The Board of Wood County Commissioners is excited to introduce the County’s First Electronic Newsletter. The newsletter is intended to provide citizens with relevant information regarding County operations. We believe it is vital to keep the citizens informed and involved in the County. The newsletter will be published and distributed by email periodically. It will also be available on the County’s website at www.co.wood.oh.us as well as the Commissioners' Facebook page at www.facebook.com/WoodCountyCommissioners. If you would like to be added to future distributions, then please send an email to commissioners@co.wood.oh.us.

Upcoming issues will feature articles about Commissioners’ initiatives, Elected Officials’ initiatives, Commissioners’ Departments and many other topics. There will also be a quick reference guide for the most used County offices and a section with the most Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ).

The newsletter will also provide a Budget-in-Brief section to illustrate the current status of County revenue and expenditures, as well as highlight where in the budget process the County is at the time of the newsletter.

Thank you for helping to make Wood County a great place to live and work.
AUDITOR SIBBERSEN WARNS CONSUMERS TO BEWARE OF SKIMMERS AT GAS PUMPS

Over the past several months there have been at least six known incidents in which “skimmers” were found inside gas pumps in Ohio, including one in Montgomery County, three in Butler County, one in Hamilton County, and one in Shelby County.

Skimmers are illegally-placed credit card readers installed inside fuel dispensers at gas stations or at ATM machines to rob consumers of their credit card information. Wood County Auditor Mike Sibbersen states “This is a growing concern in Ohio and we want to bring it to the attention of the public, and especially the commercial fuel establishments that could be targeted.” The county auditor’s association has assisted in raising public awareness to the skimmer issue by sponsoring summits in each corner of the state, most recently in Lima on March 17.

Though skimmers are a criminal matter to be investigated by the authorities, fuel pump inspection falls under the purview of the Wood County Auditor according to the Ohio Revised Code (319.55). The Auditor is the Sealer of Weights and Measures, and is thus tasked with protecting the general public from losses which may occur due to faulty measuring devices, such as scales and gas pumps. Skimmers are typically connected to wireless devices (such as bluetooths) which employ short-wavelength radio waves to communicate with a criminal’s hardware, waiting to download a victim’s credit card information.

To minimize a consumer’s risk, and protect oneself against theft, it is recommended that individuals:
- use cash if possible
- process debit cards as credits
- never enter a PIN number at a gas pump
- use pumps close to and in view of gas station attendants
- alert a store manager should a pump appear or function unusually
- closely monitor bank and credit card statements for unauthorized activity

“It’s sad to have to say this,” said Brian King, Weights and Measures Inspector in the Wood County Auditor’s Office, “but consumers have to be very watchful today. Vigilance is key to ensuring you don’t become a victim of crime.”

PLEASE REMEMBER TO USE REUSABLE BAGS WHEN YOU GO TO THE GROCERY STORE!!


**JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES AWARENESS ACTIVITIES**

On April 13, 2016, the Wood County Children’s Services Unit and Job and Family Services staff, along with many community partners and citizens, participated in the statewide Child Abuse and Neglect Awareness Month activities. The day began with participation in the “wear blue to work” campaign with many citizens sporting the blue Wood County Awareness Day T-Shirts at their workplaces and schools throughout Wood County. There were 718 pinwheels planted in front of the local business Lubrizol at 1142 N. Main Street, Bowling Green. The 718 pinwheels represent the reports of abuse/neglect that were received by Wood County Children’s Services in 2015. In 2014, that number was 716. The day concluded with a “Pinwheels for Prevention” silent auction and lunch held in the Alvin L. Perkins Atrium. The event raised over $11K and will be used to host the Foster Parent Holiday Party, buy senior pictures, prom dresses and other items for children which cannot be purchased by funds from the local levy. We thank the many local businesses and community partners that donated items to be auctioned for the event.

In May, Job and Family Services participated in the statewide Public Assistance Fraud Awareness campaign to increase awareness of how to report suspected public assistance fraud. Local pizza restaurants will distribute 675 pizza cutters containing the logo and local fraud reporting phone numbers. The numbers to call in Wood County are (419) 373-6964 or (419) 373-6950.

On June 15, 2016, Wood County Job and Family Services will partner with the Wood County Committee on Aging to hold an Elder Abuse Awareness Month recognition event following the Flag Day ceremonies at the Wood County Senior Center. This marks the third year this event will be held in Wood County.

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**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

The Wood County Office of Economic Development acts as the primary liaison between business and government of all levels in order to help keep Wood County as a business friendly location that promotes jobs and tax base, enhancing what makes Wood County a great place to live. As part of this mission the Economic Development Office incorporates a business retention effort that sees the Director, accompanied by a County Commissioner, visiting many of the manufacturing operations throughout the county each year in order to get feedback from those employers on the state of their business and if there are any roadblocks that may be hindering their potential for local growth. As the county’s business liaison, the Office of Economic Development can assist local companies in getting prompt answers and solutions to government (local, state, and federal) issues that may arise.

One of the issues that consistently came up during these meetings was a lack of local skilled labor available to fill current position vacancies. This concern held by many local businesses led to the creation of the Good Jobs-Wood County task force that seeks to promote the numerous “good job” opportunities right here in Wood County, primarily targeting our under 25 population. In a long term effort to address that issue the Wood County Office of Economic Development has begun to collect survey data from local high school seniors to ascertain and quantify the potential demand for local skilled trade educational and employment opportunities.

At the Wood County Economic Development Annual Dinner held March 23, 2016, the WCEDC installed Doug Miller as the President of the Board. Phoenix Technologies of Bowling Green was also named the Wood County Corporate Citizen of the Year. Commissioners presenting award to Phoenix shown below.
WOOD HAVEN HEALTH CARE EMPLOYEES GO M.A.D.

For 2016, Wood Haven Health Care has adopted the theme Go M.A.D., which stands for “Go Make a Difference.” Each department at Wood Haven Health Care continues to search for ways to make a difference for our residents. Some of the programs which have already been initiated to make a difference include: developing physical, occupational and speech therapy programs so our residents can return to their homes sooner with safety in mind; discharge-to-home meal program which assures that every patient who is discharged to home will receive two prepared meals on discharge day, so they do not have to worry about cooking meals for that day; transportation to doctor and other appointments and installation of a juice and coffee machine in the dining room which will enable our customers to have 24-hour access to refreshments. Another area that makes a difference at Wood Haven Health Care is that we offer many private rooms for our customers to relax in while they recover.

We will be implementing other “Make a Difference” programs which will include an art therapy program geared for, but not limited to, Alzheimer’s and dementia patients. We will be working with the Wood County Committee on Aging to offer the number one exercise program for Parkinson’s Disease called Delay the Disease™ developed by David Zid – BA, ACE, APG and Jackie Russell – RN, BSN, CNOR from OhioHealth. Wood Haven will also offer A Matter of Balance which is an award-winning program designed to manage falls and increase activity levels. Furthermore, we are in the process of an internal renovation project which will upgrade numerous areas inside our health care center to give a new look and feel.

Not only do we look for ways to Go M.A.D. internally at Wood Haven Health Care, we also look for ways to make a difference for the Wood County senior community with programs such as our Elite Senior Club. The Elite Senior Club meets the 4th Tuesday of every month from 12 - 1:30 p.m. which includes a free lunch and bingo. We also offer free community educational lunch seminars with topics such as Living with Alzheimer’s disease, Living with Parkinson’s disease, Medicare training, Social Security training, Identity Theft, Estate Planning and many more. For more information on the Elite Senior Club and/or our educational seminars, please call Chris Stearns at (419) 353-8411 ext. 8839.

We are dedicated to making a difference in the lives of the people we serve. Since we are a nonprofit organization, all of the revenue generated stays at Wood Haven. This allows us the ability to do more for our residents such as having higher staffing levels compared to other health care centers. So if you happen to hear that the employees at Wood Haven Health Care are going M.A.D., don’t be alarmed it just means we have servant hearts.

If you want to learn more about Wood Haven Health Center, then please visit our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/Wood-Haven-Health-Care-290232301036091/.

Wood Haven Health Care is located on the corner of Dunbridge Road and East Gypsy Lane Road in Bowling Green and specializes in physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, long-term care, Alzheimer’s care, Parkinson’s care, Hospice, wound care, Total Parenteral Nutrition, Peritoneal Dialysis and short-term Respite Care.

Jeff Orlowski, Administrator
BUDGET-IN-BRIEF

First Quarter General Fund Actual Receipts = $13,075,974.63

First Quarter General Fund Actual Expenditures = $10,184,994.56

Sales Tax is the largest source of revenue for the General Fund so please remember to shop locally.

The 2017 Budget Process has begun. The 2017 Revenue Requests have been sent to the Elected Officials and Department Heads and are due back on May 2.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Q. Is the Solid Waste Management District in charge of the Bowling Green Recycling Center?

   A. No, the Bowling Green Recycling Center is an independent not-for-profit entity.

Q. What are the hours of the Landfill?

   A. Monday –Friday 7:30am to 3:30pm

       Saturday 8 am to 12pm

Q. Where can I go to get a document notarized?

   A. Most County offices have at least one notary.

Don’t forget to nominate someone for a Spirit of Wood County Award – Award Ceremony will be on October 23, 2016 at 2:00pm. Nomination forms are available on the County’s website.

Thank you for taking the time to read the County’s First Electronic Newsletter.