A Message from the Board of County Commissioners

This past year marked a period of significant progress for several major projects initiated in 2001.

Construction to convert the Old Jail into the new Records Center and Law Library began with the demolition of the remainder of the interior of the building. The adaptive reuse of this building, located on the campus of the Courthouse, is significant because of the new function the structure will house, as well as the fact that it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The creation of the Records Center will provide records storage and retrieval services, as well as a centralized management assistance to all County offices, records storage and retrieval services, as well as a centralized management assistance to all County offices, records storage and retrieval services, as well as a centralized management assistance to all County offices.

In a continuing effort to address energy use costs, a lighting upgrade in the Courthouse dome was completed. The projects of this result included better lighting, significantly reduced electric use, and substantial lowering of utility bills.

At the East Gypsy Lane Complex, the findings from the space study for the Juvenile Court Center were utilized to complete construction documents for this much needed project. Construction work began in November 2001, and will be complete by the fall of 2002.

Fiber-optic cabling among the buildings in the East Gypsy Lane Complex was completed. By partnering with the City of Bowling Green through shared use of its new fiber-optic loop, the Courthouse Complex and the East Gypsy Lane Complex are now linked electronically, allowing for enhanced communication and operational efficiency.

Significant and exciting changes occurred during 2001 as the Wood County Nursing home celebrated its 20th Anniversary. In order to address management and facility improvement needs at the Nursing Home in a more proactive manner, a change was made to enter into a management agreement with a private company, which will be supervised by a Nursing Home Administrator who is a County employee. In addition, a $420,000 gift was received from the Harold and Ivalou Bordner Foundation, which will be used for the installation of a lift system for every resident room, greatly reducing strain injuries for employees and providing a safer means of lifting residents.

With renewed commitment to operating a modern, quality facility, many new improvements and innovations are expected in future years.

The courthouse-wide blanket replacement project remained a high priority for the Commissioners. To accelerate the efforts of the County Engineer for these important projects, the Commissioners appropriated an additional $1.4 million, bringing the total over the past four years to $4.3 million.

Many positive changes took place during the past year, which brought much exciting progress for County government in the future. We sincerely hope you will spend some time reviewing this annual report. At the same time, we encourage your participation, extend our thanks for your support, and invite your comments and questions.

The Board of County Commissioners
Wood County, Ohio

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2...

The Board of County Commissioners is the administrative coordinator of county government and has direct oversight responsibility for 17 agencies and departments. The Commissioners manage County funds, buildings and property, and also approve the County’s contracting and tax authority.

With accessibility to the public as a priority, the Commissioners continued the practice of scheduling Town Hall meetings around the County to provide citizens the opportunity to bring questions or concerns before a formal meeting of the Board. Open Forum sessions are included as an item on the Commissioners’ regular meeting agendas and provide constituents further opportunity to discuss issues with the Board.

In February, the Commissioners hosted an information session for the public regarding the exterior restoration of the Courthouse and Old Jail. Another public meeting was held in March to discuss the future of the Wood County Nursing Home. As a result of this meeting the Commissioners ended 15 years of contract management and hired an administrator to oversee the day-to-day operations of the Home, as well as to guide it into the future.

Efforts to emphasize the importance of Agriculture in Wood County received considerable attention throughout the year. The Commissioners formalized the creation of an Agricultural Advisory Committee that began meeting in February. The concept of a one-stop facility for agricultural services was advanced through the completion of a study to determine options for the proposed Wood County Agricultural Center. The Center would put agricultural-related agencies such as the Ohio State University Cooperative Extension Service, the Agricultural Business Enhancement Center, Agricultural Credit, the Wood Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Farm Services Agency under one roof.

The Commissioners are one of three organizations across the state to be recognized by Butler Ohio, a program to acknowledge excellence in conservation. The Commissioners support the establishment of buffer strips for water quality and wildlife habitat by offering funds to provide landowners financial assistance if they enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program. Payments were based on the first 30 feet of buffer for riparian areas in a nine-township targeted area. This commitment provides $20,000 annually for improved conservation efforts in Wood County.

In the wake of September 11, the Commissioners coordinated meetings with the Sheriff, Emergency Management Agency, and the Health Department, to assess the County’s emergency procedures.

The Spirit of Wood County Awards program was held on September 15, at the Historical Committee meeting. The awards honor services rendered by present and/or former Wood County citizens. The Commissioners presented the Spirit of Wood County Awards to: Richard Bussendorf; Joseph A. Heisel Agricultural Leadership Award; Jo Beth Goncalo; Melvin E. Van Der Heyden Civic Responsibility; Jennifer Sterner; Industrial/Economic Development Economic Development; Religous and Liberty; Marilyn R. Baker; Self Government; Virgil Frost; Liberty Through Law/Human Freedom.

The award winning United Way campaign raised more than $41,000 to benefit United Way agencies in the local area. An additional $22,000 was raised during special events, including the employee picnic and chili cook-off. Employees dropped the proceeds from the chili cook-off to the United Way’s September 11 Fund. Other volunteers included County employees who included blood drives, one in May and the second in September which collected a total of 303 pints of blood, and the Adopt-A-Pantry canned food drive, held April 22 through May 4, that gave employees the opportunity to donate to a food bank serving Wood County residents.

An awards ceremony was scheduled for January 9, 2002, to honor the 100 volunteers who completed five, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35 years of service during 2001.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2...
COURTHOUSE COMPLEX: Bill Lorenzen, Superintendent
Buildings and Grounds

Buildings and Grounds

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

Courthouse Complex

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

In an effort to reduce renovation costs, maintenance staff assisted on numerous projects throughout the year. They performed preparation work, ranging from moving furniture to wiring and cleanup.

During 2001, Courthouse Complex Maintenance staff completed work on the Forensic Office renovation project and assisted contractors with Court Administration office relocation, window seal replacement in the Office Building, partial ceiling replacement in Probate Court office and 2nd Floor of the Office Building hallway, clean-up water damage in the Courthouse, and preparation work for the demolition of houses for the new parking lot.

Maintenance staff provided assistance in planning and preparation for major Courthouse Complex construction projects such as the exterior restoration of the Courthouse and the conversion of the Old Jail to the Records Center.

Work began on modernizing and retrofitting lighting systems throughout the Courthouse and Office Building to reduce costs. Under the new lighting system, ballasts and light tubes are recycled reducing contamination of the environment.

East Gypsy Lane Complex

The East Gypsy Lane Complex maintenance staff maintained the County-owned office buildings on East Gypsy Lane and Dunbridge Roads. They also provided services to the Historical Center and Dunbridge Road Building, which houses the Solid Waste Management District, Economic Development Commission, and Educational Service Center.

Improving the appearance of the grounds was a priority during 2001. Dead trees and shrubbery were replaced and windbreaks were installed west of the Courthouse and in parking areas were added in several locations, while others were reseated and repaired. Lighting was installed on the main directional sign for the facility.

Numerous building repairs were also completed during the year including the repair of the overhang on the front porch of the Dunbridge Road Building, and the installation of new rooftop units at the Nursing Home. Work at the Historical Center included repairs to the Broadnax Berry Wall, installation of the Linwood Road Radio Tower Building and renovation of the Chicken Coop. Maintenance staff provided assistance in planning and preparation for major East Gypsy Lane Complex construction projects, specifically the expansion and renovation of the Juvenile Court.

The Buildings and Grounds Department operates under the Board of County Commissioners.
Child Support Enforcement Agency
Frank McLaughlin, Director

The Child Support Enforcement Agency collects and distributes child support monies, licenses attorneys, establishes and enforces child support agreements, and enforces medical and child support orders.

In 2001, the Child Support Enforcement Agency collected $197,411.68 and disbursed this amount to the custodial parents of children due child support. Additionally, $489,629.25 was collected and returned to the State of Ohio ($102,904.00) as lottery proceeds. Of this amount, 96 percent came from federal sources. Furthermore, $12,584.25 was distributed to the remaining four percent from local sources. Over $48 million ($2.72 percent) was attributable to Medicaid payments of more than $160,000.00 and other regular child support payments for Wood County’s children. The Agency’s legal staff also recovered more than $4,000.00 through administrative activities such as probate actions, and 1,665 delinquent cases and additional $29,207.83 were paid to the County Wood County Job and Family Services in Wood County to help pay the custodial parents of children due child support.

Department of Job and Family Services
Ruth Larabee, Director

The Department of Job and Family Services administered $896,946 in various federal and state programs. Of this amount, 96 percent came from federal sources and the remaining 4 percent from local sources. Over $48 million ($2.72 percent) was attributable to Medicaid payments of more than $160,000.00 and other regular child support payments for Wood County’s children. The Agency’s legal staff also recovered more than $4,000.00 through administrative activities such as probate actions, and 1,665 delinquent cases.

As of December 31, 2001, the Agency had 1,376 open cases. The Agency continued placement of approximately 200 delinquency cases into the Domestic Relations Court action in Wood County. In the past year, the Agency had more than 200 “deadbeat” parents identified for child support noncompliance.

The Agency worked to resolve 208 paternity establishment cases locally, in addition to approximately 125 more father-child relationships being acknowledged in local hospitals by new fathers and mothers within the first year of a child’s birth. Most of the 208 relationships established by the Agency were resolved in administrative hearings, during which both parents agreed to be bound by the results of an administrative hearing.

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Department of Job and Family Services
Ruth Larabee, Director

The Department of Job and Family Services operates under the Board of County Commissioners and county legislated and regulated public assistance; employment; child and adult protective services; and social services in the county.

Emergency Management Agency
J. Eric Larson, Director

The Emergency Management Agency (EMA) is responsible for the four phases of emergency management: mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. The Agency assists county government and the Federal Emergency Management Agency in responding to situations.

In March 2001, a full-scale Hazardous Materials Exercise brought together professional and volunteer personnel from across the county to test their response to an emergency.

The Windham Regional Health District was fully functional in September. The District had been in the process of expanding its services for use at large-scale incidents.

In 2001, the Windham Regional Health District was fully functional in September. The District had been in the process of expanding its services for use at large-scale incidents.

As of the Ohio Domestic Preparedness Program, the State of Ohio awarded the Agency a $15,000 grant for training in June. The program provides equipment for response to mass destruction. The ODP is an Ohio EMA initiative to expand the effectiveness of the federal-level program provided through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the county’s response to incidents.

The Director, who is also a Paramedic, responds to a variety of environmental and public health incidents. The Director is also responsible for coordinating the Hazardous Materials Exercise in recognition of its unique place in Ohio history.

The Historical Museum and Center
Stacey Hann-Ruff, Director

The Historical Museum and Center, located on the grounds of the former Wood County Infirmary, actively preserves and shares the history of Wood County and the Wood County Infirmary through building preservation, exhibits, research, an internship program, special event programs, and education programs. The unique historic site is one of the last county poor farms where nearly all of the unconfirmed cases of small pox during the mid to late 1800s were placed. The site was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979, and in 2000, the Infirmary Sisters offered the site in memorial of their original site, activities, and education programs in recognition of its unique place in Ohio history.

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 Society has a staff of four full-time county employees, one part-time Greeter, a Social Worker, and a volunteer base of over 40. The 50- acre grounds of the Center are part of the system of parks maintained and controlled by the Park District.

More than 20,000 visitors, including students, adults, and people with special needs, attended 37 programs, activities, and events during 2001. During this year, the Center’s interns and volunteers worked more than 3,000 hours on park maintenance, education, and social programs.

The Center hosted a diversity of free annual community events including the Spring Open House, Civil War Days, Wood County Fair, Hobo Hike, Millstone Run, and the monthly tea series.

In 2001, the Ohio Department of Transportation helped relocate a sexual assault victim with using state funds for a new apartment. Additionally, the Center participated in the program’s efforts to relocate a sexual assault victim with using state funds for a new apartment.

Dog Shelter
Paula Hamman, Chief Dog Warder

The purpose of the Dog Shelter is to enforce Section 951 of the Ohio Revised Code, which includes checking licenses and the proper confinement of dogs, as well as eliminating strays and providing kennel space and care to stray dogs and cats in need. Additionally, the Animal Shelter is responsible for the return of lost dogs to their owners and finding new homes for unwanted dogs. The Animal Shelter is assisted by the local animal control officers, local veterinarians, and volunteers.

In 2001, the Agency continued placement of approximately 200 delinquency cases into the Domestic Relations Court action in Wood County. In the past year, the Agency had more than 200 “deadbeat” parents identified for child support noncompliance.

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Nursing Home
David Cecil, Administrator
The Wood County Nursing Home is a 125-bed, acute care, sub-acute, and skilled care nursing facility providing both skilled and intermediate level care and services. Nursing facility services include 24-hour professional nursing care, nutritional evaluation and meal services, environmental assistance and family support, therapeutic recreation programs with occupational, physical and physician oversight. Physical, occupational, and speech therapy programs are also used, as well as mental health programs. Rehabilitation and topic care programs are designed to meet the goal often being the ability to return to independent living as safely and as independently as possible. Programs are customized to meet the individual needs of patients.
In 2001, the County Commissioners ended 15 years of contract management and appointed an administrator to oversee the day-to-day operations. A staff of 115 provided services with a combination of experience and professionalism while demonstrating loving care and dedication to nursing careers.
Throughout the year, one staff member reached her 30-year service milestone, while two others completed 40 years of service.
With more elderly residents covered under some form of nursing home insurance, the facility entered into managed care contracts with several private insurance companies such as Allstate Medicaid of Ohio and Paramount Elite, enabling individuals to choose Wood County Nursing Home with much of the cost covered under their plans.
The Nursing Home logged 37,176 residents in 30 days. Privately funded residents represented 27 percent of those days, while 63 percent were Medicaid, 9 percent Medicare, and 1 percent Managed Care. An increasing number of elderly residents came to the facility for a period of therapy and rehabilitation and then returned to their homes. During 2001, a total of 70 residents were discharged to their homes following their stay.

Records Center
Brenda Ransom, Records Manager
Created by the Commissioners in 1988, the Records Center is designed to provide for the preservation of Wood County office records. When the Center opens in 2002, it will offer secure, environmentally friendly archival storage, paper records, preservation microfilming, and digital imaging services.
The Records Center became real to reality in 2001, with the beginning of construction of the Center and the establishment of a Records Management Unit in the fall. The Old Jail, part of the Courthouse Complex, was gutted to allow for the construction of proper weight-bearing floors and environmental controls to accommodate the Records Center. Upon being hired in August, Records Manager Brenda Ransom began the task of developing and implementing the Records Center procedures, including the operation of the microfilm/image sanitizing lab and a system for tracking stored records. Assistance and support was provided to County offices on records retention schedules and record maintenance.
The Records Center operates under the Board of County Commissioners.

Solid Waste Management District
Ken Riemann, Director
The Solid Waste Management District manages solid waste planning and block management services for Wood County. The office provides a policy committee comprised of seven local officials and citizens. • A Policy Committee comprised of seven local officials and citizens. • A Policy Committee comprised of seven local officials and citizens. • A Policy Committee comprised of seven local officials and citizens. • A Policy Committee comprised of seven local officials and citizens. • A Policy Committee comprised of seven local officials and citizens.

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Thomas Blaha, Executive Director
The Economic Development Commission is an Ohio nonprofit corporation, strives to expand the employment base through initiating new development projects in and around the systematic recruitment of new businesses. The Commission actively markets Wood County and its communities to outside industrial prospects, while continuing to provide services to the County’s communities and existing industry helping broaden and diversify the tax base while creating and retaining jobs.
The efforts of the Commission resulted in the approval of 65 jobs being created (411) and retained (176), and a private sector investment of over $60 million in the local economy during 2001. In addition to these quantitative accomplishments in 2001, the Commission continued to identify and respond to the economic development needs of the communities it serves. Among those initiatives were economic development, communication, responsiveness to the agribusiness community, and further productive partnerships with the County’s education community.
Significant accomplishments in the area of economic diversification included a $650,000 square foot state of the art distribution facility for the Walgreen’s Corporation in Perrysburg Township. The $88 million building will house $75 million worth of conveying and maintaining equipment and create 318 new (411) jobs. Initially comes in a part of the County that has seen the closure of three large and three smaller distribution facilities in the past year and is a step toward much of the resultant unemployment.
In the area of communication, the staff continued to hold self-help forums in smaller, rural Wood County communities as part of the strategic development of Wood County.• In the area of communication, the staff continued to hold self-help forums in smaller, rural Wood County communities as part of the strategic development of Wood County. • In the area of communication, the staff continued to hold self-help forums in smaller, rural Wood County communities as part of the strategic development of Wood County. • In the area of communication, the staff continued to hold self-help forums in smaller, rural Wood County communities as part of the strategic development of Wood County. • In the area of communication, the staff continued to hold self-help forums in smaller, rural Wood County communities as part of the strategic development of Wood County.

In 2001, the Commission continued its agribusiness initiatives. This included working through Wood County’s Economic Development Corporation to induce an Industrial Revenue Bond in the amount of $5 million for the Sun Seed Company of rural Wood County to modernize its facility, keep it competitive in the world marketplace, while providing continued employment to rural Wood County residents.
The Office of Economic Development serves employees of 13 local communities, 2 local Community Councils, 6 local Economic Development Commission’s, while the Economic Development Commission coordinates planning and policy for the Office.
The Clerk of Courts maintains the records of Common Pleas Court, motor vehicle, and mental health and mental retardation courts 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 Record Board and continues to serve at the pleasure of Governor Taft. The duties of the Clerk of Courts are regulated byActs 90-20-95 in each year or under authority of any sections of the Revised Ohio Code.

LEGAL DISBURSEMENT

TOTALS $1,459,089.35

Legal research fees $6,829.00

Computation fees $26,930.00

Fees paid to the County $49,095.96

Plaintiffs in the Law Library $759.00

Statutory fees paid to the County $49,095.96

Fees paid to the Sheriff $50.00

Fees paid to Ohio Bureau of Medicine $50.00

Fees paid to police officers $8,747.25

Interest earned on CD accounts $14,147.33

Fees paid to guardians ad litem $81.91

Fees paid to Attorneys' fees $11,925.00

Fees paid to Probation Officers $7,350.00

Cash bond in lieu of surety $26,779.98

Total funds for use in civil, domestic and criminal disbursements (i.e. restitution), and costs of defense (CASA) program, supervised 30 offenders placed on probation in 2001.

The Juvenile Court successfully obtained major grant funding during the year. These grants included “Reclaim Ohio” funds from the Ohio Department of Youth Service and the Juvenile Court District; Americorps; the office of Criminal Justice Services, and a United fund from the Ohio Department of Juvenile Justice funding grant.

The Juvenile Court Judge is authorized to perform his duties under Chapter 213 of the Ohio Revised Code.

The Court successfully obtained major grant funding during the year. These grants included “Reclaim Ohio” funds from the Ohio Department of Youth Service and the Juvenile Court District; Americorps; the office of Criminal Justice Services, and a United

Court Security

Thomas G. Chidester,
Chief Court Constable

Established in 1986, the primary subject of Court Security is to provide a safe environment in which the courts and County offices can operate without interruption, fear or disruption. Court Security also assists other departments, remote from the courthouse, in developing security measures.

Each Court Constable is a State Certified Peace Officer and is responsible for enforcing the law, conducting investigations, providing first aid, and managing the monitoring systems for building access, fire and alarm systems.

Following a visit to the courthouse, State officials selected the Wood County Common Pleas Court as a model for all other courts in the State of Ohio.

The Department provided training for nearly 500 law enforcement and public related officials consistent with the recommendations of the Ohio Supreme Court and the Ohio Judicial Conference. Throughout the year, the department assisted in training conducted for emergency situations such as bomb threats, fires, and tornadoes.

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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 550 miles of ditches in the County. The Engineer’s Office performs engineering work on all ditch construction and maintenance projects. The Engineer is also required to maintain tax maps and survey records. He is a member of the Planning Commission and serves as engineer for each of the 19 townships. The Engineer is authorized to perform his duties under Chapter 310 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SHERIFF

As the County’s law enforcement director, the Sheriff provides law enforcement, correctional services, and civil services in relation to the Sheriff’s Office. The Sheriff’s policies and serves all unincorporated areas and villages, provides contract policing to townships and municipalities, and assists municipalities upon request.

The Wood County Sheriff’s Office appointed two deputies to local school districts with matching funds from the Ohio Community Justice Fund. These school resource officers acted as liaisons with all parts of the school system, counseled students, and performed law enforcement duties within the schools.

In response to the events of September 11, a deputy from the Office was assigned to the FBI homeland security task force. The cooperative efforts of the task force will help combat the terrorist organizations that directly affect the State of Ohio and will work together in gathering information and apprehending of such individuals. The Sheriff’s Office continued to provide increased security to its sensitive target areas in addition to training for critical incidents in Ohio.

Making national news during a runaway train accident, the collective efforts of personnel involved proved Wood County’s well-organized emergency response protocol.

The Wood County Sheriff’s Office investigated two homicides during the year. One incident involved the wife of a former Bucyrus resident. The other was in a rural area of the county.

Other crimes handled by the Sheriff’s Office included 624 assaults, 533 thefts, and 361 prisoner transports to penal institutions.

The Sheriff is authorized to perform his duties under Chapter 310 of the Ohio Revised Code.

AUDITOR CONT. FROM PAGE 5

Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (FOA) for the County’s 2000 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

The Wood County Citizens’ Financial Report is available on the Auditor’s website and is also provided on the Auditor’s website. It provides a brief and easily understandable financial analysis of the County’s revenues and expenditures alongside general information about the County and local economy. Though not required by statute, the Auditor is intended to provide a higher level of public accountability.

The Auditor is authorized to perform his duties under Section 319, 322, 573, 573.07, 573.13, et seq., of the Ohio Revised Code.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney includes three divisions. The criminal division investigates all felony criminal offenses occurring in the County. This division includes the investigative work performed by all law enforcement agencies. Under this division, the prosecutor’s office investigates all cases involving juvenile offenders. Cases range from serious felonies to “status” offenses (i.e., abused, neglected and dependent children). The civil division provides legal services to the County, including school districts and townships.

The Prosecutor’s Office sponsored various youth violence prevention programs. For the 2001-2002 fiscal year, the Juvenile Mediation Program (JMP) received $123,314 to aid in preventing youth crime by providing mediation to certain offenders. To an effort to prevent school violence, the 4-H student mediation program continued in each school district in the County. On March 17th, the 3rd Annual Wood County Youth Olympics were held. This event focused on “Competition without Conflict”. The Drug Abuse Prevention Calendar continued its 12th year. Lori Meichl, a fifth grader from the Eastwood School District was this year’s winner. Her drawing will be featured on the 2002 calendar cover.

The Prosecutor’s Office hosted the annual law enforcement conference. The 100 participants discussed updates in the law, evidence procedures, challenges of terrorism and secure computers.

The speaker’s bureau provided presentations on a variety of subjects within the various offices of the County.

The Prosecuting Attorney is authorized to perform his duties under Chapter 310 of the Ohio Revised Code.

RECORER

The Recorder’s Office is a service office committed to and responsible for maintaining and recording accurate real estate documents, ensuring that the documents are up-to-date, legible, and easily accessible to the public. 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 records and (or) Vigna. Publishing statements on personal property and military discharge papers are also filed in the Recorder’s Office.

Drilling growth in the County brought record numbers to the Recorder’s Office in 2001. A total of 33,460 new documents were recorded and/or filed, up 6,416 from 2000. A total of $980,079.69 was collected in fees, an increase of 66 percent, of which $125,399 was deposited into a special equipment fund. A large portion of the revenue was attributed to a rush in the fall for mortgage refinancing.

The Recorder is authorized to perform his duties under numerous sections of the Ohio Revised Code. The Recorder also serves on the Wood County Micofilm Board, the Data Processing Board, and the Records Commission.

2001 DOCUMENTS

Deeds (conveying over 8,000 parcels of real estate) 4,472
Judgment entries, affidavits, and certificates for transfers Mortgages (total value $19,047,896.66) 12,152
Mortgage assignments, assumptions, release of maker’s waives of priority, mortgage agreements and options Land Contracts 3,442
Mortgages released (with a value of $2,882,409.64) 10,416
Rights of way and easements 411
Leases 30
Mechanics liens 105
Lease agreements 25
Plats (issuing 346 lots) 0
Condemnations 0
Financing statements, security agreements Terminations 594
Financing statement assignments, amendments and releases
Miscellaneous documents (including release of assignments, mechanic liens, etc.) 1,560

TREASURER

The Treasurer oversaw the receipt and distribution of funds for the County and is responsible for collecting taxes for the schools, municipalities, and townships within the County. The two largest and most important revenue sources are generated through real and personal property taxes. More than Area real estate offices serve the County as real estate tax payment programs. Qualifying taxpayers may utilize an available escrow program or disinterested tax collection program.

The Treasurer’s Office also collects taxes on mobile homes andrecreational vehicles.

All investments made by the Treasurer’s Office were fully collateralized and sufficiently liquid to enable the County to meet reasonable anticipated operating requirements. Investment income for 2001 was $3,344,417.40, slightly lower than 2000’s all time high of $3,492,380.93.

JUVENILE COURT ORDERS & ADDITIONS

Awarded Bids: $1,471,262
Contractor: Resolute/Gibb, Inc.
Estimated Completion: Fall 2002

Description of work: Addition of 2,588 square feet for a second courtroom and additional office space, approximately 8,000 square feet of existing building will be updated in the renovation portion of the project

ADULT PROBATION CONT. FROM PG. 5

new assignments. During the year, 154 individuals were terminated from supervision, leaving 556 individuals under direct control on December 31, 2001. The Department received two state grants to operate the Intensive Supervision Program (ISP) and Electronic Monitoring (EM) programs. The ISP program provided services to felony offenders in the Common Pleas Court and the EM program served to the Common Pleas and Municipal Courts. In fiscal year 2001, 60 offenders were placed in the ISP program and 94 in the EM program.

The Adult Probation Department also operated the Peer Medication Program, the Drug Testing Program, and the Work Release Program. In 2001, 44 individuals were placed in the Work Release Program, allowing inmates incarcerated in the Justice Center to maintain their employment in the community.
The Ohio State University Extension Office strives to provide current, up-to-date information on agricultural and natural resource issues to students, county officials, Extension personnel, and community and consumer sciences and 4-H youth development.

In July, Wood County hosted the 50th Anniversary of the Ohio County Canners’ Summer Roundup. The Ohio Canners’ Association represents over 300 wood county residents in Ohio State and within Wood County through its grassroots approach. Mailing lists, social networks, professional and political needs of Ohio’s cattle producers, while increasing the demand for local products. Annual sales for 2003 were 2,738 people participation through 33 partnerships in 19 different locations.

In January, the Wood County Board of Elections was established. This Board was established to provide leadership for the health of individuals and a strong economy. The Board of Elections must focus on the development of health status and health care services. The Board of Elections is responsible for the administration of the Board of Elections, the Board of Elections, and the Ohio Electoral Commission.

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INDEPENDENT AGENCIES CONT.

PARK DISTRICT
George E. Thompson, Chair
Robert Harrison, Vice Chair
Ronnie Thrapp, Director

The Wood County Park District was established in 1964, under section 145.01 of the Revised Code, to provide for the establishment of an independent park district within the State of Ohio and for the authorization of a separate political subdivision of the State of Ohio. The Park District is in the form of a tax levy approved by the voters of Wood County. The current $5.7 million levy was passed by Wood County voters in 1989, providing revenue for maintenance and improvements and land acquisition. Additional funding is obtained through grant funding, donations, special events, and fees.

After being approached by a group of citizens interested in developing a 36-acre parcel of land located adjacent to the Slippery Elm Trail within Bowling Green city limits, the Board, and Park Commissioners took action and acquired the parcel. The plans for the property were developed in cooperation with the Bowling Green city parks along with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Initial plans include parking and access to the Slippery Elm Trail, with existing facilities. In addition, through an agreement with the City of Bowling Green, a storm water management project was contracted, providing another recreational opportunity for County residents.

Capital improvements in the Wood County Park District remained a high priority with the final project being the construction of the south picnic shelter at Henry Harrison Park in Pemberville. On Sunday, August 30, 2001, the Park District opened the County’s newest picnic shelter. The shelter will feature facilities, including restrooms, a pavilion, grills, tables, and a stand for visitors to purchase food, drink, and restrooms.

PLANNING COMMISSION
David Mannix, Director
The Planning Commission administers the county’s comprehensive plan, zoning, and development regulations. The Commission determines the future growth of Wood County and advises the Board of County Commissioners on planning and development of public facilities in the county. The Commission consists of seven members, appointed by the Common Pleas Judges and the Board of County Commissioners, which is matched by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The Commissioners are elected for a three-year term by residents of the county.

The Commission reviewed and approved seven amendments to township zoning resolutions.

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
George E. Thompson, Director

The Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) includes all the lands within the county. The District, chartered in 1950, is a political subdivision of the State of Ohio formed to protect and conserve the natural resources of the county. The District is funded by the County and reimbursed by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

The Wood Soil and Water Conservation District, a county-wide organization, has five local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) in the county. These agencies are responsible for the implementation of natural resource conservation programs designed to meet the needs of the community.

The District provides technical assistance to land owners and operators seeking to improve the natural resources of the county. The District is funded by the County and reimbursed by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The District is responsible for the implementation of natural resource conservation programs designed to meet the needs of the community.

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