A Message from the Board of County Commissioners

We are pleased to provide this annual update to you – the citizens of Wood County – to share the many good things we are happening in the County. Through our ongoing efforts to manage a period of uncertainty with regard to county revenues, we have been able, with the cooperation of our fellow County elected officials, to trim expenses while continuing quality services to the citizens of Wood County. The $2.2 million Courthouse Complex improvement project commenced in July 2003, was completed in June 2004. This project will allow for expanded parking and additional green space as well as addressing significant building drainage and water damage issues associated with the plaza area and basement among the three buildings. This project was made possible by securing $1 million from the State capital budget. The Authority also provides a permanent home for the Ohio Bicentennial Bell that was cast at the Pomerene’s Five Star Furnace in 1803. We sincerely appreciate the patience and cooperation of the visitors to the Courthouse Complex throughout the construction of the new Akron and the other renovation projects that have occurred over the past few years.

The completion of the Authority, and in compliance with Ohio’s Bonding Green Clean Air Act, we are designing the buildings and landscapes of the Courthouse Complex as a smoke free environment. We appreciate the cooperation of staff and visitors to the office facilities in this regard. The success of the Wood County Economic Development Corporation in realizing a diverse local economy is clearly evident. While 2004 may have been fairly slow in terms of industrial expansion and attraction, the success of previous years is evident through a low unemployment rate and through the expansion of retail opportunities in Wood County. An excellent example of this is the new Levi’s Commons lifestyle center located locally, the sales tax dollars remain in Wood County to fund county government. With all the diverse retail opportunities in Wood County, there is even more reason to shop right here at home.

We are excited about the future prospects for Wood County despite some of the challenges we face. Our challenge, as county commissioners, is to find a way to balance the needs of an expanding population while enhancing the attractiveness of the County for industrial and commercial development, protect prime farmland and protect the quality of life that this citizens of Wood County have come to expect. In October 2004, construction began on a project that will expand the physical therapy services at Wood Haven Health Care (formerly known as the Wood County Nursing Home). The project, funded by a generous donation from the Moore and Hazelious Booster Foundation, will allow Wood Haven to offer outpatient therapy services beginning in the spring of 2005. As you may recall, the Booster Foundation previously funded the installation of a resident lift system, comprised of ceiling, floor and bath lifts, and fast electric beds. These important improvements focus on assuring the dignity and quality of life for Wood Haven residents, as well as providing a quality, safe working environment for Wood Haven staff.

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

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

In a renewed effort to encourage dog owners to comply with state dog license laws, we initiated a drop-in-to-drop out dog license check program during 2004. This program, and similar efforts both the Wood County Dog Shelter staff, as well as the Ashland County Dog Shelter staff, distributed their licenses in 2004 than were sold in 2003. Dog license checks were written in 2005.

In addition, dog owners can now purchase their dog licenses on-line through the Wood County Auditor’s Office.

Two additional, 1.8 megawatt wind turbines were installed at bowling Green, and MAP Ohio. The four units are the largest wind turbines in west Ohio.

With Wood County public schools in the Ohio’s test scores of 486 bridges through marked improvement in each tested performance measure for all grade levels.

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

The Board of County Commissioners
Wood County, Ohio

2004 BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
James F. Carter, President, Tim W. Brown, Vice President, Alvin L. Perkins, Audrie S. Kaiman, Auditor, Kyrille A. May, Clerk of the Board, Budget Director
Janessa Diamond, Editor

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The Board of County Commissioners is the administrative coordinator of County Government and has direct oversight responsibility for 11 agencies and departments. Together the Commissioners manage County funds, buildings and property, and also serve as the County’s contracting and tax administration.

In a continuing effort to assist home land Security issues in Wood County the Commissioners participated in a training exercise along with numerous other local city, village, and town ship agencies, in cooperation with the Wood County Emergency Management Center. The training simulated a large-scale disease outbreak and emphasized the many stages of a cooperative response among local, state, and federal entities.

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

Humpet railroad crossings remain problematic in the County. The Commissioners have continued with 616 new housing starts in Wood County, and have worked with local developers, in cooperation with the Sooner Humps railroad crossings is reflected in the fact that the Wood County Justice Center was at full capacity for most of 2004, with inmates being housed in other county jails as needed. The housing of inmates at other county facilities cost the Wood County taxpayers over $270,000 in 2004. The escalating cost of indigent defense is also of concern to the Commissioners. The state legislature mandates that counties must provide free legal defense for indigent people. Years ago, the state legislature agreed to provide 50 percent of the funding for this, in counties picking up the remaining 50 percent. As of 2004, the state share was down to 35 percent, placing an increasingly large burden on county taxpayers.

The Commissioners appointed members to a wide variety of boards and commissions, such as the Mental Retardation and Development Disabilities Board, the Alcohol Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services Board, the Local Authority, and the Historical Society Board. Over the past several years, the Commissioners have established a process whereby they meet in public session with every person that participates in local government is a tremendous job providing home meals to seniors to help them remain independent in their own homes. We are pleased to help with this important project.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8...
Building Inspection
Michael J. Billmair, Chief Building Inspector

As a State of Ohio Certified Building Inspection Department, Wood County’s Building Inspection Department inspects all buildings constructed in the area that contain wood in Wood, Hancock, and Henry Counties. This 1,455 square mile area encompasses 38 municipalities including Bowling Green, Pymatuning, Northwood, Rossford, Fostoria, Findlay, Altamont, Blanchard, Delta, Napoleon, and Rockford. Owners, making Wood County the largest building inspection department in the State. The Building Inspection Department also conducts residential building inspections within Wood County, accounting for 49 percent of all fees collected.

During the 2004 period, the Department issued 6,738 permits. The issuance of permits resulted in 22,136 field inspections, with 2,293 lists of deficiencies requiring corrective action. Of the inspections conducted, 18,469 occurred inside Wood County resulting in 13,650 residential and 4,799 commercial inspections.

Although a 20 percent fee in- crease was imposed, the Department experienced a 2 percent increase in issued permits and inspections.

Receipts for 2004 totaled $1,052,028 for Wood County residential and commercial receipts totaled $1,270,382.98. Hancock County garnered $211,842, and Henry County’s permits added an additional $270,140.86, with Henry County adding $345,744.

Upgrades to the Department’s website were discussed allowing permit requests to fill in from the comfort of home. Another feature will provide access to inspection results. These changes will be in place in the spring of 2005.

With the new Ohio Building Code taking effect in March 2005, staff were trained and prepared for in-depth changes for the building.

Building Inspection operates under the Board of County Commis sioners and uses the Ohio Building Code, and the Residential Code of Ohio. These Three Families are. New uniforms are forthcoming to enforce the uniform issue and residential building codes.

A PARTIAL LIST OF PERMITS ISSUED IN 2003
One, two, or three family dwellings (Wood County only) 615
Additions or alterations to single family dwellings (Wood County only) 305
New residential garages (Wood, Hancock, & Henry Counties) 180
New commercial structures (Wood, Hancock, & Henry Counties) 292
Additions or alterations to commercial structures (Wood, Hancock, & Henry Counties) 331

Grounds and Buildings
COURTHOUSE COMPLEX: Bill Lorenz, Superintendent
EAST GYPSY LANE COMPLEX: Harry Allison, Superintendent

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

In 2004, Courthouse Committee Maintenance staff performed lighting improvements at the Justice Center, and throughout the complex as needed.

Improvement developments at the Justice Center and Historical Center reduced standing water. Road surface work, concrete work by Work In dustry and concrete work near three drains also assisted in this effort.

The installation of HVAC digital computer systems and new lighting provided staff the opportunity to move the building from remote locations.

Numerous building updates were completed during the year including roofs at the Dunbridge Road Building and the Lunaticus House at the Historical Center; fans and damp er cells were replaced on day-to-day basis; cabinets were installed at the Justice Center, Health Department, and Fuel Facility; and renovations continued at Wood Haven.

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

During 2004, Courthouse Committee Maintenance performed the release and sale of used equipment in the County’s Internet Auction process.

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

Staff coordinated the construction of a new office in the Prosecuting Attorney’s office; relocation of the new judge’s bench for Domestic Relations’ space court, installation of gas lamps on the exterior of the Courthouse; creation of a new parking lot and relocation of metropolitan transit in the visitor’s parking lot.

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

In 2004, the Courthouse Committee Maintenance Staff worked to reduce costs, and returned the State of Ohio for One, Two, and Three Family Dwellings (OWF) issued in 2004. This program allows agencies such as the State of Ohio’s Child Support Enforcement Agency to seize bank accounts of those who owe child support. Over $92,000 was collected from 110 bank accounts, with nearly $6,000 seized from one account alone.

More than $87,000 was collected from bank accounts of individuals who owe child support. In addition, $6,000 was seized from one account alone.

Throughout the year, the Agency worked to resolve 77 paternity establishment cases locally; in addition to approximately 334 father-child relationships acknowledged by new fathers and mothers at the time of a child’s birth. Most of the 77 relationships acknowledged by new parents in the county were established cases locally, in addition to approximately 334 father-child relationships acknowledged by new fathers and mothers at the time of a child’s birth. Most of the 77 relationships acknowledged by new parents in the county were 227 Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) cash payment cases per month; 5,363 Medicaid cases per month averaging $5,120 per month; 50 cases per month totaling $74,824. In August, 710 children received $347,822 in cloth ing and $24,296 in school supplies. Transportation services were provided 1,294 times through Medicaid, Title XX and Levy Funds. Child Care was provided to an average of 341 children each month at an average cost of $1,347,567 in 2004.

Services to senior citizens included: Homemaker Services provided an average of 181 times per month; Homemaker Services (in contract with the Wood County Health Department) provided an average of 34 consumers per month; and Chore Services reimbursed for an average of 22 persons per month. Adult Protective Services staff provided services to 73 adults.

Intensive Case Management Services provided services to 21 elderly individuals in the Temporary Assis tance for Needy Families Alternative Services Program.

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

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

Internet Auction Proves Successful
In 2003, the Board of County Commissioners authorized an Internet auction to sell the sale of unneeded or obsolete County personal property.

Several items from the Internet Auction, personal property includes: motor vehicles, road machinery, equipment, tools, or supplies.

All items are made available first to other county departments, townships, municipalities, and other subdivisions of the State of Ohio for a period of five days. All items that are not sold within the five day classified posting period will be posted for a minimum of 15 days under the surplus postings.

This format resulted in the collection of $21,344 in 2003 during the year, up from $11,252 in 2004. Of the funds collected, $10,769.53 was deposited into the County’s General Revenue Fund and the remaining funds returned to the originating departments. The Internet Auction is listed in underneath.

For more information regarding the Internet Auction, visit the County website at www.co.wood.oh.us.
Dog Shelter
Paula Hamman, Dog Warden

The purpose of the Dog Shelter is to enforce Section 395 of the Ohio Revised Code, which includes checking licenses and the proper confinement of dogs, as well as investigating dog bites, altering, and other related complaints. The Dog Shelter is self-supporting. User’s fees, dog licenses, kennel fees, stray and pampered are the primary funding source for the Dog and Kennel Fund which is used to pay salaries, maintain tanks, pay utilities, maintain the building, and pay veterinarian fees.

The number of impounded dogs rose for the first time in six years. During 2004, 1,422 dogs were under five months of age, helping the Shelter maintain a 68 percent adoption rate for the year. Realizing that the number of percent adoption rate for the year.

The Shelter also sold licenses at several locations throughout the County. As a result of these efforts, dog license sales increased by 1,526 tags.

Emergency Management Agency
J. Eric Larson, Director

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

In May 2004, the Agency conducted a full scale Hazardous Materials exercise. The exercise was conducted by Central Joint Fire Department and involved the following agencies: Wester EMS, Luster Ambulance, Wood County Hospital and the local United Way Chapter. Wood County Sheriff’s Office, The Anderson’s and a Boy Scout troop for volunteers. The exercise provided essential training to county emergency responders and created an opportunity to utilize the Incident Command System. This system includes first responder and response deployment skills during a potential large-scale incident.

The Winds of Destruction Management Committee continued its involvement with equipment purchases from the Department of Justice (DOJ) Grants. The Committee also continued to evaluate vulnerabilities, equipment, and training needs for first responders in the County.

In 2004, the Agency received a $452,294 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice through the State Homeland Security Grant Program. Awards to various political subdivisions and county agencies totaled $402,991. Preparedness projects in the emergency response area continued to assess local hazards and a strategy to address these hazards in their planning areas. The DJJ provided this financial support to the States for development of the equipment inventory needed by first responders for potential acts of domestic terrorism.

The Agency, via the Equipment Committee, purchased communication equipment upgrades, physical security enhancements for critical sites in Wood County, multi-wheeled 4×4’s and assorted generators. For a second year, the Agency collaborated with the Ohio Funeral Director’s Association (OFDA) to purchase an additional utility trailer with mortuary ‘push-pull’ equipment as well as meeting the emergency needs of the main morgue trailer. This project is regional in scope and can be used across the state of Ohio by any jurisdiction that may encounter a mass fatality incident. Other agencies involved in this project included the Ohio Association of Coroner’s, Ohio Dental Association, and the Federal Disaster Mortuary Response Team. Additional funding was secured through the FY 2004 State Homeland Security Program Regional Grant to support this project.

Throughout the year, the Agency responded to 16 hazardous material incidents at the request of emergency responders and assisted as a resource coordinator. Coordination equipment, communication equipment upgrades were made available by the Agency as needed. Working with the Wood County Sheriff, the Office continued education classes for emergency response personnel were offered to provide up-to-date information in addition to regular training required to maintain current licencing.

In October, the Director along with the Four County Career Center and the Wood County Hospital implemented a Basic Emergency Medical Technician class. A 24-hour Emergency Medical Technician Intermediate Transition Class was completed earlier in the year. The classes were comprised of EMS personnel within Wood County and the surrounding area.

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

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

Historical Museum and Center
Christie Raber, Director

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

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

During 2004, the Center and its resources were available to more than 20,000 visitors and more than 50 County agency and 160 family groups. Visitors took tours, engaged in research activities, walked the grounds, and enjoyed special events. The Center hosted a diversity of special events. The Spring Open House featured the opening of the Union House to the public. The exhibit received an award from the Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums for its explanation of mental health care history. Other events included Earth Day, the Power of yeasttra Tractor Show and Barberque, Wood County Day, Halloween Folklore & Fastest, Old Home Holiday Tour, and the monthly tea series.

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

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

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

Office of Economic Development
Economic Development Commission
Thomas Blaha, Executive Director

The Economic Development Commission, an Ohio Commission’s economic development corporation, strives to establish and promote the expansion of employment through various strategies and the systematic recruitment of new businesses. The Commission actively markets Wood County and its communities to outside industrial prospects, while continuing to provide support to existing county’s communities and existing industries helping them broaden and diversify the tax base while creating and retaining jobs.

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

The Commission set records in the past as measured by millions of dollars generated in new jobs created, and millions of square feet constructed. The growth of the last ten years is reflected in the sales tax receipts generated through the increase in retail activity.

The Commission remained at the cutting edge of economic development progress in recognizing and acting upon “value driven economic development.” This development contributes to the growth of local and state economies through strategies that include: public/private investments, increasing the productivity and competitiveness of new development resources to grow export-based businesses, industries, and institutions that create wealth for our communities.

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

• Recognized of Owens Community College’s Integrated Systems Technology (IST) program by the President of the United States, George W. Bush, during a visit to Wood County highlighting economic competitiveness.
• Received a vote of confidence by Daimler Chrysler as they invested $28M in the Wood County manufacturing plant.
• Continued reinforcement of Wood County’s pivotal location for logistics and distribution including a $2.5M investment by TNT Logistics, $4.5 by Kellermeyer, and $2.5M by Timberline Co-Pack.
• Attracted a $2.5M investment by Hartung Builders to build a new facility in Bowling Green and the addition of Sun Seas’ 25,000 square foot operation to expand in Washington Township.
• Recognized as “Best of Class” by the Ohio Development Commission for the Office of Economic Development for the Ohio Development Commission’s Comprehensive Planning and Policy for the Office.
• Seven Board of County Commissioners with input from the Wood County Development Commission.
• Recognized as a leader in the commitment of resources to the Wood County Development Commission.

The Office of Economic Development is comprised of employees of the Wood County Commissioners, while the Economic Development Commission coordinates planning and policy for the Office.
ALCOHOL DRUG ADDICTION AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BOARD
Votava, Robert Pollex, Christie Raber, Bill Lorenzen, Robert Pollex, Christie Raber, Bill Lorenzen, 
Nancy Mancuso*, Terry D. Murray*, David C. Miller*, Jane Quinn*, and Hugh Caumartin, Timothy Harris*, 
Hugh Caumartin, Timothy Harris*, and Jon Quinn, David C. Miller*, 
and Jon Quinn, David C. Miller*, and 50 percent of Commissioners.

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

Wood Haven Health Care, Senior Living & Rehabilitation, a 100-bed short-term rehabilitation and long-term care facility, provides both skilled and intermediate level care and also offers a variety of wellness programs. The wellness programs include physical, occupational, and speech therapies designed to meet the rehabilitative needs of residents with the goal of regaining the ability to return home. Some of our wellness programs include 24-hour professional nursing care, nutritional evaluation and meal planning, social activities, physical therapy, and short-term inpatient and outpatient. Hospice and short-term inpatient are also available. Additional services, customized to meet the individual needs of each resident, are provided as needed.

During 2004, four resident rooms were renovated into private rehabilitation suites to accommodate the increasing number of residents receiving therapy treatment while recuperating from surgery. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on May 15, 2004 for the Wood County Health Care, Senior Living & Rehabilitation, and Nursing Home construction and renovation project which will include a new front entry, exterior upgrades, plus a therapy complex made possible with funds donated by the Harold and Ivalou Ransom, Brenda Ransom, and Terry D. Murray.

In 2004, Wood Haven registered 156 admissions and 146 discharges, with 101 residents returning home following their rehabilitation. The facility logged 31,695 resident in house days. Privately funded residents represented 15 percent of those days, while 68 percent were Medicare, 12 percent Medicaid and five percent Managed Care or Hospice.

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

Wood Haven Health Care is a member of the American Health Care Association, the Ohio Health Care Association, and the Ohio County Homecare Association. Participation in these organizations operates under the Board of County Commissioners.

by the end of 2004, the Center received and shelved a total of 5,925 cubic-foot records. Records Center staff also received and stored approximately 2,500 cubic feet of records annually. In 2003, the Records Center received and shelved a total of 5,675 cubic-foot records. By the end of 2004, the Center received and shelved a total of 5,925 cubic-foot records. Records Center staff also received and stored approximately 2,500 cubic feet of records annually.

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Wood County 2004 Annual Report

CLERK OF COURTS

The Clerk of Courts maintains the records of Common Pleas Court, issues motor vehicle, and watermark titles and serves as Clerk for the Sixth District Court of Appeals. She is a member of the Data Processing Board and Records Commission. In 1998 she was appointed to the Automated Title Processing Board and remains to serve at the pleasure of Governor Taft. The duties of the Clerk of Courts are authorized under many sections of the Ohio Revised Code.

Rebecca E. Bihler
Motor vehicle, and watermark titles

LEGAL CASES AND DOCUMENTS FILED

Appeals cases filed
238
Real estate cases filed
180
Land tax forensic cases filed
496
Domestic relations cases filed
139
Domestic stalking civil protection cases filed
117
Domestic issues reappearing
409
Criminal cases filed
602
Judgment and appeals
674
Firearm licenses
5
State tax lien cases filed
184
Examinations filed
11
Judgment enter yelled (copies)
38,324
Notary-commissioned cases
32
Passport applications accepted
751
Criminal investigations
3,293
Criminal records checks
2,095
Coroner's reports

TITLES DOCUMENTED

Auto titles, duplicates & memo title
61,569
Motor vehicle mortgages recorded
12,152
Parcels
1,582
Real estate transfer title skimings
6,048
Inspections
6,415
Affidavits
15,112
Motorcycle titles issued
678
Boat titles, duplicates and memo title
5,919
Juvenile Delinquents placed in long-term correction
645
Real estate market
645
Watercraft affidavit
657
Watercraft parcels
126

LEGAL DISBURSEMENTS TOTALS

$3,783,472.00
$13,659,280.00
$1,679,87
$14,341.05
$1,679.87
$91,138.13
$1,780,954.65
$429,128.10
$14,500.00
$1,414,321.00
$14,341.05
$1,679.87
$91,138.13
$1,780,954.65

Total Cases
62

2004 CORONER CASES

Motorcycle Accident
1
Suicides
13
Homicides
3
Natural Deaths
24

Courtroom 4

The Judges supervise the Adult Probation Department and the Court Security program. They appoint and supervise the Juvenile Court, Juvenile Courts, and the Wood County Public Library Board. The Judges also receive and approve applications for notary public.

During 2004, the Court completed 2,888 cases and 1,082 cases remaining pending. Of the total cases completed, 596 were civil, 1,223 were domestic relations, and 515 were criminal. A record number of criminal files, 604, were opened in 2004, a 50 percent increase over 1999.

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

Alan R. Mayberry

Courtroom 4

The Juvenile Hear cases concerning traffic offenses, delinquency alienations, neglect, abuse, dependency, and custody involving individuals under the age of 18. In addition, the Court may hear misdemeanor cases involving adults with substance abuse problems. The Juvenile Detention Center is also administered through the Juvenile Court.

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

The Juvenile Defendant Department, under the authority of the Common Pleas Court, conducts pre-sentence investigations for purposes of sentencing, and supervises felony offenders under court-ordered supervision or those who have violated parole.

The Juvenile Department maintained the records of Common Pleas Court, issues motor vehicle, and watermark titles and serves as Clerk for the Sixth District Court of Appeals. She is a member of the Data Processing Board and Records Commission. In 1989 she was appointed to the Automated Title Processing Board and remains to serve at the pleasure of Governor Taft. The duties of the Clerk of Courts are authorized under many sections of the Ohio Revised Code.

The Clerk of Courts serves as Court Security Judge. In 2004, the Court, along with Hancock County Common Pleas Court, conducted a joint in-house mediation program with a grant provided by the Ohio Supreme Court.

Cases were referred by mediation, decedent’s affairs, and probate divisions of the Court. In 2004, the 48-bed Juvenile Detention Center provided both pretrial and short-term community supervision.

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

In 2004, the Department conducted 787 court appearances, 718 of whom were then placed under the Department’s supervision.

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

The Department developed 80,563 cases and disposed of 77,699 cases. Of the total cases completed, 596 were civil, 1,223 were domestic relations, and 515 were criminal.

The Juvenile Court operates under Title 23 of the Ohio Revised Code.

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

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

The Court Judge is authorized to perform his duties under Chapter 23 of the Ohio Revised Code.

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

With funding from the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, the Department supervised 81 offenders on Intensive Supervision Probation and 194 on Electronic Monitoring.
The Engineer has the responsibility of maintaining highways, bridges, culverts, and hundreds of traffic control signs in a safe and proper manner each day of the year. Under the ditch maintenance program, the Engineer is responsible for more than 3,000 miles of ditches in the County. The Engineer’s Office performs engineering, surveying, and all ditch construction and maintenance projects. The Engineer also requires maintaining maps and survey records. He is a member of the Planning Commission and serves an engineer for each of the 10 townships.

After serving as County Engineer since 1980, Anthony Allion retired at the end of 2004. Raymond Huber was elected the new County Engineer in the November General Election. The Engineer is authorized to perform his duties under Chapter 315 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SOURCES OF 2004 FUNDS
Motor Vehicle License Fees $3,541,827.63
Gasoline Tax $1,987,713.78
County General Fund $97,011.19
Forfeiture Proceeds - 242,872.59
Reimbursements $42,972.80
Total $5,304,640.35

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

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney is a service office committed to and responsible for keeping and maintaining accurate records of real estate documents, ensuring that the documents are up-to-date, legible, easily accessible to the public, and retained in an archival form. The meticulous and timely handling of documents is the essence of the Recorder’s responsibility. As the repository of records for all property transactions in the County, the Recorder’s Office safeguards every property owner’s title. Real estate documents constitute a major portion of the Recorder’s Office’s duties. Financing statements on personal property and military discharge papers are also filed in the Recorder’s Office.

RECORER
The Recorder’s Office is a service office committed to and responsible for keeping and maintaining accurate records of real estate documents, ensuring that the documents are up-to-date, legible, easily accessible to the public, and retained in an archival form. The meticulous and timely handling of documents is the essence of the Recorder’s responsibility. As the repository of records for all property transactions in the County, the Recorder’s Office safeguards every property owner’s title. Real estate documents constitute a major portion of the Recorder’s Office’s duties. Financing statements on personal property and military discharge papers are also filed in the Recorder’s Office.

A total of 30,321 documents were recorded and filed. A total of $781,016.25 was collected in fees. Of this amount $883,822.00 was remitted to the State of Ohio for the Housing Trust Fund. $19,338.06 was deposited into the Recorder’s supplemental equipment fund, and the remaining $774,325.28 was paid into the County’s general fund. For archival purposes, all records of the Office are microfilmed by the Recorder’s Office. The Recorder is staffed with sufficient personnel for filing/discharging transactions and personal property and military discharge papers are also filed in the Recorder’s Office.

SHERIFF
As the County’s Chief Law Enforcement Officer, the Sheriff provides law enforcement, correctional services, and correctional services to residents. The Sheriff polishes services, serving as a resource for communities and municipalities, and assists municipalities and other agencies.

The Justice Center population remained at or near capacity, and the calls for service on the road rose over 2004. The Community Policing Division remained committed to the safety and security of the citizens of the County. A grant funded Community Policing Deputy remained over senior and rural populations.

2004 WOODY COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE REPORT

Total inmates transported 712
Warrants received (local & foreign) 14,474
Mortgages received (with a value of $291,857,927.48) 1,805
Rights of way and easements 20
Leases 24
Mechanics liens 71
Pharmaceutical liens 10
Condemnations (creating 9 units) 3
Financing statements, security agreements... 68
Tear downs 104
Filing amendments, amendments and releases..... 31
Miscellaneous documentary filings (release of easements, mechanic lien releases, notice to commence, lien notices, powers of attorney, partnerships, state liens, releases of state liens, federal liens, and federal liens of title) 1,833

2004 DOCUMENTS

DEEDS
Judgment entries, affidavits, agreements and certifications for transfer... 1,380
Mortgages (total value $4,295,162.78) 10,086
Mortgage assignments, agreements, release of mortgages, of owner, of mortgage agreements and options... 1,729
Leases 53
Mortgages released (with a value of $201,952,371.09) 8,939
Rights of way and easements 206
Leases 24
Mechanics liens 71
Pharmaceutical liens 10
Condemnations (creating 9 units) 3
Financing statements, security agreements... 68
Tear downs 104
Filing amendments, amendments and releases..... 31
Miscellaneous documentary filings (release of easements, mechanic lien releases, notice to commence, lien notices, powers of attorney, partnerships, state liens, releases of state liens, federal liens, and federal liens of title) 1,833
Voluntary Hours 180
Community Hours 36
Field Trip 6

COMMUNITY POLICING
Chief’s Urban Academy Students... 76
Festivals and events... 9
Projects funded under Blackwater Program... 45
Other special programs... 23

ROAD PATROL DIVISION
Miles driven 1,987,713.78
Complete records and investigations 10,276
Citizen’s Police Academies 28
Traffic violations 371
Traffic citations 884
Traffic tickets written 1,257
Traffic ticket arrears 2,527
Traffic ticket taken 14

SHERIFF’S OFFICE REPORT

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

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

In November 2004, Mark Wasyliw was elected to a four-year term as the Wood County Sheriff, beginning January 3, 2005. The Sheriff is authorized to perform his duties under Chapter 311 of the Ohio Revised Code.

TREASURER
The Treasurer serves the Wood County Treasurer’s Office. The Treasurer is responsible for collecting taxes for the County as well as for the school districts, municipalities, and townships within the County. The two largest and most significant sources of revenue are generated through real and personal property taxes. More than 50 area financial offices serve the County as real estate tax payment sites. Qualifying taxpayers may utilize an available escrow account or delinquent tax payment program. The Treasurer’s Office also collects taxes on mobile homes and inheritance.

The Treasurer’s Office collects $112,409,856.56 in real estate taxes during 2004. An additional $247,522,854 was collected in personal property tax.

All investments made by the Treasurer were fully collateralized and sufficiently liquid to enable the County to meet reasonable operating expenditures. Investment income for 2004 was $1,952,511.98.

The Treasurer serves on the Budget Commission, Board of Review, and Data Processing Board in addition to her duties as Investing Authority for the Investment Advisory Board.

The Treasurer is authorized to perform her duties under Section 321 and 333 of the Ohio Revised Code.

JUVENILE COURT FROM PG. 5...
415 youth performed 9,027 hours of community service work and returned to the community. Two youth were sentenced to the Juvenile Detention Center, 480 youth were released to the community. Programs facilitated by the Department included: Intensive Probation, Thinking for a Change, Juvenile Offenders Program, Drug Screening, and Diversionary Tour of the Court and Detention Center. The Court also assisted with the Alternative School for at risk and expelled students. The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program supervised 39 volunteers in 2004 who advocated for 134 children allegedly abused or neglected, providing over 2,500 hours of service. As a local jail, the County donated almost 80 hours of legal services to juvenile offenders. One in every three children were able to see 50 percent of the children needing services, with other questions all as aforesaid to the Court for the remaining children in need. As of December 31, 2004, 34 CASA volunteers continue to advocate for 77 children.

The Juvenile Court Judge is authorized to perform his duties under Chapter 312 of the Ohio Revised Code.
In 2004, the Wood County Board of Elections filed three elections: one Special Election held on August 3, a Primary Election held on March 2 and a Property Owner’s Consent Election held on November 2. In addition to the Presidential race, voters made decisions on a U.S. Senate seat, Ohio and local issues. Voting at the polls involved the administration of the absentee voter program, coordination of the polling places, selection of the voting location, electioneering, and use of the voting machines.

Officials, including the County Auditor and the County Clerk, and their staffs are responsible for the administration of all elections in Wood County. The Board of Elections is elected by the voters of Wood County. The Board of Elections consists of five members who are elected at-large on a partisan basis for a term of two years. The County Clerk acts as the County Auditor, as authorized by the Ohio Revised Code.

The five members of the Board of Elections are elected at-large for four-year terms beginning in November of odd-numbered years. The last members of the Board of Elections were elected in November 2003, and will serve until November 2007.

The Board of Elections is responsible for the administration and enforcement of election laws and regulations. The Board is also responsible for the development of policies and procedures to ensure the integrity and fairness of the elections.

The Board of Elections must provide safe and secure polling places, and ensure that the election equipment is in good working order. The Board of Elections must also ensure that the election results are accurate and reliable.

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Wood County Dog License can
It’s a Ride Home!

Your dog license fee is a primary funding source for the Dog and Kennel Fund. All license fees go directly to the operation of the Wood County Dog Shelter. (A convenience fee will apply.)

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

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

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

2004 Annual Report

General Fund Expenditures totaled $38,929,353.58 in available funds. A year-end total was $14,008,182.74, a 3.95 percent increase over the previous year. However, investment income for the year ended at $2,521,111.68, a 24.34 percent decrease from 2003.

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

Revenue generated for the General Fund during 2004 totaled $31,252,203.19, which combined with the beginning cash balance of $3,761,355.08 provided $38,929,353.58 in available funds. General Fund expenditures totaled $38,929,353.58.

$1,583,967.27, leaving an ending balance of $7,345,966.31.

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

As a means of “giving back” to the community, County employees volunteered for and participated in several special projects. These projects include the United Way campaign, the Spirit of Wood County Awards, blood drives, and canned food drives. The annual fall United Way campaign raised more than $25,500 from County employees to benefit United Way agencies in the local area. An additional $2,660 was raised during special events, including the chili cook-off.

Other volunteer opportunities for County employees included: two blood drives, one in May and the second in September, which collected a total of 60 pints of blood; and the Adopt-A-Parity campaign, held April 15 - 19, that gave employees the opportunity to donate canned goods to a food bank serving Wood County residents.

The Spirit of Wood County Awards program was held on September 18 at the Historical Center, in conjunction with Wood County Day. The awards honor services rendered by present and/or former Wood County citizens.

The Commissioners presented the Spirit of Wood County Awards to: Gene Nagel - Agricultural Leadership; Larry & Gillis - Industry/Economic Development; Rev. Paul Eicher - Religion and Liberty; Gustava V. Oberhouse - Self Government; Allan H. Bechtel - Liberty Through Law/Human Freedom; Vicki L. Duval - Education for Civic Responsibility; and Jean B. Smith - the Lyle R. Fletcher Good Citizen Award.

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

It is the non-statutory duties of the Commissioners that make them different from other elected officials. By necessity the Commissioners must take a broad view of actions necessary to make the County a better place to live and work. The Commissioners are thus active in providing and promoting partnerships in human services, economic development, health, and infrastructure development. The Commissioners also take an active role in improving the environment, promoting job training programs, and improving agriculture.

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