

# Wood County, Ohio

# 2024

## ANNUAL REPORT

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# WOOD COUNTY, OHIO 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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## Structure of County Government

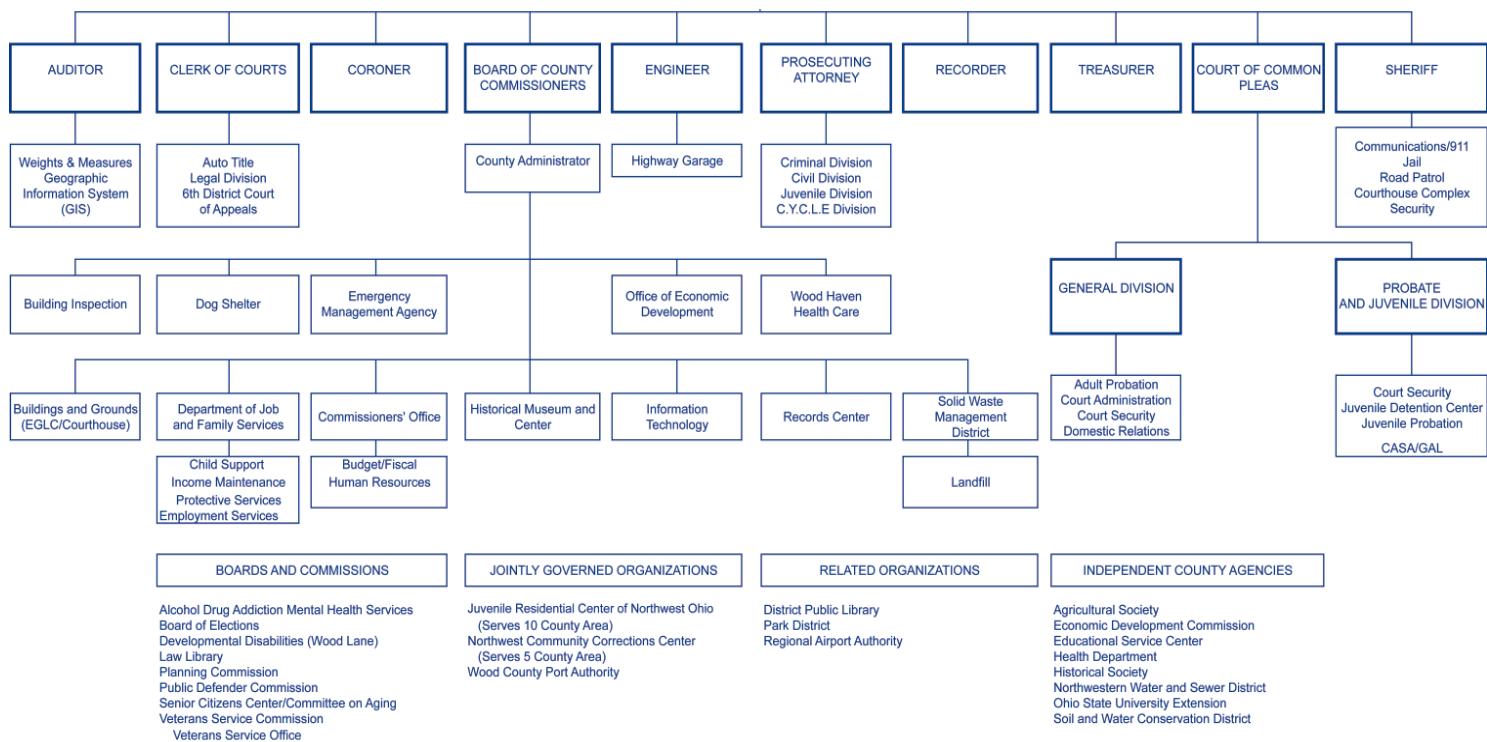
Each Ohio county organized under general statutory law has 11 elected officials consisting of three county commissioners and an auditor, treasurer, prosecuting attorney, clerk of courts of common pleas, engineer, coroner, recorder and sheriff. In addition, Wood County has four common pleas judges. Each elected official has independent authority to perform the statutory duties of his or her office.

The judges are elected to six-year terms, and all other county elected officials are elected to four-year terms in even numbered years. All county elected officials are elected in the presidential election year, except for one county commissioner and the auditor, who are elected in the gubernatorial election year.

County government does not possess home rule authority. County officials may act only when and as specifically authorized by state law.



2025 Wood County Elected Officials pictured from Left to Right: Front Row: Judge Joel Kuhlman, Engineer John Musteric, Judge Mary "Molly" Mack, Judge Matthew Reger, Clerk of Courts Douglas Cubberley, Commissioner Craig LaHote, Sheriff Mark Wasylshyn, Treasurer Jane Spoerl. Back Row: Auditor Matthew Oestreich, Commissioner Theodore Bowlus, Coroner Douglas Hess, Commissioner Doris Herringshaw, Judge David Woessner, Prosecutor Paul Dobson, Recorder Connor Rose. Photo taken March 12, 2025.



# A Message from the Board of County Commissioners

Wood County experienced another successful year of economic development in 2024, led by a second Amazon project in Perrysburg Township involving a \$70 million investment and the creation of 500 jobs, and a Charter Steel expansion in Perry Township with a \$22 million investment and 15 jobs. Additionally, Magna International created 140 jobs at a new Norplas facility in Rossford and 120 jobs at a new Vehtek facility in Bowling Green. Wood County's glass and solar industry also continued to thrive with NSG and First Solar making significant investments. Finally, construction began on the previously announced \$750 million data center project in Middleton Township.

The county's finances also remained strong in 2024. Sales tax continued to be the largest source of revenue for the county with over \$29 million in annual receipts. Investment income also increased due to higher interest rates, which helped fund capital projects and other one-time expenditures. We will continue our conservative budgetary practices and closely monitor revenue and expenditures in the year ahead.

In July, the county completed the first phase of a multi-phase landfill expansion project. The project cost \$2.9 million and finished on time and under budget. The new

cell will provide disposal space for approximately six years. This project is part of the OEPA approved landfill expansion permit that provides for nearly 100 years of expansion capacity on land purchased by the Commissioners decades ago.

The \$28 million jail renovation and expansion project that began in late 2022 is also nearly complete with only a few minor items remaining. The new booking, housing and medical areas have been approved by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction and are fully operational. We are confident that these improvements will meet the jail needs of Wood County for many years to come.

In December, Wood County faced a criminal cyber-attack on the county's computer network. As soon as we learned of the attack, we reported it to federal law enforcement and cooperated with their investigation. The County also began working with a team of legal and technical experts, provided by our liability insurance, who assisted us through the recovery process. All county services were fully restored, and today, it is business as usual for county offices.

We are committed to learning from this incident and implementing aggressive measures to improve the county's security posture going forward. The county has partnered

with a nationally recognized consultant to obtain on-going security evaluations, guidance, and recommendations for our systems and has also hired a local consulting firm to support the day-to-day efforts of our in-house IT Department.

The County offers a warm welcome to the newly elected County Recorder, Connor Rose. We also provide our thanks and recognition to former County Recorder Jim Matuszak for his four years of service.

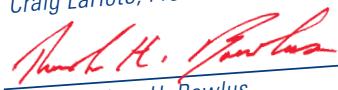
We extend our sincere appreciation to our fellow elected officials and county employees for their dedicated service over the last year, and also extend our thanks to the citizens of Wood County for their support and cooperation.

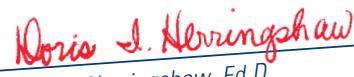
It is our honor to serve you as county commissioners, and we look forward to seeing you and working with you in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

The Board of County Commissioners,  
Wood County, Ohio

  
Craig LaHote, President

  
Dr. Theodore H. Bowles

  
Doris I. Herringshaw, Ed.D.

## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

*The Board of County Commissioners is the administrative coordinator of County Government and has direct oversight responsibility for 12 agencies and departments. Together the Commissioners manage County funds, buildings and property, and also serve as the County's contracting and tax authority. The Board is authorized to perform its duties under Chapters 305 and 307 of the Ohio Revised Code.*



Craig LaHote



Dr. Theodore H. Bowlus



Doris I. Herringshaw, Ed.D.

Significant planning and outreach efforts were made by the Wood County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) staff over the last two years in preparation for the total solar eclipse that occurred in April. Wood County was located in the "path of totality" viewing area. EMA staff worked closely with local governments and organizations to ensure they understood the challenges that might result due to an influx of people into our region. The extensive planning paid off, and the historic event was enjoyed safely by thousands across Wood County.

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

Nominations for the 2025 Spirit of Wood County Awards are being accepted through August 15.

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.

Nomination forms and a listing of prior award recipients can be found on the County's website. The 2025 awards will be presented in the fall during a special ceremony in the Alvin L. Perkins Atrium.



**2024 Spirit of Wood County Award recipients.** Front Row: Rick Ruffner, Lyle R. Fletcher Good Citizenship Award; Floyd Craft, Industrial/Economic Development, Amanda Barndt, Agricultural Leadership. Back Row: Andrew Kalmar, Self-Government; Randy Gardner, Education for Civic Responsibility; Alan Mayberry, Liberty Through Law/Human Freedom.

Several years ago, many states, including Ohio, filed lawsuits against opioid manufacturers and distributors in hopes of recouping some of the tax dollars spent dealing with opioid addiction. Wood County received over \$780,000 from the settlements. The County plans to use a portion of these dollars for AED devices for road deputies, medical costs at the jail related to addiction, and marketing and education materials for the Addiction Response Collaborative. The County is also a member of OneOhio Region 17, which is also receiving funds under the settlements. In 2024, Region 17 allocated \$1.4 million to projects in its seven-county area. Three of the funded projects involved organizations that will be providing substance abuse services within Wood County.

In June, Wood County was awarded \$1 million in One-time Strategic Community Investment Funds from the State of Ohio to be used for the planning and development of a new Engineer's Highway Garage Facility. The Commissioners, working closely with County Engineer John Musteric, will be performing a site study to determine the most appropriate location for the facility, focusing on county-owned property. The remaining funds will be used for site work and infrastructure improvements. The current facility is located on Poe Road in Bowling Green.

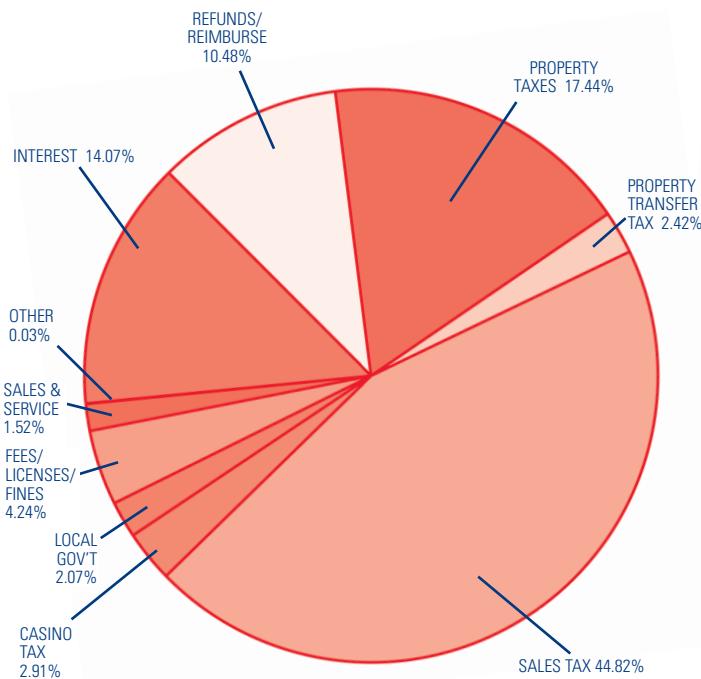
The General Assembly established the Healthy Aging Grant program in June 2023. The grants were intended to benefit older Ohioans, by enabling them to remain in their homes, stay connected to their communities, preserve their personal assets, and promote a healthy, independent, and active lifestyle. Wood County received \$473,335, and the Commissioners provided these funds to the Wood County Committee on Aging to ensure the dollars were spent on projects and programs that would benefit older adults in Wood County. The grant projects were completed in October under the direction of Executive Director Denise Niese, and the funds were used for housing repairs, meals and food delivery trucks, transportation vehicles, adult day care services, internet access and digital upgrades, nursing services, and financial support for the Guardianship Services Board.

The Commissioners hold session on Tuesday and Thursday of each week at 9:15 a.m. The public is welcome to attend. As a reminder, Commissioners' session agendas and minutes are posted on the County's website.

The Commissioners create and adopt the annual operating budget for the County. The County's fiscal year extends from January through December. While the Commissioners have no direct authority over other elected officials, the Commissioners are required to approve the budget for all county offices. Fortunately in Wood County, the elected officials have a long history of working collaboratively to ensure cost effective, quality services are provided to County Residents.

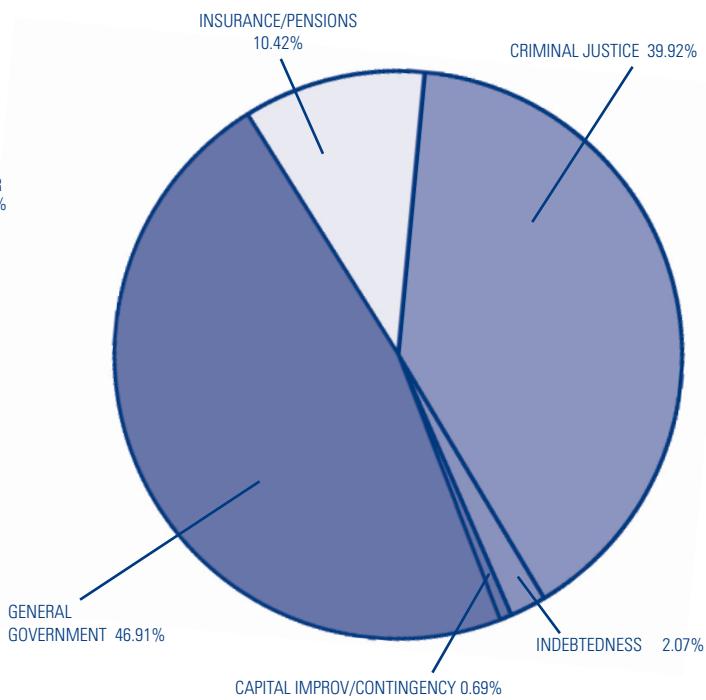
### 2024 GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS\*

**\$65,111,845.08**



### 2024 GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES\*

**\$62,172,759.57**



\*unaudited

#### SALES TAX RECEIPTS

2024	<b>\$29,183,107.31</b>
2023	<b>\$28,922,814.52</b>
2022	<b>\$28,538,142.65</b>
2021	<b>\$26,403,972.18</b>
2020	<b>\$24,529,961.15</b>

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDS

2024	<b>\$1,346,127.24</b>
2023	<b>\$1,408,122.90</b>
2022	<b>\$1,375,166.42</b>
2021	<b>\$1,278,722.22</b>
2020	<b>\$1,131,820.78</b>

#### American Rescue Plan Act Funds Projects

As a result of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Wood County government received \$25.4 million of federal funds in 2021. The Commissioners allocated these funds to various entities, focusing on eligible projects that would impact a large number of county residents and provide lasting benefit to Wood County.

Several ARPA funded projects have been completed in 2024 including water and sewer improvements on Mercer Road, water system improvements in Pemberville and North Baltimore, an expansion project at the Wood County Landfill, and identification and replacement of lead water service lines throughout the county.

On-going projects include two county stormwater projects, HVAC upgrades in county buildings, financial assistance for the Cocoon Shelter and Habitat for Humanity, Health Department building renovations, extension of water and sewer lines to the Village of Dunbridge, and continued implementation of the county-wide computer aided dispatch, records management, and jail management system.

All of the ARPA funds must be expended by December 31, 2026.

## 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 Service Office. Department staff provide maintenance, repair, and groundskeeping for the buildings owned by the Wood County Commissioners. Custodial services are also provided to various County Offices.*

Staff assisted with the management of two large construction projects at the East Gypsy Lane Complex in 2024. The NorthWest Community Corrections Center female addition project was completed, and work continued on the Wood County Jail renovation and expansion project with only minor items remaining for contractors to finalize. Other improvements at the East Gypsy Lane Complex included conversion of a storage area at the Juvenile Detention Center into two offices, installation of a new call-light system at Wood Haven, construction of a new evidence lock-up structure for the Sheriff's Office, and construction of a wall in the Child Support Enforcement Agency building to divide the building, making room for the relocation of the Veterans Service Office.

Projects at the Courthouse included new carpet and paint for the Board of Elections, new carpet and furniture for the Common Pleas Court 2 administrative office, improvements to the drug lab in Adult Probation, carpet replacement in Common Pleas Court 4, and new landscaping to areas outside of the Atrium.

Improvements to the Highway Garage facility on Poe Road included lighting upgrades, a restroom alteration project in the main building, and the start of a much-needed piping project for the heating system.

Staff also continued making improvements on the Museum grounds with repairs to the Ice House, expansion of a stone turn around area at the pole barn, installation of a commercial de-humidifier for the Asylum, and a new roof on the Log Cabin.

The custodial staff provided cleaning services for the Highway Garage, Records Center, Courthouse, Office Building, Landfill, and Fuel Facility. Their responsibilities include daily and weekly cleaning cycles and the handling of recycled materials at each location.

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

### Wood County Joins America 250-Ohio Celebration

On July 4, 2026, our nation will commemorate and celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Planning for local events to celebrate this historic milestone will begin soon. Contact the Wood County Commissioners' Office at 419-354-9100 to see how you can get involved.



*The Wood County Jail renovation and expansion project, pictured above, included conversion of the indoor recreation area into female dorms.*



*Renovation of the Adult Probation drug lab provided a safer and more efficient collection and testing location.*



*A 32-bed female wing was added to the NorthWest Community Corrections Center to provide cognitive behavior thinking therapy, gender-specific programs for women, GED classes, vocational skills and more.*

## Building Inspection

Robert Cendol, 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.*

Single family housing starts increased approximately 25% over 2023. The majority of new single family home construction occurred in Perrysburg and Perrysburg Township. Manufactured home applications decreased for a second year. At the end of 2024, residential inspections for Wauseon ceased, as the city created its own inspection department.

The growth of industrial and warehousing facilities continued with projects like Sheetz distribution and manufacturing in Hancock County, Ohio Logistics, and the Amazon warehouse. Projects for First Solar, Hirzel Canning and Charter Steel were also completed in 2024.

Builders, developers and designers continued to utilize the electronic plan review process, with approximately 95% of plan reviews completed electronically.

Building Inspection operates under the Board of County Commissioners and is designated an enterprise fund, operating solely on permit revenue. Building codes utilized during 2024 included the 2024 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.

### 2024 BUILDING INSPECTION STATISTICS

Permits Issued .....	5,678
Total Permit Revenue .....	\$3,059,427
Wood County .....	\$2,147,298
Hancock County .....	\$595,542
Henry County .....	\$123,048
Fulton County .....	\$193,539
Total Inspections Completed .....	12,992
Wood County .....	9,791
5,939 Residential/3,852 Non-Residential	
Hancock County .....	1,693
Henry County .....	645
280 Residential (Napoleon)/365 Non-Residential	
Fulton County .....	863
188 Residential (Wauseon)/675 Non-Residential	

## Dog Shelter

Jodi Harding, 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; impound and care for stray dogs; investigate injuries and bites caused by dogs; and designate dogs as nuisance, dangerous or vicious. 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 the Shelter's operations.*

Shelter staff continued hosting monthly enrichment nights with volunteers making dog toys and treats and participating in dog walks at the facility. Staff and volunteers also participated in weekly outings to Wintergarden and Carter Parks with Shelter dogs.

Dog license enforcement continued with phone call follow-ups for non-renewed licenses and door-to-door license checks.

### 2024 DOG SHELTER STATISTICS

Total Dogs Impounded.....	410
Redemptions .....	157
Adoptions .....	159
Euthanized .....	40
Deceased before/after impound.....	1
Dogs Transferred to Rescues.....	53
Owner Surrenders .....	48
Owner Requested Euthanasia .....	22
Incidents Investigated .....	493
Dog Licenses Sold.....	
One Year Licenses .....	14,588
Three Year Licenses .....	1,389
Permanent Licenses .....	306
Total Licensed Dogs .....	21,260
Kennel Licenses Sold .....	77

## DOG PARK OFFERS MEMBERSHIPS

The Wood County Dog Park registered 94 members in 2024. 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.

## 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; child support; and social services.

The Protective Services Unit joined the Sandusky, Ottawa, Seneca, and Wyandot Counties treatment foster care network. Joining this network proved successful in securing additional treatment level homes and will be a beneficial resource for future placements, as currently Wood County only has one treatment level home. In May, the Agency hosted a high school graduation party for six students under its care. The Santa Shop, held in December, provided toys donated by local corporations, businesses and families to children served by the Agency.

OhioMeansJobs Wood County received two grants in 2024. The Rural Healthcare Grant (H-1B) aimed to increase the number of individuals trained in healthcare occupations and the Quality Jobs, Equity, Strategy, and Training (QUEST) Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grant supported individuals whose employment was affected by the pandemic. A Career Premiere event provided more than 350 high school students the opportunity to connect with area employers and explore careers in manufacturing, trades, health care, IT, and logistics.

New child care programs were implemented for families with incomes up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. Additionally, the Agency provided 680 children with essential school supplies, coats, and shoes.

In March, the Income Maintenance Unit completed the Medicaid "return to normal" rules. Some recipients lost eligibility at the time of their annual renewal due to these changes. In October, the State modified the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) and removed the "mandatory" work requirement. SNAP recipients are still screened for work ability and informed of work requirements. Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents must participate in employment and training activities, or benefits will be limited to three out of 36 months.

The Child Support Unit received recognition for Best Overall Performance in the medium caseload division. Staff managed several operational changes during the year including an upgrade to the State Enforcement Tracking System.

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

### 2025 POVERTY GUIDELINES

Persons in Family/ Household	Poverty Guideline	138% of Poverty of Poverty	200% of Poverty of Poverty
1	\$15,650	\$21,597	\$31,300
2	\$21,150	\$29,187	\$42,300
3	\$26,650	\$36,777	\$53,300
4	\$32,150	\$44,367	\$64,300
5	\$37,650	\$51,957	\$75,300
6	\$43,150	\$59,547	\$86,300
For more than 6 persons, add the following for each additional person.	\$5,500	\$7,590	\$11,000

### INCOME MAINTENANCE UNIT

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) cash payment cases (MA) . . . . .	187
Medicaid recipients (MA) . . . . .	18,330
Medicaid issuance . . . . .	\$208,667,567
Food assistance recipients . . . . .	10,798
Food assistance issuance . . . . .	\$13,727,729
Food assistance issuance per case (MA) . . . . .	\$315
Children issued food stamps (MA) . . . . .	2,634

### CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

Wood County children served . . . . .	6,562
Average case load size . . . . .	615
Total collections . . . . .	\$18,285,392
License suspension program . . . . .	\$119,990
Financial institution data match . . . . .	\$15,819
Insurance settlements . . . . .	\$11,450
Payouts from casino/racino prizes . . . . .	\$18,132
Other legal unit collections . . . . .	\$79,087
Public assistance returned to State of Ohio . . . . .	\$322,897
Recouped through income tax refund offset . . . . .	\$618,397
Reimbursements for children in foster care . . . . .	\$28,246
Civil and criminal proceedings initiated (accepted referrals) . . . . .	345
Completed requests for modifications . . . . .	170

### OHIO MEANS JOBS WOOD COUNTY

Resource room users (in-person/virtual) . . . . .	11,773
Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) adult and dislocated worker participants . . . . .	207
CCMEP Youth Employment Program participants . . . . .	35
On the job training contracts . . . . .	13
Incumbent worker training contracts . . . . .	11

### PROTECTIVE SERVICES UNIT

Children served . . . . .	1,935
Children placed in substitute care . . . . .	30
Cost for substitute care . . . . .	\$3,100,000
Home protective services children . . . . .	125
Reports of child abuse/neglect investigated . . . . .	867
Adoptions finalized . . . . .	0
Certified foster/adoptive homes provided with services . . . . .	20
Adult protective services assessments completed . . . . .	388
Adults receiving chore services . . . . .	37
Homemaker visits provided . . . . .	288

### SOCIAL SERVICES UNIT

Information and referrals . . . . .	1,489
Families provided emergency assistance through Prevention, Retention and Contingency program (PRC) . . . . .	765
Children who received child care services (MA) . . . . .	569
Transportation (1 way trips) to Medicaid & Title XX services . . . . .	12,012
MA = Monthly Average	

## 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.*

The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), a federal requirement for all counties, monitored hazardous material reports, spills, and assisted with the recovery of financial costs for first responders. The majority of releases reported were fuel spills from motor vehicle crashes.

Staff conducted one virtual and two in-person meetings, in addition to a successful functional Emergency Operations Center (EOC) exercise based on the 2023 full-scale simulated hazmat incident that involved a chemical stabilizer stored past its expiration. The planning exercise helped staff prepare for the total solar eclipse which was witnessed in the area on April 8, 2024.

EMA staff aided public safety forces during the Wood County Fair and National Tractor Pulling Championships. Staff also participated in public safety community fairs, made presentations to local senior centers and other agencies, and conducted weekly interviews with Clint Corpe on the Morning Show BG.

The EMA and LEPC sponsored trainings for local first responders including Developing and Maintaining Emergency Operations Plans, Emergency Management Amateur Radio Resources, Managing Spotter Groups, and Intermediate EOC Functions. The Agency was also a partial sponsor for NW Ohio Hazmat Conference in conjunction with the NOVFA Annual Fire School.

Outreach via social media continued, along with publication of a quarterly newsletter (both in-print and electronic format) to help better communicate and prepare residents in the event of a disaster.

### 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, road closures, boil water advisories, etc., based on location. To register for this service, visit the "How Do I" section of the County's website.

## Office of Economic Development • Wade Gottschalk, Executive Director

*The Wood County Office of Economic Development operates in partnership with the Wood County Economic Development Commission, an Ohio nonprofit corporation, to expand Wood County's employment base through existing industry development and the systematic recruitment of new businesses. The office actively markets Wood County and its communities to outside industrial prospects, while continuing to provide services to the County's communities and existing industries by helping them broaden and diversify their tax base and create and retain jobs.*

The County saw another successful year of economic development, anchored by a new Amazon project in Perrysburg Township with a \$70 million investment and 500 jobs and a Charter Steel expansion in Perry Township with a \$22 million investment and 15 jobs.

Additionally, the County saw further investment and job creation by Magna International with 140 jobs in Rossford and 120 jobs in Bowling Green, which compliment their current operations at

Norplas and Vehtek respectively. Glass and solar industries also saw continued investment, with a project at NSG in Rossford and First Solar's purchase and finishing of the former Pelton building in Troy Township. Finally, Middleton Township saw construction begin on the previously announced data center project located to the northeast of State Route 25 and State Route 582.

The Office of Economic Development staff are employees of the Wood County Commissioners.

### How does Wood County benefit from local economic development?

Thriving local economies attract new businesses, encourage entrepreneurship, and support small businesses, ensuring a diverse and resilient marketplace. Job creation reduces unemployment and increases household incomes, leading to higher consumer spending and economic stability. Infrastructure investments in roads, utilities, and public services enhances transportation, communication, and access to essential services, making communities more attractive to businesses and residents alike.

Additionally, local economic development initiatives coordinate with workforce development programs, as a skilled workforce is necessary to the continued success of economic development.

Wood County's economic development success would not be possible without the great team that the County and its jurisdictions bring to every opportunity and the collaborative environment behind the scenes that lay the foundation. While organizations directly tasked with economic development functions - Wood County Economic Development, Bowling Green Economic Development, the Wood County Port Authority, and RGP Northwest Ohio - lead these projects, it is ultimately the commitment of local elected officials to continued growth and tax base that has secured the County as a great place to invest and locate businesses.

## Historical Museum and Center

Annette Wells, 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.

In the spring, the Museum hosted Early Ohio on the Portage: A Living History Weekend complete with an 1800s Regency-costumed Ball. Also, in May, the second annual Safety Fair & Cruise-In featured more than 40 vehicles including fire trucks, the County SRT vehicle, and a Mercy helicopter, and was attended by over 3,500 people.

In the summer, all ages enjoyed the Music at the Museum porch concerts. Other events included five Teas & Talks, a Turkey "Drop", and a birthday party for the Museum's resident barn cat.

The wedding dress exhibit "Allure & Illusion: A Rose-Colored Romance", closed in December to make way for a future exhibit on World War II.

A mural was added to the modern metal siding of the gas plant building next to the herb garden by artist Chilly Rodriguez. A hosta garden was also added to the front lawn adding to the grounds appeal for local photographers.

The Commissioners employ four Museum employees, while the Historical Society employs additional staff and oversees the collections, programs, and events at the Museum.

### MUSEUM STATISTICS

Visitors (museum/events):	.....8,214
Members:	.....627
Donations to the collection (objects):	.....100+
Research requests:	.....41
Adult Education (113 programs):	.....2,181
Student Education (34 programs/trunks):	.....2,113



The Museum's barn cat walks in front of the new mural.

## Information Technology

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

In 2024, the IT Department responded to help-desk tickets, assisted with the roll-out of new computers, and provided technical assistance for various applications, equipment installations and technology projects.

### Records Center

Brenda Ransom, Records Manager

The Records Center provides records management services to County offices. The Center offers secure, environmentally sound storage of paper records, preservation microfilming, and digital imaging services. The storage rooms contain high-density mobile shelving units with maximum storage capacity of 10,528 cubic feet for records storage boxes. The Records Center operates under the Board of County Commissioners.

Records preservation continued to be a priority in 2024, with microfilm and digitization projects completed for the Auditor, Recorder, Probate Court, Public Defender, Clerk of Courts, and Sheriff. A large ongoing project to scan the Auditor's tax duplicates has improved access to records from 1977-2023 and will eventually encompass tax volumes dating back to 1827. Staff also provided records management assistance to 30 County departments.

In addition to County jurisdictions, assistance was provided to Wood County townships and municipalities and paid microfilming services were performed for offices in Mercer and Williams counties.

### 2024 RECORDS CENTER STATISTICS

Records stored (cubic feet)	.....8,585
New records (cubic feet)	.....570
Eligible for disposal (cubic feet)	.....214
Storage space recovered (cubic feet)	.....598
Pounds of records shredded and recycled	.....13,710
Pages/microfilm images scanned	.....424,169
Rolls of microfilm created	.....361

## Solid Waste Management District

Dan Scherer, Assistant County Administrator

A department under the Board of County Commissioners, the Solid Waste Management District (SWMD) prepares and implements an Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) approved Solid Waste Management Plan. The Commissioners also operate the Wood County Landfill.

In 2024, the Wood County Landfill completed a 7.4 acre expansion project. The newly constructed cell was approved for waste disposal use by Ohio EPA in December. Based on the past five-year average, the Landfill processes approximately 60,000 tons of solid waste per year. If this volume remains consistent, the new cell will provide approximately six years of additional disposal capacity before another construction project would be required.

The popularity of the Solid Waste District's drop-off recycling program continued in 2024, with the collection of over 655 tons of recyclables. The program also recently expanded into Lake Township, with the placement of five bins at the fire station on Ayers Road in Millbury. The bins will be available for residential use in early 2025.



*The Landfill expansion project.*

## Wood Haven Health Care

Jeff Orlowski, 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.

In 2024, Wood Haven Health Care continued its commitment to delivering exceptional health care services and was named a 5-Star Quality Measure Performer by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The facility received a 9.15 out of 10 on its customer satisfaction survey. Wood Haven was also named a Northwest Ohio Top Workplace for the tenth consecutive year.

### Help Reduce Contamination at Recycling Sites

One of the priorities in the District's five-year plan is to launch a campaign to decrease contamination at the County's drop-off recycling sites.

Preliminary waste audits conducted in 2024 determined the largest sources of contamination were plastic bags and film, and recyclables that are placed in the bins inside a bag.

Bagged recyclables cannot be processed at the recovery facility and are diverted to the Landfill. Residents are encouraged to recycle plastic bags and plastic films at local grocery stores.

Reducing contamination helps control the overall cost of the program and frees up space in the bins, which can fill up quickly.

The SWMD also provides information on recycling and hazardous waste disposal. Visit the Quick Links on the County's website for additional resources.

### LOOKING TO INCREASE RECYCLING AT YOUR EVENT?

ClearStream recycling containers and trash barrels are available for loan from the Solid Waste Management District. Contact the District office at 419.354.9297 at least one week prior to your event to complete a Container Loan Application.



### 2024 WOOD HAVEN STATISTICS

Admissions by Pay Type:

Privately funded residents .....	3.59%
Medicaid residents .....	5.39%
Medicare residents .....	31.14%
Insurance/Managed care residents .....	53.89%
Hospice .....	5.99%

# 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

Dr. Anwer Ali\*, Karen Baron\*, Katina Bostic, Matthew Battiato\* Scott Kleiber\*, Brandy Laux, Frank McLaughlin\*, Leslie Miller, Erica Parish\*, and three vacancies

## BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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

## COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS BOARD\*\*

Brent Baer, Justin Daler, Paul Dobson, Ann Garcia, Tony Hetrick, Patrick Jones, Amanda Kern, Joel Kuhlman, Craig LaHote, Molly Mack, Rebecca McMonigal, Mark Reddin, Matthew Reger, Carri Stanley, Lori Tretter, Mark Wasylyshyn, Cary Williams, Ryan Wolaver, and Chris Zografides

## COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION MEMBERS

Dr. Theodore Bowlus, John Eckel, Doris Herringshaw, Carri Stanley, 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, Cathleen Nelson, Matthew Oestreich, Matthew Reger, Michael Sibbersen, Annette Wells, Irma Wolf, and Karen Young

## DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Ellen Dalton, Greg Esposito, Kenneth Frisch\*, Kris James\*, Heidi Nees-Carver\*, Brian Paskvan\*, and Michael Sibbersen

## FLOODPLAIN VARIANCE AND APPEALS BOARD\*\*

Jim Carter, Rob Cendol, and John Musteric

## GREAT LAKES COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP

Total Membership - 24  
Wood County Members:  
Sue Clanton\*, Ashley Dickey, Dean King, Carmen Ortega\*, Kristie Peek, and Jane Wengel

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Lois Bowlus, Gordon Bowman\*, Sandy Gill, Michael Ginnetti, Dave Hollinger, Nick Pavlik, Brenda Ransom, Gabby Schmucker, W. Dave Steiner\*, Anna Stuart, Lanny Traber, Todd Waggoner, Stephanie Walters, Susan Winters, and one vacancy

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

Brent Baer, Tim Brown, Sandi Carsey, Chantille Frazier, Julie Launstein, and David Wigent

## LAW LIBRARY RESOURCES BOARD

Linda Brown\*, Sara Bushong\*, Justin Daler, Carrie Mancuso, and Kelly Persinger

## NORTHWESTERN WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

Steve Arnold, Bill Barnhart, Brooke Hahn, Bill Hirzel\*, Melinda Kale, Chuck Latta, J. Douglas Miller\*, Tim Phillips, Mark Sheffer and Elizabeth Wick\*

## PLANNING COMMISSION\*\*

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

## PORT AUTHORITY

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

## PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION

David Drain, Scott Hicks\*, Rex Huffman\*, Richard Karcher, and Phillip Walton\*

## REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY\*\*

Joel Borton, William Davis, Don Deters, Rohit Gupta, Charles Spontelli, Nancy VanderLugt, and Jamie Weidner

## RESIDENTIAL BOARD OF APPEALS\*\*

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

## TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL\*\*

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

## TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Jim Bagdonas, Roger Bostdorff\*, Jon Eckel, Bob Mack, John Musteric, Megan Newlove, Brian O'Connell, Mike Rywalski, Jonathon Smith, Robert Watrol, and one vacancy

## WOOD HAVEN ADVISORY BOARD\*\*

Melanie Davis, Frank McLaughlin, Laurie Newlove, and three vacancies  
EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: Jeff Orlowski, Carri Stanley, Shawn Oberhouse, and the President and Vice President of the Resident's Council

**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.*

**2024 AUDITOR STATISTICS**

Parcels of real property assessed (valued at over \$4.3 billion).....	74,529
Conveyances processed.....	3,979
Individual land parcels .....	7,467
Acres of farmland enrolled in CAUV	
(Current Agricultural Use Value) .....	311,394
Residents enrolled in Homestead Exemption program .....	7,338
Dog licenses sold.....	16,556
Weights and Measures Inspections:	
Commercial Scales.....	619
Gas Pumps.....	1,496
GIS requests.....	86

**Distribution of Real Estate, Public Utility Tax, and Special Assessments by the County Auditor in 2024**

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

Wood County .....	\$9,938,027
Northwestern Water & Sewer District .....	\$1,260,220
County Ditch Maintenance/Construction .....	\$1,158,955
Maumee Watershed Conservancy .....	\$113,182
Board of Developmental Disabilities .....	\$21,588,493
Alcohol, Drug Addiction, & Mental Health Services .....	\$8,184,429
Park District .....	\$2,986,175
Committee on Aging .....	\$3,223,575
Board of Health .....	\$1,631,639
Historical Center .....	\$210,334
Job & Family Services .....	\$2,986,175
Wood County Library Bond .....	\$272,966
Townships .....	\$24,803,628
Municipalities .....	\$17,898,919
Schools .....	\$169,320,711
Libraries .....	\$3,665,293

**AUDITOR FORMS AVAILABLE ONLINE**

Online applications for Homestead Exemptions, Homestead Exemption for Disabled Veterans and Surviving Spouses, and the Application for Owner-Occupancy Tax Reduction are available on the Auditor's website, located under the Government link at [www.woodcountyohio.gov](http://www.woodcountyohio.gov).

**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. Twenty 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 manufactured homes and inheritance. The Treasurer serves on the Budget Commission, Board of Revision, and Data Processing Board in addition to her duties as Investing Authority for the Investment Advisory Board and is authorized to perform her duties under Chapters 321 and 323 of the Ohio Revised Code.*

**2024 TREASURER STATISTICS**

Real estate tax collected .....	\$274,043,743.35
Manufactured home tax collected.....	\$1,453,011.83
Investment income.....	\$9,158,444.30
Taxpayers enrolled in monthly automatic withdrawal plan .....	1,627
Taxpayers enrolled in semi-annual/yearly ACH plan.....	1,536

**CORONER**

*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.*



Douglas W. Hess, M.D.

The Coroner reviewed 369 cases in 2024, of which 81 were determined by the Coroner.

**2024 CORONER CASES**

Auto Accidents .....	9
Drug Accidents .....	3
Other Accidents .....	13
Natural.....	36
Suicide.....	14
Homicide.....	2
Undetermined.....	0
Pending.....	4

## CLERK OF COURTS



Douglas Cubberley

*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 he is a member of the Data Processing Board, Investment Advisory Board, and Records Commission.*

Civil case filings increased approximately 14% from 2023, while Criminal case filings decreased approximately 22% over that same period. Case filings in the Domestic Relations division remained consistent with historic averages.

Clerk Cubberley presently serves as the 2nd Vice President of the Ohio Clerk of Courts Association.

### TITLE DOCUMENTS PROCESSED

Auto Titles, Duplicates & Memo Titles	58,306
Motor Vehicle Mortgages Recorded	12,961
Salvage Titles	277
Penalties (for not transferring titles timely)	4,043
Inspections	5,433
Affidavits	20,784
Manufactured Home Archives Recorded	500
Boat titles, Duplicates and Memo Titles (includes charged replacement titles)	1,577
Watercraft Mortgages Recorded	386
Watercraft Affidavits	855
Watercraft Penalties	195
Watercraft Registrations	692

### TITLE DISBURSEMENT TOTALS

Clerk of Courts Certificate of Title Fund Receipts	\$794,658.66
Wood County General Fund	\$46.09
State of Ohio Motor Vehicle and Watercraft	
Casual and Dealer Tax	\$25,439,066.30
BMV Certificate of Title Fees	\$143,790.50
DNR Watercraft Fees	\$4,044.00
DNR Watercraft Registrations	\$20,471.00

### ACCESS UNCLAIMED FUNDS

Unclaimed (or abandoned) money and other assets not used for a length of time or whose rightful owner cannot be located are turned over to the Ohio Department of Commerce Division after a specific period of time has passed.

You can search to see if you have unclaimed funds at the State level by visiting [www.com.ohio.gov/unfd](http://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 Unclaimed Funds Report, visit the Wood County website, [www.woodcountyohio.gov](http://www.woodcountyohio.gov), and select the Clerk of Courts under Government section.

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

CasesAppealed to 6th District Court of Appeals	93
Domestic Relations Cases Filed	319
Custody Proceedings	1
Domestic Violence Civil Protection	155
Dating Violence Civil Protection Order	17
Domestic Cases Reopened	169
Foreign Support	4
Civil Stalking/Sexually Oriented Offense Protection Orders	173
Visitation and Companionship	1
Custody and Support	8
Criminal Cases Filed	491
Civil Cases Filed (Includes 113 Civil Foreclosure Cases)	769
Land Foreclosure Cases	52
Mobile Home Foreclosure Cases	33
Certificate of Qualification	1
Foreign Subpoena	5
Judgment Liens Filed	921
State Tax Liens Filed	3,762
Foreign Judgment Liens	4
Executions Filed (Aid & Writ)	1
Debtor Exams	25
Garnishments	246
Publications	86
Wrts of Possessions	14
Writ of Partition	1
Total Number of Judgment Entries	13,023
Search Warrants	137
Passport Applications Accepted	319
Coroner's Reports Filed	88

### LEGAL DISBURSEMENT TOTALS

General Fund	\$461,639.19
Legal Research Fees	\$8,568.06
Computerization Fees	\$120,994.65
Interlock Fees	\$425.00
Traffic Fines	\$1,641.97
Mediation Fees	\$47,952.72
Fines Paid to the Law Library	\$1,250.00
Statutory fees paid to non-Wood County entities	\$107,571.25
Funding Shelters for Victims of Domestic Violence	\$9,643.74
Fees Paid to Adult Probation Supervision	\$12,077.56
Fines to Prosecutor Law Enforcement Trust Fund	\$78.65
Fees Paid to the Sheriff	\$77,464.77
Fines Paid to the Sheriff	\$4,710.01
Fees Paid to Realauction.com	\$6,820.00
Fees Paid to Appraisers	\$14,925.00
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, garnishments); and appropriation disbursements	\$1,257,405.43

## PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



Paul Dobson

*The Prosecuting Attorney's Office consists of four legal divisions: criminal, juvenile, civil, and appellate. The Prosecuting Attorney manages a staff including a director, 16 attorneys, a victim services unit, two investigators, two 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.*

The Prosecutor's Office successfully prosecuted hundreds of cases in 2024 with 14 going to jury trial.

Paul Dobson  
The trials included two defendants who were found guilty of aggravated vehicular homicide after causing the death of another motorist while driving drunk. Both of these defendants are now serving six to nine years in prison.

Another case involved a man who abused his position as a coach with local juveniles. A jury convicted him of several crimes related to his sexual abuse of multiple child victims. That predator was sentenced to over 60 years in prison.

Another defendant is serving a life sentence after being found guilty of sexual abuse after luring a child under 13 from his house.

A defendant was sentenced to consecutive terms of life with the possibility of parole after 20 years for the aggravated murder of two of the owners of the Bowling Green business where the defendant worked.

Additionally, two County prosecutors traveled to Seneca County to assist in prosecuting a tragic case of a man who killed his own infant child before attempting his own suicide. He was convicted of aggravated murder and kidnapping, resulting in a life sentence without the possibility of parole.

## 2024 PROSECUTING ATTORNEY STATISTICS

### CRIMINAL DIVISION

Cases opened .....	491
Indictments.....	424
Bills of Information for adult felony cases.....	0
Cases resolved by jury or court trial (12 guilty/2 not guilty).....	14
Cases disposed.....	510
Cases disposed in Municipal Court .....	151
Victims of crimes served.....	1,222

### YUVENILE DIVISION

Delinquency cases.....	563
Unruly cases .....	52
Traffic cases.....	491
Permanent custody cases filed .....	3
Felony level offenses adjudicated .....	27
Adult contributing to minors.....	26
Abuse/neglect/dependency cases filed.....	335

### CIVIL DIVISION

New client matter files opened .....	334
Contracts prepared/reviewed .....	514
Opinion requests.....	4
Public records requests .....	132
Total bank foreclosures .....	110
Total real estate tax foreclosure.....	52
22 dismissed with payment/3 sold/1 forfeited/26 pending	
Total mobile home tax foreclosure .....	33
27 dismissed with payment/1 sold/0 forfeited/4 pending	

### APPELLATE DIVISION

Sixth District Court of Appeals	
Merit Briefs submitted .....	56
Cases decided (40 successful/2 unsuccessful).....	43
Ohio Supreme Court	
Jurisdictional decisions successful .....	8
Jurisdictional decisions unsuccessful .....	1

## RECORDER



James Matuszak

*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. The Office also records and maintains financing statements relating to personal property, military discharge papers, and a listing of veterans' graves in the County. The Recorder is authorized to perform duties under numerous sections of the Ohio Revised Code. The Recorder serves on the Data Processing Board and the Records Commission Board.*

A total of 13,542 documents were recorded and/or filed, with \$938,147.56 collected in fees. Of this amount, \$51,940 was remitted to the State of Ohio for the Ohio Housing Trust Fund; \$50,744.00 was deposited into the Recorder's supplemental technology fund; and the remaining \$424,022.81 was paid into the County's general fund.

In the November General election, Connor Rose was elected Recorder for the term beginning January 6, 2025.

## 2024 RECORDER'S DOCUMENTS

Deeds .....	3,413
Judgment entries and certificates for transfer .....	130
Mortgages .....	3,309
Mortgages released .....	3,492
Land Contracts .....	19
Rights of way and easements.....	147
Leases .....	70
Mechanics liens .....	20
Plats .....	20
Federal Tax Liens.....	23
Financing statements.....	81
Terminations.....	89
All Others .....	2,729

## COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

### General Division



Matthew Reger  
COURTROOM 1



Mary "Molly" Mack  
COURTROOM 2



Joel M. Kuhlman  
COURTROOM 4

*The Court of Common Pleas, General Division, adjudicates felony criminal cases, civil actions, divorces, and dissolutions; allocates parental rights and responsibilities; and enforces child and spousal support. The Judges work collaboratively with the appointed Court Administrator to supervise the Domestic Relations, Adult Probation, and Court Security Departments. The Judges also appoint members to the Veterans Service Commission, Public Defender Commission, Law Library Board, and Public Library Board. The Court operates under Title 23 of the Ohio Revised Code.*

### Court Administration

Brandy Hartman, Court Administrator

Court Administration is responsible for overseeing functions of the Court, pursuant to the Ohio Supreme Court's Rules of Superintendence. The Court Administrator is responsible for policy implementation, human resources management, fiscal administration, strategic planning, information management, technology management, jury management, mediation services, community relations, and research and advisory services.

### Domestic Relations

Magistrates Jill Varnes-Richardson & Michelle Christie

Two magistrates preside over the Domestic Relations Court hearing civil protection order cases and termination of marriage cases including dissolution, divorce, legal separation, and post-decree motions.

### Adult Probation

Ryan N. Wolaver, Chief Probation Officer/Director

The Adult Probation Department conducts pre-sentence investigations for purposes of sentencing and supervises felony level offenders placed under court-ordered supervision. Adult Probation serves to aid in the reduction of criminal behavior through supervision, treatment, and rehabilitation of offenders, while protecting the public's safety.

### Court Security

Scott Kleiber, Chief Court Constable

The Court Security Department consists of constables serving under the appointing authority of the judiciary to ensure the safety and security of the Judges, staff, and citizens in all the courtrooms and adjacent offices, Domestic Relations area, and the Adult Probation Department. Constables are trained law enforcement officers and are required to complete annual continuing education and qualifications.

During 2024, Judge Mary "Molly" Mack served as Administrative Judge; Judge David Woessner served as Presiding Judge; Judge Matthew Reger continued his service on the Judicial Advisory Board of the NorthWest Community Corrections Center and the Maumee Watershed Conservancy District Court; and Judge Joel Kuhlman served as the Court Security Judge.

The Domestic Relations division held a Settlement Week, providing litigants with meaningful opportunities to resolve disputes efficiently and fairly. Additionally, the Court hosted two Continuing Legal Education (CLE) sessions, offering accessible, low-cost training for local attorneys. By fostering professional development and encouraging legal practice in the County, the Court aims to strengthen access to justice for the community.

Court Administrator Brandy Hartman graduated from the National Center for State Courts' Certified Court Manager program and was appointed by Chief Justice Sharon L. Kennedy to a three-year term on the Supreme Court of Ohio's Advisory Committee on Case Management. Through this role, she advocates for consistency, transparency, and efficiency in Ohio's courts—aiming to reduce delays, improve access to justice, and ensure resources are allocated appropriately to serve the public.

### 2024 COURT OF COMMON PLEAS STATISTICS

Total cases completed .....	1,387
Pending cases.....	646
General civil cases completed .....	796
Criminal cases completed.....	591

### Court Administration

Cases referred to Mediation .....	158
Jury/Court trials .....	16
Panels of jurors summoned.....	49

### Domestic Relations

Cases completed .....	1,019
Stalking/Domestic Violence hearings .....	371

### Adult Probation

Pre-sentence investigations conducted.....	236
Intervention in Lieu reports .....	42
Pre-arraignments reports .....	416
Expungement/Record sealing reports.....	92
New offenders under department supervision .....	402
Offenders on probation.....	1,220
Individuals terminated from supervision .....	410
Drug tests conducted.....	2,224
Offenders referred to Intensive Supervisor Program .....	63
Offenders placed on Intensive Supervision .....	156
Offenders placed on Electronic Monitoring .....	191
Offenders committed to Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) .....	170

### Court Security

Public escorts .....	636
Persons taken into custody .....	141
Prisoner escorts.....	823

**COURT OF COMMON PLEAS****Probate and Juvenile Division**

*Cases heard in Probate Court involve decedent's estates, guardianships, conservatorships, trust related actions, civil actions, adoptions, mental illness, minor settlements, and wrongful deaths. In addition, the Probate Court provides registration services for births, name changes, miscellaneous filings, and marriage license applications. The 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.*

Probate Court case filings totaled 1,632 for 2024, a very slight decrease from the previous year's total. This number included 755 marriage licenses, 830 new cases, and 47 cases reopened for further action.

The Probate Court has the honor of presiding over minor and adult adoption cases. These include stepparent, agency, private, and interstate cases as well as orders to establish Ohio birth certificates for children adopted abroad. In 2024, adoption cases more than doubled that of the previous year. Further, the incidence of individuals seeking to be adopted as adults has climbed in recent years.

Consistent with last year, previously rare case filings are becoming commonplace. Examples include appointments of commissioners to obtain medical records, disinterments, and land donations. These actions demonstrate the breadth of Probate Court's jurisdiction and scope.

Finally, the County is a partner in the tri-county Great Lakes Guardianship Services Board. Probate Court began formally appointing the Board as guardian of the person for County residents in 2024. At year's end, there were four guardianships assigned to the Board.

**2024 PROBATE COURT STATISTICS**

New cases opened .....	830
Re-opened cases .....	47
Estates.....	545
Guardianships and Conservatorships .....	80
Adoptions .....	38
Civil actions .....	8
Trusts .....	9
Marriage applications .....	755
Minor settlements .....	13
Name changes .....	109
Birth registrations/corrections.....	2
Mental Illness.....	4
Emergency actions (Guardianships, Mental Illness, Adult Protective Services) .....	19
Other miscellaneous.....	22
Active volunteer guardians.....	14

Any citizen with a desire to serve as part of the CASA/GAL program may contact the Juvenile Court for more information at 419-352-3554 or email [casa@woodcountyohio.gov](mailto:casa@woodcountyohio.gov). Within the organization, volunteers donate their time and talents gathering information and making recommendations to the Court for consideration.

*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 Juvenile Court provides a wide variety of services and support for youth and families throughout the county and works regularly with service providers and schools throughout Wood County and surrounding areas. In his capacity as Wood County's Juvenile Court Judge, in addition to the daily case work and court administration, Judge David Woessner also oversees the administration of the Wood County Juvenile Detention Center and the Juvenile Residential Center of Northwest Ohio. The Juvenile Court's jurisdiction is described in part in Section 2151.23 of the Ohio Revised Code.*



David E. Woessner

Overall case filings in the juvenile court decreased during 2024. Concurrently, court services and collaborations between the Court and other service providers increased to provide appropriate diversions to court involvement for youth and families. Additionally, new internal resources, such as a mental health therapist in the Juvenile Detention Center, were introduced to address issues that can lead to a youth's ongoing court involvement.

Special programs offered by Juvenile Court included social skills, community service work, and a variety of behavior-specific therapies. Where children are alleged to be abused, neglected, or dependent, the court offered an onsite Court Appointed Special Advocates/Guardian ad Litem program (CASA/GAL) to support children and families in these circumstances.

**2024 JUVENILE COURT STATISTICS**

Cases filed .....	2,293
Cases disposed of.....	2,394
Cases of alleged abuse, neglect or dependent children.....	335

**JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER**

Pretrial and short-term commitments.....	389
Males housed .....	240
Females housed.....	149

**JUVENILE PROBATION**

Youth and adults under supervision.....	202
Families served under Intervention/Diversion .....	58
Community Based Diversion participants .....	242
Community service participants .....	92
Community service hours.....	1,560
Restitution paid to victims.....	\$7,970.66

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

Volunteers .....	32
Children served .....	74
Child cases appointed.....	30

## SHERIFF



Mark Wasylshyn

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.

### 2024 WOOD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT

#### ROAD PATROL DIVISION

Complaints received and investigated .....	26,402
Criminal charges.....	345
Traffic citations.....	1,590
Traffic warning written/verbal .....	5,266
Weight enforcement stops .....	373
Weight enforcement citations .....	113
Crashes investigated .....	.890
Injury crashes .....	113
Injured persons.....	148
Fatal crashes .....	10
Driving under the influence – DUI .....	84
Driving under suspension – DUS .....	119
Miles driven by all Sheriff's vehicles .....	1,026,784

#### CIVIL DIVISION

Sheriff foreclosure property sales .....	27
Proceeds from parcels sold.....	\$829,239.02
Execution of Certificates of Judgment .....	21
Service fee income to General Fund.....	\$100,338.63
Warrants, summons, subpoena	
& indictments served .....	2,344
Civil Protection Orders received .....	.619
Child support warrants served .....	139
Inmates extradited from out of state .....	61
Inmates transported to and from prison .....	169
Inmates transported between agencies .....	663

#### DETECTIVE BUREAU

Cases assigned.....	252
Cases cleared by arrest/closed/inactive .....	217
Theft/fraud/forgery.....	134
Burglary/Breaking and Entering .....	32
Suspicious incident/departmental .....	20
Death/suicide .....	30
Sex offense/child abuse .....	31
Narcotic investigations .....	62
Fines/forfeitures to Drug Fund .....	\$8,039.01
Fire/Arson .....	13
Vehicles seized/forfeited .....	3
Task Force Seizures .....	\$12,358.44

#### 911 DIVISION/COMMUNICATIONS

Calls answered:	
911.....	41,333
Administrative calls .....	105,958
Dispatched calls:	
WCSO deputies .....	26,456
Non WCSO law enforcement .....	115,425
Fire/EMS.....	22,336
State/National database entries:	
Warrants .....	1,510
Protection Orders.....	.497

#### JAIL

Inmates booked .....	2,624
Inmates released .....	2,544
Average daily population .....	115
Inmates transported to local courts .....	1,078
Total meals served	
– Jail .....	129,533
– Juvenile Detention Center .....	20,139
– Juvenile Residential Center .....	40,504
Average meals served per day .....	508
Average meal cost (with labor).....	\$3.51
Inmate work hours .....	12,397

#### WEAPON PERMITS & BACKGROUND CHECKS

Concealed Carry Weapon Permits:	
Issued .....	273
Renewed .....	1,056
Denied .....	.15
Suspensions .....	.24
Persons fingerprinted for background checks .....	1,356

#### SEX OFFENDERS REGISTERED

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ENFORCEMENT	171
Domestic violence arrests .....	.66
Court case victim assistance .....	.98
Students taught in 6 schools .....	120
Sex offense/crimes against children .....	.9
Cases assisted .....	317
Temporary protection order violation arrests .....	.11

#### COURTHOUSE COMPLEX SECURITY

Individuals checked upon entry .....	107,368
Packages scanned .....	69,549
Prohibited items held .....	820
Calls for service .....	32
Defendants processed/booked.....	128

#### SPECIAL RESPONSE/CRISIS NEGOTIATION TEAM

Callouts.....	11
Community outreach events.....	18

#### VOLUNTEER AUXILIARY PROGRAM

Members .....	30
Special events worked .....	25
Funeral escorts .....	197
Hours of work volunteered .....	4,590

#### EXPLORER PROGRAM

Members (Young adults 15 - 20).....	16
Hours volunteered .....	710
Special Events .....	50
Classroom hours.....	62
Field Trips .....	6

#### 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 .....	342
D.A.R.E. students grades K-6 .....	2,124
D.A.R.E. students grade 7 .....	356
Education/prevention classes .....	50
Education/prevention students .....	676

School staff members .....	602
Safety Towns .....	2
Children participating in Safety Towns .....	210

#### COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Citizens Police Academy students .....	11
Youth identification cards .....	250
Critical incident response training .....	3
Christmas Spectacular families served .....	150

### ARE YOU OKAY? PROGRAM AVAILABLE TO RESIDENTS

Do you know a Wood County senior who lives independently or is disabled in some way? The Are You Okay program is free to County residents and is a pre-recorded message that calls a participant at a specific, designated time on a day(s) of their choosing. This software system will then acknowledge that the participant answered the call and will call them at their next scheduled time. If the participant does not answer, the system will call back a determined number of times before a deputy is sent to check on the individual. To learn more about this program contact the Sheriff's Office at 419.354.9005.

### NIXLE COMMUNITY INFORMATION SERVICE

The Sheriff's Office utilizes the Nixle Community Information Service to deliver important neighborhood-level public safety and community event notifications. You decide what information you want and whether you want it sent to your cell phone, email, or just simply over the web. To register for this service, visit the "How Do I" section of the County's website.

## ENGINEER



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

*The Engineer has the responsibility of maintaining the County's 244 miles of road, 436 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 678 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 issues, and applying surface treatment to some of the 971 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.*

## 2024 COMPLETED PROJECTS

### ROAD PROJECTS

#### ROAD RECONSTRUCTION/REHABILITATION COUNTY ROADS

Cygnet Road (Range Line Rd to Liberty Hi Rd).....	3.01 mi
Tracy Road (Commodore Dr to Northwood Corp).....	2.23 mi
Tontogany Road (Kellogg Rd to SR 582) .....	3.00 mi
Bishop Road (ST 64 to Brim Rd).....	1.00 mi
Campbell Hill Road (Gypsy Lane Rd to BG Corp) .....	0.51 mi
Gypsy Lane Road (BG Corp to I-75).....	3.21 mi
Liberty Hi Road (Sand Ridge Rd to Bowling Green Rd W).....	1.39 mi
Napoleon Road (BG Corp to Huffman Rd).....	2.16 mi
Baker Drive (Hanley Rd to Latcha Rd).....	0.64 mi
Fostoria Road (US 23 to SR 795).....	6.00 mi
Hanley Road (Lemoyne Rd to Dead-End at I-280).....	0.47 mi
Pemberville Road (R/R tracks to SR 51).....	0.83 mi
Various Township roads.....	28.42 mi
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b> .....	<b>52.87 mi</b>

#### SURFACE TREATMENT (CHIP SEAL) COUNTY ROADS

Grant Road (Oil Center Rd to Cygnet Rd).....	2.38 mi
Liberty Hi Road (Cygnet Rd to SR 281).....	2.94 mi
Mermill Road (Liberty Hi Rd to SR 25).....	2.62 mi
Various Township roads.....	40.08 mi
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b> .....	<b>48.02 mi</b>

#### PAVEMENT MARKINGS

Various County roads (centerline).....	107.51 mi
Various County roads (edge lines) .....	179.78 mi

#### CULVERTS/STORM SEWERS

Emerson Road at Mermill Road 3-86-B (Bloom Twp.)	
Robinson Road at Liberty Hi Road 5-222-A (Washington Twp.)	

### BRIDGE PROJECTS

Reigle Road over Yellow Creek 1-27A (Jackson Twp.)	
Ault Road over Henry Creek 4-108A (Perrysburg Twp.)	
Cygnet Road over Ditch 2233 6-3D (Henry Twp.)	

### DRAINAGE PROJECTS

#### DITCH CONSTRUCTION

Cleanouts .....	21.42 mi
Debrushing .....	0.38 mi
Bank Protection & Repair.....	2.88 mi
Vegetation Sprayed.....	283.29 mi
Mowing .....	19.27 mi

#### MAINTENANCE DITCHES

Construction site inspections.....	187
Outfalls screened.....	82
Storm water drainage complaints .....	15
Illicit Discharges.....	10

### PERMITS ISSUED

Storm Water .....	56
Special Haul (Overweight/Oversize).....	269
Drive Culvert.....	50
Utilities .....	23
Road Cuts/Bore.....	13
Stormtap .....	26

### TAX MAP REVIEWS

Deed pre-approvals .....	1,816
Deed final approvals.....	3194
New parcels reviewed.....	628
Total parcels reviewed .....	8,324

## 2024 ENGINEER'S OFFICE SOURCES OF INCOME

Motor vehicle license fees .....	\$5,532,431
Gasoline tax.....	\$3,809,034
Permits.....	\$48,025
Refunds.....	\$12,797
Traffic fines .....	\$171,522
Grants .....	\$20,079
Interest .....	\$654,612
Reimbursements .....	\$1,287,625
Storm Water MS4 .....	\$116,375
General Fund .....	\$263,172
Capital Improvement Fund 315 .....	\$200,000
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<b>\$12,115,672</b>

## COUNTY UTILIZES ON-LINE AUCTION SITES

Wood County utilizes the on-line auction site GovDeals for the disposal of unneeded, obsolete, or unfit Wood County personal property. Members of the public can view and purchase available items by registering as a buyer at GovDeals.com or by visiting the "How Do I" section of the County's website.

The Sheriff's Office conducts the sale of all real estate subject to foreclosure on a website operated by Realauction. The process and procedures are detailed on the "How Do I" section of the County website. Tax sales and Probate Sales continue to be sold on location in the Alvin L. Perkins Atrium at the Courthouse Complex.

## INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

County government is also made up of many independent boards, commissions, and agencies. Some of those independent departments are highlighted in this section.

### BOARD OF ELECTIONS • Julie Baumgardner, Director; Terry L. Burton, 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 Board of Elections administered two elections in 2024. The Presidential Primary Election on March 19 and the General Election held on November 5. In addition to Federal and most countywide candidates, there were 39 questions and issues that appeared on the ballot.

Early voting continued to show growth in both election cycles. In the March Primary 22.35% of voters cast ballots before election day with 14.37% doing so in-person at the Wood County Early Vote Center, located in the Wood County Courthouse atrium. The Early Vote Center set a record for voters in the November General election with 20,980 people.

This represented 30.65% of all voters participating in the election. An additional 10,385 voted using a mail absentee ballot. Overall in November 45.82% of voters cast ballots prior to election day.

In 2024, Wood County ended the year with 90,695 registered voters. Voter participation in 2024 was 25.23% for the March Election and 75.47% for the November General Election.

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

Benjamin Robison, MPH, Health Commissioner

*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.*

In 2024, the Department offered health screens, seasonal vaccines and health education programs in senior centers and launched a Mobile Health Center that provided health screens throughout the County. WIC (Women, Infant and Children) Program participation also increased in 2024.

Grant funds provided tools to help the community prevent the spread of illness. Touchless water bottle fill stations, handwashing sinks and UV disinfection equipment were purchased for a variety of partners.

The Wood County Community Health Center served a record number of patients in 2024. The Health Center also earned reaccreditation as a patient-Centered Medical Home with Distinction in Behavioral Health Integration and earned recognition for quality.

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

## LAW LIBRARY

Sarah Renda, Law Librarian

*The Wood County Law Library, operating under Section 307.51 et seq. of the Ohio Revised Code, serves the legal information needs of the courts, government, and citizens. The County provides the library space, while funding for the staff and collection comes from fines for state traffic violations, as well as bond forfeitures. The print collection includes Ohio and related federal primary sources: statutes, regulations, and cases. The governing board, the Law Library Resources Board, is composed of five members: two appointed by the County Commissioners and one member appointed by the Municipal Courts, Common Pleas Court, and the Prosecuting Attorney.*

The Law Library received approximately 450 visitors in 2024 by in person visits, phone calls, and emails.

The Law Library staff cannot provide individuals with legal advice, but can provide assistance in finding forms and information during regular Courthouse hours.

### Are You a Veteran Living in Wood County?

Call and schedule a phone, virtual, or in person appointment 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.

## OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Megan Arnold, Area Leader

*The mission of The Ohio State University Extension Office is to create opportunities for people to explore how science-based knowledge can improve social, economic, and environmental conditions. The Extension Office is a cooperative effort between The Ohio State University, the Wood County Commissioners, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.*

The Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) program served area producers in a variety of ways in 2024. One highlight was a local Agronomic Field Day with 65 growers from throughout the region in attendance. ANR staff continued to provide pesticide training for township, county, and village employees. Master Gardeners remained active in the community and volunteered more than 1,500 hours at city and county parks.

The Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) team continued to help citizens address a wide range of topics to help build strong and healthy families. Staff conducted Diabetes Dialogue sessions and Dining with Diabetes classes. Heart health was also an important topic, with classes offered throughout the County. The FCS team also offered one-time nutrition and wellness programs on a variety of topics. SNAP-Ed program staff provided healthy resource programming in collaboration with local non-profits, Head Start centers, and Wood County agencies and schools.

The 4-H Youth Development program celebrated another successful year, with over 1,000 members and 175 volunteers enrolled. Members from 46 clubs completed more than 1,500 4-H projects and served approximately 23,000 milkshakes at the Wood County Fair and National Tractor Pulling Championships. The program had a successful camping season, with the annual Midnight Madness event, inaugural Cloverbud Day Camp held at 4-H Camp Palmer, and over 250 4-Hers enjoying Wood County 4-H Camp. Additionally, 4-H staff continued to prioritize "Hands to Larger Service" through a variety of community service projects. In 2025, staff are looking forward to celebrating 50 years of Wood County 4-H Camp at 4-H Camp Palmer and our inaugural Hands to Larger Service all-county community service event.

## LOOKING TO BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME IN WOOD COUNTY?

A Guide to Rural Residential Construction offers guidance to help you navigate the home building process. From considering the purchase of a lot in a rural area to Building Inspection's final inspections, the guide provides a list of required steps to help you build the home of your dreams. The guide is available under the Quick Links on the County website.

## 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. The Commission administers 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 with their local zoning programs.*

In 2024, the County was awarded \$1.3 million of Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP) grant funds. These funds will be used to address various housing needs of low to moderate homeowners throughout Wood County. The County also partnered with Rossford, Northwood, and Bowling Green to increase funding amounts to further assist low to moderate homeowners within these cities.

Additionally, the Planning Commission received Brownfield Program grant funds for the environmental assessment of four sites in the County.

Wood County was awarded \$383,000 of PY2024 Community Development Grant funds. These funds will assist the Village of Custar with street paving, the Village of Portage with septic repairs to the Village's sanitary sewer system, and the Northwestern Water and Sewer District to assist low to moderate income households with the costs of tapping into sanitary sewers.

The Commission heard and reviewed 16 rezoning requests throughout the year. Ten requests involved text changes to zoning resolutions in Troy, Freedom, Liberty, Henry and Plain Townships. The remaining requests involved the rezoning of existing lands in Perrysburg and Middleton Townships. Staff also aided Plain Township to update its zoning resolution. Work commenced on the update of the Wood County Subdivision Rules and Regulations. The County also received Statements of Qualifications from interested consulting firms for the Land Use Plan Update, which is slated to commence in 2025.

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

### 2024 PLANNING COMMISSION ACTIVITY

Minor parcel split transactions.....	33
Total acres in minor parcel splits.....	310.436
Transactions involving parcel combinations.....	31
Total acres in parcel combinations .....	1000.2
Rural addresses issued.....	111
Residential subdivisions approved (final approval only).....	2

## PUBLIC DEFENDER • Justin Daler, Chief Public Defender

The Public Defender's Office provides constitutionally mandated legal representation for indigent defendants in juvenile and criminal cases. Individuals are represented in the Bowling Green, Perrysburg, and Fostoria Municipal Courts; Juvenile Court; and Common Pleas Court. A satellite office located at the Perrysburg Municipal Court accommodates the significant case load in the northern part of the County. 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 2024, the Office of the Public Defender represented approximately 2,800 clients.

Funds for appointment of counsel were budgeted by the Commissioners, with an average of 80% of the budget reimbursed by the State in 2024. Ohio law mandates that individuals requesting representation pay a \$25 application fee. The County

retained 80% 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.

## WOOD SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT • James Carter, District Administrator

The Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) includes all the lands within the County. The District, chartered in 1949, is a subdivision of the State of Ohio operating under Chapter 940 of the Ohio Revised Code. The major function of the District is to determine the natural resource needs and implement programs to protect and develop these resources. The County Commissioners provide annual funding to the District, which is matched by the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Soil and Water Conservation Commission. Policies are set by a five-member board of supervisors who are elected to serve a three-year term.

Administering the H2Ohio program remained a large part of the workload for staff. As a result of H2Ohio, the County has more than 90,000 acres covered under nutrient management plans that follow Tri-State Fertilizer Recommendations, with over 67,000 of those acres using precision sampling to apply crop nutrients at a variable rate. Additionally, 21,831 acres were seeded with overwintering cover crops last year.

Three private ditch cleanouts for woody vegetation removal, culvert cleaning and excessive sediment deposits were completed totaling over 9 miles. Another four projects, totaling over 10 miles, are nearing construction.

Partnering with local, state, and federal agencies provides the

opportunity to offer a broad area of expertise and funding availability. In 2024, the Natural Resources Conservation Service worked with producers and the District to plan four new Environmental Quality Incentives Program contracts on 166.1 acres for \$265,000 in cost-share funds to local producers. Contracted practices included manure storage facilities, cover crops and nutrient management. Forty-five new contracts in the Conservation Stewardship Program provided \$2,942,000 over five years for conservation efforts on 35,367 acres.

The staff investigated reports of agricultural pollution violations and worked with the appropriate agencies to enforce Ohio's agricultural pollution laws and regulations. Staff also presented programs and provided information at 18 events serving 1,874 participants.

## VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE • Zach Migura, Executive Director/County Veterans Service Officer

The Wood County Veterans Service Office provides advocacy and representation for veterans and their eligible dependents before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The Office also assists service members and the veteran community in obtaining benefits at the state and local levels, provides transportation for veterans' VA medical appointments, provides emergency financial assistance, issues state Veteran Identification Cards, 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 November, the Office moved to 1940 East Gypsy Lane Road. The new, first-floor office space features accessible parking and convenient access to the Wood County Department of Job and Family Services.

In 2024, 149 claims were adjudicated, resulting in \$1,733,568.10 awarded to Wood County veterans and eligible dependents.

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation program continues to expand and includes the Guitars 4 Veterans, a woodworking program and the ODOT Adopt-A-Highway program.

### VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE STATISTICS FOR 2024

Estimated Veterans residing in the County .....	6,912
Total client contacts .....	3,792
Veterans transported to medical facilities .....	688
Veterans photo I.D. cards issued .....	93
Memorial Day appropriations .....	\$10,000
Flags/grave markers distributed.....	12,895
Federal VA claims/benefits/appeals submitted .....	272
Number of persons assisted - emergency financial .....	21



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)
Alcohol, Drug Addiction, Mental Health Services .....	419-352-8475
American Red Cross .....	855-891-7325 or 419-329-2900
Board of Developmental Disabilities .....	800-356-3218 or 419-352-5115
Children's Resource Center .....	888-466-KIDS or 419-352-7588
City of Bowling Green .....	419-354-6203
Commissioners' Office .....	866-860-4140 or 419-354-9100
Committee on Aging .....	800-367-4935 or 419-353-5661
Educational Service Center .....	419-354-9010
Great Lakes Community Action Partnership .....	800-775-9767 or 419-353-7407
Harbor Wood County .....	419-352-5387 or 419-872-2419
Health Department .....	419-352-8402
Job and Family Services .....	888-282-1118 or 419-352-7566
Juvenile Court .....	866-860-4140 or 419-352-3554
OSU Extension .....	419-354-9050
Prosecuting Attorney's Office .....	866-860-4140 or 419-354-9250
Veterans Service Office .....	419-354-9147
Wood County Hospital .....	419-354-8910 (ER) or 419-354-8900

*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.*

## WOOD COUNTY QUICK FACTS

<b>Population:</b> 2020 Census: .....	132,248
2010 Census: .....	125,488
2000 Census: .....	121,065
<b>Land area in square miles:</b> .....	617.4
<b>Land in farms (acres):</b> .....	250,260
<b>Number of farms:</b> .....	1,151
<b>Total cash receipts from farms:</b> .....	\$283,298,000
<b>Private sector goods/service establishments:</b> .....	3,100
<b>Total households:</b> .....	53,771
<b>Estimated median household income:</b> .....	\$70,537

### Major employers in Wood County:

Bowling Green State University, Amazon, FedEx Ground, Magna International, First Solar, Inc., Home Depot, Wood County Government, Owens Community College, NSG Group, Wood County Hospital

Sources: Ohio County Profile from the Ohio Department of Development Office of Research - 2024 Edition, U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



## 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 Government**  
One Courthouse Square  
Bowling Green, OH 43402

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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TOLEDO, OH  
PERMIT NO. 133

**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](http://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 UPDATED WEBSITE

**[www.woodcountyohio.gov](http://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 Community Notification System (Emergency Management Agency)
- Dog Adoptions (Dog Shelter)
- Dog License Purchase and Renewal (Auditor)
- Real Estate Information (Auditor)
- Real Estate Tax Payment (Treasurer)
- Real Estate Index Search (Recorder)
- Election Information/Voter Location Search (Board of Elections)
- Guide to Rural Residential Construction
- Building Permit Inquiry (Building Inspection)
- Internet Auction (Commissioners)
- Marriage License and Probate Records (Probate Court)
- Sex Offender Database (Sheriff)
- Sheriff Sales (Sheriff)
- Road Closings, Storm Water Management & Interactive Maps (Engineer)
- Spirit of Wood County Awards (Commissioners)
- Household Hazardous Waste Disposal (Solid Waste Management District)
- Fair Housing Information (Planning Commission)
- Court Records Search (Clerk of Courts)
- Unclaimed Funds Report (Clerk of Courts)

