

WARREN
OHIO



COUNTY
EST. 1803

WINTER 2015



WARREN COUNTY NEWS

 Like us today at [WarrenCountyCommissioners](#) for updates and news from the county.

FOOD DRIVE

As the holiday season approaches, the Warren County Board of Commissioners would like to encourage all residents of Warren County to do what they can to help those in need.

Thousands of local citizens rely on assistance for basic meals for their family. The **Warren County Food Drive** was developed to be a collaboration of all local food drives to join forces and efficiently meet the overall need. For more specific information on how you can help during this season visit www.WarrenCountyFoodDrive.org.

Twelve Most Wanted:

- Peanut butter
- Beans
- Chili
- Canned luncheon meats
- Cereal
- Rice
- Canned stews
- Full meals can/box
- Tuna
- Mac & Cheese
- Canned soups
- Pop top food items

Consider Donating Money:

- For every \$1 you donate, the Pantries can purchase \$10 worth of bulk food
- Sponsor a holiday food basket for \$75-\$100
- Cash donations allow the pantries to purchase perishable food items like milk, eggs, meat and bread

Look for our “Yes We Can Food Drive Challenge” Food Barrels at the exits of your grocery store and local businesses for you to conveniently put your donations in.



IN MEMORY OF TWO BELOVED FORMER COUNTY OFFICIALS



Edna Louise Bowyer, Age 98, of Lebanon, Ohio passed peacefully Tuesday, December 1, 2015 at Lebanon Country Manor. Born April 30, 1917 in Kings Mills, Ohio, Edna was the daughter of Perry and Clara Belle (Arnold) Bowyer and was the former elected Warren County Recorder with 20 years of service.

Edna was a well known professional, an avid fan of the Cincinnati Reds and enjoyed fishing. Edna would recall stories of attending Cincinnati Reds games with her father and seeing Babe Ruth play. Preceded in death by her parents, Edna leaves behind her dear friends Lynn (Pastor Steve) Tufts and Beth Deckard all of Lebanon, Ohio.

Edna, Warren County Recorder 1965-1985, was influential to the microfilm department and preserving the history of Warren County. In her honor, when the County Administration Building was built, the Commissioners deservedly named Edna L. Bowyer Records Center in recognition of her service.



Former Warren County Auditor Nicholas "Nick" North Nelson died at home in Oregonia, surrounded by his family, on September 13, 2015 at the age of 69.

Nick is survived by his wife, Susie, of 39 years; 5 children, Christi (Mark) Hall of Lebanon, OH; Stacey (Robby) Baker of Milford, OH; Jeremy (Amber) Nelson of Powell, OH; BJ (Amanda Brewer) Nelson of Columbus, OH; Nikki (Matt) Rask of Oregonia, OH; 2 sisters, Nancy Murphy of Columbus, OH; Jeanne (Ron) Gribler of Lebanon, OH; a brother, John Nelson of Wilmington, OH; 11 grandchildren, Robin (Matthew) Hurley; Ally and Bailey Hall; Stacie Jo (Justin) Stechinfinger; Robby, Dylan and Blayne Baker; Ashley, Andrew and Lexi Schneider; and Scotlyn Rask .

Nick was born on August 19, 1946 in the Blair Brothers Hospital in downtown Lebanon, OH to Warren "Bud" and Mildred Nelson. He graduated from Lebanon High School in 1964 where he was a star athlete. He was a graduate of Miami University and a member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity.

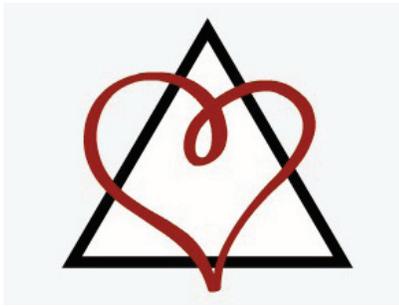
Nick served in the Army and was a decorated Vietnam Veteran. In 1976, he married Susan Wuest George, who was a widow with two children. They eventually had three more children, Jeremy, BJ and Nikki. In 1971 he started working in the Warren County Auditor's Office under Auditor Leslie J. Spaeth. When Les retired, Nick was appointed Auditor and then ran for seven consecutive terms, winning all. He retired from the office in February 2015.

He was an active and dedicated member of the Lebanon United Methodist Church and over the years his interest focused on serving others in mission work. He served on many boards and committees and enjoyed giving back to his community.

On November 17, 2015 the Commissioners dedicated a buckeye tree planted on the County Administration Campus in honor of the life and service of Nicholas "Nick" Nelson, our beloved Warren County Auditor.

Nicholas North Nelson
Aug. 19, 1946 - Sept. 13, 2015
"In memory and with sincere
gratitude for your service to
Warren County and your Country."

DECEMBER IS NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH



The Warren County Board of Commissioners is incredibly grateful for those who have adopted a child from Warren County Children Services.

Adopting children requires large amounts of patience and understanding as you provide safety, stability, and a nurturing home.

Adoptive parents provide one of the greatest gifts for our children: love.

Every child deserves a loving, nurturing, safe, and permanent home. Thank you so much to all of our fine staff at Warren County Children Services and the adoptive parents in our community who are all making a difference in the lives of our kids by giving them a brighter future.

In 2014, WCCS investigated nearly 660 new reports alleging child abuse/neglect.

As of this year, there were approx. 20 children in the permanent custody of Warren County Children Services who have been adopted this year.

OHIO EPA ENDORSES WARREN COUNTY RICHARD A. RENNEKER'S DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION PLAN

Exciting news for our Warren County Water & Sewer Department, as the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency has endorsed its Warren County Richard A. Renneker's drinking water source protection plan as meeting the requirements of Ohio's Source Water Protection Program.

This endorsement is based on the review of the June 2015 report, Warren County Source Water Assessment & Protection Plan for the Richard A. Renneker Water System, prepared by Warren County Water & Sewer Department and Warren County Regional Planning Commission. The plan identifies priority containment sources within the delineated protection area, such as Duvall's Auto Service, Barrett's Marathon, EPIC Technologies, Diversified Products, and proposes protective strategies for them that are appropriate for a protection area with a high susceptibility.

The protective strategies emphasize (1) public education and awareness aimed at all owners and occupants of the different land uses on properties that drain toward the protection area

including meeting with representatives of the potential contaminant sources, (2) continued classroom education under contract with a local private company, (3) contaminant site remediation to monitor and remediate contaminated properties, (4) spill emergency response, and (5) groundwater protection zoning protection provisions for local jurisdictions that currently do not have provisions similar to Warren County's.

Ohio EPA commends Warren County for recognizing the importance of protecting its valuable groundwater resources.



WARREN COUNTY CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AGENCY RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE

The Warren County Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) has been recognized for outstanding performance during fiscal year 2015. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Office of Child Support, awarded the agency for:

- Best Performance for Collections on Current Support in the Large Caseload Division
- Best Performance in Support Order Establishment in the Large Caseload Division
- Best Performance in Total Disbursements per Total Full-Time Equivalent in the Large Caseload Division

Warren County Prosecutor David Fornshell noted, "These awards demonstrate Warren County's child support program is committed to providing excellent service to families

in our community while also running a cost efficient program." CSEA Director Elizabeth Schorr stated, "I am proud that our Child Support Enforcement Agency staff has been recognized for their hard work and dedication." Warren County CSEA boasts a rich history of awards.

This is the fifth consecutive year and eighth time overall that the agency has been recognized for the Best Performance in Support Order Establishment and also for cost effectiveness, winning the Total Disbursements per Total Full-Time Equivalent. The Total Disbursements per Total F.T.E. means that Warren County achieved the highest rate of support collections and disbursements per dollar expended on fulltime equivalent wages paid in operating a CSEA program in Ohio.

The agency has again been

recognized for Best Performance for Collections on Current Support. This is the third consecutive year that Warren County has received this award.

In 2015, Warren County CSEA handled approximately 12,500 active support cases, and collections are expected to total over \$43 million.

The agency has 50 employees and is a division of the Warren County Prosecutor's Office in Lebanon.

Additional information about Warren County CSEA and the services provided can be obtained from the agency's website at:
www.co.warren.oh.us/wcchildsupport.

WARREN COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT ADMINISTRATOR RECEIVES AWARD FROM OHIO JUSTICE ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS



Jennifer Burnside, Warren County Common Pleas Court, Court Administrator, has received the Dr. Simon Dinitz Award at the Annual Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections 2015 OJACC Conference luncheon back in October.

This prestigious award is given annually to a community correctional practitioner who has made contributions to the improvement of community corrections in Ohio.

In the short time that Jennifer has been with Warren County, she has applied for and received over 1.245 million in grant funding. Part of the funding Jennifer was able to obtain was for the Ohio Smart Grant which Jennifer wrote. Those funds were used to initiate a Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program that serves as a model for the state. Jennifer currently oversees the MAT program along with all of her additional duties running the court. The MAT program has also received an addendum for up to 1.4 million to target the heroin epidemic.

The program provides a complete continuum of substance abuse services to Warren County Common Pleas opiate dependent clients.

In addition, Jennifer has advocated for and implemented numerous additional programs for the court, including her current project of preparing to apply for a new Warren County Drug Court.

Without Jennifer's enthusiasm, support, and motivation, we would not be where we are today. We are very honored to have her as a part of the Warren County Common Pleas Court.

WARREN COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT JUDGE, ROBERT W. PEELER, RECEIVED THE 2015 NAMI SOUTHWEST OHIO AWARD



Warren County Common Pleas Court Judge, Robert W. Peeler, received the 2015 NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Southwest Ohio Award in Excellence for his work in Criminal Justice/Mental Health.

Judge Peeler, who has been on the bench in Warren County since 2009, was also a recipient of the 2014 Warren County Public Official of the Year Award from NAMI.

Judge Peeler was one of the honored individuals during the Evening of Hope banquet held at the Cintas Center in Cincinnati on October 28, 2015, for his hard work and dedication in improving the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness.

NAMI is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. They are an association of hundreds of local affiliates, state organizations and volunteers who work in the community to raise awareness and provide support and education that was not previously available to those in need.

WARREN COUNTY CHILD PROTECTION WORKER HONORED FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO CHILDREN, FAMILIES

One of Warren County's caseworkers, Roy Lutz, from the Warren County Children Services agency was recognized by the Public Children Services Association of Ohio as Outstanding Child Protection Worker of the Year for going above and beyond expectations to provide high-quality services to our community.

Our child protection system asks a lot of its caseworkers: Managing the delicate balance between home life and work life, particularly when the caseworker is a parent; identifying and securing resources for struggling families; facing challenging situations above and beyond child abuse and neglect, such as domestic violence; staying on top of mounds of paperwork and reporting requirements; and regularly adapting to new rules and new initiatives.

This year's Child Protection Worker of the Year, Roy Lutz, manages to do all of that and more.

A former parole/probation officer, Roy has been in the field only two years. In that time, he has helped his county roll out alternative response and led his peers in client engagement and facilitation. Driven by his own experience as a witness to intimate partner violence and as a "little brother" in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program, he immersed himself in Safe & Together training to better serve his clients and is recruiting "bigs" for children on his caseload. Whether donating his own fishing pole to a family, warehousing needed supplies, securing a pro bono attorney for a mom wrongly accused of endangerment, or purchasing gift cards at Christmas when a donation sponsor failed to follow through, this

caseworker regularly goes above and beyond for children and families. He educates the court and school districts on Alternative Response (AR), and went on TV to discuss the need for Big Brothers.

His commitment to his coworkers is admirable, too. They go to him for advice. He accompanies them on dangerous investigations and volunteers for new assignments. His enthusiasm for his job, for learning new ways to serve families, and for getting the best possible outcomes for children is contagious. Somehow, on top of all of this, he manages to be a wonderful father to his three children.

We are proud and grateful to Roy Lutz for his service to Warren County!

UPCOMING RESOURCE FAIR TO HIGHLIGHT COUNTY SERVICES

The Warren County Criminal Justice Board will be hosting its inaugural Resource Fair on Wednesday January 20, 2016 from 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm. The location of this event is the Warren County Board of Developmental Disabilities, 801 Drake Road, Lebanon, OH 45036.

The resource fair is intended to raise awareness and supply information to the general public regarding the wide variety of county resources available in Lebanon and the surrounding areas. This event will encourage both individuals and families to attend while giving them access to different service providers in our community at no cost.

Some of the service providers who have already committed to this event include: Interfaith Hospitality Network, Warren County JFS, Warren County Community Services, Goodwill, Abuse and Rape Crisis Shelter, and Solutions just to name a few. In case of inclement weather, the Resource Fair will be held on February 3, 2016.

RAIN BARREL ART PROJECT 2016

The rain barrel painting program is a collaboration of Hamilton, Butler, Warren and Clermont Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden. Area artists, teachers, students and groups paint rain barrels that are auctioned off at the Cincinnati Zoo's Party for the Planet. The goal of the project is to raise awareness and money for water conservation education.

Rain barrels continue to grow in popularity across the country. However, one of its biggest drawbacks is their dull appearance. Some people are less likely to use them given their negative aesthetic impact to residential and commercial landscaping, even though they conserve water and save money. We believe that producing beautiful artistic rain barrels that have unique painted details will make them more desirable and naturally increase interest to promote their use.

The Rain Barrel Art Project desires to educate people on environmental issues like storm water runoff, watersheds and water conservation.

Last year, there were fifty barrels in total — including two from Kings High School and eight from Lebanon Junior High School — which were auctioned at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, in the spring of last year, to raise money for conservation education in the Ohio River Valley.

Our Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District Board decided to bid on two of the barrels to display in Warren County. The KHS rain barrel can be found at the Wildflower Cafe in Mason. The LJHS rain barrel is installed at the Lebanon Mason Monroe Railroad station in Lebanon.

For More Information, visit:
<http://www.warrenswcd.com/>



2016 Rain Barrel Art Project Schedule:

November 15th through January 16th:

Rain Barrel Artwork entries submitted

January 16th through January 22nd:

Selection of top 50 entries

January 30th

Rain Barrel Pick Up

January 30th through March 27th:

Painting Period for Rain Barrels

March 28th through April 3rd:

Drop off painted rain barrels to Zoo

April 4th through April 21st:

Rain Barrels displayed at Cincinnati Zoo

April 21st:

Rain Barrel Benefit Auction

WINTER SAFETY REMINDERS

Safety in your home

 Respond to all maintenance issues as soon as possible. If you rent, report all maintenance issues to your landlord immediately.

 If you plan to use a wood stove, fireplace, or indoor space heater, be extremely careful; only use if they are properly ventilated to the outside and do not leak flue gas. Follow the manufacturer's safety instructions and keep a fire extinguisher nearby.

 Do not place a space heater within three feet of anything that may catch on fire, such as drapes, furniture, bedding or rugs. Never place a space heater on top of furniture or near water. Avoid using extension cords with space heaters, inspect all electrical cords before using and avoid tripping hazards. Never leave children unattended near a space heater.

 Protect yourself from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning by installing a battery-operated CO detector and never using generators, grills, camp stoves or similar devices indoors.

 Extreme cold can cause water pipes to freeze. You may want to store bottled water for emergency use. To help avoid frozen pipes:

- Leave all water taps slightly open so they drip continuously.
- Keep the indoor temperature warm.

- Improve the circulation of warm air in the area around pipes.
- When possible, keep cabinet doors open if they house pipes, particularly those that are adjacent to outside walls.
- Disconnect water hoses from outside faucets, if necessary.

 Bring pets inside or house them in a dry, wind-protected shelter.

Driving safety

 Monitor travel advisories issued by the National Weather Service - <http://www.weather.gov/>

 Keep at least a half tank of gas in automobiles to prevent fuel lines from freezing.

 Monitor antifreeze levels.

 Avoid travelling unless absolutely necessary. If you must drive, avoid low visibility conditions, ice-covered roads, overpasses and bridges.

 Always keep a mobile phone with you and fully charged.

 Never pour water on your windshield to remove ice or snow because shattering may occur.

 In case your car breaks down and you must wait for roadside assistance, carry additional warm clothing, blanket(s) and water.

PLEASE NOTE: Holiday Hours

In general, the Warren County Commissioners' Office is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except for this season's observed holidays listed below. For other county business offices' holiday hours, visit their website through www.co.warren.oh.us.

Upcoming Holidays

Thursday December 24, Christmas Eve, Offices Closed Half Day
Friday December 25, Christmas Day, Offices Closed
Friday January 1, New Year's Day, Offices Closed
Monday January 18, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Offices Closed
Monday February 15, Presidents' Day, Offices Closed



*Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year
from Warren County!*

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 – 900 Memorial Drive 513-695-1771
Obtain a passport – Clerk of Courts Title Office – 19 Dave Avenue 513-695-1175
Obtain a copy of a birth certificate – Health Dept. – 416 S. East Street – 513-695-1228