At the end of August, we had a unique opportunity to visit the Whitehouse and meet with top officials from President Trump’s Administration including Vice President Mike Pence and Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue. This opportunity was available to Ohio County Commissioners. There were 60 counties represented with approximately 80 commissioners in attendance.

Commissioners were able to hear the Administration’s take on issues affecting Ohio and were able to gain invaluable contacts for future discussions.

We are very thankful to the Administration for taking their time to meet with us and build relationships with Ohio counties.

This experience was beneficial for Wood County citizens as we were able to gain information and contacts to open lines of communication to assist with resources when necessary in order to provide the best services to you. Local issues such as water quality, energy and the opiate epidemic were discussed during the visit.

The 2018 Budget Process is underway and the Elected Officials and Departments Heads have submitted their requests for operations. During the month of October we will meet with Elected Officials and Department Heads to discuss their requests for the coming year. Our goal is to have the 2018 Budget approved prior to the end of December.

We welcome Jane A. Spoerl, Treasurer to the Wood County family and we look forward to working with her. Her official start date was September 5th.

In September the Commissioners refinanced the bond that was used to finance significant capital improvements to the Wood County District Public Library. The original bond was issued in 2002 and refinanced in 2007 with an interest rate of 5.5%. The newly refinanced bond has a value of $2,665,000, and based on the new interest rate of 2.16%, Wood County taxpayers will save $441,996. Bond payments will end in December of 2027.

We invite you to attend the 2017 Spirit of Wood County Awards on October 22nd at 2:00pm in the Alvin L. Perkins Atrium. Please come help us celebrate these individuals who assist in making Wood County a great place to live!
Wood County voters will be asked to approve the renewal of a 1.3 mill Human Services Levy on Tuesday November 7th. This levy has been in place since 1988. This levy supports the investigation of reports of suspected child abuse and neglect, and elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.

The number of mills has not increased since this levy was originally passed in 1988. If approved, the levy would be in effect for ten (10) years and would cost the owner of a $100,000 house approximately $37.00 per year. This levy is administered by the Wood County Department of Job and Family Services (JFS).

Wood County Children’s Services investigated 894 cases of alleged child abuse or neglect in 2016. Of those cases, ninety-seven (97) involved sexual abuse, including six (6) cases where the child was under 3 years of age. The 2017 total investigations look to surpass that number. Opioid abuse is a contribution to the increase in the number and complexity of these cases.

In addition, the Adult Protective Services unit investigated 260 complaints regarding the alleged abuse, neglect or exploitation of the elderly. The levy also provides funding for homemaker services, and chore services to help maintain elderly persons safely in their homes. Currently 150 seniors are provided homemaker (light housekeeping) services each month.

Renewal of this levy is absolutely essential to the continued funding of human services programs for children, families, and the elderly citizens in Wood County.

Mike Sibbersen, County Auditor, Retires September 30th

We extend sincere thanks to Mike for all of his hard work and dedication to the County over the past 40 years. Mike began as Auditor December 1, 1993. He will be missed and we wish him much happiness in his retirement.

On September 26 we appointed Matt Oestreich as the interim Auditor until the Central Committee selects the new Auditor on October 11th to finish Mike’s remaining term which ends March 10, 2019.

Welcome Jane A. Spoerl, County Treasurer!

We welcome Jane A. Spoerl, Treasurer to Wood County. Jane took office on September 5th. Jane is located on the 2nd Floor of the County Office Building. If you are in the area, please assist in making Jane feel welcome in her new role.
How the County Manages Our Records

By Brenda Ransom, Records Manager  The Wood County Records Center opened in 2002 to provide storage and records management support to the County’s offices, departments, and agencies. The facility is located in the former County jail, which was built in 1902. In order to make the site functional, the interior of the jail was gutted and a new steel and concrete structure erected inside its stone walls.

A total of 25 offices store records at the Records Center, and 35 offices receive records management assistance. The Center has space for 10,557 cubic feet of paper; as of August 31, it stood at 74 percent capacity, with 7,837 cubic feet in use. Physical records in storage range from 1820’s Auditor’s Tax Duplicates to Prosecuting Attorney’s bankruptcy and foreclosure files closed in the first quarter of 2017.

Services offered include trackable records storage, paper and microfilm scanning, microfilm and microfilm duplicating, and shredding of obsolete records. The records manager offers records retention advice, helps draft records schedules, and acts as the secretary of the Records Commission.

Records Center staff include the records manager, three records technicians, and 1 full-time and 2 part-time scanner operators contracted through Community Employment Services. In addition, employees from the County Recorder, Clerk of Courts, and Probate Court spend several hours at the facility working with their offices’ records.

New EMA Deputy Director, Jeff Klein

On October 16, 2017, the Emergency Management Agency (EMA) will welcome Mr. Jeff Klein as the new Deputy Director for EMA. Jeff comes to the EMA after 30 years of experience in the fire and EMS service with the last 10 years serving as the Fire Chief for the Perrysburg Fire Division. Over the years, he has served on numerous county committees including the Local Emergency Planning Committee, Wood County Emergency Preparedness Committee, Pandemic Influenza Planning Committee, and several exercise design committees. Jeff is an amateur radio operator and has extensive knowledge about communication systems and emergency communications planning. He also brings experience to the County emergency operations center (EOC) having served as an EOC liaison for numerous exercises over the years as well as real-world experience during the Lake Township tornado disaster in 2010. He also has large scale emergency experience from several large emergency events in the City of Perrysburg including the 2014 public water crisis.

As Deputy Director, Jeff will be assisting in planning projects such as the upcoming required 5-year update of the Wood County Hazard Mitigation Plan, assisting with setting up training opportunities for our first responders and local officials, and assisting with the design, coordination, and evaluation of emergency preparedness exercises. He will also serve as the EOC Manager when the County EOC is activated and during exercises. The EMA is excited to have Jeff coming on-board to enhance the service we can provide to Wood County.
Services Provided by the Law Library

By Bev Wagner, Law Librarian  The Wood County Law Library serves the legal reference and information needs of the courts, government and citizens of Wood County. The staff assisted more than 600 patrons last year to access forms, conduct research and find information on a wide variety of legal topics.

The extensive collection of continuously updated materials includes Ohio primary sources: statutes, regulations and cases as well as legal encyclopedia, treatises and practice materials with an emphasis on Ohio. Two online databases provide access to federal and other states’ law. The public has access to the Law Library and its holdings during regular courthouse hours. For self-represented litigants in a divorce or dissolution, complete packets are available free of charge.

The Wood County Law Library Resources Board is currently organizing an annual lecture series in memory of the first chairman of the board. The topics for the Dennis East Memorial Lectures will reflect the importance of law and society. The annual lecture is part of the Library Board's public outreach and is therefore free and open to everyone. It is our hope these lectures will enable you to receive valuable information on the selected topics. Details will be posted on the website later this year at http://www.co.wood.oh.us/lawlibrary/.

NOTICE – CHANGE IN SECURITY AT COURTHOUSE COMPLEX

Effective October 1st, the Sheriff’s Office will now be providing security for the Courthouse Complex entry and office building. The Common Pleas Court Constables will continue to provide security in the courtrooms.

Message from the Solid Waste Management District……

On September 14 the Commissioners signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Bowling Green Recycling Center (BGRC) for glass recycling. Glass recycling has been reactivated at the BGRC’s 24 hour drop-off location, NAT’s 24 hour drop-off in Bradner, and at the monthly satellites when scheduled.

The Commissioners also approved a Pilot for Permanent Recycling locations around Wood County which will include four locations and will begin sometime in 2018. The other 11 satellite locations will remain unchanged during the pilot study. The existing 24/7 sites managed by BGRC and NAT will also remain unchanged. More information to come in the future regarding details of the pilot as they become available.