

Portage County Annual Report



2008

Bicentennial Keepsake Edition

Dear Portage County Resident:

Expanding economic development efforts, including regional development and intergovernmental efforts have been a focus for the Board of Commissioners. In 2008 we sponsored our first and successful Economic Development Summit, which was offered to the business community and local community leaders. The many beneficial programs to assist business that are available through Portage County were presented, including local business financing, Joint Economic Development programs, Port Authority Financing, business development and workforce development assistance, as well as Small Business Administration programs and Foreign Trades Zones.

A growing retail sector has increased our sales tax base which allows us to expand our economic development efforts. In honor of our Bicentennial the Portage County Economic Development Department released *The Portage 100*, an award winning list of everything Portage. We urge our citizens and businesses to become involved in county economic development efforts. We continue to work on cooperative agreements between the county and local governments such as with water and sewer systems and road development.

The Northeast Ohio Trade and Economic Consortium's (NEOTEC) International Trade Assistance Program, of which Portage County is a key member, recently received the "2008 Governor's E-Award for Excellence in Exporting." We continue to have a leadership role in regional economic development and cooperative efforts such as with NEOTEC, TEAM NEO, Akron Metropolitan Transportation System (AMATS) and others.

Portage County offers possibilities for growth and accomplishment in a place where innovation and strength are found in diversity. Our communities offer some of the finest educational, cultural and recreational opportunities available anywhere. Our location in the midst of northeastern Ohio's urban centers is convenient and advantageous.

We are aggressively working to bring economic development to Portage County, while also recognizing that our rural heritage and friendly small town atmosphere have stood the test of time. From our gently rolling pastures, to our industrial parks, small businesses and city centers, Portage County has something to offer everyone!

We hope this 10th annual report to our citizens provides insight into your county government, services available to you and highlights some of the many accomplishments of the people who serve you, while also showing how your tax dollars are spent on your behalf. This report reflects the hard work and cooperation of all the Portage County elected officials, department directors and staff members. We offer our sincere thanks to each for their assistance with this publication.

More information is provided on the county website at www.co.portage.oh.us and we invite your comments and feedback on our online survey. If you would like to speak with any of your county officials, there is a phone listing at the back of this report. We look forward to hearing from you, as your input is extremely important in ensuring that we are providing the responsive government you need.

Sincerely,

PORTAGE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Charles W. Keiper, II
President

Maureen T. Frederick
Vice President

Christopher Smeiles
Board Member



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The 2008 Portage County Annual Report is dedicated to our county's bicentennial birthday and its rich heritage.

Published by Allen Taylor Nelson, Ohio – 1826



Portage County is rich with cultural history from the time of the Native Americans, to early settlers and modern-day bustling towns. Portage County is so named because of the “portage path,” an ancient canoe carrying travel route that connected Ohio River travelers (from the Tuscarawas River) with Lake Erie (via the Cuyahoga River). When part of Summit County split from Portage County in 1840, the “Portage Path” went with it. Communities have thrived or declined over time as transportation options and commerce have changed, and we became more socially and economically diverse. Portage County communities successfully wrestle with how to balance continued growth and development with conservation of our heritage.

Northern Ohio was originally part of the state of Connecticut, along with land to the west. In 1786, Connecticut gave up its claims to Western U.S. lands, but “reserved” a portion in northeastern Ohio, known as the Connecticut Western Reserve. Later, the land was sold and surveyed into neat 25 square-mile townships. Community names and New England-style architecture were brought to Portage County from settlers to this area, which is still known as the Western Reserve.

Franklin Township Hall



Portage Favorite Things

*Sung to the Tune of "My Favorite Things"
by Rodgers and Hammerstein*

Lyrics by Guy Perneti, Lauren Perneti,
Bonnie Keiper, Chuck Keiper, Sara Niles
and Mark Cheplowitz

Beckwith's bright apples, McConnell's sweet peaches
Camp Hi canoeing, West Branch sand beaches
Blimps out in Suffield, Piccione's gold rings
These are a few of our favorite things

Deerfield for breakfast, Ray's Place at mid-day,
Dinner at Arnie's, then movies at Midway

Students teach Kent all about Halloween
These are a few of our favorite things

Taco Tonto's, Nelson Ledges, liquid crystals, too
We love Portage County, there's so much to learn
There's so much to see and do!!

Biking the Portage and Pickles from Herman's
Autumn in Brimfield with fun loving German's
Taste the sweet syrup from Goodell's each spring
These are a few of our favorite things

Fair fries in Randolph, Aurora Farm's shopping
Statlander's farm for your Christmas tree chopping
Sunbeau's show horses, Rockwell eagles take wing
These are a few of our favorite things

Brick's from Windham, NEOUCOM,
Hiram College, too
We love Portage County, there's so much to learn
There's so much to see and do!!

Towner's Woods sledding, Lake Hodgson boating
Balloons from Ravenna are lifting and floating
Shalersville take-offs at sunset on wings
These are a few of our favorite things

Congress Lake Golf Course and don't forget Windmill
Garrettsville's boardwalk and old-fashioned gristmill
Black squirrels and red tails chase away winter's sting
These are a few of our favorite things

Stoddard's Ice Cream, Hilgert's berries
Ripen in the dew
We love Portage County, there's so much to learn
There's so much to see and do!!

Portage County's 200th Birthday

Bright colors, explosions and music filled the air in downtown Ravenna, the county seat, as thousands of residents came to wish their county a happy birthday. A parade featuring modes of transportation from a horse-drawn wagon to a canal boat, antique and modern fire trucks and the Living Earth Bio Bus. Also included were marching bands, Scout troops, church floats, township historical societies and even dancers in artistic costumes of animals that lived here 200 years ago. Highlights of the program included the living timeline...citizens representing notable county residents from past and recent history, choir performances from area schools, a local poet, and presentations from county and state officials.

The anniversary year kicked off with a gala at the Northeastern Ohio Universities Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy in Rootstown. Other activities through the year included a cookbook of family favorite recipes compiled from area residents; a coloring contest for youngsters; memorial events at community cemeteries around the county; an old-fashioned baseball game in Streetsboro; a series of heritage tours sponsored through the Portage Park District; and a musical on the county's founding and history, "My Portage World," presented to elementary school students.

Portage County's bicentennial year came to a close as memories of the birthday year and items from the county's past were packed up in a time capsule. The plastic drum was sealed up, to be stored for a century under the care of the Portage County Historical Society.

An on-going program is the Legacy Project, which collects stories from county citizens to be kept for posterity.

A special thanks to all of the volunteers and donors for making this celebration possible



January 19, 2008

Opening Gala at
NEOUCOM, Rootstown
The Portage 100 booklet and
"My Portage Favorite Things" song

Throughout the Year

Legacy Project: Collection of stories
from citizens of Portage history

Portage County Cookbook

Collection of residents recipes

April 25

Bicentennial Children's Coloring
Contest at The Kent Stage

May 17

Memorial Recognition (Community
Cemetery Event) at various cemeteries
throughout the county

June 9

Portage County Bicentennial
Birthday Celebration Parade, Party and
Fireworks, Ravenna Courthouse Lawn

July 25

Portage County Bicentennial Night
at Progressive Field
(Minnesota Twins vs Cleveland Indians)
Discount tickets and parade

August 16

Black Stocking Vintage Baseball Game,
Streetsboro Parks

August–October 2008

Road Show presentation of community
posters at community events and festivals
throughout Portage County

August

Bicentennial Heritage Tours
by the Portage Park District

September–October 2008

Historical Children's Play and musical:
"My Portage World" presented at local
elementary schools

December 13

Time Capsule Sealing ceremony at the
Portage County Historical Society

*The mission of the volunteer Portage County Bicentennial Committee:
Promoting our 200th birthday to the Greater Portage County area
through community celebrations, historical education and legacy projects.*

Key 2008 Highlights

- ◆ Received the highest rating possible from Moody's Investors Service which also reaffirmed the county's existing Aa3 bond rating, reflecting a growing tax base and sound financial operations.
- ◆ Hired an economic development director and committed additional funds for expansion of economic development efforts.
- ◆ Hosted the first Economic Development Summit which focused on regional development and intergovernmental efforts and programs to assist business in Portage County.
- ◆ Brought a new base for Metro Life Flight to the Portage County Airport to expand service and improve rapid response of transporting victims from life-threatening situations. (top photo)
- ◆ Completed the \$4 million project in building improvements and security for new offices for the Portage County Prosecutor, staff and Grand Jury in downtown Ravenna. (second photo)
- ◆ Received a MUNIS Public Sector Excellence Award for improving cooperation, communication and consolidation with all county offices in information technology services.
- ◆ Awarded an Ohio GIS Best Practices Award by the Ohio Geographically Referenced Program.
- ◆ Recognized the dedication of our veterans with a ceremony at The Portage County Veterans Memorial, where an additional 200 Memorial Bricks were added.
- ◆ Worked with police and fire departments to offer grant preparation assistance which resulted in receiving \$40,000 in night vision equipment for Atwater, Ravenna, Aurora, Hiram and Mantua through a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.
- ◆ Provided \$328,000 toward engineering the water and sewer improvements at the Ravenna Training and Logistics Site, formerly the Ravenna Arsenal, which will have a positive economic impact. The funds will come back to the county through user fees paid by the National Guard. Ohio plans to have the Ravenna site become the States's largest National Guard Training Site.
- ◆ As a member of the NEOTEC International Trade Assistance Program, received the "Excellence in Exporting" award presented by Governor Ted Strickland.
- ◆ Supported the Portage County Bicentennial Committee, which provided a year-long celebration of events touching every part of the county.



Life Flight begins operations out of Portage County Airport



Renovated Grand Jury and Prosecutor Offices



Improved-Expanded Water/Sewer Projects



Annual Heritage Festival, downtown Kent

Board of Commissioners



Chuck Keiper *September 1993 – December 31, 2010*

As a strong believer in strategic planning and budgeting, Commissioner Keiper has helped to engineer new administrative programs in Portage County government including the Portage County Human Resources program, risk management initiatives and the Office of Budget and Financial Management. He has worked to overhaul the county's budgeting structure and support systems and is working to establish a five-year county budgeting window. Commissioner Keiper has taken on a leadership role in a number of regional economic development and cooperative intergovernmental efforts. During 2008, Commissioner Keiper served on many local and regional boards including the Portage County Regional Planning Commission, Portage County Solid Waste Management District Policy Committee, Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS), Community Improvement Corporation of Summit, Medina, and Portage Counties (CIC), Chairman Joint Office of Economic Development (the parent entity of the Northeast Ohio Trade and Economic Consortium (NEOTEC) serving 10 northeast Ohio counties, Natural Resources Advisory Council serving Portage, Geauga, Lake, and Ashtabula

counties) and as the Portage County representative on the Board of Directors of the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Consortium (NOPEC), the nation's largest public aggregator of electric power and natural gas. He also served on the Community Partnership for Arts and Culture, and the Geauga, Ashtabula, Portage Partnership (GAPP). 2009 will see Commissioner Keiper turn his considerable energy to the creation of a new County-wide Economic Development umbrella organization.



Maureen T. Frederick *January 1, 2002 – January 1, 2013*

Maureen is a life-long Portage County resident who has been in Public Service for her entire professional career. She is quite proud of the fact she was born, raised, and educated through college, at Kent State University—all within our County. Maureen is grateful for all the opportunities Portage County continues to provide for our residents and encourages utilization of our many resources. She was first elected Portage County Treasurer in 1992, and was re-elected to three consecutive terms. The Treasurer's Office is responsible for the receipt and safe-keeping of all County funds. All investment rules and regulations were carefully adhered to, and at the same time the maximum interest was earned. While Treasurer, Maureen introduced programs that assisted Portage County residents in meeting their tax needs. The Commissioners Office has the overall responsibility of appropriating the County's funds and overseeing the prudent expenditure of these funds. With her experience and impeccable track record as Treasurer, Maureen chose to seek the office of County Commissioner in 2003.

She has been re-elected to her second term as Commissioner in 2008. Portage County's most important resources are our people, and as an elected official Maureen believes you become a "public servant" to those very people. She assures people direct access to have their concerns voiced and questions answered. Maureen believes the number one priority for Portage County must be economic development programs that enhance job retention and expansion. Portage County residents must have the assurance they will have maximum job opportunities available, and that Portage County will continue to be a safe and productive place to live and raise a family. Another priority is to make certain our young people have the amenities and incentives to keep them in Portage County, or encourage them to return here. Prior to elected office, Maureen served as program administrator for Portage County's Employment and Training Programs. She assisted residents and businesses with meeting their labor force needs. Maureen is actively involved with several community organizations, and continues to serve as Secretary-Treasurer of Ravenna United Fund.



Christopher Smeiles *January 3, 1989 – January 2, 2013*

Commissioner Smeiles believes economic development and job creation/retention are the primary focus in Portage County. The agreement with Cleveland to bring Lake Erie water to Aurora and the successful lawsuit with Akron over access to the Cuyahoga River, plus the county's assistance with the growth of sewer systems were major accomplishments and all tied to economic development. Many of the projects were done by cooperative agreements between the county and local governments. A growing retail sector has increased our sales tax base, allowing the Commissioners to expand economic development efforts without burdening the taxpayers. Commissioner Smeiles has also been involved with establishing Portage County as a Foreign Trade Zone, establishing a Port Authority, the Northeast Ohio Trade & Economic Consortium, Tax Incentive Financing packages and Industrial Revenue Bonds. These efforts have resulted in new private sector investment.

During 2008 Commissioner Smeiles served as Chairman of the Northeast Ohio Four County Regional Planning And Development Organization (NEFCO), on the Portage County Regional Planning Commission, Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study, (AMATS), Joint Board of Geauga-Portage County Commissioners, Portage County Investment Advisory Committee, the Combined General Health District Advisory Council and the Community Improvement Corporation of Summit, Medina and Portage Counties. Commissioner Smeiles grew up with eight brothers and sisters on the family farm in Portage County. He and his wife have raised their four children in Portage County.

Board of Commissioners

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board of Commissioners is the legislative head of county government. The Board consists of three members.

Two County Commissioners are elected in the Presidential election years and the third Commissioner in the Gubernatorial election two years later. The Commissioners interact with all other elected officials and County departments to perform administrative duties and to coordinate all County operations. Specifically the Board of Commissioners:

- ◆ Establishes and executes policy
- ◆ Determines the annual appropriations
- ◆ Oversees all County budgeting
- ◆ Holds title to and maintains all County property and buildings
- ◆ Serves as the contracting authority

- ◆ Provides County purchasing, personnel and employee benefit administrative services
- ◆ Maintains taxing and bond issue authority
- ◆ Signatory for all grant applications
- ◆ Make decisions concerning annexation and property vacations

The Board has the responsibility to oversee the operation of the following departments:

- ◆ Commissioners' Clerk
- ◆ Economic Development
- ◆ Executive Assistant
- ◆ Financial & Information Management
- ◆ General Services: Building Inspection, Building Maintenance, Building Security, Dog Warden, EMA, Senior Center, and WIC Program

- ◆ Grants Administrator
- ◆ Human Resources
- ◆ Internal Auditor
- ◆ Internal Services: Mail Room, Microfilm/Records, Motor Pool, Print Shop, and Purchasing
- ◆ Job & Family Services
- ◆ Nursing Home
- ◆ Solid Waste Management District
- ◆ Water Resources

Mission Statement

As the principal executive organization of county government, the Board of Commissioners, along with its departments, is committed both to providing efficient government and to promoting the welfare and strategic development of the Portage County community.

Administrative Departments

Budget & Financial Management

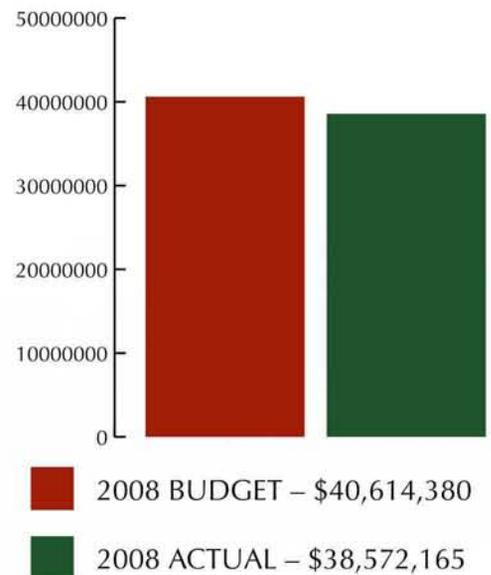
449 South Meridian St, 7th Fl
Ravenna OH 44266

Audrey C. Tillis, Director

The Department of Budget and Financial Management is a support organization to the Portage County government and acts under the jurisdiction of the Portage County Board of Commissioners, providing financial advice and recommendations. The department is responsible for the budgetary management and financial analysis for approximately 205 funds including the \$40.6 million General Fund Budget.

Long-Term Goals & Objectives:

- ◆ Performance Measures and Performance Based Budgeting
- ◆ Development of a Formal Budget Document
- ◆ Development of Training Seminars for Departments
- ◆ Participation in Citizen Information Seminars
- ◆ Provide ongoing departmental support and management reporting tools
- ◆ Development of Financial Modeling Tools for Budget Stabilization
- ◆ Development of Debt Policy for approval by the Board of Commissioners



Spellman Lake, Streetsboro

Administrative Departments

Internal Auditor

449 South Meridian St, 7th Fl
Ravenna OH 44266

Carol Kurtz, CPA

The Internal Auditor keeps abreast of changes in accounting and auditing trends and techniques, as prescribed by the Government Accounting Standards Board and the Financial Accounting Standards Board. The Board of Commissioners assigns reviews and analysis activities regarding topics affecting its responsibilities. Further, the Commissioners offer the Internal Auditor's review and analysis services to other elected officials on a confidential basis.

The Internal Auditor also:

- ◆ Determines the effectiveness and efficiency of internal controls and procedures
- ◆ Reviews financial reports to outside agencies, and audits internal records for management
- ◆ Recommends to departments accounting practices that more perfectly secure assets and improve operations
- ◆ Verifies that laws, regulations, and rules governing operations are being adhered to and standard business practices are being followed

Human Resources

449 South Meridian St, 6th Fl
Ravenna OH 44266

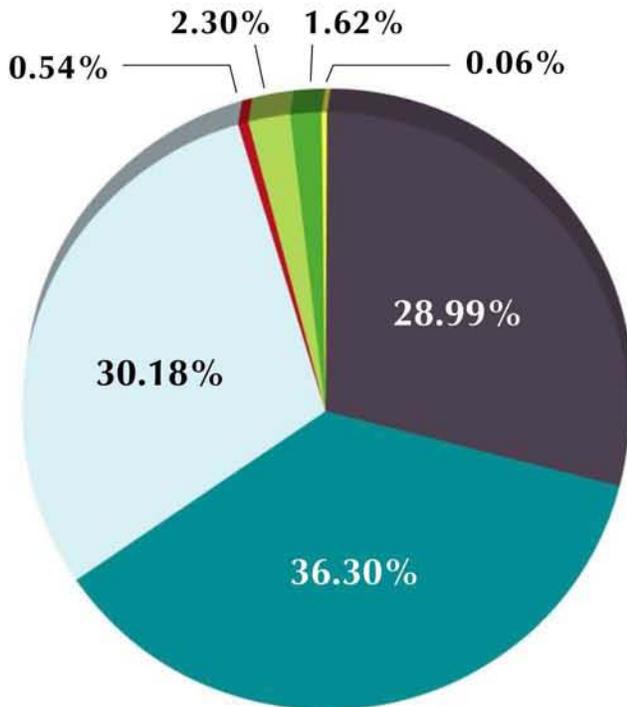
Karen D. U'Halie, Director

24-hour Jobline 330-298-4504

Manages all personnel functions for the Commissioners' Departments including:

- ◆ Recruitment and Selection
- ◆ Personnel Policy Development
- ◆ Self-insured Employee Health Plan Management
- ◆ Workers' Compensation and Risk Management
- ◆ Employee Training
- ◆ Benefits Administration

GENERAL FUND SPENDING:



- Legislative and Executive – \$11,183,258**
 Board of Commissioners, Auditor, Treasurer, Recorder, Microfilm, Economic Development, Budget and Financial Management, Human Resources, Building Maintenance, Board of Revision, Building Security, Information Technology and Board of Elections. Also includes financial support to Conservation and Recreation activities such as:
 - Soil & Water Conservation
 - Portage County Park District
 - Regional Planning Commission
- Public Safety – \$14,003,480**
 Sheriff, Coroner, Adult Probation, Juvenile Probation and Building Inspection
- Judicial (including Prosecutor) – \$11,642,552**
 Courts, Clerk of Courts and Public Defender

- Public Works – \$208,617**
 County Engineer – Tax Map
- Human Services – \$886,274**
 Senior Center and Veterans Services Commission
- Internal Funds Transfer Out – \$624,352**
 Capital Improvements, Debt Service and Grant Support
- Health – \$23,632**
 Support to the Health Department (O.R.C. for Telephone & Postage)

Clerk for the Board of Commissioners

449 South Meridian St, 7th Floor
Ravenna, OH 44266

Deborah Mazanec, Clerk

The Clerk for the Board of Commissioners is responsible for the maintenance of all official records of the Board's proceedings as specifically indicated in Sections 305.10 and 305.11 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Clerk maintains the Commissioners' schedules, coordinates meetings and performs other duties as directed by the Board. The Clerk works with the Board of Commissioners and all other elected officials, department directors and the public.

Administrative Departments

Department of General Services

449 South Meridian St, 6th Fl
Ravenna, OH 44266

James Manion, Director

The General Services Director, under the jurisdiction of the Board of Commissioners, is responsible for assisting in the administration and operations of the following departments: Buildings & Grounds Maintenance; Dog Warden; Building Inspection; Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency; Women, Infants & Children (WIC); Senior Services Center; and the Portage County Administration Building Security.

Dog Warden Office and Shelter

8120 Infirmary Rd
Ravenna OH 44266

David McIntyre, Director

The Portage County Dog Warden is responsible for enforcing laws that pertain to dogs in Portage County. The laws include the licensing, confinement and control of dogs and vicious dogs/ dog fighting. The Dog Warden is responsible for knowing where all dogs are located in the county as well as running the county dog kennel. We are currently in the process of upgrading our facility to better serve our animals and the citizens. In 2008 we painted the kennel, added storage and refurbished the facility. In 2009 we are planning to add new kennel doors, add indoor/outdoor kennels, upgrade communications, add an adoption room and start a spay/neuter program.

2008 Highlights Include

- ◆ 231 Dogs Returned to Their Owners
- ◆ 254 Dogs Adopted
- ◆ 227 Dogs Sent to the APL/Rescue Groups
- ◆ Euthanasia Rate Dropped to Lowest Level in History of Kennel
- ◆ Sold 21,718 Dog Licenses
- ◆ Added Facility Keeper Position to Staff
- ◆ All Updates to Facility were due to generous donations

Senior Services Center

705 Oakwood St
Ravenna, OH 44266

Sally Kelly, Director

The Portage County Commissioners Multipurpose Senior Services Center continues to offer socialization opportunities for all Portage County Senior Citizens. Last year the center involved over 875 area residents in an activity, whether a bus trip, a luncheon, or an activity in the Center.

630 low income Senior Citizens participated in the Farmers Market Senior Nutrition Program. Each individual was given \$50.00 to spend on locally grown produce at area Farmers Markets.

10 low priced bus trips for Senior Citizens were scheduled, including a two night stay in Atlantic City, and an overnight trip to Niagara Falls. Once again this year, all of the trips left town with full busses of at least 50 passengers.

Since moving their activities to the second floor at 705 Oakwood Street in Ravenna in-house participation has increased. Every Wednesday morning 60 to 70 area Senior Citizens participate in Bingo. With the continued support of the Ravenna United Way, free Tai Chi and exercise classes were offered four days a week. Weekly craft and art classes were offered by area professionals.

The 13th Annual Senior Celebration of Achievement once again involved 400 area Seniors and in October, the Senior Citizens Harvest Ball attracted 300 area Senior Citizens who came for music, food, and socialization with old and new friends.

In addition to offering socialization opportunities for area Senior Citizens, the Center also offers information and referral services to area residents who are concerned about their own or their parents issues, whether it is financial or residential concerns, or emotional issues.



Portage County commissioners Chuck Keiper, Maureen Frederick and Chris Smeiles flank 2008 inductees, from left, Dan and Virginia Brearley, Loretta McCartney and Cathy Bernham and Margaret MacLearie, who accepted on behalf of their late brother Donald MacLearie

Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

449 South Meridian St, 1st Fl
Ravenna, OH 44266

Nancy Dailey, Director

WIC is a food and nutrition education program that services women who are pregnant, breast feeding and postpartum, and children ages birth to five years old. This program is an important link to other community services necessary to care for the health and well being of the family.

The Portage County Board of Commissioners applies for the Portage and Columbiana Counties' WIC grant through the Ohio Department of Health, which receives these funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The WIC program in Portage County is located on the first floor at the north side of the County Administration Building, 449 S. Meridian St., Ravenna and the Columbiana County program is located in Lisbon.

The below totals reflect the Portage/Columbiana dual agency totals:

2008 Highlights Include

- ◆ Operated on an annual budget of \$998,717 of Federal Grant Money
- ◆ Served approximately 6400 participants per month
- ◆ Provided more than \$3 million in nutritious foods to participants
- ◆ Provided 1200 participants with Farmers' Market coupons equating to \$18,000 for Portage and Columbiana Farms (twelve farmers participated in WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program)
- ◆ Hosted weekly nutrition education classes for WIC participants

2008 Senior Citizen Hall of Fame

Donald MacLearie
Loretta McCartney
Don and Virginia Brearley



Administrative Departments

Job & Family Services

449 South Meridian St
Ravenna OH 44266

Anita Herington, Ph.D., Director

The mission of the Department of Job and Family Services is to provide children, adults and families an effective support system to assist in obtaining self-sufficiency and a safe, stable, healthy living environment. The Department of Job and Family Services interacts with community-based social service agencies and other governmental agencies in serving that mission.

Public Assistance

Public Assistance determines eligibility and provides services to the needy through programs including:

- ◆ Healthy Start, Healthy Families—health care coverage for families with children and also coverage for pregnant women
- ◆ Medicaid for individuals who are age 65 or older or disabled - this program also includes nursing home care and home and community based services as an alternative to care in a nursing home
- ◆ Food Stamps, Ohio Works First (OWF) cash assistance; Disability Financial Assistance; Prevention, Retention & Contingency (PRC) for families with children; Day Care assistance
- ◆ Pregnancy Related Services; Physician referral assistance
- ◆ In 2008, Food Assistance (formerly called Food Stamps) was received by 7,360 Portage County families including 16,591 individuals
- ◆ 823 families received OWF cash assistance including 1,762 individuals
- ◆ Medicaid for covered families with children was received by 27,166 individuals in 2008; 5,280 individuals received assistance for the aged, blind and disabled
- ◆ There were 4,043 applications received for PRC services
- ◆ 1,282 applications for day care were processed; 53 day care providers were certified and 298 Early Learning Initiative (ELI) applications were processed

Portage Workforce Connection—One Stop

1081 West Main St
Ravenna OH 44266

www.portageworkforce.org

The one-stop place for employers, job seekers and service providers, where all core services are FREE!

Services for local businesses include:

- ◆ Recruitment and interviewing space
- ◆ Assessments and testing
- ◆ Job fairs- Four (4) Hiring Fairs were held in 2008 to assist residents in finding employment. Over 2,000 job seekers attended and 150 employers were hiring at these events
- ◆ Rapid Response team for companies experiencing layoffs or relocation
- ◆ Job matching and referrals
- ◆ Labor Market Information Internet access

Services for job seekers and service providers include:

- ◆ Education and training funding
- ◆ Resource room with computers, fax, training/employment resource library, community resource listings, and a job posting board
- ◆ Skills and needs assessment, job readiness training, career counseling, and labor market information
- ◆ Job search instruction class and staff-assisted or self-directed internet job search
- ◆ Resume writing and interviewing skills development
- ◆ In 2008, 9,938 individuals came to the One-Stop and used our services; 23,142 services were utilized; 3,965 individuals were first time visitors to the One-Stop

Portage Workforce Connection building, Ravenna



Workforce Investment Act (WIA)

Adult & Dislocated Worker Programs

Funded training and equipment in various programs including, but not limited to:

Radiology, Medical Assisting, Nursing, Veterinarian Assistant, Sports Medicine, Business Office Administration, Computers, Police Academy, Criminal Justice, Social Worker, Education, Welding, Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning, Truck Driving, CNC Machining.

193 people received training and equipment paid through WIA in 2008.

WIA Youth Programs

WIA Youth Programs are specialized for those between 14 and 21 years of age: job training, preparing for employment, improving educational achievements, and leadership programs are available.

GAPP

(Geauga-Ashtabula-Portage Partnership) GAPP, Inc., the collaborative effort of Geauga, Ashtabula and Portage counties brings together local business, labor, education and citizens to assess and develop the workforce and training needs of our County and administers federal Workforce Investment Programs.

Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA)

The Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) is charged with establishing paternity, establishing support orders, and collecting current and back child support. CSEA's mission is to help area families receive the support they deserve so that they may become self sufficient. This mission is accomplished by both administrative and judicial methods for over 9,500 active cases in the agency's caseload. Over 33,000 people are affected by our agency. In 2008 alone, we handled 33,612 phone calls and 7,149 walk-in clients.

In 2008, paternity was established for 611 born out of wedlock children county-wide and 882 new child support orders were established. \$25,156,064.21 in child support and arrears payments were distributed to families, \$1.25 million more than was distributed in 2007. This includes back child support that was collected for 4,754 cases.

Administrative Departments

Children Services Agency

The mission of Children Services is to protect abused, neglected and dependent children and promote their well-being. We believe that each child has a right to be raised in a safe, permanent family.

Children Services values and depends on its partnership with community agencies and citizens to protect Portage County's children.

Children Services conducts investigations, provides home-based services and foster care/ adoption services. Children Services received more than 3,000 referrals about children and families in 2008.

The county is in urgent need of foster caregivers for temporary placement of children. For more information about opening your heart and home to a foster child, call 330-296-2273 (CARE).

To report child abuse or neglect, call 330-296-2273 (CARE) any time day or night.

Adult Protective Services

Adult Protective Services conducts investigations of abuse, neglect or self neglect, emotional abuse or exploitation including exploitation of financial or personal assets for those age 60 and older. In 2008, 349 referrals were called into the CARES line and 210 Adult Protective Services cases were opened.

To report elder abuse call 330-296-2273.

Help Me Grow

Help Me Grow is a child development program for pregnant women, new mothers, and families with children from birth to age three. The program targets families with young children who have a developmental delay or are at risk for being developmentally delayed because of biological or environmental factors. The program seeks to support and educate families so that young children are assured of having the very best start during the important first three years. Program staff provides service coordination, home visiting, developmental screening, parenting education, parent support, and linkage to community resources and services.

In 2008, the program staff served over 400 children and their families and averaged 255 children in services on a daily basis. The home visit nurse completed 292 home visits to new mothers and their babies to check the health of the mother and baby and provide health, safety and child development information. The parent support specialist's made 241 parent contacts to provide information and support. The program hosted twenty-eight events for parents and their children; from monthly playgroups and educational parent meetings to field trips and parent trainings.

To request services, call 330-298-4545.

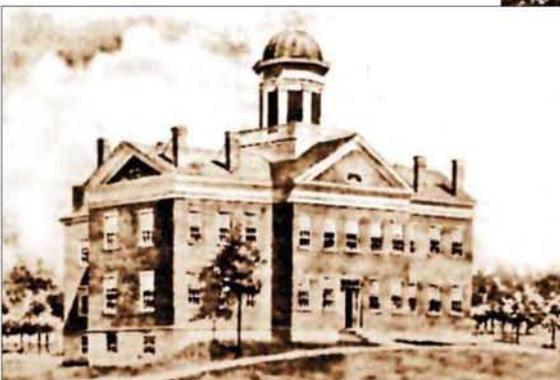
Child Health Services Health Clinic

The Child Health Services Clinic merged with the Portage Community Health Center in 2008 in an effort to consolidate our locations and provide the best patient service possible. The Portage Community Health Center opened for patient care on November 3, 2008. The new facility provides expanded services and hours over what the Child Health Services Clinic had been able to provide in the past.

The Portage Community Health Center is located at 1993 State Route 59 in Kent. The facility's phone number is 330-673-1016 and fax number is 330-673-1106.



Towner's Woods, Portage Park District



TOP: Western Reserve Eclectic Institute was authorized by the state legislature on March 1, 1850, and modified in 1867 to recognize the institution's new collegiate rank when it became Hiram College.

RIGHT: Kent Normal School's student body of 290 pose in front of Merrill Hall in 1914. 34 students made the first graduating class that year. Today's Kent State University.



Administrative Departments

Internal Services

449 South Meridian St, 7th Fl
Ravenna, OH 44266
JoAnn Townend, Director

The Internal Services Department provides the following services and support to all County departments:

- ◆ Mail services - in 2008, processed over one-half million pieces of outgoing mail
- ◆ Voice and data communication services
- ◆ Bid specification, contract and agreement preparation for County projects and items
- ◆ Management of county historical records at one central location, the Portage County Records Center
- ◆ Purchasing procedure updates to enable county departments to enter and track purchase-requisitions
- ◆ In-house printing of letterhead, envelopes, business cards and forms
- ◆ Vehicle maintenance provided for over 200 vehicles

Water Resources and Sanitary Engineering

Administrative Offices
449 South Meridian St, 3rd Fl
PO Box 812
Ravenna, OH 44266

Maintenance & Operations
8116 Infirmary Rd
Ravenna, OH 44266
Harold Huff, P.E., Director

The mission of the Portage County Water Resources Department is to enhance the quality of life in Portage County by providing for the professional delivery of water and wastewater services to all its customers while protecting the environment and being good stewards of public resources.

continued next column...



To achieve the mission, we will work together to create a cooperative, trusting, goal oriented and informed environment in which customers shall be treated with dignity and respect.

2008 Highlights Include

- ◆ SR 44 Vacuum Sewer Installation – The construction of the vacuum sanitary sewers and pump station was completed and put into operation in November. The sewers will serve approximately 104 residential and commercial users along State Route 44 in Randolph Township, between the Randolph Feed and Supply and Fairground Road, and will include the homes along John Street.
- ◆ Completed the installation of backup electrical generators at the Streetsboro Wastewater Treatment Plant, the Twin Lakes Wastewater Treatment Plant, and the Brimfield Water Treatment Plant, ensuring uninterrupted service at these facilities.
- ◆ Initiated the construction of Phase 1 for the Cleveland to Aurora Water Line – the first of two phases of an express water main to supply Cleveland water to the City of Aurora. The construction of Phase 1 is to be completed by Spring 2009.
- ◆ Phase 2 for the Cleveland to Aurora Water Line is currently in the final stages of design, and is expected to bid for construction by Fall 2009.
- ◆ Completed the full replacement of the Franklin Hills and Village Estates wastewater pump stations. Also completed major upgrades to the Cracker Barrel, Longfield, Sandy Lake, and Timber Run wastewater pump stations.

- ◆ Initiated sandblasting and recoating of 11 existing steel treatment tanks at Franklin Hills, Twin Lakes, Atwater, Bolingbrook and Red Fox wastewater treatment plants. five tanks were completed and two tanks were started in 2008. The outstanding work on the two tanks and the remaining four tanks will be completed in 2009.
- ◆ Operated and maintained 100 wastewater pump stations, 11 wastewater treatment plants, one water booster station and three water treatment plants, all within State Permit Limits.
- ◆ Flushed 126,943 linear feet of sanitary sewers in Ravenna and Rootstown Townships.

The Woodlands at Robinson

6831 North Chestnut St
PO Box 812
Ravenna, OH 44266

Portage County's state-of-the-art nursing facility, located on the campus of Robinson Memorial Hospital, features spacious private and semi-private rooms. The Woodlands offers a variety of services, including short-term rehabilitative stays, respite and hospice care and traditional long-term nursing care. Most short-term residents return home better able to live independently thanks to Woodland's comprehensive Physical, Occupational and Speech therapy programs. Please call 330-297-4564 for more information.



Summer Picnic with residents, families and staff at the Woodlands, Ravenna

Elected Officials

Economic Development

128 North Prospect Street
Ravenna, OH 44266

William Ulik, Director

In a difficult economic climate several companies made strategic decisions to choose Portage County for their operations in 2008. Rotek, the Aurora manufacturer of specialty bearings for the wind turbine industry chose Aurora, Ohio over a competing site in Kentucky for their expansion. This expansion will ultimately create 200 to 300 additional full-time jobs in Aurora with many other spin-off benefits in the community.

The Park-Ohio Corporation bought the former FSI Foundry in Rootstown Township that was shuttered last year and re-opened the foundry in late 2008. Park-Ohio upgraded equipment and hired 100 new workers to operate the foundry.

Delta Systems of Streetsboro completed their expansion project that was financed in part by the Portage County Port Authority and officially cut the ribbon on the new facility in late 2008.

The Department of Economic Development also organized and held an Economic Development Summit in October at the Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine. Approximately 140 individuals attended the one-day event that offered numerous workshops on a multitude of topics that ranged from various business financing programs to workforce development and international trade opportunities.

The Portage County Department of Economic Development is also the administrative arm for the Enterprise Zone program. In 2008 approximately 45 enterprise zone agreements were monitored and reported to the State to ensure compliance.

Approximately 15 companies were visited in 2008 as part of an initial effort to initiate a formal business retention and expansion calling program. This program will be expanded in the coming year.

Portage County Auditor

449 South Meridian St, 5th Fl
Ravenna, OH 44266



Janet Esposito

As chief fiscal officer for Portage County, the Auditor is responsible for all financial accounting of county government and financial reporting to federal and state entities. As a member of the County Auditors Association, the Auditor has served on the State Legislative and Executive Committees.

The County Auditor's office:

- ◆ Administers related tax reduction programs such as 2 1/2% Rollback, Homestead Exemption, Current Agricultural Use Valuation and Forestry programs
- ◆ Issues all vendor and payroll warrants and receipts of all monies
- ◆ Sells dog and kennel licenses, vendor's licenses and cigarette licenses
- ◆ Appraises all real estate

- ◆ Inspects and certifies all scales, measuring equipment and gasoline pumps through the Weights and Measures Department
- ◆ Maintains real estate property ownership records
- ◆ Registers and appraises manufactured homes.

2008 Highlights Include

- ◆ Received awards rated "Excellence" in financial reporting from the Government Financial Organization of America (GFOA) for the last 8 years
- ◆ Implemented new real property software
- ◆ Received the "New Horizon Award" for the positive changes in administration, training, and enforcement, regarding Weights & Measures
- ◆ Completed roads and addresses for the Geographic Information system (GIS)
- ◆ Received from the Ohio Geographically Referenced Information Program (OGRIP) the 2008 "Best Practice Award" for establishing an enterprise Geographic Information System (GIS) through collaborative partnerships with multiple data provider agencies.
- ◆ The County received the 2008 Tyler Technologies Public Sector Award for implementing the MUNIS Financial System. This award honors organizations that have demonstrated excellence in best practices for developing, deploying and maintaining Tyler's MUNIS Solution in innovative ways.

DIVISION OF ACREAGE

	Residential	Agricultural	Commercial	Industrial
2006	78,257	154,944	14,999	7,851
2007	79,265	152,966	15,334	7,834
2008	80,112	151,888	15,513	7,832

Information Technology Services

449 South Meridian St, 6th Fl, Ravenna OH 44266

Brian D. Kelly, CIO

Portage County Information Technology Services (ITS) operates the County computer center, mission critical software applications, geographical information system and enterprise network services.

Major Projects Completed in 2008

- ◆ Location Based Response System
- ◆ Prosecutor voice/IP phone system
- ◆ Auditor & Treasurer new property and tax system
- ◆ Fiber network upgrade between various facilities
- ◆ New online GIS viewer
- ◆ Office technology upgrades

Portage County Location of Records

ESTATE

Records begin about the year 1817 and are indexed alphabetically under the person's last name:

Portage County Probate Court

203 W Main St, Ravenna OH 44266

Phone: 330-297-3870

MARRIAGE

Records begin about the year 1808 and are listed in an alphabetical card index system listing the couple by the man's last name and the woman's prior to marriage:

Portage County Probate Court

203 W Main St, Ravenna OH 44266

Phone: 330-298-3247

GUARDIANSHIP

Records begin about the year 1819 and are indexed alphabetically under the ward's last name:

Portage County Probate Court

203 W Main St, Ravenna OH 44266

Phone: 330-298-3247

BIRTH & DEATH

All birth and death records for persons who were born or passed away in the City of Ravenna beginning in the year 1909 through today:

Ravenna City Health Department

City Building Annex

530 North Freedom, Ravenna OH 44266

Phone: 330-296-4478

All birth and death records for persons who were born or passed away in Portage County, other than Ravenna, for the years 1909 through today:

Kent Health Department

325 South Depeyster St, Kent OH 44240

Phone: 330-678-8109

All birth and death records for the county (except the City of Ravenna) between the years 1867 and 1908:

Portage County Probate Court

203 W Main St, Ravenna OH 44266

Phone: 330-298-3247

Elected Officials



Michael A. Marozzi, P.E., P.S.

Portage County Engineer

5000 Newton Falls Rd, Ravenna OH 44266

There are several highway systems throughout Ohio, including Turnpike, State, Township, Municipality and County. Portage County's highway system is under the jurisdiction of the Portage County Engineer. Responsibilities include maintenance, repair, widening, resurfacing and reconstruction of pavements and bridges on the County highway system. Maintenance duties include traffic control, safety projects, mowing and snow removal. The Portage County Engineer is fully responsible for the bridges on the County highway system. The bridges on Township highways have split jurisdiction. All Township bridges with a span greater

than 10 feet are the responsibility of the County Engineer and those that are less than 10 feet fall under the respective Township's jurisdiction.

Traffic Safety and Road Program:

- ◆ We were successful in obtaining 90% federal funding through ODOT for two safety studies.
- ◆ Spent \$846,279 on rock salt and labor costs for snow and ice control on 370 miles of county highways. Our salt price from ODOT increased 24% from winter 07-08 to winter 08-09.
- ◆ Completed single sealing on 22.240 miles
- ◆ Completed double sealing on 9.375 miles
- ◆ Completed crack sealing on 103.90 miles
- ◆ Cut berm on 72 miles of County highways
- ◆ Replaced 20 culverts

Federal Aid Bridge Projects

- ◆ Received our first federal transportation earmark project funding of \$425,000 for replacement of Rock Spring Road Bridge in Charlestown Twp.
- ◆ Completed construction of Tallmadge Road Bridge in Rootstown Twp.
- ◆ Completed guard rail upgrading project at various county locations
- ◆ Continued work on Middlebury Road Bridge in Kent

Ohio Public Works (Issue 2) Grant Projects

- ◆ Obtained final approval for a grant of \$669,000 for the replacement of the Lakewood Road Bridge in Ravenna Twp.
- ◆ Obtained final approval for a \$754,600 grant for replacement of Coit Road Bridge in Shalersville Twp.
- ◆ Received a grant of \$267,400 to help offset the estimated cost of \$445,600 for the Lovers Lane reconstruction in Ravenna

Tax Map Department

We are proud to announce two very large projects that will enhance mapping and safety in the county. We completed LBRS (Location Based Response System) which gave a global position for every structure and verified every address in the county. This will make the 911 response system even more effective in finding hard to reach structures. In 2008 we awarded the contract for the second major project which is parcel conversion.

Tax Map Department is located on the 3rd floor of the County Administration Building.

Portage County Recorder

449 South Meridian St, 4th Fl, Ravenna OH 44266

Documents filed or recorded in the Recorder's Office include: deeds, mortgages, certificates of transfer, affidavits, easements, leases, certificate of title to registered land, land contracts, plats, condominiums, partnerships, power of attorney trusts, zoning resolutions and military discharge papers. Records of deed go back to 1795. The Recorder's Office features a community display case in the foyer. The enlarged and modernized office includes handicapped-accessible counters and work stations. The Recorder's Office staff of four runs the office economically and timely.

The Real Estate Index and the imaged Portage County records

are now available online at www.co.portage.oh.us, then search Recorder records.



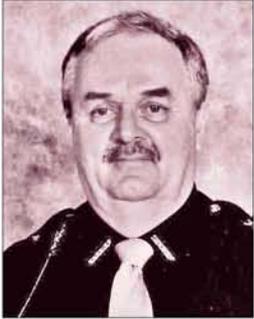
Bonnie Howe



Elected Officials

Portage County Sheriff

Portage County Justice Center
8240 Infirmary Rd
Ravenna, OH 44266



Duane Kaley

The Portage County Sheriff's Office is a full service law enforcement agency, an arm of the courts, and the custodial keeper of those who break the law. It is our mission to protect the lives and property of the citizens of Portage County, to preserve the peace, and to prevent crime, while constantly guarding personal liberties as prescribed by law. This must be done with honor and integrity, conducting ourselves with the highest ethical standards to maintain public confidence.

The Portage County Sheriff has many responsibilities under the Ohio Revised Code. Most of these responsibilities primarily fall into, but are not limited to, one of five categories:

- ◆ The Sheriff provides law enforcement services for the County. It is our goal to expand the Road Division with additional road patrols throughout the County. The Detective Division investigates felony crimes, with a major emphasis toward case follow up.

- ◆ The Sheriff is responsible for the Corrections Division, which includes security, housing and care for the inmates awaiting trial or serving a jail sentence imposed by the Courts. Portage County has a 218 bed facility with state of the art security systems.
- ◆ The Communications Division handled 20,400 incoming calls in 2008. The Portage County Sheriff's Office dispatches or handles radio and telephone duties 24/7. This includes the E-911 system.
- ◆ The Records Division generates records or documents, maintains them, files them, and retrieves them. Our records have to be shared regularly with courts, other law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, the public and others.

The Sheriff works with the Courts by providing courthouse security, delivering writs or papers of the court, and the service of warrants. Deputies handle prisoner transports to and from penal institutions, serve arrest warrants throughout the United States and perform court ordered sales of property. We assist the courts with summons and subpoenas.

- ◆ The Sheriff's Office is the largest law enforcement agency in the county. Besides the responsibilities already listed, many other tasks such as Sex Offender registration, Victim Assistance, issuing of Concealed Carry permits, the Countywide Drug Task Force, D.A.R.E. program, K-9 Unit, and other duties are also assigned to the County Sheriff. The Sheriff performs many tasks that are unique and not performed by other law enforcement agencies.

David W. Doak was elected Sheriff November 2008.

Portage County Treasurer

449 South Meridian St, 1st Fl
Ravenna OH 44266



Stephen Shanafelt

The Treasurer's Office conducts all the banking activities for Portage County; it receives, disburses, invests and accounts for all County funds. The Treasurer is the chief investment officer for all County funds and collects taxes for all government subdivisions and school systems.

The Treasurer forwards over 70 percent of this revenue to school districts and is operating with a delinquency rate of about 5 percent.

In 2008, \$4.4 million has been earned through our investments and deposited in the County's General Fund.

The Treasurer is a member of the Budget Commission, Investment Advisory Committee, Data Processing Board and the Board of Revision. The Treasurer's membership in the County Treasurer's Association of Ohio and Legislative Committee allows the opportunity to affect State legislation to benefit the tax payers of the State and to more efficiently perform the duties of Treasurer.

The Treasurer's Office continues to identify and to develop programs that benefit the needs of Portage County residents. The Escrow Pre-Pay Program was designed to allow taxpayers who are current with their taxes to make monthly payments.



Linda Fankhauser

Clerk of Court of Common Pleas

203 West Main St, Ravenna, OH 44266

Court of Common Pleas: receives and processes filings for civil, criminal and domestic cases

Auto Title: issues all vehicle and watercraft titles

Court of Appeals: processes appeals from all lower courts within the County

Passports: serves as a passport agent in Portage County for the U.S. State Department

Municipal Court: the Clerk of Common Pleas is also the Clerk of the Portage County Municipal Court, with a Ravenna Branch and a Kent Branch.

Collections: the Clerk of Courts collects all revenue related to court costs, bonds, fines and forfeitures. The revenue is then disbursed to various accounts of the county and state.

\$905,032 was collected in 2008.

The Clerk of Courts continues to make the records of the Courts easily accessible to the public. Fines and costs can be paid on the Portage County web site. Court dockets with images are available on the web site.

Elected Officials

Portage County Prosecutor

241 South Chestnut St
Ravenna, OH 44266
www.portageprosecutor.com



Victor V. Vigluicci



The office of the Portage County Prosecuting Attorney represents the interests of the citizens of the State of Ohio, the residents of Portage County, and Portage County Government in many aspects of civil and criminal law. The Prosecutor's Office operates with four divisions: a Criminal Division, a Civil Division, an Appellate Division, and a Victim/Witness Assistance Division.

The Criminal Division

represents the citizens of the State of Ohio and Portage County in prosecuting criminal cases in our County's three Municipal Courts, two Common Pleas Courts and the Juvenile Court. The Portage County Prosecutor is responsible for over 30,000 criminal and traffic cases filed each year in these Courts. This Division also renders legal advice and assistance to our County's seventeen different Police Departments. A Domestic Violence Unit, funded with Federal Grant dollars consists of an assistant prosecutor dedicated to domestic violence cases and an outreach advocate dedicated to assisting victims of domestic violence. Special Victims Unit consisting of an assistant prosecutor and an investigator prosecutes crimes against children, the elderly, and the disabled.

A criminal child support enforcement unit locates and prosecutes "deadbeat" parents with large child support arrearages. The criminal division is staffed by a total of ten attorneys, six investigators, and clerical support staff.

The Civil Division

provides legal representation to all eighteen of our County elected officials and their respective offices. It also provides legal representation to all County Boards and Commissions, the County's eighteen Townships, their Trustees, Clerks, and Zoning Boards. This Division represents all of these entities in matters of litigation in State and Federal Courts, contracts, personnel matters, collection of real estate and personal property taxes owed to the County. It represents the Department of Job and Family Services in matters of abused, neglected, and dependent children, and renders general legal advice to all of the County and Township officials. This Division is staffed by eight attorneys and clerical support staff.

The Appellate Division

provides legal representation in all legal matters of the Criminal and Civil Divisions involving appeals from local court decisions to State and Federal Appellate Courts. This division is staffed by one attorney and a law clerk.

The Victim/Witness Assistance Division

provides assistance and information to victims of crime and witnesses in criminal cases, together with referrals to other quality support services offered in Portage County. Advocates are available twenty-four hours a day to assist victims of crimes such as domestic violence, stalking, assault, sexual abuse, child abuse, drunk driving, etc. and to assist the families of homicide victims. These services are available to all residents of Portage County, or anyone who becomes the victim of a violent crime in Portage County. This division's trained advocates are available to lend immediate support to victims of violent crime, to accompany them to court appearances, provide information and guidance concerning the criminal justice system, make referrals to appropriate social service agencies and counselors, provide information concerning payment of medical bills from State funds, and to notify victims and witnesses concerning important hearing dates and the status or outcome of criminal cases in which they are involved. This division is staffed by four Victim Advocates along with a clerical assistant. This division is funded almost entirely by state and federal grant money.

Year 2008 Statistics of Interest

- The Criminal Division was responsible for over 6,000 criminal misdemeanor cases, including 1,508 drunk driving cases and 434 domestic violence cases.
- The Criminal Division received 1,267 felony reports from the 17 police agencies operating in Portage County, including 26 felony drunk driving cases, 96 felonious assault cases, 75 felony domestic violence cases, 171 felony child abuse cases, 280 felony drug cases, 75 felony burglary cases, and 145 felony theft cases, 38 robbery cases, 78 receiving stolen property cases, and 60 felony child support cases.
- ♦ 769 new felony cases were filed in the Portage County Common Pleas Court in 2008, each representing one individual who was charged with one or more felony level crimes. This represents an 11% increase over the number in 2007.
- ♦ The Civil Division opened 297 new case files in 2008.
- ♦ The Appellate Division handled 58 new cases in the 11th District Court of Appeals in 2008. 13 cases were pending in the Ohio Supreme Court and one case in the United States Supreme Court. 95 percent of the Appellate cases arose from criminal matters.
- ♦ The Victim/Witness Assistance Division rendered assistance to a total of 2,042 victims of crime in 2008: 868 in the Municipal Courts, 905 in the Common Pleas Courts, and 269 in the Juvenile Court.

The Prosecutor's SAFE-SCHOOLS HOTLINE (1-800-201-8357) continues to operate to make Portage County schools safer. Rewards of \$250.00 are paid to individuals who report weapons which are confiscated on school premises or buses. All reports are confidential.

Portage County Prosecutor & Grand Jury offices



Portage County Coroner

226 West Harris St
Ravenna, OH 44266



Rogelio G. Marcial, M.D.

The Office of the Coroner investigates all suspicious and unusual deaths or when any person dies while in apparent good health, including a child less than two years of age. All medical investigations are conducted by the coroner's staff including the oversight of all autopsy services, which are performed at the Summit County Medical Examiner's Office or the Cuyahoga County Coroner's Office.

In 2007, the Portage County Coroner received 230 reported deaths.

Of those reported, 122 cases became coroner cases and were identified as follows:

- 55% natural causes
- 13% suicides
- 4% undetermined
- Number of cases: 97
- Oldest decedent: 89
- Number of males: 78
- Caucasians: 94
- African Americans: 2
- Asian Americans: 1
- Elevated Alcohol/Drug: 10
- 19% accidentals
- 1% homicides
- 8% pending investigation
- Youngest decedent: 3 months
- Average age: 50
- Number of females: 19



"...who we were is who we are. We are hardy, self-reliant and adventurous. We are committed, educated, hard-working and compassionate. . .

Who we were is who we will become; a community united, resilient and self-reliant, hard-working, educated, ambitious, and forward moving."

*Portage County Bicentennial Address
County Commissioner Chuck Keiper
June 9, 2008*

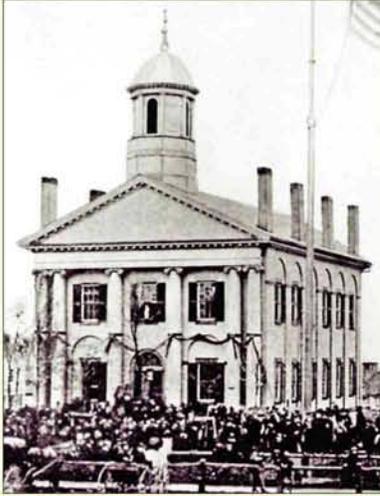


The Portage County flag featuring a patriotic red, white and blue theme pays tribute to the United States of America and to the great State of Ohio. The middle section of the flag is dominated by an emblem of the State of Ohio in gold, with the location of Portage County superimposed in red. The seventeen blue stars surrounding the emblem are representative of Ohio joining the Union as the nation's seventeenth state.

The County's founding date, 1803, is written across the emblem. On each side of the emblem, alternating red and white stripes, twenty in total, represent the original townships that made up Portage County. Today, the County is comprised of 18 townships, five cities, and seven villages.

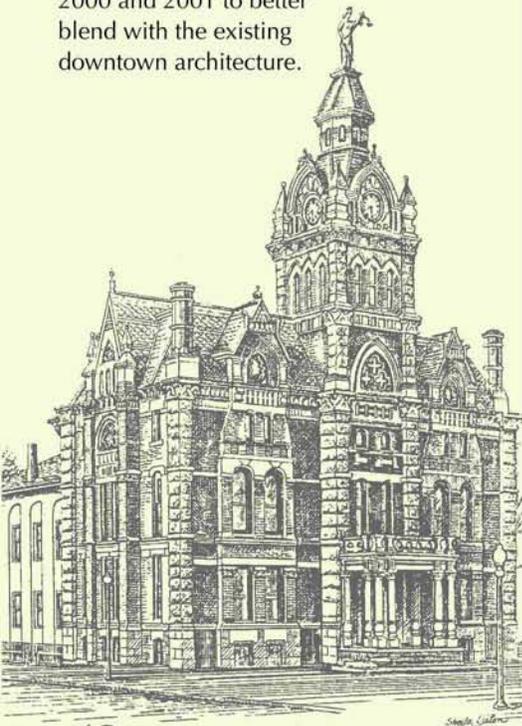
Holding Court

Once Ravenna was made the county seat, the next thing necessary was a courthouse. In 1810 William (brother of Benjamin) and John Tappan completed the first Portage County courthouse. Next to the courthouse they erected a two-story log jail.



Portage County's second courthouse

In 1826 Zenas Kent was contracted to build a new courthouse. Completed in 1832, it was described as an architectural wonder, despite its meager \$7,000 cost. This new brick courthouse, complete with a cupola and stone pillars, replaced the old frame structure, and served until an addition was added to the front in 1881 (bottom illustration). The current Portage County Courthouse was built in 1960 and still stands today. The structure received a complete renovation in 2000 and 2001 to better blend with the existing downtown architecture.



The Courts

Common Pleas Court – General Division

203 West Main St, Ravenna OH 44266

Judge John A. Enlow and Judge Laurie J. Pittman serve the General Division of the Common Pleas Court. This court has jurisdiction over adult criminal felony cases and civil actions. The Courts responsibilities include litigating all felony cases indicted by the Grand Jury. The Court also handles all appeals from various County boards and agencies; all civil litigation exceeding the \$15,000 monetary jurisdiction of the Municipal Courts; and equitable matters. Scanned images of case filings for the Court of Common Pleas, General Division, are now available on the Portage County website.



Judge John A. Enlow



Judge Laurie J. Pittman



Domestic Relations Division

203 West Main St, Ravenna OH 44266

The Domestic Relations Court hears cases involving divorces, legal separations, dissolutions, custody disputes, visitation issues, support matters, civil protection cases, and post-decree matters involving modifications of custody, visitation, support and civil protection issues. The 1,990 case filings for 2008 showed a slight increase over 2007 when 1,951 were filed. The Court held in excess of 4,000 hearings in 2008. The court is comprised of the Judge, two Magistrates, Mediation Coordinator and a support staff of a Court Administrator, Court Reporter, Bailiff, Compliance Officer and two Administrative Assistants working under the



Judge Joseph Giulitto

guidelines of the Supreme Court to timely process cases.

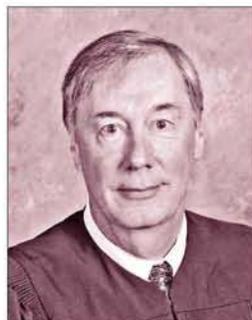
In 2008, a total of 177 cases were referred to mediation to assist parties in resolving their cases. As required by the Court, the "Children are Forever" program is conducted to assist divorcing parents with minor children. The Court has continued to utilize the "After the Storm" program conducted by Townhall II. Also in 2008, the Court continued to utilize the services of the Place of Peace for the exchange of children for visitation or for on-site visitation.

The newly revised local rules and forms became effective January 1, 2008, and are available on the County's website.

Probate/Juvenile Division

203 West Main St, Ravenna OH 44266 (Probate)
8000 Infirmary Rd, Ravenna OH 44266 (Juvenile)

The Probate Court issues Marriage Licenses, monitors the administration of decedent estates, manages guardianship of minors and incompetent adults and presides over all adoptions, name changes and involuntary mental health and mental retardation commitments. The Juvenile Court has jurisdiction over all cases involving juveniles, child abuse, non-support, and paternity as well as contributing to the delinquency of a minor cases.



Judge Thomas J. Carnes

The Courts

Adult Probation Department

209 South Chestnut St, 3rd Fl
Ravenna OH 44266

Robert L. Fankhauser, Chief
James Eskridge Assistant Chief
Cathy Poling, Supervisor

The Portage County Adult Probation Department of the Common Pleas Courts, General Division—is funded by the Portage County general fund, the supervision fee fund along with grants from the State and Federal governments. The department is responsible for general probation supervision, intensive probation supervision, community work service, electronic monitoring, work release, alcohol monitoring (SCRAM), DNA testing drug and alcohol testing, monitoring of counseling, pre and post-sentence investigations, collection of court costs, fines and restitution and expungement investigations.

A new federal grant was received in August 2008 which funds the CISP Program, specializing in preparing clients for the job market.

The Portage County Adult Probation Department of the Municipal Court serves both branches of the court, located in Ravenna and Kent. The department is funded by the general fund and supervision fee fund, along with a federal grant. Services provided to adult offenders are: Community Work Service, electronic monitoring, work release, drug and alcohol testing, DNA testing, alcohol monitoring (SCRAM), pre and post sentence investigations, monitoring of counseling, expungement investigations and the collection of court costs, fines and restitution. The department is also responsible for monitoring probation supervision of criminal and DUI offenders.

The primary purpose of the Juvenile Detention Center is to provide a secure and safe environment for youth during the Court hearing process on a delinquency charge or while awaiting placement or commitment to another facility.

In 2008, ten residents of the Center were tutored, transported, and successfully passed the test receiving a General Educational Development (G.E.D.) Diploma from the State of Ohio Department of Education.

Total residents	421
Average daily length of stay	16.5 days
Offense:	
Felony	16%
Misdemeanor	82%
Unruly	2%

Portage County Public Defender

209 South Chestnut St, Suite 400
Ravenna OH 44266
Dennis Day Lager, Esq.

The Portage County Public Defender's Office, created under the authority of the Ohio Public Defender Act of 1976, provides legal representation to adults and juveniles of indigent circumstance who are charged with criminal or contempt offenses in the three divisions of the county's common pleas and municipal courts, in addition to the appellate representation in the court of appeals and in the Supreme Court of Ohio. The public defender's office has a compliment of six attorneys, one investigator and two support staff.

Municipal Court

214 South Water St, Kent OH 44240 • 203 West Main St, Ravenna, OH 44266



Judge Barbara Oswick



Judge Barbara Watson



Judge John J. Plough

The Portage County Municipal Court consists of three branches; two judges sit at two Municipal Courtrooms in the Portage County Courthouse located in Ravenna and one judge at the Municipal Court located in Kent. The Portage County Municipal Court has county wide jurisdiction over all misdemeanor criminal and traffic offenses and civil matters up to \$15,000—including Small Claims and Landlord-Tenant actions. The Municipal Court also has jurisdiction over the arraignment of felony criminal matters upon arrest, prior to being remanded to Common Pleas Court.

Portage-Geauga County Juvenile Detention Center

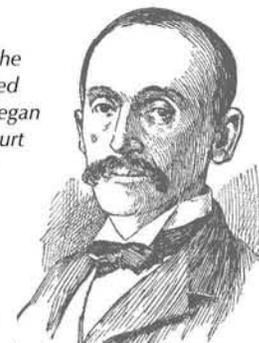
8000 Infirmary Rd
Ravenna OH 44266

The Portage-Geauga County Juvenile Detention Center is governed by the Joint Portage Geauga Board of Commissioners and operates under the auspices of the Portage-Geauga County Juvenile Detention Center Board of Trustees. The Portage and Geauga County Juvenile Court Judges sit as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board.

continued next column...

William Rufus Day

Of the well known Luther Day family of lawyers, the son who achieved the greatest fame was William R. Day, who was born in Ravenna and attended Ravenna schools. After graduating from the University of Michigan, he began practicing law in Canton, Ohio and served (1886-90) as Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. He became (1897) assistant to the Secretary of State and then (Apr, 1898) Secretary of State in the month when war was declared against Spain. He was successful in converting France and Germany from an attitude of seeming hostility to definite neutrality. While acting as chairman (Sept, 1898) of the U.S. Commission to arrange peace after the Spanish-American War, he insisted upon purchase of the Philippines rather than claiming these islands by right of conquest. Day became (1899) a Judge of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, and in 1903 President Theodore Roosevelt appointed him to the Supreme Court.



Auxiliary Organizations

Portage County Combined General Health District

Board of Health

449 South Meridian St, 3rd Fl
Ravenna OH 44266

DuWayne O. Porter, M.P.H.R.S.,
Health Commissioner,
Secretary to the Board of Health

2008 Highlights Include

Nursing Services

Obesity Prevention

Portage County Health Department was one of 14 counties in Ohio to receive grant funding through the Ohio Department of Health regarding Obesity Prevention. Portage County Health Department led the collaborative initiative to bring community partners together around physical activity and nutrition programs primarily focusing on childhood obesity. Key partners are; Kent State University Nutrition Outreach Program, Robinson Memorial Hospital, Robinson Health Affiliates and the Portage County Community Health Center.

Regional Disease Tracking

Disease tracking is now being done in collaboration with Summit County Health Department to strengthen public health functions in Portage County by identifying health risks or threats to the Portage County community.

Services for Children with Special Needs

Bureau of Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMh) was transitioned to the Portage County Health Department in September 2008 from Child Health Services. It is a nursing program that provides coordinated medical care to children with special medical needs in Portage County. Portage County Health Department hired two part time public health nurses to coordinate care for over 330 children with special needs.

Fall Prevention for Seniors

Matter of Balance is a falls prevention program coordinated through Family and Community Services in partnership with Portage County Health Department, Robinson Memorial Hospital and Area Agency on Aging. Portage County Health Educator is a falls prevention coach offering training to seniors in eight two hour sessions.

Clinic Services

Administered 7,553 immunizations
3,048 childhood; 879 travel; 2,809 influenza (1,626 in Community clinics)

Communicable Disease Reporting
3,660 communicable diseases

Animal Bite Reports
271 animal exposures

TB Tests – 733 TB tests administered

Wellness (Health Risk Assessment)
299, an increase in 100 participants from 2007

Environmental Division

Preventing Disease: distributes rabies vaccine and tests for West Nile virus.

Protecting our Water: 3,293 inspections on water wells and sewage systems.

Protecting our Food: 881 restaurant and 247 grocery store inspections.

Protecting our Families: 1,518 health and safety inspections of schools, motels, swimming pools, mobile home parks, campgrounds and plumbing.

Mental Health & Recovery Board

155 East Main St, Kent OH 44240

www.mental-health-recovery.org

Hal Farrier, Executive Director

The Mental Health & Recovery Board supports healthy communities by investing in services to help residents of all ages who need treatment for mental health, addiction problems or a crisis and to provide prevention education, especially for substance abuse. As part of its responsibilities, the board funds and plans local services while also overseeing quality.

Portage and other Ohio counties were recognized in Columbus by Governor Ted Strickland for 40 years of dedication to building one of the most responsive and innovative state public mental health and recovery systems in the nation.

continued next column...

Portage County has benefited from local oversight of services by a board of community members that directs resource to address local needs. There are 18 volunteer members from various parts of the county who bring different experience to their board service. Systems like those in Portage County have adapted to provide the needed local services that support consumers in their home communities. There continue to be financial issues that present challenges. But today's boards work to ensure that basic substance abuse and mental health treatments are available to adults and children, regardless of their ability to pay.

The Mental Health & Recovery Board has now trained more than 100 law enforcement professionals and 20 education professionals in crisis intervention. The law enforcement participants were part of the board's Crisis Intervention Training program, known as CIT. The education personnel were part of a new initiative by the board called the Crisis Intervention Training Education Collaboration. Both programs provide participants with skills and knowledge to work effectively and safely with persons in crisis in their respective professions. The board is working to expand the CIT Education Collaboration in FY 2009.

2008 Highlights Include

Children and teens receiving treatment for abuse, mental illness, emotional problems and/or chemical dependency 2,531
Adults receiving treatment for abuse, mental illness, emotional problems and/or chemical dependency 4,336
24-hour crisis calls, information calls, incidents of walk-in counseling, crisis outreach and screening for hospitalization 35,628
Adults and youth receiving education and prevention services 8,823
80 law enforcement professionals have received Crisis Intervention Team training.



Auxiliary Organizations



Regional Planning Commission

124 North Prospect St
Ravenna OH 44266

Lynne J. Erickson, AICP, Director

2008 Highlights Include

Working with the Portage County Commissioners, the Portage Soil & Water Conservation District, and local officials, Regional Planning has helped preserve over 700 acres of farmland in Portage County

Assisted nine farmers applying for Clean Ohio Agricultural Easement Purchase Program funding to preserve their farms. One Hiram Township farm was selected for preservation, adding to the three farms in Hiram already preserved through this program

Continued working with the Portage Park District on Parks, Trails & Greenways Plan

Coordinated Intergovernmental Review of eight Federal and State Grant Applications totaling \$29,305,200 for infrastructure, housing and economic development

Reviewed applications for economic development assistance funding and evaluated regional projects for selection in the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

Mantua Village Comprehensive Plan completed

Created the new Neighborhood Commercial/Office/Industrial Zoning District (NCOI) for Freedom Township and assisted in the creation of the new Light Industrial Zoning District (LI)

Created comprehensive digital sign zoning requirements for Franklin, Brimfield and Rootstown Twps

Received a contract from Shalersville Township to do a Comprehensive Plan

Created comprehensive zoning requirements to regulate the use of outdoor hydronic furnaces for Randolph, Rootstown and Suffield Townships

Transfer of Development Rights Feasibility Study completed for Hiram Village and Hiram Township

Franklin Township Zoning Resolution Update draft completed

Provided Fair Housing Assistance in the City of Ravenna to 28 households

Participated in the initial stages of creating a county-wide Geographic Information System

Completion of the Mantua Township Zoning Resolution Update

Created site stabilization requirements to ensure proper erosion control methods (grading and seeding) of a site with less than an acre of disturbance are carried out to prevent or reduce silt runoff pollution site and ensure the site blends well into the local neighborhood

Completed a comprehensive revision of Windham Township's Zoning Resolution and continue to work with the Zoning Commission on implementing the recommended changes

Provided recommendations to Townships on 17 Zoning Resolution Text Amendments and 7 Zoning District Amendments

Administered \$533,915 in Community Development Block Grant funds for the Board of County Commissioners with the following results:

- ◆ Demolished six vacant buildings containing 24 units in the Maple Grove neighborhood in the Village of Windham
- ◆ Replaced 3,137 linear feet of sidewalk in the Maple Grove neighborhood in the Village of Windham
- ◆ Assisted 11 households in the City of Streetsboro with home repairs including replacement of roofing, sewer laterals, furnaces, electric work, etc.
- ◆ Acquired three lots to assist Habitat for Humanity.
- ◆ Worked with USDA and prepared documents, bid and facilitated signing contracts for an addition and rehabilitation of the Head Start Child Development Center in Ravenna Township.
- ◆ Prepared documents, bid and facilitated a contract for rehabilitation and set up of the Portage County Senior Center.
- ◆ Prepared application for the 2008 Formula Funds to provide services for low and moderate income households.
- ◆ Provided Fair Housing assistance for 107 households.
- ◆ Obtained RFP for replacement of one furnace and installation of two heat pumps in a group home.

Updated addresses for 23 communities in the County for the 2010 Census

Portage Park District

128 North Prospect St
Ravenna OH 44266

www.portageparkdistrict.org

Christine Craycroft, Executive Director

A five-member volunteer board of Park Commissioners governs the Park District. Parks are open daily, dawn to dusk, with no entrance fees.

2008 Highlights Include

Developed and opened 48-acre Seneca Ponds Park in Streetsboro

Developed and opened the Tenney Trailhead in Franklin Twp., donated by Dick and Judy Tenney

Developed and opened the PORTAGE Hike and Bike Trail, Lake Rockwell Road to Riverbend

Received donation of 10 acres of parkland in Rootstown Township from Helen Dix

Produced the Portage County Bicentennial Heritage Tours with several partners

Launched the "Wild Hikes Challenge" program wherein hikers earn a hiking stick and medallion

Provided guided nature hikes and educational programs for 3,508 citizens of all ages

Distributed informational video on the Park District, produced by volunteers and KSU students



Autumn field trip – The PORTAGE Bike & Hike Trail

Auxiliary Organizations

Board of Elections

449 South Meridian St, 1st Fl
Ravenna, OH 44266

www.co.portage.oh.us/election

Glenda F. Enders, Director

Lois Enlow, Deputy Director

Each county Board of Elections is composed of two Republicans and two Democrats who are appointed by Ohio's chief elections official, the Secretary of State. Voter registration locations include: Libraries, Bureau of Motor Vehicle offices, high schools, WIC office, Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MR/DD).

The Portage County Board of Elections:

- ◆ Runs local and state primaries and general elections
- ◆ Coordinates all election activities
- ◆ Maintains lists of registered electors
- ◆ Prints ballots
- ◆ Approves the validity of petitions and nomination forms
- ◆ Determines the residency of voters and investigates fraud

Portage County Board of Mental Retardation & Developmental Disabilities (MR/DD)

2606 Brady Lake Rd
Ravenna, OH 44266

www.pcbmrdd.org

Patrick Macke, Ph.D., Superintendent

The MR/DD Board:

- ◆ Assesses the needs of the mentally retarded and developmentally disabled
- ◆ Plans and evaluates services based on available resources
- ◆ Provides for services across the life span, including programs at Happy Day School and Portage Industries
- ◆ Maintains fiscal responsibility and resources to meet those needs
- ◆ Establishes a waiting list for services as needed

PROGRAM/ACTIVITY	TOTAL SERVED
Adult Services Portage Industries, Inc.	296
Service and Support Administration	524
Children's Services (Happy Day)	196
Residential and Family Support	333
Transportation	349

Portage County Regional Airport Authority (PCRAA) Board of Trustees

4039 Nanway Blvd
Ravenna, OH 44266

www.portagecountyairport.com

Michael Pryce, President

The Portage County Regional Airport Authority (PCRAA), with the support of the Portage County Commissioners, provides a full-service fixed-base operator: Portage Flight Center. PFC furnishes aircraft repair, flight training (including an ELITE flight simulator), courtesy car, and 24-hour automated 100LL and Jet A fuel sales. Hangar rental and upholstery services are also offered by other businesses. Building sites are available, some of which have direct runway access, for light industrial use.

The highlight of the year at the airport for the citizens of Portage County was Metro Life Flight deciding to locate a flight team and helicopter at Portage Flight Center. Metro Life Flight is an internationally recognized critical care transport service based in Northeast Ohio. Operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week, Metro Life Flight transports critically ill and injured patients to hospitals (including Robinson Memorial) around the state. At minimum, each mission is comprised of a critical care physician, a critical care nurse, and two pilots, which enables life-saving care to be given in the air en route to the hospital.

Using funds received from the Federal Aviation Administration, an Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS) was installed. When a pilot is considering whether to land at the Portage County Regional Airport, he or she can dial up the AWOS information on the airplane radio or the telephone and get the current conditions on the field and then determine whether it is safe to land and know what conditions to expect when arriving. Additional funds were used to purchase approximately 40 acres on the west side of Infirmary Road for runway approach protection.

With continued FAA and state funded programs to expand and improve the facility, the goal of the PCRAA is that the airport be self-supporting and have a positive impact on the economy of Portage County.

Veterans Service Commission

449 South Meridian St, 3rd Fl
Ravenna, OH 44266

Robert F. Park, Director

Veterans, their families, and their survivors are provided with special assistance locally through the county-funded Veterans Service Commission. This often means helping veterans and their families obtain local, state and federal assistance. The Commissions' trained and accredited Service Officers help Portage County's veterans file claims for benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

In 2008, 146 new claims were filed. The VA provided over \$14 million in cash benefits to Portage County veterans. The Portage County Veterans Service Commission Financial Assistance Program provided over \$46,000 for food, \$63,000 for rent, \$63,500 for mortgages and over \$82,000 for utilities. Additionally, the Veterans Service Commission provided free transportation to over 1200 veterans to area VA medical facilities.

Through the support of the Portage County Board of Commissioners, veterans receive Memorial Day flags and grave markers for the burial of veterans and maintenance of veterans' memorials.



Congressional Medal of Honor Memorial

Solid Waste Management District

3588 Mogadore Rd
Kent OH 44240

www.portagerecycles.com
William G. Steiner, II, Director

The District Recycling Center, sponsored by the Portage County Solid Waste Management District, remains the largest publicly owned and operated Materials Recovery Facility in the State of Ohio.

The District helps communities and businesses implement cost-effective and environmentally safe solid waste management practices by providing a variety of recycling education, collection and market development programs.

The District is responsible for implementing a county-wide solid waste management plan to achieve Ohio's goals for waste reduction, recycling and solid waste management. The Board of the Portage County Solid Waste District includes three District Commissioners, Charles W. Keiper II, Christopher Smeiles and Maureen T. Frederick who are responsible for the operations and financial performance.

The seven member Policy Committee of the Portage County Solid Waste District, established by the Ohio Revised Code also provides management oversight and is responsible primarily for the broad policy and budget.

The Portage County Solid Waste Management Plan approved by the Ohio EPA made a strong commitment to public ownership of a recycling processing center to assure the feasibility and marketability of local collection programs.

The Portage County Solid Waste Management District is funded by a \$9.60 per ton generation fee. The fee is collected at any landfill or transfer station in Ohio where Portage County waste is taken. The District also receives funds from the sale of recyclables and from the fees charged for the curbside pick up service.

In order to fund educational programs and special waste reduction projects, the District also applies for grant funds. The District does not receive funding from

the county general fund. Neither can District fees be used to support county activities. Fee revenue can only be spent on District activities.

2008 Highlights Include

7,800 tires cleaned up at a site in Windham Township working with the Ohio EPA
The District recycled 238.83 tons of tires.

Relined the Harris Baler and purchased a new strapper head to increase efficiency

First annual computer round up for county schools, netted 85,000 pounds of computers and distributed \$1,500 from a Best Buy grant to local schools.

Started diverting 3-7 plastics to a local plastic grinder for recycling for the first time in District history. We recycled over 12,000 pounds of this material.

Randolph Fair goes green and contributes 3,740 pounds of material for recycling.

Reduced the cost of tire disposal from \$77-95/ton to \$65/ton

Mixed glass cost the District \$15/ton to dispose of in 2007, now the District receives \$11/ton. A new source of income for the District. A first for the District.

Won an award from the Master Gardeners for our flowerpot-recycling program.

Purchased new containers and trailer to haul trash to the landfill internally and collect tires at the township clean ups—a savings of \$60,000 per year.

Soil & Water Conservation District

6970 State Route 88
Ravenna OH 44266

330-297-7633

James Bierlair, District Coordinator

The District operates with funds provided by the County Commissioners that are matched by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources-Division of Soil & Water Conservation. The District works closely and shares equipment with USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service in an effort to:

- Provide consultative, technical, and planning assistance to the agricultural and urban areas of the County
- Deliver conservation education programming to residents of the County
- Facilitate the County's compliance with Ohio EPA storm water management regulations

2008 Conservation Assistance

Newsletter distribution	7,900 residents
General Assistance	1,243 residents
Stormwater Assistance	544 residents
Adult Education	3,880 participants
Student Education	2,517 participants
Tree Program	534 customers
Agriculture Technical Assistance	1,138 acres
Rural Technical Assistance	620 acres
Urban Technical Assistance	273 acres

Portage County Port Authority

www.portageport.com

The Portage County Port Authority (PCPA) was created by the Portage County Board of Commissioners to provide an additional economic development tool for Portage County. The area of jurisdiction of the Port Authority includes all of Portage County, with the exception of those townships which currently have a Port Authority. The Port Authority is governed by a seven-member Board of Directors, appointed by the County Commissioners from a variety of professions and disciplines, which includes education, labor, printing & publishing, financial, insurance and real estate. The Portage County Port Authority provides financing for projects within Portage County through an agreement with the Summit County Port Authority. Recent projects include the Cascades of Brimfield, Brimfield Crossings, and an expansion of Delta Systems, Inc. in Streetsboro.

Working Farm on Congress Lake Road, Suffield

Auxiliary Organizations

Portage County District Library



10482 South St
Garrettsville OH 44231
www.portagelibrary.org
Cecilia Swanson, Director

Branch libraries include Aurora Memorial, Brimfield, Garrettsville, Pierce Streetsboro, Randolph, Windham, and Outreach Services (includes Home Delivery & Library Express.)

The Portage County District Library (PCDL) receives approximately 95 percent of its funding from the State of Ohio. PCDL does not receive any funding from the County or local property taxes. The seven members of PCDL's Board of Trustees, appointed by the County Commissioners or the Common Pleas Court Judges, serve as the stewards of library funds, establish policy decisions, and advocate for the library.

2008 Highlights Include

Introduced New Formats & Services

Downloadable audiobooks in WMA format (June 2008) and downloadable audiobooks in MP3 format, compatible for use with MAC computers and iPods (December 2008)

Playaways, small portable audiobook devices, pre-loaded with a single title in a light-weight case with an automatic bookmark feature (April 2008)

Online registration for library programs, featured on the PCDL website (May 2008)

The library added Reference USA and Small Engine Repair Reference Center into the on-line reference database collection (July 2008)

Started providing wireless service at all branch libraries (March 2008)

Annual Circulation of Library Materials

Adult books & magazines	209,117
Juvenile books & magazines	166,207
Children's kits (Includes contents)	8,320
Book boxes	9,390
Young adult books & magazines ...	31,094
DVDs and VHS tapes	216,037
Recorded books on CD and audiocassettes	29,717
Music CDs	28,773
Video games	4,226
Playaways	193
Downloadable audiobooks (Includes WMA and MP3)	1,931
SearchOhio (Borrowed)	7,772
SearchOhio (Loaned)	13,097
NextReads subscribers	151

Library Programs & Services

Provided 1,168 library and community programs with a total attendance of 28,841	
Annual reference questions and computer assistance	96,364

Boards and Commissions

Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS)

Policy Committee, Citizen Involvement Committee and Technical Advisory Committee

Building Board of Appeals

Community Plan

Quarterly meetings,
PCAB 7th floor Public Meeting Room

Preservation Advisory Board

Geauga, Ashtabula,

Portage Partnership (GAPP)

Workforce Investment Board,
meets quarterly at the Geauga County Department of Job and Family Services

Local Emergency Planning Commission

Meets 1st Wednesday, 9:00 AM
Portage County Justice Center

Portage Area Regional Transit Authority (PARTA)

Board meets 4th Thursday, 7:00 PM
2000 Summit Road, Kent

Portage County Bicentennial Committee

Portage County Community Corrections Board

Portage County District Library Board of Trustees

Meets 3rd Thursday, 5:30 PM
at various branches

Portage County Emergency Management Agency Advisory Board

Meets 1st Wednesday, 8:00 AM
Portage County Justice Center

Portage County Farmland Advisory Board

Portage County Flood Variance Board

Portage County Mental Health & Recovery Board

Meets 2nd Monday, 6:30 PM
155 East Main Street, Kent

Portage County Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MR/DD)

Meets 3rd Thursday, 4:30 PM
2606 Brady Lake Road

Portage County Port Authority

Portage County Regional Airport Authority Board of Trustees

Meets 2nd Wednesday, 7:00 PM
Portage Flight Center, State Route 44

Portage-Geauga Joint Juvenile Detention Center

Portage Metropolitan Housing Authority Board of Trustees

Meets last Thursday, 11:30 AM
2832 State Route 59, Ravenna

Portage County Public Defender Commission

Portage County Workforce Policy Committee

Meets bimonthly, 4th Thursday, 7:30 AM
Portage Workforce Connection
1081 West Main Street, Ravenna

Robinson Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees

Tax Incentive Review Councils

Meet annually in areas of the county
having active Enterprise Zone Agreements

The Board of Commissioners appoints members to the above boards. Interested citizens are welcome to apply by calling 330-297-3603

Contact Information

TOWNSHIPS

Atwater Township

Rebecca L. Bennett, Fiscal Officer
PO Box 9
Atwater, OH 44201
330-947-1212

Brimfield Township

John C. Dalziel, Fiscal Officer
1333 Tallmadge Road
Kent, OH 44240
330-678-0739

Charlestown Township

Ruth Craft, Fiscal Officer
5735 Newton Falls Road
Ravenna, OH 44266
330-296-2081

Deerfield Township

Nancy Cowan, Fiscal Officer
PO Box 186
Deerfield, OH 44411
330-654-2980
E-Mail:
deerfieldtwp@embarqmail.com

Edinburg Township

Judy Repcik, Fiscal Officer
PO Box 485
Rootstown, OH 44272
330-325-0271

Franklin Township

Suzanne Lucas, Fiscal Officer
PO Box 291
Kent, OH 44240
330-673-2194
E-Mail: FrnklnClerk@neo.rr.com

Freedom Township

Rosemary Nicholas, Fiscal Officer
7827 King Rd
Ravenna, OH 44288
330-297-1709
E-Mail:
rosemaryt.nicholas@gmail.com

Hiram Township

Douglas Brewer, Fiscal Officer
PO Box 1827
Hiram, OH 44234
330-569-7724

Mantua Township

Marie Stehli, Fiscal Officer
4122 State Route 82
Mantua, OH 44255
330-995-2640

Nelson Township

John David Finney, Fiscal Officer
PO Box 377
Garrettsville, OH 44231
330-527-2415

Palmyra Township

Kathleen Cofojohn, Fiscal Officer
3956 State Route 225
Diamond, OH 44412
330-654-4098

Paris Township

Linda Shaulis, Fiscal Officer
9174 Newton Falls Road
Ravenna, OH 44266
330-358-2600

Randolph Township

Mary Rodenbucher, Fiscal Officer
1314 Matti Road
Atwater, OH 44201
330-325-2977
E-Mail: randtwpcl@aol.com

Ravenna Township

Kelly Rich, Fiscal Officer
6115 Spring Street
Ravenna, OH 44266
330-297-1998
E-Mail: Ravclerk01@aol.com

Rootstown Township

JoAnn Townend, Fiscal Officer
3988 State Route 44
Rootstown, OH 44272
330-296-8240

Shalersville Township

Dorothy Caldwell, Fiscal Officer
9692 Infirmary Road
Mantua OH 44255
330-274-3655
E-Mail: clerk9692@yahoo.com

Suffield Township

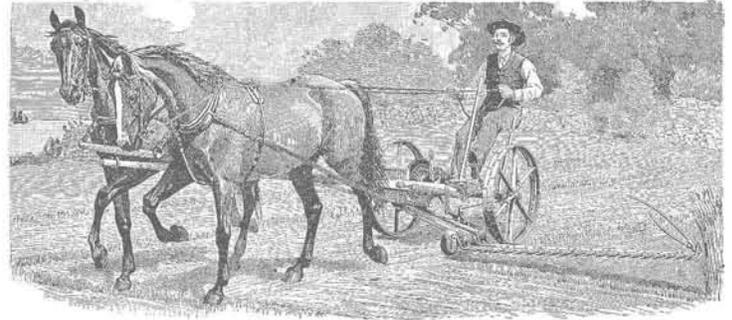
Lori Calcei, Fiscal Officer
2150 May Road
Suffield, OH 44260
330-628-5683

Windham Township

Jayne Neikirk, Fiscal Officer
9011 North Main Street
Windham, OH 44288
330-326-2971
E-Mail: jneikirk@windhamtwp.com

A Portage First:

Richard Thompson of Ravenna purchased and operated the first mowing machine used in the entire Western Reserve, about 1855.



VILLAGES

Village of Brady Lake

Hal A Lehman, Mayor
2123 Merrill Road
Ravenna, OH 44266
330-673-5998

Village of Garrettsville

Craig Moser, Mayor
8213 High Street P.O. Box 266
Garrettsville, OH 44231
330-527-4424
www.garrettsville.org

Village of Hiram

Lou Bertrand, Mayor
11617 Garfield Road
PO Box 65 Hiram, OH 44234
330-569-7677
www.hiramvillage.org

Village of Mantua

Donna Hawkins, Mayor
4650 West High Street
Mantua, OH 44255
330-274-8776
www.mantuaavillage.com

Village of Mogadore*

Michael Rick, Mayor
135 S. Cleveland Avenue
Mogadore, OH 4426
330-628-4896

Village of Sugar Bush Knolls

Austin Melton, Mayor
PO Box 2127
Streetsboro, OH 44241
330-626-9651

Village of Windham

Robert Donham, Mayor
9621 E. Center Street
Windham, OH 44288
330-326-1242
www.windhamvillage.com

MUNICIPALITIES

City of Aurora

Lynn McGill, Mayor
130 S. Chillicothe Road
PO Box 217
Aurora, OH 44202
330-562-6131
www.auroraoh.com

City of Kent

John H. Fender, Mayor
217 E. Summit Street
Kent, OH 44240
330-678-8007
www.kentohio.org

City of Ravenna

Kevin Poland, Mayor
210 Parkway P.O. Box 1215
Ravenna, OH 44266
330-296-3864
www.ci.ravenna.oh.us

City of Streetsboro

Tom Wagner, Mayor
9184 State Route 43
Streetsboro, OH 44241
330-626-4942
www.cityofstreetsboro.com

City of Tallmadge*

Christopher Grimm, Mayor
46 North Avenue
Tallmadge, OH 44278
330-633-0856
www.tallmadge-ohio.org/government

*Due to annexation, portions of these communities now fall under Portage County's jurisdiction.

Phone Directory

Talking by Wire

A 25-year franchise to provide telephone service in Kent was granted by the village council to the American Electric Telephone Company, April 9, 1895. Thirteen years earlier, in 1882. The Midland Telephone Company provided Kent with its first phones but the service was so bad that within less than a year the local exchange was abandoned. But the passing years softened the aversion felt toward telephones and now Kent was willing to try them again. Thomas Green, representative of the company, promised that the service would be "absolutely perfect" and within a week, 55 subscribers had been obtained. The rate was \$2 per month for business phones and \$1.50 for residences.

A room in the rear of Mark Davis' block was fitted up as an exchange and August 1, 1896, the system was put in operation with W. H. Butler as manager and B. D. Myers in charge of the exchange. Miss Blanche Coyle became the first day operator. By 1898, there were 200 phones in use in Kent. When something unusually interesting in town was going on, the operators of those days were perfectly willing to tell subscribers about it. Many a choice bit of gossip was passed along over the wires, but no one was greatly harmed.



DEPARTMENT	PHONE	FAX
Adult Probation		
Common Pleas Div	330-297-3650	330-297-4561
Municipal Div	330-296-1711	330-296-1723
Auditor 330-297-3561 330-297-4560		
Appraisal	330-297-3578	330-297-4560
Board of Revision	330-297-3568	330-297-4560
Bookkeeping	330-297-3564	330-297-4560
Budgets & Settlements	330-297-3575	330-297-4560
CAUV Program	330-297-3579	330-297-4560
Cigarette License	330-297-3573	330-297-4560
Dog License	330-297-3560	330-297-4560
Estate Tax.....	330-297-3570	330-297-4560
Homestead Tax.....	330-297-3571	330-297-4560
Mobile Homes.....	330-297-3576	330-297-4560
Payroll	330-297-3566	330-297-4560
Personal Property.....	330-297-3573	330-297-4560
Real Estate Transfer.....	330-297-3569	330-297-4560
Vendor's License.....	330-297-3573	330-297-4560
Weights & Measures	330-297-3581	330-297-4560
Auto Title	330-297-3450	330-297-3451
Board of Elections	330-297-3511	330-297-3518
Budget & Financial Mgmt	330-298-3034	330-297-3610
Building Inspection	330-297-3530	330-297-3896
Building Maintenance	330-297-3501	330-297-3610
Child Health Services ...	330-297-5437	330-297-4556
Clerk Of Courts	330-297-3644	330-297-4554
Board of Commissioners	330-297-3600	330-297-3610
Chuck Keiper.....	330-297-3606	330-297-3610
Maureen T. Frederick	330-297-3604	330-297-3610
Christopher Smeiles.....	330-297-3605	330-297-3610
Common Pleas Court		
Judge Giulitto	330-297-3880	330-296-0190
Judge Pittman	330-297-3858	330-297-5370
Judge Enlow.....	330-297-3866	330-297-4589
Coroner	330-297-3444	330-298-2059
Dog Warden	330-297-6924	330-298-2053
Domestic Relations Clerk	330-297-3475	330-297-4268
Domestic Relations Court	330-297-3880	330-296-0190
Department of Economic Development	330-297-3470	330-297-3472
Education Service Center	330-297-1436	330-297-1113

DEPARTMENT	PHONE	FAX
Engineer	330-296-6411	330-296-2303
General Services	330-297-3608	330-297-3610
Health Department	330-297-3502	330-297-3597
Human Resources	330-298-4544	330-298-4225
Homeland Security & Emergency Mgmt	330-297-3607	330-297-4569
Information Technology	330-297-3584	330-297-4560
Internal Auditor	330-298-2105	330-297-3610
Internal Services	330-297-3611	330-297-3610
Job & Family Services ...	800-876-9544	
Administration	330-298-4508	330-298-1107
Children Services.....	330-297-3735	330-297-3738
Child Support Enforcement	330-297-3791	330-297-4559
Food Stamps/MEDICAID	800-876-9544	
Foster Care & Adoption	330-297-2273	
Main Office.....	330-297-3750	330-297-3831
Workforce Connection.....	330-296-2841	330-296-7805
Jury Commissioner	330-297-3859	330-297-4589
Juvenile Court	330-297-0881	330-297-2227
Juvenile Court Probation	330-298-2112	330-298-3010
Juvenile Detention Center	330-297-5233	330-297-1533
Law Library	330-297-3661	330-296-3258
Mental Health & Recovery Board	330-673-1756	330-673-1330
Mental Retardation & Developmentally Disabled	330-297-6209	330-297-1202
Microfilming Department	330-297-3849	330-297-3610
Motor Pool	330-297-3409	330-297-3610
Municipal Court Clerks		
Kent, Civil.....	330-678-9170	330-677-9944
Kent, Criminal	330-678-9100	330-677-9944
Ravenna, Civil	330-297-3635	330-297-3526
Ravenna, Criminal	330-297-3639	330-297-5867
Municipal Court Judges		
Judge Plough, Kent	330-678-6170	330-677-9944
Judge Oswald, Ravenna	330-297-3632	330-298-3033
Judge Watson, Ravenna	330-297-4277	330-297-4283

Your County at a Glance:

DEPARTMENT	PHONE	FAX
Nursing Home.....	330-297-4564	330-298-4530
OSU Cooperative Extension.....	330-296-6432	330-296-7737
Portage Park District	330-297-7728	330-673-3472
Probate Court	330-297-3870	330-297-3894
Prosecuting Attorney....	330-297-3850	330-297-3856
Public Defender	330-297-3665	330-298-2064
Purchasing.....	330-297-3612	330-298-4500
Recorder	330-297-3553	330-297-7349
Regional Planning	330-297-3613	330-297-3617
Senior Center	330-297-3456	330-297-3610
Sheriff	330-296-5100	330-297-3402
Administration.....	330-678-7012	330-297-3887
Civil Division.....	330-297-3889	
Detective Bureau	330-297-3890	330-297-3402
Jail.....	330-297-3885	330-297-4576
Kitchen.....	330-297-4579	330-297-0703
Medical	330-297-4578	330-297-4555
North Post	330-326-2460	330-326-2460
Records Division	330-297-3892	330-298-2110
South Post.....	330-325-1023	330-325-1023
Soil & Water Conservation.....	330-297-7633	330-296-5917
Solid Waste Coordinator	330-678-8808	330-678-9405
Tax Map Department ...	330-297-3598	330-297-3037
Treasurer.....	330-297-3586	330-297-3393
Veterans Service Commission	330-297-3545	330-297-3544
Water Resources	330-297-3670	330-297-3680
Sewer & Water Billing	330-297-3672	
Lab/Repairs & Emergencies	330-297-3685	330-297-3689
Repairs & Emergencies After Hours.....	330-626-5283	
Women Infants & Children	330-297-3699	330-297-3696

Photos on front cover:

Top: Medical research

Second: The Cascades of Brimfield, retail and commercial development center

Third: Franklin Mills River Edge Park, Kent

Bottom: Lake Phippen, Franklin Township

Photo on back cover:

Portage County Bicentennial Birthday fireworks finale

Auditor

Appraisal
Board of Revision
Bookkeeping
Budgets & Settlement
CAUV Program
Cigarette License
Dog License
Estate Tax
Homestead Tax
Model Homes
Payroll
Personal Property
Real Estate Transfer
Vendor's License
Weights & Measures

Board of Commissioners

Budget & Financial Mgmt
Clerk for the Board of Commissioners
Economic Development
Executive Assistant
General Services Director

- ◆ Administration
- ◆ Building Security
- ◆ Building Department
- ◆ Dog Warden & Shelter
- ◆ Maintenance Department
- ◆ Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Mgmt
- ◆ Senior Center
- ◆ WIC Department

Grants Administrator
Human Resources
Internal Auditor
Internal Services Director

- ◆ Microfilm & Records
- ◆ Motor Pool
- ◆ Purchasing
- ◆ Print Shop

Job & Family Services
Nursing Home
Solid Waste Management
Water Resources

Common Pleas Clerk of Courts

Auto Title
Common Pleas

- ◆ Civil/Criminal
- ◆ Domestic Relations

Municipal – Kent & Ravenna

- ◆ Criminal/Traffic
- ◆ Civil

Coroner

Courts

Common Pleas

- ◆ General Division
- ◆ Domestic Relations Division
- ◆ Probate Division
- ◆ Juvenile Division

Municipal, Kent & Ravenna
Criminal/Traffic; Civil

Engineer

Drafting & Design
County Roads & County Bridges
Tax Map Department

Prosecuting Attorney

Criminal Division
Civil Division
Appellate Division
Victim/Witness Assistance Division

Recorder

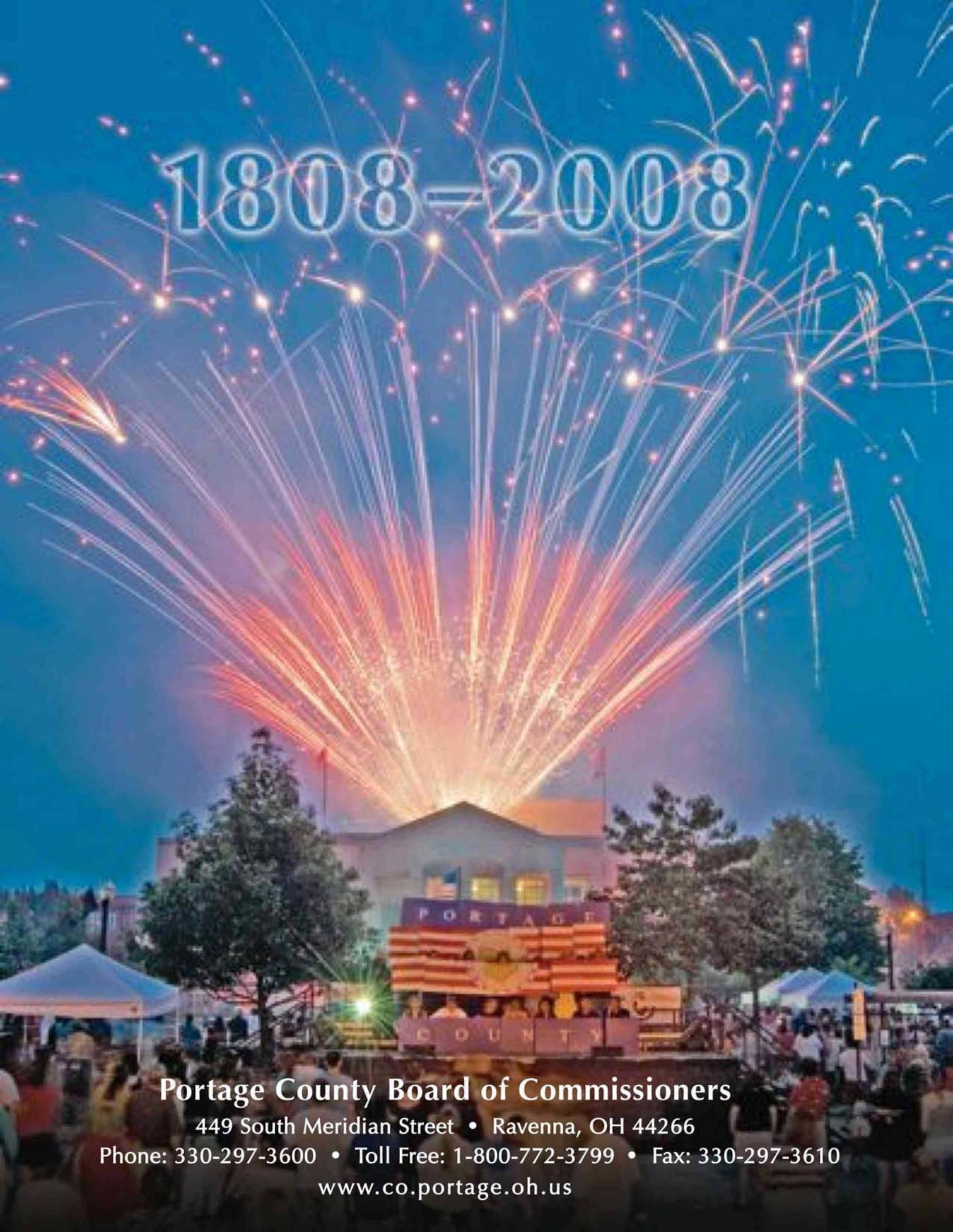
Record Room
Imaging
Genealogy

Sheriff

Administration
Civil Division
Communications Division
Concealed Carry Division
Corrections Division
County Wide
Drug Task Force
Detective Bureau
Records Division
Road Division
Sexual Offender Registry

Treasurer

Financials
Taxes



1808-2008

Portage County Board of Commissioners

449 South Meridian Street • Ravenna, OH 44266

Phone: 330-297-3600 • Toll Free: 1-800-772-3799 • Fax: 330-297-3610

www.co.portage.oh.us