

# *Defiance County*



# *Annual Report 2017*



# Commissioner Notes



*Chairman Ryan Mack*  
*2015-Present*

Chairman Ryan Mack was elected Commissioner for the term commencing January 1, 2015.

A graduate of Tinora High School and Defiance College. Ryan's memberships include Veterans of Foreign Wars, Farm Bureau, Disabled American Veterans, and National Rifle Association. Ryan spent six years in the United States Army with one tour in Afghanistan. After leaving the Army, Ryan spent 3 years working for Congressman Bob Latta as a District Representative in Defiance.

Born and raised in Defiance, Ryan enjoys spending time with his two children, Caroline and Henry. Ryan is looking forward to continuing his service to the people of our County as Defiance County Commissioner.



*Vice-Chairman Mick Pocratsky*  
*2017-Present*

Vice-Chairman Mick Pocratsky has served on the Board for the past year and a half. He lives in Hicksville with his wife of 36 years, Pam (Vandemark); they have 2 children and 2 grandchildren. Prior to gaining his seat on the Board he gave 20 years to the Hicksville Village Council, 27 years to the Defiance County Juvenile Probation as a Probation Officer and 6 years on the Hicksville Village Parks Board. He sits on many committees: Juvenile Detention Center Board, Area Office on Aging, Work Force Development and several others. He and his wife are also members of The Gateway Chapel in Hicksville. Looking forward, Commissioner Pocratsky is eager to see the following projects come to light: the Apiary, improving our Senior/Veterans area at the County Fairgrounds and exploring the possibility of renovations to the county office space across the Courthouse. Commissioner Pocratsky stated that he has learned so much this year and that there is much more to learn. He praises the quality of work that goes on behind the scenes in the Commissioners' office. "They always keep us up to speed and on task." After retiring in 2013, he thought his service to Defiance County was complete, but he "eagerly offered his services" when the opportunity arose to serve as a County Commissioner. "I am happy to be serving Defiance County again, and look forward to helping any way I can. I have enjoyed working with all of the employees of the County and looking forward to another successful year."




*Commissioner Gary L. Plotts*  
*2017-Present*

Commissioner Gary Plotts has served on the Board also for the past year and a half. Before gaining his seat, he worked in Law Enforcement for the past 21½ years and he continues to provide for our community by continuing his law enforcement career and driving school bus for the past 3 years. He sits on many committees: E-911 Board of Directors, Area 7, Northwest Community Corrections Center, and Maumee Watershed Steering Committee, just to name a few. Interacting and staying involved with the community is something Commissioner Plotts enjoys about his position. His first year on the Board has been "interesting and rewarding," stating "I have learned a lot from speaking with other Elected Officials on several topics. There are some things that I thought the Commissioners' office had no part in, but actually have total control over." Commissioner Plotts looks forward to completing several projects that they currently have pending that will benefit the community. Lastly, he stated, "I believe we have a great team at the Commissioners' Office and combining that with the other wonderful staffs of Elected Officials; we can serve Defiance County citizens in a positive and respectful way." Commissioner Plotts resides in Defiance Township with his family.


# *Independent Agencies*

**Agricultural Society (Fair Board)**


 [Facebook.com/defiancecountyfair](https://www.facebook.com/defiancecountyfair)

**Airport Authority**


**Board of Developmental Disabilities (Good Samaritan School)**

 [Facebook.com/goodsamservicesyourdepartmentofdd](https://www.facebook.com/goodsamservicesyourdepartmentofdd)


**Board of Elections**

 [Facebook.com/defiancecountyboardofelections](https://www.facebook.com/defiancecountyboardofelections)


**Corrections Center of Northwest Ohio (CCNO)**

 [Facebook.com/correctionscenterofnorthwestohioccno](https://www.facebook.com/correctionscenterofnorthwestohioccno)


**Community Investment Corporation (CIC)**

 [Facebook.com/Defiancecountyeconomicdevelopment](https://www.facebook.com/Defiancecountyeconomicdevelopment)

**Defiance Development & Visitors Bureau**

 [Facebook.com/visitdefianceOH](https://www.facebook.com/visitdefianceOH)


**Defiance-Paulding Consolidated Job & Family Services**

 [Facebook.com/defiancepauldingconsolidated](https://www.facebook.com/defiancepauldingconsolidated)


**Fort Defiance Humane Society (Animal Shelter)**

 [Facebook.com/fortdefiancehumanesociety](https://www.facebook.com/fortdefiancehumanesociety)

**Health Department**

 [Facebook.com/defiancecountyhealthdepartment](https://www.facebook.com/defiancecountyhealthdepartment)

**Historical Society (Auglaize Village)**


 [Facebook.com/defiancecountyhistoricalsociety](https://www.facebook.com/defiancecountyhistoricalsociety)

**Juvenile Detention Center**

**Law Library**

**Multi-Area Narcotics (M.A.N) Unit**

**Maumee Valley Planning Organization**

 [Facebook.com/maumeevalleyplanningorganization](https://www.facebook.com/maumeevalleyplanningorganization)

**Metropolitan Park Board**

**Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center**

**Ohio State Extension**

 [Facebook.com/osuextensiondefiance](https://www.facebook.com/osuextensiondefiance)


**Regional Port Authority of Northwest Ohio**

**Soil & Water Conservation**

 [Facebook.com/defiancesoilandwaterconservationdistrict](https://www.facebook.com/defiancesoilandwaterconservationdistrict)

**Solid Waste Management District**

**Veterans Affairs**

 [Facebook.com/defiancecountyveteransoffice](https://www.facebook.com/defiancecountyveteransoffice)

# Commissioners' Appointments in 2017

Each year, the Commissioners appoint citizens to a variety of Boards and Commissions:

Airport Authority

Apiary Inspector

CCNO Citizens' Advisory Committee

Community Corrections Planning Board

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

Tax Incentive Review Committee

All the Board members serve on the following Boards and Commissions:

Community Improvement Corporation (CIC)

Defiance County Planning Commission

Defiance County Fair Board

Defiance-Paulding Consolidated Job & Family Services

Four County Joint Board of Commissioners *(Defiance/Henry/Paulding/Williams)*

Investment Advisory Board

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

Maumee Valley Planning Organization

Northwest Ohio Commissioners & Engineers Association

Northwest Ohio Passenger Rail Association (NOPRA)

Sherwood Area Economic Development

Four County Joint Solid Waste District *(Defiance/Henry/Paulding/Williams)*

Workforce Development (WIA)

# *Commissioners' Appointments in 2017*

**Ryan Mack**

Board Chairman/President

Committee Assignments:

- ⇒ Area 7
- ⇒ Community Corrections of Northwest Ohio Board (CCNO)
- ⇒ CCNO Financial Overview Committee (FOC)
- ⇒ Community Improvement Corporation Board of Trustees (CIC)
- ⇒ CIC Executive Committee
- ⇒ Defiance County Planning Commission Executive Council
- ⇒ Maumee Valley Planning Organization Executive Committee (MVPO)
- ⇒ Ohio's 5<sup>th</sup> District Veterans Advisory Group
- ⇒ Records Commission
- ⇒ United Way - EFSP/FEMA

Commissioner Mack also served on the following County Commissioners Association of Ohio Committees (CCAO):

- ⇒ Drainage Task Force Committee
- ⇒ Jobs, Economic Development & Infrastructure (JEDI) Committee
- ⇒ Lobbying Committee

# Commissioners' Appointments in 2017

## **Mick Pocratsky**

Board Vice-Chairman/Vice-President

Committee Assignments:

- ⇒ Area Office on Aging
- ⇒ Community Corrections Planning Board (CCPB)
- ⇒ Family & Children First Council
- ⇒ Four County Joint Solid Waste District - Policy Committee
- ⇒ Maumee Valley Guidance Center - Board of Directors (MVGC)
- ⇒ Northwest Ohio Juvenile Detention Center (NWOJDC)
- ⇒ Youth Workforce Committee

Commissioner Pocratsky also served on the following County Commissioners Association of Ohio Committees (CCAO):

- ⇒ Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee
- ⇒ Justice & Public Safety Committee

## **Gary Plotts**

Commissioner

Committee Assignments:

- ⇒ E-911 Board of Directors
- ⇒ Defiance Development and Visitors Bureau Board of Directors (DDVB)
- ⇒ Maumee Watershed Steering Committee
- ⇒ Northwest Ohio Community Action Commission (NOCAC)
- ⇒ Revolving Loan Fund Committee

Commissioner Plotts also served on the following County Commissioners Association of Ohio Committees (CCAO):

- ⇒ Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee
- ⇒ Jobs, Economic Development & Infrastructure (JEDI) Committee
- ⇒ Justice & Public Safety Committee

# Administrator Notes



Finance Manager/Administrator, Sherry Carnahan has dedicated 23 ½ years to serving Defiance County. She spent 2 years in Environmental and Administrative Services, and the rest of her time has been in the Commissioners' Office. She has served in her current position since May 2013.

Sherry proudly assists the Board of County Commissioners with many issues; some included, but not limited to: budget development and monitoring, purchasing, monitoring capital projects, liaison between the Board and other Elected Officials and citizens, oversees nine different departments and monitors the health insurance.

“My main goal for 2018, would be to continue monitoring the budget and assist the Board to make sure the County stays fiscally sound, both in short and long terms.” For the short term Sherry stated, “I would like to analyze all the programs the Board uses frequently and compare them to other programs available to make sure the County is getting the best deal possible. I would like to collaborate with Elected

Officials and Department Heads for ideas on how to cut costs.” As for the long term, “I would analyze all the buildings' HVAC systems and get them on a replacement schedule. Also analyze all long term debt service and see if it would benefit to refinance into larger bonds or better interest rates.

Sherry resides in Ayersville with her husband Keith. They have two children Shawn (Taylor) and Lizzy.

## Defiance County Commissioners' Office Staff



Sitting L to R: Commissioner Plotts, Commissioner Mack & Commissioner Pocratsky  
Standing L to R: Stephanie Metz, Emily Meyer, Sherry Carnahan, Lanie Lambert & Erika Steece



# Financials

The Board of County Commissioners strives to achieve a general fund budget that is structurally balanced; that is, on-going revenues meet or exceed on-going expenditures. The Board, Elected Officials and Department Heads have worked together to keep the County in fair fiscal condition.

The Board of County Commissioners appropriated a general fund budget of \$14,043,910.53 in 2017. The adjusted budget was \$16,349,001.46; this was due to carried over purchase orders and receiving more income than expected. Actual expenditures were \$12,834,272.80 or 79% of the appropriated adjusted budget amount.

## General Fund Revenues

- *Sales Tax.* Sales tax is the largest single general fund revenue, making up approximately 48% of the total. General fund sales tax increased during 2017. Total collected was \$6,012,704.59.
- *Local Government Fund (LGF).* This state revenue-sharing mechanism decreased this past year. In 2017, the County received \$434,863.43, down from \$437,746.08 in 2016.
- Casino revenue decreased from \$454,107.78 in 2016 to \$445,398.28 in 2017.
- Total General Fund revenue in 2016 was \$13,990,613.48. In 2017, it was \$12,661,195.15; a decrease of \$1,329,418.33.

## Judicial Expenditures

Judicial expenses continue to rise. (This includes, regional jail, all court related expenses and Sheriff's Office expenditures.) The regional jail (CCNO) costs were \$1,624,761.69 in 2017. The County only collected \$307,230.41 in fees and fines towards this expense. Therefore the general fund is responsible for paying the difference.

Total expenditures for all general fund judicial departments equaled \$5,819,732.86 in 2016, and \$6,013,473.82 in 2017. This equates to almost 40% of total general fund.

General fund total expenses for 2016 were \$14,899,418.74 and \$12,834,272.80 in 2017. Please see the chart on the next page for the breakdown of expenditures by department.

# General Fund Expenditure Report

DEPARTMENT	2017 BUDGET	2017 EXPENDED	% DISPURSED
Commissioners	897,792.41	800,365.70	89.15
Regional Jail	1,636,979.75	1,624,761.69	99.25
Auditor	267,300.60	255,518.06	95.59
Treasurer	154,740.33	143,264.20	92.58
Prosecuting Attorney	529,748.03	519,294.19	98.03
Bureau of Investigation	75,000.00	72,488.00	96.65
Data Processing	59,520.04	52,443.34	88.11
Court of Appeals	31,246.80	14,971.80	47.91
Common Pleas	540,988.59	474,681.10	87.74
Jury Commission	2,950.00	1,924.81	65.25
Adult Probation	144,518.69	143,024.72	98.97
Juvenile Court	582,456.26	547,785.06	94.05
Juvenile Probation	232,128.80	218,655.95	94.20
Probate Court	145,560.48	144,513.15	99.28
Clerk of Courts	211,538.90	210,731.89	99.62
Coroner	100,686.80	93,540.26	92.90
Municipal Court	169,605.00	164,097.62	96.75
Board of Elections	271,992.77	259,352.59	95.35
Land	498,996.02	130,597.27	26.17
Maintenance	1,085,100.56	980,325.61	90.34
Hanger	25,200.00	25,200.00	100.00
Courthouse Security	200,440.69	195,413.98	97.49
Sheriff	1,804,886.22	1,744,977.86	96.68
Recorder	143,907.41	136,011.09	94.51
Associate Deputies	8,850.00	8,640.00	97.63
Public Safety Services	156,200.23	137,817.13	88.23
Safety	945.00	638.37	67.55
Agriculture	380,380.00	375,601.78	98.74
Tuberculosis	250.00	-	0.00
Registration of Vital Stats	1,250.00	1,065.00	85.20
Other Health	54,392.68	46,340.60	85.20
Children Service Board	600,000.00	600,000.00	100.00
Soldiers Relief	285,225.74	271,818.16	95.30
Veteran Office	70,939.44	70,363.10	99.19
Public Assistance Grant	80,300.00	76,991.70	95.88
Airport Special Projects	25,000.00	-	0.00
Demolition	100,000.00	100,000.00	100.00
Insurance	1,843,378.16	1,798,655.28	97.57
Miscellaneous	361,678.73	392,401.74	108.49
DCE Maint Building	400,000.00	-	0.00
Contingencies	2,166,926.33	-	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,349,001.46</b>	<b>12,834,272.80</b>	<b>78.50</b>

# General Fund Revenue Report

REVENUE	2017		2017
General Property Tax	2,212,212.99	Rental & Lease	297,080.30
Tang Pers Property Tax	258.16	Sale Personal Property	50,132.56
PPt Reimbursement	-	Sale of Real Estate	-
Homestead & Rollback	295,534.53	Miscellaneous	197,544.87
House Trailer Tax	6,841.55	Litigation Settlements	-
Cigarette tax	494.39	<b>TOTAL DEPT. SALES &amp; SERVICES</b>	<b>544,757.73</b>
Co Piggy Back 1%	6,012,704.59	Indirect Cost	258,811.62
Casino	445,398.28	Delq Tax Advertising cost	2,848.48
<b>TOTAL TAXES</b>	<b>8,973,444.49</b>	BTA-BOR hearing costs	-
Vendors Licenses	2,200.00	Election Expense	21,070.78
Junk Yard License	-	Pros. Attorney FOJ	193.55
<b>TOTAL LICENCES</b>	<b>2,200.00</b>	Sheriff FOJ	10,148.24
Auditor fees, tax settlement	180,467.35	K-9 Donation	500.00
Auditor fees, conveyance	399,963.40	Sheriff Donation	-
Auditors fees, transfers	1,031.00	Indigent Defense costs	103,751.02
Auditor Fees, Convey Mfg	2,908.80	Personal Phone calls	217.56
Auditor fee - transfer mfg	54.50	Insurance Claims	13,345.28
Recorders fees	116,559.65	Solid Waste Reim.	3,278.81
Recorders 1% housing	1,069.82	Law Library	-
Clerk of Court fees	142,673.48	Unclaimed Monies	-
Clerk of Court - Title fees	-	Workers Comp	188,289.60
Treasurer fees, tax settlement	155,226.31	Refunds & Overpayments	11,104.39
Probate Court fees	38,841.36	Cobra Serv Ins refund	-
Juvenile Court fees	36,789.10	Reimbursement Attorney fees	-
Juv Ct Home Study Fee	-	Reimbursements	246,746.30
Juvenile Probation Fees	-	Pop Money	505.61
Sheriff Fees	-	Land Forfeiture	149.46
Board of Elections	1,640.01	Enterprise Zone Contribution	-
Photocopies	323.43	Port Authority	1,794.38
Prosecuting Attorney fees	-	Reg. Jail - Other Receipts	171,704.74
Reg. Jail - Sheriff Fees	128,053.87	T-Cap	34,950.00
<b>TOTAL FEES</b>	<b>1,205,602.08</b>	Refund of Prior Yr Expense	23,047.13
Local Government	434,863.43	<b>OTHER RECEIPTS</b>	<b>1,092,456.95</b>
Grant	-	Transfers In (Interest)	-
<b>TOTAL FROM OTHER GOV</b>	<b>434,863.43</b>	Transfers In (Other)	-
Clerk of Courts fines	13,675.34	<b>TOTAL TRANSFER-IN</b>	<b>-</b>
Municipal Court fines	49,400.06	Advance In	326,354.75
Juvenile Court fines	230.69	<b>TOTAL ADVANCE -IN</b>	<b>326,354.75</b>
Juvenile Restitution	10,737.83	<b>TOTAL FOR GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>12,661,195.15</b>
Reg. Jail - Court Fines	7,471.80	Interest Income	709,947.38
<b>TOTAL FINES &amp; FORFEITURES</b>	<b>81,515.72</b>	<b>TOTAL GENERAL &amp; INTEREST</b>	<b>13,371,142.53</b>

# Activate Health and Wellness Center



*Activate Health and Wellness Center is located at:  
800 North Clinton Street Suite B  
Defiance Ohio 43512*

Defiance County partnered with two local companies to open the Activate Health and Wellness Center in October of 2014. Since the opening, six (6) additional companies have joined the center. This Center provides quality care to employees and dependents on our health insurance, free of charge.

The Center provides a variety of services; preventative care, management of chronic conditions and can treat occupational injuries. They can serve as the patient's primary care doctor.

The Center has early and late appointments to accommodate patient's schedules. They have over 50 generic drugs that can be provided to a patient on site that cover a variety of conditions. They can also provide bloodwork draws, EKG's, sleep studies and various other tests.

The Center continues to assess their services periodically and discusses with partnering companies/organizations about adding additional services, if they see a need. This has been a great addition to our health insurance plan to help keep our employees healthier and offset the rising cost of health care.

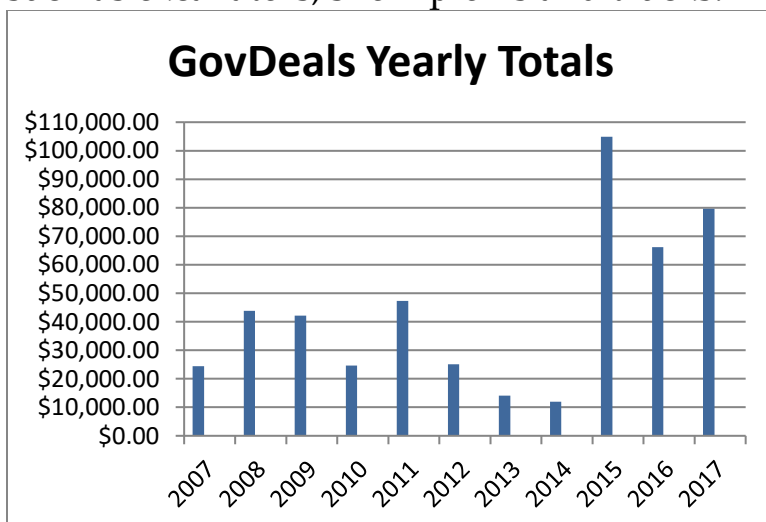
# Prescription Drug Discount Plan



The Board of Defiance County Commissioners once again participated in the National Association of Counties (NACO) Prescription Discount Plan. For calendar year 2017, Defiance County helped **248** residents fill **391** prescriptions through the program in conjunction with NACO. The retail price of the prescriptions totaled **\$22,726.75**. The price savings to Defiance County residents totaled **\$6,824.93**; an average savings of **\$17.45** per prescription.

## GovDeals.com

GovDeals.com is utilized for Defiance County to dispose of unneeded, obsolete or unfit County personal property via Internet Auction. Since its interception in 2002, Defiance County has received **\$497,521.95** by utilizing GovDeals. In 2017, Defiance County received **\$79,622.65**. GovDeals.com is open to the public for viewing and purchasing of items. Examples of items sold on GovDeals.com are automobiles, office furniture (filing cabinets, desks, and chairs), office equipment (monitors, printers) and large equipment such as excavators, snow plows and trucks.



# Demolition Program

In 2016, Defiance County Commissioners opted to use county funds to implement a program similar to the Moving Ohio Forward and Neighborhood Stabilization Programs, in which blighted residential structures were demolished in Defiance County. Through this program, property owners were able to have the blighted residential structures demolished and hauled at no cost to them, while also retaining their name on the property and avoiding it becoming a property of the county. The past two years have seen an increase in interest regarding the program. The Commissioners have planned to continue the program for as long as the County can sustain it.

In order to qualify for the program assistance with demolition, the following requirements must be met:

- Property must be/have been:
  - Zoned for residential use
  - Used as a residential dwelling connected to structure that has been a residential dwelling mix.
- Property must have been vacant for at least 90 days
- Documentation of property status must be verified.

Each Local Government Entity in the County was provided an opportunity to submit a project to the program. After reviewing the submitted applications, the following projects were chosen and completed:

LOCAL ENTITY	OWNER	PROPERTY ADDRESS	TITLE SEARCH COST	ASBESTOS SURVEY COST	ASBESTOS REMEDIATION COST	CONTRACTOR	DEMOLITION COST	TOTAL PROJECT COST
Farmer Township	Ignacio Romero Angeles	9770 St Rte 249	\$ 175.00	\$ 1,755.00	\$ 6,940.00	B&M Farms, LLC	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 14,370.00
City of Defiance	Paul & Wanda Klima	524 Haig Street	\$ 175.00	\$ 1,690.00	\$ 1,265.00	Shinger Surface Drainage	\$ 6,975.00	\$ 10,105.00
Highland Township	RoseAnn Kunesh	27019 Watson Road	\$ 175.00	\$ 1,690.00	Not required	Shinger Surface Drainage	\$ 7,100.00	\$ 8,965.00
Adams Township	Divine Providence Group, LLC.	25706 Allen Road	\$ 175.00	\$ 2,105.00	\$ 4,540.00	Shinger Surface Drainage	\$ 11,975.00	\$ 18,795.00
Hicksville Township	Paul Dietz	8566 Lake Road	\$ 175.00	\$ 1,690.00	\$ 850.00	Shinger Surface Drainage	\$ 9,714.00	\$ 12,429.00
Village of Sherwood	Jennifer A. Smith	205 E. Lawrence Street	\$ 175.00	\$ 1,755.00	\$ 2,700.00	Shinger Surface Drainage	\$ 8,025.00	\$ 12,655.00
Richland Township	Lisa Grubb	30942 Flory Road	\$ 175.00	\$ 1,835.00	\$ 19,985.00	Shinger Surface Drainage	\$ 8,125.00	\$ 30,120.00
Tiffin Township	Walter Schaufele	1180 Main Street	\$ 175.00	\$ 1,870.00	\$ 2,975.00	Shinger Surface Drainage	\$ 13,125.00	\$ 18,145.00
Delaware Township	James Greenler, Jr.	18129 Buckskin Road	\$ 175.00	\$ 1,835.00	\$ 900.00	B&M Farms, LLC	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 10,410.00
Total Program Costs								\$ 135,994.00

If you have questions about or an interest in the demolition program, please contact:

Stephanie Metz, Clerk  
 Defiance County Commissioners  
 419-782-4751

# Lunch on the Road

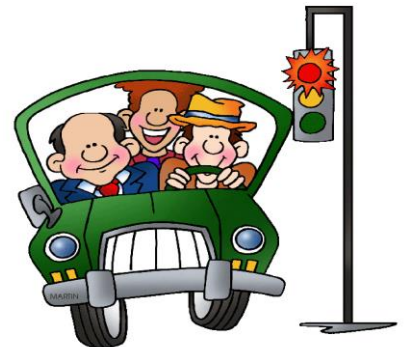
In 2017, the Defiance County Commissioners' started a monthly event where they go to local restaurants for breakfast or lunch. Citizens are encouraged to come enjoy good food and discuss any topics they would like with the Commissioners or other Elected Officials. Follow The Defiance County Commissioners on Facebook for information on upcoming Lunch on the Road events. Please plan to join us and share your questions, comments and/or concerns regarding the County that we so proudly serve.



*Commissioners' and Elected Officials eating at The Clubhouse in Hicksville.*



*Commissioners' and Elected Officials eating at Marty's in Ney.*



Defiance County Electorate  
2017



Jill Little  
Auditor

Fiscal

Licensing

Real Estate

Weights &  
Measures



Amy Galbraith  
Clerk of Courts

Legal

Title



Ryan Mack,  
Mick Pocratsky,  
Gary Plotts  
Commissioners

Child Support

Dog Warden

Environmental/  
Landfill

Family & Children  
First Council/ Help  
me Grow

Maintenance

Public Safety/  
EMA

Senior  
Services

Wastewater



Judge Joseph  
Schmenk  
Common Pleas  
Court

Adult Probation

Domestic Relations  
Division

General Division



Dr. William  
Reeves  
Coroner



Warren Schlatter,  
P.E., P.S.  
Engineer

County Highway  
Garage

Tax Mapping



Defiance County Electorate  
2017



Judge John T.  
Rohrs, III  
Municipal Court



Judge Jeffrey  
Strausbaugh  
Probate &  
Juvenile Court



Morris Murray  
Prosecuting  
Attorney



Cecilia Parsons  
Recorder



Douglas Engel  
Sheriff



Vickie Myers  
Treasurer

Juvenile  
Court

Juvenile  
Probation

Probate  
Court

Victims Assistance  
& Sarah's House

Investigations

Communications  
911

Court  
Security

Road Patrol

# Defiance County Auditor

Jill Little • 419-782-1926

The Auditor's office has a variety of unique and important responsibilities.

## Chief Assessor

- Establishing the value of all property within the County.
- Oversees a full appraisal every six years and update of values in the third year of the reappraisal cycle.
- Verifying that tax exempt and tax abated properties qualify for that status.
- Maintaining a locating record for parcels.

## Chief Fiscal Officer

- Responsible for all financial transactions.
  - In 2017 - 11,640 checks were created.
- Account of every board, department, office, agency and district.
- Distributing funds.
- Payroll
  - In 2017 - 10,393 checks were created.

## Real Estate

- Updating property records with necessary information.
  - New construction
    - In 2017 - 1,158 parcels were updated for new construction or improvements.
  - Demolition
  - Change of ownership
    - In 2017 - 2,060 properties were transferred.
- Calculates property taxes.
- Tax Reduction Programs
  - Homestead Exemption
  - Non-business credit
  - Owner-Occupied credit
  - Current Agricultural Use Value

# Defiance County Auditor

Jill Little • 419-782-1926

## Weights and Measures

- Inspection, testing and sealing all devices used in retail trade that weigh or measure.
  - Scales calibrated include:
    - Gasoline pumps
    - Livestock scales
    - Food scales
    - Vehicle scales
    - Public scanners

## Licenses and Permits

- Issuing licenses and permits for:
  - Wholesale and retail vendors
    - In 2017 - 91 wholesale/retail licenses were sold.
  - Dogs
    - In 2017 - 7,184 dog licenses were sold.
  - Kennels
    - In 2017, 57 kennel tags were sold.
  - Cigarette vendors
    - In 2017 - 40 cigarette vendors licenses were sold.
  - Moving permits for manufactured homes.

Office Hours:  
Monday - Friday  
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Defiance County  
Auditor  
500 W. Second Street  
Suite 301  
Defiance Ohio 43512

P: (419) 782-1926 -  
General  
P: (419) 784-3111 -  
Real Estate  
F: (419) 784-2761

# Defiance County Engineer

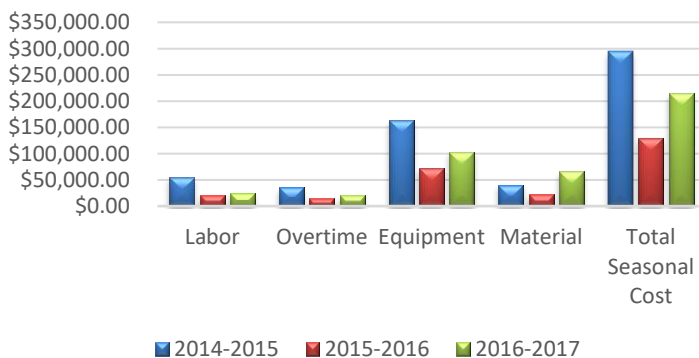
Warren J. Schlatter • 419-782-4751



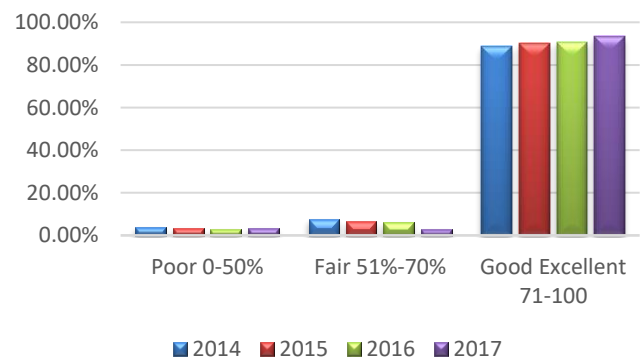
Our Highway Garage Staff replaced three county bridges and also did much of the support work for the roadside grading and widening work. There were a total of twenty-three culverts replaced this year. They continued with their various other duties as well (replacing berm, mowing, patching, sign replacement, roadside tree trimming and removal, snow & ice control/removal, etc.).

This year we paved and widened several roads throughout the County. Some of these roads include: Blosser between SR 2 and Openlander Rd, New Bavaria Rd between SR 18 and the Defiance Henry County Line Rd, Moser Rd between Mekus and Allen Rd, Defiance Ayersville Pleasant Bend Rd from 1535' West of Highland Center Rd to Steinmeier Rd, Ney Williams Center Rd between SR 249 and US 127, Mansfield Rd between SR 15 and Harris Rd, Elliott Rd between SR 66 and Carpenter Rd and Carter between SR 66 and SR15.

## Snow and Ice Control



## Bridge Sufficiency Ratings



# Defiance County Engineer

Warren J. Schlatter • 419-782-4751

The paving was done by Gerken Paving and the widening was done by RG Zachrich Construction. The total project cost was \$1,287,098.07.

Our administrative staff manages the overall office functions and budget of the Engineer's Office. They also help with the designing, engineering and overseeing of all aspects of the construction projects. With their diligence, we were able to obtain \$534,840.00 in federal and state grants for this year's projects as well.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the residents of Defiance County for the opportunity to serve you.

## 2017 Road Resurfacing Program

### County:

Blosser Rd	4 Miles
DAPB Rd	0.80 Miles
Mansfield Rd	2.3 miles
Moser Rd	1.5 Miles
New Bavaria Rd	2.12 Miles
Ney Wms Ctr Rd	1.32 Miles
Elliott Rd	1.0 Miles
Carter Rd	0.82 Miles
Tons of Asphalt Applied:	13,456

## 2017 Sign Replacement

<u>Type of Sign</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
Stop Sign	14
Stop Ahead	0
Warning	5
Road Name	35
Other Regulatory	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>

## 2017 Bridge Replacement

<u>Location</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Breining S of Buckskin Rd	\$76,934.68
Independence N of Banner School Rd	\$61,700.43
Schultz NW of Christy Rd	\$75,291.82

## 2017 Vegetation Control

The West half of the county was sprayed for vegetation control in 2017.

**42,740** gallons were applied at a cost of **\$30,088**.

Defiance, Hicksville, Mark and Noble townships participated.

## 2017 Permits

Driveway	17
Utility Occupancy	14
Excavation	0
Ditch Enclosure	3
Storm water/ Sanitary Discharge	1
Special Hauling	26
R/W Occupancy	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>

# Defiance County Prosecuting Attorney

Morris J. Murray • 419-782-2402



Morris J. Murray  
Prosecuting Attorney

The Defiance County Prosecutor's Office employs three full-time assistant prosecuting attorneys and seven support staff. The Prosecuting Attorney is, by law, legal counsel for over 40 public clients, including numerous offices, boards and individual elected officials. In 2017 the office was involved in approximately 300 civil matters: including such things as, tax enforcement, foreclosure actions, pending litigation and the issuing of formal legal opinions.

In addition to these civil matters, the Prosecuting Attorney is responsible for processing all Defiance County cases involving the abuse, neglect or dependency of children, as well as delinquency cases, which involve conduct that would otherwise be criminal violations if committed by an adult.

The Prosecuting Attorney is also responsible for representing the State of Ohio in all criminal matters arising from crimes committed in Defiance County. At any given time there are well over 100 open criminal matters pending some phase of the criminal justice process. In 2017 approximately 384 new criminal cases were received and reviewed.

The Prosecuting Attorney or his assistants are available to Law Enforcement 24 hours a day to provide advice and legal guidance in criminal investigations and arrests.

Aggressive prosecution of child victim related crimes, sexual assault and drug offenses continues to be of particular emphasis.

# Defiance County Recorder

Cecilia Parsons • 419-782-4741

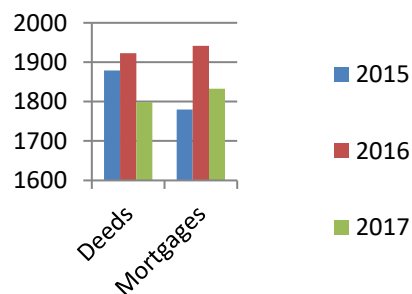


The County Recorder keeps and maintains accurate land records that are current, legible and easily accessible. An important aspect of the work is to index each document so it may be readily located. Accurate indexing makes it possible for persons searching land records to find the documents necessary to establish a “chain of title” (history of ownership) and ensures that any debts or encumbrances against the property are evident. Without the work of the Recorder’s Office, it would be nearly impossible to purchase land and be assured of a clear title or to lend money with land as security. The public can come to the Recorder’s Office to search records or use the document index online at [USLandrecords.com](http://USLandrecords.com). The index covers years 1994 to the present.

The majority of the documents recorded in the office pertain directly to real estate such as: deeds, mortgages, land contracts, plats, vacations of streets and alleys, zoning resolutions, financing statements and some miscellaneous liens. However there are some additional documents that do not apply to real estate but still come under the office’s responsibility. These documents include: Federal Tax Liens, some Power of Attorney records, Military Service Discharges and Veteran’s grave records.



Revenue Disbursement



Documents Received/Filed

# Defiance County Treasurer

Vickie S. Myers • 419-782-8741



The Treasurer's Office is responsible for the collection of taxes, which are comprised of real estate property, manufactured homes, personal property and estate taxes. In addition, they record all monies received by all County agencies.

In addition to collecting and recording the County money, the Treasurer is responsible for the County Investment Portfolio, which is made up of several investments totaling 55 million dollars. The office maintains various accounts ranging from simple depositories to complex trust accounts that hold all the County investments.

Below are some of the services that the Treasurer's Office provides to aid taxpayers in making their tax payments.

## **Credit Card Payments**

Automated Telephone Credit Card System by Point and Pay, LLC. Call 844-719-3086 or visit [www.defiance-county.com/treasurer](http://www.defiance-county.com/treasurer). **All major credit cards are accepted.** There is a 2.5% fee charged by Point and Pay, LLC, however, the Defiance County Treasurer does **NOT** charge a fee.

## **ACH Payment**

Taxpayers may have their real estate payment automatically withdrawn from a checking or savings account. These payment can be withdrawn either monthly or semi-annually.



# Defiance County Treasurer

Vickie S. Myers • 419-782-8741

## Drop Box

There is a tax payment drop box conveniently located in the alley between the Defiance Post Office and Key Bank.

## Personal Service

We accept payments in our office Monday – Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

## TIPP – Tax Installment Payment Plan is now available

This program is to ease the burden of the large semi-annual bill by providing taxpayers with partial payment plans. Pre-payments can be made monthly during a six month period. You must be current on your taxes to be included in TIPP. If you are interested in the TIPP program, please call, stop in or email us at [treasurer@defiance-county.com](mailto:treasurer@defiance-county.com)

## Delinquent Contract Plan

This payment plan provides taxpayers with a vehicle for the payment of delinquent taxes while maintaining the payment of current tax billings. The plan was developed to assist the taxpayers who have been faced with financial problems and find themselves with delinquent tax balances. Taxpayers can now avoid foreclosure actions with the availability of this plan. Please contact the Treasurer's office at 419-782-8741 if you are interested. If you go on a delinquent contract and miss a payment, the contract will be void and foreclosure proceedings will continue.

P: (419) 782-8741  
F: (419) 782-4719  
[treasurer@defiance-county.com](mailto:treasurer@defiance-county.com)

Office Hours:  
Monday – Friday  
8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Vickie S. Myers, Treasurer

Connie French,  
Chief Deputy Treasurer

Amanda Morris, Deputy Treasurer

Sara Ball, Deputy Treasurer

Defiance County  
Treasurer  
500 W. Second Street  
Suite 101  
P.O. Box 278  
Defiance Ohio 43512

# Defiance County Juvenile Court

**Judge Jeffrey A. Strausbaugh • 419-782-0226**

Erin Spieth, Administrator



Defiance County Juvenile Court has the responsibility to hear and determine all cases and issues concerning children in Defiance County. In 2017, 925 complaints and/or new cases were formally filed. This total includes: 325 delinquent child complaints; 50 unruly child complaints; 276 juvenile traffic complaints; 34 dependency, neglect and child abuse cases; 3 permanent custody cases; and 237 cases involving custody/visitation, support, paternity and other actions.

**DELINQUENCY CASES:** Any child under age 18 who violates any state or federal law or any local ordinance or regulation, which would be a crime if committed by an adult, or who violates any lawful court order is a delinquent child. In 2017, the Defiance County Juvenile Court had 325 delinquency complaints filed. Of the 325 complaints filed, 25 were felony charges and 300 were misdemeanors and probation violations.

**UNRULY CASES:** Any child who violates a law applicable only to a child; who is habitually truant from school and who previously has not been adjudicated an unruly child for being a habitual truant; who does not subject the child's self to the reasonable control of the child's parents, teachers, guardian or custodian by reason of being wayward or habitually disobedient; or engages in other conduct defined in Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.022 is an unruly child. In 2017, the Defiance Juvenile Court had 50 unruly complaints filed.

**JUVENILE TRAFFIC CASES:** A child who violates any traffic law, traffic ordinance or traffic regulation of the state or local political subdivision is a juvenile traffic offender. The Defiance County Juvenile Court has exclusive jurisdiction over all juvenile traffic cases. In 2017, there were 276 juvenile traffic cases filed in the Defiance County Juvenile Court.

# Defiance County Juvenile Court

**Judge Jeffrey A. Strausbaugh • 419-782-0226**

Erin Spieth, Administrator

**ABUSE, NEGLECT AND DEPENDENCY:** Case management for abuse, neglect and dependency cases is provided by the Defiance County Department of Job and Family Services under the mandates and guidelines of the State of Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. The Defiance County Juvenile Court provides additional support in these cases through the appointment of Guardians Ad Litem (GALs). In 2017, there were 34 abuse, neglect, dependency cases filed in the Defiance County Juvenile Court.

**PERMANENT CUSTODY:** The Defiance County Juvenile Court has jurisdiction to determine motions for permanent custody. This may require the permanent termination of parental rights and placement of a child in the permanent custody of the Defiance County Department of Job and Family Services for eventual permanent adoptive placement of the child. Three (3) new motions for permanent custody were filed in the court in 2017

**FAILURE TO SEND:** No parent, guardian, or other person having care of a child of compulsory school age shall violate any provision of the Ohio Revised Code regarding School Attendance. The juvenile court may require a person convicted of violating this division to give bond in a sum of not more than five hundred dollars, conditioned that the person will cause the child under the person's charge to attend upon instruction as provided by law, and remain as a pupil in the school or class during the term prescribed by law. Defiance County Juvenile Court had 15 failure to send charges filed in 2017.

**CUSTODY/VISITATION CASES:** The Defiance County Juvenile Court has jurisdiction to hear custody/visitation cases involving children who are not under another Ohio court's jurisdiction. In 2017, there were 31 custody/visitation cases filed in the court.

**PATERNITY CASES:** Paternity cases determine the parentage of children born out of wedlock. Defiance County Juvenile Court hears paternity matters that are either not determined administratively by the Child Support Enforcement Agency or one of the parties dispute the administrative determination of paternity. In 2017, there were 33 paternity cases file in the court.

**SUPPORT CASES:** The Defiance County Juvenile Court has jurisdiction to hear and determine an application for an order of support of any child, if the child is not a ward of another court of this state. In 2017, there were 158 support cases filed in the Defiance County Juvenile Court.

# *Defiance County Juvenile Probation Department*

**Judge Jeffrey A. Strausbaugh • 419-782-0226**

Erin Spieth, Administrator

The Defiance County Juvenile Probation Department is the primary service provider for the Juvenile Court. The department strives to hold juvenile offenders accountable for delinquent and unruly activity, while providing referrals to resources that reduce criminal behavior, and increase the ability of the youth to live productively and responsibly in the community. It is the duty of the department to carry out the orders of the Court and serve to protect the interest of the community. Probation Officers are responsible for utilizing all suitable methods to aid juveniles on probation in order to bring about improvement to their conduct. The department recognizes the importance the role the family plays in each youth's response to supervision and therefore requires parents and/or guardians to participate in a youth's treatment plan, as well as other programs to which the youth and family are referred.

The Defiance County Juvenile Probation Department is staffed by an administrator, two probation officers, a probation/attendance officer, a program coordinator and a probation clerk. The Administrator manages the department and acts as a liaison between the court and various community and law enforcement agencies. Defiance County Juvenile Probation Officers each manage a caseload of juvenile offenders and are responsible for ensuring compliance with court orders, assessing client needs, initiating referrals to appropriate agencies and maintaining related documentation.

Every youth who is placed on probation is required to follow the condition of probation. These conditions establish the parameters of acceptable behavior for the probationer. Probation officers enforce the conditions of probation, and if necessary, can file formal complaints with the court for probation violations. Each probationer is seen by his/her probation officer approximately once per month either at the probation department, at school or at home. In 2017, the Defiance County Probation Department supervised a total of 221 probationers with 4,813 caseload contracts, 736 court appearances, and 117 probation violations filed.

# *Defiance County Probate Court*

**Judge Jeffrey A. Strausbaugh • 419-782-4181**

Lisa M. Linebrink, Administrator

The Defiance County Probate Court has the responsibility to hear and determine all cases and issues' pertaining to estates, guardianships, conservatorships, trust, adoptions, settlement of minor's claims, change of name, civil actions, mental illness, correction of birth records and disinterment's. The Probate Court also issues marriage licenses.

In 2017, there were 268 estates filed; 38 guardianships filed; 4 trust filed; 14 civil actions filed; 18 adoptions filed; 12 mental illnesses filed; 3 minor settlements filed; 8 wrongful deaths estates filed; 3 registration of birth records and/or correction of birth records filed and 13 change of names filed.

Also, there were 212 marriage licenses issued in 2017.

As of December 31, 2017, the Court had 175 pending estates; 233 pending guardianships; 4 pending conservatorships; 29 pending trusts; 5 civil actions; 12 pending adoptions; 6 pending minor settlements; 33 pending wrongful death estates and 2 pending change of names.



*CASA is central to fulfilling society's, most fundamental obligation by making sure a qualified, compassionate adult, will fight for and protect a child's right to be safe, to be treated with dignity and respect, and to learn and grow in the security of a loving home.*

The Northwest Ohio CASA Program is based out of Henry County with satellite offices in Williams County and as of the summer of 2017 DEFIANCE County. CASA stands for “Court Appointed Special Advocates” for children.

Children in the program have been appointed by the judge, typically stemming from an abuse, neglect or dependency case. The child gains a **volunteer** CASA member to help look out for the best interest of the child involved. It is very important to ensure the child has a voice and has someone who is willing to stand up for them in a given situation. They look at the child's needs before their wants to secure a safe comfortable home for them. While the program is new to Defiance County, the response from the community has been great and supportive. It is Northwest Ohio CASA's hope that EVERY child has a safe home to live and grow in.

Northwest Ohio CASA is volunteer based; currently Defiance County has eight (8) volunteers. The process to become a volunteer can sound intense, but do not let that stop you. Contact the CASA office, and fill out an application. An Outreach Coordinator will be in contact to set up an interview. Once that is complete, there will be 34 hours of training to complete. Some of the training topics include: substance abuse, communication skills, family strategy and how to advocate for a child. The hours are broken up by 21 hours in person training and the rest is “homework.” There is also a requirement of four (4) hours of courtroom observation. If you are worried about being in a situation where you know the family, you have the option to go and volunteer with a different county.



Keir Leatherman,  
Advocate Coordinator

If you would like to help ensure that every child has a voice and a safe home to live in, willing to meet at least once a month, volunteer applications are always welcomed. There is an upcoming training in the fall around the last week of September. If you have an interest or questions you can contact Keir Leatherman, Advocate Coordinator, at the Defiance Office at 419-783-4816, or you can contact her at the main office in Henry County at 419-592-9455.

**Find, like and follow us!!!**



*Northwest Ohio CASA  
810 North Perry Street  
Napoleon Ohio 43545  
419-592-9455  
www.nwocasasa.com  
info@nwocasasa.com*

*Northwest Ohio CASA  
Defiance Location  
510 Court Street  
First Floor  
Defiance Ohio 43512  
419-783-4816*



# Defiance County Mentoring Program

*Empower youth in our community to make positive life choices that enable them to maximize their personal potential*

The Defiance County Mentoring Program is ran by Ashley Sowder as the Program Manager and Erin Spieth as the Administrator. The program uses their vision statement (above) by providing successful adult mentors to youth within our county. The hope for the community is to allow kids to see another way to be successful and stay out of trouble. Breaking cycles and looking beyond their personal environment, to allow the youth to see that there are so many opportunities to be as successful as they can. The mentors help build confidence, give wisdom, provide guidance and just be an accountable person in their lives. Currently, the Defiance County Mentoring Program has 30 mentor to mentee matches, but there is a need for many more.

**HOW CAN YOU HELP?!** The Defiance County Mentoring Program is always looking for volunteers as the referrals are limitless. So if you feel like you can provide a positive outlook on a Defiance County youth in need, please feel free to contact Ashley to get the application process going. Some of the requirements include: be at least 18 years of age, complete the screening procedure (including a background check), be willing to meet with a mentee one hour twice a month (at least every other week schedule) and agree to a one year commitment. Worried that your personal schedule might be a problem? Don't be, meetings and trainings can be scheduled around yours. Your meetings can be in-school during a free period or lunch time, or you can meet out of school if that suits your schedule.

**INTERESTED OR QUESTIONS?!** Contact Ashley Sowder at 419-782-0226 or email at [mentoring@defiance-county.com](mailto:mentoring@defiance-county.com)

Office is located at 1300 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street #203 Defiance Ohio 43512



You can find and like us on  
facebook at:  
[www.facebook.com/  
DefianceMentoring](http://www.facebook.com/DefianceMentoring)

**"I am enjoying my time with my  
mentee and feel that I have made a  
strong impact in his life as well as  
adding enjoyment to mine."**

**-James Waltimire**

**Mentor**



You can also find at:  
[www.unitedwaydefiance.galaxydigital.com/](http://www.unitedwaydefiance.galaxydigital.com/)

# Family & Children First Council

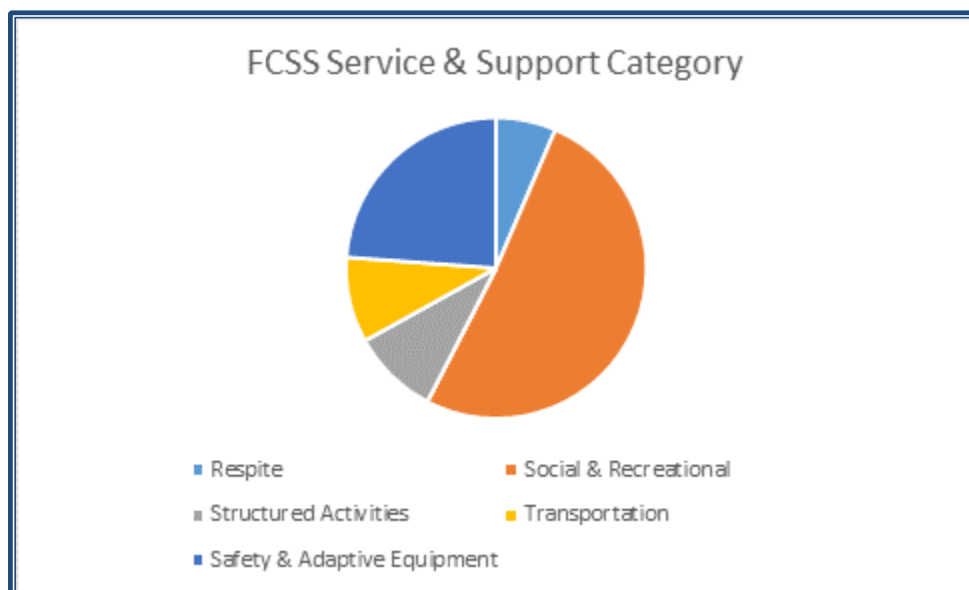
Julie Voll, Coordinator • 419-782-6934



Defiance County Family & Children First Council (FCFC) works on various projects to strengthen families.

Family who have children with multiple systemic needs identified through county service coordination process are eligible for Family Centered Services and Support (FCSS) funded services and supports. The purpose of FCSS is to maintain children and youth in their own homes through the provision of non-clinical, community-based services with a foundation in the system of care model.

During state fiscal year 2017, our team served 48 Defiance County children and youth through this impact area.



# Child Support Enforcement Agency

**Connie Bostelman, Director • 419-784-2123**

In 2014, the Office of Child Support initiated the I-70 project for counties; in an effort to increase collections to 70% statewide. For incentive purposes, the calculation is determined by the total amount of support distributed, as current support during the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY), and then is divided by the total amount of support due for IV-D cases, for the FFY. Defiance County CSEA has been reviewing and working reports, provided to the CSEA by the State, to ensure that cases are monitored and enforced appropriately.

In April 2014, the CSEA started using the services of Maximus for assistance with contract reimbursement. As a result, federal reimbursements have increased from \$78,605.16 in 2013 to \$190,095.44 in 2017. The funds go to the Defiance County General Fund.

The CSEA continues to refer cases to the ITT Program, which is designed to help CSEA Obligor find and maintain stable employment, become financially and emotionally supportive for their children, establish and meet personal goals, and to become appropriately involved in their children's lives whenever possible.

The CSEA has had much success with CLEAR - which is an enforcement tool used to locate non-custodial parents. We also use APPRISS - which assists in the tracking of presently and previously incarcerated, non-custodial parents.

Obligors can now make credit card payments, either by accessing the Defiance County CSEA website, or by visiting or contacting the Agency. Since the CSEA started accepting credit card payments in January 2016, \$96,630.80 has been collected for child support cases. We also have a conveniently located payment drop box (shared with the Defiance County Treasurer's Office) located in the alley between Key Bank and the Post Office on East Second Street.

The State also created the Child Support Customer Service Web Portal. This is an interactive web application that provides child support customers with on-demand, case specific, address, employment, health insurance, and financial history information, along with answers to frequently asked questions regarding the child support system. The portal is operational and available twenty-three (23) hours a day, seven (7) days, throughout the year (with one hour down nightly for maintenance). Customers can log into the Child Support Customer Service Web Portal from the Office of Child Support (OCS) internet home page at: <http://jfs.ohio.gov/ocs/index.stm>

Defiance County CSEA now has a Facebook page. This page was created for CSEA informational post only. **Commenting and private messaging are NOT permitted.**

## 2017 Program Performance

Paternity Establishment:	104.86%
Support Establishment:	96.17%
Collections on Current Support:	76.44%
Collections on Arrears:	80.73%

## 2017 Statistics

Collections:	\$6,381,660.58
Expenditures:	\$935,234.40
Average Caseload:	2,660
Medical Reimbursement to State:	\$77,867.06



# Department of Job and Family Services

Corey Walker, Director • 419-782-3881



The Department of Job & Family Services serves the residents of Defiance County by administering public assistance programs of the state and federal government, providing Workforce investment opportunities thru the Ohio Means Jobs center, 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. In 2013, The Defiance County Commissioners in collaboration with Paulding County consolidated Job and Family Services into Defiance/Paulding Consolidated Job and Family Services.

In 2017, the agency prepared for the transition to the Ohio Benefits eligibility system, and focused on the expansion and enhancement of the Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program (CCMEP). The agency continues to experience an increase in new Medicaid cases and has seen a decrease in cash assistance individuals. The agency maintains an internal Quality Assurance program to insure case accuracy and timeliness. In 2017, the agency's Income Maintenance staff were recognized by the state of Ohio for payment accuracy in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Assistance) and our Fraud department was recognized for finishing second in the state in the ratio of total number of food assistance overpayment claims to the overall average food assistance caseload. The children Services Department saw an increase in the number of intakes and further developed placement options for those needing out of home arrangements.

## 2017 Statistics

Cash Assistance (Average per Month) - 111 individuals  
Food Assistance (Average per Month) - 5,612 individuals  
Medicaid Recipients (Average per Month) - 12,408 individuals  
Annual Food Assistance - \$7,276,673.00

# Senior Services

**Tina Hiler, Director • 419-782-3233**

140 East Broadway, Defiance - 419-782-3233

and 708 East High Street, Hicksville - 419-542-5004

online at - [www.defiance-county.com](http://www.defiance-county.com) - click on Agencies, then Senior Services

## *The Senior Services Mission Statement*

To provide senior adults throughout Defiance County with nutritional, educational, social and wellness programs in a same and welcoming environment.

### *Programs at Defiance County Senior Services*

**Meals** - Enjoy a meal at either the Defiance or Hicksville Centers. If needed, we can also provide hot home delivered meals, frozen meals and therapeutic meals. Senior Services also offers nutrition education, our farmer's market program and acts as a clearing house for two commodities programs. Over 88,000 meals were provided throughout every township in Defiance County in 2017.

**Transportation** - Transports to access community resources. We utilize cars, vans and buses with wheelchair accessibility. More than 10,000 rides were provided to Defiance County's Senior Citizens in 2017.

**Supportive Services** - include grocery shopping assistance, notary publics and assistance with Medicare part D as well as partnering with AARP for tax assistance.

**Information** - Senior Service's monthly "Our Times" newsletters, our website, speakers and assistance in locating needed resources.

**Music & Memory** - DCSS staff and volunteers load iPods with songs that are familiar and enjoyable to the individual with Alzheimer's disease for them to listen to, enjoy and respond to.

**Alzheimer Support** - A welcoming and confidential support group meets on the first Thursday of each month. Individual consultations and information are also available.

**Activities and Wellness Programs** - get involved with our fun-filled activities including yoga, Zumba, cards, games, our workout equipment room, chair exercises, crafts, trips, speakers, special events and dinners.

**Explore Your Talents - Share Your Gifts** - Defiance County Senior Services invites you to volunteer with us. Whether you can help out once a month or several times a week, we welcome you.

We thank our funders - The Defiance County Commissioners, The Defiance Co. Senior Citizen's Tax Levy, The Area Office on Aging of Northwest Ohio, The PASSPORT Program, individual donors as well as our wonderful Senior Services Auxiliary and Advisory Board Members.

# Defiance County Veteran's Affairs

Erin Clady, Service Officer • 419-782-6861



Veteran's Office Staff - Left to Right, Nate Metz – Administrative Assistant;  
Tanya S. Brunner – Office Manager and Erin Clady – Service Officer

This office files claims with the Veterans Administration for VA benefits for veterans, surviving spouses and the dependent children of veterans.

The office also provides financial assistance to stabilize emergency situations and provides transport to VA medical appointments and other veteran's needs. In 2017, \$46,090.57 was expended.

In addition, Defiance County Veterans Office has been gifted with charitable funds to assist veteran families through the KAVIC fund. Private individuals, organizations and businesses can contribute to this fund. In 2017, \$44,484.63 was used to provide utilities, transportation, food, medication, rent, mortgage, medical, dental, funeral and burial expenses.

In 2017, the office tallied 45,885 public contacts. The Transportation program assisted 504 veterans in making 404 trips to medical appointments. Hicksville Satellite Office – operated twice a month in the Hicksville Community Center.

## Contact Information

Located inside the Defiance County East Building at 1300 East Second Street, Suite 102, Defiance OH 43512. Phone 419-782-6861 or email: [veterans@defiance-county.com](mailto:veterans@defiance-county.com)

## Veterans Service Commission

Peter Kennerk, Thomas Kent, David Lulfs, Chris Newton and Darcy Lehman

# Public Safety Services

**Julie Rittenhouse, Director • 419-782-1130**

**Patty Ehlinger, Deputy Director**



The Public Safety Services / Emergency Management Agency, in conjunction with the Local Emergency Planning Committee, coordinate hazardous material emergency planning and training development for first responders. A few of the trainings provide in 2017 were Weather Spotter, EOC 101, EOC Introduction and Training, Incident Command Training, Local Volunteer & Donation Management and High Voltage Training. We also held a Facility Forum for local businesses. PSS/EMA participated in a monthly MARCS Radio Communication Drill as well as the following exercises: Ayersville School Table Top, Defiance College Table Top, Health Care Coalition Table Top, Hicksville EMA / Community Memorial Hospital Full Scale Decon & Mass Care, and the Black Swamp Amateur Radio Regional Communication drill. We also hold an Annual Open House in September. The county elementary schools bring approximately 450 students to the Open House.

The PSS/EMA also prepares for and responds to weather events. The PSS/Defiance County Emergency Management Agency responds to flooding, winter storms, tornados, etc. The agency conducts damage assessments and coordinates response and recovery efforts.

Being part of a Weather-Ready Nation is about preparing for your community's increasing vulnerability to extreme weather events. Defiance County is a Storm Ready county designated by the National Weather Service of North Webster Indiana.



PSS/EMA administers the State Emergency Response Commission grant, Emergency Management Performance Grant, Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning grant, and the County-Wide Cost Recovery program for hazardous material response. We responded to ten suspected hazardous material incidents. The office helped collect \$2,708.11 for the County-Wide Cost Recovery program in 2017.

The County must have a FEMA approved mitigation plan in place to qualify for federal funding. The Defiance County All Hazard Mitigation Plan was approved in 2017.

Other responsibilities of this agency are administration of worker's compensation claims for County employees, insurance/risk management and safety planning and training.

2017 Statistics			
<b>Appropriations:</b>	\$139,535.00	<b>Grant Awards:</b>	\$70,842.00
	<b>Expenses:</b>		\$137,817.00

# Defiance County Board of Elections



**Tonya Wichman, Director • 419-782-8543**

Kimberly Smith, Deputy Director

The Board of Elections, is a state office paid for by county funds and overseen by the Ohio Secretary of State. They manage all aspects of the electoral process including: voter registrations, petitions, programming elections, and miscellaneous duties of the office. In addition, they conduct all elections for Defiance County by certifying local candidates and issues for the ballot, recruiting poll workers, and establishing voting locations.

On Election Day, the Board utilizes nearly 140 poll workers to run every voting location throughout the County. All poll workers attend training in order to be accountable for opening the polls, checking in voters in an efficient and respectful manner, and closing the polls. If you are interested in becoming a poll worker, please contact our office at **419-782-8543**.

For more information on the Board of Elections and the upcoming election, visit our website -

[www.defiance-county.com/boardofelections](http://www.defiance-county.com/boardofelections)



Find and Follow us on  
Facebook and Twitter!  
@DefianceBOE

Stop by our office, we are  
located at:

1300 East Second St.

Suite 103

Defiance Ohio 43512

# Soil & Water Conservation District

**Jason Roehrig, District Administrator • 419-782-1794**

[www.defiance-county/swcd](http://www.defiance-county/swcd)

*The mission of the Defiance SWCD is to protect the land and water of Defiance County by being an innovative leader, assisting and educating the public to make the best choices for conserving and preserving our natural resources.*

Led by a five-member, volunteer Board of Supervisors, the District's staff members address the following natural resource priorities throughout Defiance County:

## **Water Quality**

Landowner assistance is provided to implement conservation practices that improve water quality, both locally and regionally. Practices include drainage water management, filter strips, grassed water ways, wetlands, grade stabilization structures, ditch/streambank stabilization, cover crops, rain gardens and rain barrels.

## **Nutrient and Manure Management**

Technical assistance is available for the development of nutrient management plans adhering to the 4R principles of nutrient stewardship. The District is also involved with the Senate Bill 1 and Ag Pollution Abatement programs in resolving fertilizer, manure and erosion concerns.

## **Conservation Works of Improvement (CWI)**

The District performs the engineering and construction oversight for Ohio Revised Code 940 petition drainage improvements throughout Defiance County. These drainage systems are a vital infrastructure for the community and ensure that landowners may have an increase return on their investments in both rural and urban areas.

## **Conservation Education and Outreach**

Residents of all ages are engaged through District education programs about our valuable natural resources. Emphasis is placed on performing classroom student and teacher education programs in addition to providing field days, workshops, and outreach materials to landowners.

## **Soil Health**

Outreach is provided to landowners encouraging utilization of management practices such as no-till, conservation tillage, cover crops, and soil amendments to improve long-term soil quality and productivity.

## **Land-use Planning**

The District assists local government and landowners in minimizing the impact of changing land uses on our natural resources through site reviews, technical assistance and education.

## **Forestry, Wildlife, Woodlands**

Technical assistance is provided to landowners for habitat development and wildlife management. Additional services include the sale of conservation trees and shrubs, tree planter rental, and drill rental for conservation cover and prairie restorations.

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## In 2017 the District:

- Constructed 6,045 feet of grassed waterways and designed an additional 10,273 feet.
- Constructed 1 drainage water management system and designed an additional 3 systems.
- Designed and oversaw construction of 7 grade stabilization structures with the design of 2 additional structures.
- Assisted landowners with 16 private/mutual agreement drainage projects.
- Assisted in the implementation of CREP conservation practices including 12 acres of windbreaks, filter strips, recharge areas, and wetlands.
- Kohout Ditch Extension constructed (6,077 feet) with designs completed for Culp Ditch (1,070 feet) and Jackman Ditch (5,100 feet).
- Administered planting of 838 acres of cover crops, 528 acres of gypsum application, and 42 acres of VRT nutrient management in throughout Defiance County.
- Performed 55 site reviews for Defiance County landowners along with zoning map updates for townships.
- Continued to lead volunteer water quality monitoring efforts in the Upper Maumee Watershed and provide board representation for the Upper Maumee Watershed Partnership.
- Presented youth conservation programs to over 5,600 students including hosting Penny Nature Center Cam, poster and phot contests, Envirothon training, and numerous conservation outreach programs.
- Extended outreach to over 32,552 adults and educators.
- Administered and implemented multi-year grants in excess of \$366,493 to construct best management practices.
- Distributed over 8,000 trees through our annual tree sale.
- Rental equipment provided including tree planter (2,150 trees planted), no-till drill (403 acres planted), grass seeder (84 acres planted), and straw mulcher.
- Planted and sheltered over 500 trees at the District's Penny Nature Center to complete a 12-year forested wetland establishment project.



### District Personnel

Jason Roehrig  
Terri Agler  
Ben Gerken  
Tyler Miller  
Stephanie Singer

### Ditch Maintenance Personnel

Kevin Hancock  
Ed Walters  
Josh Limber  
Dave Sines

### Board of Supervisors

Bill Moats  
Keith Schroeder  
Jeff Hange  
Roger Zeedyk IV  
Terry Behnfeldt



# Defiance County Ditch Maintenance

**Kevin Hancock, Supervisor • 419-782-1794**

In December of 1989, the Defiance County Commissioners and the Defiance County Engineer entered into an agreement with the Board of Supervisors to manage and operate the Defiance County Ditch Maintenance Program as required by the Ohio Revised Code. Since that time, there have been 71 improvements added to the program. Currently, we have 203 requests for new Conservation Works of Improvement projects.

The Defiance County Ditch Maintenance Department treats drainage improvements as vital infrastructure to Northwest Ohio. Agricultural producers and rural landowners in Northwest Ohio have been concerned with the need to dispose of excess water. For agricultural producers, excess water means delays in planting, replanting, soil compaction, reduced yields and delays in harvesting. For homeowners in the urban area, excess water can mean damage due to flooding of dwellings and property.

The cost of new construction or reconstruction of drainage improvements greatly exceeds the cost of maintaining the improvement once construction is completed. That is why, once a project is completed, the County Commissioners are required by law to place the improvement under the Defiance County Ditch Maintenance Program.

## Work completed in 2017

- 7 miles bottom cleaned
- 114 Miles brush and cattail control
- 922 ton of rock for bank protection
- 75 pounds of grass seed and fertilizer
- 36 improvements repaired
- 636 feet of tile/pipe repairs
- Leaning tree/log jam removal
- Tons of broken concrete for bank protection

### 2017 Statistics

Revenue	\$201,289.32
Expenses	\$358,595.43





# Wastewater Operations

**Greg Reinhart, Director • 419-782-2230**

Jan Rethmel, Clerk

Steven Yeager, Operator

The Defiance County Wastewater Operations Office oversees the operation of numerous wastewater collection and treatment facilities within Defiance County. There are approximately 860 households served through the following sewer systems: Middle Gordon Creek, Auglaize River, Evergreen Lane Office Complex, Evansport and Express Sewer. 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. They also contract with Paulding County to operate their Auglaize River Collection System which pumps to the County Lagoons.

## **AUGLAIZE RIVER SEWER**

Linear Feet - 41,476 ▪ Pump Stations - 7 ▪ Manholes - 94

## **EVANSPORT**

Linear Feet - 9,450 ▪ Pump Stations - 1 ▪ Manholes - 29

## **EVERGREEN LANE OFFICE COMPLEX**

Linear Feet - 7,772 ▪ Pump Stations - 0 ▪ Manholes - 5

## **EXPRESS SEWER**

Linear Feet - 61,613 ▪ Pump Station - 4 ▪ Manholes - 136

## **MIDDLE GORDON CREEK**

Linear Feet - 925 ▪ Pump Station - 1 ▪ Manholes - 4

### **2017 STATISTICS**

Income	\$815,510.34
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Expense	\$833,206.45
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# Defiance County Landfill

**Warren J. Schlatter, Director • 419-784-2844**

**DEFIANCE COUNTY LANDFILL** - The Landfill is a publicly owned facility that operates as a true business. No tax dollars support the landfill. The rates at the Landfill have been unchanged since 1988. The cost to operate the facility is budgeted at just over \$3,000,000/year.

The Landfill is required to have a myriad of environmental protection elements. Monthly monitoring of water (storm & groundwater), air (dust control and vehicle emissions), and methane gas are required and reporting is provided to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA). The Landfill staff inspected and complied with all OEPA reporting including: annual report, air permit, Title V certification report, Ground water monitoring, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), Green House Gas (GHG) and quarterly Ohio EPA inspections.

The remaining life of the Landfill is determined by the available air space. The Landfill took in 533,486 cubic yards of waste in 2017. This included C&DD, Industrial, Commercial, City Residential and Residential, in our district, out of district and out of state. Our out of state waste (Indiana) has increased. 2017 was another record year for volume and sales.

## 2017 Statistics

Revenue	\$4,516,092
Expenses	\$2,714,764



**WASTE IS TAKEN IN ALL WEATHER CONDITIONS**

# Environmental Services

Warren J. Schlatter, Director • 419-782-5442



**DEFIANCE COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL & 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. Educational workshops/ community outreach presentations were completed in 2017 with over 675 students in kindergarten, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades. This office also maintains County facilities by providing lawn care, snow removal and other special projects as requested. We administer Adopt-A-Highway for County and Township roads. Environmental Services provided containment (barrels) recycling containers, and litter supplies to numerous County-held events throughout the year: City Park Clean Up, Hicksville Beautification, Lilac Festival, Jazz Festival, Art in the Park, Defiance Fireworks, Ney Homecoming, Sherwood Homecoming, United Way Balloon Fest, Family Fun at the YMCA, Defiance County Fair, St. Mary's Fall Festival and the Defiance Rib Fest. Defiance County Environmental Services is also the Keep America Beautiful (KAB) Affiliate for the County. We organize participation in the Great American Cleanup March thru May and provide litter supplies: gloves, trash bags and grabbers. We have been awarded the President's Circle Recognition Award annually for our dedication to reducing littering, improving recycling and waste reduction, and beautify communities.



**FOUR COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT**  
Serving Defiance, Fulton, Paulding, and Williams Counties in Ohio

**SOLID WASTE DISTRICT** - The State of Ohio mandates that Solid Waste Districts plan and implement programming to meet the state's Solid Waste Management goals as defined by Ohio law. This office coordinates activities of all four county programs (Defiance, Fulton, Williams and Paulding). The environmental rules of the State of Ohio require each Solid Waste District to review and modify its all-encompassing waste management plan every five years. In 2015, the District completed the update of its solid waste management plan and it will begin rewriting a new plan in the fall of 2018. A copy of the plan can be found at [www.4CSWD.com](http://www.4CSWD.com). An additional requirement of the solid waste district plan is to conduct an Annual District Report (ADR). This report validates the amount of recycling generated within each district. The State of Ohio has a goal of 25% recycling of all generated residential and commercial waste and a 66% recycling rate of all generate industrial waste. Our district achieved 46% recycling rate of residential and commercial waste and a 65% industrial recycling rate.

# Defiance County OSU Extension

Wm. Bruce Clevenger • 419-782-4771

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

- The **Summer Food Program** offered by NOCAC allows children to participate in nutrition activities offered by SNAP Ed. Nutrition Bingo, making Healthy Plates, making a Fruit and Vegetable Caterpillar, and participating in the Two Bite Club are just a few activities.
- **Cooking Matters** was offered in two locations: Sherwood United Methodist Church and St. Paul's Food Pantry. Cooking Matters is a six (6) week course where participants learn culinary skills, meal preparation, nutrition and budgeting. Participants learn how to prepare healthy meals, eat the meal and then receive groceries to take home to prepare that meal for their families. Recipes included: Frittata, Turkey Tacos, Yogurt Parfait, Veggie Quesadillas, Fruit Smoothies and Pasta with Roasted Vegetables.

## JOB SKILLS AND CAREERS

- The 4-H Educator conducted **leadership training for 140 high school students** involved with their FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America) Chapter at a regional spring conference held at Four County Career Center. Topics were Team Building and "Question Your Assumptions".
- **Shrektacular** - He's big. He's green. He tries to do the right thing. His name is Shrek. Shrek, is a movie that has a lot of hidden lessons behind the jokes. 42 young Ogres and Princesses were in attendance at the 8<sup>th</sup> annual day camp program. Themes centered on the Shrek movies, the programs focused on outdoor survival skills and medieval manners. Some of the main lessons from Shrek are: Everyone has Layers, Nothing is Handed to You, No One is Better off Alone, Friends are Family and Heroes Come in all Shapes and Sizes.

- **4-H Camp participation was at 143 total campers.** This number represent 110 youth campers, 23 teen counselors and 10 adult volunteers. 58% of campers received scholarships totaling \$3,100. Youth participating at camp made new friends, developed independence from their family, participated in leadership and skill building activities, and had safe, supervised fun with their friends.

They were given a new opportunity through 4-H programming that they might not have otherwise had a chance to experience. 15 Cloverbuds and their families participated in Cloverbud Day.



# Defiance County OSU Extension

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## SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS and ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

- **Farm Record Keeping: Do More Than a Tax Return** - One hundred sixty three (163) farm managers participated in meetings where Clevenger taught the value of keeping farm records. Participants learned how record keeping can measure profit and loss, describe the farm's financial position, evaluate the need for new investments or obtaining commercial loans, evaluating farm enterprises, and tracking personal spending.
- **OSU Extension conducted a nitrogen rate study to help determine the Maximum Return to Nitrogen (MRTN).** The cost of **nitrogen** to grow a corn crop can be 20% (\$1 in every \$5) of the total variable costs. Nitrogen management not only has an impact on **farm profitability**, but also has an **environmental impact**.
- Clevenger taught nine (9) area **Fertilizer Applicator Certification Training (FACT)** meetings reaching 416 fertilizer applicators with information about water quality, proper soil sampling, calculating fertilizer recommendations, and utilizing plant nutrients where needed and not needed. Defiance County has 112 farmers and 29 commercial fertilizer applicators newly certified by OSU Extension.

## ENGAGED OHIONS, VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

- OSU Extension taught nearly **430 youth at the Defiance County Public Safety/EMA Open House**. Clevenger taught Safety When Visiting a Farm. Kids from farms, or non-farm backgrounds, are fascinated by tractors and farm life, but need to understand the danger points and zones on a farm.
- OSU Extension provided leadership to update the **Natural Hazard Mitigation (NHMP) for 2017**. Natural hazards include: winter storms, tornado/thunderstorms/high winds, flooding, drought, earthquake and erosion. Erosion was new for the 2017 plan and is related to the riverbank erosion that negatively impacts property owners. The FEMA approved plan is currently being used to support three mitigation grant applications in Defiance County.

The 2017 class of OSU Extension **Master Gardener Volunteers (MGV)** finished in late April, with thirteen Master Gardener Interns. A MGV is trained to assist OSU Extension with consumer horticulture questions, educational efforts and community improvement projects. Defiance County currently has 21 active/certified MGV's that gave over 1,628 volunteer hours in 2017.

# Dog Warden

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



During 2017, the Defiance County Dog Warden received 825 dog complaints. These complaints consist of dogs running loose, bites, lost or found dogs to name just a few.

The department assisted other agencies when requested, mailed dog barking and dog running at large letters, followed up on bite complaints and went door-to-door checking for current dog tags. They served 238 court citations, issued 177 warnings, and sold 7,140 dog tags.

As a reminder, dog tags must be purchased each year. If you have a new dog that is three months or older, you must purchase a tag within 30 days. Tags go on sale in December and must be purchased by the end of January. If you fail to purchase your tags during this time, you may be cited to court and you will pay a penalty in addition to the regular fee for the tag(s).

## 2017 Statistics

Revenue	\$176,584.68
Expenses	\$212,199.53
Dog License Sold	7,140
Complaints	825
Warnings	177
Court Citations	238
Bites	82
Dogs Deemed Dangerous	10

## HAVE YOU PURCHASED YOUR DEFIANCE COUNTY DOG LICENSE?

Tags May Be Purchased at:  
Defiance County Auditor's Office - All year  
Fort Defiance Humane Society - All year  
Hicksville Police Department - All year  
Defiance Area Animal Hospital - Dec & Jan only  
Jewell Grain - Dec & Jan only  
Ayersville Carryout - Dec & Jan only  
Defiance Veterinary Clinic - Dec & Jan only  
Family Farm & Home - Dec & Jan only

