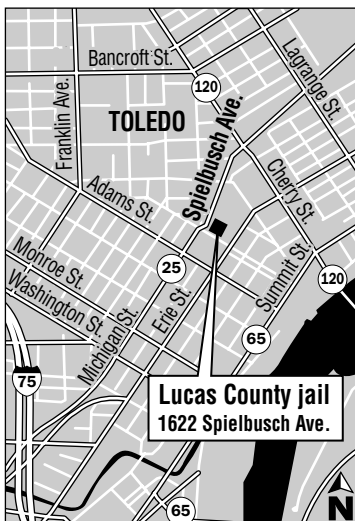


# A 30-YEAR LOOK AT THE LUCAS COUNTY JAIL

Spring, 1977 — The new, \$12.1 million Lucas County jail opens at 1622 Spielbusch Ave. About 144 prisoners were transferred from the county's old jail nearby, which was built in 1900 to hold about 60 prisoners but had an average daily population of 280 when it closed in 1977. The old jail was closed in response to a lawsuit filed in 1970 and subsequent federal court order denouncing the jail's overcrowded, inhumane, and unconstitutional conditions. The new jail's capacity was announced as 360. But by 1980, the jail already was considered to be suffering from chronic overcrowding by the jail's federal-court appointed special master.



■ **Oct. 24, 1977** — Luther Virgil Sr., 38, being held on a charge of aggravated murder in connection with the shooting death of his wife, dies after hanging himself with bedsheets. He is believed to be the first inmate to commit suicide in the new jail.



BLADE PHOTO/DON SIMMONS

**Exterior of the Lucas County jail.**

■ **June 6, 1978** — Dan Casey, 19, becomes the first prisoner to escape the new jail. Casey used a stool to pry open his sixth-floor cell window and slid about 60 feet to the ground, using the building's first vertical trim.



BLADE PHOTO/LISA DUTTON

**The booking desk of the Lucas County jail.**

■ **Nov. 16, 1982** — The jail reports 123 accused criminals were processed through the booking area in a 24-hour period as a result of a major sting operation by Toledo police, a record that still stands today.

■ **April, 1997** — The county begins a \$1.7 million project to renovate the jail's booking area. The project, which included adding glass-enclosed holding cells, office space, and more room to escort prisoners, stalled for months and was rekindled in December of that year.

■ **March 11, 2004** — Former county jail employee Marion P. Crosby, 39, who smuggled bullets and a gun clip to a convicted murderer in 2003, is sentenced to four years in prison. The recipient of the smuggled goods used them in a 2003 escape attempt in which he fired a gun at a corrections officer.



**Marion P. Crosby**

■ **May 10, 2005** — A Toledo man arrested for drunken driving is beaten up by another jail inmate in a fight over a sleeping cot. The man who was attacked, Brian Price, sues Lucas County Sheriff James Telb and says he was beaten up because the jail was too crowded. The case is pending.

■ **Aug. 21, 2006** — Robert Harris, 29, escapes from the jail by stealing an unattended set of keys and letting himself out two doors before getting on the elevator and leaving the building undetected. He was caught 25 hours later, but not before he robbed the Charter One Bank branch at 3250 Lagrange St.



**Robert Harris**

■ **May 16, 2007** — About 30 years after the county jail opened, county leaders announce plans to decrease the length of the criminal justice process. Their move is an attempt to ease jail overcrowding.