



2020

WOOD COUNTY

ANNUAL REPORT

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WOOD COUNTY, OHIO 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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2021 Wood County Elected Officials

Auditor Matthew Oestreich
 Clerk of Courts Douglas Cubberley
 Commissioner Doris Herringshaw
 Commissioner Craig LaHote
 Commissioner Theodore Bowlus
 Coroner Douglas Hess
 Engineer John Musteric
 Judge Matthew Reger
 Judge Mary “Molly” Mack
 Judge Joel Kuhlman
 Judge David Woessner
 Prosecuting Attorney Paul Dobson
 Recorder James Matuszak
 Sheriff Mark Wasylshyn
 Treasurer Jane Spoerl



WOOD COUNTY BICENTENNIAL

The celebration of the Wood County Bicentennial in 2020 was different than planned. Nonetheless, it was celebrated with Courthouse tours, holiday ornaments, commemorative clothing and glassware, and more.

In 2021, the Elected Officials will celebrate the 125th anniversary of the opening of the Wood County Courthouse. Please watch for announcements commemorating this milestone.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF WOOD COUNTY

Wood County was organized on February 12, 1820, when the Legislature carved 14 counties from the lands purchased from the Indians as a result of the Lower Maumee Treaty of September 29, 1817. Lucas County was then a part of Wood County. By law, Maumee was named as the temporary Seat of Justice. The Act further provided that the unorganized counties of Hancock, Henry, Putnam, Paulding, and Williams should be attached to Wood County for civil purposes until further provisions were made by law.

Wood County was named for Colonel Eleazer Derby Wood, a graduate of West Point, a gallant soldier and the engineer who planned Fort Meigs.

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

The County lines were the same as now, except that the northern boundary extended to Michigan. In 1835, Wood County was dismembered when Lucas County was formed and the Maumee River became its northern boundary.

Out of the Great Black Swamp of yesterday has emerged a well drained, rich, fertile, and productive county.

Today, Wood County covers 617.4 square miles and consists of five cities, 21 villages, and 19 townships.

WOOD COUNTY QUICK FACTS

Population: 2010 Census: 125,488; 2019 Estimated: 130,817

Land area in square miles: 617.4

Land in farms (acres): 268,767; **Number of farms:** 1,069

Total cash receipts from farms: \$159,265,000

Private sector goods/service establishments: 2,837

Total households: 50,443; **Median household income:** \$59,789

Major and notable employers in Wood County:

Norplas Industries/Magna Exteriors; FedEx Ground; First Solar Inc.; Walgreen Company; Chrysler Group LLC; Home Depot; Amazon; Owens-Illinois, Inc; NSG; Adient; Wood County Hospital Association; Bowling Green State University; Owens Community College; Wood County Government

Source: Ohio County Profile from Ohio Office of Policy, Research and Strategic Planning - 2020 Edition

A Message from the Board of County Commissioners

One year ago at this time we were working on significant projects for the year and were pleased with the economic prospects for Wood County. As you know, shortly thereafter COVID-19 became the new reality and altered nearly every aspect of our lives.

While the pandemic continues to dominate daily life, we are optimistic about the future. From the perspective of county government we had anticipated significant revenue losses with accompanying cuts to planned expenditures. When the pandemic hit, we like many local government officials, put our foot on the brake to slow expenditures that had been planned for the year. Many projects were put on hold and many budgeted items were restricted while we worked with our fellow elected officials to determine a path forward. As 2020 progressed and we all learned how to serve the public under the restrictions of the pandemic, a clearer, more positive financial picture emerged.

Like most local governments Wood County received money through the federal CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security). The County's allocation, \$6.9 million, was used to reimburse County offices and departments for costs attributed to the pandemic and to aid local entities such as the Wood County Committee on Aging, Alcohol Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board, the Board of Developmental Disabilities, Cocoon Shelter, First Step, TMACOG, the Park District, and more. Additionally, we offered two rounds of grants to provide relief to small

businesses. As with most employers, county government learned to use technology to work remotely as needed and meet virtually.

To illustrate the wide employment fluctuations in the County because of the pandemic, the county unemployment rate in March 2020 was 4.3%, in April 16.9%, and in December 4.2%. Nationally the unemployment rate was March 4.4%, April 14.8%, and December 6.7%. Several significant economic development projects made progress in 2020 and brought good employment opportunities to area residents. These projects include the Amazon Fulfillment Center in Rossford, the NSG Glass of North America Plant in Troy Township, and coming soon, the UPS Distribution Facility in Henry Township.

The end of 2020 brought the retirement of two long-serving elected officials, Cindy Hofner – Clerk of Courts – 44 years of Wood County service, and Alan Mayberry – Common Pleas Court Judge – 41 years of Wood County service. Thank you both for your good work, dedication, and endurance. We also recognize the work of Julie Baumgardner who ended her service as County Recorder after 12 years.

We extend a warm welcome to new elected officials, Doug Cubberley – Clerk of Courts, Jim Matuszak – County Recorder, and Joel Kuhlman – Common Pleas Court Judge.

In the center of this annual report you will find a section devoted to the Wood County Veterans Memorial Project. This important project will renovate, refurbish, and enhance the Veterans Memorial located at the Wood


County Courthouse. We invite you to read the enclosed information and make a donation. Additionally, please mark your calendar for Saturday, September 11, 2021 for the dedication of the completed project.

Finally, we extend sincere thanks to all of you. Last year was difficult – unlike any we have experienced – and we all had to work together. From wearing masks, keeping physical distance from other people, sanitizing surfaces, and displaying greater patience than usual, we appreciate your efforts. As the COVID vaccination process progresses, patience will remain the key. We look forward to a better year and renewed opportunities for enjoyment of family, friends, and people across this great county.

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


Doris I. Herringshaw, Ed.D., President


Craig LaHote


Dr. Theodore H. Bowlus

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The Board of County Commissioners is the administrative coordinator of County Government and has direct oversight responsibility for 13 agencies and departments. Together the Commissioners manage County funds, buildings and property, and also serve as the County's contracting and tax authority. The Board is authorized to perform its duties under Chapters 305 and 307 of the Ohio Revised Code.



Doris I. Herringshaw



Craig LaHote



Dr. Theodore H. Bowlus

In March, County offices braced for the unknown as the Governor declared a public health emergency due to COVID-19. Protocols were put in place to keep the public and employees safe. Temperatures were taken upon entry to the building and those showing signs of illness were asked to refrain from entering the complex. In April, the Commissioners issued a mask order requiring a facial covering at all times when inside County buildings.

Offices and departments worked furiously with the IT Department to acquire computer equipment that would allow staff to work remotely. The Department of Job and Family Services had been working on a telecommuting plan since the fall of 2019 and were the most prepared to

send their staff members home to work.

To help separate employees and limit contact with others, alternative schedules were adopted to avoid the risk of having the virus take out an entire team at one time. The Landfill remained open throughout – although the public drop-off was closed for several weeks.

The virus also exposed the reliance on many essential products that are now manufactured in far-away places. In July, the Commissioners passed a resolution asking that departments begin tracking the country of origin for their expenditures of \$500 or greater.

Like many events during 2020, the Commissioners suspended the Spirit of Wood County Awards in addition to

Town Hall Meetings. The Ohio Legislature relaxed the open meetings law through the end of 2020 to allow the Commissioners to meet via teleconference or video conference. For public session of the Commissioners, the teleconference method was used for many weeks before reinstating in-person meetings in June in compliance with COVID-19 guidelines. The Commissioners also held weekly conference calls with Elected Officials, area Mayors, Council Members, and Township Trustees to provide updates.

Residents are welcome to attend the open forum portion of the Commissioners' session held every Tuesday and Thursday during the year. As a reminder, Commissioners'

session agendas and minutes are posted on the County website.

After 42 years with Wood County, Frank McLaughlin announced that in 2021 he would end his service as Director of the Child Support Enforcement Agency. Over these many years, Frank has provided excellent leadership to CSEA staff and they are regularly recognized by the State of Ohio for their efforts to help children receive the support they need and deserve. Frank has also served on numerous boards and commissions throughout this time. With guidance from Frank and discussions with administrative staff at the Wood County Department of Job and Family Services (WCDJFS), CSEA will become a part of WCDJFS in April 2021.

ELECTION 2020

The work necessary to conduct the 2020 general election is an excellent example of cooperation, coordination, and creativity under pandemic restrictions.

Much good work from the Wood County Board of Elections, Courthouse Security staff, and Buildings and Grounds personnel, resulted in a very well-managed election process.

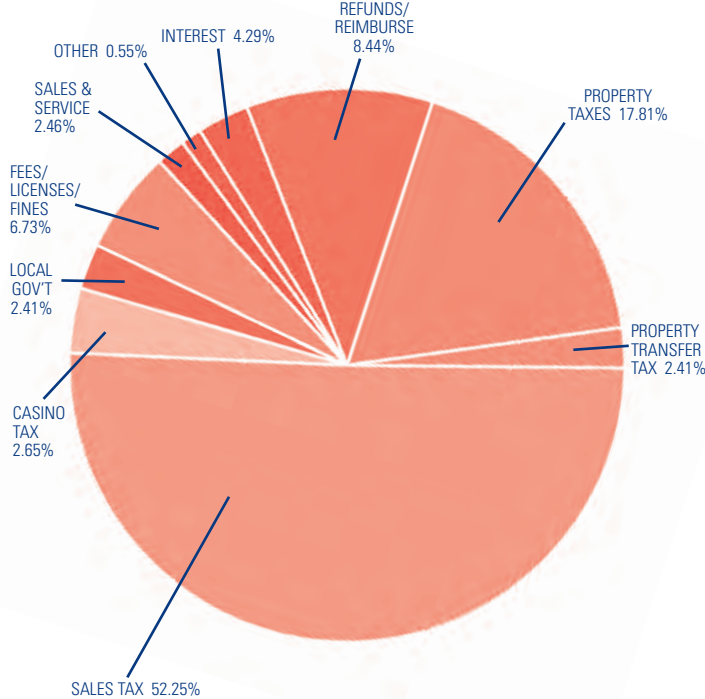
From preparation and handling of absentee paper ballots, to in-person absentee voting in the Alvin L. Perkins Atrium, to the voting process on election day, the Commissioners believe the citizens of Wood County were well-served and extend sincere thanks to all the people who worked together to make it possible.



While all County Elected Officials are mandated by the Ohio Revised Code to perform their duties, the Commissioners are unique as they have both mandated and non-mandated duties. The largest mandated duty is preparing, adopting, and monitoring the annual operating budget for the County. The County fiscal year extends from January through December. The Commissioners work with all County Elected Officials in preparing the budget. Fortunately in Wood County, there is a great working relationship among all of the Elected Officials as they strive to contain costs while providing quality services to County residents.

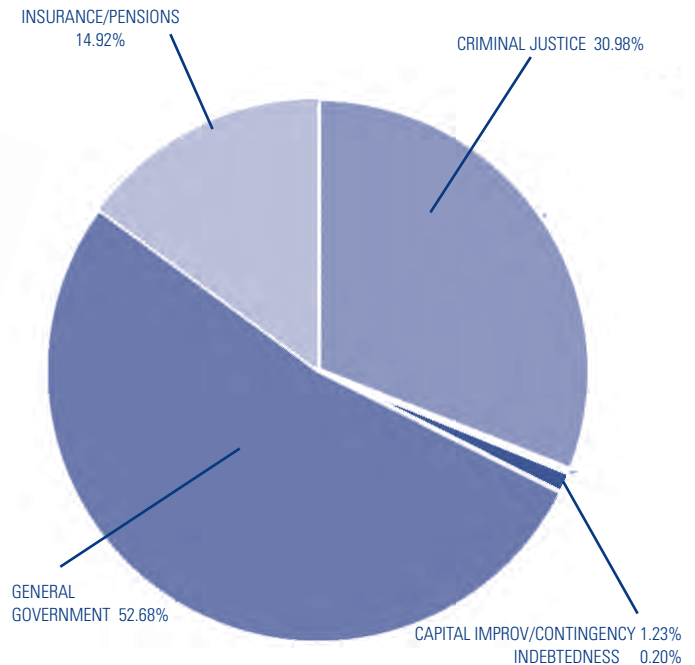
2020 ACTUAL RECEIPTS

\$46,947,022.49



2020 ACTUAL EXPENDITURES

\$46,377,643.25



SALES TAX RECEIPTS

2020	\$24,529,961.15
2019	\$22,904,876.40
2018	\$21,938,607.20
2017	\$21,715,016.04
2016	\$20,984,098.38

CASINO TAX RECEIPTS

2020	\$1,245,792.94
2019	\$1,595,690.04
2018	\$1,559,237.10
2017	\$1,501,611.89
2016	\$1,516,925.42

JAIL EXPANSION PROJECT SET TO MOVE FORWARD

For several years the Commissioners, along with Sheriff Wasylyshyn, have been discussing a project to renovate the booking and medical areas of the Wood County Jail. While adequate in 1989, these areas of the jail are now insufficient to serve the needs of today which have been impacted by increased drug use, mental health needs, and the number of female offenders. The Sheriff also recommended an expansion of secure housing for female offenders. In 2019, the Commissioners agreed to move this estimated \$18 million project forward and in January of 2020, they completed the

required process to select Wachtel & McAnally, Architects/Planners Inc. to draw plans. However, in March, this project was placed on hold when the pandemic began.

With a much better understanding of the fiscal impact of the pandemic, and following a presentation by Sheriff Wasylyshyn in January 2021, the Commissioners agreed to once again move this project forward. It will likely take a year to complete all the documents necessary for construction and another year for the work to be completed. In the end, this project will serve the jail needs of Wood County for decades to come.

Department of Job and Family Services • Dave Wigent, Director

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

To assist recipients of public assistance benefits during the public health emergency, several changes occurred at the Federal level. Per guidance from the Department of Medicaid, all recipients of Medicaid retained their coverage and all Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients received a monthly supplement to bring them up to the full allotment for their household size regardless of other income.

A transition to remote work allowed the Income Maintenance Unit to continue to process benefits and provide public assistance through the SNAP, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), and Medicaid programs. This was especially helpful at the onset of the public health emergency, as new applications were being received due to the economic impact of the pandemic.

The Employment and Support Services Unit developed an assistance program to help families and single adults with payment of back rent and utilities. The K-12 Fitted for Success Program provided backpacks filled with school supplies, hygiene kits, and shoe vouchers to 606 children. Winter coats/sweatshirts were also provided for 350 children. All of these supplies were given to clients in a contactless, curbside scheduled pickup. By switching to a virtual platform, the Unit conducted a virtual Job Fair and continued to offer support to job seekers affected by unemployment.

The Protective Services Unit continued to safely make home visits during the pandemic to assure safety for children and elderly adults. Kits of personal protective equipment and cleaning and sanitizing supplies were provided to clients. During this critical time, Protective Services reported 12 children, previously in foster care, found "Forever Homes".

FAMILY SERVICES AGENCY DESIGNATION

Discussions in late 2020 led to a recommendation to change the family services agency designation for Wood County.

Since its establishment in 1988, Child Support has been a stand alone entity. In January 2021, a plan was submitted to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services requesting a change in designation to transfer child support enforcement to the Department of Job and Family Services. Services will continue to be provided in their current locations for both child support and job and family services.

Many counties have moved to this model over the years for more efficient operations and cost savings.

Wood County 200: Historical Highlight

Ground for the present courthouse was broken November 28, 1893, but inability to get lake sand that winter delayed work on the foundation until March 15, 1894. An estimated 15,000 people thronged to Bowling Green for the laying of the courthouse cornerstone July 4, 1894. Three special trains carried a total of 3,400 people to the county seat that day.

INCOME MAINTENANCE UNIT

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)	
cash payment cases (MA)	225
Medicaid recipients (MA)	17,096
Medicaid issuance	\$160,333,648
Food assistance recipients	10,371
Food assistance issuance	\$13,934,297
Food assistance issuance per case (MA)	\$336
Children issued food stamps (MA)	2,788

PROTECTIVE SERVICES UNIT

Children served	1,775
Children placed in substitute care	22
Cost for substitute care	\$2.6 million
Home protective services children	72
Reports of child abuse/neglect investigated	795
Adoptions finalized	12
Certified foster/adoptive homes provided with services	22
Adult Protective Services assessments completed	251
Adults receiving chore services	57
Homemaker visits provided	192

EMPLOYMENT AND SUPPORT SERVICES UNIT

Information and referrals	803
Families provided emergency assistance through Prevention, Retention and Contingency program (PRC)	501
Children who received child care services (MA)	368
Transportation (1 way trips) to Medicaid & Title XX services	8,673

OHIO MEANS JOBS/WOOD COUNTY

Resource Room users	969
Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) adult and dislocated worker participants	53
CCMEP Youth Employment Program participants	96
On the Job Training Contracts	13
Incumbent Worker Training Contracts	5
MA = Monthly Average	

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

2021 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Persons in family/ household	Poverty guideline	138% of Poverty	200% of Poverty
1	\$12,880	\$17,774	\$25,760
2	\$17,420	\$24,040	\$34,840
3	\$21,960	\$30,305	\$43,920
4	\$26,500	\$36,570	\$53,000
5	\$31,040	\$42,835	\$62,080
6	\$35,580	\$49,100	\$71,160

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

\$4,540	\$6,265	\$9,080
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Child Support Enforcement Agency • Frank McLaughlin, Director

The Child Support Enforcement Agency promotes the well-being of children by facilitating the delivery of financial and medical support. The Agency works to locate non-custodial parents; determine paternity and support obligations; collect and enforce support orders; and provide case management services.

Wood County CSEA was recognized by the Office of Child Support for “Best Performance in Collections on Current Support for Federal Fiscal Year 2020” in the Medium Caseload division for the State of Ohio as well as “Best Overall Performance”.

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

2020 CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AGENCY STATISTICS

Wood County Children Served	5,816
Average Case Load Size	760
Total Collections	\$20,463,561.69
License Suspension Program	\$116,944.94
Financial Institution Data Match	\$35,305.09
Insurance Settlements	\$11,513.25
Payouts from Casino/Racino Prizes	\$10,727.50
Other Legal Unit collections	\$63,773.16
Public Assistance Returned to State of Ohio	\$688,005.92
Recouped through Income Tax Refund Offset	\$2,101,875.29
Reimbursements for Children in Foster Care	\$61,578.94
Civil and Criminal Proceedings Initiated	139
Completed Requests for Modifications	171

Building Inspection

Michael Rudey, Chief Building Official

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

Despite seeing an overall decline in permit revenue during the year, growth in manufacturing, shipping, and warehouse facilities continued with large projects submitted by Schutz Container, Integrity One, UPS Distribution, and Ohio Logistics. Senior living centers in Rossford, Pemberville, Napoleon, Bowling Green, and Swanton submitted plans for facility improvements and expansions, highlighting continued growth in this industry.

The residential market maintained a steady pace for one, two, and three family dwellings, but there was a decline of total units from the prior year, with the majority of the residential market in Perrysburg and Perrysburg Township. Permits and inspections for manufactured homes also experienced a slight decline from 2019.

Technology advancements over the past few years assisted during the pandemic and offered the ability for residents and contractors to submit plans, schedule inspections, and obtain permits on-line. Inspections halted at the beginning of the public health emergency, but soon resumed in compliance with physical distancing and facial covering guidelines as the construction industry continued operations.

Building Inspection operates under the Board of County Commissioners and is set up as an enterprise fund, operating solely

on permit revenue. Building codes utilized during 2020 included the 2017 Ohio Building Codes for non-residential structures and the 2019 Residential Code of Ohio for One, Two, and Three Family Dwellings. These are mandatory codes used throughout the State, even if there is not a residential certified department.

2020 BUILDING INSPECTION STATISTICS

Permits Issued	5,319
Total Permit Revenue	\$1,435,592
Wood County	\$1,077,573
Hancock County	\$165,065
Henry County	\$96,897
Fulton County	\$96,057
Total Inspections Completed	13,682
Wood County	9,703
6,896 Residential/2,807 Non-Residential	
Hancock County	2,112
Henry County	900
292 Residential (Napoleon)/608 Non-Residential	
Fulton County	967
203 Residential (Wauseon)/764 Non-Residential	

Buildings and Grounds

Steve Blausey, Facilities Director

Buildings and Grounds staff oversee the day-to-day maintenance of the buildings at the Courthouse Complex, East Gypsy Lane Road Complex, and satellite offices including the Clerk of Courts Title Office, Highway Garage, Public Defender, and Veterans Assistance Center. Department staff provide maintenance, repair, and groundskeeping for the buildings owned by the Wood County Commissioners. Custodial services are also provided at the Courthouse Complex.

A major renovation project at the Clerk of Courts Legal Office in the Courthouse included all new furniture, paint, and carpet. Painting was also completed in the Treasurer's Office and the Recorder's Office. A new chiller was installed for the Atrium. Work at the Public Defender's Office included a restroom remodel and rebuilding of the parking lot.

At the East Gypsy Lane Complex the generator for Juvenile Residential Center/Juvenile Detention Center was replaced.



Roof repairs were made to the Sheriff's Office and to the Juvenile Detention Center. Sprinkler heads were replaced and a backflow device was installed at Wood Haven. Many improvements were made at the Dog Shelter which included concrete work and additional landscaping.

The custodial staff continued to clean the Records Center, Courthouse, Office Building, and the Fuel Building. Their responsibilities include daily and weekly cleaning cycles and the handling of recycled materials at each location. The custodial staff also assisted with carpet cleaning at Child Support and the Dunbridge Road Building.

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

Photo: The oak trees that were removed last year from the Courthouse grounds provided the wood for the frames for all of the "sneeze guards" that were custom built by maintenance staff and installed in various offices. These units provided physical barriers between individuals to assist with physical distancing guidelines to keep County offices open and functioning.

Dog Shelter • Andrew Snyder, Chief Dog Warden

The Dog Shelter is a department operated under the direction of the Wood County Commissioners. The Dog Warden and deputies enforce Chapter 955 of the Ohio Revised Code. They issue dog licenses through the County Auditor, ensure proper housing of dogs, impound and care for stray dogs, investigate injuries and bites caused by dogs, adopt out dogs and work with rescue groups on adoption of stray dogs, designate dogs as nuisance, dangerous and vicious, and other related duties. User fees, dog licenses, kennel fees, fines, and penalties are the primary funding sources for the Dog and Kennel Fund which is used to pay for all aspects of the Shelter's operations. The Shelter receives assistance from volunteers and residents of the Northwest Community Corrections Center who provide exercise and socialization by walking impounded dogs.

2020 DOG SHELTER STATISTICS

Total Dogs Impounded.....	339
Redemptions	165
Adoptions	85
Euthanized	17
Deceased	1
Owner Surrenders for Euthanasia	18
Dogs Transferred to Rescues.....	52
Live Release Rate.....	89%
Owner Surrenders	70
Incidents Investigated	492
Total Licenses Sold	19,287
One Year Dog Licenses Sold	17,978
Three Year Dog Licenses Sold.....	1,117
Permanent Dog Licenses Sold.....	192
Total Licensed Dogs	21,692
Kennel Licenses Sold	78
Licenses Sold Online.....	8,718

DOG PARK OFFERS MEMBERSHIPS

The Wood County Dog Park registered 112 members in 2020. Located next to the Dog Shelter, the Park features three fenced enclosures and water stations.

The cost of an annual membership is \$40. Visit the Dog Shelter or County website for membership information.

Office of Economic Development

Wade Gottschalk, Executive Director

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



In an effort to assist the small businesses that make up the backbone of any local economy, the Commissioners established the Wood County Small Business Relief Grant with a portion of their allocated CARES Act funding. This grant program was targeted to reimburse qualifying small businesses that had been impacted by COVID-19 for expenses related to the pandemic effects. The relief grant program was designed to assist companies that had been unable to access COVID-19 relief funding from other sources (i.e. PPP and EIDL). The Office of Economic Development administered the

two rounds of this grant funding that was available through the end of 2020.

The unemployment rate in Wood County swung from 4.5% in January 2020 to 17.1% in April, to 4.2% in December. In the face of this unprecedented challenge, the Office of Economic Development continued to carry out operations.

The Amazon Fulfillment Center in Rossford kept on schedule and conducted a substantial hiring of over 1,000 employees as they opened in the second half of the year. UPS announced its intention to occupy a 400,000 square

foot facility in the Northpoint Development across from the CSX Intermodal Hub (a previous Wood County project) in Henry Township. Finally, NSG Glass of North America completed their new float glass facility in Troy Township, which employs over 150 people and is providing glass to the previously announced \$400 million First Solar project in Lake Township. These new projects were accompanied by substantial growth. Two previous economic development projects benefited from the changing economic landscape, as the Home Depot Fulfillment Center in Troy Township saw

its employment eclipse 1,100 and the employee count at the FedEx Ground Distribution Center increased to over 2,300. These successes would not be possible without the great team that Wood County brings to every opportunity and the collaborative environment behind the scenes that lay the foundation for continued success in economic development.

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.

Solid Waste Management District • Carri Stanley, Assistant County Administrator

A department under the Board of County Commissioners, the Solid Waste Management District operates the Wood County Landfill and is required to ensure sufficient landfill capacity to dispose of local waste. Per the Ohio EPA approved solid waste plan, the District also must ensure that 90 percent of County residents have access to recycling and that the District provides outreach regarding recycling.

The Wood County Landfill remained open during the pandemic to commercial and business users, but the residential drop-off was temporarily closed during the Stay-at-Home Order. A final capping project was completed at the Landfill, which included the installation of a synthetic liner and geotextile fabric over an approximate 5.5 acre area. The project was performed in part by a contractor who installed the liner and fabric and in part by landfill employees who placed clay, sand, and

soil over the area and performed the final grading. Landfill employees will seed the area in spring 2021. The County also continued working with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency on an expansion permit for the Landfill. The proposed expansion area will be on County-owned land adjacent to the existing landfill and will provide approximately 100 years of additional landfill space for future waste disposal needs.

The residential 24/7 mixed recycling drop-off locations remained popular with residents in 2020. With more people staying home during the initial quarantine period, some drop-off locations experienced temporary closures during the week due to increased use. For a map of drop-off locations or to see a list of acceptable items visit www.recyclewoodcounty.org.

 **RECYCLE WOOD COUNTY!** 

Wood County 200: Historical Highlight

Besides Fort Meigs, another military post in Wood County was a blockhouse and stockade built by General Hull's army in June 1812 on the march from Dayton to Detroit. It was occupied most of the period during the war of 1812 and stood on the right bank of the Portage River, south of the present village of Portage and west of the Dixie Highway.

Emergency Management Agency

R. Jeffrey Klein, Director

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

By mid-January the Agency started working with county and regional partners preparing to assist as needed with COVID-19 requests.

On March 19, 2020, the Agency activated the County’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in a virtual state using technology to meet and communicate with the Health Department, Wood County Hospital, school systems, Wood County communities, Northwest and North Central EMA Sectors, Bowling Green State University Emergency Management as well as many others.

The Agency received and coordinated distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE) from the Strategic National Stockpile in conjunction with Ohio EMA. While store shelves were empty of many supplies in the early stages of the State’s Stay-at-Home Order, the Agency received shipments of N95 and cloth masks, disinfecting wipes, and hand sanitizer for distribution to organizations in need of these items.

Following Governor DeWine’s press conferences, staff prepared and distributed situation reports. They also utilized social media to disseminate information and provided updates during a standing scheduled time at 7:20 a.m. on Tuesday mornings on *The Morning Show with Clint Corpe*, discussing not only COVID-19, but also how to be better prepared in an emergency.

The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) conducted one in-person and one virtual meeting, two others were canceled. Staff continued to monitor hazardous material reports, spills, and assist with the recovery of financial cost for first responders. Working with a consultant, Resource Solutions, the Agency began working on a Commodities Flow Study to help identify hazardous materials located in and traveling through the County.

On February 20, 2020, the Agency received Storm Ready Certification through the National Weather Service Cleveland and Ohio EMA.

The Agency continued to educate residents and update contacts in the CodeRED Mass Notification System.

Staff participated in training sessions held during the year including the NW Ohio Haz Mat Conference, Homeland Security Intelligence Liaison Officer, Bowling Green State University tabletop exercise, Rapid Assessment, Mass Care and Emergency Assistance, and Ohio EMA and LEPC Fall Conference.

Records Center

Brenda Ransom, Records Manager

The Records Center provides records management services to County offices. The Center, which opened in 2002, offers secure, environmentally sound storage of paper records, preservation microfilming, and digital imaging services. The storage rooms contain high-density mobile shelving units with a maximum storage capacity of 10,545 cubic-foot records boxes. The Records Center operates under the Board of County Commissioners.

Utilizing the Center’s microfilm writer, 154 rolls of film were created for County offices. Additionally, neighboring Hancock, Mercer, Putnam, Seneca, and Williams Counties paid for services including the production of 114 rolls of microfilm. In late 2020, a new microfilm writer, purchased with money from the general fund and special funds of the Clerk of Courts, Probate Court, and Recorder, was ordered to replace the 9-year-old unit.

The Records Center returned to full staffing in late 2020, with the records manager and three records technicians working to retrieve, refile, and reformat records for 29 County departments. One full-time and two part-time scanner operators were contracted through Work Leads to Independence on a half-time schedule. The workers digitized nearly 170,000 pages of records from the Sheriff and Public Defender.

2020 RECORDS CENTER STATISTICS

Records stored (cubic feet)	9,241
New records (cubic feet)	848.5
Eligible for disposal (cubic feet)	228
Storage space recovered (cubic feet)	229
Pounds of records shredded and recycled	10,862.5
Pages/microfilm images scanned	298,599
Rolls of microfilm created	268

Information Technology

Ben Hendricks, IT Director

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

The department provided training to employees on the latest security threats. Throughout the pandemic, the department assisted offices in efforts to mobilize staff and provide technology beyond the County’s buildings and IT infrastructure.

Historical Museum and Center

Kelli Kling, Director

In 1816, the Ohio General Assembly authorized Boards of County Commissioners to construct poor houses to care for those unable to provide the basic necessities of life for themselves. The County Commissioners opened Wood County's Poor Farm in 1869, which remained in operation until 1971 before becoming a museum in 1975. Financial support for the Museum is derived from County tax dollars and through the private fundraising 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.

The Museum ushered in a new era with a new logo and branding initiative. While still the same historical museum on the inside, the new logo reflects technology advancement to provide updates and information via smartphones and tablets.

Projects to uphold the historical integrity of the Museum were completed and included mitigating moisture issues in the Lunatic Asylum; repairs and sealing of the 1940s-era Brandeberry stone wall; drainage and pest control measures on the Power House; attic improvements in preparation for a collections storage upgrade; and outdoor improvements to increase visibility from State Route 6.

Utopia: A Visual Storytelling of Our Home opened in February as a pictorial of Wood County for the bicentennial. This exhibit was made available in an online format in addition to *A Clean Bill of Health: Societal Response to Disease* and *Chasing the White Rabbit: An Historical Look at American Mental Illness*. A series of outdoor porch exhibits ran from May to September. *The Mary & Carl Bach Story* opened in October at the start of Domestic Violence Awareness month. Another



exhibit, *People, Places, & Things*, featured over a thousand photos from the Society's collection. *For Comfort & Convenience: Public Charity in Ohio By Way of the Poor Farm* received its fourth award, the American Association for State & Local History (AASLH) Leadership in History Award of Excellence.

The Museum welcomed 835 visitors during the year with a total of 2,630 visitors to the Museum grounds.

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

Wood County 200: Historical Highlight

While conducting research on the murals in the Courthouse, the Museum staff discovered several variations on the spelling of Wood County's namesake. Turns out we have been spelling his name incorrectly. It is Eleazer Derby Wood based on information in the West Point yearbook.

Wood Haven Health Care

Jeff Orłowski, Administrator

Wood Haven Health Care, a 93 bed short-term rehabilitation and long-term health care center, provides both skilled and intermediate level care and services. Rehabilitation programs offered through Bordner Therapy Care include physical, occupational, and speech therapies. Health care services include 24-hour professional nursing care; nutritional evaluation and meal planning; social services and family support; therapeutic recreational programs; psychological intervention; and physician oversight. Alzheimer's Care, Parkinson's Care, Hospice, and short-term Respite Care are also available. Wood Haven Health Care is Medicare and Medicaid certified, serves individuals covered under various nursing care insurance plans, and accepts most insurance plans. Wood Haven is a member of the Ohio Health Care Association, Leading Age Ohio, and the Ohio County Home Association. The facility operates under the Board of County Commissioners.

The pandemic forced Wood Haven Health Care to define a new normal where social distancing and continuous wearing of personal protective equipment (N95 masks, gowns, face shields, etc.) set standards for the way the organization provided care.

In the early stage of the public health emergency, Wood Haven implemented a wide range of precautionary measures based on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Ohio Department of Health (ODH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and Wood County Health Department (WCHD) guidelines. As a result, visitation came to a halt during the pandemic. Many family members visited outside of resident windows and through electronic means, while staff worked to keep spirits high within the facility.

Wood Haven Health Care worked diligently to control any COVID-19 outbreaks inside of the facility. Compared to other facilities in the region, Wood Haven's case numbers remained low and were quickly contained. The organization worked as a team, stayed updated on the latest public health information, and remained compliant with COVID-19 guidelines.

Wood Haven continued to focus on customer service which resulted in recognition and awards during 2020. Aside from receiving a 9.59 out of 10 on the customer satisfaction survey, Wood Haven was voted "Best Nursing Home in Bowling Green" and received the Northwest Ohio Top Workplaces award.

2020 WOOD HAVEN STATISTICS

Admissions by Pay Type:

Privately Funded Residents.....	5.71%
Medicaid Residents	5.14%
Medicare Residents	42.86%
Insurance/Managed Care Residents	40%
Hospice.....	6.29%

GOVERNING BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

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

If you are interested in serving as a member on a County Board or Commission, please complete an Application for Volunteer Service located on the Commissioners' web page on the County website or contact their office for a copy of the application.

ALCOHOL, DRUG ADDICTION AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BOARD

Allan Baer, Brad Biller, Tonya Camden, Jessica Clements*, Doug Cubberley*, Leanne Eby, Judy Ennis*, Marcus Jensen, Scott Kleiber*, Stan Korducki*, Dan Lambert*, Frank McLaughlin*, Leslie Miller, Rachel Moore, Hallie Nagel*, Corey Speweik*, Cary Wise*, and two vacancies

BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Tim Brown*, Rebecca Ferguson, John Hunt*, Ed Metzger, Jerry Miller*, Marlene North*, and Martha Woelke*

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS BOARD**

Brent Baer, Steve Callejas, Paul Dobson, Ann Garcia, Tony Hetrick, Patrick Jones, Andrew Kalmar, Craig LaHote, Alan Mayberry, Rebecca McMonigal, Mark Reddin, Matthew Reger, Deanna Stanton, Lori Tretter, Mark Wasylshyn, Cary Williams, Ryan Wolaver, and Chris Zografides

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION MEMBERS

Dr. Theodore Bowlus, John Eckel, Doris Herringshaw, Andrew Kalmar, Michael Keys, Craig LaHote, Cathy Newlove-Wenig, Matthew Oestreich, Donna Schuerman, Jane Spoerl, and W. David Steiner

COURTHOUSE COMPLEX BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE **

Steve Blausey, Rob Eaton, Doris Herringshaw, Earlene Kilpatrick, Kelli Kling, Cathleen Nelson, Matthew Oestreich, Matthew Reger, Michael Sibbersen, Irma Wolf, and Karen Young

DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Becky Bhaer*, Ellen Dalton, Nathan Eikost*, John Fawcett, Kenneth Frisch*, Chet Marcin, and Brian Paskvan*

GREAT LAKES COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP

Total Membership - 24
Wood County Members: Ashley Dickey, Dr. William Donnelly*, Greg Kegler, Dean King, Carmen Ortega*, and Jane Wengel

HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Gordon Bowman*, Denise Brennan, Hal Brown, Frank Butwin, Kenneth Frisch*, Biff Geer, Sandy Gill, Corinne Gordon, Mary Hinkelman, Rhonda Hogrefe, September Killy, Chris Ostrowski, Nick Pavlik, Michele Raine, and Michael Sibbersen*

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Brent Baer, Shelian Beaupre, Tim Brown, Sandi Carsey, Sue Clanton, Julie Launstein, Stephanie Lauwers, Denise Niese, Cathleen Wenig, David Wigent, and one vacancy

LAW LIBRARY RESOURCES BOARD

Linda Brown*, Sarah Bushong*, Reina Calderon, Heather Pentycofe, and Dan Weiss

NORTHWESTERN WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

Steve Arnold, John Cheney*, Brooke Hahn, Bill Hirzel*, Melinda Kale, Chuck Latta, J. Douglas Miller*, Tim Phillips, Mark Sheffer, and Bill Verbosky

PLANNING COMMISSION**

Steve Arnold, Dr. Theodore Bowlus, John Brossia, Brendyn George, Doris Herringshaw, Craig LaHote, John Musteric, Jeffrey Schaller, John Schuerman, Brian Swope, and Erik Wineland

PORT AUTHORITY

Cheryl Johnson*, Milton F. Knight, Ed Nagle*, James Rossler*, John Rust Jr., Thomas Uhler*, and Martha Woelke*

PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION

Eva Dhondt, Rex Huffman*, Richard Karcher, Frederic Matthews*, and Phillip Walton*

REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY**

David Anderson, William Davis, Don Deters, Jeffrey Hamons, Mike Liebenthal, Chad Thompson, and Jack Waddell

RESIDENTIAL BOARD OF APPEALS**

Ron Bechstein, Tim Enright, Robert Maurer, Laurie Melchior Huskisson, Connor Rose, and Connie Workman
ALTERNATES: Jeffrey Ford and Tom Pendleton

TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL**

John Cheney, Valerie Hovland, and Cathy Newlove-Wenig
ALTERNATES: Tim Harris and Michael Sibbersen

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Jim Bagdonas, Walter Celley, Joe Fawcett, Bob Mack, Doug Miller*, John Musteric, Megan Newlove, Edward Pavuk*, Mike Rywalski, Jonathon Smith, and Robert Watrol

WOOD HAVEN ADVISORY BOARD**

Richard Barker, Norman Carney, Frank McLaughlin, Laurie Newlove, Denise Niese, and one vacancy
EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: Darlene Selvey, Andrew Kalmar, Jeff Orlowski, and the President and Vice President of the Resident's Council



As of December 31, 2020

* Appointed by Commissioners

** All Members Appointed by Commissioners

Please Donate to the Wood County Veterans Memorial



A project to renovate, refurbish, and enhance the
Veterans Memorial located at the
Wood County Courthouse

"They had succeeded in giving to the people who survived the war the chance to make something of the peace. Let this monument then serve as a constant reminder to the people of Wood County that the lost were lost in a not-meaningless way."

- Rev. Harry Griffiths
April 1950

Original Wood County War Memorial Dedication

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Steve Blausey

Tim Brown

Jim Carter

(Veteran, U.S. Army)

John Cheney

(LTC, U.S. Army Reserve, Retired)

Rob Eaton

(Veteran, SFC, Ohio Army National Guard)

Joe Fawcett

(Veteran, U.S. Army)

Ken Frisch

Haraz Ghanbari

(LCDR, U.S. Navy)

Doris Herringshaw

Andrew Kalmar

Fred Matthews

(Capt., U.S. Navy, Retired)

Greg Robinette

(Colonel, U.S. Army, Retired)

Manuel L. de la Serna Jr., M.D.

(Veteran, U.S. Army Medical Corps)

Carri Stanley

Thomas Uhler

(LTC, U.S. Army, Retired)

COMMITTEE CHAIR

Jack Jones

HONORARY CHAIRS

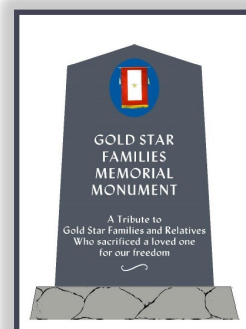
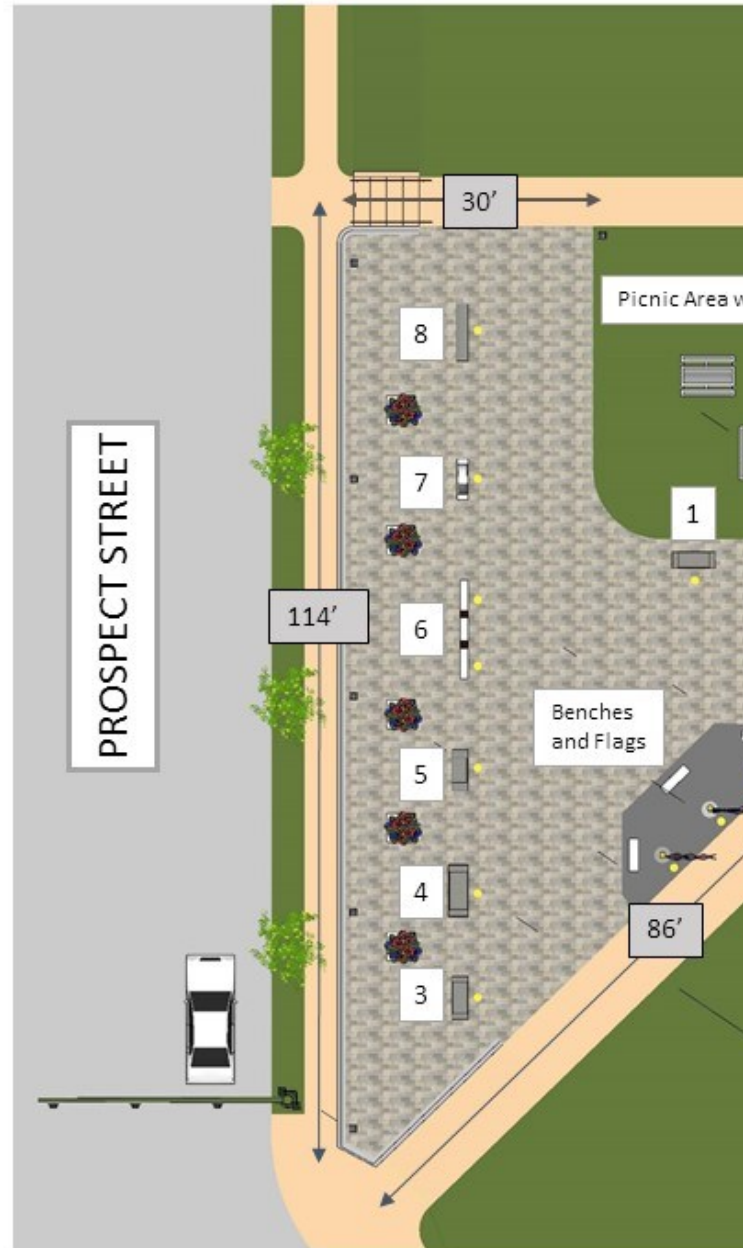
Sharon Belkofer

(Gold Star Mother)

Edward C. Byers Jr.

(SEAL, Medal of Honor Recipient)

Future Veterans Memorial

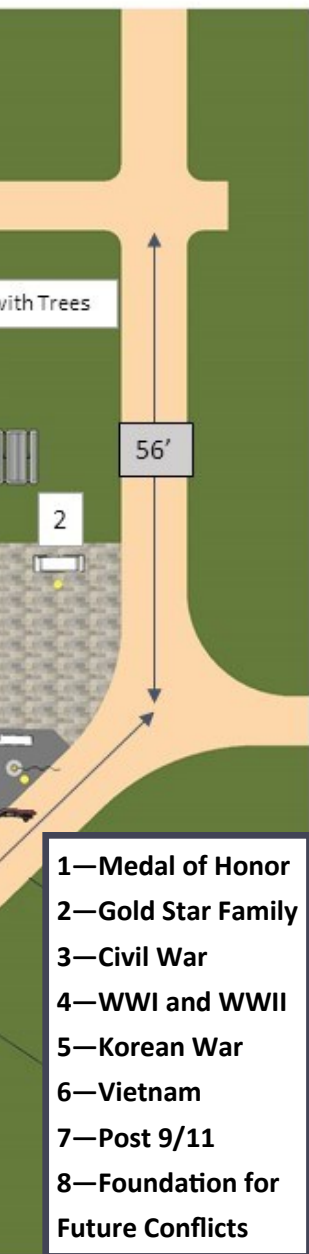


Gold Star
Monument



Civil War
Monument

Rendering



Persian Gulf Monument



History of the Wood County Veterans Memorial

In 1950, the Memorial was established following a generous donation by the Wood County Chapter of the Gold Star Mothers. The memorial served to venerate the names of their sons who had died in both WWI and WWII. As the United States engaged in new conflicts, the Korean, Vietnam, and the Medal of Honor monuments were added along with the names of those who served. Recently, Master Chief Edward Byers' name was added to the Medal of Honor monument.

Future of the Wood County Veterans Memorial

This project will include both Site Improvement and Rebuilding phases. Structural and aesthetic enhancements will provide stability and visibility to the Memorial. Notably, the revamped Memorial will be completely wheelchair accessible. During the Rebuilding phase, current monuments (Korean, Vietnam, and the Medal of Honor) will be cleaned, polished, and repaired. New WWI and WWII monuments will be brought in as near-replicas of current monuments with a single piece of granite and updated, etched names. There will be new monuments honoring the Civil War, Persian Gulf/ Afghanistan, and Gold Star Families added to the Memorial.

Your support will ensure that past, present, and future Wood County residents who have selflessly served our country are memorialized in a manner fitting of their sacrifice. As Wood County celebrates its bicentennial, let's honor those who fought to preserve our nation's principles and freedoms. Support for this project will allow for the enhancement of current monuments, addition of new, and a complete and current designation for the Veterans who served our country.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE WOOD COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL

WOOD COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMITMENT OF SUPPORT

I/We wish to support the Memorial for Wood County Veterans campaign with a gift of:

☐ \$50 ☐ \$125 ☐ \$200 ☐ Other Amount \$ _____ ☐ Securities (Please contact me.)

Enclosed is a check payable to the Bowling Green Community Foundation/Wood County Veterans Memorial

Please credit this gift as follows: (Print legibly.)

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Daytime Phone:

Email (optional):

Signature: _____

Date:

☐ I/We wish to remain an anonymous donor

Refer to Wood County's website for a credit card payment link: www.woodcountyohio.gov

Return to Wood County Veterans Memorial,
c/o Bowling Green Community Foundation
P.O. Box 1175, Bowling Green, OH 43402.
Email: Vmemorial@co.wood.oh.us

**For more information about the project or to make a donation online,
please contact**

www.woodcountyohio.gov

Wood County Commissioners (419) 354-9100

Or email Vmemorial@co.wood.oh.us

AUDITOR



Matthew Oestreich

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 manufactured home tax settlements to the subdivisions and the distribution of local government funds are also the responsibility of the Auditor.

An agent for the Ohio Department of Taxation, the Auditor sells vendor's licenses. He is the sealer of weights and measures and is also secretary of the Budget Commission, Board of Revision, and Data Processing Board. The Auditor is authorized to perform his duties under Chapters 319, 322, 323, 5701-5743, et al. of the Ohio Revised Code.

Due to a lack of parcels and COVID restrictions, the Office did not conduct a forfeited land sale in 2020.

To reduce costs and increase efficiencies, the Office continued to increase the use of electronic payments and transfers through Automated Clearing House (ACH) payments.

The Auditor's Office offered two websites, one for general information and the other for real estate information and mapping. A Facebook page also provided timely updates.

2020 AUDITOR STATISTICS

Parcels of real property assessed (valued at over \$3.2 billion).....	75,757
Conveyances processed.....	4,437
Individual land parcels (valued at \$1,684,095).....	6,531
Acres of farmland enrolled in CAUV (Current Agricultural Use Value).....	317,027
Residents enrolled in Homestead Exemption program	8,090
Dog licenses sold.....	19,287
Weights and Measures Inspections:	
Commercial Scales.....	635
Gas Pumps.....	1,467
GIS requests.....	77

Distribution of Real Estate, Public Utility Tax, and Special Assessments by the County Auditor in 2020

Wood County.....	\$7,478,025
Northwestern Water & Sewer District.....	\$1,432,580
County Ditch Maintenance/Construction	\$618,420
County Sewer and Waterline Projects.....	\$370
Maumee Watershed Conservancy.....	\$103,440
Board of Developmental Disabilities.....	\$20,891,883
Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services	\$7,875,778
Park District.....	\$2,873,683
Committee on Aging	\$2,011,586
Board of Health.....	\$1,575,766
Historical Center	\$159,099
Job & Family Services.....	\$3,735,801
Wood County Library Bond	\$271,045
Townships	\$21,162,328
Municipalities	\$18,732,249
Schools.....	\$139,203,701
Libraries.....	\$3,291,014

Visit the Auditor's web page on the County website for a complete breakdown.

TREASURER



Jane Spoerl

The Treasurer oversees the receipt and disbursement of funds for the County and collects taxes for the County, as well as for the schools, municipalities, and townships within the County. The largest source of revenue is generated through real property taxes. More than 18 area financial offices serve the County as real estate tax payment sites. Qualifying taxpayers may utilize an available escrow program or delinquent tax repayment program. The Treasurer's Office also collects taxes on mobile homes and inheritance. All investments made by the Treasurer's Office were fully collateralized and sufficiently liquid to enable the County to meet reasonably anticipated operating requirements. The Treasurer serves on the Budget Commission, Board of Revision, and Data Processing Board in addition to her duties as Investing Authority for the Investment Advisory Board and is authorized to perform her duties under Chapters 321 and 323 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Information on how to enroll in the monthly payment plan, real estate tax information, and forms for change of address and remission of penalty are accessible online.

2020 TREASURER STATISTICS

Real estate tax collected	\$231,041,651.07
Manufactured home tax collected.....	\$1,218,940.78
Investment income.....	\$2,013,253.04
Taxpayers enrolled in monthly automatic withdrawal plan	1,752
Taxpayers enrolled in semi-annual/yearly ACH plan.....	781

INVESTMENT INCOME

2020	\$2,013,253.04
2019	\$2,516,299.44
2018	\$1,553,808.26
2017	\$1,237,387.72
2016	\$1,211,312.14

Wood County Earns National Recognition for Financial Reporting

The Auditor accepted the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association.

Every year since 1996, the County has earned this prestigious national award that recognizes conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government comprehensive annual financial reports.

CLERK OF COURTS



Cindy Hofner

The Clerk of Courts maintains the records of Common Pleas Court, issues motor vehicle and watercraft titles, and serves as Clerk for the Sixth District Court of Appeals. By statute she is a member of the Data Processing Board and Records Commission.

Although the Title Office was closed to the public during the early stages of the pandemic, limited access was made available to dealers. In addition, the Title Office continued processing Ohio Watercraft registrations, as a large number of the Ohio Watercraft Registration Agents in the region determined they could not provide services amid COVID-19 restrictions.

Case filings in the Legal Office decreased. However, the upgrade to e-filing in mid-2019 became a great benefit to customers and staff as it allowed document processing to continue with less foot traffic in the office.

Cindy Hofner announced her retirement in 2020 and did not seek re-election. In November, voters elected Douglas Cubberley as Clerk of Courts with the term beginning January 4, 2021.

TITLE DOCUMENTS PROCESSED

Auto Titles, Duplicates & Memo Titles	71,286
Motor Vehicle Mortgages Recorded	18,094
Salvage Titles	280
Penalties (for not transferring titles timely)	3,670
Inspections	7,389
Affidavits	20,974
Manufactured Home Archives Recorded	492
Boat titles, Duplicates and Memo Titles (includes charged replacement titles).	1,922
Watercraft Mortgages Recorded	473
Watercraft Affidavits	213
Watercraft Penalties	1130
Watercraft Registrations	1656

TITLE DISBURSEMENT TOTALS \$26,811,681.08

Clerk of Courts	
Certificate of Title Fund Receipts	\$841,024.85
State of Ohio Motor Vehicle and Watercraft Casual and Dealer Tax	\$25,735.355.73
BMV Certificate of Title Fees	\$181.755.00
DNR Watercraft Fees	\$5.029.50
DNR Watercraft Registrations	\$48.516.00

UNCLAIMED FUNDS

Unclaimed funds are money or the rights to money that have been dormant or forgotten. Ohio has over \$2.6 billion in unclaimed money waiting to be returned. You can search to see if you have unclaimed funds by visiting www.com.ohio.gov/unfd.

The Wood County Clerk of Courts also provides a list of local unclaimed funds from the court system. To see if your name is on the list, visit http://clerkofcourt.woodcountyohio.gov/unclaimed_funds_rtp.pdf.

LEGAL CASES AND DOCUMENTS FILED (Partial List)

Cases Appealed to 6th District Court of Appeals	89
Domestic Relations Cases Filed	392
Domestic Violence Civil Protection	133
Dating Violence Civil Protection Order	15
Civil Stalking/Sexually Oriented Offense Protection Orders	139
Foreign Support	2
Domestic Cases Reopened	135
Foreign Judgment	1
Interstate Child Support	1
Custody & Support	12
Criminal Cases Filed	580
Civil Cases Filed (Includes 53 Civil Foreclosure Cases)	500
Land Foreclosure Cases	48
Mobile Home Foreclosure Cases	36
Certificate of Qualification	1
Foreign Subpoena	4
Miscellaneous	3
Judgment Liens Filed	1,121
State Tax Liens Filed	4,578
Foreign Judgment Liens	2
Executions Filed (Aid & Writ)	1
Debtor Exams	28
Garnishments	186
Publications	76
Writs of Possessions	4
Total Number of Judgment Entries	14,288
Passport Applications Accepted	157
Criminal Investigations	5
Search Warrants	179
Coroner's Reports Filed	99

LEGAL DISBURSEMENT TOTALS \$2,232,812.88

General Fund	\$427,376.38
Legal Research Fees	\$7,689.27
Computerization Fees	\$113,798.49
Interlock Fees	\$100.00
Traffic Fines	\$150.00
Mediation Fees	\$38,886.19
Fines Paid to the Law Library	\$1,250.00
Statutory fees paid to non-Wood County entities	\$84,186.53
Funding Shelters for Victims of Domestic Violence	\$12,348.12
Fees Paid to Adult Probation Supervision	\$21,094.72
Fines to Prosecutor Law Enforcement Trust Fund	\$3,800
Fees Paid to the Sheriff	\$83,070.62
Fines Paid to the Sheriff	\$7,352.64,
Interest Paid to General Fund	\$4,029.01
Fees Paid to Appraisers	\$12,330.00
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	\$1,415,350.91

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



Paul Dobson

The Prosecuting Attorney's Office consists of four legal divisions: criminal, juvenile, civil, and appellate. The Prosecutor's Office has 16 attorneys, a victim services unit, two investigators, the Addiction Response Collaborative (A.R.C.) staff, and support staff. The Prosecuting Attorney is authorized to perform his duties under Chapter 309 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Wood County was one of the first in Ohio to resume criminal jury trials after the onset of the pandemic.

In 2020, major crimes prosecuted by the Criminal Division included State v. Tyler Miller who pled guilty to aggravated murder and was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole; State v. Gregory Kamer who was convicted of multiple counts of sexual assault and given four life sentences without parole; and State v. James Griffin who pled guilty to abduction, felonious assault, and attempted rape and received 17 years in prison. The Criminal Division also saw the successful prosecution of several drug cases, which resulted

in over \$500,000 forfeited from criminal enterprises. The Civil Division worked diligently from the office and from home to timely render legal opinions to their clients, negotiate and review contracts, and initiate or defend civil actions and appeals on behalf of their clients in both the state and federal courts.

The Office cancelled several events, including Youth Olympics, Teen Court, and the annual Law Enforcement seminar. However, with a modified format, over 300 Wood County students participated in the Safety Kids Calendar Contest and 12 monthly winners and 12 honorable mentions were awarded.

2020 PROSECUTING ATTORNEY STATISTICS

Criminal Division

Cases opened	830
Indictments	407
Bills of Information for adult felony cases	19
Cases resolved by jury or court trial (7 guilty/2 not guilty)	9
Cases disposed	368
Cases disposed in Municipal Court	31
Victims of crimes served	1,800

Juvenile Division

Delinquency cases	511
Unruly cases	46
Traffic cases	368
Permanent custody cases filed	10
Felony level offenses adjudicated	23
Adult contributing to minors	19
Abuse/neglect/dependency cases filed	393
Adult Protection Services petitions	0

Civil Division

New client matter files opened	368
Contracts prepared/reviewed	559
Formal opinions issued	8
Total bank foreclosures	63
Total real estate tax foreclosure	48
24 dismissed with payment/8 sold/0 forfeited/16 pending	
Total mobile home tax foreclosure	36
25 dismissed with payment/2 sold/4 forfeited/5 pending	

Addiction Response Collaborative (A.R.C.)

Referrals	87
(96 Entered Treatment/Jail with 41 ongoing; 8 Referred to Other Programs; 27 Rejected A.R.C./Could not be located)	
Fatal Overdoses Reported to the Program	11

Appellate Division

Sixth District Court of Appeals Merit Briefs submitted	53
Cases decided (46 affirmed/10 reversed)	56
Ohio Supreme Court Jurisdictional Briefs submitted	9
(8 by defense denied/1 by State accepted)	
Ohio Supreme Court cases decided on Merits:	11
(10 State win/1 State loss)	
U.S. Supreme Court (2 affirmed/0 reversed)	2

RECORDER



Julie Baumgardner

The Recorder's Office is responsible for making a complete, accurate, and permanent record of every document pertaining to the conveyance and encumbrance of land within the County. As the repository of records for all property transactions in the County, the Recorder's Office safeguards every property owner's title. Though real estate documents constitute the majority of filings in the office, financing statements on personal property, military discharge papers, and a listing of veteran's graves in the County are also filed in the Recorder's Office. The Recorder is authorized to perform duties under numerous sections of the Ohio Revised Code. The Recorder also serves on the Data Processing Board and the Records Commission Board.

Low interest rates throughout the pandemic resulted in an increase in mortgage activity during 2020, with mortgages recorded increasing by nearly 1,900 over the prior year.

In the November General Election, James P. Matuszak was elected Recorder for the term beginning January 4, 2021.

2020 RECORDER'S DOCUMENTS

Deeds	5,323
Judgment entries and certificates for transfer	103
Mortgages (total value \$4,362,763,030.26)	6,420
Mortgages released (with a value of \$525,433,663.93)	6,663
Land Contracts	23
Rights of way and easements	104
Leases	30
Mechanics liens	23
Plats	6
Federal Tax Liens	27
Financing statements	63
Terminations	78
All Others	1,676

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

General Division

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

ADULT PROBATION

Joni Bretz, Director (Jan. 1 to Sept. 25, 2020)
Ryan N. Wolaver, Director (Eff. Sept. 26, 2020)

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.

2020 ADULT PROBATION STATISTICS

Pre-sentence investigations conducted.....	282
New offenders under department supervision.....	289
Offenders supervised.....	1,161
Individuals terminated from supervision.....	309
Drug tests conducted.....	1,701
Offenders placed on Intensive Supervision.....	204
Offenders placed on Electronic Monitoring.....	144
Offenders committed to Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC).....	36



Matthew Reger
COURTROOM 1



Mary "Molly" Mack
COURTROOM 2



Alan R. Mayberry
COURTROOM 4

During 2020, Judge Mayberry served as Administrative Judge; Judge David E. Woessner (Probate/Juvenile Division) served as Presiding Judge; Judge Reger represented the Court on the Judicial Advisory Board for the NorthWest Community Corrections Center and served as Court Security Judge; and Judge Mack represented the County on the Maumee Watershed Conservancy District Court.

After 18 years on the bench, Judge Alan Mayberry retired at the conclusion of 2020. Joel Kuhlman was elected in 2020 to fill the vacancy on the bench with his term beginning January 1, 2021.

2020 COURT OF COMMON PLEAS STATISTICS

Cases completed.....	2,108
Pending cases.....	1,069
General Civil cases completed.....	691
Domestic Relations cases completed.....	845
Criminal cases completed.....	572
Cases referred to Mediation.....	153

COURT SECURITY STATISTICS

Jury/Court trials.....	20
Stalking/Domestic Violence hearings.....	396
Public escorts by Court Security.....	684
Persons taken into custody by Court Security.....	163
Prisoner escorts by Court Security.....	735

Wood County 200: Historical Highlight

Civil government was established in Wood County on April 12, 1820, when the county commissioners, elected on April 1, met in Miami Rapids, now Maumee, and organized.

Further corporate existence came into being on May 3, 1820, when the first session of the Court of Common Pleas met at Miami Rapids, which place served as the county seat until March 1823, when the state government selected Perrysburg as the county capital.

While a courthouse was being erected at Perrysburgh, then spelled with the "h", the court met at Orleans of the North, a hamlet, on the flats, below Ft. Meigs. A major ice jam flood on the Maumee in 1832 carried away most of this hamlet of Orleans.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Probate and Juvenile Division



David E. Woessner

Cases heard in Probate Court involve decedent's estates, guardianships, conservatorships, trust related actions, civil actions, adoptions, mental illness, minor settlements, and wrongful deaths. In addition, the Probate Court provides registration services for births, name changes, miscellaneous filings, and marriage license applications. The Judge also makes a number of appointments to Boards and agencies as allowed by law and performs his duties under Chapter 2101 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Overall, Probate Court cases remained fairly consistent with a 2.8 percent total decrease in filings from 2019. Although fewer marriage license applications were expected due to restrictions on large gatherings, the number issued decreased by only 12 percent compared to the previous year. A higher volume of other actions, such as estates, counterbalanced the total as a whole.

Also noteworthy is a 35 percent increase in adoption actions in 2020. Probate Court has the honor of finalizing these petitions that bring stability to families. Prior to their adoption, nearly one-third of these were children in the permanent custody of the Department of Job and Family Services.

2020 PROBATE COURT STATISTICS

New cases opened	795
Re-opened cases	29
Estates	547
Guardianships and Conservatorships	50
Adoptions	43
Civil actions	17
Trusts	2
Marriage applications	664
Minor settlements	11
Name changes	80
Birth registrations/corrections	10
Other miscellaneous	28
Emergency actions (Guardianships, Mental Illness, Adult Protective Services)	15
Active volunteer guardians	17

NOMINATE SOMEONE YOU KNOW FOR A SPIRIT OF WOOD COUNTY AWARD

Nominations for the 2021 Spirit of Wood County Awards are being accepted through August 15.

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

Award categories include Self-Government, Agricultural Leadership, Religion and Liberty, Liberty Through Law/Human Freedom, Education for Civic Responsibility, Industrial/Economic Development, and the Lyle R. Fletcher Good Citizenship Award.

With the exception of 2020, the Spirit of Wood County Awards have been presented annually since 1988 to honor services rendered by Wood County citizens.

The 2021 awards will be presented in October during a special ceremony in the Alvin L. Perkins Atrium.

The Juvenile Court has jurisdiction over juvenile delinquency and unruly cases; juvenile traffic cases; abuse, neglect and dependency cases; paternity, custody and child support cases; as well as limited adult criminal cases. The Judge oversees administration of the Juvenile Detention Center and the 10-county Juvenile Residential Center of Northwest Ohio. The Court provides services and support for youth and families throughout the County and continues its long-standing collaborative working relationship with service providers and schools. The Juvenile Court's jurisdiction is described in part in Section 2151.23 of the Ohio Revised Code.

2020 JUVENILE COURT STATISTICS

Cases filed	1,888
Cases disposed of	1,977
Cases of alleged abuse, neglect or dependent children	393

JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER

Pretrial and short-term commitments	283
Males housed	198
Females housed	85

JUVENILE PROBATION

Youth and adults under supervision	183
Families served under Intervention/Diversion	78
Community service participants	55
Community service hours	787
Restitution paid to victims	\$8,424.68

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE/ GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM (CASA/GAL)

Volunteers	36
Children served	96
Child cases referred	69

PROGRAMS SEEK VOLUNTEERS

CASA/GAL volunteers are needed to advocate for children who have allegedly been abused, neglected, or dependent. Volunteers meet with the child at least once a month while gathering information about the child's life. At each stage of the court process, CASA/GAL volunteers advocate for the best interest of the child. This includes reporting facts gathered and making recommendations to the court for consideration. Contact the Juvenile Court at 419-352-3554 or email casa@woodcountyohio.gov for more information on the CASA program.

Probate Court is seeking volunteers to serve as guardians for community members who are no longer able to care for themselves. A volunteer guardian is responsible for making decisions in the best interest of the incompetent adult, known legally as a "ward." Volunteers are matched with individuals and asked to meet with the ward at least once per month. Guardians play a vital and necessary role in the lives of people. For more information, contact Probate Court at 419-354-9230.

SHERIFF



Mark Wasylyshyn

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

2020 WOOD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT

CIVIL DIVISION

Sheriff foreclosure property sales	40
Proceeds from parcels sold	\$1,217,199.64
Execution of Certificates of Judgment	1
Service fee income to General Fund	\$109,283.3
Warrants, summons, subpoena	
& indictments served	2,917
Civil Protection Orders served	328
Child support warrants served	104
Inmates extradited from out of state	54
Prisoners transported to penal institutions	202
Prisoners transported between agencies	627

DETECTIVE BUREAU

Cases assigned	359
Cases cleared by arrest/closed/inactive	277
Cases pending investigation	57
Theft/fraud/forgery	158
Burglary/Breaking and Entering	30
Suspicious incident/departamental	14
Death/suicide	26
Sex offense/child abuse	42
Narcotic investigations	73
Fines/forfeitures to Drug Fund	\$10,565.39
Fire/arson	7
Human trafficking/prostitution/solicitation	1
Homicide	2

911 DIVISION/COMMUNICATIONS

911 calls answered	34,243
Fire calls dispatched	11,195
EMS calls dispatched	9,809
Calls dispatched to WCSO deputies	22,447
Cities, Villages, Townships, & Park District	
calls dispatched	43,139
Warrants entered into state/national	
databases	1,710
Protection orders entered	
into national database	538

ROAD PATROL DIVISION

Complaints received and investigated	22,447
Criminal charges	395
Traffic citations	527
Traffic warning written/verbal	4,043
Weight enforcement stops	65
Weight enforcement citations	58
Crashes investigated	818
Injury crashes	157
Injured persons	194
Fatal crashes	8
Driving under the influence – DUI	92
Driving under suspension – DUS	101
Miles driven by all Sheriff's vehicles	941,111

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ENFORCEMENT

Domestic violence arrests	76
Court case victim assistance	132
Sex offense/crimes against children	4
Cases assisted	277
Temporary protection order violation arrests	16

SEX OFFENDERS REGISTERED

COURTHOUSE COMPLEX SECURITY	
People checked upon entry	121,137
Packages scanned	68,683
Prohibited items held	1,378
Calls for Service	28

WEAPON PERMITS & BACKGROUND CHECKS

Concealed Carry Weapon	
Permits issued	1,104
Permits renewed	1,037
Persons fingerprinted for background checks	1,440

SPECIAL RESPONSE/CRISIS NEGOTIATION TEAM CALL-OUTS

	13
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JAIL

Inmates booked	2,410
Inmates released	2,442
Average daily population	115
Inmates transported to local courts	870
Total meals served	
– Jail	125,057
– Juvenile Detention Center	16,515
– Juvenile Residential Center	28,105
Average meals served per day	507
Average meal cost (with labor)	\$2.63
Out-of-county inmate housing income	\$133,939

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

Participating School Districts: Eastwood, Elmwood, Otsego & St. Louis

D.A.R.E. core students	456
D.A.R.E. students grades K-6	1,618
D.A.R.E. students grade 7	324
Education/prevention classes	42
Education/prevention students	931
School staff members	185

VOLUNTEER AUXILIARY PROGRAM

Members	39
Special events worked	7
Funeral escorts	199
Hours of work volunteered	1,769.75

EXPLORER PROGRAM

Members (Young adults 15 - 20)	14
Hours volunteered	83
Classroom hours	56
Field Trips	1

Due to the pandemic, community programs such as the Citizens Police Academy, R.A.D. Kids Safety, safety towns, and critical incident response training offered through the office were suspended in the interest of public safety.

CORONER



Douglas W. Hess, M.D.

The Coroner, an Ohio licensed physician in good standing, evaluates and rules on all violent, accidental, and suspicious circumstance deaths including homicides, suicides, and sudden deaths of persons in apparent good health. The Coroner is authorized to perform his duties under Chapter 313 of the Ohio Revised Code.

The Coroner reviewed 286 cases in 2020, of which 91 were determined by the Coroner.

2020 CORONER CASES

Auto Accidents	8
Drug Accidents	15
Falls/Accidents	13
Other Accidents	4
Natural	29
Suicide	10
Homicide	2
Pending	10

ENGINEER



John M. Musteric, P.E., P.S.

The Engineer has the responsibility of maintaining the County's 244 miles of road, 441 bridges, more than 2,500 culverts, 3,725 traffic signs, and four traffic control signals. In addition to managing the County's Storm Water Management Plan, the Office also manages ditch construction and is charged with maintaining 668 miles of open streams and ditches under the

Maintenance Ditch program, which is just part of the more than 3,000 miles of open watercourses in the County. The Office serves as the Engineer for the County's 19 townships providing cost estimates for road repair projects, assisting with grant applications, right-of-way location surveys, investigating drainage problems, and applying surface treatment to some of the 968 miles of Township roads. The Engineer's Office also reviews surveys, subdivision plats, annexations, vacations of roads, and maintains an extensive file of survey field records. The Office maintains tax map records of daily land transactions and reviews new and existing legal descriptions for all land transactions. The Engineer is authorized to perform his duties under Chapter 315 of the Ohio Revised Code.

2020 SOURCES OF INCOME

Motor vehicle license fees	\$5,262,315
Gasoline tax	\$3,614,207
Permits/Other Receipts	\$60,823
Refunds	\$14,506
Traffic fines	\$137,598
Grants	\$62,140
Interest	\$112,508
Reimbursements	\$982,609
Storm Water	\$82,075
General Fund	\$589,520
Capital Improvement Fund 315	\$200,000
TOTAL	\$11,118,301

Wood County 200: Historical Highlight

Most of Wood County lies inside of the Great Black Swamp near the eastern edge. The swamp made travel through this area very difficult. In 1825, a corduroy road was built between modern-day Fremont and Perrysburg in the Maumee Road Lands, a grant of land made available to Ohio for the purpose of building and paying for the road. Gravel was added to the road in 1838.

Starting in the 1850s attempts were made to drain the swamp. James B. Hill, a resident of Bowling Green designed the Buckeye Traction Ditcher that laid the drainage tile at a very fast pace. Once drained, the soil proved to be very productive.

2020 COMPLETED PROJECTS

BRIDGE PROJECTS

Anderson Road over Packer (Two Root) Creek (Webster Township)
Long Judson Road over Beaver Creek (Grand Rapids Township)
Insley Road over Rocky Ford Creek (Henry Township)
Jerry City Road over Ditch 1924 (Montgomery Township)

ROAD PROJECTS

Resurfacing/Rehabilitation County Roads	9.2 miles
Liberty Hi Road (Henry Twp) – 315 Fund	3.7 miles
Bowling Green Road East (Center Twp)	1.4 miles
Poe Road (Center Twp)	1.7 miles
Pemberville Road (Freedom/Troy Twps)	2.4 miles
Various Township Roads	19.4 miles
Surface Treatment (Chip/Seal) County Roads	15.1 miles
Liberty Hi Road (Liberty/Plain Twps)	5.1 miles
Bowling Green Road West (Plain Twp)	1.9 miles
North River Road (Freedom Twp)	4.3 miles
Warns Road (Lake Twp)	0.5 miles
Latcha Road (Lake Twp)	0.5 miles
Wapakoneta Road (Grand Rapids Twp)	2.1 miles
Sand Ridge Road (Weston/Milton Twps)	0.7 miles
Various Township Roads	51.1 miles
Microsurfacing County Roads	18.7 miles
Silverwood Road (Center Twp)	0.9 miles
Bowling Green Road West (Plain Twp)	1.9 miles
Lime City Road (Perrysburg Twp)	4.0 miles
Roachton Road (Perrysburg Twp)	2.8 miles
Pemberville Road (Troy/Lake Twps)	4.8 miles
North River Road (Freedom Twp)	4.3 miles
Various Township Roads	6.2 miles

Pavement Markings: Various

Culvert/Storm Sewer

Oil Center Road; Poe Road; Bloomdale Road; Merrill Road

DRAINAGE PROJECTS

Maintenance Ditches

Cleanouts	26.5 Miles
Debrushing	4.5 Miles
Bank protection and repair	0.275 Miles
Sprayed vegetation	164.03 Miles
Mowing	31.5 Miles

Storm Water

Construction sites inspected	405
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TAX MAP REVIEWS

Deed pre-approvals	1,529
Deed final approvals	2,417
New parcels	688
Total parcels reviewed	6,118

PERMITS ISSUED

Storm Water	56
Special Haul (Overweight/Oversize)	390
Driveway, Culvert, Utilities, Road Cuts/Bore	106

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM AVAILABLE COUNTY-WIDE

Residents can sign up for CodeRED to receive phone calls, text messages, and/or email alerts of critical communications including weather alerts, boil water advisories, road closures, etc., based on location.

To register for this service, visit the County's website and select CodeRED under Quick Links.

INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

BOARD OF ELECTIONS • Terry L. Burton, Director; Carol DeJong, Director

The Board of Elections is responsible for voter registration, voter database management, and election administration within the boundaries of Wood County. Activities include administration of Election Day; management of the early vote program; precinct election official recruitment and training; auditing of campaign financial reports; verification of candidates and ballot issues; and the securing, programming, and testing of all electronic voting devices. In addition, the office maintains all current and historical records for voter information, election documentation, and precinct maps.

The pandemic significantly impacted all three elections held in 2020 in method and processes.

The Presidential Primary Election was scheduled for March 17 and voting began on February 19. During this period, 5,259 votes were cast early in office or absentee by mail. On March 16, the election was ordered to be postponed and was subsequently scheduled for April 28. All voting was required to be by mail ballot. An additional 13,915 ballots were cast during the second voting window for a total of 19,174 ballots cast which represented a 21.06 percent turnout countywide.

In August, the Board of Elections held a Bowling Green City School District Transfer of Territory Special Election. This election was initiated by citizen petition and impacted voters in Center, Jackson, Liberty, Milton, and Plain Townships as well as Richfield Township in Henry County. All Election Day voting was held at one location to enable safety protocols to be

implemented. Of the 1,386 eligible voters, 790 cast ballots for a turnout of 57.75 percent.

The Presidential General Election included 38 candidates for Federal, State and County offices, and 33 local questions and tax issues. Voting began on October 6. Based on the expected turnout and need for social distancing, early in-person voting was held in the Alvin L. Perkins Atrium. Over the 28 days of early voting, a total of 19,296 people voted in person with another 20,966 ballots voted by mail. Of the 68,103 total votes for the General Election, 59.5 percent were cast by early in-person or mail ballots. Overall voter turnout was 73.05 percent which was the highest percentage for the county since 1988.

The Wood County Board of Elections operates under the Laws of the State of Ohio. Directives and advisories from the Ohio Secretary of State provide additional guidance along with the four-person local board.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Ben Batey, RN, MPH, Health Commissioner
(Jan. 1- July 24, 2020)

Benjamin Robison, MPH, Health Commissioner
(Eff. Sept. 2, 2020)

The Wood County Health Department works to prevent disease, promote healthy lifestyles, and protect the health of those living in the County. The Health Department also provides essential medical care through the Community Health Center, protects the County's food and water, and ensures women and children have access to nutritious food.

The year marked the Health Department's 100 year anniversary and the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is rivaled in its severity by only the 1918 pandemic.

Since the first local cases were identified in March, the Health Department provided reliable data on impacts throughout the County; educated the public on how to prevent the spread of the virus; provided resources and guidance to help business and schools; and promoted and provided testing for COVID-19.

The 10-member Board of Health appoints the Health Commissioner and assumes the responsibility of overseeing the Wood County General and Combined Health District activities.

LAW LIBRARY

Sarah Lulfs, Law Librarian

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

Updates to the Reading Room included the addition of a large conference table for patrons to use when completing forms, conducting legal research, or meeting to discuss matters; reconfiguration of the space dedicated to electronic research for patron privacy; and relocation of the copier for added convenience.

The library acquired and updated specific print books including reference books and Nolo books for self-represented litigants. Although legal advice cannot be obtained at the Law Library, the staff can assist the public in finding forms and information during regular Courthouse hours.

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Holly Ball, Wood-Lucas Extension Director

The Ohio State University Extension Office strives to provide current, up-to-date information on agriculture and natural resources, family and consumer sciences, community development, horticulture, and 4-H youth development. The Extension Office is a cooperative effort of the Ohio State University, the Wood County Commissioners, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

With the cancellation of many of the State's traditional county fairs, youth displayed or exhibited their projects at the first-ever Wood County All-Junior Fair. An online livestock auction and live video feeds were introduced and well received by buyers and youth exhibitors alike. 4-H Camp also transitioned to a virtual format.

4-H Lights up the Holidays, a program of goodwill and peace during the month of

December, reached more than 6,300 Facebook users and 25 4-H families throughout the County decorated their houses for everyone to drive by and enjoy. 4-H'ers also went to social media to show their thanks to essential workers during the pandemic.

Family and Consumer Science staff provided programs to help consumers with cooking healthful meals, job skills and careers, food safety, health, and wellness in a virtual format. Cooking Under Pressure classes

helped consumers learn and feel more confident using a pressure cooker. The Dining with Diabetes program remained popular and provided nutrition related information to those affected by the disease. Staff also conducted food safety training classes for licensed food operators regarding safe food handling.

The Office conducted agricultural research projects in the areas of nutrient management, soil and water

quality improvement, integrated pest management, and production efficiency. Specific projects focused on cover crops, soil compaction, soil quality, pest scouting, and sustainable cropping systems. Results were shared at local agronomy updates at the Conservation Tillage Conference and were a part of multiple state wide surveys. As a result, producers improved farm income and reduced pesticide and fertilizer use by following Extension recommendations.

PLANNING COMMISSION • W. David Steiner, Director

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

The Planning Commission partnered with officials from the U.S. Census Bureau to promote and educate residents about the 2020 Census. Numerous outreach activities were conducted.

Grant Funds continue to be utilized for infrastructure and street improvements in the Village of North Baltimore as well as street and park facilities within the Perrysburg Heights Community.

The County received \$1.8 million in CHIP grant funds. These funds addressed various housing needs of low to moderate homeowners throughout the County with many projects underway.

Wood County received \$288,640 in funding from the CDBG grant in 2020. Four projects were selected for funding during the grant's two-year cycle: repairs to South Superior Street in Custar; parking lot improvements at Bloomdale Village Hall; recoating of the existing water storage tank in Bradner; and installation of 8,800 square feet of sidewalks in the Maryland Place Subdivision in Northwood.

The Commission heard and reviewed six rezoning requests. Of these requests, three involved text changes to current zoning resolutions in Plain, Liberty, and Troy Townships. The remaining requests involved the rezoning of existing lands in Troy, Perrysburg, and Lake Townships.

Staff provided assistance to Troy Township to update zoning regulations.

The Commission, in conjunction with the Engineer, Auditor, and Recorder reviewed and proposed changes to the current Wood County Land Transfer Policy.

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

2020 PLANNING COMMISSION ACTIVITY

Minor parcel split transactions.....	56
Total acres in minor parcel splits.....	515.125
Transactions involving parcel combinations	40
Total acres in parcel combinations	951.51
Residential subdivisions approved	1

Wood County 200: Historical Highlight

Wood County's first U.S. Census was conducted starting on August 7, 1820, showing a population of 733 residents. The population grew to 1,102 by 1830 and the 1840 census listed 5,357 people as residing in Wood County. Lucas County, which was separated from the area of Wood County north of the Maumee River in 1835 during the Toledo War, recorded a population of 9,382 in 1840.

PUBLIC DEFENDER

Kathleen Hamm, Chief Public Defender

The Public Defender provides constitutionally mandated legal representation for indigent defendants in juvenile and criminal cases within Bowling Green, Perrysburg, and Fostoria Municipal Courts; Juvenile Court; and Common Pleas Court. To be eligible for representation, an individual must qualify under the Ohio Public Defender Commission Standards of Indigency, as listed in the Ohio Administrative Code section 120-1-03.

In 2020, the Office of the Public Defender represented approximately 2,000 clients. Cases included felonies, misdemeanors, delinquencies, status offenses, and other post-conviction remedies. When a conflict exists, the Public Defender is unable to represent the individual and the case is assigned to outside counsel.

Funds for appointment of counsel were budgeted by the Commissioners, with an average of 70 percent of the budget reimbursed by the State in 2020. Ohio law mandated that individuals requesting representation pay a \$25 application fee. The County retained 80 percent of the fee to offset the costs of providing legal representation.

The duties of the Public Defender are outlined in Chapter 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. A satellite office located at the Perrysburg Municipal Court accommodates the significant case load in the Northern part of the County.

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Nicki Kale, District Administrator (Jan. 1 to Feb. 28, 2020)

James Carter, District Administrator (Eff. March 1, 2020)

The major function of the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) 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 Agriculture's Soil and Water Conservation Commission. The District, chartered in 1949, is a subdivision of the State of Ohio, and includes all the lands within the County. The SWCD operates under Chapter 940 of the Ohio Revised Code. Policies are set by a five-member Board of Supervisors who are elected for a three-year term.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) worked with producers to plan seven new Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contracts on 2,464 acres for \$875,952 in cost-share funds. Contracted practices included four manure storage facilities, 2,366 acres of cover crops, and nutrient management. The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) provided an additional \$30,300 in annual payments for conservation efforts on 432 acres. The local partnership provided support to 13 existing contracts to continue conservation efforts on 10,862 acres.

In a partnership with the Farm Service Agency, the SWCD provided a local greenhouse option for producers to fulfill Mid Contract Management obligations. Over 3,000 native plant plugs were planted by landowners in local filter strips.

H2Ohio funds totaling nearly \$9 million helped keep waterways clean and reduce nutrient loss, with more than 78,000 acres enrolled in the three year program. Six private ditch improvement projects were completed encompassing more than 14 miles.

VETERANS ASSISTANCE CENTER

The Wood County Veterans Assistance Center provides advocacy and representation for veterans and their eligible dependents before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The Center also assists service members and the veteran community in obtaining benefits at the state and local levels. The Center provides funding for transportation for veterans' VA medical appointments, provides emergency financial assistance, and has an Honors Detail that presents the final honors at a veteran's burial. The Veterans Service Commission operates under Chapter 5901 of the Ohio Revised Code.

In October, the Veterans Service Commission hired Zachariah Migura to fill the Executive Director position effective January 1, 2021.

During the transition in leadership, a website and social media presence are being developed to assist in making the Office more accessible to veterans and their families.

VETERANS ASSISTANCE CENTER STATISTICS FOR 2020

Veterans residing in the County.....	15,288
Total client contacts	3,944
Veterans transported to medical facilities	508
Veterans photo I.D. cards issued	90
Memorial Day appropriations	\$20,200
Flags/grave markers distributed	12,826
Federal VA claims/documents processed	16,394
Number of persons assisted - emergency financial	167

Are You a Veteran Living in Wood County?

Register with the Veterans Service Office to make sure you are receiving all the benefits to which you are entitled. Call 419-354-9147 or visit the County website to learn more. The Center also issues Veteran Identification Cards containing the veteran's photo, address, branch of service, dates of active military service, and character of discharge.

HOW TO CONTACT US... Call 419-354-9000 and let us help you or call toll-free 1-866-860-4140.

WOOD COUNTY HOTLINES

Report Child/Elder Abuse

419-354-9669 or
1-866-860-4136

Report Welfare Fraud

419-373-6964 or
1-800-627-8133
jfs.ohio.gov/fraud/index.htm

Public Assistance Call Center

1-844-640-6446

Medicaid Consumer Hotline

1-800-324-8680

NetPlus Transportation Network

1-844-353-6779

Addiction Response Collaborative (ARC)

419-373-3900

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.woodcountyohio.gov

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

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



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

Wood County's No Wrong Door program provides information about services and resources with one call to any of the member agencies.

No Wrong Door can help with the real life challenges that touch Wood County residents and provide guidance for issues like home repair, employment, food, clothing, shelter, financial assistance, and more.

If you need help and don't know where to turn, just call any one of the agencies listed and they will guide you to the services you need.

NO WRONG DOOR Agencies

24 Hour Information and Referral - United Way 2-1-1	Dial 2-1-1
24-Hour Wood County Crisis Line	419-502-HOPE (4673)
Harbor Wood County (formerly Behavioral Connections)	419-352-5387 or 419-872-2419
Bowling Green City Schools	419-352-3576
Children's Resource Center	888-466-KIDS or 419-352-7588
City of Bowling Green	419-354-6203
Unison Health (formerly Family Service Counseling Center)	877-352-4624 or 419-352-4624
American Red Cross	855-891-7325 or 419-329-2900
United Way of Greater Toledo - Wood County Office	419-352-2390
Alcohol, Drug Addiction, Mental Health Services	419-352-8475
Board of Developmental Disabilities	800-356-3218 or 419-352-5115
Commissioners' Office	866-860-4140 or 419-354-9100
Committee on Aging	800-367-4935 or 419-353-5661
OSU Extension	419-354-9050
Job and Family Services	888-282-1118 or 419-352-7566
Educational Service Center	419-354-9010
Health Department	419-352-8402
Wood County Hospital	419-354-8910 (ER) or 419-354-8900
Juvenile Court	866-860-4140 or 419-352-3554
Prosecuting Attorney's Office	866-860-4140 or 419-354-9250
Great Lakes Community Action Commission (formerly WSOS)	800-775-9767 or 419-353-7407

No Wrong Door is a program of the Family and Children First Council of Wood County, a partnership of Wood County human and social service agencies, schools, law enforcement agencies, government, and the courts, dedicated to assisting Wood County residents in need.



**COVID-19 vaccine appointments
open at noon on Fridays**

419-823-9512

Choose Option 1 for vaccine
scheduling and information.

419-823-9528

Call to hear a recorded message with
updates on vaccine availability.



www.WoodCountyHealth.org



**Sign up for an on-call list
on our website**