requirement under Ohio law. The granting of permits to locate and operate a CAFO is administered by the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Citizens who wish to voice their comments about CAFOs, either for or against, or to obtain information about why the State advocates dairy farms as part of Ohio's agricultural economy, may contact the Ohio Department of Agriculture at:

Robert Boggs, Director  
Ohio Department of Agriculture  
8995 E. Main Street  
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43058  
(614)728-6200  
[agri@odant.agri.state.oh.us](mailto:agri@odant.agri.state.oh.us)

As Commissioners we feel strongly that there should be a balance between preserving our County's strong agricultural

heritage and being good stewards of our environment. In 2006 the Commissioners provided \$50,000.00 to the Health Department to support their environmental program. They have used a portion of those dollars to conduct benchmark testing of the wells and streams that neighbor proposed CAFO sites so that all parties concerned know the existing quality of our water.

In an additional effort to remain pro-active on issues pertaining to human health and the environment, we joined State Senator Randy Gardner in 2006 to form an Ag-Energy Task Force to evaluate the potential of bio-digesters to turn the animal waste into a green energy source, thus possibly eliminating the need for open manure lagoons. We believe it is critically important to evaluate this technology and assess its potential for helping to protect human health and the environment.

We expect and desire agriculture to remain a significant and viable component of the Wood County economy in the future. In order to achieve this, it is our belief that we must all work together on this issue to ensure that viable agriculture, as well as protected public health and natural resources are viewed as being equally important.

with the CAT, there is currently no plan by the Legislature to share CAT revenues with local governments. The Commissioners will continue to work with the members of the State Legislature to communicate their concerns regarding the increased burden to Wood County taxpayers

due to the State not fulfilling its long-standing commitments.

In 2006, the Commissioners held their second official State of the County address at the Wood County District Public Library. In addition, the Commissioners continued their practice of holding open forum,

Town Hall meetings at various locations throughout the County. Open forum time is also scheduled every Tuesday and Thursday during the Commissioners' regular sessions for citizens to speak.

The Commissioners appoint members to a variety of boards and commissions, such as the Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Board, the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and 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 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 304 singles and 441 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.*

**R**evenue generated for the General Fund during 2006 totaled \$35,397,228.96. This amount combined with the beginning cash balance of \$8,726,116.44 provided \$44,123,345.40 in available funds. General Fund expenditures totaled \$33,079,853.07, leaving an ending balance of \$11,043,492.33.

Expenditures for calendar year 2006 reflected ongoing revenue constraints and the commitment of the Board of County Commissioners to facilitate the work of County government to better serve County residents. 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 2006 was influenced by several significant factors outside of normal operating expenses including general fund contributions totaling \$247,886.50 to various grants including, Agricultural Society, Airport, Health Department, Humane Society, Violence Against Women (VAWA), Community Policing, Victims of Crime Assistance (VOCA), and the Emergency Management Agency; equipment including computers and vehicle purchases totaling \$808,862.24; 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 \$238,565.

Sales tax revenue showed a miniscule increase, mirroring the sluggishness in the national economy. The year-end total was \$14,978,818.95, a 0.7 percent increase over the previous year. Investment income for the year ended at \$3,427,992.27, a 34.35 percent increase from 2005.

*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.*

**T**he annual fall United Way campaign raised more than \$29,653 from County employees to benefit United Way agencies in the local area. An additional \$1,427 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 52 pints of blood; and the Holiday Helping Hands Days, held in December, that gave employees the opportunity to donate hats, gloves, and mittens to the Health Department's Mitten Tree and canned goods to a food bank serving Wood County residents.

The Spirit of Wood County Awards program was held on June 11 at the Historical Center, in conjunction with Wood County Heritage Days. The awards honor services rendered by present and/or former Wood County citizens.

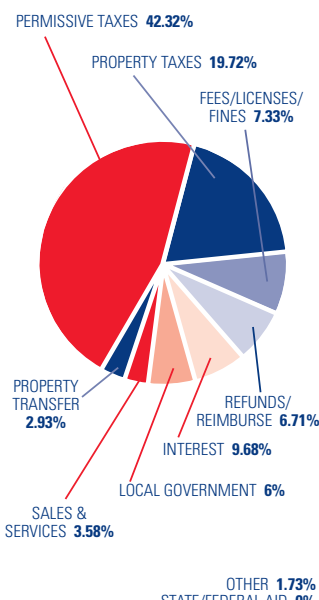
An awards ceremony was scheduled for January 11, 2007, to honor the 141 employees who completed five, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 40 years of service during 2006.

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

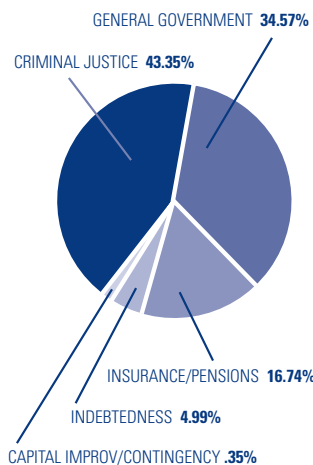
**B**y necessity the Commissioners must take a broad view of actions necessary to make the County a better place to live and work. The Commissioners are thus active in promoting public/private partnerships in human services, economic development, health, and infrastructure development. The Commissioners 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. •

### ACTUAL RECEIPTS



### ACTUAL EXPENDITURES





## Department of Job and Family Services • Paulette Stephens, Director

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

**T**he Department of Job and Family Services administered \$79,397,982 in various programs in 2006. Of this amount, 96 percent came from federal and state sources, with the remaining four percent from local sources. Over \$70 million (approx. 88 percent) was attributable to Medicaid.

During 2006, the Children's Services and Social Services units achieved Council on Accreditation national accreditation status. COA accreditation validates that the agency is adhering to the highest levels of service delivery.

Wood County residents received assistance with basic needs of food, clothing, shelter, and medical care as follows: 222 Temporary

Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) cash payment cases per month; 5,943 Medicaid cases per month averaging \$5,837,077 per month with 61 percent for those who are aged/blind/disabled and in the community, nine percent for nursing home care, and 30 percent for children and families; \$229,802 monthly food stamp issuance, averaging \$113 per month per case – this includes an average of 2,130 children in Wood County; 48 adult disability assistance cases per month, at \$115 per month per person; and \$113,707.36 disability assistance medical expenditures in 2006.

As the Workforce Development agency for the County, the Department utilized funds to supply employment and training

services to 27 adults and 23 dislocated workers who received funding for training to enhance their employable skills, with some obtaining employment with starting wages ranging from \$8.70 to \$32.21 per hour. Strong collaboration with the 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 affected by business down-sizing. In addition, 2,370 individuals were served through the Employment Resource Center One-Stop service delivery system which includes referrals to and from One-Stop Partner agencies. The Workforce Development/ Employment Resource Center web site, [www.woodcountyjobs.com](http://www.woodcountyjobs.com), served as a virtual resource center for job seekers and employers.

The Children's Protective Services Unit served 2,924

children in 2006. There were 95 children placed in substitute care at a cost of \$2.25 million. In home, protective services were provided to 153 children and their families. Assessment services were provided to 1,724 children who were in homes with reported child abuse/neglect. A total of twelve adoptions were finalized and seven children are in adoptive placement awaiting finalization.

One of the agency's foster families was honored in Columbus as "Foster Parents of the Year" by the Public Children's Association of Ohio. A foster/ adoptive family picnic was held in July and a holiday party in January. Preparation and training continued in 2006 for the new statewide Risk Assessment model (CAPMIS) and computer system (SACWIS). The Multi Ethnic Placement Act (MEPA) rules were implemented which increased the foster/adoptive certification requirements as well as changed

*continued on page 7*

## 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, and is the largest area covered by a single building inspection department in the State. The Building Inspection Department also conducts residential building inspections within Wood County, accounting for 42 percent of all fees collected.*

**D**uring 2006, the Department issued 5,315 permits. The issuance of permits resulted in 18,608 field inspections, with 1,479 lists of deficiencies requiring corrective action. Of the inspections conducted, 15,697 occurred inside Wood County resulting in 9,954 residential and 5,743 commercial.

Receipts for 2006 totaled \$1,292,291. Wood County residential and commercial

receipts totaled \$1,000,018. Hancock County commercial inspections added \$169,400, with Henry County adding \$122,873.

During 2006, preparations were made for the Department to become state certified for residential construction during 2007. Currently, the residential side of the department is overseen by the Wood County Commissioners. Once the certification process is complete,

the Ohio Board of Building Standards will oversee the residential code.

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 2006

One, two, and three family dwellings \*

**379**

Additions or alterations to single family dwellings \*

**235**

New residential garages \*

**135**

New commercial structures \*\*

**223**

Additions or alterations to commercial structures \*\*

**349**

\* (Wood County only)

\*\* (Wood, Hancock, & Henry Counties)



## 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 2006, the Child Support Enforcement Agency collected \$18,045,338.46 and disbursed this amount to the custodial parents of children due child support. Additionally, \$143,254.15 was collected and returned to the State of Ohio for cases where Ohio Works First (OWF) was paid for families in need. Of these amounts, \$707,129.71 was recouped via an offset process on income tax refunds with the Internal Revenue Service and the Ohio Department of Taxation. Reimbursements of \$25,591.31 were paid to the Department of Job and Family Services for children in Wood County foster care living situations.

During 2006, the Agency's legal staff initiated 423 contempt of court actions in Common Pleas and Juvenile Courts, and 70 counts of misdemeanor criminal nonsupport at the Bowling Green Municipal Court. These two activities directly resulted in lump-sum payments of more than \$312,000 and reinitiated regular child support payments for Wood County's children. The Agency's legal staff also recovered more than \$17,000 through administrative activities such as probate actions, liens, and attachment of retirement accounts. Wood County continued its aggressive felony prosecution of criminal nonsupport; 15 delinquent payors were referred to the Prosecuting Attorney's Office for consideration of felony charges, resulting in nine successful prosecutions.

In December 2006, the Agency participated in the state-wide "Round-Up" of payors who had

warrants outstanding for child support non-payment. Seven individuals were apprehended who owed a combined amount of more than \$53,000 at the time of the arrests. Throughout 2006, the Agency initiated the execution of more than 300 warrants by various law enforcement agencies.

Utilization of the Financial Institution Data Match (FIDM) continued in 2006. 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 \$30,000 was collected from 30 bank accounts, with more than \$15,000 seized from one account alone.

Two other enforcement tools were used more frequently in 2006. The License Suspension Program allowed the Agency to suspend the driver's license or the professional license of an individual who owes six months or more in back support and has not made a payment in 90 days. By suspending 140 licenses, the Agency collected more than \$13,000 in support. The Passport Denial Program was an option when payors owed more than \$2,500; these individuals were reported to the Department of State, which either denied issuance of a new passport or denied the use of an existing passport. In 2006, more than \$3,000 was collected from payors wishing to travel outside the United States. As the mandate for use of a passport for travel to Canada and Mexico is implemented in 2007, this program could be utilized even more frequently.

Throughout the year, the Agency worked to resolve 128 paternity establishment cases locally, in addition to the 333 father-child relationships acknowledged by new fathers and mothers at the time of a child's birth. Most of the 128 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, 2006, the Agency had 6,193 open cases.

The Agency continued placement of an employee in an office adjacent to the Domestic Relations Court 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.

During 2006, the Agency converted consumers to an "electronic" method of receiving child support payments. Ohio's MasterCard debit card program, e-QuickPay, and electronic direct deposit are faster, simpler and safer methods to receive support. By the end of 2006, 95 percent of the child support payees in the County were enrolled in one of the electronic disbursement programs. In 2006, more than 80,000 individual Wood County payments were distributed electronically.

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

## Job and Family Services

*continued from page 6.*

foster/adoptive placement decision making.

The Social Services Unit provided information and referral services to 3,295 people. In 2006, the Utility Pilot program assisted 865 families, totaling \$486,625 in utility/heating assistance. Another program, PRC provided \$78,257 in car repair, and child care was provided to an average of 338 children each month at a cost of \$1,540,305 for 2006.

Transportation was provided 1,981 times for Medicaid recipients. Homeless Prevention was accomplished by providing Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) funds for rent to 36 adults without children at a cost of \$14,320.

Intensive Case Management Services were provided to 225 families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families to promote self-sufficiency.

Services to senior citizens included Homemaker Services provided at an average of 177 times per month; Home Health Aide Services (through a contract with the Health Department) were provided to elders and disabled individuals at an average of 43 per month, and Chore Services were provided to an average of 23 consumers each month. Adult Protective Services responded to 101 referrals of suspected abuse and/or neglect.

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

The Department of Job and Family Services is also the fiscal agent for the Wood County Family and Children First Council which administered \$176,878.40 and the Wood County Workforce Investment Act (WIA) which administered \$469,427.49 in 2006. •

## Buildings and Grounds

**COURTHOUSE COMPLEX:** Tim Hainen, Superintendent  
**EAST GYPSY LANE COMPLEX :** Alan Stoots, Superintendent

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

### East Gypsy Lane Complex

**T**he 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 OSU Extension.

Numerous building updates were completed during the year including roof repairs at the Juvenile Residential Center; vent replacements at Juvenile Court; concrete and masonry work at the Dog Shelter and Wood Haven; remodeling work at the Dunbridge Road Building, Job and Family Services, and Wood Haven; replacement of lighting controls at NorthWest Community Corrections Center; and the walk-in cooler and freezer replacement at the Justice Center.

Other projects included Corn Barn repairs at the Historical Center and extensive drain work at Wood Haven.

### Courthouse Complex

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

During 2006, staff completed preventive maintenance of the Office Building chiller and cooling tower and added water treatment to the system; replaced the parking garage exit ramp; installed new bicycle racks; created new handicapped parking areas; rebuilt the Office Building air handler motor; installed power correction capacitors in all buildings; renovated and painted the Public Defender office; instituted new fire protection record keeping and inspection procedures; replaced a large portion of hot water heat piping in the Office Building; performed monthly generator testing; and numerous office alterations throughout the complex.

The Custodial Staff re-surfaced the terrazzo floor in the Atrium and developed a long-term maintenance program for its preservation. Recycling efforts were improved during the year through an agreement with Community Employment Services of Wood Lane who provided containers and weekly pickup services for the complex. Late in the year a plan was put in place to eliminate contract cleaning and place the full responsibility of the complex under the existing custodial staff.

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

## Dog Shelter

Rodney Cook, Chief 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 sources for the Dog and Kennel Fund which is used to pay salaries, maintain trucks, pay utilities, maintain the building, and pay veterinarian fees.*

**F**or a third consecutive year, the sale of dog licenses reached an all-time high. A total of 19,445 were sold, an increase of 21 percent from 2003. In addition to regular license sales, the Shelter's staff sold licenses at several locations throughout the County during the annual renewal period.

The Shelter continued to post photos of available dogs at

numerous locations throughout the County and on their website.

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. •

### 2006 Statistics

Total Dogs Impounded .....	<b>726</b>
Adoptions .....	<b>217</b>
Redemptions .....	<b>224</b>
Euthanised .....	<b>285</b>
Calls Answered .....	<b>582</b>
After Hour Calls.....	<b>39</b>
Kennel Licenses Sold.....	<b>152</b>

## HAVE YOU PURCHASED 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.)

### 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](http://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/dogshelter](http://www.co.wood.oh.us/dogshelter), or stop by the Shelter for dogs currently available for adoption.



## 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.*

**T**he year 2006 was one of diversification for the Economic Development Commission.

Announced projects included a major expansion by a longtime Wood County manufacturer, D.S. Brown Co. of North Baltimore and the attraction of a new one, Edge Seal Technologies of Northwood, both in the area of construction materials; the former for roads

and bridges, the latter for home and office. Between them, they accounted for 100 new jobs at either end of Wood County.

Longtime Lake Township manufacturer and model corporate citizen, Jones-Hamilton Co. gave us a vote of confidence by moving their corporate headquarters here from California. Adding to our logistics

portfolio, German multi-national Thyssen Krupp moved into a previously vacated 140,000 sq ft building in the AccessPointe corridor along Interstate 75.

Most visible was the announcement by Commissioners in October (attended by the governor and our two state legislators) that the County had succeeded in landing the long sought BassPro Outdoor World facility. With an investment of \$50 million and an employment base in excess of 200, it is expected to become one of the top tourist destinations in Ohio, as it has in other states. This was truly a team effort by a lot of entities and people, but the extraordinary efforts of Wood County legislators, Representative Latta and Senator Gardner provided

the Commissioners with the critical tools to bring this very beneficial project to Wood County.

All told, over \$71 million of new investment was attracted to Wood County during 2006, resulting in 493 new jobs created, and 641 existing jobs retained.

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



**Wood County**  
Economic Development  
Commission

## 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.*

**F**inancial 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 2006, the Center and its resources were made available to more than 12,500 visitors and more than 50 county agencies and community groups.

Visitors took tours, engaged in research activities, participated in education programs, and hiked the site's grounds and nature trails.

The Center hosted a variety of special events: Antique Appraisal Clinic, Uncovering Hidden Histories Workshop, Spring Mental Health Lecture Series, Earth Camp, Wood County Heritage Days and the Spirit of Wood County Awards, Wood County Employee Picnic and Safety Fair, Soil and Water Conservation Annual Dinner, Halloween Folklore and Funfest, Old Home Holiday

Tour and Gala Opening Event, the monthly tea series and the monthly Curator's Lecture Series.

New exhibits in 2006 included the "Spotlight Exhibit," which contains a rotating display of new acquisitions to the collection and some unique, one-of-a-kind items from collections storage. New pieces were added to the Victorian's Secret exhibit and members of local 4-H clubs in Wood County produced a new exhibit on 4-H activities in the county. The Victorian's Secret exhibit received an Award of Commendation from the Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums.

A Wood County Driving Tour audio CD was developed during 2006. Each track on the CD features a different aspect of Wood County and is narrated by a variety of local residents. The CD comes complete with a suggested route and contact

information for many of the participating agencies.

The education coordinator traveled to 23 schools and gave programs to 926 students. Twelve schools and 541 of their students visited the museum to see the exhibits and grounds first hand. The museum also hosted various tours from area daycare centers, BGSU, and boy/girl scout troops. In total, 1,937 students benefited from museum programs in 2006.

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](http://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. •

## Wood Haven Health Care

David Cecil, Administrator

*Wood Haven Health Care, Senior Living & Rehabilitation, a 108-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. Wood Haven is Medicare and Medicaid certified, is a Hill-Burton provider and serves individuals covered under various nursing care insurance plans.*

**T**he bed capacity at Wood Haven expanded from 100 beds to 108 beds with the renovation of eight fully furnished deluxe private rooms to be used primarily for Medicare rehabilitation and hospice residents. The newly added private rooms have been in constant use since opening in July.

The average length of stay for Medicare residents in 2006 was 26.5 days. Wood Haven registered 170 admissions and 161 discharges, with 104 residents returning home following their rehabilitation stay. The facility logged 32,277 resident in-house days, an increase of 138 days over the previous year. Privately funded residents represented 18 percent of those days, while 64 percent were Medicaid, 13 percent Medicare and five percent managed care or hospice. Bordner Therapy Care continued to provide out-patient services to many individuals who were discharged to home.

In February the facility received a deficiency free report from the Ohio Department of Health conducting its annual inspection survey. Residents and staff alike celebrated with a steak cook-out

in recognition of the effort and excellence put forth leading to this achievement.

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; regular rides in the country; and shopping trips and meals at area restaurants. In-house activities included the annual euchre tournament; Easter Egg Hunt; staff and resident talent contest; basketball tournament; OSU vs. Michigan Party; Christmas Open House; New Year's Eve Party and regular cook-outs, ice cream socials, cards, games, and movie nights. One exciting activity was the "Boomer Blast" held in October honoring the Baby Boomers who turned 60 during 2006. Two residents and five staff members fell into this category and enjoyed a party featuring a live disc jockey playing music from the 50s and 60s, a performance by "The Beached Buoys" (compiled of four staff members and one resident) and were served malts and root beer floats. Wood Haven residents joined

with seniors from other area facilities participating in bowling tournaments and bingo in the park. Several individuals and groups also provided a variety of entertaining programs throughout the year and volunteers from local schools, churches and service organizations assisted with many activities and events.

Wood Haven served as a clinical training site for nursing students from Brown Mackie College and offered BGSU

students 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. •

## 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 10,568 cubic-foot records boxes. A small microfilm vault stores some of the County's duplicate copy microfilm.*

**B**y the close of 2006, the Center received and shelved a total of 7,853 cubic feet of County records. A total of 791 cubic feet of new records were received for storage in 2006. Based on records retention rules, 445 cubic feet became eligible for disposal during the year. The Center is utilized by 21 County offices to store inactive and historical records.

With the small industrial shredder purchased in 2004, a total of 17,975 pounds, or nearly nine tons, of paper was sent to the Bowling Green Recycling Center for further processing. The shredding of these obsolete records saved approximately 899 cubic feet of storage space throughout County facilities.

Records Center staff continued a number of digital imaging and microfilming projects in 2006, scanning more than 3,800 Auditor's payroll files of former County employees, completing a project to digitize the Commissioners' journals from 1836 to present, and creating 21 rolls of microfilm for Probate Court. In addition to records storage and preservation activities, staff assisted and supported County offices regarding development of records retention schedules and destruction of records that have reached their retention periods.

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

## Emergency Management Agency

J. Eric Larson, Director (Jan. 1 - June 30, 2006);  
Bradley J. Gilbert, Director (Nov. 6 - Dec. 31, 2006)

*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.*

**T**he Weapons of Mass Destruction and Equipment Committee continued its involvement with purchases through the Department of Homeland Security Grant Program. The Committee also continued to evaluate vulnerabilities, equipment, and training needs for first responders in the County. Formed in 2002, the Committee consists of officials from Bowling Green State University, Wood County Sheriff's Office, Wood County Health Department, Wood County Hospital, as well as representatives from the Mayor's, Trustee's, Fire/E.M.S. Chief's, and Fire Fighter's Associations and others from a diverse group of officials and responders from across the County. Wood County EMA was awarded \$94,911.00 which will be used to upgrade radio communications within Wood County.

The Agency was awarded \$18,990 for the Wood County Citizen Corps Grant Program under the umbrella of the Department of Homeland Security Grant Program. Citizen Corps is the grass-roots movement that actively involves everyone in making communities across America safer, stronger, and better prepared. The purpose of this grant is to support citizen preparedness through public education, training, and volunteer service in close cooperation with professional public safety organizations. Two programs were developed under Citizen Corps: Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). The MRC Program

was developed and administered in cooperation with the Wood County Health Department.

In September 2006, Wood County hosted its inaugural Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) course for volunteers. CERT is a training program that prepares you to help yourself, your family and your neighbors in the event of a disaster. The training also promotes a partnering effort among emergency services and the people they serve. If a disastrous event overwhelms or delays the community's professional response, CERT members can assist others by applying basic response and organizational skills that they learned during the training course. These skills can help save and sustain lives following a disaster, until help arrives.

In 2006, the Agency responded to three 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. The Countywide Cost Recovery Program continued with, approximately \$24,200 collected for various political subdivisions.

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

## Solid Waste Management District

Ken Rieman, Director

*The Solid Waste Management District manages solid waste planning and the development of recycling opportunities for residents. It also operates the Wood County Landfill, established under 1968 garbage district legislation. All cities, villages, and unincorporated areas of Wood County are part of the Wood County Garbage District and thereby share financial responsibility for the Wood County Landfill. The mission of the County-owned facility is to provide an environmentally responsible disposal facility for citizens, businesses, and industry that is self-supporting and meets or exceeds all regulations. The District is required to assure there is sufficient disposal capacity for solid waste generated within Wood County. It also must assure that 90 percent of the citizens have access to curbside or drop-off recycling and educate people on proper waste disposal.*

**M**ajor improvements to landfill access roads were completed during 2006. At the Wood County Landfill, turn lanes from both directions on US Route 6 were completed, as well as paving of the Tontogany Road access to the Landfill at a cost of \$442,000. The majority of funds for this project came from solid waste fees. Additional funding in the amount of \$100,000 was provided by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Recycling and Litter Prevention to include ground up used tires in the asphalt mix. Not only is this a good use for old tires, but the ground tire rubber asphalt will help prevent pavement cracking. It also makes traffic noise quieter and since the pavement stays blacker longer, ice and snow melt more quickly. Wood County also contributed \$500,000, over the course of several years so that the City of Northwood could pave East Broadway in front of the Evergreen Landfill from Wales Road to the city limit/county line. This project also received ODNR funding for its use of recycled tires. The two projects were the first use of this material on major roadways in Ohio and the first use of the material on an

Ohio Department of Transportation Highway (US Route 6).

The Wood County Landfill, a disposal and recovery facility, is a state of the art Ohio EPA approved facility. Materials such as concrete and brick are recovered and used for stone. Yard waste is also accepted and either composted or ground into mulch, which is screened and sold, providing a convenient and cost effective means for county residents to dispose of this material. Over 3,000 tons of brush was brought in during 2006, with 1,700 tons of mulch sold at \$15 per ton.

A 2,500-foot long, 30-feet high litter fence was installed at the Landfill helping to reduce the amount of blowing litter. As part of their staff training program, the Bowling Green Electrical Division installed the poles, guywires, and netting at no charge, saving approximately \$30,000 in labor costs.

District staff are in the process of determining what is required to generate electricity from methane gas, which is released by the Landfill as a result of garbage decomposition. Tests are being done to determine the equipment

*continued on page 19*





*Individuals from across the County provide representation on a number of Wood County governing boards and commissions. Their role is to provide knowledge and support to enhance the functioning of County government. The Board of County Commissioners greatly appreciates the willingness of so many citizens to accept appointments and serve on these Boards and Commissions to help keep Wood County a great place to work, live and raise a family.*

*If you are interested in serving as a member on a County Board or Commission, please contact the Commissioners' Office in writing to indicate which Board or Commission you may have an interest in and provide a copy of a resume for future reference.*

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

Linda Amos\*, Jerome Carpenter\*, Bill Culbertson\*, Judy Ennis\*, Christopher Goliver, Beverley Hirzel\*, Allen N. Kepke, Stan Korducki\*, Michael Linthicum, Frank McLaughlin\*, Eric Reynolds, Rickey L. Rudey\*, Joe Rutherford\*, H. Jay Savage, Lottie Wilson, and three vacancies

### **BOARD OF MENTAL RETARDATION AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

Dolores Black\*, Hugh Caumartin, Timothy Harris\*, Shirley McFee, David C. Miller\*, Jane Quinn\*, and Suzanne Reed\*

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

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

## **GOVERNING BOARDS & COMMISSIONS**

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

Fred Arn, Ron Bechstein, Tim Enright, Ray Huber, David Kellermeier (alternate), Richard Marten, Robert Maurer, Laurie Melchior Huskisson, Kermit Rudolph (alternate), 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, John Fawcett, Raymond C. Fischer, Dan Galway, Ann Garcia, Kathleen Hamm, Scott Howard, Andrew Kalmar, Reeve Kelsey, Alan Mayberry, S. Dwight Osterud, Robert Pollex, Mark Reddin, Matt Reger, Gary Spencer, Stu Sockrider, and Mark Wasylshyn

### **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

### **HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD**

Ken Ault, Millie Broka, Malcolm Campbell, Ethel Green, Mark Hamman, Eric Honneffer\*, Neil Munger, Edie Olds, Leslie Oswald, Dorsey Sergeant\*, Louis Snyder\*, Leslee Thompson, Ben Waggoner, Alyce Walden, and Becky White-Schooner

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

Shelian Beaupre, Mark Blake, Joseph Catalano, Sue Clanton, Kathy Ferrell, Elvira Gonzales, Candelario Guzman, Judy Knox, Susan Miklovic, Paul Mortimer, Denise Niese, Paulette Stephens, Christine Simington, Timothy Tegge, Martha Woelke, and Laurie Young Ex-Officio Members: Larry Mersham and Melanie Stretchbery

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

Rebecca Bhaer, Joni Bretz, Nancy Buchanan, Tom Chidester, Brad Conner, Rodney Fleming, Danny LaDuke, Scott Hicks, Nina Oberkirsh, Alvin Perkins, Richard Schmidbauer, Rick Schmidt, Mark Wasylshyn, and Irma Wolf

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

John Ault, Paul Brim, John Cheney\*, John Current, Joseph Molnar, Alex Molner\*, Terry D. Murray\*, Phillip Shaffer, and Lyle Schulte

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

Anthony Allion, John Brossia, Tim Brown, James Carter, Chris Ewald, Patrick Fitzgerald, Raymond Huber, Richard Kohring, Alvin Perkins, Donna Schuerman, and Tom Weidner  
Non-voting Associate Members: Michael Billmaier, Jerry Greiner, Kelly Moore, and W. David Steiner

### **PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION**

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

### **PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD**

Nick Ezzone, Anna Griffith\*, Chet Marcin, Scott McEwen\*, Brian Paskvan\*, Jane Robb, and David Swartz\*

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

K. Nathan Bockbrader, Walter Celley, Gaylyn Finn, Dean Hetrick, Richard "Dick" Martin, and C. Michael Solley

### **ROSSFORD TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

Luci Flannery\*, John Hrosko, Raymond Huber, Bob Mack, Michael Melnyk\*, Edwin Pavuk, and Bob Watrol

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

John Cheney, Valerie Hovland, and Cathleen Wenig  
Alternates: Chris Ewald and Tim Harris

### **WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION TERRORISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE\*\***

Ken Ault, Thomas Brice, David Caprara, Mary Dennis, Ken Fallows, Erin Hachtel, Kathy Heyman, Raymond Huber, Mark Hummer, Michael Instone, Chris Miller, Alvin L. Perkins, John Quinn, Ron Sims, Gary Spencer, Randy Tolles, Thomas Pack, Dan Parrott, Tim Schroeder, Mark Wasylshyn, and David Weekly

### **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 Kelly Borders, Melvin L. Browning\*, Traci DeBlasio, Alan W. Fosnaugh\*, Roberta Lane, and Monica Thompson

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

Frank Day, Andrea Depinet, Marie Ermie, Kevin Flagg, Ronald Matter, John Quinn, John Schlagheck, Linda Stacy, Cathy Newlove Wenig, and Joyce Winters

Ad Hoc Members: Thomas Blaha, Douglas Garman, Andrew Kalmar, Mary DeWitt, and Paulette Stephens

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

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

Ad Hoc Members: Thomas Blaha, Douglas Garman, 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.*

**O**n behalf of Wood County, Auditor Sibbersen accepted the Auditor of State's Award on November 2nd for the County's exemplary 2004 annual financial report and audit. Wood County also received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the tenth consecutive year from the Government Finance Officers Association for 2005. The Weights and Measures program was also recognized during 2006. The program received the 2006 Frank P. Gallo Award from the Ohio Weights and Measures Association. The award recognizes an outstanding jurisdiction in Ohio for their excellence in enforcement, training, and commitment to high standards.

In 2006, new aerial photographs were taken for the county, adding views at different directions and angles as well as the traditional "straight down" view. These additional views will be available for appraisal, emergency response, and law enforcement use. In addition, the Auditor started a project to update digital street centerlines for increased accuracy capability of emergency response and other government agencies by adding new addresses created since the last project.

As agent for the County Dog and Kennel Fund, the Auditor recorded

record sales of dog licenses with 19,445 dog licenses and 152 kennel licenses sold during 2006. The online dog registration with a credit card payment option remained popular with dog owners.

The Office assessed 73,592 parcels of real property with a taxable value of \$2,698,385,050. Special assessments for waterlines, sewers, ditches, etc., were also collected with the real estate tax duplicate and distributed to all appropriate local governmental units. Whenever property is sold, the deed is brought to the Auditor to convey taxable ownership before it is recorded. The Office processed 4,609 such conveyances, including 7,189 individual parcels. The County conveyance tax totaled \$1,550,137, and is directly based on real estate sales prices in the County.

Effective September 28, 2006, a law passed, at the urging of rental property owners, to require the registration of each residential rental property. Owners were required to file this form with the Auditor of the county where the property is located and provide the emergency contact number for the landlord in the event of a disaster or nuisance complaint. Wood County has received over 500 applications covering over 1,400 individual properties.

The Homestead Exemption program administered by the Office provided property tax relief for 1,764 elderly and disabled residents who met income requirements. The maximum allowable income for 2008 will be \$27,000, which is indexed for inflation and is based on a resident's 2006 income.

The Auditor's staff assisted in the preparation of 1,612 personal property tax returns, a business tax paid on inventory and equipment. This particular tax is presently

being phased out due to the legislature's tax restructuring.

The consumer protection division of the Office inspected 723 commercial scales, 1,503 gas pumps, as well as electronic scanners in retail and wholesale use, and investigated 18 complaints. Staff also checked packages at various locations throughout the County for correct net weight.

The Auditor is authorized to perform his duties under Section 319, 322, 323, 5701-5743, et al. 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.*

**A**dvancements 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 2006, 143 taxpayers utilized the automatic withdrawal plan and 226 taxpayers participated in the monthly automatic withdrawal plan. Information on how to enroll in the automatic withdrawal is available on the Treasurer's website. Change of address and remission of penalty forms, as well as real estate tax information are also accessible online.

The Office collected \$130,957,289.79 in real estate

taxes during 2006. An additional \$20,349,688.17 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 reasonably anticipated operating requirements. Investment income for 2006 was \$3,427,992.27.

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. •



Rebecca E. Bhaer

## CLERK OF COURTS

*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 Strickland.*

**T**he Clerk maintains an electronic database containing a total inventory of the Clerk's records. Since 2002, all records are available to court staff

and others to access electronically. The duties of the Clerk of Courts are authorized under many sections of the Ohio Revised Code. •

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

Appeals cases filed	95
Civil cases filed	923
Land tax foreclosures filed	14
CV foreclosure cases	442
Domestic relations cases filed	464
Domestic violence cases filed	152
Domestic stalking civil protection cases filed	149
Domestic relations cases reopened	389
Criminal cases filed	590
Judgment liens filed	727
Foreign judgments filed	5
State tax liens filed	1,061
Executions filed	7
Judgment entries journalized (pages)	30,189
Notary commissions filed	529
Passport applications accepted	458
Criminal investigations	2
Criminal record checks	1,880
Coroner's reports filed	7

### TITLE DOCUMENTS PROCESSED

Auto titles, duplicates & memo titles	59,611
Motor vehicle mortgages recorded	14,657
Salvage titles	119
Penalties (for not transferring titles timely)	2,784
Inspections	6,013
Affidavits	18,216
Manufactured home archives recorded	724
Boat titles, duplicates and memo titles (includes charged replacement titles)	805
Watercraft mortgages recorded	93
Watercraft affidavits	702
Watercraft penalties	132

### LEGAL DISBURSEMENT TOTALS .....\$2,672,226.54

General fund	\$429,373.58
Legal research fees	\$7,244.24
Computerization fees	\$31,301.04
Reimburse court diagnostic fees	\$11,300.97
Mediation costs	\$55,900
Fines paid to the County	\$52,990.20
Fines paid to the Law Library	\$750.00
Statutory fees paid to non-Wood County entities	\$128,683.11
Funding shelters for victims of domestic violence	\$14,112
Fees paid to the Sheriff	\$166,134.38
Drug fines paid to the Sheriff	\$13,580.45
Fines paid to County police depts.	\$5,624.23
Interest paid to general fund	\$25,046.40
Fees paid to Appraisers	\$64,350
Indigent application fees	\$575.00
Guardian ad litem fees	\$515.00
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	\$1,664,745.94

### TITLE DISBURSEMENT TOTALS .....\$13,571,651.85

Clerk of Courts	
Certificate of Title Fund Receipts	\$397,140.14
State of Ohio Motor vehicle and Watercraft Casual and dealer tax	\$13,026,011.71
Certificate of title fees	\$146,317.50
Watercraft Fees	\$2,182.50



Douglas W. Hess, M.D.

## CORONER

*The Coroner evaluates and rules on all violent, accidental, and suspicious circumstance deaths, homicides, suicides, and sudden deaths of persons in apparent good health.*

*A licensed physician, the Coroner performs lab tests, x-rays, or autopsies as needed. The Coroner generally does not investigate deaths that occur from natural causes, when the person has a family physician. An official report of the Coroner's findings is filed with the Clerk of Courts. The Coroner is authorized to perform his duties under Chapter 313 of the Ohio Revised Code.*

**T**he Coroner's Office was notified of 169 deaths during 2006, of those, 95 were determined not to be Coroner cases. •

### 2006 CORONER CASES

Auto Accidents	15
Homicide	1
Natural	26
Other Accidents	16
Pending	1
Suicide	13
Undetermined	2
<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>74</b>





## RECORDER

Sue Kinder

*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 25,456 documents were recorded and/or filed. A total of \$1,357,882.03 was collected in fees. Of this amount \$668,952.01 was remitted to the State of Ohio for the Ohio Housing Trust Fund; \$98,459 was deposited into the Recorder's supplemental equipment fund; and the remaining \$590,462.19 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 1,000 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. •

## 2006 DOCUMENTS

Deeds .....	4,295
Judgment entries, affidavits, agreements and certificates for transfer .....	962
Mortgages (total value \$7,515,044,917.66) .....	8,396
Mortgage assignments and waivers of priority .....	1,029
Land Contracts .....	37
Mortgages released (with a value of \$5,820,140,155.07) .....	7,941
Rights of way and easements .....	301
Leases .....	25
Mechanics liens .....	151
Plats (creating 228 lots) .....	15
Condominiums (creating 24 units) .....	6
Federal Tax Liens .....	169
Financing statements, security agreements .....	70
Terminations .....	44
Financing statement assignments, amendments and releases .....	51
Miscellaneous documents including addendums, assignments of lease/rents, assignments of rents/lease, abstract judgments, amendments (partnerships, townships), annexations, anti-terrorism, cancellations, certificates, complaints, consents, covenants, declarations (condo), disclaimers, license, liens (condo, federal estate tax, mechanics, homeowners, personal tax, recognizance, state), medicaid recipients, memo of trusts, mergers, master mortgage forms, notices (notice to commence suits, notice of liens), nunc pro tunc, options, ordinances, orders, partnerships, power of attorneys (durable, military), perf bond, partial releases, premium dues, ratifications, easement releases, federal tax lien releases, federal estate tax lien releases, lease releases, mechanical lien releases, personal tax releases, premium due releases, state lien releases, ucom releases, workers comp releases, renewals, resolutions, restrictions, revocations, right of refusals, surveys, terminations, unemployment compensations and waivers .....	1,964



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.*

**T**he Prosecutor's Office sponsored various youth violence prevention programs. The Wood County Gang Task Force received grant funding to help reduce juvenile crime by removing graffiti throughout the County at no cost to property owners. In an effort to prevent school violence, the 4-S student mediation program was offered to school districts in the County. On March 11th, the 8th Annual Youth Olympics were held focusing on "Competition without Conflict". Wounded Iraqi war veteran Matthew Drake was the special guest. The Safety Kids Calendar contest celebrated its 17th year. Ben Wilson, an eighth grader from Northwood Middle School, was the year's winner. His drawing will be featured on the 2007 calendar cover.

The Prosecuting Attorney hosted the annual law enforcement conference in September. The 100 participants discussed updates in the law and related topics including "Interpersonal Skills Relating to Law Enforcement: Developing the Ability to Persuade Victims, Witnesses or Defendants to Provide Truthful Information" by Clint Baber, retired FBI Special Agent.

The speakers' bureau continued to provide presentations on a variety of subjects to many organizations within the County.

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

**Wood County Youth Olympics:** Prosecuting Attorney Ray Fischer awards one of the 530 fourth and fifth grade student participants. All schools in the County (public and private) are invited to participate.



## COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

### General Division

*The Court of Common Pleas, General Division, handles felony criminal matters; domestic relations matters, including divorce, dissolution, change of custody, visitation and child and spousal support enforcement and modification; general civil matters, 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.*

**D**uring 2006, the Court completed 2,695 cases and 1,083 cases remained pending. Of the total cases completed, 909 were general civil, 1,168 were domestic relations, and 618 were criminal.

During 2006, Judge Mayberry served as Administrative Judge. Judge Kelsey served as Presiding

Judge, Court Security Judge and represented the County on the Maumee Conservancy District Court. Judge Pollex served as Chairman of the Judicial Corrections Board.

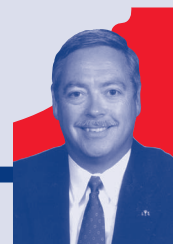
The Court, along with Hancock County Common Pleas Court, continued the joint in-house mediation program. Cases were referred to mediation by the



Robert C. Pollex  
COURTROOM 1



Reeve Kelsey  
COURTROOM 2



Alan R. Mayberry  
COURTROOM 4

general, domestic relations, juvenile and probate divisions of the 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, 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, with 180 new applications and 350 renewal applications received during 2006.

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.*

**T**he secure access to the Courthouse Complex implemented in late 2005 provided a single entrance to the Complex during business hours. The magnetometers registered an average of 13,600 walk-thoughts each month, resulting in the holding of approximately 270 prohibited items each month.

The Department conducted more than 25 school programs and tours of the Complex.

A website was also developed to provide the public with information regarding the Complex.

The Department reported to Judge Reeve Kelsey, who served as the Court Security Judge during 2006. •

### Adult Probation

Joni Bretz, Director

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

**I**n 2006, the Department conducted pre-sentence investigations on 303 offenders, 294 of whom were then placed under the Department's supervision.

The Adult Probation Department supervised 1,024 offenders. Of those, 287 individuals were terminated from supervision, leaving 737 individuals under direct control on December 31.

The Department conducted 7,259 drug tests and supervised the incarceration of 39 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 94 offenders placed on Intensive Supervision Probation and 189 on Electronic Monitoring. •





## 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, minor settlements, and wrongful deaths. In addition, the Probate Court provides registration services for births, name changes, miscellaneous filings, and marriage license applications. In addition to trial proceedings, the Probate Court Judge 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.*

**D**uring 2006, 809 new cases were filed, while 753 cases were heard and closed in the Probate Court.

The Court granted 815 marriage applications during the year. Also, 85 cases were filed and processed in the miscellaneous category including name changes, birth registrations, and others. An increase in contested litigation of Probate matters was apparent during 2006.

The Court provides a website which includes access to the Court's docket, on-line marriage

applications, and interactive probate forms. A public computer terminal and work area are also available. The Court continually reviews and updates forms available for use by the public as well as Court procedures to assist in the day-to-day operations of the Court. Enhancements were also made to the Court's reception area and security.

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.*

**I**n 2006, the Juvenile Court had 4,261 cases filed and disposed of 4,296. Over half of the cases filed represented juvenile delinquency and traffic filings. There were 372 cases filed alleging abused, neglected or dependent children.

The 48-bed Juvenile Detention Center provided both pretrial and short-term commitments for 818 residents during 2006. This figure included 586 males and 232 females.

The Juvenile Court Probation Department supervised 759 youth and adults during 2006. A total of 369 youth performed 7,564 hours of community service work and returned \$16,480 in restitution to victims. Programs facilitated by the Department included: the Truancy Program, Electronic Monitoring, the Theft Offenders Program, Drug

Screening, Gun Safety courses, a Goals for Gals program and Diversionary Tours of the Court and Detention Center.

The Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian ad Litem (CASA/GAL) program supervised 33 volunteers in 2006 who advocated for 141 children allegedly abused or neglected, providing more than 3,100 hours of service. CASA/GAL volunteers were able to serve 88 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, 2006, 29 CASA/GAL volunteers continue to advocate for 81 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. •



### 2006 Spirit of Wood County Award Recipients.

*The Commissioners presented Spirit of Wood County Awards to: Tom Waldock — accepting a special posthumous award for Jodie Stearns;*

**James Ryan** — Self Government;  
**C. Robert Boyd** — the Lyle R. Fletcher Good Citizenship Award;  
**Michele Story** — Education for Civic Responsibility;  
**Michael Keys** — Agricultural Leadership;

**Rev. Karen and Rev. William Thompson** — Religion and Liberty; and **James Rossler Jr.** — Industrial/Economic Development.





Mark Wasylyshyn

## SHERIFF

*As the County's chief law enforcement officer, the Sheriff provides law enforcement, correctional services, and civil services to residents. The Sheriff polices and serves all areas in the County and provides contract police services. The Office of the Sheriff is unique among law enforcement organizations. The Sheriff is the only elected law enforcement official in the State of Ohio. Additional information on the Sheriff's Office is available at [www.woodcountysheriff.com](http://www.woodcountysheriff.com). The Sheriff is authorized to perform his duties under Chapter 311 of the Ohio Revised Code. •*

## 2006 WOOD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT

### ANTI-DRUG ACTIVITY

Felony drug-related arrests	53
Multi-defendant drug organizations shut down	11
Methamphetamine lab cases	3
Defendants sentenced	45
Fines received	\$80,826

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFICER

Domestic violence incidents	314
Domestic violence arrests	81
Court case victim assistance	95
Domestic dispute incidents	205
Students taught in four schools	518
Civil Protection Orders served	91
Law enforcement officers trained	70

### WEAPON PERMITS & BACKGROUND CHECKS

Concealed carry weapon permits issued	249
Persons fingerprinted for background checks	1,343
Fees collected	\$34,344

### TYPES OF CRIMES INVESTIGATED

Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	0
Attempted or forced rape	6
Other sexual assaults	15
Aggravated assaults	6
Simple assaults	95
Robbery	0
Breaking and entering	84
Burglary	68
Thefts	451
Motor vehicle thefts	33
Arson	4
Vandalism/criminal damaging	347
Criminal mischief	43
Trespassing	2
Total crimes investigated	1,154

### ROAD PATROL DIVISION

Complaints received and investigated	22,251
Criminal charges	667
Traffic violations	7,390
Traffic citations	1,763
Traffic warning written	77
Traffic warning verbal	5,495
Traffic - no action taken	55
Crashes investigated	766
Injury crashes	139
Injured persons	198
Fatal accidents	6
Citations issued from accidents	235

Driving under the influence – DUI	208
Driving under suspension – DUS	273
Miles driven for Sheriff's vehicles	1,113,793

### 911 DIVISION

911 calls answered by WCSO	33,215
Fire calls answered by WCSO	1,694
EMS calls answered by WCSO	2,127
WCSO calls for service	20,897
Calls answered for village police depts. & Park District	6,323
Warrants entered into state/national database	2,000
Protection orders entered into national database	228

### VOLUNTEER AUXILIARY PROGRAM

Members	55
Special events worked	62
Hours of work volunteered	4,503

### COMMUNITY POLICING

Sheriff's Office Citizen's Academy	1
Academy students graduated	14
Festivals and fairs	11
Assisted operational Blockwatch Programs	4
Other specialized groups	24

### DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education)

Participating School Districts: Eastwood, Elmwood, Lakota, McComb, North Baltimore, and Otsego	
CORE students instructed and graduated from DARE	562
K-6 students instructed	1,305
7th grade students instructed	451
Safety Towns in Weston, Perrysburg, North Baltimore	5

### SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

Participating School Districts: Eastwood, Elmwood and Otsego	
Schools patrolled	16
Grades taught (6 - 12)	26
Topics taught	28
Students taught	1,890
Special Projects	28
In-service training for school staff	21

### CIVIL DIVISION

Sheriff foreclosure property sales	247
Proceeds from parcels sold	\$7,159,120
Execution of certificates of judgment	73
Money from fees & copies	\$326,237

Warrants received (local & foreign)	2,691
Warrants served (local & foreign)	1,922
Child support warrants served	286
Extradited from out of state	36
Cost to bring back	\$30,309
Court arraignments	386
Court papers served (summons, subpoena, indictments)	2,044
Transport trips to penal institutions	392
Prisoners transported to penal institutions	582
Miles traveled for the Civil Division	103,969

### SEX OFFENDERS

Registered	228
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### JUSTICE CENTER

Inmates booked	5,081
Inmates released	5,043
Average daily population	150
Inmates transported to local courts	1,759
Transport hours	1,877
Meals served	
– Justice Center	166,821
– Juvenile Detention Center	32,924
Average meals served per day	547
Average daily meal cost	\$1.28
Trustys worked in food service /laundry	86
Hours worked by trustys	41,096
Good time days granted to trustys	554
Trustys granted early release	36

### LITTER CONTROL DIVISION

Litter complaints investigated	88
Open burning complaints investigated	50
Number of trustys worked	832
Hours trustys worked	4,749
Trash collected (lbs.)	22,310
Plastic collected (lbs.)	2,297
Glass collected (lbs.)	4,401
Aluminum collected (lbs.)	2,583
Steel collected (lbs.)	3,011
Number of tires collected	296
Tires collected (lbs.)	7,400
Miles walked	409
Recycle Center hours worked	1,398
Fair hours worked	609
Festival hours worked	249
Pounds of recyclables collected from WCSO & WCJC	35,612



## ENGINEER

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

*The Engineer has the responsibility of maintaining highways, bridges, culverts, and traffic control signs in a safe and proper manner each day of the year. Under the ditch maintenance program, the Engineer is responsible for cleaning and debrushing more than 570 miles of open streams and ditches, which is just part of the more than 3,000 miles of ditches in the County.*

**T**he Engineer also serves as engineer for each of the 19 townships. He provides cost estimating for road repair projects, assists with grant applications, right-of-way location surveys, investigates drainage problems, and applies surface treatment to some of the 989 miles of Township roads.

The Engineer's Office maintains tax map records of daily land transactions such as annexations and parcel splits, as well as keeping an extensive file of survey field records.

Work on a new County map using electronic technology that is compatible with the County Geographical Information System (GIS), continued in 2006. The project is scheduled for completion in 2007.

The Engineer oversees a staff of 18 at the County Office Building and 37 at the Highway Garage located on Poe Road. The Engineer is authorized to perform his duties under Chapter 315 of the Ohio Revised Code. •

### SOURCES OF 2006 FUNDS

Motor Vehicle License Fees	\$4,001,223.58
Gasoline Tax	\$2,098,616.19
Traffic Fines & Receipts	\$171,102.08
Reimbursements	\$2,900,316.35

### USEAGE OF 2006 FUNDS

Labor and Fringes	\$3,531,031.74
Road Material/Contracts	\$1,983,785.28
Bridge Material/Contracts	\$719,070.02
Equipment	\$314,436.65
Repair, Supplies & Fuel	\$506,182

### PROJECTS COMPLETED

#### Bridge Projects

Perry Township	
Brandeberry Road	\$100,000
Center Township	
Carter & Poe Road	\$130,000
Perrysburg Township	
Oregon Road Grade Separation - County Share	\$334,000

#### Road Projects

Culvert Replacements - 9	\$225,000
Oregon Road Grade Separation - County Share	\$544,000
Pemberville & Sugar Ridge Roads Chip/Seal (approx. 10 miles)	\$100,000
Huffman Road - Napoleon Road to US 6 - Resurface	\$70,000
East Gypsy Lane Road - Dunbridge to Huffman Road -	
Widen and Resurface	\$305,000
Kellogg Road - SR 65 to SR 235 - Base Repair & Resurface	\$425,000

#### Drainage Projects

Ditch Cleanouts	34.3 Miles
Ditch Bank Debrushing	8.6 Miles
Ditch Bank Mowing	39 Miles
Ditch Bank Protection	1.1 Miles

## Solid Waste Management District

continued from page 11...

needed to process the gas and the amount of power that can be generated.

"Everyday Solutions to Your Disposal Needs", the 2006 District education and awareness campaign, was promoted at community events and in educational presentations throughout the year. There were 232 presentations given to over 4,000 people throughout the County. These included 92 classroom visits and 140 tours of the Bowling Green Recycling Center, the Wood County Landfill and Wind Farm. District education staff also participated in 76 meetings/seminars, five workshops, and 17 special events. Displays, advertising, brochures, and partnerships with entities such as Community Employment Services of Wood Lane and BGSU continued to provide County residents with recycling opportunities and solid waste reduction/disposal and litter prevention information. Waste audits were also conducted at no

charge for industrial companies interested in reducing waste and recycling costs.

The District also provides financial support to the Health Department for landfill oversight and the Sheriff's Office for support of a litter collection crew and enforcement of solid waste related regulations. The Juvenile Court litter collection program also receives support from the District.

The Solid Waste Management District is supported by fees (taxes) collected on all solid waste disposed at both landfills within the County (Waste Management - Evergreen and Wood County). The Wood County Landfill is a government enterprise operation intended to be a self-supporting operation from monies charged for services.

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. •



**The Poe Road Art Project.** BGSU students construct a 360-foot structure at the Highway Garage at the corner of Poe Road and North College featuring laser cut silhouettes reflecting a portrait of the community.

## INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

### HEALTH DEPARTMENT • Brad Espen & Janet DeLong Interim Health Commissioners

*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 environmental conditions, promoting healthy behaviors, and providing preventive services are the main approaches used to fulfill the mission of this public health agency.*

**F**rom a public health perspective, 2006 will be remembered as the year Ohio went Smoke Free. Ohio became the 15th state to ban smoking in confined areas with the SmokeFree Workplace Act. However, administrative rules must be written for enforcement of the law.

The year will also be noted as the year private sewage laws changed. The new rules represent the first change in Ohio's Sewage Rules in over 50 years. The new

state requirements provide a consistent set of regulations statewide that are designed to improve water quality and end the confusion that was created by 88 separate regulations. The rules take effect January 1, 2007.

The Wood County Adult Primary Care Clinic completed 10 years of operation. Clinic services for adults started in July 1996 following an assessment that there was a need to serve uninsured, underinsured adults in our

community. More than 2,500 Wood County residents have been served in these 10 years. For the last four years, United Way has invested community dollars in this program.

The Dental Center of Northwest Ohio mobile van, Smile Express, provided dental services in Wood County at the Health Department with a total of 536 appointments since the services began on June 9.

Educating the community about the potential for a pandemic flu epidemic has been the focus of public health preparedness this year. The work of the Pandemic Flu Committee is to bring together government, non-profits, agencies and schools to plan for the community response to a pandemic.

Wood County continues to study and learn about concentrated animal feeding operations as the Ohio Department of Agriculture has received an application for the 4th large dairy farm.

The search for a new Health Commissioner consumed a large portion of 2006. In late December, Pamela Butler, MPH, was appointed Health Commissioner and will assume this position in January 2007.

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 in and visiting Wood County. David Chatfield served as president during 2006. •

### 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.*

**D**uring 2006, the process to update the current Land Use Plan continued with a public involvement campaign that included distributing citizen surveys and holding town hall meetings to gain citizen response.

The Planning Commission continued to administer various housing projects under the Fiscal Year 2005 Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP). These projects included housing rehabilitation, emergency repairs, and down payment assistance to low and moderate income (LMI)

homeowners and homebuyers in Wood County. For the first time, funds were used from Wood County's CHIP Program to help fund the construction of a Habitat for Humanity house in North Baltimore. Also in North Baltimore, the Commission worked alongside WSOS Community Action Group to secure a CDBG Economic Development Grant for infrastructure improvements that allowed the DS Brown Company to not only remain in North Baltimore, but also to expand and create new jobs for Wood County's workforce.

The Commission also assisted Bloom, Perry, Plain, Webster and Weston Townships with updates to their existing zoning resolutions.

Throughout the year, the Planning Commission heard and reviewed 12 rezoning requests totaling 558 acres of land. Of these requests, seven were approved. Two residential subdivisions, covering 30 acres and containing 37 lots, were approved along with one 19-acre commercial subdivision containing three commercial lots.

One residential Planned Unit Development (PUD), which covered 22 acres of land and contained 66 single family lots was approved. In addition to reviewing new PUD proposals, the Commission reviewed and recommended approval of two major changes in layout and design of existing PUD developments.

The Planning Commission approved 206 minor lot splits

and combinations totaling approximately 1,535 acres of land. Of these 206 parcel transactions, 165 were parcel splits and 41 were combinations of existing parcels of land.

During fiscal year 2006, the Planning Commission received \$290,000.00 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. These funds will be expended in 2007 for water and sewer projects in Bradner, Luckey and Risingsun, street and storm sewer repair projects in Haskins and Rossford, and ADA improvements to the community park in Wayne.

A website, [www.co.wood.oh.us/planning](http://www.co.wood.oh.us/planning), was developed for citizens to learn more about land use issues, as well as view Planning Commission meeting minutes and agendas.

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



## OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

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

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

**I**n cooperation with the Wood County Hospital, Wellness Center, a local pharmacist, and University of Toledo pharmacy students, the Extension Office offered the "You and Your Medications" program. University of Toledo pharmacy students taught the importance of taking medicine correctly to 16 senior citizens.

ServSafe training was conducted, assisting in the certification of 28 food service managers. Two county schools participated in the Snackwise program to increase the nutritional value of food selection from school vending machines.

Women In Agriculture attracted 160 farm business operators and partners who gained knowledge on farm topics.

Under the Family Nutrition program, the Extension Office distributed more than 6,500 newsletters to Wood County residents throughout the year, providing an easy-to-read resource on food safety, basic nutrition, and thrifty shopping.

The gypsy moth renewed its presence in Wood County. 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, control, and limit the spread of this devastating insect.

Thirteen 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 Gardeners volunteered more than 15,668 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 2006, Wood County 4-H welcomed four new clubs. Of the more than 5,400 members, 1,379 were enrolled in one of 70 community clubs and 3,268 participated in a 4-H School Enrichment program. Hundreds of teen leaders, 250 adult volunteers, and five paid 4-H professionals supported these youth.

The 4-H program offered 3,268 projects in 60 classrooms. Two new programs including agriculture and quilts in the classroom were offered to 530 youth in the Bowling Green and Northwood school districts.

Wood County was featured in the National 4-H online newsletter and National Quilters Association magazine regarding the high level of community service offered by teens. The 4-H program was also offered a permanent home in the Wood County Historical Museum after a year of temporary displays.

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

## BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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

**T**he Board of Elections executed two major elections (May and November) and one special election (August). Voters selected from six county candidates and 32 State and Federal candidates for 16 offices. Voters also considered 55 local and state issues during the year.

In January, the State implemented a general overhaul of the elections code with the passage of House Bill 3. This law created new procedures for voter registration, expanded voter notification, created no fault absentee voting and new provisional voter requirements. This legislation not only affected voters but also significantly increased the overall man hours required in the election process.

The "No Fault Absentee" provision allowed Ohio voters the option to vote absentee without stating a reason. Many voters took advantage of this opportunity as absentee ballots were mailed to approximately 4,900 voters throughout the U.S. and around the world. This represented an increase of 245 percent over the last gubernatorial election in 2002. Including the ballots cast in the Office, over 5,800 people voted utilizing the new absentee provisions.

State Issue petitions also dominated a great deal of staff time in 2006. Proposed issues filed with the Secretary of State are sent to the County Boards of Elections for signature verification. In this verification of the seven proposed state issues the Board of Elections reviewed over 20,000 signatures for validity. Of the seven proposed state issues, four were ultimately certified to the ballot.

The voter registration total for Wood County is approximately 94,000 voters. 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.

The Board of Elections continues to offer many helpful features on its website, [www.co.wood.oh.us/boe](http://www.co.wood.oh.us/boe). 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. •

## LAW LIBRARY

Judith Gill, Librarian

*Ohio Law requires each County to have 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.*

**T**he 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. •

## SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Nicki Kale, District Administrator/Education Coordinator

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

**T**he long awaited Soil Survey project was completed in 2006. With increased accessibility to soils information collected since the early 1900s, the public can make better informed decisions about investments involving real estate. The new Soil Survey is available in the district in CD format.

The SWCD, in cooperation with the County Commissioners and County Engineer, completed work on four ditch projects and assisted on 18 other projects for a total of 42.2 miles.

During 2006, \$94,120 was brought into the county for establishment of conservation practices to help reduce erosion and sedimentation to Ohio's waterways through the Lake Erie Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (Lake Erie CREP). A total of 101 contracts were signed

for 383.3 acres including 325.1 acres of filter strips, 18.2 acres of wetland restoration, and 40 acres of windbreaks.

Through the General Conservation Reserve Program, 79 contracts were signed for 1380.5 acres including 940 acres of native prairie grasses. Continuous CRP signed 31 contracts for 101.6 acres including 24.9 acres of filter strips, 69.7 acres of quail buffers, and 25,020 feet of shelterbelts.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) brought \$33,246.75 to Wood County producers on 12 separate projects designed through the District.

The district hosted an Equine Livestock Environmental Assurance Program (LEAP) training to help horse owners, operators, and managers economically address the

environmental challenges facing their operations. The program's curriculum includes dealing with economic and environmentally sound manure management, pasture management, facility design and management, conservation measures, neighbor relations, regulatory compliance and equine liability law.

Other conservation projects designed for landowners included the following: 13 water control structures; 5 secondary containment facilities; one animal waste facility; two wetlands; three fence plans; 5 certified nutrient management plans.

A website, [www.woodswcd.com](http://www.woodswcd.com), maintained by the District provides program information as well as downloadable order forms for the annual seedling and fish sales. •

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

**I**n 2006, the Office of the Public Defender represented approximately 3,585 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.

Funds for appointment of counsel are budgeted by the County Commissioners and reimbursed by the State at an average of 28 percent. Since 2005, Ohio law mandates individuals

requesting representation to pay a \$25 application fee. The County retains 80 percent of the fee to offset the costs of providing legal representation.

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

## 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.*

In January 2006, the Center began issuing Veteran Identification Cards to all Wood County veterans containing the veteran's photo, address, branch of service, dates of active military service, and character of discharge. The program, the first in Ohio, is designed to help identify all County veterans and bring them into the Center to make sure they are receiving all of the VA benefits to which they may be entitled.

Veterans reached out for \$48,970 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.

For every dollar spent by the County on veteran assistance in 2006, the Veterans Assistance Center brought \$45.14 in federal money into the County. This \$10.8 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 2006

Veterans Residing in Wood County	10,674
Total Client Contacts:	11,165
Veterans Transported to Medical facilities	240
Veterans Photo I.D. Cards issued	456
Newsletters Distributed	8,100
Memorial Day Appropriations	\$9,910
Flags and Grave Markers Distributed	9,139
Federal VA Claims/ Documents Processed	11,072
Total Federal Dollars Brought into County	\$10,812,000

## SPIRIT OF WOOD COUNTY AWARDS

*Nominations for the 2007 Spirit of Wood County Awards are being accepted through April 27, 2007. Commissioners James Carter, Tim Brown, and Alvin Perkins encourage residents of Wood County to nominate current or former residents for one of seven award categories that will be presented on June 10, in conjunction with Wood County Heritage Days at the Historical Center. A listing of previous award recipients is available on the County website, [www.co.wood.oh.us](http://www.co.wood.oh.us), under Spirit Awards.*

### Agricultural Leadership

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

### Liberty Through Law/Human Freedom

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

### Education for Civic Responsibility

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

### Industrial/Economic Development

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

### Lyle R. Fletcher Good Citizenship Award

Individuals who have in their own way epitomized the pioneer spirit of American citizenship are eligible for

this award. They are law-abiding community builders who have a concern for their neighbor's welfare but whose activities often go unrecognized.

### Religion and Liberty

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

### Self-Government

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



## 2007 Spirit of Wood County Award Nomination Form

**WHO CAN BE NOMINATED?** Current or former residents of Wood County are eligible to be nominated for a Spirit of Wood County Award.

**WHO CAN NOMINATE?** Any Wood County resident is invited to make one or more nominations. The nominator may also assist the Commissioners in presenting the award at the awards program.

### Nominee Information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(FIRST) (LAST) (MI)  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(STREET) (CITY) (ZIP) (COUNTY)  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
(HOME) (WORK)  
 Category: \_\_\_\_\_

### Nominator Information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(FIRST) (LAST) (MI)  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(STREET) (CITY) (ZIP) (COUNTY)  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
(HOME) (WORK)

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

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





**Wood County Elected Officials.** Front Row: Commissioner Alvin Perkins, Sheriff Mark Wasylshyn, Commissioner Tim Brown, Commissioner James Carter, and Auditor Michael Sibbersen. Center Row: Treasurer Jill Engle, Clerk of Courts Rebecca Bhaer, Judge Robert Pollex, Recorder Sue Kinder, and Prosecuting Attorney Raymond Fischer. Back Row: Coroner Douglas S. Hess, Judge Reeve Kelsey, Judge Alan Mayberry, Engineer Raymond Huber, and Judge David Woessner .



### 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/Rising sun:  
419.457.4545

Perrysburg/Toledo:  
419.243.4223

Luckey/Stony Ridge:  
419.833.5211

North Baltimore/Bloomdale:  
419.257.3259

Visit our website:  
**[www.co.wood.oh.us](http://www.co.wood.oh.us)**