

Wood County, Ohio

2021

ANNUAL REPORT

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*The Wood County Courthouse*

## WOOD COUNTY, OHIO 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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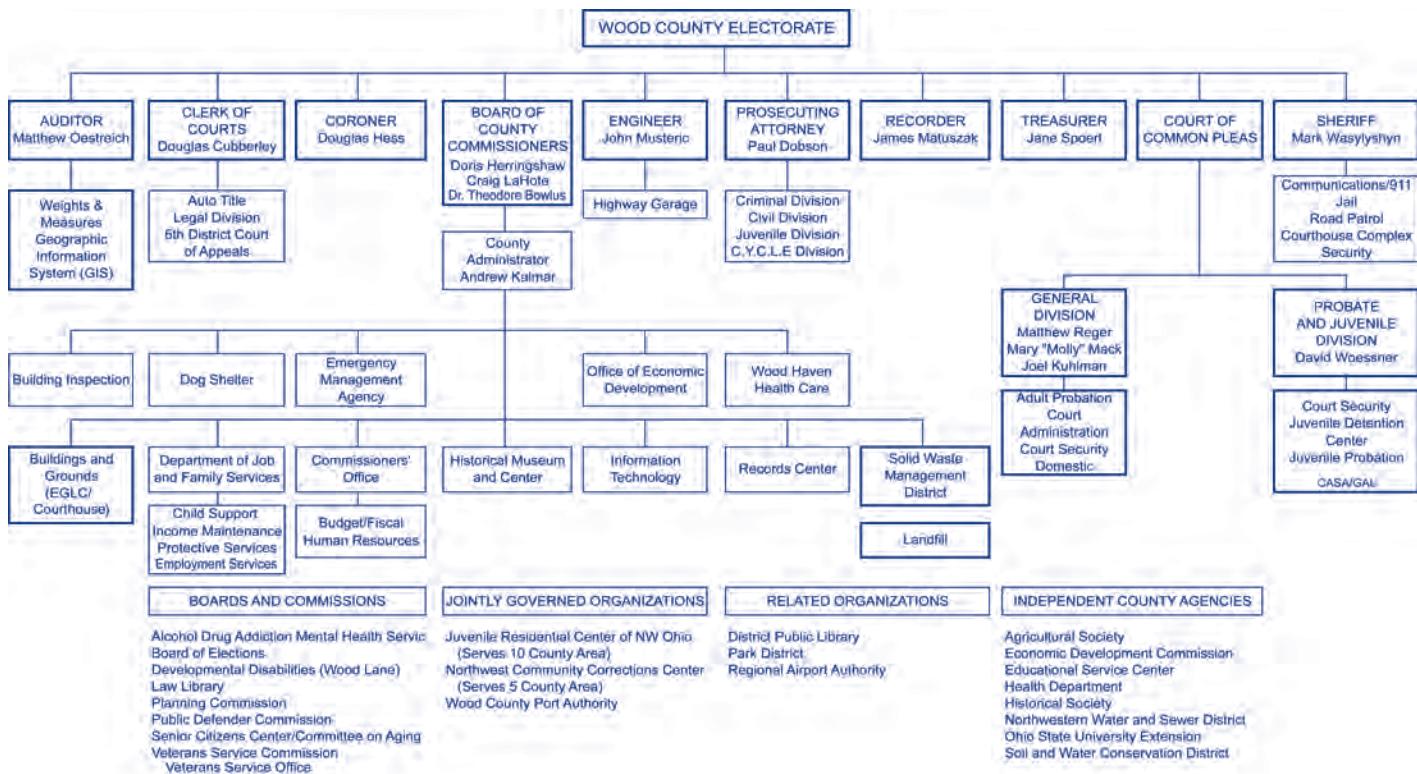
## Wood County Elected Officials



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 Waslyshyn, Treasurer Jane Spoerl. Back Row: Auditor Matthew Oestreich, Commissioner Theodore Bowlus, Coroner Douglas Hess, Commissioner Doris Herringshaw, Judge David Woessner, Recorder Jim Matuszak, Prosecutor Paul Dobson. Photo taken June 29, 2021.

## COURTHOUSE 125<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED

On September 29, 1896, the Wood County Courthouse opened to the public. Celebrating the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021 was mildly troublesome as the pandemic continued. Courthouse tours, held in April and October guided by Common Pleas Court Judge Matt Reger, Sheriff Mark Waslyshyn and former Auditor Mike Sibbersen, were well attended by area residents. To celebrate the holidays, Carols at the Courthouse, performed by the Bowling Green High School Madrigal Choir, was held for the first time on the grand staircase. New holiday decorations for the Courthouse were purchased by the Bicentennial Committee and will be used for years to come.



# A Message from the Board of County Commissioners

So, what's next? Plagues of locusts? Frogs? Boils? Thunderstorms of hail and fire?

While 2020 was difficult, 2021 was much better in spite of lingering pandemic-related issues. We learned much about COVID 19, especially how to take advantage of technology, common sense, and large meeting spaces so that the work of county government could move forward. Most positive is the unemployment rate in Wood County is down to 2.9 percent. Businesses are struggling to find staff because some people left the labor market during the pandemic and have not returned, and there is an abundance of available jobs. This has pushed wage rates higher, which is good. Pandemic related supply chain issues are a significant problem at this time. Vehicle purchases take many, many more months to complete than in previous years. The cost of materials and equipment is significantly higher. So while revenues are healthy, costs are up, to the extent that it seems wise to postpone some projects to see if things level out.

Early in 2021, we met with Sheriff Mark Wasylshyn to further discuss the project to renovate the booking and medical areas of the jail, as well as build additional female inmate housing. Just before the pandemic started in 2020, we had chosen Wachtel & McAnally Architects/Planners, Inc., to design this project. Shortly thereafter the project was placed on hold. The project is now moving forward. Late in 2021, we selected Granger Construction to serve as the Construction Manager At-Risk. We look forward to significant progress in 2022.

From a process that started in 2018, the Wood County Landfill will receive a permit from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency to allow for expansion. The current landfill cell has approximately 2.5 years of useful life remaining. The permit will provide for nearly 100 years of expansion capacity by using land purchased by the Commissioners decades ago. Well-designed, environmentally conscious landfill capacity is important to the future of Wood County.

On September 11, we joined with a few hundred people at the southwest corner of the Courthouse lawn to celebrate the rededication of the Wood County Veterans Memorial. We believe the completed project successfully achieves the goal of a memorial that respectfully honors fallen service members in a manner that is accessible and visually appealing. The work and dedication of so many veterans, volunteers, and donors across Wood County are truly remarkable.

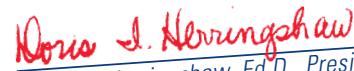
Last summer we attended two significant groundbreakings that underscore the strength of Wood County in economic development. The first was for a \$600 million expansion of First Solar in Lake Township. Through First Solar, Wood County is home to the largest solar panel manufacturer in the Western Hemisphere. The second was for a manufacturing facility in Troy Township for Peloton, a world-wide leader in exercise equipment and on-line training. Unfortunately, we recently learned that this project will not move forward. However, we are optimistic about this site in Troy Township and the

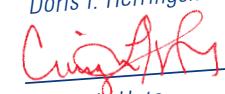
possibility that a new large employer will acquire it.

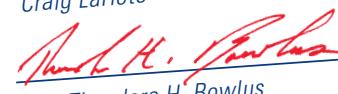
Through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), approved by Congress and signed by the President, Wood County government will receive \$25.4 million dollars. Most every city, village, and township received money through this act as well. We are currently working on a list of projects that are eligible under ARPA. Some examples include significant water and sewer projects, replacement of residential water service lines that are made of lead, assistance to services for domestic violence victims, upgrading air handling systems in County-owned buildings, and other public infrastructure projects.

Once again, we thank you, the citizens of Wood County, for your support, patience, and resilience throughout this past year. We are very optimistic about the future of Wood County and look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

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

  
Doris I. Herringshaw, Ed.D., President

  
Craig LaHote

  
Dr. Theodore H. Bowlus

## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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



Doris I. Herringshaw



Craig LaHote



Dr. Theodore H. Bowlus

Given all the event cancellations the previous year, the Commissioners were pleased to welcome back festivals across the County. Of special note were the Wood County Fair and the National Tractor Pulling Championships. From the large enthusiastic crowds at these events it was apparent that people were pleased with their return.

The Commissioners extend sincere thanks to the Wood County

Health Department, initially under the direction of Ben Batey, and now Ben Robison, Health Commissioner. The pandemic has been particularly challenging for the Health Department staff and Board as they worked to navigate issues associated with personal protective equipment, vaccinations, testing, virus variants, and more. The Commissioners have looked to the Health Commissioner for guidance throughout the pandemic

and are pleased with their good communication and partnership.

In November the Commissioners were pleased to welcome Jodi Harding as the new Chief Dog Warden. Her predecessor, Andrew Snyder had worked for us for 17 years, and had done excellent work over that time. Jodi comes to us with much good experience from Lucas County and the Toledo Humane Society.

The Ohio Legislature relaxed the in-person requirement for open meetings during the first half of

2021 to allow the Commissioners to meet via teleconference or video conference. The Commissioners utilized this option on a limited basis with the majority of public sessions held in-person in compliance with COVID-19 guidelines.

Residents are welcome to attend the Commissioners' session held every Tuesday and Thursday during the year, including the open forum portion. As a reminder, Commissioners' session agendas and minutes are posted on the County website.

## BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE PROMOTES ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The Commissioners are very appreciative of the work of the Bicentennial Committee and all the people who participated in anniversary events during the past two years.

Committee members were appointed in June 2019 to plan celebrations for the Wood County Bicentennial in 2020 and the Courthouse Quasquicentennial in 2021. The Committee was disbanded at the end of 2021.



*Front Row: Michael Penrod, Hal Brown, Dave Steiner, Marnie Pratt, Doris Herringshaw. Back Row: Dick Martin, Michael Sibbersen, Sandy Long, Mark Wasylshyn, Marissa Muniz, Cher Johnson, and Matt Reger.*

*Not pictured: Alex Aspacher, Carol Bailey, Becky Bhaer, Millie Broka, Deb Buker, Jim Carter, Brad Gilbert, Kelli Kling, Kami Wildman, and Doug Wickard.*

## Courthouse Historical Highlight

Petitions, which were circulated throughout Wood County in January 1893, requested legislation authorizing the erection of a new courthouse. The enabling act, in effect February 2, 1893, permitted the County Commissioners to erect the building and issue bonds not to exceed \$200,000.

Ground for the present courthouse was broken November 28, 1893, but inability to get lake sand that winter delayed work on the foundation until March 15, 1894.

An estimated 15,000 people thronged to Bowling Green for the laying of the courthouse cornerstone July 4, 1894. Three special trains carried a total of 3,400 people to the county seat that day.

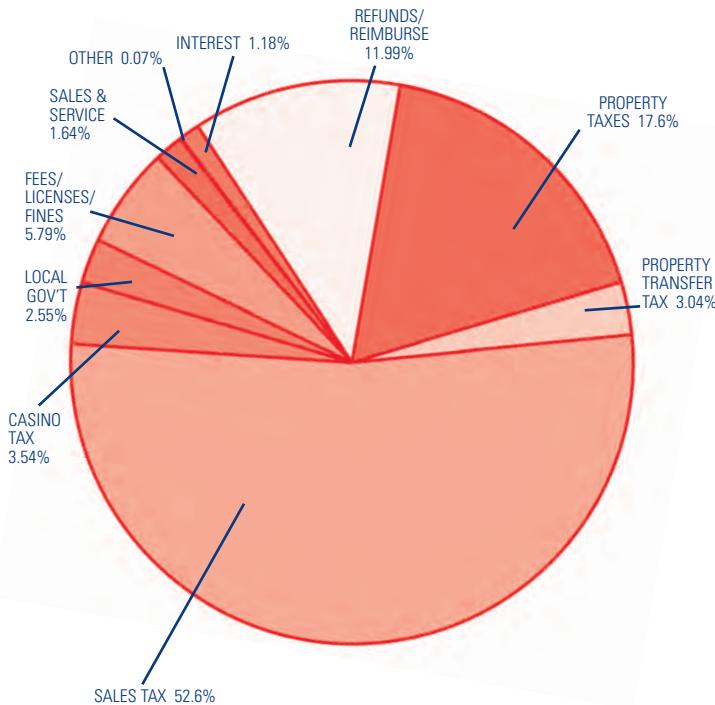
County Commissioners, on August 31, 1896, accepted the new Courthouse, and county offices were moved the next two days.

Fully furnished and with grounds improved, the building in September 1896 was reported to have cost \$255,746.84. A later estimate was \$275,000. The architect's original estimate had been \$187,570.79. You will recall that the legislature had authorized \$200,000 in bonds.

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

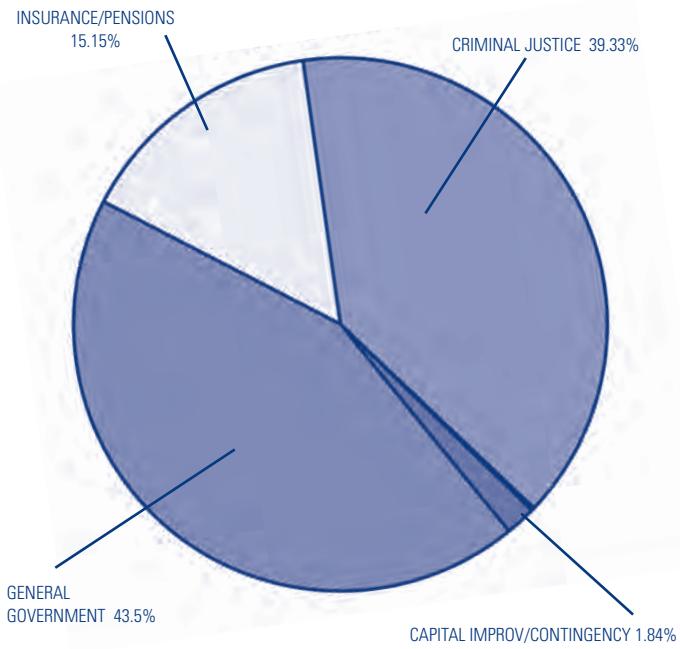
### 2021 ACTUAL RECEIPTS

\$50,186,461.38



### 2021 ACTUAL EXPENDITURES

\$50,340,113.14



#### SALES TAX RECEIPTS

2021	\$26,403,972.18
2020	\$24,529,961.15
2019	\$22,904,876.40
2018	\$21,938,607.20
2017	\$21,715,016.04

#### CASINO TAX RECEIPTS

2021	\$1,774,137.05
2020	\$1,245,792.94
2019	\$1,595,690.04
2018	\$1,559,237.10
2017	\$1,501,611.89

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

Nominations for the 2022 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 2022 awards will be presented in October during a special ceremony in the Alvin L. Perkins Atrium.

The 2021 Spirit of Wood County Award recipients included Bowling Green residents Alan Sundermeier, Agricultural Leadership

and Beatriz Maya, Liberty Through Law/Human Freedom; Grand Rapids resident Deb Archambo, Education for Civic Responsibility; Center Township resident Jack Jones, Industrial/Economic Development; Perrysburg residents Walter Churchill, Jr., Industrial/Economic Development and Irma Wolf, Self-Government; the Robert Bettinger Family of Washington Township and Deb Bunker, awarded posthumously, were each selected for the Lyle R. Fletcher Good Citizenship Award.

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

## Buildings and Grounds

Steve Blausey, Facilities Director

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



*A ceremony to rededicate the Veterans Memorial Plaza was held on September 11, 2021, and included laying of wreaths; a military vehicle display provided by John Cheney and Tom Price; local high school band students; and Boy Scout Troops 219 and 325. Fundraising efforts for the \$485,495 project raised \$231,771.*

### Courthouse Historical Highlight

The style of courthouse architecture is modernized H. H. Richardson Romanesque. The sandstone was from Amherst, Ohio, and the granite from Vermont. Limestone was used for steps, platforms, and doorsills, while marble appears in various places. The architectural sculpture was done by the Dayton firm of Whyte & Priest, with W. D. Priest the supervisor.

Here is an 1896 explanation of the courthouse stone carving: "There are several allegorical subjects among the different designs. The springers for the main arch represent the strong arm of the law crushing out vice and corruption, the animal representing the law and the snake under his foot vice and corruption; the stops at the ends of the label molds represent avarice, sprays deprived of its prey by the law, starves, which is illustrated by the biting itself. The outside architrave mold in the vestibule represents unity, there being three sprays in each circle interlaced together; the heads at the top in the same course represent (in art terms) autumn and winter, the matron representing autumn and the old man winter. The inner architrave represents evil in the meshes of the law and is illustrated with animal being tied in with a design of interlaced work."

The highlight of work completed at the Courthouse Complex featured the installation of the new Veterans Memorial on the southwest lawn of the Courthouse. Although most of the work was contracted, staff performed site preparation, landscaping, and other final touches prior to the dedication ceremony in September.

Through the State of Ohio and Board of Elections, a second handicap ramp was installed for the Courthouse Complex main entrance. Other renovations at the Courthouse Complex included renovations to Courtroom 1, relocation of walls at the Board of Elections, creation of two new offices for Adult Probation, repair of a catch basin and sink hole in the parking lot, and concrete repairs.

Projects at the East Gypsy Lane Complex included a rebuild of the nurse's station at the Health Department; installation of new parking lot lights at the Dunbridge Road Building; installation of a patio and sidewalks at Job and Family Services; and replacement of the Juvenile Detention Center boiler; roof top unit and air handling unit at Wood Haven; and an overhead door at the Museum.

The custodial staff added cleaning at the Highway Garage building to their rotation which includes the Records Center, Courthouse, Office Building, and the Fuel Building. Their responsibilities include daily and weekly cleaning cycles and the handling of recycled materials at each location.

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



*To assist with storage needs at the Sheriff's Office, Buildings and Grounds staff designed and built a gun case to hold guns held by the facility. The structure utilized wood from a tree that was felled two years ago from the Courthouse lawn. Photo Left to Right: Bill Pultz, Kyle Donaldson, Steve Blausey, Greg Keiffer, and Sheriff Wasylshyn.*

## Building Inspection

Michael Rudey, Chief Building Official

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

Inspection requests for 2021 stayed steady throughout the year while permits were up slightly from 2020. Permit revenue increased due to several large projects including Peloton, First Solar, Nova Tube, UPS, Liberty Benton School and a small increase in permit fees.

Due to the large increase in material costs, residential construction declined slightly in 2021 but inspection requests maintained a steady pace. The majority of new residential home construction took place in Perrysburg and Perrysburg Township. Manufactured home applications increased from 27 to 34 applications.

In an effort to expedite commercial and residential plan review, the department implemented electronic plan submission, providing increased speed and ease of submission for residents, contractors and designers. It will also reduce paper usage and costs for archiving plans.

Building Inspection operates under the Board of County Commissioners and is set up as an enterprise fund, operating solely on permit revenue. Building codes utilized during 2021 included the 2017 Ohio Building Codes for non-residential structures and the 2019 Residential Code of Ohio for One, Two, and Three Family Dwellings. These are mandatory codes used throughout the State, even if there is not a residential certified department.

### 2021 BUILDING INSPECTION STATISTICS

Permits Issued .....	5,689
Total Permit Revenue .....	\$2,706,918
Wood County .....	\$2,066,630
Hancock County .....	\$328,872
Henry County .....	\$.86,867
Fulton County .....	\$224,549
Total Inspections Completed .....	13,584
Wood County .....	9,944
6,455 Residential/3,489 Non-Residential	
Hancock County .....	1,919
Henry County .....	842
268 Residential (Napoleon)/574 Non-Residential	
Fulton County .....	879
101 Residential (Wauseon)/778 Non-Residential	

## Dog Shelter

Andrew Snyder, Chief Dog Warden

(Jan. 1 - Oct. 22, 2021)

Jodi Harding, Chief Dog Warden (Eff. Nov. 22, 2021)

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

Monthly enrichment nights were introduced in 2021. Volunteers made dog toys and treats for the shelter dogs and participated in dog walks at the shelter.

### 2021 DOG SHELTER STATISTICS

Total Dogs Impounded.....	310
Redemptions .....	156
Adoptions .....	88
Euthanized .....	4
Deceased .....	1
Owner Surrenders for Euthanasia .....	15
Dogs Transferred to Rescues.....	45
Live Release Rate.....	93.5%
Owner Surrenders .....	48
Incidents Investigated .....	433
Total Licenses Sold .....	18,681
One Year Dog Licenses Sold .....	16,844
Three Year Dog Licenses Sold.....	1,265
Permanent Dog Licenses Sold .....	268
Total Licensed Dogs .....	19,739
Kennel Licenses Sold .....	234
Licenses Sold Online.....	10,718

### DOG PARK OFFERS MEMBERSHIPS

The Wood County Dog Park registered 149 members in 2021. 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 Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) successfully merged with Job and Family Services in April and is now part of the quadruple combined agency.

A telework option allowed eligible staff to work remotely, especially during periods of high COVID cases, to continue processing benefits and providing public assistance.

The Income Maintenance Unit assisted recipients of public assistance during the public health emergency which was continued into 2021 by several Federal extensions. Per guidance from the Department of Medicaid all recipients of Medicaid retained their coverage and all Supplemental Nutrition Program (SNAP) recipients received full monthly supplements to bring them up to the maximum allotment for their household size regardless of other income.

The Child Support Unit received recognition from the State Office of Child Support for best performance on current support collections for medium sized caseloads.

### INCOME MAINTENANCE UNIT

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)	
cash payment cases (MA).....	209
Medicaid recipients (MA).....	19,400
Medicaid issuance .....	\$169,149,420
Food assistance recipients .....	9,908
Food assistance issuance .....	\$19,072,071
Food assistance issuance per case (MA).....	\$450
Children issued food stamps (MA).....	2,785

### CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

Wood County children served .....	5,383
Average case load size .....	735
Total collections.....	\$18,489,702.17
License suspension program .....	\$73,818.51
Financial institution data match .....	\$18,741.65
Insurance settlements .....	\$25,699.33
Payouts from casino/racino prizes.....	\$12,370.58
Other legal unit collections .....	\$28,790.00
Public assistance returned to State of Ohio .....	\$483,080.72
Recouped through income tax refund offset.....	\$1,052,764.81
Reimbursements for children in foster care .....	\$51,222.75
Civil and criminal proceedings initiated .....	323
Completed requests for modifications.....	157

### OHOMEANSJOBS/WOOD COUNTY

Resource room users .....	565
Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) adult and dislocated worker participants .....	37
CCMEP Youth Employment Program participants.....	74
On the job training contracts .....	11
Incumbent worker training contracts .....	12

The Employment and Support Services Unit continued to help families and single adults with payment of back rent and utilities. The K-12 Fitted for Success program provided 500 children with backpacks filled with school supplies, hygiene kits, winter coats/jackets and shoe vouchers. In March, the virtual Career Premiere Event occurred, which partnered local high school students and businesses together to discuss career opportunities within their organizations.

Staff in the Protective Services Unit continued to make home visits to ensure children and elders were safe in their homes. Protective Services held an in-person Santa Shop in December where families "shopped" for toys and clothing for their children. All items were donated by community members and agencies. Three new Protective Services positions were added including an additional supervisor position to assist with training new staff and two staff to assist with adult protective services and independent living.

### PROTECTIVE SERVICES UNIT

Children served.....	1,959
Children placed in substitute care .....	27
Cost for substitute care .....	\$2.9 million
Home protective services children.....	.77
Reports of child abuse/neglect investigated .....	.857
Adoptions finalized.....	.9
Certified foster/adoptive homes provided with services .....	.18
Adult protective services assessments completed.....	.318
Adults receiving chore services .....	.41
Homemaker visits provided .....	.288

### SUPPORT SERVICES UNIT

Information and referrals .....	.908
Families provided emergency assistance through Prevention, Retention and Contingency program (PRC).....	.507
Children who received child care services (MA).....	.355
Transportation (1 way trips) to Medicaid & Title XX services.....	10,055
MA = Monthly Average	

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

### 2022 POVERTY GUIDELINES

Persons in Family/ Household	Poverty 138% Guideline	200% of Poverty of Poverty
1	\$13,590	\$18,754
2	\$18,310	\$25,268
3	\$23,030	\$31,781
4	\$27,750	\$38,295
5	\$32,470	\$44,809
6	\$37,190	\$51,322
		\$74,380

For more than 6 persons, add the following for each additional person.

\$4,720	\$6,514	\$9,440
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## 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.*

Staff began 2021 heavily involved with assisting the Wood County Health Department with the COVID-19 pandemic. Services provided within the County included requesting needed PPE, testing supplies, and ventilators, along with retrieving, storing, and dispensing resources throughout Wood County. The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was in virtual activation until June 1, 2021.

With COVID-19 limiting in-person activities, staff continued interaction by participating in the 7:20 am Tuesday morning time slot on the Morning Show with Clint Corpe, virtual meeting spaces, and social media (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter). Increased social media presence provided an effective method of disseminating information quickly to a large audience and included updates to the EMA website to include a Facebook feed, links to social media, an electronic newsletter, and more. Also, the EMA began to integrate virtual capabilities into the EOC and emergency plans.

The EMA aided public safety forces during the Wood County Fair and National Tractor Pulling Championships. Staff continued to monitor hazardous material reports, spills, and assist with the

recovery of financial cost for first responders. Working with a consultant, a Commodities Flow Study was completed to help identify hazardous materials located and traveling through the County. The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) was able to conduct one in-person and one virtual meeting with two meetings canceled.

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

Staff continued to engage in education via virtual conferences and virtual training courses. Deputy Director Erin Konecki completed the FEMA Emergency Management Institute Advanced Academy program.

Emergency management looks ahead at events that may impact the future, including preparations for the April 8, 2024, solar eclipse. While a few years out, this event is expected to bring thousands of people to our area. Ohio EMA, county EMAs, universities, and many organizations within Ohio started preparations for this noteworthy event.

## 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 helping them broaden and diversify their tax base while creating and retaining jobs.*

Wood County saw another successful year for economic development in 2021, following a solid 2020.

The unemployment rate in the County continued its decline from pandemic induced highs, falling to 2.8 percent at the end of 2021 (the lowest on record, which go back to 1992).

Longtime Wood County business First Solar continued its growth with the announcement and groundbreaking of an approximately two million square foot production facility just south of the existing First Solar manufacturing plant in Lake Township. When complete, this new facility will make First Solar's Wood County campus the largest solar manufacturing "site" in the world outside of China. Together with the 2018 project to the north, First Solar's commitment to Lake Township will amount to over \$1 billion in investment and 1,000 jobs.

In spring, Peloton Interactive announced and began construction on its first US manufacturing facility in Troy Township. This project was

ultimately cancelled by Peloton in early 2022; however construction of the building continued and it will be placed on the market for other prospective buyers.

These new projects were accompanied by substantial employment growth at the Amazon Fulfillment Center in Rossford that opened in 2020. That facility at the time the project was announced promised to employ roughly 1,000 associates, a number it reached shortly after opening, but by the end of 2021 that number was approximately 4,000.

The Commission continues working with national developers, County agencies and Wood County jurisdictions to plan for the next decade of development by preparing additional site inventory pursuant to the county land use plan.

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



## Historical Museum and Center

Kelli Kling, Director

*In 1816, the Ohio General Assembly authorized Boards of County Commissioners to construct poor houses to care for those unable to provide the basic necessities of life for themselves. The County Commissioners opened Wood County's Poor Farm in 1869, which remained in operation until 1971 before becoming a museum in 1975. Financial support for the Museum is derived from County tax dollars and through the private fundraising activities of the Wood County Historical Society. The 50-acre County-owned site is part of the system of parks maintained and patrolled by the Wood County Park District.*

The Museum experience was expanded with the addition of outdoor exhibit panels to provide visitors a self-guided interpretive tour of Wood County and Infirmary history. Additional site improvements included a new marquee, directional signage, beautification of the grounds, and clearing of the walking trails.

Projects to uphold the historical integrity and functionality of the Museum included new doors on the Wash House, track lighting and new paint in exhibit spaces, replacement of the porch roof, Boomtown improvements, and a new fire pit at the Log Cabin to enhance educational programming. In December, the County Commissioners agreed to assist the Historical Society with the purchase of new collections storage equipment that will help to assure the long-term viability of the collections.

Virtual and in-person programming included the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Living History Day, behind-the-scenes tours, Drone Drop and Derby Gala fundraisers, German-American Story Slam, a Tribute to Historic Barns of Ohio with author Robert Kroeger, and a variety of Demonstration Days.

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

### MUSEUM STATISTICS

Visitors (museum/events/grounds): .....	5,906
Members: .....	477
Donations to the collection: .....	421
Research requests: .....	50
Adult Education (44 programs/tours).....	1,299
Student Education (28 programs/tours/trunks) .....	1,137

2021 Exhibits: For Comfort & Convenience: Public Charity in Ohio By Way of the Poor Farm; The Mary & Carl Bach Story; People, Places, & Things; Utopia: A Visual Storytelling of Our Home; A Clean Bill of Health: Societal Response to Disease; and Chasing the White Rabbit: An Historical Look at American Mental Illness.

## Information Technology

Ben Hendricks, IT Director

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



The IT Department manages 870 phones and 900 computers across all of the Wood County offices. A new IT staff member was hired to assist the department with the management of those devices and associated systems. In addition to growing the department and the portfolio of systems used to protect the data and computers, systems that have been in use for years received much needed upgrades.

## Records Center

Brenda Ransom, Records Manager

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

While digitizing records make them more accessible, Records Center staff used a new Zeutschel OP800 microfilm writer to transfer digital files onto a permanent medium. The OP800 was purchased in late 2020 with money from the general fund and special funds of the Recorder, Clerk of Courts, and Probate Court. In addition to preserving Wood County records, the Records Center earned revenue by creating microfilm for Hancock, Mercer, and Putnam Counties.

A total of 35 County offices, departments, and agencies received services related to records management in 2021, including guidance, storage, reformatting, and disposal. The Records Center continued a long working relationship with Work Leads to Independence by contracting one full-time and one part-time scanner operator on-site. The workers spend their time preparing and digitizing records from the Sheriff, Public Defender, and Auditor.

### 2021 RECORDS CENTER STATISTICS

Records stored (cubic feet) .....	9,206
New records (cubic feet).....	389
Eligible for disposal (cubic feet).....	482
Storage space recovered (cubic feet) .....	229
Pounds of records shredded and recycled .....	22,950
Pages/microfilm images scanned .....	310,500
Rolls of microfilm created .....	274

## Solid Waste Management District

Carri Stanley, Assistant County Administrator

*A department under the Board of County Commissioners, the Solid Waste Management District operates the Wood County Landfill and ensures adequate landfill capacity for local waste disposal. The District also prepares and implements an Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) approved Solid Waste Management Plan.*

District staff continued working with the OEPA to obtain an expansion permit for the Wood County Landfill. Additional technical information was provided to OEPA and a public hearing was held in September. The proposed expansion area will be on county owned land adjacent to the existing landfill and will provide approximately 100 years of additional landfill space for future waste disposal needs. Remaining capacity of the existing landfill cell is approximately 2.5 years, based on current tonnage collection rates.

In May, the Commissioners appointed Matt Limes as the new Landfill Superintendent. Mr. Limes has worked at the Landfill for over 20 years and most recently held the position of Assistant Superintendent.

## 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.*

As the pandemic continued, the facility enforced precautionary measures based on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Ohio Department of Health (ODH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and Wood County Health Department (WCHD) guidelines. Visitation slowly opened up throughout the year, and visitors were required to answer health questionnaires and complete temperature checks before entering the facility.

## RECYCLE WOOD COUNTY!

MANY THANKS TO OUR RESIDENTS FOR RECYCLING RIGHT AND KEEPING THE RECYCLING SITES CLEAN!

Staff began work on the OEPA required five-year Solid Waste Management District Plan update, which must be submitted to OEPA for approval in May 2022. The plan establishes waste reduction and recycling goals for the District and describes strategies to meet these goals.

Recycling outreach and education continued to be challenging in 2021 due to ongoing pandemic restrictions. District staff responded by creating virtual presentations for both schools and community groups. In 2021, staff performed 19 virtual presentations, 16 in-person presentations and provided an informational booth at the Wood County Fair.

The residential 24/7 mixed recycling drop-off locations remained popular with residents, collecting 1,383,400 pounds or 691.7 tons of recyclables in 2021. For a map of drop-off locations or to see a list of items acceptable for recycling, visit [www.recyclewoodcounty.org](http://www.recyclewoodcounty.org).

COVID case numbers remained low at the facility. The organization worked as a team, stayed updated on the latest public health information, and remained compliant with COVID-19 guidelines.

CMS imposed vaccine mandates for all staff as the facility receives Federal funding; but as of the year end, enforcement was not required.

### 2021 WOOD HAVEN STATISTICS

Admissions by Pay Type:

Privately funded residents .....	5.20%
Medicaid residents .....	2.31%
Medicare residents .....	52.02%
Insurance/Managed care residents .....	38.16%
Hospice .....	2.31%

### WOOD HAVEN RECEIVES RECOGNITION

Wood Haven Health Care received national recognition from the American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL) as a 2021 Silver – Achievement in Quality National Award recipient. Wood Haven Health Care was the only long-term and post-acute care provider in Ohio, and one of 50 nationally to be recognized with the award. Aside from receiving a 9.47 out of 10 on the customer satisfaction survey, Wood Haven was voted "Best Nursing Home in Bowling Green" and received the Northwest Ohio Top Workplaces award.

# GOVERNING BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

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

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

## ALCOHOL, DRUG ADDICTION AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BOARD

Allan Baer, Karen Baron\*, Tonya Camden, Judy Ennis\*, Katie Frank\*, Scott Kleiber\*, Dan Lambert\*, Frank McLaughlin\*, Leslie Miller, Rachel Moore, Hallie Nagel\*, Corey Speweik\*, Cary Wise\*, and five 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, Steve Callejas, Paul Dobson, Ann Garcia, Tony Hetrick, Patrick Jones, Andrew Kalmar, Craig LaHote, Molly Mack, Rebecca McMonigal, Mark Reddin, Matthew Reger, Deanna Chase, Lori Tretter, Mark Wasylyshyn, Cary Williams, Ryan Wolaver, and Chris Zografides

## COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION MEMBERS

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

## COURTHOUSE COMPLEX BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE \*\*

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

## DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Becky Bhaer\*, Ellen Dalton, Nathan Eikost\*, Greg Esposito, Kenneth Frisch\*, Brian Paskvan\*, and Michael Sibbersen

## FLOODPLAIN VARIANCE AND APPEALS BOARD\*\*

Jim Carter, John Musteric, and Mike Rudey

## GREAT LAKES COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP

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

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Julie Baumgardner\*, Lois Bowlus, Gordon Bowman\*, Denise Brennan, Hal Brown, Frank Butwin, Biff Geer, Sandy Gill, Corinne Gordon, Scott Gross, Dave Hollinger, Rebecca Mancuso, Michele Raine, Brenda Ransom, and Michael Sibbersen\*

## JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES

### PLANNING COMMITTEE\*\*

Brent Baer, Tim Brown, Sandi Carsey, Julie Launstein, Stephanie Lauwers, Denise Niese, Cathleen Wenig, David Wigent, and three vacancies

## LAW LIBRARY RESOURCES BOARD

Linda Brown\*, Sarah Bushong\*, Carrie Mancuso, Heather Pentycofe, and Dan Weiss

## NORTHWESTERN WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

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

## PLANNING COMMISSION\*\*

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

## PORT AUTHORITY

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

## PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION

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

## REGIONAL AIRPORT

### AUTHORITY\*\*

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

## RESIDENTIAL BOARD OF APPEALS\*\*

Ron Bechstein, Tim Enright, Robert Maurer, Laurie Melchior Huskisson, Connor Rose, and Connie Workman

ALTERNATES: 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\*, Walter Celley, Joe Fawcett, Maggie Fawcett\*, Bob Mack, John Musteric, Megan Newlove, Mike Rywalski, Jonathon Smith, and Robert Watrol

## WOOD HAVEN ADVISORY BOARD\*\*

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

## 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.*

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

The Auditor's Office updated its two websites, one for general information and the other for real estate information and mapping, to offer increased functionality and a mobile-friendly format.

### 2021 AUDITOR STATISTICS

Parcels of real property assessed (valued at over \$3.3 billion).....	76,325
Conveyances processed.....	4,958
Individual land parcels .....	7,534
Forfeited land sale proceeds.....	\$5,095
Parcels.....	3
Manufactured homes.....	8
Acres of farmland enrolled in CAUV (Current Agricultural Use Value).....	315,999
Residents enrolled in Homestead Exemption program .....	7,882
Dog licenses sold .....	18,681
Weights and Measures Inspections:	
Commercial Scales.....	579
Gas Pumps.....	1,496
GIS requests.....	74

### Distribution of Real Estate, Public Utility Tax, and Special Assessments by the County Auditor in 2021

Wood County.....	\$7,880,772
Northwestern Water & Sewer District.....	\$1,476,747
County Ditch Maintenance/Construction.....	\$772,189
County Sewer and Waterline Projects.....	\$351
Maumee Watershed Conservancy.....	\$104,637
Board of Developmental Disabilities .....	\$20,962,119
Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services .....	\$7,922,494
Park District.....	\$2,888,376
Committee on Aging .....	\$2,021,844
Board of Health .....	\$1,576,235
Historical Center .....	\$167,696
Job & Family Services.....	\$3,754,912
Wood County Library Bond .....	\$286,980
Townships .....	\$22,303,300
Municipalities .....	\$15,147,603
Schools.....	\$143,630,620
Libraries.....	\$3,521,138

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

## TREASURER



Jane Spoerl

*The Treasurer oversees the receipt and disbursement of funds for the County and collects taxes for the County, as well as for the schools, municipalities, and townships within the County. The largest source of revenue is generated through real property taxes. 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.*

### 2021 TREASURER STATISTICS

Real estate tax collected .....	\$236,895,752.00
Manufactured home tax collected.....	\$1,158,694.01
Investment income.....	\$592,249.96
Taxpayers enrolled in monthly automatic withdrawal plan .....	1,873
Taxpayers enrolled in semi-annual/yearly ACH plan.....	977

### INVESTMENT INCOME

2021	<b>\$592,249.96</b>
2020	<b>\$2,013,253.04</b>
2019	<b>\$2,516,299.44</b>
2018	<b>\$1,553,808.26</b>
2017	<b>\$1,237,387.72</b>



*To celebrate the holidays, Carols at the Courthouse, performed by the Bowling Green High School Madrigal Choir, was held for the first time on the grand staircase.*

## CLERK OF COURTS



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

Douglas Cubberley

Under new leadership and despite the on-going pandemic, the Clerk of Courts continued to efficiently serve customers in 2021. The one significant increase was in the total number of judgment entries filed and docketed. The Office filed 15,062 judgment entries, an increase of 1,314 documents.

The Title Office processed 58,380 auto titles, yet the numbers remained down slightly from pre-pandemic numbers.

### TITLE DOCUMENTS PROCESSED

Auto Titles, Duplicates & Memo Titles	75,834
Motor Vehicle Mortgages Recorded	18,386
Salvage Titles	277
Penalties (for not transferring titles timely)	3,483
Inspections	6,455
Affidavits	22,987
Manufactured Home Archives Recorded	482
Boat titles, Duplicates and Memo Titles (includes charged replacement titles)	1,710
Watercraft Mortgages Recorded	339
Watercraft Affidavits	1,204
Watercraft Penalties	297
Watercraft Registrations	1,858
<b>TITLE DISBURSEMENT TOTALS</b>	<b>\$33,446,796.89</b>

### Clerk of Courts

Certificate of Title Fund Receipts	\$908,495.20
Wood County General Fund	\$15.74
State of Ohio Motor Vehicle and Watercraft	
Casual and Dealer Tax	\$32,290,545.20
BMV Certificate of Title Fees	\$189,142.25
DNR Watercraft Fees	\$4,525.50
DNR Watercraft Registrations	\$54,073.00

### 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 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 Elected Officials link.

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

CasesAppealed to 6th District Court of Appeals	88
Domestic Relations Cases Filed	390
Custody Proceedings	2
Domestic Violence Civil Protection	153
Dating Violence Civil Protection Order	9
Domestic Cases Reopened	133
Foreign Support	1
Civil Stalking/Sexually Oriented Offense Protection Orders	134
Foreign Judgment	5
Interstate Child Support	1
Custody & Support	11
Criminal Cases Filed	622
Civil Cases Filed (Includes 36 Civil Foreclosure Cases)	461
Land Foreclosure Cases	53
Mobile Home Foreclosure Cases	39
Certificate of Qualification	1
Foreign Subpoena	5
Miscellaneous	5
Judgment Liens Filed	1,024
State Tax Liens Filed	4,245
Foreign Judgment Liens	4
Executions Filed (Aid & Writ)	2
Debtor Exams	17
Garnishments	207
Publications	76
Writs of Possessions	1
Total Number of Judgment Entries	15,062
Passport Applications Accepted	159
Criminal Investigations	9
Search Warrants	196
Coroner's Reports Filed	121

### LEGAL DISBURSEMENT TOTALS

<b>LEGAL DISBURSEMENT TOTALS</b>	<b>\$1,784,503.73</b>
General Fund	\$424,663.46
Legal Research Fees	\$8,109.75
Computerization Fees	\$118,667.21
Interlock Fees	\$275.00
Traffic Fines	\$1,100.00
Mediation Fees	\$38,805.24
Fines Paid to the Law Library	\$1,250.00
Statutory fees paid to non-Wood County entities	\$93,807.72
Funding Shelters for Victims of Domestic Violence	\$12,084.80
Fees Paid to Adult Probation Supervision	\$23,133.08
Fines to Prosecutor Law Enforcement Trust Fund	\$822.38
Fees Paid to the Sheriff	\$99,290.58
Fines Paid to the Sheriff	\$6,131.89
Interest Paid to General Fund	\$299.43
Fees Paid to Appraisers	\$12,105.00
Sundries – includes, but not limited to: bond refunds; deposits less costs or deposits in whole refunded; court ordered civil, domestic, and criminal disbursements (i.e. restitution); and appropriation disbursements	\$943,985.19

## 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, 15 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.*

In 2021, major crimes prosecuted included State v. Matthew Allen and State v. Chelsea Socie who were convicted in two separate cases of Involuntary Manslaughter for providing others with the drugs that ultimately caused their death.

### 2021 PROSECUTING ATTORNEY STATISTICS

#### CRIMINAL DIVISION

Cases opened .....	785
Indictments .....	440
Bills of Information for adult felony cases.....	1
Cases resolved by jury or court trial	
(14 guilty/3 not guilty/1 mistrial/1 rule 29) .....	19
Cases disposed.....	583
Cases disposed in Municipal Court .....	11
Victims of crimes served.....	1,380

#### CIVIL DIVISION

New client matter files opened .....	312
Contracts prepared/reviewed.....	534
Formal opinions issued.....	14
Total bank foreclosures .....	50
Total real estate tax foreclosure.....	53
33 dismissed with payment/8 sold/2 forfeited/13 pending	
Total mobile home tax foreclosure .....	39
28 dismissed with payment/2 sold/2 forfeited/7 pending	

#### APPELLATE DIVISION

Sixth District Court of Appeals Merit Briefs submitted.....	48
Cases decided (50 successful/5 unsuccessful).....	56
Ohio Supreme Court Jurisdictional decisions.....	6
(4 successful/2 unsuccessful)	
U.S. Supreme Court Certiorari decision (1 successful) .....	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. Though real estate documents constitute the majority of filings in the office, financing statements on personal property, military discharge papers, and a listing of veteran's graves in the County are also filed in the Office. The Recorder is authorized to perform duties under numerous sections of the Ohio Revised Code. The Recorder also serves on the Data Processing Board and the Records Commission Board.*

A total of 22,719 documents were recorded and/or filed, with \$1,554,814.76 collected in fees. Of this amount \$771,261.90 was remitted to the State of Ohio for the Ohio Housing Trust Fund; \$89,564.00 was deposited into the Recorder's supplemental technology fund; and the remaining \$693,988.86 was paid into the County's general fund.

Documents filed electronically totaled 11,113, almost half of the total documents for the year. The Recorder took the initiative in 2021 to begin upgrading the office's use of technology. The new technology is planned to be fully implemented in the first half of 2022.

### 2021 RECORDER'S DOCUMENTS

Deeds .....	5,818
Judgment entries and certificates for transfer.....	129
Mortgages (total value \$6,355,877,307.04).....	6,540
Mortgages released (with a value of \$1,065,565,691.03) .....	8,084
Land Contracts .....	30
Rights of way and easements.....	196
Leases .....	37
Mechanics liens .....	29
Plats .....	10
Federal Tax Liens.....	28
Financing statements.....	75
Terminations.....	90
All Others .....	1,653

## COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

### General Division

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



In the Courthouse, the Commissioners worked with Judge Matt Reger to complete a much needed renovation of Courtroom 1. This project included electrical work, complete painting, new carpet, renovation of the restroom access and kitchenette for the jury room, and other touch-ups. Due to the large dimensions of the courtroom, scaffolding was used to allow electrical and painting contractors to reach the ceiling. Judge Reger is pleased to show the final product to visitors.



Matthew Reger  
COURTROOM 1



Mary "Molly" Mack  
COURTROOM 2



Joel M. Kuhlman  
COURTROOM 4

During 2021, Judge Matthew Reger served as Administrative Judge and represented the County on the Maumee Watershed Conservancy District Court; Judge David Woessner (Probate/Juvenile Division) served as Presiding Judge; Judge Molly Mack represented the Court on the Judicial Advisory Board for the NorthWest Community Corrections Center and served as Court Security Judge; and Judge Joel Kuhlman served as the General Division Judge assigned to Probate and Juvenile Court.

In March, Court Administrator Mary Bodey retired, with Brandy Hartman selected as her replacement as Court Administrator. A new time and attendance system was implemented for employees and planning began to update the electronic jury system used by the Courts.

### 2021 COURT OF COMMON PLEAS STATISTICS

Cases completed .....	1,164
Pending cases.....	569
General Civil cases completed.....	622
Domestic Relations cases completed.....	908
Criminal cases completed.....	542
Cases referred to Mediation .....	142
Panels of jurors summonsed .....	66

### COURT SECURITY STATISTICS

Jury/Court trials .....	27
Stalking/Domestic Violence hearings .....	400
Public escorts by Court Security.....	372
Persons taken into custody by Court Security.....	184
Prisoner escorts by Court Security .....	716

### ADULT PROBATION

Ryan N. Wolaver, Chief Probation Officer/Director

The Adult Probation Department, under the authority of the Court of Common Pleas, conducts pre-sentence investigations for purposes of sentencing and supervises felony level offenders placed under court-ordered supervision. The Department is dedicated to aid in the reduction of criminal behavior in the community through the supervision, treatment, and rehabilitation of the offender, while balancing the goal of protecting the public's safety; and providing compliance with the orders of the Court.

### 2021 ADULT PROBATION STATISTICS

Pre-sentence investigations conducted.....	277
New offenders under department supervision .....	310
Offenders supervised.....	1,112
Individuals terminated from supervision .....	267
Drug tests conducted.....	2,751
Offenders placed on Intensive Supervision .....	202
Offenders placed on Electronic Monitoring.....	190
Offenders committed to Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) .....	88

## COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

### Probate and Juvenile Division



David E. Woessner

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

Probate Court experienced a rise in filings in 2021, with total new cases increasing by 15 percent. An examination of the last 10 years shows an upward trend in filings, particularly in the estate and miscellaneous categories.

In 2021, legislation passed addressing name change procedures and creating a new process for name conformity. In late 2020, a federal court struck down Ohio's policy prohibiting gender marker changes on birth certificates. Consequently, new procedures and forms were developed in 2021 to address the ruling.

The Court continued its efforts to provide assistance to residents with physical or developmental needs. Volunteer guardians remained active assisting individuals under their supervision. In addition, court-appointed investigators continued to provide the court with information relative to the level of service an individual or family may need. Finally, the court worked with local mental health agencies in their efforts to establish an Assisted Outpatient Treatment Program to address chronic mental illness.

#### 2021 PROBATE COURT STATISTICS

New cases opened .....	913
Re-opened cases .....	46
Estates.....	643
Guardianships and Conservatorships .....	67
Adoptions .....	42
Civil actions .....	20
Trusts .....	4
Marriage applications .....	708
Minor settlements .....	6
Name changes .....	95
Birth registrations/corrections.....	12
Mental Illness.....	7
Emergency actions (Guardianships, Mental Illness, Adult Protective Services) .....	19
Other miscellaneous.....	17
Active volunteer guardians .....	18

#### Courthouse Historical Highlight

Bowling Green newspapers late in 1896 referred to the Courthouse as "the county's new palatial temple of justice," "grand beyond any anticipation," and "as magnificent a piece of architecture as you will ever deserve to see."

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

In 2021, the Juvenile Court saw a 22 percent increase in overall cases filed; a 25 percent increase in youth detained; and a 25 percent increase in the number of youth participating in the court's intervention and diversion program.

#### 2021 JUVENILE COURT STATISTICS

Cases filed .....	2,311
Cases disposed of.....	2,181
Cases of alleged abuse, neglect or dependent children.....	390

#### JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER

Pretrial and short-term commitments .....	354
Males housed .....	246
Females housed.....	108

#### JUVENILE PROBATION

Youth and adults under supervision.....	185
Families served under Intervention/Diversion .....	98
Community service participants .....	89
Community service hours.....	1,625
Restitution paid to victims.....	\$7,767.95

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

Volunteers .....	34
Children served .....	104
Child cases appointed.....	58

#### PROGRAMS SEEK VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers continue to be needed to serve as Court Appointed Special Advocates/Guardian ad Litem (CASA/GAL) to advocate for the best interest of children who have allegedly been abused, neglected, or dependent. For more information about volunteer opportunities, please contact the Juvenile Court at 419-352-3554 or email [casa@woodcountyohio.gov](mailto:casa@woodcountyohio.gov).

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

## 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.*

## 2021 WOOD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT

### CIVIL DIVISION

Sheriff foreclosure property sales .....	48
Proceeds from parcels sold.....	\$1,023,300.00
Execution of Certificates of Judgment .....	2
Service fee income to General Fund.....	\$122,964.74
Warrants, summons, subpoena & indictments served .....	2,431
Civil Protection Orders received.....	574
Child support warrants served .....	75
Inmates extradited from out of state .....	53
Prisoners transported to penal institutions .....	139
Prisoners transported between agencies .....	620

### DETECTIVE BUREAU

Cases assigned.....	312
Cases cleared by arrest/closed/inactive .....	271
Cases pending investigation .....	41
Theft/fraud/forgery.....	116
Burglary/Breaking and Entering .....	26
Suspicious incident/departmental .....	20
Death/suicide .....	38
Sex offense/child abuse .....	33
Narcotic investigations.....	61
Fines/forfeitures to Drug Fund.....	\$10,761.62
Task Force Seizures .....	\$17,619.72
Fire/arson .....	1
Human trafficking/prostitution/solicitation .....	0
Homicide.....	0

### 911 DIVISION/COMMUNICATIONS

911 calls answered.....	34,181
Fire calls dispatched.....	12,676
EMS calls dispatched.....	9,151
Calls dispatched to WCSO deputies.....	22,627
Cities, Villages, Townships, & Park District calls dispatched .....	41,636
Warrants entered into state/national databases .....	1,772
Protection orders entered into national database.....	576

## CORONER



Douglas W. Hess, M.D.

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

The Coroner reviewed 331 cases in 2021, of which 124 were determined by the Coroner.

### ROAD PATROL DIVISION

Complaints received and investigated .....	22,635
Criminal charges.....	401
Traffic citations.....	671
Traffic warning written/verbal .....	3,599
Weight enforcement stops.....	57
Weight enforcement citations .....	52
Crashes investigated .....	834
Injury crashes.....	142
Injured persons.....	171
Fatal crashes .....	9
Driving under the influence – DUI .....	71
Driving under suspension – DUS .....	82
Miles driven by all Sheriff's vehicles .....	972,398

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ENFORCEMENT

Domestic violence arrests .....	58
Court case victim assistance .....	125
Sex offense/crimes against children .....	8
Cases assisted .....	290
Temporary protection order violation arrests .....	21

### SEX OFFENDERS REGISTERED .....

### COURTHOUSE COMPLEX SECURITY

People checked upon entry.....	77,787
Packages scanned .....	44,586
Prohibited items held .....	828
Calls for Service .....	29
Defendants processed/booked.....	221

### WEAPON PERMITS & BACKGROUND CHECKS

Concealed Carry Weapon	
Permits issued .....	867
Permits renewed .....	1,766
Permits denied.....	33
Permits revoked .....	3
Persons fingerprinted for background checks .....	1,373

### JAIL

Inmates booked .....	2,659
Inmates released .....	2,638
Average daily population .....	115
Inmates transported to local courts .....	866
Total meals served	

– Jail .....	129,555
– Juvenile Detention Center .....	16,499
– Juvenile Residential Center .....	32,770

Average meals served per day .....	506
Average meal cost (with labor) .....	\$3.18
Out-of-county inmate housing income .....	\$0

### 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 .....	695
D.A.R.E. students grades K-6 .....	2,031
D.A.R.E. students grade 7 .....	455
Education/prevention classes .....	43
Education/prevention students .....	763
School staff members .....	122
Children participating in 1 Safety Town .....	200

### VOLUNTEER AUXILIARY PROGRAM

Members .....	41
Special events worked .....	20
Funeral escorts .....	270
Hours of work volunteered .....	3,199.58

### EXPLORER PROGRAM

Members (Young adults 15 - 20) .....	14
Hours volunteered .....	600
Classroom hours .....	24
Field Trips .....	3

### SPECIAL RESPONSE/CRISIS NEGOTIATION TEAM CALL-OUTS .....

### COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Youth identification cards .....	115
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### 2021 CORONER CASES

Auto Accidents .....	12
Drug Accidents .....	26
Other Accidents .....	14
Natural .....	43
Suicide .....	17
Homicide .....	1
Undetermined .....	1
Pending .....	10

## ENGINEER



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

The Engineer has the responsibility of maintaining the County's 244 miles of road, 439 bridges, more than 2,500 culverts, 3,725 traffic signs, and four traffic control signals. In addition to managing the County's Storm Water Management Plan, the Office also manages ditch construction and is charged with maintaining 668 miles of open streams and ditches under the Maintenance Ditch program, which is just part of the more than 3,000 miles of open watercourses in the County. The Office serves as the Engineer for the County's 19 townships providing cost estimates for road repair projects, assisting with grant applications, right-of-way location surveys, investigating drainage problems, and applying surface treatment to some of the 968 miles of Township roads.

The Engineer's Office also reviews surveys, subdivision plats, annexations, vacations of roads, and maintains an extensive file of survey field records. The Office maintains tax map records of daily land transactions and reviews new and existing legal descriptions for all land transactions. The Engineer is authorized to perform his duties under Chapter 315 of the Ohio Revised Code.

## 2021 COMPLETED PROJECTS

### ROAD PROJECTS

#### Resurfacing/Rehabilitation County Roads..... 17.5 miles

Luckey Road (Freedom and Webster Twp.).....	1.63 mi
Oregon Road (Perrysburg Twp.).....	1.67 mi
Oregon Road (Perrysburg Twp.).....	4.20 mi
Emerson Road (Montgomery and Portage Twps.).....	2.00 mi
Huffman Road (Bloom Twp.) .....	4.50 mi
Custar Road (Jackson Twp.).....	3.50 mi
Various Township Roads .....	28.50 miles

#### Surface Treatment (Chip/Seal) County Roads..... 13.97 miles

Cygnet Road (Jackson Twp.).....	1.26 mi
Liberty Hi Road (Henry Twp.) .....	0.72 mi
Old Deshler Road (Henry Twp.) .....	0.68 mi
Pelton Road (Perry Twp.).....	6.13 mi
Bays Road (Montgomery Twp.).....	2.33 mi
Mermill Road (Montgomery Twp.).....	1.17 mi
Dowling Road (Perrysburg and Webster Twps.).....	1.16 mi
Napoleon Road (Center Twp.).....	0.52 mi
Various Township Roads.....	64.15 miles

#### Microsurfacing County Roads..... 14.5 miles

Kellogg Road (Plain and Washington Twps.) .....	5.00 mi
Mermill Road (Montgomery and Portage Twps.) .....	7.20 mi
Bishop Road (Plain Twp.) .....	0.70 mi
Gypsy Lane Road (Center Twp.).....	1.00 mi
Huffman Road (Center Twp.).....	0.60 mi
Various Township Roads.....	4.6 miles

#### Pavement Markings: Various .....

150.5 Miles

### Culvert/Storm Sewers

Pemberville Road, Emerson Road, Huffman Road, North River Road,  
Custar Road, Stony Ridge Road, Fostoria Road

### PERMITS ISSUED

Storm Water .....	32
Special Haul (Overweight/Oversize) .....	354
Driveway, Culvert, Utilities, Road Cuts/Bore .....	91

## Courthouse Historical Highlight

Plans to purchase the "second largest clock in the world" were announced September 26, 1895, but the clock was not ordered until July 20, 1896. The bell did not strike the time until January 30, 1897, and the hands were not installed until later.

The E. Howard Watch and Clock Co. made the huge tower clock for \$3,000. The bell weighs 2,000 pounds and the hands spread to a diameter of 16 feet.

The bell tower rises 195 feet above the ground level. To enter

### BRIDGE PROJECTS

Hull Prairie Road over Plain Township Trustee Ditch 2483 (Perrysburg Twp.) Stony Ridge Road over Toussaint Creek (Webster Twp.)

Gorrell Road over Ditch 2313 (City of Bowling Green/Plain Twp.)  
Various Bridge Maintenance

### DRAINAGE PROJECTS

#### Ditch Construction

Plain Township Trustees Ditch No. 2483 ..... 11.89 Miles

#### Maintenance Ditches

Cleanouts .....	20.18 Miles
Debrushing .....	12.10 Miles
Bank protection and repair .....	0.31 Miles
Sprayed vegetation .....	275.67 Miles
Mowing .....	21.78 Miles

#### Storm Water

Construction inspections performed ..... 371

### TAX MAP REVIEWS

Deed pre-approvals .....	1,999
Deed final approvals .....	2,616
New parcels .....	557
Total parcels reviewed .....	9,880

## 2021 SOURCES OF INCOME

Motor vehicle license fees .....	\$5,613,009
Gasoline tax .....	\$3,739,694
Permits/Other Receipts .....	\$71,376
Refunds .....	\$450
Traffic fines .....	\$127,592
Interest .....	\$8,209
Reimbursements .....	\$1,228,248
Storm Water .....	\$76,350
General Fund .....	\$589,212
Capital Improvement Fund 315 .....	\$200,000
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$11,654,140</b>

the tower one must ride the elevator to the attic, and then ascend 195 steps. These include three floors of steep steps, followed by three steel ladders.

In 2000, lights were installed to illuminate the Clock Tower at night. Restoration of the Clock Tower was included in the 2002-2003 Courthouse renovation project. New glass panels were installed, along with the replacement of deteriorated components. New aluminum hands were also installed.

# INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

## 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 Wood County Board of Elections administered two elections in 2021. A Special/Primary Election on May 7 held in Eastwood Local School District, North Baltimore Local School District and Fostoria City. There were three tax issues and Fostoria Ward Candidates on the ballot. The November 2 General Election had 200 candidates and 30 local questions/issues on the ballot.

Data maintenance continued to be a priority for Ohio elections. In 2021, Wood County had 4,006 new voter registrations and processed over 49,000 voter record updates. These updates included 4,941 voter cancellations for a net annual loss of 935 voter registrations for Wood County.

Voter participation in 2021 was 10.4 percent for the May Election and 23.47 percent for the November General Election.

This represented a 10 year low for non-Federal election cycles as the COVID-19 pandemic continued to have a major impact on elections and voters.

The Wood County Board of Elections continued to make improvements to the office's cyber security program. The Board was given the opportunity to participate in exercises and reviews of systems with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. This program allowed the Board to better identify threats and provide even more secure systems in an everchanging technology environment.

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.*

Response to COVID-19 remained a major focus of the Health Department throughout 2021. The Department supported administration of nearly 43,000 vaccines and distributed more than 25,000 free COVID-19 home tests, continued to educate the public on how to prevent the spread of the virus, and provided resources and guidance to help businesses and schools.

In collaboration with the Wood County Hospital, the Department conducted a Community Health Assessment which will be used to define health priorities and goals for the next three years.

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

## LAW LIBRARY

Sarah Renda, Law Librarian

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

Although legal advice cannot be obtained at the Law Library, the staff provided assistance to the public in finding forms and information during regular Courthouse hours.

## Courthouse Historical Highlight

Courthouse office crowding was relieved after the 1975-1977 construction of the Wood County Office Building. The five-story structure behind the courthouse cost \$4,442,000. Now the courthouse has only court functions, and not all of them.

## OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Holly Ball, Wood-Lucas Extension Director

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

Agricultural research projects were conducted in nutrient management, soil and water quality improvement, integrated pest management, and production efficiency. Specific projects focused on cover crops, soil compaction, soil quality, pest scouting, and sustainable cropping systems. Results and recommendations were shared at local agronomy update meetings and were a part of multiple statewide publications. As a result, producers increased farm income and reduced pesticide and fertilizer use.

Family and Consumer Sciences staff provided training and assistance through virtual and in-person programs on topics including healthy living choices, cooking skills, nutrition and wellness, and food safety guidance for county residents, as well as licensed food operations. Participants reported applying the information learned from these programs to modify their favorite recipes and reduce the salt content. Participants also started checking their blood pressure more frequently and monitoring their salt intake after learning about the dangers of heart disease in the Million Hearts class. In collaboration with local non-profits, head start centers, schools and Wood County agencies, SNAP-Ed continued to provide healthy resources programming for participants on a limited budget using virtual connection technologies.

Although COVID continued to create challenges to 4-H programmatic efforts, staff and volunteers found many creative solutions to allow the mission of 4-H to move forward. Enrollment remained strong despite the ongoing pandemic, with more than 1,000 youth and 175 volunteers enrolled.

A first of its kind community service, the Wood County Postal Project, engaged kids from 16 4-H clubs who mailed "4-H Greetings" to over 200 individuals who were isolated at home. 4-H Day Camp took the place of the traditional overnight program, allowing 190 4-H members to participate in two, 13-hour day-camping experiences held at Camp Palmer. Forty-five teen counselors and eight adult staff planned and conducted activities. Additionally, the Wood County 4-H program was able to return to in-person project judging, with 1,852 projects being evaluated and over 90 members competing at the Ohio State Fair.

## PLANNING COMMISSION

W. David Steiner, Director

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

Grant Funds secured through the Neighborhood Revitalization Program provided updates and repairs to the Perrysburg Heights Community Center, street lighting in Perrysburg Heights, sidewalk and street improvements as well as park improvements in both communities.

CHIP grant funds totaling \$1.8 million, received in 2020, addressed many housing needs of low to moderate homeowners throughout the County.

Wood County received \$288,640 in funding from the CDBG grant in 2020. During 2021, engineering and design work began on four projects selected for funding: repairs to South Superior Street in Custar; parking lot improvements at Bloomdale Village Hall; recoating of the existing water storage tank in Bradner; and installation of 8,800 square feet of sidewalks in the Maryland Place Subdivision in Northwood.

The Commission heard and reviewed 17 rezoning requests. Of these requests, six involved text changes to current zoning resolutions in Middleton, Lake, and Troy Townships. The remaining 11 requests involved the rezoning of existing lands in Troy, Perrysburg, Plain, and Lake Townships.

Approval was granted to a new 32 lot single family residential subdivision in Washington Township. The Commission also approved a new commercial subdivision that included a redesign and repurposing of the former French Quarter complex in Perrysburg Township.

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

### 2021 PLANNING COMMISSION ACTIVITY

Minor parcel split transactions.....	103
Total acres in minor parcel splits.....	710.846
Transactions involving parcel combinations .....	42
Total acres in parcel combinations .....	1432.310
Rural addresses issued.....	135

## PUBLIC DEFENDER

Kathleen Hamm, Chief Public Defender

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

In 2021, the Office of the Public Defender represented approximately 2,500 clients. Cases included felonies, misdemeanors, delinquencies, status offenses, and other post-conviction remedies. When a conflict exists, the Public Defender is unable to represent the individual and the case is assigned to outside counsel.

Funds for appointment of counsel were budgeted by the Commissioners, with an average of 90 percent of the budget reimbursed by the State in 2021. Ohio law mandates that individuals requesting representation pay a \$25 application fee. The County retained 80 percent of the fee to offset the costs of providing legal representation.

The duties of the Public Defender are outlined in Chapter 120 of the Ohio Revised Code. A five-member commission, appointed by the Common Pleas Judges and the Board of County Commissioners, oversees the office administration. A satellite office located at the Perrysburg Municipal Court accommodates the significant case load in the Northern part of the County.

## SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

James Carter, District Administrator

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

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) worked with producers to plan seven new Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contracts on 2,894 acres for \$906,229 in cost-share funds. Contracted practices included two manure storage facilities, liquid fertilizer containment, pasture fencing, grazing management, strip-till, cover crops, and nutrient management. The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) provided an additional \$12,300 in annual payments for conservation efforts on 1,406 acres. The local partnership provided support to 14 existing contracts to continue conservation efforts on 12,782 acres.

H2Ohio funds were made available through the SWCD for conservation practices to help keep our waterways clean and reduce the nutrient loss. As a result, over 60,000 acres have nutrient management plans with more than 54,000 acres having the plans implemented.

Five private ditch cleanouts were completed totaling over 14 miles. Additionally, 11 projects totaling over 21 miles have been assisted and are nearing construction.

The district investigated reports of agricultural pollution violations and worked with the appropriate agencies to enforce Ohio's agricultural pollution laws and regulations.

## 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. The Office provides funding for transportation for veterans' VA medical appointments, provides emergency financial assistance, and has an Honors Detail that presents the final honors at a veteran's burial. The Veterans Service Commission operates under Chapter 5901 of the Ohio Revised Code.*

The Veterans Service Commission rebranded the Office in 2021 with a name change from the Veterans Assistance Center to the Veterans Service Office. Client contacts increased as the Office offered increased accessibility to services for veterans and their families through social media and a new website.

### VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE STATISTICS FOR 2021

Estimated Veterans residing in the County .....	10,800
Total client contacts .....	6,231
Veterans transported to medical facilities .....	513
Veterans photo I.D. cards issued .....	100
Memorial Day appropriations .....	\$11,000
Flags/grave markers distributed .....	11,148
Federal VA claims/benefits/appeals submitted .....	221
Number of persons assisted - emergency financial .....	80

### 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. The Office also issues state Veteran Identification Cards containing the veteran's photo, address, branch of service, dates of active military service, and character of discharge.



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.

## 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.

## NO WRONG DOOR Agencies

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

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

## WOOD COUNTY QUICK FACTS

**Population:** 2020 Census: 132,248  
2010 Census: 125,488  
2000 Census: 121,065

**Land area in square miles:** 617.4

**Land in farms (acres):** 268,767

**Number of farms:** 1,069

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

**Private sector goods/service establishments:** 2,886

**Total households:** 50,589

**Median household income:** \$62,390

### Major and notable employers in Wood County:

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

Source: Ohio County Profile from the Ohio Department of Development Office of Research - 2021 Edition



## Courthouse Historical Highlight

In 1973 the Wood County Courthouse was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**Wood County Government**  
One Courthouse Square  
Bowling Green, OH 43402

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

