

# Keller honored for work in obtaining grants

*West Alexandria awarded \$300K for street improvements*

By Michael Zimmerman  
R-H Staff Writer

Preble County will once again be receiving funding through the state of Ohio's Neighborhood Revitalization Grant Program, and local leaders recently honored one person for her particular efforts in the county's success with the program.

Kim Keller, administrative assistant in the commissioners' office, was honored at the commission meeting on Monday, Sept. 19, for her work in securing the Neighborhood Revitalization and other grant money for Preble County.

The grants come from the Ohio Department of Development, and are aimed at revitalizing distressed areas around Ohio, according to a DOD press release. Of this year's grant money, the village of West Alexandria will receive \$300,000 to make improvements on Main Street, much like a project to repair Dayton Street in 2004, for which



County Administrative Assistant Kim Keller was honored by the commissioners at the Sept. 19 meeting. Pictured, left to right: Commissioner Chris Day, Commissioner Bob Stonecush, Community Development Analyst with the Office of Community Partnerships DJ Pasquerelli, Keller, and Commissioner David Wesler. (Michael Zimmerman photo)

the village received a Neighborhood Revitalization grant.

Improvements will include making street and curb repairs, replacing 16 street lights, improving sidewalks, installing 12 curb cuts, installing 465 feet of storm sewer pipe and four manholes, and replacing five fire hydrants. The work also includes replacing 150 feet of water line and 32 water

meters.

Through Keller's work in obtaining these grants, Preble County communities have received six such grants, and only one other county has received as many. This will be the second grant for West Alexandria.

"I would like to say, 'Thank you, Kim,'" said commissioner David Wesler at the Sept. 19, meeting. "Your diligent work and dedi-

cation to work to identify as many potential points in each application means more successful applications and dollars to help the villages of Preble County."

Other Neighborhood Revitalization grants have gone to New Paris and Gratis. In total, Preble County communities have received \$1.8 million through the

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program, and Keller's efforts have been a major part of these grants coming to the county.

"That is not to mention the many CDBG projects that Kim has helped advise us on and looked to capture as many points as possible for each village," Wesler continued.

Gratis Mayor Randy Kemper made his way to

the commissioners' office to express his gratitude for Keller's efforts.

The village of Gratis received a grant in 2009 for the improvements to East Street.

"I'd like to thank Kim on behalf of myself, the council, the village of Gratis, and all the businesses there," Kemper said. "As I'm leaving office at the

end of this year, I hope that we've left things a little bit better, and I know we have, with your help, and the commissioners' help and Doug's (Kramer) help. We've left the village of Gratis better than we found it.

I appreciate all of (Kim's) guidance and expertise and the help she has given me. She has been a godsend to the village of Gratis."

West Alexandria Mayor Carol Lunsford was also at the meeting to express thanks for the two grants

her village has received, including the most recent.

"I would like to say thank you on behalf of the village of West Alexandria," Lunsford said. "You keep our nose to the grindstone. Thank you for all your effort and time, and I know sometimes it's a headache. But look at what you've done for our village. It makes me very proud to think that we've been associated with you and the commissioners, and we've made our village really a pleasure to drive into."

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