A Brief History of Defiance County, Ohio

On August 8, 1794, General Anthony Wayne and his soldiers arrived at the confluence of the Maumee and Auglaize Rivers and built "Fort Defiance."

In 1803, Ohio was the first state carved from the Northwest Territory. The organization of Defiance County began on February 12, 1820, when the Ohio Legislature passed an Act. The Act provided that all the land in the State of Ohio was to become 14 separate counties. Originally, Williams County, organized April 1824, occupied the northwest corner of the State, but included most of the area that is now Defiance County. January 13, 1825, after a resolution passed the Ohio Legislature, the town of Defiance was established as the Seat of Justice for the County of Williams. There was great dissatisfaction in Defiance after the Michigan boundary settlement in 1836 which added about 150 square miles to the north end of Williams County and the village of Defiance became more of a border town. In 1846, Bryan became the County seat, much to the dissatisfaction of the people of Defiance, as it was located near the center of the county.

A petition was prepared in December 1844, and circulated. The Legislature passed the bill March 4, 1845, which provided for parts of Williams, Henry and Paulding counties to become a separate county to be named Defiance County. The bill also provided that the Seat of Justice would be established at the town of Defiance.

The afternoon of March 13, 1845, at "Old Fort Defiance" a celebration of the erection of Defiance County was held. Despite high waters and bad roads, a large number of people attended the event.

The first term of court in the newly established Defiance County was opened April 2, 1845. The first County Commissioners were appointed by the Court of Common Pleas on April 3, 1845, and served until December 1, 1845. A special election for county officers was held April 15, 1845, and October 14, 1845, and officers were elected.
The Board of County Commissioners is the policy making and legislative body of this County. It is the County government's taxing, budgeting, appropriating and purchasing authority and holds title to County property. The Board is also responsible for hearing and ruling on annexations, approving drainage improvements through the petition ditch process, and making improvements and providing for solid waste disposal.

Thomas L. Kime            Otto L. Nicely    James E. Harris Jr.

The Operations Manager/Administrator’s primary objective, under the general direction of the Board of County Commissioners, is to oversee the general operations of Defiance County to include implementing the policies of the Board of County Commissioners. Authority includes organizing and directing overall activities of departments under the jurisdiction of the Board of Commissioners, establishing and monitoring policies, practices and programs in the areas of employee relations, compensation, benefits, recruiting and training, and serving as an official County representative to answer questions, provide information and serve as a liaison between the Board of Commissioners, elected officials, department heads, employees and the public.
A Message from the
Board of
County
Commissioners
Reflections on 2011

**Operations**

The Board of County Commissioners is authorized to perform its duties under Chapter 305 and 307 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Board meets for general session each Monday and Thursday beginning at 8:30 am. On the first Thursday of each month, General Session is held in Hicksville, Ohio at the Village of Hicksville Council Room. General session begins with legislative action then meetings take place with elected officials, department heads, various boards or committees, and the general public so that the Board stays updated on projects throughout the County. The Board meets for a study session each Wednesday beginning at 8:30 am.

The following Defiance County departments are under the direct authority of the Board of Commissioners: Child Support Enforcement Agency, Commissioners’ Office, Dog Warden, Environmental Services/Landfill, Family and Children First/Help Me Grow, Job and Family Services, Maintenance, Public Safety Services, Records Center, Senior Services and Wastewater Operations.

**Budget**

It is the function of the Board of Commissioners to create and adopt an annual budget. Due to the cooperation that the Board received from the Defiance County elected officials and county offices, Defiance County continued to remain in good fiscal condition. The Board of Commissioners continued to retain a fiscally cautious approach to the 2011 budget by working with the Defiance County elected officials and county offices to reduce the 2011 budget by 3.03% over the 2010 budget.

Sales Tax Revenue in 2011 surpassed revenue totals prior to the recession - a total of $4,891,264.00 was received. As an added note, the Board of Defiance County Commissioners continued in 2011 to retain a 6.5% County sales tax which is lower than that of neighboring counties.

Local Government Funds and interest revenue continue to decrease each year. In 2011, Defiance County received $772,608.91 in local government funds compared to receiving $778,898.73 in 2010 - a .81% decrease in funds. Interest revenue decreased 58%. In 2011, Defiance County received $584,817.34 in interest income compared to $1,004,225.89 in 2010.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>10,300,816.00</td>
<td>10,777,441.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>12,371,553.00</td>
<td>11,168,055.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>14,225,169.00</td>
<td>14,577,010.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>12,809,607.00</td>
<td>13,440,959.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>11,853,940.00</td>
<td>12,516,557.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>11,467,808.00</td>
<td>11,058,831.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>10,748,510.00</td>
<td>11,449,189.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>10,518,508.00</td>
<td>10,605,707.00</td>
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General Fund revenue in 2011 equated to $10,101,381.87; General Fund expenses were $9,576,506.29.

**Appointments**

Each year, the Commissioners appoint members to a variety of boards and commissions. In 2011, the Commissioners appointed members to the Tax Airport Authority, CCNO Citizens’ Advisory Committee, Local Emergency Planning Committee, Community Corrections Planning Board and also appointed an Apiary Inspector.

The Defiance County Commissioners are appointed to or sit on various local Boards including: Community Improvement Corporation, Defiance County Planning Commission, Fair Board, Four County Joint Board of Commissioners, Investment Advisory Committee, Northwest Ohio Passenger Rail Association, Sherwood Area Economic Development, Four County Solid Waste District, Workforce Development.

In 2011, Commissioner Thomas L. Kime served as Board Chairman/President and had the

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Sales Tax Revenue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>$4,891,264.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>$4,394,043.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>$4,303,730.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>$4,704,543.00</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>$4,426,194.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>$4,389,065.00</td>
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</table>
following Committee Assignments: Board of Revision, County Commissioners of Ohio (CCAO) Boards Coordinating Council, Community Improvement Corporation Board of Trustees, County Risk Sharing Authority (CORSA) Board of Directors – Chairman, Four County Juvenile Detention Board (NWOJDC), Maumee Valley Planning Organization Executive Council, Northwest Ohio Community Action Commission Executive Finance Committee, Northwest Community Corrections Center, Northwest Juvenile Detention Center, Revolving Loan Fund Committee, Tax Incentive Review Committee,

In 2011, Commissioner Otto L. Nicely served as Board Vice-Chairman/Vice-President and had the following Committee Assignments: Area 7 Board, Bureau of Adult Detention, Community Corrections of Northwest Ohio Board (CCNO), Community Corrections Planning Board, E-911 Board of Directors, FEMA – United Way, National Association of Counties (NACo) Agriculture & Rural Affairs, NACo Rural Action Caucus Steering Committee, Records Commission, Rural & Economic Development State Board, Social Services, Tax Incentive Review Committee, as well as serving on the following County Commissioners Association of Ohio committees: Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee, Jobs, Economic Development & Infrastructure Committee, Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

In 2011, Commissioner James E. Harris, Jr. had the following Committee Assignments: Agri-Business - Defiance Chamber, Area Office on Aging, Ohio Soil & Water Conservation Commission Conservation Program Delivery Task Force, Defiance Area Human Relations Committee, Maumee Valley Guidance Center Board of Directors, Municipal Justice Board, and Northwest Ohio Commissioners & Engineers Association Chairman, as well as serving on the following County Commissioners Association of Ohio committees: Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee, Jobs, Economic Development & Infrastructure Committee, Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

DEFIANCE COUNTY ANNEX, Downtown Defiance, Ohio. On October 1, 2011, the Board of Commissioners held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Defiance County Annex, a project that involved the renovation of the historic 1871 Sheriff’s residence and the construction of a new addition to the rear of the facility. The now complete Defiance County Annex houses the following offices: County Recorder, County Auditor, County Treasurer and Wastewater Operations.

AUGLAIZE RIVER SEWER SYSTEM, South Defiance, Ohio. On October 6, 2011, the Board of Commissioners received approval from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to begin pumping into Cell #2 of the Auglaize River Sewer Lagoon. In total, 260 Defiance County residents and several businesses will utilize the Auglaize River Sewer system to meet their sewage needs.

DEFIANCE COUNTY FAIR GRANDSTANDS, Hicksville, Ohio. On August 20, 2011, the Board of Commissioners joined the Defiance County Fair Foundation officials as well as Senator Cliff Hite, State Representative Bruce Goodwin and Mayor Larry Haver in cutting the ribbon for the new Defiance County Fair Grandstands.

\textbf{Notable Projects}

DEFIANCE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, Downtown Defiance, Ohio. On October 7, 2011, the construction of accessible ADA public restrooms on the first floor of the Defiance County Courthouse was completed.
DEFIANCE COUNTY AIRPORT, Noble Township, Defiance, Ohio. In partnership with the Defiance County Airport Authority, the installation of a perimeter fence, apron and runway rehabilitation was completed in 2011.

**Miscellaneous**

The Board of Defiance County Commissioners once again participated in the National Association of Counties (NACo) Prescription Discount Plan. For calendar year 2011, Defiance County helped 1,767 residents fill 2,230 prescriptions through the Defiance County Prescription Discount program in conjunction with NACo. The 2011 member cost of the prescriptions totaled at the card discount prices equaled $110,676.42; the retail price of these prescriptions totaled $145,304.46. The price savings to Defiance County residents totaled $34,628.04, an average price savings of $9.43 per prescription.

GovDeals.com is utilized for Defiance County to dispose of unneeded, obsolete or unfit County personal property via Internet Auction. In 2011, Defiance County received $47,327.45 by utilizing GovDeals to dispose of unneeded, obsolete or unfit County personal property.

The Board of Defiance County Commissioners thanks you, the taxpayer, for your continued confidence in Defiance County and its leadership team. The Board looks forward to managing the Defiance County budgets and departments in 2012 with the fiscal conservatism expected by Defiance County residents.
In 2011 the Incentive rule changed requiring CSEAs to participate in an annual self-assessment case review. The self-assessment required a select number of cases in five areas to be reviewed: 1) case closure; 2) establishment of paternity and support orders; 3) enforcement of support orders 4) securing and enforcing medical orders; 5) review and adjustment of cases; the self-assessment had to be completed by February 15, 2012. Defiance County CSEA completed the self-assessment in December of 2011.

Case Managers and legal assistants prepared approximately 150 Findings and Recommendations including Judgment Entries in 2011 - to reduce, terminate or modify the support based upon an emancipation of a child.

Child Support customers are now able to access up-to-date case and payment information online. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services launched a new online Child Support portal to allow consumers better access to their case information. Consumers can access the portal at https://childsupport.ohio.gov.

Once registered, consumers can view case specific address, employment, health insurance and financial history information, including a payment history and answers to frequently asked questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2011 Statistics</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Collections</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenditures</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average Caseload</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Medical reimbursement to the State</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Criminal Non-Support cases</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Dog Warden • Randy Vogel, Dog Warden • 419-784-2335**

The warden and deputies shall make a record of all dogs owned, kept, and harbored in their respective counties. They shall patrol their respective counties and seize and impound on sight all dogs found running at large and all dogs more than three months of age found not wearing a valid registration tag. If a dog warden has reason to believe that a dog is being treated inhumanely on the premises of its owner, keeper, or harborer, the warden shall apply to the court of common pleas for the county in which the premises are located for an order to enter the premises, and if necessary, seize the dog.

During 2011, the Defiance County Dog Warden received 1,377 dog complaints. The department assisted other agencies, mailed dog barking and dog running at large letters, followed up on bite complaints, went door-to-
door checking dog tags, served 278 court citations, issued 276 warnings, responded to 151 humane calls and sold 8,346 dog tags. Chief Dog Warden Randy Vogel was recognized by the Defiance County Commissioners for assisting a motorist who had been hit by a car.

**Statistics 2011**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dog Licenses Sold</td>
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<td>Complaints</td>
<td>1377</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contacts</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warnings</td>
<td>276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citations</td>
<td>278</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Environmental Services • Tim Houck, Director • 419-782-5442**

The Environmental and Administrative Services is tasked with implementing the county’s environmental program to improve and protect our environment. The program consists of awareness (informational programs), collection (recycling locations, roadside litter, illegal dumping) and educational presentations to all Defiance County schools. Education programming consist of an in classroom presentation relative to the four methods of waste management (composting, incineration, recycling and landfiling). The goal is to utilize the various waste management options as detailed in the Joint Four County Solid Waste Management Districts waste management plan. The Environmental & Administrative Services Office also maintains county facility’s providing lawn care, snow removal, and other special projects as requested such as moving equipment, files set up for event etc.

Defiance County Environmental Services conducted successful litter pick up from every mile of road in Defiance County. Environmental Services provided containment to numerous County-held events throughout the year (Lilac Festival, Fourth of July events, Hicksville Summer Fest, Ney & Sherwood Homecoming, Rib Fest) and participated in Keep America Beautiful’s State Roadway Cleanup, Great American Cleanup and ARD America Recycles Day. Environmental Services recycled 1,013 pounds of Aluminum, 1,250 pounds of Batteries, 54,353 pounds of Cardboard, 250 pounds of Clothing, 46,920 pounds of Co-Mingle, 17,820 pounds of Computers, four pounds of Mercury, 46,670 pounds of Newspapers, 44,963 pounds of Office Paper, 26,975 pounds of Plastic, 6,040 pounds of School Paper and 15,140 pounds of Steel/Iron. 16,710 pounds of Hazardous Household Waste was also collected during the annual JM/LaFarge Hazardous Household Waste event. Environmental Services provided 69 education workshops/community outreach presentations with over 1,400 students in kindergarten, 2nd and 4th grades.

Defiance County Administrative Services began the mowing season on April 13th, 2011 and concluded on November 4, 2011. This department is responsible to mow at 16 county locations. The crew mowed over 125 times during this season. The snow removal season concluded in March 2011 and the crew addressed snowy and icy conditions over 250 times. Administrative Services is responsible for 12 county locations (lots, drives and sidewalks). In addition the department assisted with labor to moves files, boxes, furniture etc. to the Auditor’s Office, Maumee Conservatory, 4H Extension, County Engineering, Senior Center, Good Sam, Records Center, and Commissioner’s.

Solid Waste District – The Solid Waste District annual report on recycling was completed. The state goal is 25% residential-commercial and 66% industrial. Our district achieved a 36% residential commercial rate and 67% industrial. This office coordinates activities of all four county programs to achieve this success.
In 2011, Family & Children First Council continued to serve children ages 0-21 with multiple needs & their families through Council’s Service Coordination Mechanism with the goal of keeping Defiance County family units intact and to assist families in building a system of natural supports so to gradually reduce family reliance on formal systems as it becomes appropriate.

**2011 Statistics**
- Revenue $103,283.07
- Expense $104,074.07
- Served 19 families through the Service Coordination Mechanism

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Help Me Grow is a program for expectant parents, newborns, infants, and toddlers that provides health and developmental services so that children start school healthy and ready to learn. Help Me Grow provides the building blocks for success for Ohio’s families.

Defiance County Help Me Grow is continuing to serve expectant parents, newborns, infants, and toddlers. The Home Visiting program provides information about child development, health information and screenings, and connects families to local resources, so that children ages 0 – 3 are reaching the goal of being happy, healthy, and ready for school. The Early Intervention program helps parents with the challenges of raising an infant or toddler with special needs of a diagnosed developmental delay or disability.

**2011 Statistics**
- Revenue $156,168.00
- Expense $108,901.15
- Served 107 families with service plans

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The Defiance County Department of Job & Family Services has been serving the residents of Defiance County for many years, by administering public assistance programs of the state and federal government, investigating complaints of suspected child abuse and neglect, and providing needed supportive services. Our mission is to serve the residents of Defiance County utilizing the programs and dollars available to us, to help people improve their lives through economic self-sufficiency, protect and provide for those unable to meet their own needs, and to enhance the community for future generations.

2011 once again forced us to work with a reduced budget while the demand for Public Services remained at all-time highs. Food Assistance and Medicaid programs continue in high demand. Job & Family Services continued to find ways to do more with less. Phone interviews and on-line applications became a normal part of how we do business. Workforce Development and the One-stop on East Second Street remained very active all year.
2011 Statistics
Cash Assistance Average/Month 155
Food Assistance Average/Month 5479
Annual Food Assistance $8,098,685
Medicaid Recipients Average/Month 7038
Annual Medicaid Expenditures $40,581,567
Annual Nursing Home Medicaid $8,629,830

Defiance County Landfill • Tim Houck, Director • 419-784-2844

The Landfill is a publicly owned facility that operates as a true business. The cost to operate the facility is budgeted at just over $3,000,000/year. Because the landfill is a public facility it is a proprietary fund account and per the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) it is to be a non-profit operation. The landfill is required to have a myriad of environmental protection elements. Monthly monitoring of water, both storm & groundwater, air (dust control and vehicle emissions), and methane gas monitoring is required and reporting is provided to OEPA. The facility takes in on average 300,000 cubic yards of waste each year. This is approximately 100,000 tons. The facility will be able to accommodate the waste disposal needs of its customers of northwest Ohio, specifically Defiance County residents (it’s owners) for the next 75 years. A permit which details the design to incorporate the environmental protection and waste placement was approved by OEPA in 2006. This permit requires the facility to utilize “Best Available Technology” (BAT) in its construction, monitoring and operations. The facility will expand by constructing its 3rd BAT phase for waste in 2013. Bid specifications will be prepared in 2012. The estimated cost of the phase 3 expansion is $2 million.

Defiance County Landfill had the fourth best ever year on record, in terms of sales, and had 17 new customers in 2011. The landfill took in 345,172 cubic yards of waste in 2011 – compared to 296,310 cubic yards in 2010. The landfill completed construction of a new customer access road to Unit 2, inspected system pumps, updated the methane monitoring system, seeded 13 acres, complied with all OEPA reporting including: renewal of license, annual report, air permit, Title V certification report, Ground water, NPDES, GHG and quarterly OEPA inspections. Continuous equipment maintenance is performed, repairs scheduled, facility updates included: erosion, roads, ditches, drainage and ponding water addressed.

2011 Statistics
Revenue $3,265,356.53
Expenses $1,952,221.85

Defiance County Maintenance • Ron Cereghin, Supervisor • 419-782-2911

Maintenance oversees the day-to-day cleaning and maintenance of the Commissioners Building, Courthouse, Courthouse Annex, Defiance County East, Senior Center, Sheriff/911 Office and Evergreen Lane Office Complex.

In 2011 the Maintenance Department completed the following projects: replaced 120’ concrete sidewalk and steps at the Senior Center, patched and painted the Court House first floor, and installed storm drains for Court House, completed repairs to a catch basin in the Defiance County East parking lot and installed window security bars on the old Annex building. Also in 2011 maintenance began the cleaning and continued maintenance of the remodeled Annex. On the custodial side maintenance crews, continued to clean, wax, buff, paint and maintained County buildings.

2011 Statistics
Appropriations $943,550.00
Expenses $938,661.97
The Defiance County Emergency Management Agency was established in accordance with Ohio Revised Code (ORC 5502) in 1989 to serve as a countywide agency to oversee the four phases of emergency management: mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. The Public Safety Services/EMA office assists county government and local communities in responding to natural disasters and special needs situations.

In 2011, the Defiance County Public Safety Services/EMA worked with the Ohio State University Extension office to update the Defiance County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. FEMA requires this plan be updated every five years.

This agency and the Local Emergency Planning Committee coordinated hazardous materials emergency planning and training development for first responders. A functional exercise dealing with a hazardous materials incident was conducted in April.

The agency continued to administer the State Homeland Security Grants, Citizen Corp Program Grant, State Emergency Response Commission Grants, Emergency Management Performance Grant, and the County wide Cost Recovery Program for hazardous material incidents. The agency helped collect $3,406.48 for the County’s first responders in 2011 for hazardous material incidents.

This agency oversees the citizen Corp Program grant which included Community Emergency Response Team training (CERT). This agency has had 13 CERT classes graduate since the program began. We currently have 87 volunteers on the roster. The CERT volunteers were activated four times in 2011.

2011 Statistics
Appropriations $100,548.00
Grant Awards $76,803.00
Expenses $138,817.78

Records Center • Rhonda Casler & Kay Beilharz, Deputy Archivists • 419-782-8918

Created in 1993, the Records Center provides records management services to 15 Defiance County offices. The Center offers secure, environmentally sound storage of paper records, preservation microfilming, and digital imaging services.

Records Center staff saw a large increase in the number of public records requests in 2011. In addition, staff continued to work on digital imaging projects for the Commissioners, facilitated a new program with Montgomery County for conversion of these images to microfilm, and assisted the Clerk of Courts and Probate and Juvenile Courts with their imaging issues. Other projects included finishing proofreading and correcting the Death Records, completion of the County Jail history booklet, and continued corrections on the Birth Records. Staff also assisted several county offices with storage needs, records retention schedules, and destruction of records.

2011 Records Center Statistics
Record Requests 2854
Revenue $1,668.93
Microfilm Production 44 rolls
Scanning Production 12,477 images
Records In 338 boxes/books
Records Out 143 boxes/books
The Defiance County Senior Center offers several support services to the residents of Defiance County. Some of the services include: meal programs, grocery shopping assistance, activities, information and assistance with Medicare Part D, transportation, a rest and recuperation program, notary services and legal services.

In 2011, Defiance County Senior Services completed its first year in their newly renovated Senior Center located in Defiance. With the new facility came ample space to offer a wide variety of activities and programs. Senior Services has experienced growth in every department compared to last year. With careful money management, life-sustaining services, meaningful volunteer opportunities and activities for the Older Adults of Defiance County, Senior Services is looking forward to assisting the baby boomer and beyond.

2011 Statistics
Revenue $1,190,709.38
Expenses $1,191,308.02
Transportation Trips 14,176
Transportation Miles 106,540
Congregate Meals 14,712
Home Delivered Meals 73,753
In-County Medicaid Trips 2,496
Out-of-County Medicaid Trips 904
Alzheimer’s Visits 495

Wastewater Operations • Greg Reinhart, Director • 419-782-2230

The Defiance County Wastewater Operations office oversees the operation of numerous wastewater collection and treatment facilities within Defiance County. There are approximately 889 households served. The Defiance County Wastewater Operations Office also oversees the following operations: Billing Office (billing, collection, and accounting), Sampling program, Laboratory, Data collection and reporting and general office operation.

During 2011, the Auglaize River Sewer Project was completed at an approximate cost of $6,808,000.00 and 260 customers will be using the new sewer lagoon. Beldens and Auglaize Pines Wastewater Treatment Plants will be abandoned with this project. The project also will include Paulding County; Paulding County expects completion in 2012. Paulding County residents will also be connected to the Auglaize River Sewer Project. In 2011, the department hired a new operator and moved to a new office location at 500 West Second Street, Suite 102 in the Courthouse Annex building.

2011 Statistics
Income $660,717.03
Expense $562,129.26