



WINTER 2017

WARREN COUNTY NEWS



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## WARREN COUNTY'S NEWEST COMMISSIONER – SHANNON JONES



Shannon Jones was sworn in as new Warren County Commissioner on Tuesday, January 3, 2017. Jones replaced Commissioner Pat Arnold South, who retired after 24 years of service, making her the second female commissioner to take office in the history of Warren County.

"Shannon joins us with a wealth of wisdom and a level head," said Commissioner David Young, President of the Board. "We look forward to serving with her and know she will be a tremendous asset."

"I'm humbled by the opportunity to serve Warren County in this new capacity," added Jones. "Together we will continue to keep Warren County the Incredible County!"

Immediately prior to serving on the Board, Shannon Jones was elected Ohio Senator for the 7th senate district which included all of Warren County and served from 2009 through 2016. She previously served in the Ohio House of Representatives from 2007-2009. Jones earned her B.A. in Communications from the University of Cincinnati and her professional experience includes working as the chief of staff for Congressman Steve Chabot and as the district director for former U.S. Senator Mike DeWine.

Commissioner Jones and her husband Russell, live in Clearcreek Township where they are raising their two children, Jacob and Anna. The Jones family attends Saint Mary's Parish in Springboro and enjoys spending time at local sporting events.



Shannon Jones taking oath of office for County Commissioner.



Shannon Jones alongside other county elected officials in attendance, top left: Juvenile Court Judge Joseph Kirby, Sheriff Larry Sims, Treasurer-elect Barney Wright, Engineer Neil Tunison; second row left: Common Pleas Court Judge Donald Oda, Prosecutor David Fornshell, Domestic Relations Court Judge Jeffrey Kirby, Recorder Linda Oda; front row left: Commissioner Tom Grossmann, Commissioner Shannon Jones, Commissioner David Young.

## **ROBYN CRISENBERY RECOGNIZED AS WARREN COUNTY RECEIVES THE AUDITOR OF STATE AWARD WITH DISTINCTION**

Special recognition was given to our Chief Deputy Auditor Robyn Crisenbery as Warren County receives the Auditor of State Award with Distinction. This award is given to a very small percentage (less than 5%) of the local governments in the State of Ohio. To qualify for the Award the entity must have a "clean" Audit Report. There is a long list of criteria that goes into having a clean audit, but to be concise the audit must be filed timely and contain no material weaknesses or findings. While these criteria may sound simple, it is rare that an entity is eligible and even rarer that they are repeated recipients of the award.

Although this award really is a credit to the entire County, as any findings or delays County wide would make the County ineligible for the recognition, it is a credit to Robyn Crisenbery's work. Robyn has headed the department that is most responsible for this award for the better part of the last two decades. Really, every award should go to her as she is the one leading this effort. That was especially true this year. As the transition in the Auditor's office continued for our newly elected Auditor and new staff, Robyn was required to do a lot more work than is typical for a manager. She not only stepped up and did the work, but she did it faster than in prior years, when there was more help, and received the highest level of recognition you can get in doing so. It is a really a statement to Robyn's hard work and professionalism.



Chief Deputy Auditor Robyn Crisenbery receives the Auditor of State Award with Distinction

## **WARREN COUNTY CLERK OF COURTS UPDATES**

Local residents who may need to make new passport applications for upcoming travel, the Warren County Clerk of Courts encourages you to do so as soon as possible at their Lebanon, Mason or Franklin Title Offices. The turnaround time is 4-6 weeks at this point. Local passport information can be viewed on the Clerk of Courts' web page at <http://www.co.warren.oh.us/clerkofcourt/GenInfo/passports.aspx> or the link to the U.S. Department of State <http://travel.state.gov/passport/>.

The Warren County Clerk of Courts Title Offices also provide Watercraft Registrations in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The new 2020 watercraft registration decals are available at either three Clerk of Courts offices: Lebanon Office, 19 Dave Avenue; Franklin Office, 245-A S. Main Street; and Mason Office, 773 Reading Road.

## **JUDGE TIM OLIVER RETIRES AFTER 39 YEARS OF SERVICE TO WARREN COUNTY**

Judge Tim Oliver has devoted himself to the service of the citizens of Warren County through his dedication to the pursuit of justice within the county. Judge Oliver graduated with an undergraduate degree from The Ohio State University in September, 1971, and then from The Ohio State University, College of Law, in June, 1974. He was appointed Prosecuting Attorney in January, 1987, and elected Prosecuting Attorney in 1988. In February of 2003, Judge Oliver was appointed as Judge for the Warren County Common Pleas Court, Domestic Relations Division, and then elected to this position for the term starting in January, 2005. After thirty nine and a half years of dedicated service to Warren County, Judge Oliver will be retiring to have more time to enjoy life with his wife, Lois, his two children and grandchildren.

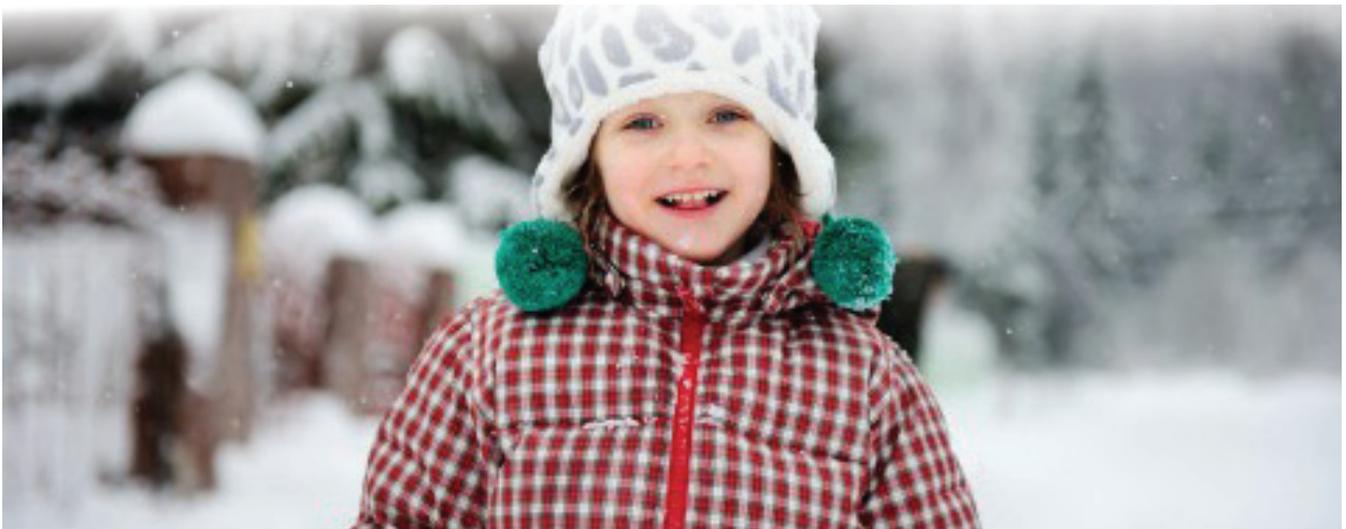


## **WARREN COUNTY JOB & FAMILY SERVICES, DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES - 3RD ANNUAL COATS FOR KIDS PROGRAM**

Warren County Job & Family Services, Division of Human Services (WCDJFS) successfully completed the 3rd Annual Coats for Kids Program in November. The Coats for Kids Program is made possible through the partnership with the Walmart Stores in Lebanon, Franklin, and Mason. The program is funded through the WCDJFS Prevention, Retention, and Contingency (PRC) Program with TANF Funding.

Each year families within Warren County who have minor children in their household, and have a household income below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level can apply to participate. If approved, the families are scheduled to shop for brand new winter coats, hats, gloves, and scarves with a \$50.00 voucher per child.

This year the agency purchased brand new winter coats for 193 low-income children within Warren County. Through the incredible support of our partner, Walmart, and the hard work and dedication of the staff at Human Services this program continues to bring much needed assistance to families and children in our community. Lauren Cavanaugh, Director of Human Services said, "The joy on a child's face when they receive a brand new coat that they picked out themselves is priceless".



## **PATTI JACOBS, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN SERVICES, RETIRES AFTER 28 YEARS OF SERVICE TO WARREN COUNTY**

Patti Jacobs began her service with Warren County in February 1988 as supervisor of the Warren County Children Services Youth Department.

In February 1989, she was hired as the coordinator of the Multi-Disciplinary Sexual Abuse Team and assisted in the development of the Mothers' Group Program within Children Services.

In February 1990, Patti was promoted to Community Relations Specialist-Media Relations and in 2003 was promoted to Child Welfare Supervisor – Grievance Officer. She was appointed Director of the Children Services Agency in 2006. Mrs. Jacobs retired from Warren County after 28+ years of loyal and dedicated service to the citizens of Warren County.



## MAIN STREET LEBANON AWARD FROM HERITAGE OHIO - MULBERRY STREET SIDEWALK CAFE PROJECTS

Main Street Lebanon is a nonprofit organization promoting and protecting the core of the City of Lebanon. In 2014 the organization analyzed the City of Lebanon's Downtown Comprehensive Plan and determined that the plan called for outdoor seating. Main Street Lebanon's Design and Economic Development Committees started the process of selecting possible locations for outdoor seating downtown.

Mulberry Street is within the Historic Downtown District (a nationally registered historic district) and also within the Main Street Lebanon District. Along this beautifully preserved street there are a wonderful variety of things to do and see. In 2015, with Main Street Lebanon's guidance, the Lebanon community supported the first sidewalk café in Downtown Lebanon, which was launched on Mulberry Street. Since then sidewalk cafés continue to thrive on Mulberry Street and in the rest of downtown, contributing to the success of a vibrant pedestrian oriented street.

Main Street Lebanon, the City of Lebanon and a property owner collaborated and jointly funded the construction of the first sidewalk café as a pilot project. For the pilot project, Main Street Lebanon and the City recognized the importance of sharing financial and creative responsibility and providing a comprehensive sidewalk café application process, design, funding and use guidelines to business owners. The purpose of the project was to make the streetscape attractive and functional while adding economic benefits to the Downtown. This project involved the expansion of the sidewalk and the installation of fencing, landscaping, and lighting and was designed to accommodate seven tables and a seating capacity of approximately 28 people.

The success of the sidewalk café program has sparked great interest in establishing sidewalk cafés in downtown. Currently, expanded sidewalk cafés operate in front of two restaurants and several other restaurants have added tables and chairs to the existing sidewalks. The projects earned the Place Making Award at the Annual Heritage Ohio Meeting held in Cincinnati. Members of Main Street Lebanon and the City of Lebanon were present to accept the Award.



## REGIONAL PLANNING: ABERLIN SPRINGS TO BECOME FIRST AGRI-COMMUNITY

Aberlin Springs, recently approved by the Warren County Board of Commissioners in July of this year, is located in the heart of Warren County and is on track to become Ohio's first agri-community. The simplest way to define an agri-community is to imagine a typical golf course community, but instead replace the golf course with a working farm at the center. To this regard, agri-communities more or less adopt the principles of conservation design by clustering homes and lots together, with the distinguishing factor being the preservation of the farm as a key element of the common open space. The farm will be funded through a community supported agriculture (CSA) association, whereby local residents pay in to the association to reap the benefit of fresh products grown right in their own neighborhood, as well as having the option to participate in farming activities if they wish.

Zachary Moore, a planner with the Warren County Regional Planning Commission, teamed up with Maureen McDermott of NorthPointe Group to present the Aberlin Springs plan to an audience of planning and zoning officials from around the region at the Miami Valley Planning & Zoning Workshop, held at Sinclair Community College on December 2nd. During their presentation, Mr. Moore and Ms. McDermott outlined some national agri-community examples, including Agritopia in Arizona and Willowsford in Virginia, and also touched on key aspects of Aberlin Springs' unique design.

A major component discussed was the diversity of housing options that will be offered within the subdivision. Housing products are planned to range from as small as a 500 sq. ft. cabin and as large as 3,000 sq. ft. + estate homes. These products are to be offered on a variety of lot sizes, the most unique of which will be lots of approximately 4,000 sq. ft. in size situated around common greens in what are being referred to as "pocket communities." Six pocket communities containing ten cottages each are planned throughout the subdivision. The purpose of these arrangements is to promote a sense of community and social interaction between neighbors.

Also discussed was the public approval process of Aberlin Springs, touching on the rezoning of the property as a Planned Unit Development (PUD) district, which entailed drafting regulations reflective of the intended development pattern as well as reviewing the acceptability of a drip distribution wastewater treatment system to serve the future community's residents. The development will not be serviced by sanitary sewer, which is very unusual for a subdivision of this size. Instead, the subdivision will have its own system owned and operated by a private utility company.



Zachary Moore, planner with the Warren County Regional Planning Commission, presents Aberlin Springs plan at the Miami Valley Planning & Zoning Workshop, held at Sinclair Community College on Dec 2.



## WARREN COUNTY VOTERS COMMITTED TO THEIR VOICE BEING HEARD

Early voting totals for Warren County show the commitment of our residents to make their voice heard. The Board of Elections reports that 27,783 residents voted by mail and another 18,984 came to the office to participate before Election Day.

Thankfully the weather cooperated and the line kept moving so most people waited less than 15 minutes on average.

The Board of Elections provided a selfie wall for voters to share their election experience on social media. To help children waiting with voters, a “kids ballot” was created and provided by the Board of Elections that let them vote for their favorite ice-cream, animal and candy. Results were posted on the Board of Elections with over 700 kids participating.

On Election Day 72,042 residents voted at their polling location giving Warren County a 4th place statewide turnout at 78.40%. (State average 71.33%)



First time voter with his brother who voted a “kids ballot”

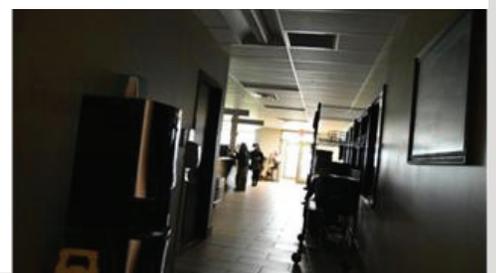


First Time Voter

## POWER OUTAGE ON ELECTION DAY

Having a power outage any day is stressful but to have it on Election Day during a Presidential election was one of the biggest challenges the Board of Elections faced this past election season.

The Board of Elections would like to commend and thank the Warren County Telecommunications Department and Warren County Emergency Services for their rapid response and their ingenuity in making sure the Board of Elections had the power they needed to comply with state laws and still serve the voting residents of Warren County.



**It's Dog License Renewal Time Again!  
2017 Warren County dog licenses go on sale  
December 1, 2016**

**2017 License Fees**

<b>Term</b>	<b>1 Year</b>	<b>3 Year Until 2019</b>	<b>Permanent</b>
Before January 31st	15.00	45.00	150.00

Purchase a 1 Yr Bone License or a 3 Yr Bone License for an additional \$5.00 and the \$5.00 will be donated to the **Humane Society Spay & Neuter Fund**

**To Purchase Your Dog License**

Mail In your application , Order Online at [www.wcauditor.org](http://www.wcauditor.org) or pick-up or take your application to the following locations:

*A Fortunate Dog Spa & Salon, Ace Hardware, \*Landen Vet. Hospital, O'Bryan's Wine & Liquor, Landen-Maineville Animal Hospital, Mason Animal Hospital, Mason, Family Pet Hospital, Misty Vistas Pet Hospital, Blueball Vet.Clinic, Buckley Brothers Feed & Pet Supply Inc, Spillway Party Supply, Springboro Vet. Clinic, Waynesville Vet. Hospital*



## **WARREN COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT RECEIVES FUNDING THROUGH LOCAL AGRICULTURAL EASEMENT PURCHASE PROGRAM TO PRESERVE FARMLAND**

The Ohio Department of Agriculture selected Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District (WCSWCD) as a local sponsor for the Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP) and will provide funding to help preserve farmland in the county.

WCSWCD will begin accepting applications from Ohio landowners interested in selling an agricultural easement on their farms. More than \$200,000 is available for Warren County landowners for the 2017 funding round. This is a voluntary program in which landowners have the opportunity to sell easements on their farmland to the state of Ohio. To be eligible the farm must be 40 acres or more, actively engaged in farming, participate in the Current Agricultural Use Valuation program, demonstrate good stewardship of the land, have the support of their local government and not lay directly in the path of development. The easement will guarantee the farm remains in agricultural production permanently. Interested landowners are welcome to schedule a meeting with a WCSWCD staff member. For more details, please visit <http://www.warrenswcd.com/land-preservation.html> or call (513) 695-1337.

Funding for the program is derived from the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund, approved by voters in 2008. For more information on Ohio's farmland preservation effort visit: <http://www.agri.ohio.gov/divs/FarmLand/>

# COMMISSIONER PAT ARNOLD SOUTH RETIRES AFTER 24 YEARS OF SERVICE TO WARREN COUNTY

*There are some people that come to an organization with heart and commitment and make a noticeable difference as they serve. Then there are only a few that, through their dedication and hard work, become that organization. For decades, Pat South has been Warren County. Walk up to almost any employee of the county and ask them about Pat South and they will tell you about how she has personally acknowledged their importance through her smile. How she was willing to have that conversation as she actively invested in every part of what makes this county run great. How she unwaveringly remained present in the good and hard times of serving this community. Etched in the fabric of what Warren County is, and will become in the future, is the outstanding and powerful legacy of Pat South, our beloved Warren County Commissioner.*

Pat South was first elected Warren County Commissioner in November of 1992, taking office January 3, 1993, as the first woman ever elected to be a County Commissioner in Warren County. During her tenure as Warren County Commissioner, Pat has served six full terms, tirelessly serving in every aspect of her duties in that role, and notably dedicating herself to the county's workforce, its elderly and children, as well as the fine community of staff that serve Warren County.

Pat has served on numerous boards with Warren County, such as Regional Planning, Convention and Visitors Bureau, Area 12 Workforce Investment Board, Community Corrections, and many others. She has helped responsibly steer decades of decisions contributing to Warren County's nationally recognized fiscal conservatism during a 100% growth in population.

Pat has always been committed to serving her community, prior to holding the office of County Commissioner she served as an EMT/Firefighter with the Lebanon Fire Department, the Associate Director of the Warren County Community Services, Council on Aging, and was also President/CEO of the Lebanon Area Chamber of Commerce.



Pat South being recognized with applause at the 2016 Warren County Fair



Pat Arnold South, first woman elected to be a County Commissioner in Warren County.

She was raised in Clearcreek Township, graduated in 1972 from Lebanon High School and attended Ohio State University, Sinclair College and Miami University; majoring in Nursing, then changing to Psychology and Business Administration.

In her tenure as County Commissioner, Pat South has consistently been relied upon for her articulate and outstanding demeanor, her wisdom and kindness, and most notably her passion and commitment to those outside of herself, and most particularly the community of 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