





Partnership—Shared Services —Teamwork—Heritage  
Cost Savings— Efficiencies—Tourism  
Economic Impact —Preparedness—Safety

2017 brought a close to a successful partnership with the State of Ohio with the opening of the Museum and Welcome Center of Fulton County. This first of a kind collaboration between the Fulton County Commissioners, the Ohio Department of Transportation and the Fulton County Museum has allowed for shared services, resources and heritage preservation wrapped up into one large project.



**Preparedness:** This building houses the Fulton County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), which serves as a place where essential emergency personnel will gather to plan, communicate and effectively respond to disasters.



**Shared Services:** The Emergency Operations Center serves as Ohio Department of Transportation’s back-up Operations Center.

**Safety:** Fulton County Emergency Medical Services and Emergency Management Agency offices are located in this building. Additionally, there is a Fulton County Sheriff and Ohio State Highway Patrol Office available for their use.

**Tourism:** The Fulton County Visitors Bureau and Welcome Center is located in this building. This agency’s role is to promote tourism in Fulton County. Annually, there are 30.1 Million trips to Northwest Ohio and 1 of every 9 jobs account for Tourism & Hospitality. Fulton County’s largest attractions include the Fulton County Fairgrounds as well as Sauder Village, who attracts nearly 300,000 visitors to their complex each year. This organization is solely funded by lodging taxes. Visit their website at [visitfultoncountyoh.com](http://visitfultoncountyoh.com)



**Heritage:** The buildings exterior was designed and constructed to resemble the very first courthouse in Fulton County, which was a 1851 Greek Revival structure that burned down in a fire. The original courthouse was located in Ottokee, just a few miles west of this building.

- The paint scheme of the interior of this building is based on a color scheme from the 1850’s.
- The barn-like exterior is designed to represent the agricultural roots that run deep through Fulton County.
- The entrance of the 1911 Metamora High School was saved to use as the entrance into the new Museum. The window located at the peak of the courthouse features a restored window that was also saved from the Metamora High School.
- The horse weather vane that sits atop the barn-like structure was donated by the Huber Buehrer family, from Fulton County.



The Museum of Fulton County has grown leaps and bounds since Colonel Dresden Howard began the Pioneer Association in 1883. The new space for the museum features a 4000 square foot gallery that houses a permanent timeline focused on Fulton County’s Motto “I Will Find a Way or Make One,” as well as special and seasonal exhibits that will keep the space fresh and new. The new Museum exhibits have been carefully, professionally and thoughtfully planned in a manner that tells American History through the eyes of Fulton County, while appropriately displaying and preserving our county’s valuable artifacts.

Visit their website [www.fultoncountyhs.org](http://www.fultoncountyhs.org).

# About Fulton County Ohio

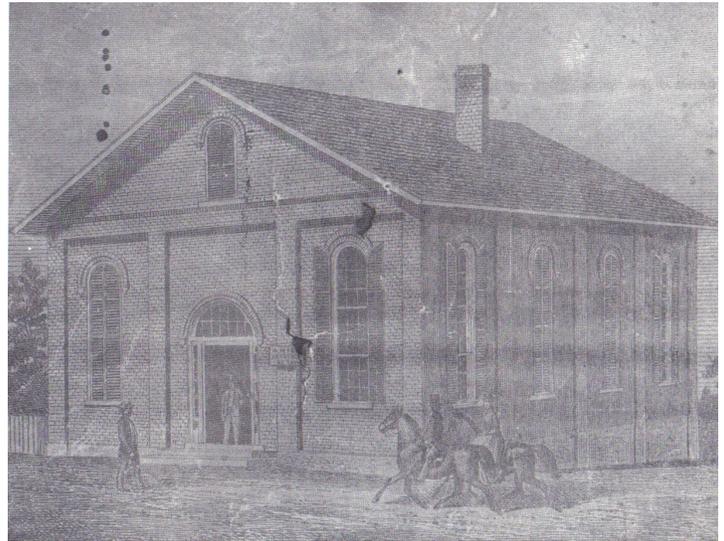


*Fulton County's current, and third county courthouse*

Fulton County was established on February 28, 1850 from parts of Henry, Lucas and Williams Counties. The Ohio General Assembly appointed three Commissioners to select the county seat of the newly formed county. The Commissioners chose a location near the geographical center of the county, which was named Ottokee at the suggestion of Colonel Dresden Howard. Howard suggested Ottokee to honor the prominent Odawa Indian, Chief Ottokee (Ot-to-kee).

Court proceedings were held in the home of Robert Howard until a courthouse could be constructed. In 1851, the first courthouse was built. The courthouse was a two-story frame structure rising to a dome. (The new Fulton County Museum and Welcome Center is built in rendition of this courthouse). This courthouse burned in a fire in 1864 forcing the county to hastily plan a new second courthouse.

The second courthouse was constructed out of brick, with the façade punctuated by pilasters separating the arched windows. This courthouse served for several years as Ottokee remained the county seat despite many defeated attempts to move the courts by voters. In 1869, a railroad company surveyed the area and chose Wauseon as a stopping point. Shortly after, voters chose Wauseon as the new county seat, which included \$5,000 to complete a new courthouse. Years after the move, the old courthouse was still in use as the county infirmary.



*Fulton County's second courthouse, courtesy of the Fulton County Historical Society*



*Panoramic view of the Common Pleas courtroom, on the second floor of the current Fulton County Courthouse*

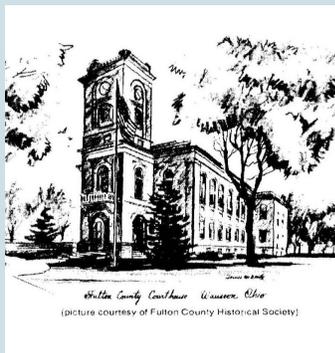
The new courthouse, the third for the county, and the first for Wauseon, was completed in 1872 at a cost of \$45,722.27. This is the courthouse currently used today. Architect, C.C. Miller, designed the structure in the Italianate style. Alexander Voss and H.B. Bensman were responsible for the building and construction. The current courthouse stands as a Fulton County landmark, and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.

For almost a century and a half, the history of Fulton County has been centered in this building and its court system. The Commissioners continue to be committed to maintain and use this historic structure that is owned by the county residents, used by the county residents, and maintained for the county residents. Beginning in the fall of 2018, significant renovations to the courthouse will begin with the intention of restoring the Common Pleas courtroom to its original façade. Other updates will include replacing the cooling and heating systems, add security and technology features, install a new elevator, and several other updates that will preserve the building for many years to come.

# 2017 Fulton County Snapshot

## Clerk of Courts-Title Division

**18,923** Number of Titles Issued  
**1,585** New Cars  
**10,294** Used Cars  
**794** New Trucks  
**3,497** Used Trucks  
**163** Vans  
**534** Motorcycles  
**204** Manufactured Homes  
**269** Trailers  
**410** Travel Trailers  
**332** Motor Homes  
**7** Buses  
**545** Off-road vehicles  
**193** Watercraft  
**41** Outboard motors  
**55** Other  
**Total Fees Collected \$6,203,315.09**



## Legal Division

**203** Domestic  
**235** Civil  
**154** Criminal  
**30** Miscellaneous  
**Total Fees Collected \$205,815.89**

## Weights & Measures

**252** Establishment Inspections performed  
**Top 5 Inspections**  
**87** Feed, Fertilizer & Grain  
**37** Gas/Fuel Station  
**26** Car Wash/Laundry/  
Parking  
**12** Specialty Food Store  
**25** Other  
**6** Complaints **3** Resolved  
**2,652** Total Devices Tested  
**84** Packages Checked **0** Packages rejected



## Fulton County Government

**296** Full Time Employees  
**91** Part Time Employees

## Prosecutors Case Count 2017

**166** Juvenile Cases  
**217** Non-Traffic Misdemeanors  
**152** Felony Cases  
**552** Traffic Citations  
**1** Complaint/**36** Answers filed  
**501** Total Child Support Cases

## Ohio State University Extension-Fulton

**1,013** Youth were served through **38** 4-H Clubs  
**190** volunteers work directly with youth (approximately 100 hours per year, per volunteer)  
**206** Youth participated in 4-H camp  
**278** Farmers participated in the annual Corn & Soybean Agronomy Day and received their Fertilizer Applicator Certification and Training. Another **106** completed certifications through other extension events.  
**174** Fulton County twelfth graders participated in the Real Money, Real World program  
**16** Farms participated in the February Farm Management School  
**11** Farmer-collaborators conducted on farm research trials and **18** farmers voluntarily participated in a Western Lake Erie Basin water quality monitoring project  
**26** ServSafe Level II exams were proctored through the Family & Consumer Sciences  
**52** Home horticulture issues resolved by volunteer during summer Master Gardner hotline



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

## Fulton County Economic Development



**\$58,325,000** New investment in real and personal property in 2017

**132** New Jobs Created

### 2017 Significant Projects

- MetalX** initiated the development of an industrial scrap facility on the corner of Airport Highway and State Rout 109, Delta
- MCS Manufacturing** expansion at their Lyons facility
- Wauseon Machine & Manufacturing** expansion at their Wauseon Facility

# 2017 Fulton County Snapshot

## Fulton Soil & Water Conservation District



7 Erosion Control Structures

65 acres of Oak Savanna planted

375 School & Adult Education Presentations

635 students at Third Grade Ag-Fest

4,623 Acres of Cover Crops

780 Acres of Soil Testing

3 Animal Waste Storage Facilities

## Job and Family Services

7,437 average # of monthly Medicaid recipients

69 claims were established for Public Assistance Fraud for a total of \$249,170.63 collected

167.3 monthly Child Care recipient average

81% collection rate for Child Support

34 participants in the child support Workforce Re-Entry Connections Program. Of these,

18 are employed

53% success rate

\$72,085,208 total benefits administered

## Top Employers in Fulton County

ConAgra

Fulton County Government

Fulton County Health Center

International Automotive Components

North Star BlueScope Steel, LLC

Sauder Woodworking Company

TRW Automotive

Worthington Industries

## Eastern District Court

5,170 traffic cases filed

416 criminal cases filed

636 civil cases filed



## Western District Court

4,349 traffic cases filed

553 criminal cases filed

569 civil cases filed



Fulton County

A proud partner of the American Job Center network

Provided 11,007 services to 2,179 customers

565 clients were currently employed

998 were clients currently unemployed

153 qualified for the Ohioans Opportunity with Disability

177 were referred by Ohio Department of Job & Family Services

69 Qualified for Veterans Services

162 Youth served in the Youth Education Services (YES!!) program

232 Tax Client Participants

4,447 resource room services utilized

1,429 Copy Machine

269 fax

105 phone

2,644 computer

## Recorders Office Filings

1,856 Deeds

3,621 Mortgages

183 Liens

27 Leases

2,233 Miscellaneous

43 Partnerships

70 Power of Attorney

233 Solider Discharges

3 Plats

## Board of Elections

29,213 Registered Voters

-for the 2017 General Election in November

31.8% Voter Turnout for November Election

7.5% Voter Turnout for May Special Election

36 precincts (all) deployed electronic poll books in May 2017

AMBOY and METAMORA precincts were joined at a new location, Evergreen Community Library in November 2017



# SENIOR CENTER

240 Clinton Street Wauseon, OH 43567 | 419-337-9299

## Meal Program

Total Meals Served: 121,104

Total Seniors Served: 1,714

Program Expense: \$357,040

Donations: \$170,973

Grant: \$81,526

## Housekeeping

Total Seniors Served: 160

Total Hours of Service: 7,711

Program Expense: \$124,945

Donations: \$16,687

Grant: \$40,018

## Medical Transportation

Total Units of Service: 3,050

Volunteer Hours: 2,950

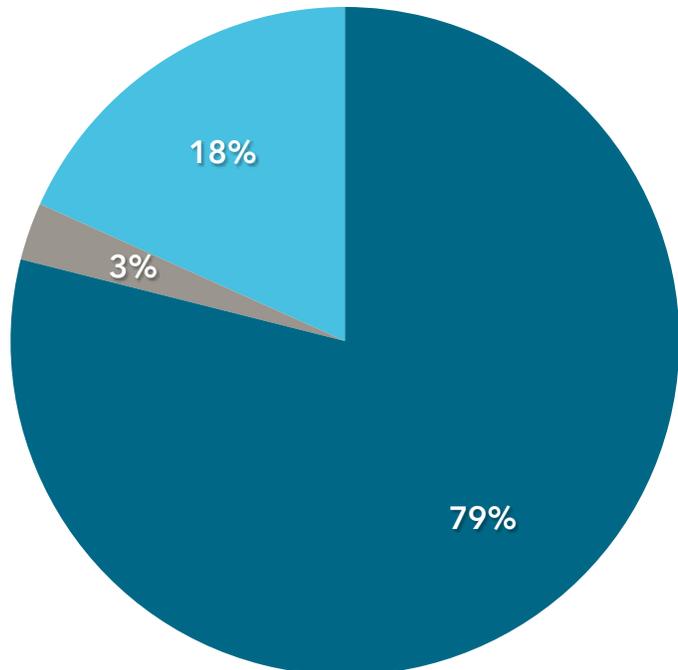
Grant: \$5,379

## Information & Referral Services

Total Appointments: 1,685



● Home Delivered Meals    ● Guests    ● Congregate Meals





### Other Available Services:

- Computer Lab & Wifi
- Exercise Classes
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Day Trips
- Open Gym
- Socialization
- Arts & Crafts
- Health Clinics
- Dances
- Education
- Library
- Special Events
- Activities
- Cards & Games
- Recreation
- Support
- Medicare Assistance
- Music
- Choir

## Fulton County Senior Center

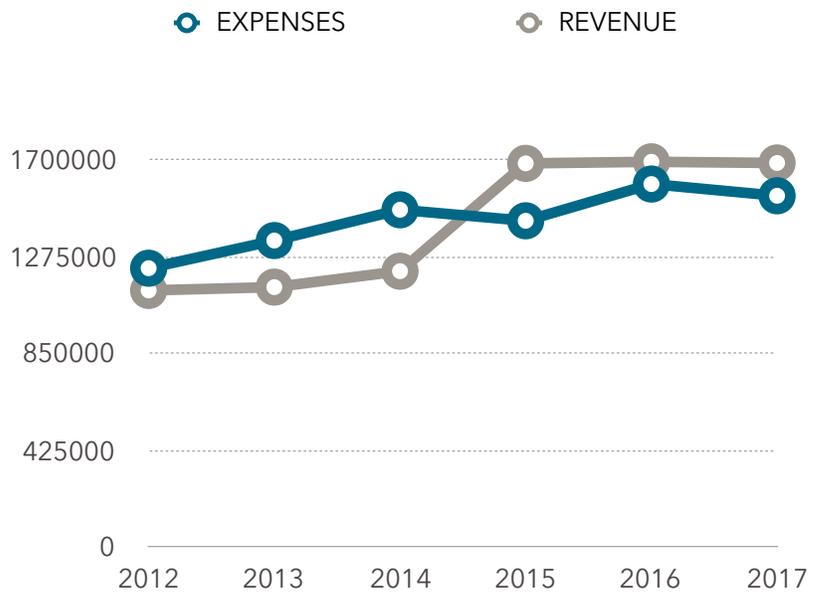
The Fulton County Senior Center exists to make a positive impact on the seniors within the county.

The program aims to be a focal point for the senior population in the community by providing opportunities for independence, growth and wellness. By offering community resources for nutrition, transportation, socialization and education, we encourage seniors to celebrate their lives and to stay actively engaged with those that surround them.

Our dedicated staff and volunteers adapt to meet the needs of a changing senior population. Sites are currently located in Wauseon, Archbold, Fayette, Delta and Swanton. Services are available to any Fulton County resident age 60 and over.

The Fulton County Senior Center is a program of the Fulton County Commissioners and is funded through levy support, donations, and under the Title III grants administered by the Ohio Department of Aging and the Area Office on Aging.

### Senior Center Account



# Sheriff's Office

## A Year in Review

**60** Active Registered Sex Offenders  
**367** Concealed Carry Weapon permits issued  
**417** Concealed Carry Weapon Permits renewed  
**200** Felony Warrants served  
**517** Misdemeanor Warrants served  
**523** Persons fingerprinted for background checks



| TYPE OF CALLS              | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   | 2017   |
|----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Ill/Injured                | 3,391  | 3,541  | 3,603  | 3,452  |
| Suspicious Nature          | 1,530  | 1,419  | 1,360  | 1,401  |
| Threats/Harassment         | 250    | 280    | 272    | 265    |
| Vehicle/Traffic Offense    | 912    | 958    | 1,016  | 1,048  |
| Property Damage            | 1,050  | 1,049  | 1,033  | 947    |
| Burglary/Assault/Vandalism | 235    | 241    | 223    | 194    |
| Animal Calls               | 456    | 472    | 343    | 390    |
| Domestic                   | 380    | 383    | 421    | 393    |
| Juvenile/Unruly            | 287    | 258    | 288    | 290    |
| 911 Call Volume            | 12,417 | 11,199 | 13,854 | 16,513 |
| Wireless 911 Calls         | 69%    | 74%    | 77%    | 65%    |

## Dog Warden

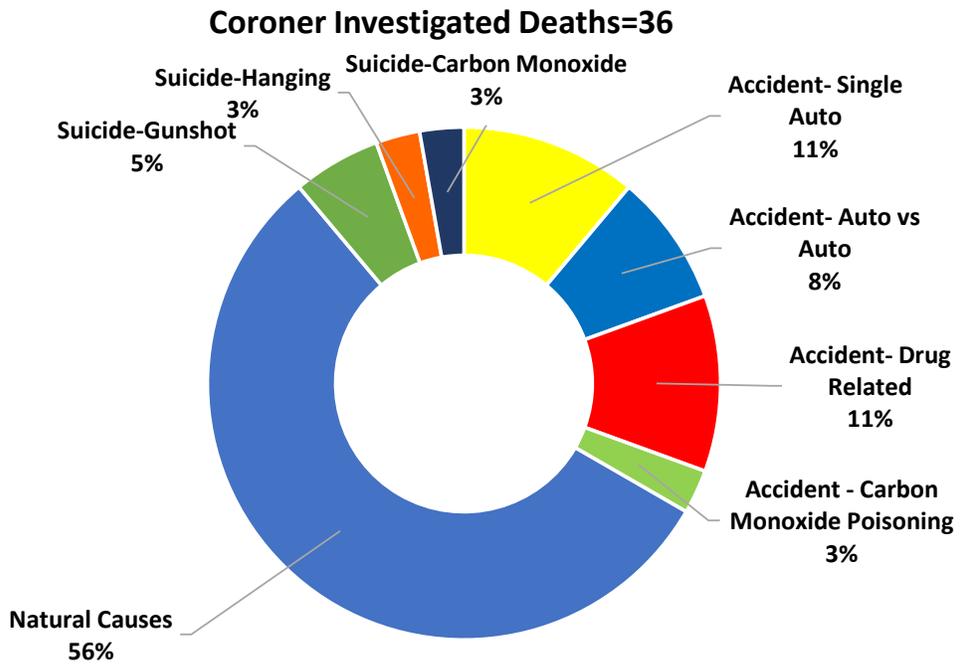
| State Pound Keeper's Report    | 2015       | 2016       | 2017       |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Stray                          | 220        | 223        | 207        |
| Owner Signed off to Dog Pound  | 52         | 42         | 14         |
| Dead On Arrival                | 10         | 10         | 4          |
| <b>Total (breakdown below)</b> | <b>282</b> | <b>275</b> | <b>251</b> |
| Euthanized at Owner's Request  | 23         | 26         | 26         |
| Euthanized                     | 11         | 2          | 3          |
| Redeemed by Owner              | 113        | 134        | 127        |
| Adopted                        | 30         | 24         | 14         |
| Rescued                        | 95         | 79         | 77         |
| Dead On Arrival                | 10         | 10         | 4          |
| <b>Total</b>                   | <b>282</b> | <b>275</b> | <b>251</b> |



Deputy Dog Wardens Jon Rufenacht and Courtney Iwinski pose for a photo with their furry friends Lucy and Jake. Both Rufenacht and Iwinski joined the Dog Warden team in 2017.

# Coroner's Report

| 2017                     | TOTAL DEATHS | CORONER'S CASES |
|--------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Alzheimer's/<br>Dementia | 33           | 0               |
| Cancer                   | 62           | 0               |
| Heart / CVA              | 115          | 18              |
| Other Natural            | 33           | 1               |
| Pulmonary/<br>Pneumonia  | 38           | 1               |
| Accident                 | 11           | 11              |
| Suicide                  | 4            | 4               |
| Pending                  | 1            | 1               |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>297</b>   | <b>36</b>       |



**12%** of Deaths were Coroner's Cases  
**5** of the **12** accidental and suicide deaths involved drug toxicity and/or alcohol=**42%**

# Engineer's Report



Before and After photos of County Road 22 Bridge Replacement

- 9** Miles of Asphalt Resurfacing
- 62** Miles Chip/Fog Seal
- 3** Bridge Replacements
- 2** Miles Road Reconstruction
- 28** Miles Crack Sealing
- 89** Miles of Centerline Pavement Marking



**Of the total project costs –**

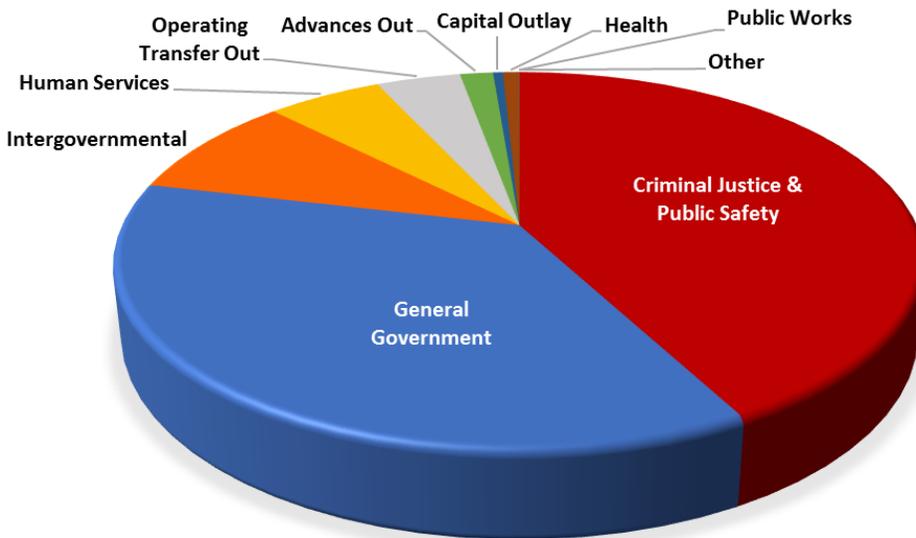
- \$2,269,769.18** Local County Funds
- \$1,117,535.04** Other Governmental Entities
- \$511,409.39** OPWC Issue 2 Grant (incl. townships)
- \$463,178.62** OPWC Issue 2 Loan (incl. townships)
- \$296,664.40** Federal Local Bridge Program (LBR) Grant

**859.4**  
**County, Township and municipal road miles**

# General Fund Expenses

Where does the money go?  
**\$12,615,629.03**

| General Fund Expenses            | 2017 Expenses          |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Criminal Justice & Public Safety | \$ 5,323,660.36        |
| General Government               | \$4,605,992.87         |
| Intergovernmental                | \$1,117,924.22         |
| Human Services                   | \$697,692.65           |
| Operating Transfer Out           | \$510,503.99           |
| Advances Out                     | \$200,000              |
| Capital Outlay                   | \$59,879.00            |
| Health                           | \$93,902.04            |
| Public Works                     | \$4873.90              |
| Other                            | \$1200.00              |
| <b>Expense Total</b>             | <b>\$12,615,629.03</b> |



# General Fund Revenues

| Description           | 2017 Revenue           | Percentage    |
|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| Taxes                 | \$9,738,898.16         | 70%           |
| Charges for Service   | \$1,498,229.79         | 11%           |
| Intergovernmental     | \$933,397.62           | 7%            |
| Other Revenue         | \$750,794.88           | 5%            |
| Interest              | \$503,867.79           | 4%            |
| Fines and Forfeitures | \$328,279.44           | 2%            |
| Transfer In           | \$250,000.00           | 2%            |
| Advance In            | \$0                    | 0%            |
| Licenses and Permits  | \$2,753.60             | 0%            |
| Safe Fixed Asset      | \$3,500.00             | 0%            |
| Property Transfers    | \$1,038.00             | 0%            |
| <b>General Fund</b>   | <b>\$14,010,759.28</b> | <b>100.0%</b> |

| Description           | 2017 Revenue          | Percentage    |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Sales Tax             | \$7,977,361.12        | 82%           |
| Property Tax          | \$1,755,272.09        | 18%           |
| Manufactured Home Tax | \$6,264.95            | 0%            |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>\$9,738,898.16</b> | <b>100.0%</b> |

## Cover Photos

In 2017, the Fulton County Economic Development Corporation sponsored a photo contest in effort to better understand what the citizenry in Fulton County considers to be the heart of the County. The photos on the front page of this report were submissions to this photo contest. Over 50 photos were submitted.

**Top:** "Harvesting Crops" submitted by Austin Hylander

**Second:** "Fulton County Fair at Night" submitted by Austin Hylander (Second Place winner)

**Third:** "Railroad Tracks" submitted by Austin Hylander (Third Place winner)

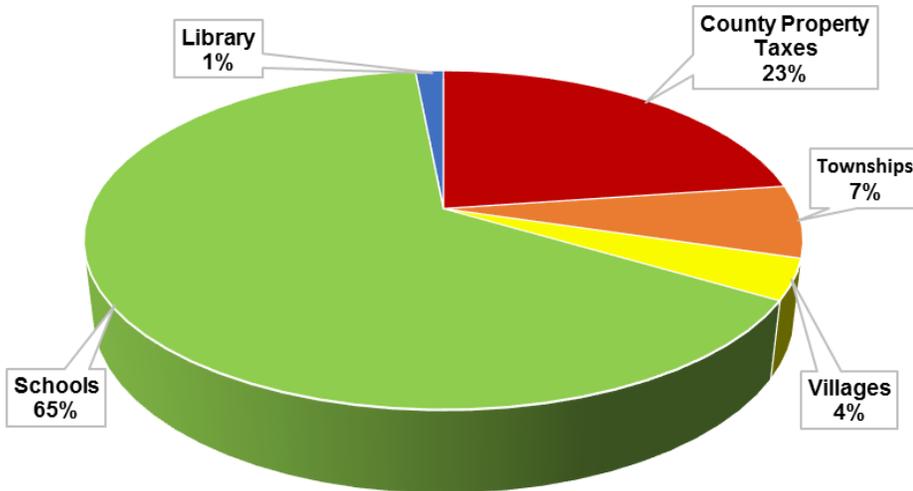
**Last:** "Sunrise on Barn" submitted by Austin Hylander

# Property Taxes

## Property Tax Collected

**\$51,023,143.56**

Where did the \$\$ go?



| County Government                   | 2017 Total             |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Board of Developmental Disabilities | \$2,776,011.53         |
| General Fund                        | \$1,755,272.09         |
| Emergency Medical Services          | \$3,278,865.74         |
| Senior Center                       | \$1,224,727.45         |
| Four County Mental Health Board     | \$982,845.44           |
| Board of Health                     | \$847,150.86           |
| 911 Emergency Phone                 | \$529,461.72           |
| Emergency Medical Services Fund     | \$215,995.57           |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>\$11,610,330.40</b> |

| Schools                   | 2017 Total             |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Archbold                  | \$5,461,482.60         |
| Evergreen                 | \$4,157,091.12         |
| Fayette                   | \$1,655,365.40         |
| Liberty Center            | \$786,606.31           |
| Pettisville               | \$1,547,030.75         |
| Pike-Delta-York           | \$6,150,474.16         |
| Swanton                   | \$3,576,609.07         |
| Wauseon                   | \$6,876,930.31         |
| Anthony Wayne             | \$3,112.70             |
| Four County Career Center | \$2,644,974.84         |
| Penta Career Center       | \$299,321.10           |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>\$33,158,998.36</b> |

| Townships    | 2017 Total            |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| Amboy        | \$262,471.35          |
| Chesterfield | \$158,006.97          |
| Clinton      | \$777,082.02          |
| Dover        | \$104,461.96          |
| Franklin     | \$93,782.65           |
| Fulton       | \$222,052.78          |
| German       | \$466,940.77          |
| Gorham       | \$231,553.95          |
| Pike         | \$168,910.87          |
| Royalton     | \$214,053.40          |
| Swancreek    | \$531,865.72          |
| York         | \$285,335.66          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>\$3,516,518.10</b> |

| Villages     | 2017 Total            |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| Archbold     | \$724,610.08          |
| Delta        | \$436,705.24          |
| Fayette      | \$76,307.69           |
| Lyons        | \$59,449.11           |
| Metamora     | \$34,324.46           |
| Swanton      | \$246,009.92          |
| Wauseon      | \$505,580.70          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>\$2,082,987.20</b> |

| Libraries      | 2017 Total          |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Archbold       | \$98,903.75         |
| Delta          | \$282,218.60        |
| Swanton        | \$146,013.77        |
| Liberty Center | \$26,978.66         |
| Fayette        | \$25,808.64         |
| Wauseon        | \$189,359.18        |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$769,282.60</b> |

**Property Tax** Counties levy a tax on the transfer of property after its sale. By state law, the minimum tax is \$1 for every \$1000 in assessed value of the property being transferred in ownership.

**Millage**-how property taxes are measured in size. One mill equals \$1 in taxes for every \$1,000 in assessed value of property. Taxes increase as a community's voted millage goes up.

152 S. Fulton Street  
Fulton County Commissioners  
Wauseon, OH 43567

**Fulton County, Ohio  
Annual Report  
January-December 2017**

