

POPULAR ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013



Erie County, **Ohio**



Produced by:

Richard H. Jeffrey, Erie County Auditor

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According to the Ohio Historic Inventory for Erie County, Stone’s Block was built around 1870 in the High Victorian style. The building features ornate cornices and ornamentation on the centered gable, and the windows have cut stone lintels. The building is located on the southeast corner of Columbus Avenue and Market Street. From the 1880s until 1908, the *M. and A. Lebensburger* men’s clothing store was in business at the street level of Stone’s block. From about 1910 to 1919, the Lake Shore Electric Railway had offices at the Stone Block. From 1921 to 1964, the *S.S. Kresge* store was in business in the Stone’s Block, and the Jupiter store was there from about 1965 to 1985. Later businesses at Stone’s Block were Bourbon Street and Cabana Jack’s. A new business venture, the *Small City Taphouse*, is about to open in the building at 202 Columbus Avenue. The Stone’s Block has been a vital part of downtown Sandusky for over a century.

Dear Erie County Residents,



The Erie County Auditor's Office proudly presents the County's 2013 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 2013 CAFR was audited by the office of Rea & Associates, Inc. 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.

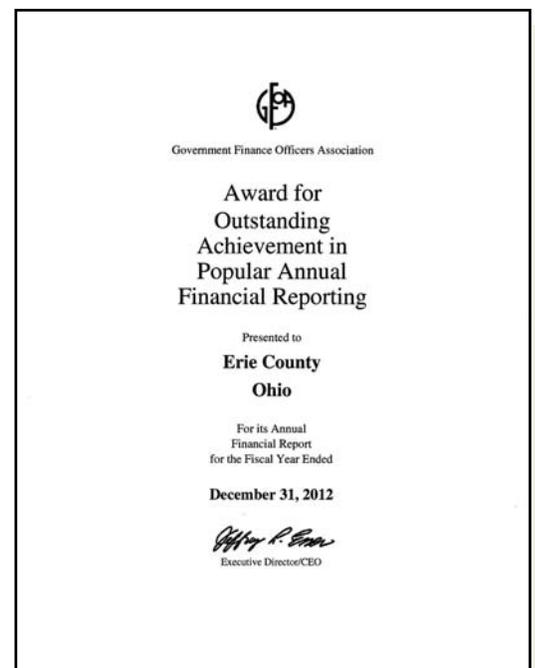
Sincerely,

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, 2012. 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.



All photos and descriptions of photos were used with the permission of the Sandusky Library and can be found at <http://www.sanduskyhistory.blogspot.com>. Thanks to the Sandusky Library for allowing us to use these well kept photos for our 2013 Popular Annual Financial Report.

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 45,710 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 809 gas pumps and meters and over 1570 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 and be sure to checkout the link 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.

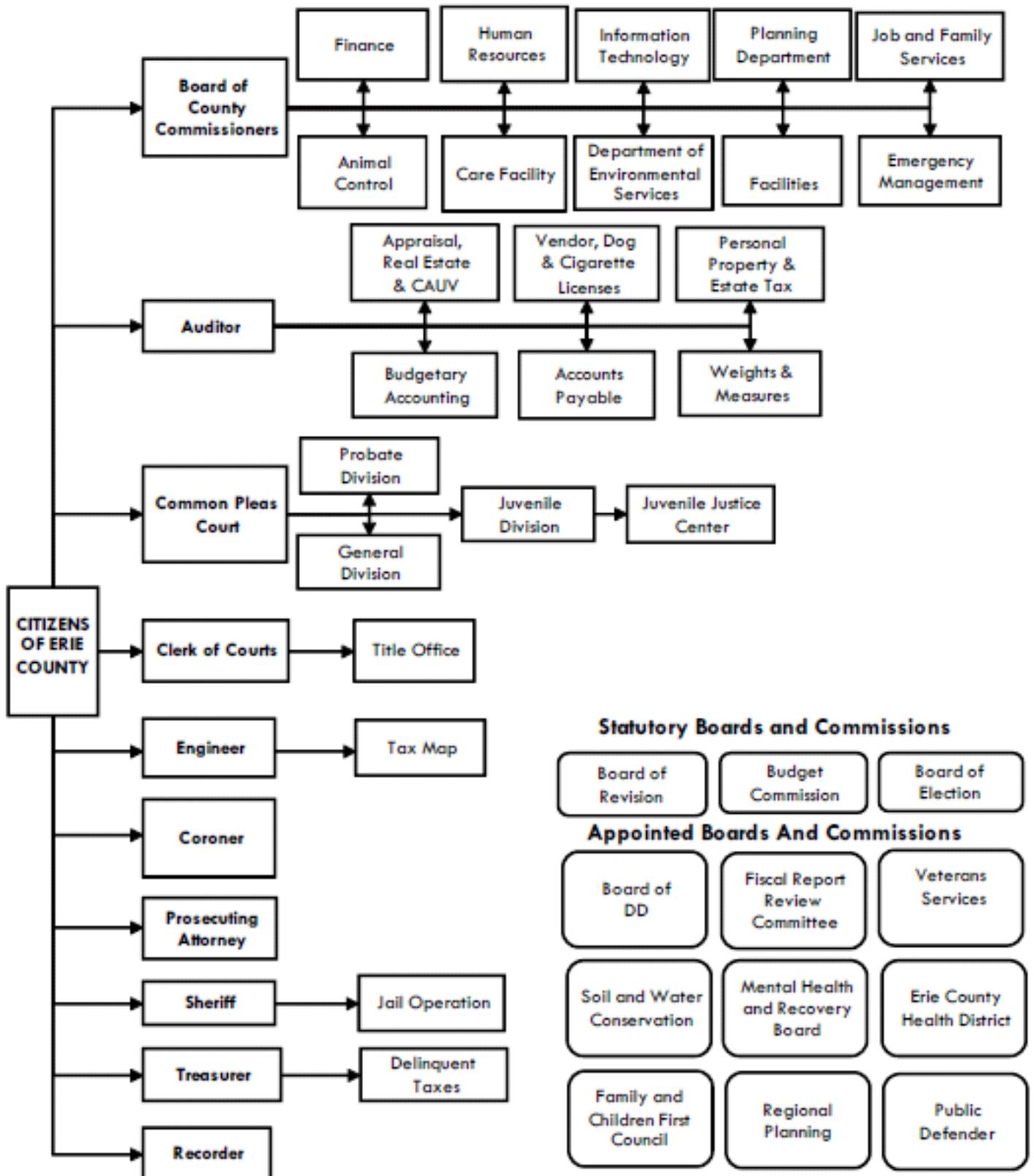


Erie County is made up of three cities, five villages and nine townships. They are the cities of Huron, Sandusky and Vermilion; the villages of Bay View, Berlin Heights, Castalia, Kelleys Island, and Milan; as well as the townships of Berlin, Florence, Groton, Huron, Margaretta, Milan, Oxford, Perkins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

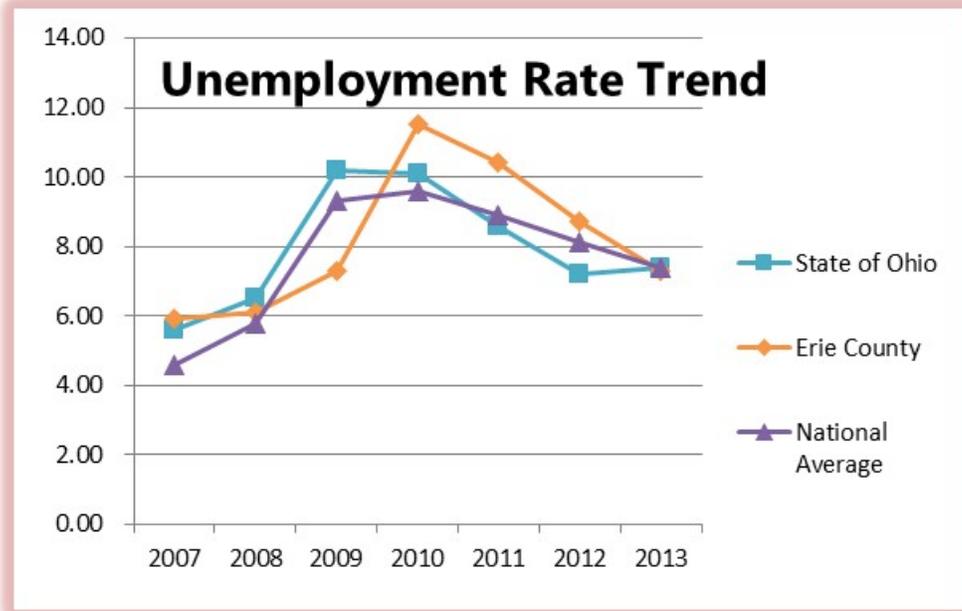
Erie County is governed by the Board of County Commissioners that functions as both the executive and legislative branch of the county. The Board is made up of three commissioners who serve terms of four years each. In addition to the County Auditor, who serves as the Chief Fiscal Officer, there are 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 640 full time employees and 500 part time employees in 2013 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.

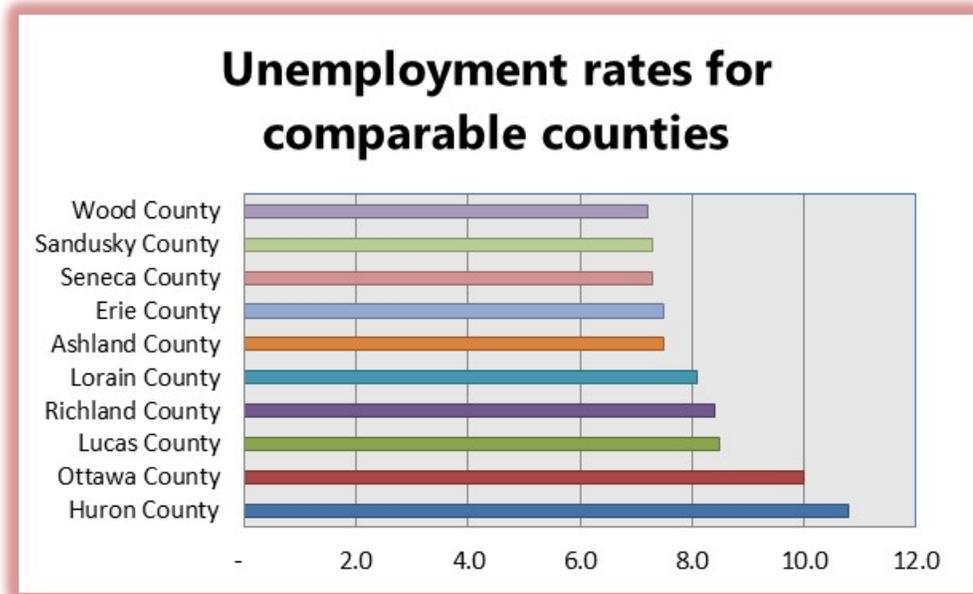
Organizational Chart



Erie County Demographics and Statistics



In 2013, the County's unemployment rate remained stable moving from 7.3% to 7.5%. In comparing Erie County's unemployment rate to other counties, Erie County remains stable, and lower than many of the surrounding areas. Erie County businesses report they are continuing to recover well after the 2008 recession, with at least 15 companies seeking to expand their operations in Erie County.



Sandusky used to have swimming and diving championships held at Battery Park. This one took place in the 1930's.



People of all ages enjoyed sledding and skating at Battery Park during the winter of 1954.

Erie County Demographics and Statistics

Top Ten Taxpayers for 2013

<u>Taxpayer</u>	<u>Taxable Assessed Value</u>	<u>Percentage of Total County Taxable Assessed Value</u>
Ohio Edison	53,983,420	2.75%
Cedar Fair LP	37,990,790	1.94%
LMN Dev Spe LLC	15,179,680	0.77%
Sandusky Mall Co. C/O Warner Mng	11,419,770	0.58%
Norfolk & Western Railway	10,087,810	0.51%
CNL Income Great Wolf Sandusky	7,727,100	0.39%
Columbia Gas of Ohio Inc.	7,667,810	0.39%
Park Place Enterprises C/O Capstor	6,366,820	0.32%
BCC Sandusky Permanent LLC	5,247,940	0.27%
Firelands Regional Medical Center	4,977,380	0.25%
Total	\$ 160,648,520	8.19%
Total County Assessed Valuation	\$1,961,551,230	



Village of Castalia - The picture above was taken by Mound Photographers about 1930. At this time the Blue Hole Restaurant was on Route 269 in the heart of Castalia, where Kuns Family Medicine is now located.

Top Employers for 2013

<u>Employer</u>	<u>Type of Business</u>	<u>Number of Employees</u>
Cedar Fair L.P./Magnum	Entertainment	4,800
Firelands Regional Medical Center	Health Care	2,000
Kalahari Resort	Entertainment	1,200
International Automotive Components	Automotive Parts	675
Erie County	Government	647
Ohio Veterans Home	Health Care	600
Kyklos Bearing International	Automotive Parts	580
Sandusky City School District	Education	443
Total		10,945
Total Employment Within Erie County		36,938



Voltaire Scott established a park across the street from his hotel. In 1895 he installed the "Boy with the Boot" statue, along with statues of dolphins and maidens. Mr. Scott willed the contents of his park to the city of Sandusky, along with funds to maintain it. The tornado of 1924 severely damaged Scott Park, and the statues were stored at the city greenhouse. In 1935, the "Boy with the Boot" was given a new home in Washington Park. After being damaged by vandals, the statue in Washington Park was replaced by an identical one made of bronze. The damaged statue was repaired, and is now on display at the City Hall building on Meigs street.

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 2013 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.

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.

For more information on the County's assets and liabilities, please refer to the Statement of Net Position, found on page 13 in our Comprehensive Annual Report.



The historic limestone Erie County building at 2900 South Columbus Avenue served as the Erie County Infirmary from 1886 until 1976, when the residents were transferred to the Erie County Care Facility at 3916 East Perkins Avenue in Huron Township.



From 1911 to 1949 the steamer Put-in-Bay transported passengers from Detroit to Sandusky, with stops at Put-in-Bay and Cedar Point. The ship was launched at Detroit, Michigan on March 25, 1911. In 1949 the Put-in-Bay was transferred to a route that went from Detroit to Port Huron, and in 1953 she was sold for scrap.

County's Financial Position

NET POSITION

	Governmental Activities 2013	Governmental Activities 2012	Business-Type Activities 2013	Business-Type Activities 2012	Total 2013	Total 2012
Assets						
Current and Other Assets	59,676,793	58,838,253	20,964,282	18,629,334	80,641,075	77,467,587
Capital Assets, Net	61,818,148	62,653,746	108,967,183	112,615,828	170,785,331	175,269,574
Total assets	121,494,941	121,491,999	129,931,465	131,245,162	251,426,406	252,737,161
Deferred Outflows of Resources	-	-	1,286,276	1,334,353	1,286,276	1,334,353
Liabilities						
Current and Other Liabilities	4,072,088	4,173,335	1,884,410	1,876,992	5,956,498	6,050,327
Long-Term Liabilities	16,686,662	19,025,089	89,137,779	93,105,087	105,824,441	112,130,176
Total liabilities	20,758,750	23,198,424	91,022,189	94,982,079	111,780,939	118,180,503
Deferred Inflows of Resources	11,785,909	11,457,199	-	-	11,785,909	11,457,199
Net Position						
Invested in capital assets, <i>net of related debt</i>	47,956,310	46,340,620	45,437,839	44,767,064	93,394,149	91,107,684
Restricted	25,629,073	26,670,974	-	-	25,629,073	26,670,974
Unrestricted	15,364,899	13,824,782	(5,242,287)	(7,169,628)	10,122,612	6,655,154
Total Net Position	88,950,282	86,836,376	40,195,552	37,597,436	129,145,834	124,433,812

For governmental activities, there was a modest 2 percent increase in net position from the prior year and few changes of significance. Although the overall change in current and other assets was not substantial, there were a couple of significant changes worth noting. The receivable for permissive sales taxes increased almost \$1.5 million from the prior year due to a .5 percent increase in the tax rate enacted during 2013. There was a sizable change in long-term liabilities. The County fully retired the 2002 Juvenile Detention Facility Bonds. This early debt retirement included \$990 thousand that was not due until later years. The increase in net capital assets and the net investment in capital assets represents cash acquisitions of capital assets as well as the effect of debt reduction (principal retirement). The increase in unrestricted net position is largely due to the increase in permissive sales taxes.

For business-type activities, there was an overall increase in net position of 7 percent. There was an increase in cash and cash equivalents of \$2.3 million due to grant resources received related to a sewer expansion project and from net income resulting in three of the four enterprise operations. The decrease in net capital assets was primarily due to annual depreciation. The decrease in long-term liabilities represents the retirement of debt.



Huron Lighthouse, photo taken 1933



The Ohio General Assembly authorized the creation of the Ohio Soldiers' and Sailors' Home at Sandusky, Ohio in 1886.

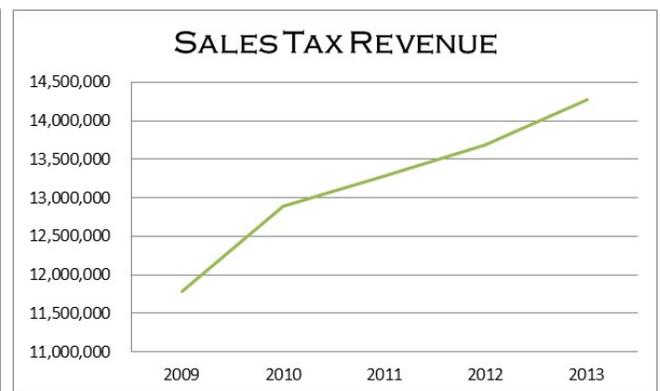
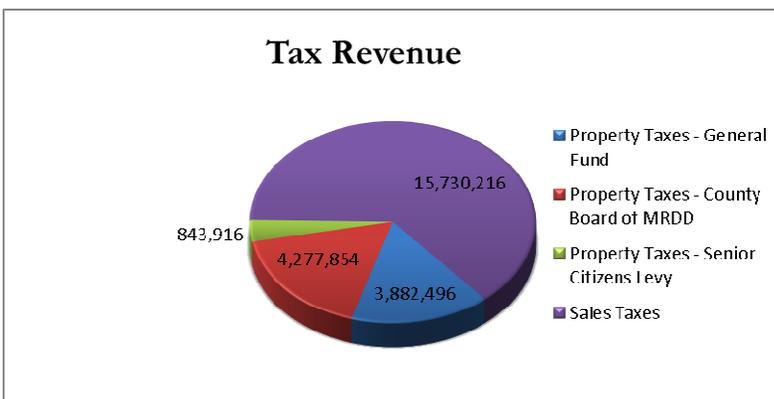
Governmental Revenues

The dollars presented here are reported as governmental activities in the 2013 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	2013	2012	% Change from 2012
Taxes	24,734,482	23,184,905	6.7%
Operating Grants	18,361,997	18,467,972	-0.6%
Charges for services	10,543,796	9,481,219	11.2%
Investment Earnings	218,120	381,422	-42.8%
Capital Grants	699,030	519,366	34.6%
Unrestricted grants and other revenue	5,938,105	6,051,993	-1.9%
	<u>60,495,530</u>	<u>58,086,877</u>	<u>4.1%</u>

Overall revenues for governmental activities increased 4 percent from the prior year due to increases in both program revenues and general revenues. There was an increase in charges for services due an increase of fees and fines and forfeitures collected by most departments in the County as well as a significant increase in concealed carry permits issued. Operating grants and contributions were comparable to the prior year and capital grants and contributions increased due to grant resources obtained for infrastructure improvements in the current year. While property taxes decreased from the County-wide revaluation, the .5 percent increase in the permissive sales taxes rate resulted in an overall increase in general revenues.

Tax Revenue	2013	2012	% Change from 2012
Property Taxes - General Fund	3,882,496	4,205,081	-7.7%
Property Taxes - County Board of MRDD	4,277,854	4,347,789	-1.6%
Property Taxes - Senior Citizens Levy	843,916	923,940	-8.7%
Sales Taxes	15,730,216	13,708,095	14.8%
	<u>24,734,482</u>	<u>23,184,905</u>	<u>6.7%</u>



Governmental Expenses

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

Expenses - Governmental Activities	2013	2012	% Change from 2012
Legislative and executive	11,236,516	11,639,157	-3.46%
Human Services	8,415,318	6,574,019	28.01%
Public Safety	10,946,809	10,093,201	8.46%
Health	9,525,277	8,467,729	12.49%
Judicial	8,159,781	7,742,425	5.39%
Public Works	5,869,457	5,241,240	11.99%
Other	4,238,764	4,823,340	-12.12%
	58,391,922	54,581,111	6.98%

Governmental activities expenses increased almost 7 percent with increases in a number of programs. Public safety expenses increased due to the need for more contracted services and capital outlay costs. Expenses in the public works program increased due to more infrastructure repairs/improvements in 2013. Expenses within the health and human services programs increased as more state funding in 2013 allowed for additional services to be provided. The economic development program expenses (found in Other Expenses) decreased as funding available through CHIP (community housing improvement program) has diminished.

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.

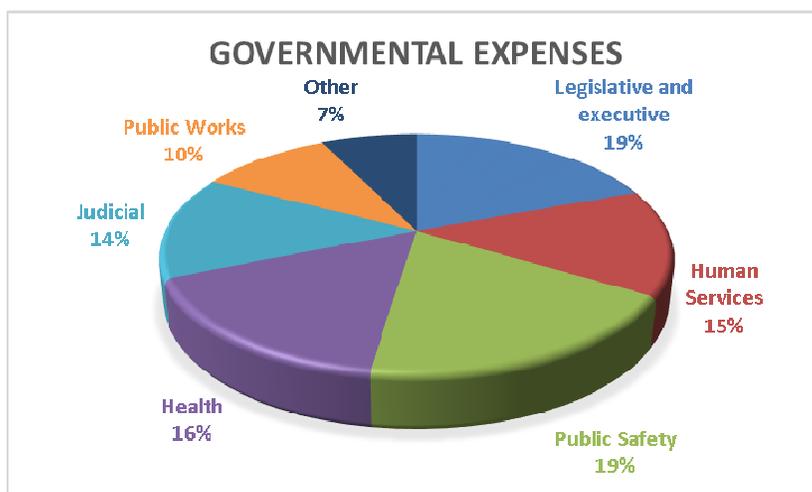
Public Safety expenses are those incurred by the Sheriff's department to ensure safety of persons and property.

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 2013 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. Landfill revenues increased due to a new policy set in place that out of town haulers can now use the County's landfill. The County also started selling carbon credits from the methane gas project.

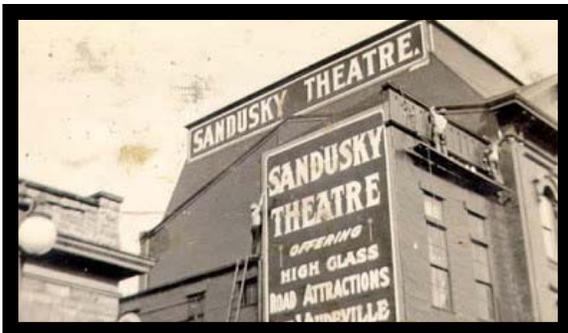
Revenues - Business Type Activities	2013	2012	% Change from 2012
Charges for Services - Sewer	7,292,440	7,217,745	1.0%
Charges for Services - Water	8,089,251	8,140,909	-0.6%
Charges for Services - Landfill	5,736,821	5,972,748	-4.0%
Charges for Services - Care Facility	6,222,673	6,000,490	3.7%
Capital Grant and Contributions	2,069,247	1,164,730	77.7%
	<u>29,410,432</u>	<u>28,496,622</u>	<u>3.2%</u>

For business-type activities, there was a substantial increase in capital grants and contributions due to receiving a large reimbursement from the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration for the U.S. Route 250 Sewer Expansion project. The Care Facility continues to improve financially after management of it was contracted to Continuing Healthcare Solutions, a third party management company.

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

Expenses - Business-Type Activities	2013	2012	% Change from 2012
Sewer	7,730,824	7,753,505	-0.29%
Water	7,739,798	8,047,076	-3.82%
Landfill	4,985,364	4,383,275	13.74%
Care Facility	6,479,828	6,393,335	1.35%
	<u>26,935,814</u>	<u>26,577,191</u>	<u>1.35%</u>

The Landfill had the only notable change in expenses which was related to the increase in estimated closure and postclosure costs.



In the picture above, three individuals can be seen painting a sign and the building of the Sandusky Theatre, about 1930.



The theater was built in 1877 by Andrew Biemiller. It was first known as the Biemiller Opera House, located at southwest corner of Water & Jackson Streets on property that had originally been owned by William T. Townsend.

Long Term Debt

At December 31, 2013 the County had a total of \$35,948,674 in general obligation bonds, \$959,200 in special assessment bonds, \$56,092,700 in OWDA loans and \$62,625 in OPWC loans. Of this total, \$78,946,452 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. Our goal is to maximize the services to Erie County residents and visitors within the limited amount of resources available. The following table summarizes the outstanding long-term obligations at year end.

Long-Term Obligations, Trend Analysis

Includes Governmental and Business-Type Activities

	2013	2012	2011	2010
General Obligation Bonds	35,948,674	40,875,681	41,892,338	43,366,446
Special Assessment Bonds	959,200	1,118,917	1,249,738	1,408,957
OWDA Loans	56,092,700	58,215,952	60,621,055	62,718,926
OPWC Loans	62,625	85,462	127,859	334,866
Bond Anticipation Notes	-	-	1,700,000	3,600,000
Capital Lease Obligation	215,856	287,793	33,404	56,357
Landfill Closure and Post Closure Liability	9,956,355	16,345,173	16,087,849	15,722,119
Compensated Absences	2,968,271	2,842,305	2,916,816	3,061,313
TOTAL	106,203,681	119,771,283	124,629,059	130,268,984

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.

CAPITAL LEASE OBLIGATION

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

LANDFILL CLOSURE AND POST CLOSURE LIABILITY

This liability shows what amount is needed to perform all closure and post closure care as of 12/31/13.

COMPENSATED ABSENCES

This liability is due to employees for services provided to the County, where leave was earned but not taken as of 12/31/13.

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



John A. Himmelein acquired the building in 1902. Again, the theater was remodeled. Mr. Himmelein stated that several types of amusements were performed here, including opera, dramatic, musical, minstrel, vaudeville, and plays by stock companies. Between 1905 and 1907, the building was known as the Grand Opera House. By 1908, the name was changed to the Sandusky Theatre, after the building was leased to O.S. Hathaway. The Seitz Amusement Company leased the building in 1936 to show motion pictures, bought it in 1950, and sold it four years later. The building was razed in 1955.

Property Taxes

Tax Rates for Erie County—Tax Year 2013, Payable in Calendar Year 2014

TAX DISTRICTS	Tax District	County Levies	School Levies	Library Levies	Vocational School Levies	Township Levies	City or Village Levies	Full Tax Rate	Res/Ag Effective Tax Rate	Comm/Ind Effective Tax Rate	
BERLIN TOWNSHIP											
	Edison Schools	01-04	8.80	69.14	1.80	3.95	5.30	n/a	88.99	53.0073	62.1944
	Berlin Heights Village	06	8.80	69.14	1.80	3.95	3.50	10.50	97.69	59.9696	68.3386
	Huron Schools	05	8.80	74.52	1.35	3.95	5.30	n/a	93.92	50.0034	63.1416
FLORENCE TOWNSHIP											
	Firelands Schools	07-08	8.80	52.42	0.00	2.45	7.10	n/a	70.77	48.9275	48.5305
	Edison Schools	09	8.80	69.14	1.80	3.95	7.10	n/a	90.79	54.9427	64.3265
	Vermilion Schools	10	8.80	68.60	1.725	3.95	7.10	n/a	90.175	51.7602	75.6743
	Western Reserve Schools	11	8.80	33.85	0.00	3.95	7.10	n/a	53.70	40.6789	43.3387
GROTON TOWNSHIP											
	Bellevue Schools	26	8.80	43.79	1.00	3.95	5.75	n/a	63.29	53.8198	57.8425
	Bellevue City	61	8.80	43.79	1.00	3.95	5.75	6.60	69.89	59.5055	64.4425
	Margaretta Schools	27	8.80	63.85	0.00	3.95	5.75	n/a	82.35	49.8691	72.1839
	Monroeville Schools	28	8.80	38.20	0.00	3.95	5.75	n/a	56.70	46.2870	47.6694
	Perkins Schools	29	8.80	60.90	1.50	3.95	5.75	n/a	80.90	46.3838	51.7441
HURON TOWNSHIP											
	Huron Schools	39	8.80	74.52	1.51	3.95	4.74	n/a	93.52	49.6389	62.8865
	Huron City	42-49	8.80	74.52	1.35	3.95	0.00	4.90	93.52	49.6774	63.1758
	Edison Schools	40	8.80	69.14	1.96	3.95	4.74	n/a	88.59	52.6428	61.9393
	Perkins Schools	41	8.80	60.90	1.66	3.95	4.74	n/a	80.05	45.4108	50.6048
MARGARETTA TOWNSHIP											
	Margaretta Schools	33-37	8.80	63.85	0.00	3.95	10.70	n/a	87.30	53.1976	77.1339
	Bay View Village	30	8.80	63.85	0.00	3.95	0.00	20.00	96.60	57.3928	84.4548
	Castalia Village	31	8.80	63.85	0.00	3.95	8.20	8.66	93.46	58.2581	82.2249
	Perkins Schools	38	8.80	60.90	1.50	3.95	10.70	n/a	85.85	49.7124	56.6941
MILAN TOWNSHIP											
	Edison Schools	50	8.80	69.14	1.80	3.95	5.30	n/a	88.99	52.6024	62.3741
	Milan Village	53	8.80	69.14	1.80	3.95	4.30	8.80	96.79	59.0208	69.3351
	Huron Schools	51	8.80	74.52	1.35	3.95	5.30	n/a	93.92	49.5985	63.3213
	Perkins Schools	52	8.80	60.90	1.50	3.95	5.30	n/a	80.45	45.3704	51.0396
OXFORD TOWNSHIP											
	Edison Schools	23	8.80	69.14	1.80	3.95	4.50	n/a	88.19	52.3779	61.6426
	Monroeville Schools	24	8.80	38.20	0.00	3.95	4.50	n/a	55.45	45.0491	46.2334
	Perkins Schools	25	8.80	60.90	1.50	3.95	4.50	n/a	79.65	45.1459	50.3081
PERKINS TOWNSHIP											
	Perkins Schools	32	8.80	60.90	1.50	3.95	13.50	n/a	88.65	54.2044	59.4941
VERMILION TOWNSHIP											
	Vermilion Schools	12-16	8.80	68.60	1.725	3.95	5.10	n/a	88.175	49.5310	73.2499
	Vermilion City	18-22	8.80	68.60	1.725	3.95	0.00	10.75	93.825	55.5040	79.4265
	Edison Schools	17	8.80	69.14	1.80	3.95	5.10	n/a	88.79	52.7134	61.9020
KELLEY'S ISLAND VILLAGE											
	Kelley's Island Schools	54	8.80	6.35	0.80	3.95	n/a	10.95	30.85	26.0235	26.6980
SANDUSKY CITY											
	Sandusky Schools	55-60	8.80	80.525	1.50	0.00	n/a	5.25	96.075	56.9025	68.8194
BELLEVUE CITY											
	Bellevue Schools	61	8.80	43.79	1.00	3.95	n/a	6.60	64.14	53.8261	58.6925

Erie County Levies:

General Fund	2.30	A.D.A.M.H.S. Brd	1.00
Metro Parks Board	1.00	M.R./D.D. Board	3.00
Senior Services	0.50	Health District	1.00

TAX RATES EXPRESSED IN MILLS

MILL = \$1 in Taxes for every \$1,000 in Taxable Value

Property Taxes

THE FOLLOWING TABLES SHOW WHAT A TAXPAYER CAN EXPECT TO PAY FOR PROPERTY TAXES IF THEY LIVE IN CERTAIN DISTRICTS. IT IS FURTHER BROKEN DOWN TO SHOW HOW YOUR TAXES ARE DISTRIBUTED. NOT ALL DISTRICTS ARE PRESENTED.

IF A TAXPAYER LIVES IN THE FOLLOWING DISTRICT, REAL ESTATE TAXES ON A \$100,000 OWNER-OCCUPIED HOME WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED AS PRESENTED:

Bay View Village - Margareta LSD

Tax Recipient	Tax Rate	Taxes Paid
Margaretta School	33.538070	1,027.10
EHOVE	2.703106	82.78
Bay View Corp.	13.203106	404.35
County General Fund	2.300000	70.44
MRDD Board	2.456277	75.22
General Health District	0.981273	30.05
Mental Health Board	1.000000	30.63
Senior Citizens	0.500000	15.31
Erie Metroparks	0.710939	21.77
	<u>57.392771</u>	<u>1,757.65</u>



City of Huron - Huron City School District

Tax Recipient	Tax Rate	Taxes Paid
Huron City Schools	32.132438	984.06
City of Huron	4.744822	145.31
County General Fund	2.300000	70.44
MRDD Board	2.456277	75.22
Huron Public Library	2.148511	65.80
EHOVE JVSD	2.703106	82.78
General Health District	0.981273	30.05
Mental Health Board	1.000000	30.63
Senior Citizens	0.500000	15.31
Erie Metroparks	0.710939	21.77
	<u>49.677366</u>	<u>1,521.37</u>



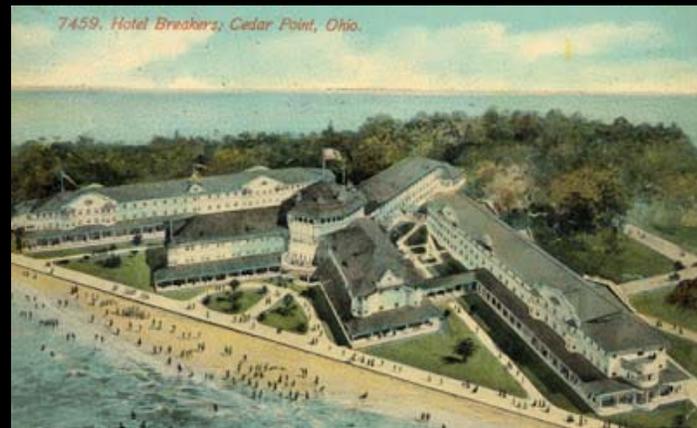
Milan Township - Edison Local School District

Tax Recipient	Tax Rate	Taxes Paid
Edison Local Schools	35.659596	1,092.08
Milan Township	4.665943	142.89
County General Fund	2.300000	70.44
MRDD Board	2.456277	75.22
EHOVE JVSD	2.703106	82.78
Berlin Milan Library	1.625264	49.77
General Health District	0.981273	30.05
Mental Health Board	1.000000	30.63
Senior Citizens	0.500000	15.31
Erie Metroparks	0.710939	21.77
	<u>52.602398</u>	<u>1,610.95</u>



Erie County History

After the Civil War in the United States, there was a period of rapidly increasing industrialization. As machines replaced hand labor in industry, production increased and work hours for employees were shortened. Railroads helped boost economic development in the U.S. as they transported both raw materials and finished products throughout the country and abroad. Ohio was blessed with early railways, besides having access to Lake Erie for shipment of goods by water. Industrialization helped lead to the development of a rising middle class in the U.S. Individuals in the middle class were not necessarily wealthy, but they were comfortable. Improvements in labor conditions allowed workers to have more leisure time and more disposable income. While the wealthy may have been able to spend a whole summer at the seashore, middle class residents could take their families to a weekend at the lake, or perhaps even a week's vacation once a year. The warm summertime weather and access to water in the Sandusky Bay and Lake Erie Islands region made the area popular to vacationers.



Erie County History

On March 31, seventy-five years ago the most devastating fire Sandusky has known struck downtown, turning nearly an entire block into ruins. Commonly known as the Herb & Myers fire (or the Market Street fire) because it was believed to have started in the M.R. Herb department store on East Market Street, the fire quickly destroyed many business on the 100 block of East Market Street, and continued to smolder for days afterward. The cause of the fire was never determined, probably due to the intensity of the flames, which left little evidence to discover in the rubble. Among the other businesses destroyed in the fire were the Sears & Roebuck store, the W.S. Frankel store, the McLellan Dollar store, all in the Graefe Building, and E.B. Ackley's cigar store and office on Water Street. The fire and the subsequent demolition and removal of the remaining rubble soon became a major tourist event, as can be seen in some of the photographic images. Reports claimed that as many as 10,000 spectators went downtown to see the fire and its aftereffects, although that might be an exaggeration. The estimated financial cost of the fire was \$2 million (about \$33 million in today's dollars), with about 200 people put out of work.





Alton T. Young, known as "Al," served as Erie County Sheriff for four terms, from 1948 to 1964



From 1887 until 1890, James L. DeWitt was the Common Pleas Judge for Erie County, Ohio.



Mr. Lewis H. Goodwin was elected Probate Judge of Erie County in November 1893, an office he held for two terms.

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 Terry M. Lyons (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