

# POPULAR ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

For the Year Ended December 31, 2015



# ERIE COUNTY, OHIO

Produced By: *Richard H. Jeffrey,*  
Erie County Auditor

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Front cover: Goodtime cruise in front of Cedar Point.  
Entire report includes pictures of Erie County tourism spots.

# Dear Erie County Residents,



The Erie County Auditor’s Office proudly presents the County’s 2015 Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR). It was primarily created to provide a working document to increase confidence in the County’s elected officials. It was also created to give the citizens of Erie County a better understanding of the County’s operations.

The information in this PAFR was taken from our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), which provides a more in depth look at the County’s finances. This PAFR is not presented in conformity with GAAP, (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) nor is it audited by Auditor of State, Dave Yost. Its purpose is to provide readers a summary of Erie County’s financial activity in an easily understandable format.

The 2015 CAFR was audited by the State Auditor’s Office and received an unqualified opinion.

For those seeking the more detailed information contained in the CAFR, a copy is available at the Erie County Auditor’s office, or on our website at <http://erie.iviewauditor.com>.

Thank you for taking the opportunity to review our PAFR. I hope this publication will help you gain a better understanding of the County you live in.

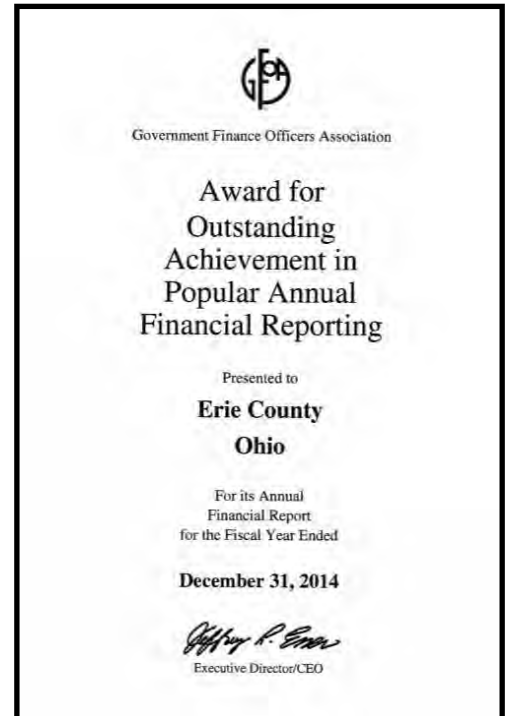
Sincerely,

Richard H. Jeffrey, Erie County Auditor

*The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada has given an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting to Erie County, Ohio for its Popular Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014. The Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports.*

*In order to receive an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting, a government unit must publish a Popular Annual Financial Report, whose contents conform to program standards of creativity, presentation, understandability, and reader appeal.*

*An Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is valid for a period of one year only. We believe our current report continues to conform to the Popular Annual Financial Reporting requirements, and we are submitting it to GFOA.*



# Overview of Erie County Auditor's Office

## CHIEF FISCAL OFFICER (Finance and Payroll)

As Chief Fiscal Officer of your county, the Auditor is the bookkeeper for all County elected officials and many of the County agencies, such as Human Services and Children Services. It is the Auditor's responsibility to account for all revenues the County receives and to issue warrants (checks) in payment of all County obligations. As part of that bookkeeping responsibility, the County Auditor serves as the paymaster for all County employees.

## COUNTY FINANCIAL REPORTS

As the issuer of financial reports for the County, it is the County Auditor's duty to make sure that financial records are kept properly. As Chief Fiscal Officer in Erie County, the Auditor is required by law to prepare the County's Annual Financial Report. Erie County prepares a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, which is a complete and full disclosure of all financial events for the year.



The County Auditor maintains a close relationship with the Auditor of State's Office. Each year, the Auditor of State reviews these records to assure the County's finances are in order and that proper internal controls are in place. The Auditor of State tests

these controls and makes recommendations to county offices and agencies to assure that your money is spent properly.

## REAL ESTATE APPRAISAL AND ASSESSMENT

Erie County has 45,762 parcels of real property. It is the duty of the Auditor to ensure that every parcel of land and the buildings on it are fairly and uniformly assessed for tax purposes. A general reappraisal is mandated by Ohio law every six years with an update at the three year midpoint. The Auditor's office maintains a detailed record of the appraisal of each parcel in the County. These records are open for public inspection.

For taxation purposes, you are assessed at 35% of fair market value.

## REAL ESTATE TAXES AND RATES



The Erie County Auditor cannot raise or lower property taxes. Tax rates are determined by the budgetary requests of each government unit, as authorized by

the vote of the people. Tax rates are computed in strict accordance with procedures required by the Ohio Department of Taxation, Division of Tax Equalization.

Annually, the Auditor prepares the General Tax List. Your tax bill is based on the tax rate multiplied by your valuation found on this list.

Ohio law limits the amount of taxation without a vote of the people to 10 mills. (\$10 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation). Any additional real estate taxes must be voted in by County residents.

## MANUFACTURED HOMES

The Auditor's office is also responsible for assessing taxes on manufactured housing. Under Ohio law, mobile home owners must register their homes with the Auditor's office for tax purposes. The Auditor assesses each manufactured home annually and prepares a tax list. The manufactured home tax is distributed back to the local taxing districts (townships and schools) in the same manner as real estate taxes.

## ESTATE TAX

The County Auditor acts as an agent for the Tax Commissioner of Ohio. The monies collected from this source are distributed by law: 80% to the taxing district in which the decedent had resided or owned property and the remainder to the State of Ohio. Starting January 1, 2012, this tax has been eliminated for the State of Ohio.



# Overview of Erie County Auditor's Office

## CRITICAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Your County Auditor also helps watch over local governments within your county by:

- Estimating the tax a local government wants to put on the ballot according to what they define as their need;
- Issuing a certificate when the local government wants to borrow money assuring that the debt of that government does not exceed what is allowed by Ohio law;
- Preparing a certificate of estimated resources on behalf of local governments to assure that the local governments do not spend more than they can expect to receive;
- Distributing taxes to local governments including: real estate, personal property, cigarette, estate, gasoline, motor vehicle, and other taxes; and
- Consulting, advising, and assisting local governments and county departments on proper governmental accounting procedures.

## WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

The Auditor is the Sealer of Weights and Measures for the entire County, maintaining "Equity in the Marketplace," thus protecting both buyer and seller from possible loss which may occur from faulty measuring devices, such as scales, scanners, retail motor fuel dispensers and meters. The Auditor is charged with the legal responsibility of ensuring that all State and National Laws relating to Weights and Measures are strictly enforced.



Sealers perform inspections and tests on both commercial and some non-commercial devices to ensure those devices meet the criteria of the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the National Type Evaluation Program. Audits and tests are performed on Random Packed items a store may weigh such as meats, cheeses and produce. They are also performed on Standard Packed items. These tests are conducted to ensure the product meets or exceeds the requirements of Handbook 130, Checking The Net Contents of Packaged Goods. Price Verification tests are also performed to make sure there is no

misrepresentation of pricing.

The Sealer of Erie County is responsible for testing over 988 gas pumps and meters and over 1966 devices in the County. Look for the Yearly County seal on those devices inspected and tested to be assured that they were correct, accurate and sealed. Again, these services are performed to "Maintain Equity in the Marketplace". If you believe a device is not performing properly, or for more information, please contact the Erie County Auditor's Office, Weights and Measures Division at (419) 626-7746. For web information concerning Weights and Measures go to [www.owma.net](http://www.owma.net) and be sure to checkout the link [www.Pueblo.gsa.gov/cic\\_text/money/whatupay/whatupay.htm](http://www.Pueblo.gsa.gov/cic_text/money/whatupay/whatupay.htm) -A Consumers Guide to Getting What You Pay For. It is very informative.



## LICENSES

The County Auditor's Office is responsible for the issuance of licenses for dogs, vendors, and cigarette sales. Vendor licenses authorize businesses to sell tangible property to the public and collect sales tax, a part of which is returned for use on the local level.

## ADDITIONAL DUTIES

- Secretary of the Budget Commission
- Secretary of the Board of Revision
- Secretary of the Fiscal Report Review Committee
- Chair of the Tax Incentive Review Council
- Member of the Records Commission

## ***Your Erie County Government***

Erie County can trace its heritage to the Revolutionary War when numerous Connecticut residents were burned out of their homes by the raiding British. To compensate these citizens for their losses, the Connecticut Assembly awarded them 500,000 acres in the western most portion of the Western Reserve, which came to be known as the Firelands. The Firelands includes the area that is now Erie and Huron Counties, as well as Ruggles and Danbury Townships.

The first recorded people of the Firelands were the Erie Indians, whose stories are told on Inscription Rock at Kelleys Island. Although the carvings have been eroded by both nature and man, they are considered to be the most extensive, well sculpted pictographs in the Eastern United States. The Erie Indians were driven out of the Firelands by the Iroquois in 1655, and the area was later occupied by the Ottawa and Wyandot Indians.



Although a few traders made their homes in the Firelands in the late 1700's, most of the early white settlers arrived in the early 1800's. Many subsequently left the area during the War of 1812 and did not return until after Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry's victory over the British fleet. This famous naval battle was fought in the waters of Lake Erie just a few miles from South Bass Island. It marks the only time in history that a British naval fleet ever surrendered.

Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry's victory over the British fleet secured the right of Americans to independently dwell in the New World and along the shores of Lake Erie. Then, a little over 25 years later in 1838, the Ohio government decided to divide large counties such as Huron, into smaller areas of land. This led to the formation of Erie County, named after the Erie Indians and Lake Erie.



Erie County was formed by an Act of the Ohio General Assembly on March 16, 1838. It borders Lake Erie in north central Ohio, extending 28 miles in an East-West direction and 11 miles in a North-South direction. Sandusky is 55 miles East of Toledo, 60 miles West of Cleveland, and 106 miles North of Columbus. The area is 264 square miles with 8,560 acres of wetlands. The mean temperature is 49 degrees and the average rainfall is 45.03 inches.

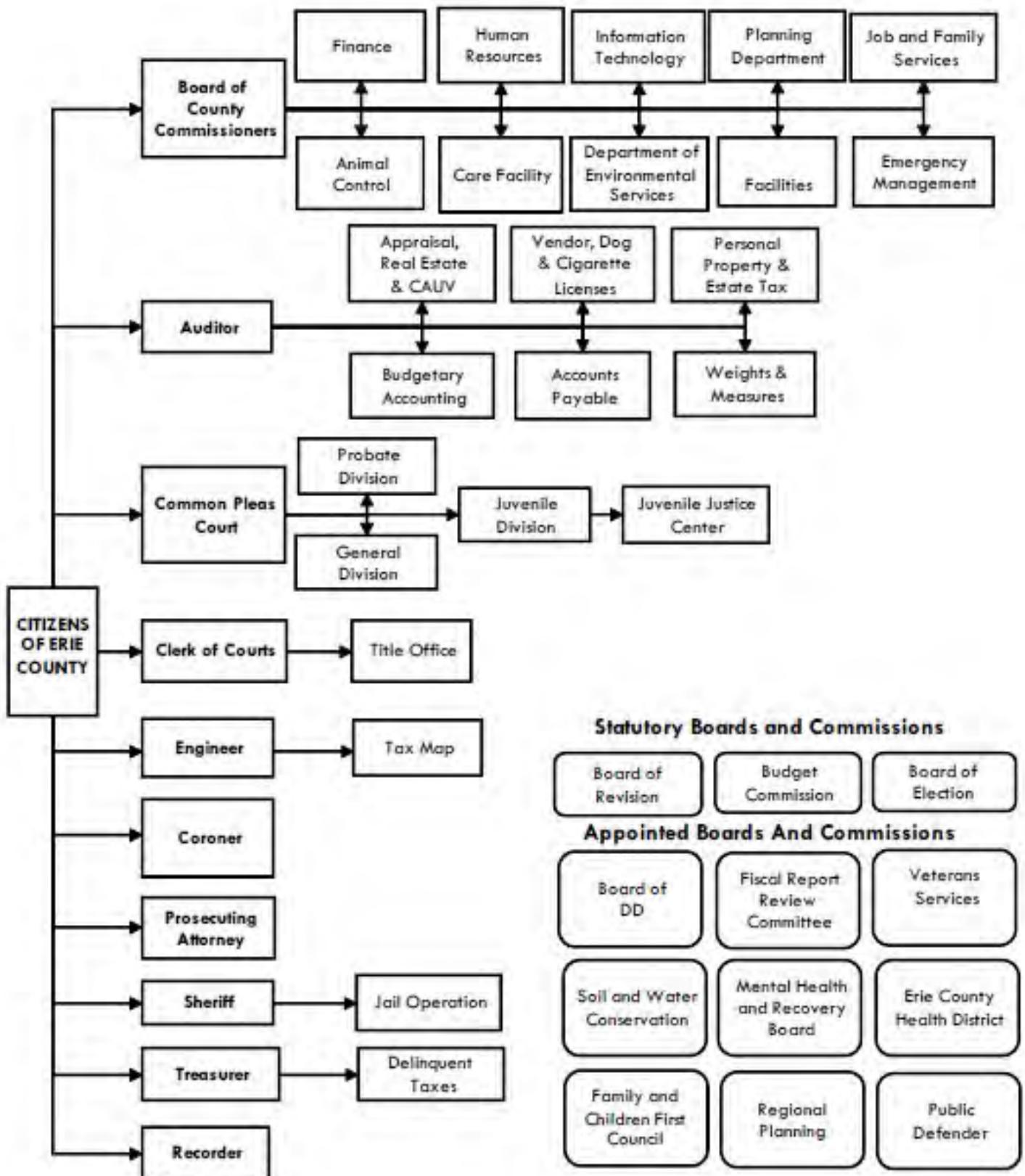


Erie County is made up of three cities, five villages and nine townships. They are the cities of Huron, Sandusky and Vermilion; the villages of Bay View, Berlin Heights, Castalia, Kelleys Island, and Milan; as well as the townships of Berlin, Florence, Groton, Huron, Margaretta, Milan, Oxford, Perkins and Vermilion.

Erie County is governed by the Board of County Commissioners that functions as both the executive and legislative branch of the county. The Board is made up of three commissioners who serve terms of four years each. In addition to the County Auditor, who serves as the Chief Fiscal Officer, there are seven other elected officials who operate independently following legislation in the Ohio Revised Code. These elected officials also serve four year terms and include the following: Clerk of Courts, Coroner, Engineer, Prosecuting Attorney, Recorder, Sheriff, and Treasurer. Erie County also has five Judges elected to six year terms. There are two judges in the Common Pleas Court, and one judge in each of the following areas: Probate Court, Juvenile Court and County Municipal Court.

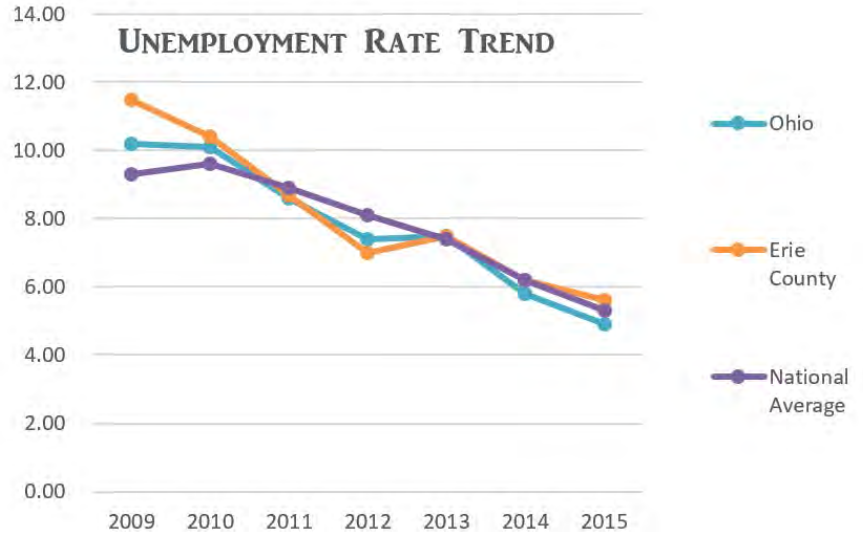
Erie County employed approximately 770 full time employees and 204 part time employees in 2015 to provide services such as capital improvements to roads/bridges/sewers, public safety, veterans services, tax collections, job and family services, emergency management services, economic development, animal control and health services just to name a few. The following chart shows how Erie County departments are currently organized.

# Organizational Chart



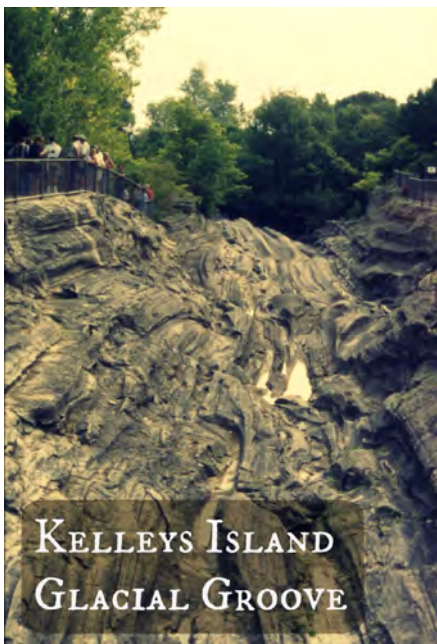
# Erie County Demographics and Statistics

In 2015, the County's unemployment rate showed slight improvement moving from 6.2% to 5.6%. In comparing Erie County's unemployment rate to other counties, Erie County remains stable, and lower than many of the surrounding areas.



## Top Employers for 2015

Employer	Type of Business	Number of Employees
Cedar Fair L.P./Magnum	Entertainment	5,000
Firelands Regional Medical Center	Health Care	2,312
Automotive Component Holdings	Automotive Parts	1,662
Kalahari Resort	Entertainment	1,200
Erie County	Government	974
Int'l. Automotive Components	Automotive Parts	675
Sandusky City School District	Education	614
Ohio Veterans Home	Health Care	591
Kyklos Bearing International	Automotive Parts	540
Freudenberg - NOK	Packaging Facility	320
<b>Total</b>		<b>13,888</b>
Total Employment Within Erie County		<b>35,500</b>



KELLEYS ISLAND  
GLACIAL GROOVE



# Erie County Demographics and Statistics

## Top Ten Taxpayers for 2015

Taxpayer	Taxable Assessed Value	Percentage of Total County Taxable Assessed Value
Ohio Edison	48,127,720.00	2.37%
Cedar Fair LP	37,657,510.00	1.86%
LMN Dev Spe LLC	15,179,680.00	0.77%
Norfolk & Western American Transmission Systems Inc	10,604,090.00	0.54%
Columbia Gas of Ohio	9,784,600.00	0.50%
Sandusky Mall Co.	8,134,290.00	0.41%
CNL Income	8,057,210.00	0.41%
BCC Sandusky Permanent	7,674,110.00	0.39%
Firelands Regional Medical Center	5,247,940.00	0.27%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 155,491,170</b>	<b>7.76%</b>
<b>Total County Assessed Valuation</b>	<b>\$2,030,051,620</b>	



## *County's Financial Position*

The County's financial statements distinguish functions that are principally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues (governmental activities) from other functions that are intended to recover all or a significant portion of their costs through user fees and charges (business-type activities). This report contains information related to the County's governmental and business-type activities. Please refer to the County's 2015 CAFR for more detailed information.

**Assets** provide financial benefits to the County. **Current and Other Assets** are mainly comprised of cash, investments and demand deposits (whether held in the pool managed by the County Treasurer or in outside bank accounts), property taxes receivable, sales tax receivable and monies due from other governments. **Capital assets** are land, buildings and improvements, roads, bridges, water/sewer lines, equipment and construction in progress, and are shown net of accumulated depreciation.

**Liabilities** place a financial burden on the County. **Current and Other Liabilities** include monies due to other governments, deferred revenues, accounts payable, compensated absences, and accrued wages payable. **Long-term liabilities** represent bonds, notes and loans that are being repaid over a period of years as well as payments under capital leases.

**Deferred Inflows/Outflows of Resources** are inflows and outflows of resources related to pension liabilities resulting from the County's employer contributions to OPERS. Any part of pension expense or income not recognized in the County's financial statements in the year they occur will be recorded as **deferred inflows** or **outflows**, amortized applicably.

**Net Position** represent the difference between assets and liabilities. **Invested in capital assets, net of related debt**, consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, reduced by the outstanding balances of any borrowing used for the acquisition, construction or improvement of those assets. Net position is reported as **restricted** when there are limitations imposed on their use either through the enabling legislation adopted by the County, or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, or laws and regulations of other governments. The County applies restricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net assets are available. **Unrestricted net position** may be used to meet the County's ongoing obligations to citizens, employees and creditors.



# County's Financial Position

## NET POSITION

	Governmental Activities 2015	Governmental Activities 2014	Business-Type Activities 2015	Business-Type Activities 2014	Total 2015	Total 2014
<b>Assets</b>						
Current and Other Assets	62,366,134	63,078,314	20,318,909	19,884,193	82,685,043	82,962,507
Capital Assets, Net	<u>62,673,954</u>	<u>61,228,424</u>	<u>113,931,933</u>	<u>117,420,177</u>	<u>176,605,887</u>	<u>178,648,601</u>
Total assets	125,040,088	124,306,738	134,250,842	137,304,370	259,290,930	261,611,108
<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>						
Deferred Charge on Refunding	-	-	1,051,215	1,169,063	1,051,215	1,169,063
Pension	<u>3,845,387</u>	<u>2,621,826</u>	<u>902,003</u>	<u>614,997</u>	<u>4,747,390</u>	<u>3,236,823</u>
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	3,845,387	2,621,826	1,953,218	1,784,060	5,798,605	4,405,886
<b>Liabilities</b>						
Current and Other Liabilities	2,474,901	3,341,889	1,898,973	2,125,359	4,373,874	5,467,248
Long-Term Liabilities						
Pension	21,459,206	20,974,515	5,033,641	4,919,948	26,492,847	25,894,463
Other Amounts	<u>18,435,489</u>	<u>16,372,078</u>	<u>77,413,259</u>	<u>84,737,572</u>	<u>95,848,748</u>	<u>101,109,650</u>
Total liabilities	42,369,596	40,688,482	84,345,873	91,782,879	126,715,469	132,471,361
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>						
Pension	376,996	-	88,431	-	465,427	-
Other Amounts	<u>11,957,350</u>	<u>11,866,517</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,957,350</u>	<u>11,866,517</u>
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	12,334,346	11,866,517	88,431	-	12,422,777	11,866,517
<b>Net Position</b>						
Invested in capital assets, <i>net of related debt</i>	51,210,684	48,768,191	59,583,790	58,797,307	110,794,474	107,565,498
Restricted	24,148,338	24,041,105	-	-	24,148,338	24,041,105
Unrestricted	<u>(1,177,489)</u>	<u>1,564,269</u>	<u>(7,814,034)</u>	<u>(11,491,756)</u>	<u>(8,991,523)</u>	<u>(9,927,487)</u>
Total Net Position	<u>74,181,533</u>	<u>74,373,565</u>	<u>51,769,756</u>	<u>47,305,551</u>	<u>125,951,289</u>	<u>121,679,116</u>

As a result of implementing GASB Statement No. 68, the County is now reporting a net pension liability that was not reported on in the past. This caused a restatement of net position at December 31, 2014 to \$121,679,116 from \$144,336,756. (For more information on how GASB Statement No. 68 affected the County's financials, please refer to pages 7 and 8 in the Management's Discussion and Analysis found in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.)

For governmental activities, there was almost no change in net position from the prior year. The only significant note is the increase in other long-term liabilities (approximately 13 percent) due to the \$2.8 million issuance of revenue anticipation notes (tax increment financing debt). This debt was used to finance infrastructure improvements for development by the Kroger Company.

For business-type activities, there was an overall increase in net position of 9 percent. This is primarily due to the decrease in long-term liabilities which represents the retirement of over \$7.3 million of long term debt in 2015, with no new debt issued during the year.

## Governmental Revenues

The dollars presented here are reported as governmental activities in the 2015 CAFR's government-wide statement of activities. Revenues typically are recorded when the underlying event occurs, regardless of when the money will be received. Major sources of revenue for the County include sales tax, property tax, grants, charges for services and interest earned. Grants are further broken down between operating grants and capital grants. Operating grants are provided to the County to help run day-to-day operations. Capital grants are provided to the County for use in acquiring capital assets, such as purchase of land or equipment, as well as the purchase or construction of buildings.

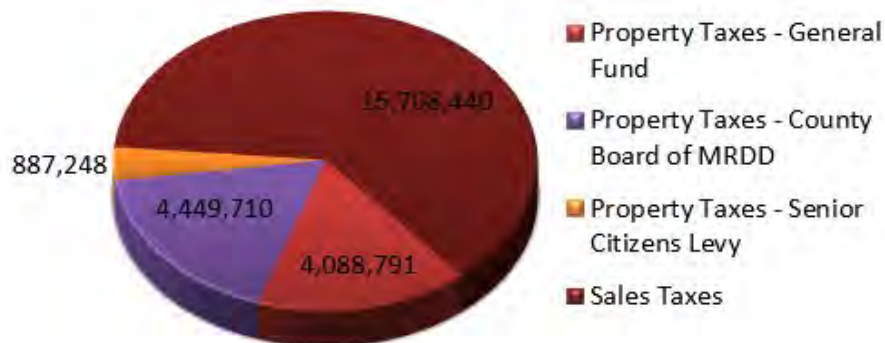
Revenues	2015	2014	% Change from 2014
Taxes	25,134,189	29,243,119	-14.1%
Operating Grants	20,299,151	18,084,521	12.2%
Charges for services	10,520,655	10,159,712	3.6%
Investment Earnings	304,382	334,772	-9.1%
Capital Grants	512,701	185,046	177.1%
Unrestricted grants and other revenue	6,223,561	5,967,950	4.3%
	<b>62,994,639</b>	<b>63,975,120</b>	<b>-1.5%</b>

For governmental activities, there was a 10 percent increase in total program revenues from 2014 (operating grants, charges for services and capital grants). Funding for Children Services and the Northern Ohio Juvenile Facility increased from the State. Also increasing was the motor vehicle license tax and the gasoline tax distributions for the County. The 177 percent increase in capital grants was due to an OPWC (Ohio Public Works Commission) grant of \$320,000 that was received for infrastructure improvements in 2015.

A significant decrease of \$4 million in tax revenue occurred in 2015 because of the expiration of the 0.5 percent sales tax in September. Those monies were designated to only be collected for one year to help with capital projects within the County.

Tax Revenue	2015	2014	% Change from 2014
Property Taxes - General Fund	4,088,791	3,842,410	6.4%
Property Taxes - County Board of MRDD	4,449,710	4,267,090	4.3%
Property Taxes - Senior Citizens Levy	887,248	835,340	6.2%
Sales Taxes	15,708,440	20,298,279	-22.6%
	<b>25,134,189</b>	<b>29,243,119</b>	<b>-14.1%</b>

### TAX REVENUE

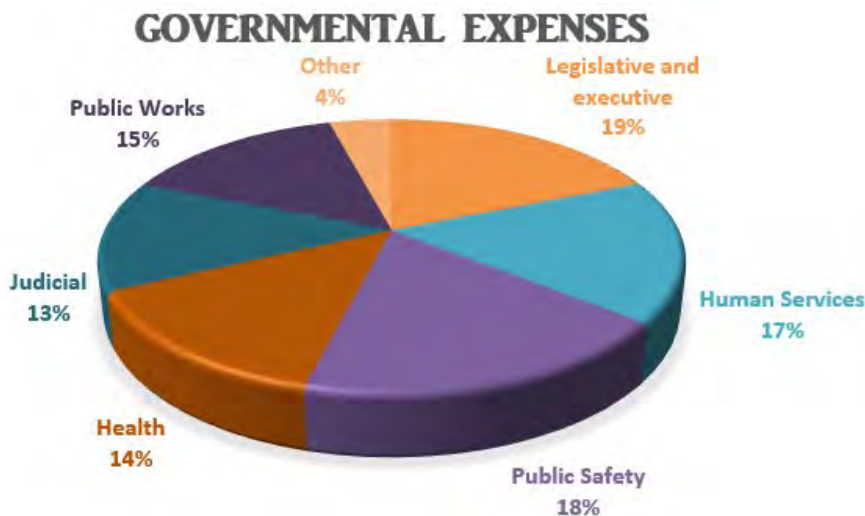


# Governmental Expenses

The expenses shown are those of the County's governmental activities. Expenses are recorded when the liability is incurred.

<b>Expenses - Governmental Activities</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>% Change from 2014</b>
Legislative and executive	11,891,925	13,253,668	-10.27%
Human Services	10,689,399	9,177,854	16.47%
Public Safety	11,542,810	11,036,311	4.59%
Health	8,827,678	9,066,910	-2.64%
Judicial	8,248,581	7,953,055	3.72%
Public Works	9,373,872	6,137,570	52.73%
Other	2,621,098	3,584,089	-26.87%
	<b>63,195,363</b>	<b>60,209,457</b>	<b>4.96%</b>

Governmental activities expenses increased approximately 5 percent. There was an increase in infrastructure improvements related to the Kroger Company TIF project that resulted in a 52% increase in Public Works expenses. Human Services saw an increase in expenditures due to increased monies received from the State. Legislative and executive expenditures decreased along with the decrease in the permissive sales tax revenues, as less money was available to spend on projects throughout the County. Other expenses saw almost a \$1 million decrease due to a large CHIP funding decrease in 2015. CHIP monies are used for home improvement loans for Erie County residents.



**Legislative and Executive** expenses are incurred by most elected officials offices, including Commissioners, Auditor, Treasurer, Prosecutor, Recorder as well as Facilities, Information Tech., Human Resources and Finance.

**Human Services** expenses are those incurred by the County's Job and Family Services Department. Services provided include adoption assistance, child care subsidies, emergency assistance payments, unemployment, food stamps and job training programs.

**Public Safety** expenses are those incurred by the Sheriff's department to ensure safety of persons and property.

**Health** expenses are those incurred primarily by the County's MRDD Board to provide services to developmentally disabled citizens of Erie County.

**Judicial** expenses are incurred by the County's Courts, which include the Common Pleas court, Probate court, Juvenile court and County Municipal court.

**Public Works** expenses are incurred by the Engineer's department for maintenance of Erie County's roads, bridges and ditches.

**Other** expenses represent economic development and assistance costs (CDBG programs) as well as interest charges and other miscellaneous expenses.

## ***Business Type Activities***

The dollars presented here are reported as business type activities in the 2015 CAFR's government-wide statement of activities. Revenues typically are recorded when the underlying event occurs, regardless of when the money will be received. The major source of revenue for business type activities is charges for services, where fees are collected from customers for a service that is being provided. The County continues to deal with delinquent customers, which can positively or negatively affect collections for the year.

<b>Revenues - Business Type Activities</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>% Change from 2014</b>
Charges for Services - Sewer	7,342,389	6,579,196	11.6%
Charges for Services - Water	8,068,575	8,061,171	0.1%
Charges for Services - Landfill	6,426,696	5,610,170	14.6%
Charges for Services - Care Facility	8,119,478	7,882,965	3.0%
Operating Grants	-	135,150	100.0%
Capital Grant and Contributions	130,318	12,394,879	-98.9%
	<b>30,087,456</b>	<b>40,663,531</b>	<b>-26.0%</b>

For business-type activities, there was a substantial decrease in capital grants and contributions due to receiving a large contributed asset from NASA in 2014. NASA donated a deep water 42 inch raw water intake, pumping station, and over 11 miles of transmission lines valued at over \$12 million dollars. The Landfill Fund saw a large increase in revenues due to an increase in dumping charges for 2015.

Below are the expenses incurred for our Sewer, Water, Landfill and Care Facility departments.

<b>Expenses - Business-Type Activities</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>% Change from 2014</b>
Sewer	7,677,194	7,923,241	-3.11%
Water	8,226,075	8,531,757	-3.58%
Landfill	1,761,966	4,976,992	-64.60%
Care Facility	7,962,978	7,949,330	0.17%
	<b>25,628,213</b>	<b>29,381,320</b>	<b>-12.77%</b>

The Landfill had the only notable change in expenses (approximately \$3 million) due to a reduction in the closure/postclosure costs estimate.



# Long Term Debt

At December 31, 2015 the County had a total of \$28,421,216 in general obligation bonds, \$2,800,000 in revenue bonds, \$624,480 in special assessment bonds, \$51,370,044 in OWDA loans and \$10,968 in OPWC loans. Of this total, \$69,096,103 will be repaid from business-type activities. Moody’s Ratings Service has assigned Erie County bond ratings an “AA2” rating, indicating that our bonds are a safe, reliable investment. This is due to the County’s below-average debt burden, strong general fund reserves, and overall sound financial management. The County has strongly been paying off debt while working on using available resources and not acquiring any new debt. The following table summarizes the outstanding long-term obligations at year end.

## Long-Term Obligations, Trend Analysis

*Includes Governmental and Business-Type Activities*

	2015	2014	2013	2012
General Obligation Bonds	28,421,216	32,017,374	35,948,674	40,875,681
Special Assessment Bonds	624,480	797,485	959,200	1,118,917
OWDA Loans	51,370,044	53,521,036	56,092,700	58,215,952
OPWC Loans	10,968	31,630	62,625	85,462
Revenue Bonds	2,800,000	-	-	-
Capital Lease Obligation	94,383	170,957	215,856	287,793
Landfill Closure and Post Closure Liability	7,886,838	10,534,752	9,956,355	16,345,173
Net Pension Liability	26,492,847	-	-	-
Claims Payable	1,533,896	-	-	-
Compensated Absences	3,106,923	2,905,954	2,968,271	2,842,305
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>122,341,595</b>	<b>99,979,188</b>	<b>106,203,681</b>	<b>119,771,283</b>

**GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS**

These bonds are long-term debt instruments which are repaid from the County’s general revenue resources.

**SPECIAL ASSESSMENT BONDS**

These bonds are issued to pay for improvements benefiting property owners, and the owners pay the County over a period of twenty years for the debt.

**OWDA and OPWC LOANS**

These loans provide low-interest funding for infrastructure, primarily water and sewer.

**NET PENSION LIABILITY**

The County pays obligations related to employee compensation from the fund benefiting from their service.

**CAPITAL LEASE OBLIGATION**

These obligations are payments to be made to vendors for leases entered into by the County.

**CLAIMS PAYABLE**

Insurance premiums are charged to the fund from which the employee is paid and claims are paid from the applicable internal service fund.

**LANDFILL CLOSURE AND POST CLOSURE LIABILITY**

This liability shows what amount is needed to perform all closure and post closure care as of 12/31/15.

**REVENUE BONDS**

The Revenue Bonds are part of the Kroger TIF agreement. They will be repaid from Kroger’s in lieu of taxes payments to the County.

**COMPENSATED ABSENCES**

This liability is due to employees for services provided to the County, where leave was earned but not taken as of 12/31/15.

*Business Type Activities represent debt for Water, Sewer and Landfill activities. Governmental Activities represent all other debt.*



# Property Taxes

## Tax Rates for Erie County—Tax Year 2015, Payable in Calendar Year 2016

TAX DISTRICTS	Tax District	State Taxing District	County Levies	School Levies	Library Levies	Vocational School Levies	Township Levies	City or Village Levies	Full Tax Rate	Residential Agricultural Effective Tax Rate	Commercial Industrial Effective Tax Rate
<b>BERLIN TOWNSHIP</b>											
Edison Schools	01-04	22-0010	9.10	68.39	1.80	3.95	5.30	n/a	88.54	51.5293	60.7561
Berlin Heights Village	06	22-0020	9.10	68.39	1.80	3.95	3.50	15.50	102.24	64.1002	72.8304
Huron Schools	05	22-0030	9.10	74.39	1.25	3.95	5.30	n/a	93.99	49.8382	62.8619
<b>FLORENCE TOWNSHIP</b>											
Firelands Schools	07-08	22-0040	9.10	51.91	0.00	2.45	7.10	n/a	70.56	47.6975	47.8372
Edison Schools	09	22-0050	9.10	68.39	1.80	3.95	7.10	n/a	90.34	53.3269	62.7965
Vermilion Schools	10	22-0060	9.10	68.46	1.625	3.95	7.10	n/a	90.235	51.6158	74.8060
Western Reserve Schools	11	22-0070	9.10	33.75	0.00	3.95	7.10	n/a	53.90	40.3923	43.4210
<b>GROTON TOWNSHIP</b>											
Bellevue Schools	26	22-0080	9.10	42.68	1.00	3.95	5.75	n/a	62.48	51.3738	56.8223
Bellevue City	61	22-0085	9.10	42.68	1.00	3.95	5.75	6.60	69.08	56.9880	63.3463
Margaretta Schools	27	22-0090	9.10	63.20	0.00	3.95	5.75	n/a	82.00	47.4419	67.4900
Monroeville Schools	28	22-0100	9.10	39.50	0.00	3.95	5.75	n/a	58.30	47.4183	49.8627
Perkins Schools	29	22-0110	9.10	60.90	1.50	3.95	5.75	n/a	81.20	45.9139	52.8424
<b>HURON TOWNSHIP</b>											
Huron Schools	39	22-0120	9.10	74.39	1.25	3.95	4.90	n/a	93.59	49.5314	62.6250
Huron City	42-49	22-0130	9.10	74.39	1.25	3.95	0.00	4.90	93.59	49.6418	62.9189
Edison Schools	40	22-0140	9.10	68.39	1.80	3.95	4.90	n/a	88.14	51.2224	60.5192
Perkins Schools	41	22-0150	9.10	60.90	1.50	3.95	4.90	n/a	80.35	45.3965	51.7859
<b>MARGARETTA TOWNSHIP</b>											
Margaretta Schools	33-37	22-0160	9.10	63.20	0.00	3.95	11.20	n/a	87.45	52.2895	72.0616
Bay View Village	30	22-0170	9.10	63.20	0.00	3.95	0.00	20.00	96.25	55.5514	78.5011
Castalia Village	31	22-0180	9.10	63.20	0.00	3.95	8.70	8.66	93.61	58.4652	77.9926
Perkins Schools	38	22-0190	9.10	60.90	1.50	3.95	11.20	n/a	86.65	50.7615	57.4140
<b>MILAN TOWNSHIP</b>											
Edison Schools	50	22-0200	9.10	68.39	1.80	3.95	6.55	n/a	89.79	52.3900	61.9847
Milan Village	53	22-0210	9.10	68.39	1.80	3.95	5.55	8.80	97.59	58.7687	68.7655
Huron Schools	51	22-0220	9.10	74.39	1.25	3.95	6.55	n/a	95.24	50.6989	64.0905
Perkins Schools	52	22-0230	9.10	60.90	1.50	3.95	6.55	n/a	82.00	46.5641	53.2514
<b>OXFORD TOWNSHIP</b>											
Edison Schools	23	22-0240	9.10	68.39	1.80	3.95	6.50	n/a	89.74	52.3332	62.3375
Monroeville Schools	24	22-0250	9.10	39.50	0.00	3.95	6.50	n/a	59.05	48.0117	50.6245
Perkins Schools	25	22-0260	9.10	60.90	1.50	3.95	6.50	n/a	81.95	46.5072	53.6042
<b>PERKINS TOWNSHIP</b>											
Perkins Schools	32	22-0270	9.10	60.90	1.50	3.95	16.25	n/a	91.70	56.9504	63.4695
<b>VERMILION TOWNSHIP</b>											
Vermilion Schools	12-16	22-0280	9.10	68.46	1.625	3.95	5.10	n/a	88.235	49.6606	72.3469
Vermilion City	18-22	22-0290	9.10	68.46	1.625	3.95	0.00	10.75	93.885	55.6486	78.7123
Edison Schools	17	22-0300	9.10	68.39	1.80	3.95	5.10	n/a	88.34	51.3717	60.3375
<b>KELLEY'S ISLAND VILLAGE</b>											
Kelley's Island Schools	54	22-0310	9.10	6.35	0.80	3.95	n/a	10.35	30.55	25.9201	26.1894
<b>SANDUSKY CITY</b>											
Sandusky Schools	55-60	22-0320	9.10	80.525	1.50	0.00	n/a	5.25	96.375	57.7306	68.3612
<b>BELLEVUE CITY</b>											
Bellevue Schools	62	22-0330	9.10	42.68	1.00	3.95	n/a	6.60	63.33	51.8558	57.7235



# *How To Compute Your Tax Bill*

## Property Tax Calculation

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Market Value x 35%	=	Assessed Value
Assessed Value x Full Total Tax Rate / 1,000	=	Gross Tax Per Year
Assessed Value x Effective Tax Rate / 1,000	=	Adjusted Tax
Gross Tax - Adjusted Tax	=	H.B. 920 Credit
Gross Tax - H.B. 920 Credit	=	Net Taxes
Net Taxes x Non-Business Credit Percent	=	Non-Business Credit
Net Taxes x Owner Occupancy Credit Percent	=	Owner Occupancy Credit
Net Taxes - Non Business and Owner Occ.	=	Taxes Charged
Taxes Charges / 2	=	Half Year Tax
Half Year Tax + Spec. Assessments, penalties, etc.	=	Total Half Year Tax Bill

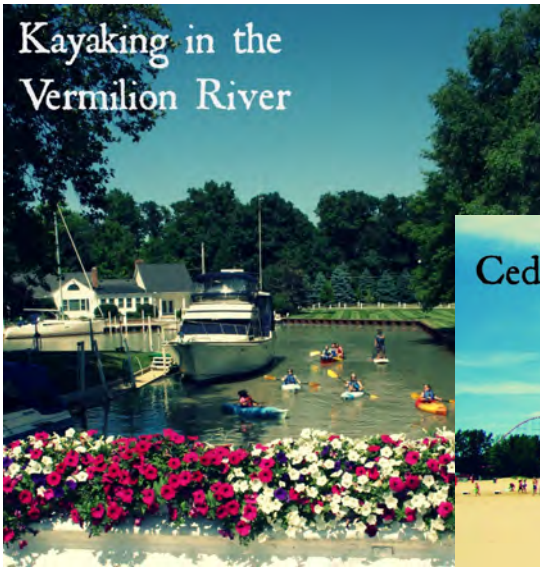
**EXAMPLE: IF A TAXPAYER LIVES IN THE GROTON TOWNSHIP, IN PERKINS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, REAL ESTATE TAXES ON A \$100,000 OWNER-OCCUPIED HOME WOULD BE CALCULATED AS PRESENTED:**

\$100,000 x 35%	=	\$35,000.00	Assessed Value
\$35,000 x 81.20 / 1,000	=	\$2,842.00	Gross Tax Per Year
\$35,000 x 45.9139 / 1,000	=	\$1,606.99	Adjusted Tax
Gross Tax - Adjusted Tax	=	\$1,235.01	H.B. 920 Credit
Gross Tax - H.B. 920 Credit	=	\$1,606.99	Net Taxes
\$1,606.99 x 10%	=	\$160.70	Non-Business Credit
\$1,606.99 x 2.5%	=	\$40.17	Owner Occupancy Credit
\$1,606.99 - \$160.70 - \$40.17	=	\$1,406.12	Taxes Charged
\$1,406.12 / 2	=	\$703.06	Half Year Tax
Half Year Tax + Spec. Assessments, penalties, etc.	=	Total Half Year Tax Bill	

**THE \$1,406.12 IN ANNUAL TAXES IS DISTRIBUTED AS FOLLOWED:**

<u>Tax Recipient</u>	<u>Tax Rate</u>	<u>Taxes Paid</u>
Perkins School	28.147057	862.00
EHOVE	2.771914	84.89
Groton Township	5.130144	157.11
Sandusky Library	1.472119	45.08
County General Fund	2.300000	70.44
MRDD Board	2.409771	73.80
General Health District	0.961817	29.46
Mental Health Board	1.154088	35.34
Senior Citizens	0.489673	15.00
Erie Metroparks	1.077281	32.99
	<u>45.913864</u>	<u>1,406.11</u>

# *Tourism Spots in Erie County*



Kayaking in the Vermilion River



Cedar Point Beach



Downtown Vermilion, Ohio



Thomas Edison Birthplace, Milan Ohio



Sandusky State Theatre



Merry Go Round Museum, Sandusky Ohio



Ice Fishing on Lake Erie

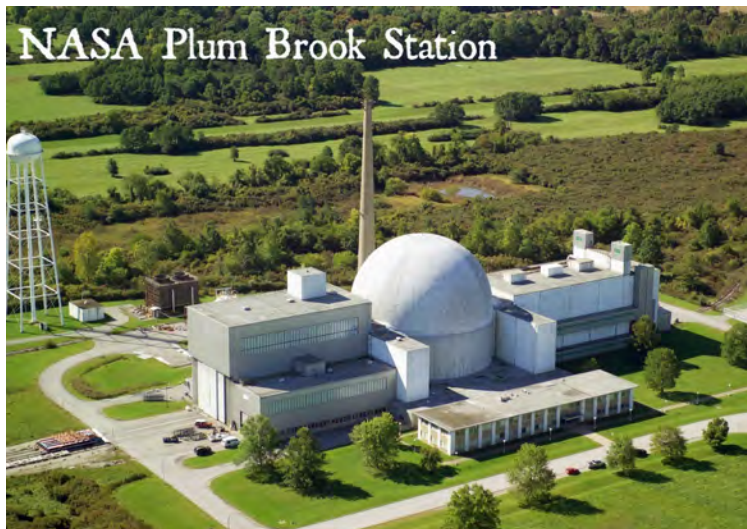


Firelands Winery, Sandusky Ohio



Lake Erie Fishing

## ***Erie County 2015 Projects***



NASA Plum Brook Station

Work at the Plum Brook Station has increased over the last two years due to the Orion project, which is the NASA based initiative to carry astronauts into deep space and possibly Mars. Plum Brook has been selected for much of the work because of its one-of-a-kind, world-class testing facility that has the capacity to test deep space rockets. Additional project testing is slated to continue at the Plum Brook facility for some time into the future.



Sports Force Parks, Sandusky Ohio

Construction has begun on developing the outdoor sports facility, Sports Force Parks, at an 83 acre site in the County that once served as an airport. The sports facility will be a public-private venture to provide additional active and passive recreation facilities for residents; attract tournaments that would bring sports teams including players and families to the area; and provide an additional draw for visitors to the County. The proposed \$23.5 million project is projected by year five of operation to bring \$1.9 million in additional tax revenue and \$80 million of total economic impact. Construction of the facility will be funded through an increase in the local bed tax and the hospitality industry will derive during additional income during the much needed “shoulder seasons” of the Fall and Spring when Cedar Point is closed.



The \$10 million dollar redevelopment of the former Reiger Hotel into a senior housing complex with ground floor retail and the Hotel Kilbourne development have added to the downtown resurgence. The \$1.2 million Hotel Kilbourne project when finished will be a nine room boutique hotel and restaurant lounge in a former underutilized downtown building. Plans call for the project to be completed in 2016.

# **ERIE COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Auditor Richard H. Jeffrey (419) 627-7746

Clerk of Courts Luvada Wilson (419) 627-7705

Commissioners Patrick J. Shenigo (419) 627-7672

Thomas M. Ferrell, Jr. (419) 627-7672

William J. Monaghan (419) 627-7672

Coroner Dr. Brian Baxter (419) 626-2367

County Engineer John D. Farschman (419) 627-7710

Prosecutor Kevin J. Baxter (419) 627-7697

Recorder Barbara A. Sessler (419) 627-7686

Sheriff Paul A. Sigsworth (419) 627-7668

Treasurer Pamela Ferrell (419) 627-7701

## **Judges:**

County Municipal Court Paul G. Lux (419) 499-4689

General Division Tygh M. Tone (419) 627-7731

Roger E. Binette (419) 627-7732

Juvenile Division Robert C. DeLamatre (419) 627-7782

Probate Division Beverly K. McGookey (419) 627-7750