



WINTER 2015



WARREN COUNTY NEWS



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Commissioner Tom Grossmann

Newly sworn in Monday, January 5, 2015



Our new Warren County Commissioner, Tom Grossmann, officially took office Monday, January 5, 2015. We welcome Commissioner Grossmann to the Warren County government. Tom grew up on a horse farm in Springfield Township, Ohio with his father and mother, Judge David and Peggy Grossmann, and his brother John. He worked on the farm and took care of it for almost 30 years. Tom and his brother John still run the farm. After Tom graduated from Greenhills High School, he went to Miami University and then to the College of Law at the University of Cincinnati.

Upon his graduation from law school, Tom worked as a clerk for Judge William O. Bertelsmann of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky. After that he joined Taft, Stettinius and Hollister where he worked for over 26 years, first as an associate and then as a partner.

Tom and his family moved to Milan, Italy for four years from 1994 to 1998 while he worked as Assistant General Counsel for Italy's largest international company, Montedison. Upon returning from Italy, Tom rejoined Taft and he and his family bought property and then moved into Mason, Ohio.

Tom was elected to Mason City Council in 2001 where he served until his second term ended at the end of November 2009. Tom now works as Assistant Prosecutor under Hamilton County Prosecutor Joseph T. Deters. Tom was elected to Mason City Council again in November 2011 and served on council and on its Economic Development and Finance Committees until taking office with the Board of County Commissioners.

JUSTICE OFFICE BUILDING

An Official Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was held on Dec. 9 to celebrate the accomplishments achieved throughout the design, construction, and coordination of the new Justice Office Bldg.

The County Commissioners were in attendance and gave hats off to the dedication of the many who worked diligently to see this project take place. There are many highlights within this building which include: a new third floor Warren County Prosecutor's Office, equipped with war rooms and a grand jury room; a new state-of-the-art County Dispatch Center to accommodate new county radio system; a valuable expansion of Court Services with office area on the second floor; and the Board of Elections being newly located on first floor with its own public entrance. The ceremony provided an opportunity for the public to tour the new facility and discuss its use with the staff of each department.



Ribbon-Cutting, from left to right: Judge Donald E. Oda, Judge Robert Peeler, Judge James L. Flannery, Commissioner Pat South, Commissioner David Young, Commissioner Tom Ariss, Prosecutor David Fornshell, Director of Emergency Services Mike Bunner. Not Pictured: Director of Board of Elections Brian Sleeth and Deputy Director of Board of Elections Shari Huff, and Director of Facilities Management Mike Shadoan.

Warren County Prosecutor David Fornshell spoke with guests about the function of his office.



The Warren County Sheriff Larry Sims, Lisa Dickerson who is the Administrative Assistant for the Sheriff's Office, and Melissa Bour who is LEADS/Training Coordinator for the Warren County Emergency Services, catch up in the new Dispatch Center which starts activation in the beginning of 2015.

Retired Judge James L. Flannery and Warren County Administrator David Gully smile for the camera.



DOG LICENSING

2015 Application Fee - \$15.00

Renewal period December 1, 2014 - January 31, 2015

Ohio law (955.01 O.R.C.) requires that all dogs more than three months of age be licensed each year not later than January 31st. A Warren County Dog License (dog tag) is available at the Warren County Auditor's Office, from an Authorized Dog Licensing Agent and from this home page by clicking the forms button. The Warren County Commissioners determine the license fee annually. A penalty, which is equal to the cost of the tag, is charged for purchasing a license after January 31st. If the dog was obtained after January 31st the owner has thirty (30) days to license the dog without penalty.



Register your dog online at: <http://www.doglicenses.us/OH/Warren/>

RECORDER'S OFFICE OFFERS FREE PROPERTY FRAUD ALERT

The Warren County's Recorders Office is offering a free service to all county residents to help protect them against thieves who would use their personal property information illegally.

Warren County Recorder Linda Oda today urged all county residents to take advantage of a new, free service offered by her office to help protect people against property fraud. People can sign up through the county's website to receive Property Fraud Alerts, an automated database that monitors activity involving land records filed in the Warren County Recorder's Office.

"The FBI says this is one of the fastest growing white collar crimes in our nation," said David Fornshell, Warren County Prosecutor.

"Mrs. Oda is providing the residents of Warren County an excellent resource. This is a service that can actually save our residents a lot of time, money and heartache," he said.

The Warren County Recorder's Office recently converted from a 1980s DOS software to AVID, a state of the art land records software developed by Fidlar Technologies. One of the benefits to this software is the

property fraud alerts at no charge to all Warren County residents.

The Property Fraud Alert system notifies individuals when transactions involving their property are recorded in the Warren County Recorder's Office. It provides people advanced notice of possible fraudulent activity involving their land records. This can include notice of fraudulent liens or mortgages.

Since March 2013, federal authorities have charged more than 400 people nationwide for their alleged roles in one of the largest mortgage fraud schemes prosecuted.

Oda said Warren County is one of the first counties in Ohio to make Property Fraud Alerts available to the public. "This should give people some peace of mind, knowing there is an organization looking out for them, day and night, 24 hours a

day," Oda said. She said participants can choose whether to receive their alerts via email or over the phone.

To sign up for this free service, visit the Warren County Recorder's website at www.co.warren.oh.us/Recorder. Click on the Property Fraud Alert link, and it will take you to a secure website. Fidlar Technologies staffs the Property Fraud Alert in-house, and emails are safe from distribution lists.

For residents who do not use computers, they can sign up for the Property Fraud Alerts by calling the Warren County Recorder's office at 513-695-1382.



WINTER SNOW FIGHTING MEASURES

Typically the winters in Warren County have snowfall in the months of December, January, and February. With 544.05 miles of streets, the County strives to maintain an excellent level of snow and ice control which provides the safest possible county roadway system and access routes for the motoring public, public transit, public schools, fire, police, emergency aid vehicles, the citizens of Warren County and the surrounding communities.

Snow fighting cannot eliminate all the impacts or effects of a snow and/or ice emergency. WCEO follows a specific plan for preliminary coordination efforts to reduce the threat to public safety from a snow and ice emergency. During inclement weather, the Warren County Engineer's Office in partnership with the Warren County Highway Department will make every effort to maintain the traffic flow in Warren County as close to normal driving conditions as possible. The decision on how to combat a snow storm is reviewed on a case by case basis.



Do not allow children and pets to play on roadways or on the snow berms as this is very dangerous. Drivers may not see them or be able to stop in time to avoid hitting them. ***Do not shovel or put snow from driveways onto or across county roads*** as this is unlawful and creates a hazard for other drivers. If you are removing snow from your property and a county snow plow approaches, there is a strong possibility that you are not visible to the operator. Dark clothing, the hour of day and weather conditions inhibit visibility. Protect yourself from injury by giving the plow operator extra room to perform the task. ***Don't go out until the snow plows and salt mix trucks have had a chance to do their work***, and allow yourself extra time to reach your destination. If you must drive in snowy conditions, make sure your car is prepared, and that you know how to handle road conditions. Snow plows make frequent stops and backup maneuvers, ***do not drive your car up behind a snow plow as the driver may be unable to see you*** and inadvertently back into your car. If you are behind a plow that stops, stop your vehicle in such a way that your car looks into the driver's outside rearview mirror, and please give them extra room. Drivers are also urged to give an oncoming snow truck right of way. During the winter months, the berm or shoulder of the road is often too soft to support the weight of a loaded salt truck. These drivers cannot move off of the road to let oncoming traffic pass on narrow roads. If you see a salt truck approaching on a narrow road please be courteous and pull off into the nearest driveway and let the snow truck pass.

Although undesired, there is always a potential for damage to mailboxes and fences during the snow removal process. Damage will be evaluated on a case by case basis. Mailboxes and fences that are damaged by actual physical contact with County equipment will be repaired at the County's expense, but only if they were properly located and installed. The mail box owner is responsible for repair or replacement of the mailbox if the mailbox was damaged by the pressure of the plowed snow and there was no physical contact with the plow equipment. The Warren County Engineer's Office encourages property owners to participate in the annual "Shake Your Mailbox" Day which is held in October. This day is designated to educate and encourage the maintenance of your mailbox. Visit our website, www.wceo.us, for more information and tips on how to test whether your mailbox is ready for winter.

Do your part in making this a safe winter. Practice caution for you and your family, and drive with care during the upcoming winter season.

Your County Guide | How do I?...

Obtain a copy of my deed – Recorder's Office – 406 Justice Drive 513-695-1382

Obtain a building/electrical permit – Building Dept. – 406 Justice Drive 513-695-1290

Obtain a Vendors License – Auditor's Office – 406 Justice Drive 513-695-2616

Pay my Property Taxes – Treasurer's Office – 406 Justice Drive 513-695-1300

Obtain a Marriage License or a copy – Probate Court – 570 Justice Drive 513-695-1771

Obtain a passport – Clerk of Courts Office – 500 Justice Drive 513-695-1120

Obtain a copy of a birth certificate – Health Dept. – 416 S. East Street – 513-695-1228