



**WOOD LANE**  
*Works!*

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**LookBeyond**

March is  
Developmental  
Disabilities  
Awareness Month

# WOOD LANE

Wood County Board of Developmental Disabilities

NEWS

## New Board members' experiences an asset



*WLS student Libby Harris shares a moment with Martha Woelke.*

The Wood County Commissioners appointed Jane Zipperer and Martha Woelke to the Wood County Board of DD. They replace Tim Harris and David C. Miller. Harris and Miller completed two three-year terms.

Woelke is the Retail Lending Product Manager for First Federal Bank of the Midwest, located in Bowling Green. She previously served on the Wood Lane Residential

Properties Board. In addition to her appointment by the Commissioners to the Wood County Board of DD, Woelke represents the Commissioners on the Port Authority and the Wood County Jobs and Family Services Planning Committee. According to Superintendent Stretchbery, Woelke is a life-long resident of Bowling Green and a long-time advocate for people with disabilities.

Jane Zipperer has been appointed to the Board by the Commissioners to represent family members of individuals who receive services. Her family has been residents of Bowling Green for five years. She and her husband Robert moved specifically to Wood County upon his retirement from



*Jane Zipperer and her daughter Robin enjoy a walk together at Wood Lane School.. Robin lives in a home operated by WLRS, Inc.*

the military in order for their daughter Robin to receive Wood Lane's services.

While stationed in Germany,  
**Board** cont'd on page 3

## DD month theme challenges us to "Look Beyond"



The 2013 Ohio Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Kickoff and Legislative Advocacy Day is scheduled for March 5th at the Ohio Statehouse.

This year's theme is "**Look Beyond.**" The day is being sponsored by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, Ohio Public Images, the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, Ohio SIBS, The Arc of Ohio.

The program begins at 9:45 a.m. at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium. Following the program, advocates will meet with legislators. Wood

County's People First Chapter plans to attend.

Attendees will have the opportunity to tell their story through the "**Look Beyond**" **Video Diary**. Participation will be on a first come-first served basis. Contact David Lewis at [dlewis@rrcol.com](mailto:dlewis@rrcol.com) to register.

Locally, our kick off will be held on March 6 at 1 p.m. with a "**Wood Lane Pride Day.**" Information is posted on our web site ([www.woodlane.us](http://www.woodlane.us)) and Facebook page ([facebook.com/Wood.Lane.Works](https://facebook.com/Wood.Lane.Works)).



## Vision still bright to “serve and protect”

Doug Perez says that at age 5 or 6, he could see himself in a role “to serve and protect.” He vividly remembers “Safety Town” and the positive impact that law enforcement officers that taught the class had on him. “I have a great respect for them and I have always wanted to make a difference,” he said.

His vision to work in law enforcement has never wavered in the last 16 years. According to service coordinator Cheryl Schroeder, “Doug is one of the most positive people I have ever met. He inspires others to always do their best.”

In his free time, he listens to his scanner to follow the Sheriff’s Office activities. He can identify deputies and Sheriff Mark Wasylyshyn by the sound of their voices. He also knows their badge numbers and codes they use while on duty. “A minor injury is 4,” he said. “At the beginning of a shift they say ‘car in service 33’. Out of service is 37.”



Sheriff Mark Wasylyshyn, Doug Perez, Deputy Jill Holland, and Chief Deputy Eric Reynolds

This story is more than about Perez’ dream. It’s seeing how committed he is to helping others and realizing that his vision to assist is clear despite being blind. Perez just shrugs his shoulders and says “I’ve never had vision so I’ve never let it get in my way,”

The Wood County Sheriff’s Office periodically hosts a Citizen’s Police Academy. According to Sheriff Mark Wasylyshyn, “the academy is an opportunity for citizens to see first-hand what happens in the office.” Deputy Jill Holland, who runs the Academy said

that Perez’ mother called and asked if her son would be able to participate. “We said absolutely,” commented Holland.

Perez and his cousin Natalie Loera began the nine-week class with twenty-two others. Topics included 9-1-1 emergency response and communications, report writing, internet safety, identity theft, and information about the detective division. Hands-on learning included a ride along, firing a 45 caliber handgun at the shooting range, and touring the Sheriff’s office, jail and courthouse.

Perez positive outlook was contagious in class. Deputy Holland shared that his participation motivated the class. “When they saw Doug try things, it gave them confidence to try. It opened everyone’s eyes,” she said.

Perez took every opportunity to learn and apply what he knew throughout the academy. “I got to ride along with Deputy (Brian) Bonnough,” commented Perez. “He needed to follow-up on a motorcycle accident at the hospital. I can’t reveal the patient’s name . . . that’s confidential you know. But I can say he was ok,” Perez explained.

One class involved a mock trial. The class listened to testimony and viewed a video from a dash cam. “Doug came up with the right verdict. He couldn’t see the video but he listened and took in all of the testimony. Some of the students only focused on what they saw,” stated Chief Deputy Eric Reynolds. “Doug may be blind but he has better vision than most of us.”

## Annual Action Plan emphasizes quality of life, employment, and increased family and staff involvement

Staff throughout the entire program spent a great deal of time assessing programs and seeking input to develop the 2013 Annual Action Plan. The goals were approved by the Board in December and represent our commitment to find ways to enhance the quality of life for every individual served.

In 2013, the Board will invite individuals served, families, staff, and community members to develop a five year Strategic Plan. More information will be available within the next month.

**CHILDREN’S SERVICES** - Wood Lane School will increase the use of classroom technology to provide quality instructional experiences. The Early Intervention Staff will increase parent involvement and family-advocacy.

**ADULT SERVICES** - The Adult Services Department will design and implement Employment First strategies resulting in the expansion of the number of community-based, integrated employment opportunities for individuals served.

**SERVICE AND SUPPORT ADMINISTRATION** - The Department will implement a streamlined process of linkage and referral to ensure timely access to and delivery of services without unnecessary duplication.

**FISCAL** - The Fiscal Department will evaluate and enhance the reporting and tracking of fixed assets.

**OPERATIONS** - All employee personnel files will be digitally scanned in accordance with public records retention policies and procedures to improve access to and storage of required documents. The Staff Development Department will revise and enhance Wood Lane’s Leadership program. The Technology Department will upgrade the e-mail server to exchange 2010 version software, which will provide new technology features including a more advanced operating system, security and virus protection. The Maintenance / Custodial Department will develop and implement a quality assurance program, involving random reviews, to ensure compliance with all regulations.

See **Action Plan** next page



# Children's Services has new director and many new faces

In just a few short months, Wood Lane's new Director of Children Services Lorraine Flick has jumped in enthusiastically getting to know students and staff and traveling the county meeting families served through Wood Lane's Early Intervention program. Flick replaced Rob Spence who retired this fall.

"What an amazing family atmosphere!", she stated. "Everyone believes in each other with a common goal to support and serve. The respect given to every individual is awe-inspiring and humbling as well."

Flick has extensive experience as a teacher and building principal and most recently was the principal at Conneaut Elementary School principal in the Bowling Green School District. Her desire to apply for the position at Wood Lane was based upon her love of education. Her initial reason getting into education was to "serve children and make a difference in their lives." Those reasons are still evident today as she indicated that being selected to fill the position offers her the opportunity to "continue to serve in an educational field."

Her positive outlook and belief in the abilities of everyone is evident. "Everyone can learn and deserves to achieve. We all learn a little differently from others, and we all need something a little unique to help us be successful," stated Flick.

"At school, if we find that we are not reaching this goal, then it is our responsibility, as professional educators, to keep using our resources to figure out how to foster and nurture the most success for every child we serve."



**Wood Lane's early intervention staff.**

First row - Lorraine Flick, Sara Stalets, Danielle Perkins, Sallie Gardner, and Alice Thompson.

Second Row - Heidi Crawford, Rhoda Bennett, Holly Hernanadez, and Early Intervention Supervisor Joanne Hayward.



**Wood Lane School staff**

(First row) Misha Williams, Jennifer Burkett, Emily Ramge, Kathy Mangus, Kirsten Fox, Lorraine Flick, Aimee Meier, Cathie Bradford, Donna Powers, Muchala Sundano, and LeDeithra McKinney.  
(Second Row) Tempo Bierley, Jennifer Faas, Tom Funke, Karen Oswald, Beth Fyffe, Jennifer Jenny, Alan Bernardo, Melissa Tiell, Erin Courtney, Michele Thomas, Kim Vaughn, and Holly Hernandez. Not pictured are Cheryl Bourne, Abby Gregg, and Renee Vollmar.

## Action Plan cont'd from page 2

The Transportation Department will develop and implement a streamlined vehicle work order system and accurate record-keeping. The Volunteer Program will develop a focused recruitment effort in order to increase the pool of Community Friends Wood County Special Olympics and the Operations Recreation program will form a Healthy Lifestyles Committee for persons served to assist individuals to obtain and maintain individualized and personal wellness plans. Public Relations - All public relations activities will be focused on enhancing communication with stakeholders, maintaining Wood Lane's positive reputation and presenting a favorable image of the services and programs provided.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY/WELLNESS** - The Health and Safety Committee will hold a health and safety fair in conjunction with a wellness day for persons served, parents and guardians.

## Board cont'd from page 1

Zipperer was a teacher and classroom assistant at Ramstein Intermediate School, Ramstein A.B., Germany. She is currently employed at TJ Maxx in Bowling Green.

According to Superintendent Stretchbery, Mrs. Zipperer currently serves on the Human Rights Committee and has a "personal investment in the lives of all individuals with developmental disabilities."

Ohio Revised Code requires each county board of dd to have a total of seven members. Board members serve as volunteers and are responsible for setting policy for the program and hiring the Superintendent. Three members of the Board must have a family member who receives services. The County Commissioners appoint five board members and the Probate Judge appoints two members.



## Wood County Board of Developmental Disabilities

1921 East Gypsy Lane Road  
Bowling Green, Ohio 43402

### BOARD MEMBERS

Joe Catalano, President  
Frank Day, Cindy Herman,  
Ed Metzger, Pamela VanMooy,  
Martha Woelke, and  
Jane Zipperer

### SUPERINTENDENT

Melanie Stretchbery

[www.woodlane.us](http://www.woodlane.us)

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### OUR MISSION

Ensure the availability of programs, services and supports that assist in the choice and achievement of a life of increased capability;

Ensure the absolute right to live, work and participate in the community through programs and services that facilitate and maximize development;

Assist and support families;

Participate in community activities that will help educate and foster understanding and acceptance of persons with developmental disabilities.



**WOOD LANE**  
*Works!*

## LEO Lites spark new opportunity

Thanks to the creativity and research of Adult Services staff, individuals involved in the Life Enhancement Options (LEO) Habilitation and Day programs are making something that almost everyone can use.



**LEO Lites** are handmade fire starters made from 100% recycled materials that include dried pine cones, string, paraffin, toilet paper or paper towel rolls, cardboard egg cartons, and shredded paper. They can be used in fireplaces or campfires.

Staff from LEO were looking for activities that they could adapt so everyone could participate. "We wanted something simple, something people would be interested in making, and that we could break into small steps," explained Michele Juhasz. "Juhasz added that staff member Carol Brooks researched on-line resources to create the LEO Lites project.

To purchase, contact Cathy Zwyer at (419) 352-5115 or [czwyer@woodlane.us](mailto:czwyer@woodlane.us)

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