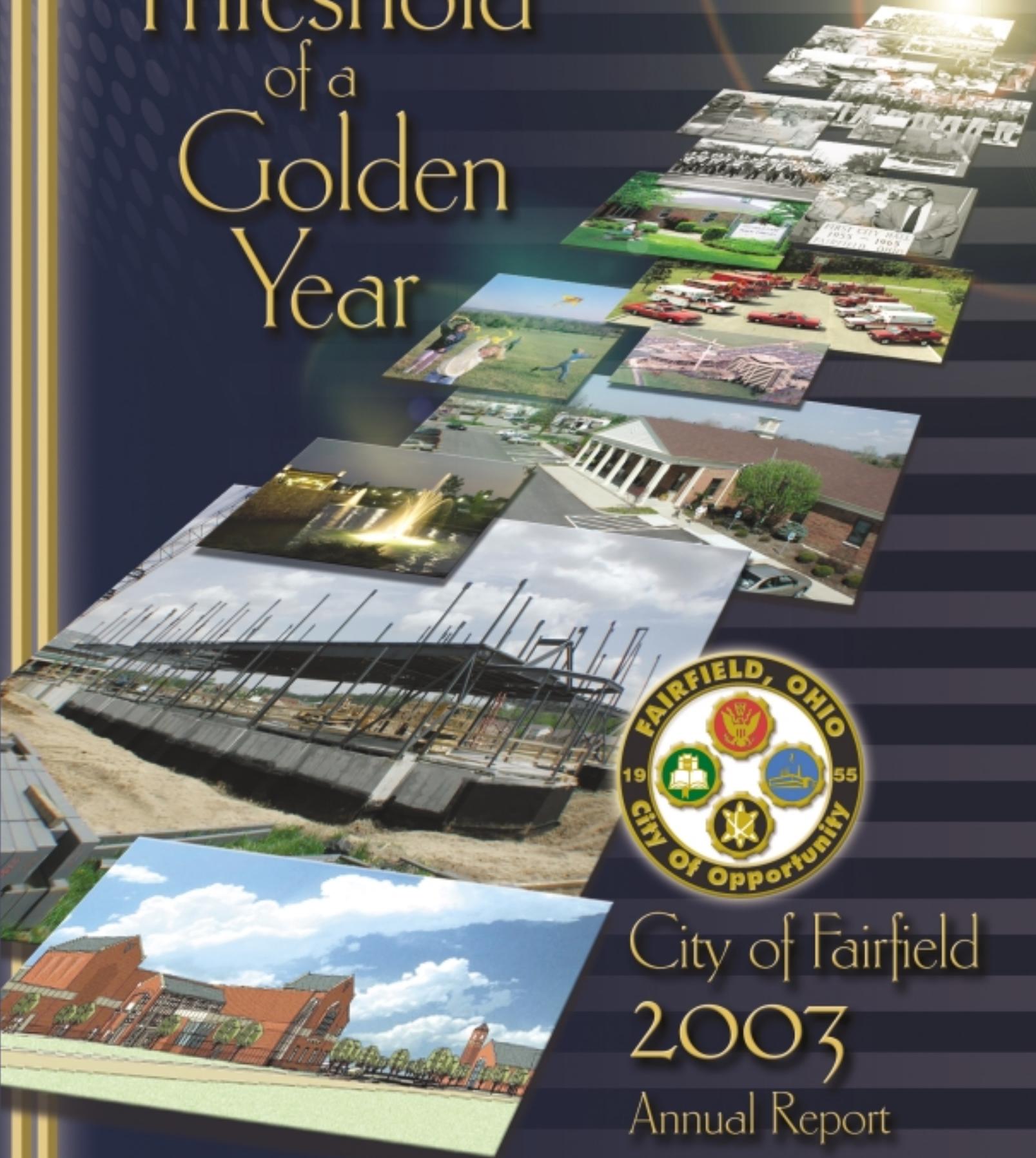


On the Threshold of a Golden Year



City of Fairfield
2003
Annual Report

The Birth of a Community...

One of the earliest observations recorded about the Fairfield area dates back to 1787 when Major Benjamin Stites sent word to a friend in New Jersey that he had located "the garden spot of any place I have ever seen." Soon, his friend, the Honorable Judge John Cleves Symmes, approached the US Congress to purchase that "garden spot" from the Indians who inhabited the territory.

Not all Native Americans, however, agreed with the sale of the territory and fought early settlers, many of them veterans of the Revolutionary War. Skirmishes continued until about 1803, when Ohio became a State. The population from 1825 through the early 1900s grew significantly, much of

the increase being attributed to the Miami and Erie Canal, an important connection linking Lake Erie to the Ohio River via the Great Miami River.

Early pioneers named the area Fairfield for the natural beauty of its gently rolling farmland. Today's city first was part of Fairfield Township, where residents enjoyed their rural setting. Over the years following World War II, neighborhoods in the quiet landscape had developed a unique identity. The community had joined together to establish not only a township government, but also its own Fairfield Township School District.

The early 1950s was a time of rapid growth

in southern Butler County. Area residents wanted to maintain their community's identity and the right to determine their own destiny. When a master plan published by Hamilton on August 3, 1953, included plans to annex large areas of Fairfield Township, township residents were moved to political action. Petitions were circulated to seek village status. The petition drive placed the issue on the July 10, 1954, ballot. Voters approved and nine days later, the Village of Fairfield was legally established, ensuring the community its right to self government.

Following inclusion of the Stockton area into the Village, a special Federal Census determined that the Village of Fairfield was home to 6,202 residents, automatically elevating the community to city status on October 20, 1955. As a city, the community was protected from massive annexations.

Fairfield, Ohio (Circa 1955)



July 10, 1954:
Electors vote to incorporate a portion of Fairfield Township as a village.

1954: *A new high school opens next to the 1929 Fairfield Centralized School (now Central Elementary). The 1954 building is now the Freshman School.*

Charting the Course for the City

Since the early days of Fairfield, government services have been directed by a body of elected representatives, each from diverse backgrounds who have a common pledge to represent the will of the community. Their collective vision and direction through the years have provided the guidance which has sculpted a small village in 1955 into the thriving contemporary city we now enjoy.

Currently, the City of Fairfield operates under a Council-Manager form of government, which provides for an elected Mayor and City Council working with an appointed City Manager. The Mayor and three Council Members are elected at-large, with Council Members also elected from each of Fairfield's four wards.

City Council is responsible for establishing City policy and enacting legislation to guide the direction of the municipal government. Other responsibilities include the establishment of rates for public utilities and the authority to retain independent, certified public accountants to audit City records.

During 2003, Fairfield's City Council conducted more than 69 public meetings, including regular meetings, council/manager briefings, special sessions and public hearings. As a result of public input and Council consideration, 265 ordinances and resolutions were adopted during the year.

City Council is currently comprised of seven committees: Community and Public Relations; Development Services; Finance & Budget; Parks, Recreation & Environment; Public Safety; Public

Fairfield City Council



Mayor
Erick L. Cook



At-Large
Howard R. Dirksen



At-Large
Jill Kinder



At-Large
Mark A. Scharringhausen



1st Ward
Michael D. Snyder



2nd Ward
Martin H. Judd



3rd Ward
Mitch Rhodus



4th Ward
Steven E. Miller

Utilities; Public Works. Each Council member serves as a chairperson, a vice chair

and a member on three separate committees.

1955
1956
1957

1955: Already a major Fairfield employer, Fisher Body (built in 1945) begins expansion.



1955: Robert Wessel becomes the City of Fairfield's first Mayor.



1957: Mayor Wessel opens the valve at the new Fairfield Water Works. (At left is Robert Swain, President of the Fairfield Residents Association)



PHOTO BY CY SWEGERT

1955: Stockton-Mack area annexed to Village of Fairfield.



October 20, 1955: Ohio Secretary of State Ted Brown officially designates Fairfield as a city.



1957: Baseball fields are opened at Waterworks Park.

A special thanks to Edna Antes for providing many of the historic photographs used in this publication.

1957: Fairfield City Council adopts the City's first Zoning Ordinance.

On the Cover: Fairfield Through the Years

In 50 years, Fairfield has matured into a community like no other. Only the most senior residents of early Fairfield can recall the fledgling community of years gone by: the country roads intersecting at a steep hillside near fields where Mercy Hospital and Cincinnati Financial now stand; a two-lane Nilles Road; a young Fairfield without I-275; a humble home on Pleasant Avenue—long since torn down—that served as an early City meeting hall.

Fairfield's Golden Anniversary will celebrate the past. This Annual Report prepares residents for reflecting on our past by showing several photographs taken in over

the years. The pictures include: **A** Symmes Tavern as it looked in 1852. **B** Mayor

and Mrs. Noah Creech at the 1969 Antique Car Parade.

C One of the first station wagons used in

Butler County, which was used for about 20 years before restoration by Wittman's Tent & Awning Company. The people pictured are unidentified.

D Police officers (circa 1959). **E** Members of the Charter Commission from 1961. They include (left row, top to bottom) Robert Shelhorn, Robert Wessel, Frank Kelly; (front row, left to right) Richard Schutte, James Tilton, Arnold Forrester, Walter Hunter; (right row, left to right) Betty Haynes, Myna Stumpf, (top, center)



Unidentified girls with a sign depicting a promotion of Fairfield.

H Dedication of the land in the late 1960s for the Fairfield YMCA.

I Police Chief Tom Marsh with a dispatcher in a 1976 picture promoting a new Mosler communication unit.

J The Fairfield Marching Band

in a 1973 parade. **K** Mrs. John Slade and Sterling

Uhler hold a sign to identify Fairfield's first City Hall (circa 1970s).

L The original Fairfield Lane

William Holden. (*The other man is unidentified.*)

F Police officers (circa 1964). **G**



Public Library. **M** Fairfield's Fire Equipment of the early 1970s. **N** Children play in Harbin Park. **O** The second tower is constructed in 1998 at Cincinnati Financial Companies.



The other pictures on the cover are current images of the Municipal Building, Village Green Park, construction of the Community Arts Center, and

the artist's rendering of the Center when completed.



Out of hundreds of photographs taken through the years, these images capture only a snapshot of Fairfield's heritage. During the 50th Anniversary, many more will likely be shared to provide additional facets of the precious gemstone that residents call home.

Golden Plans Underway

With Fairfield's Golden Anniversary occurring in the fall of 2005, early planning is already underway to mark the milestone. For the latest on anniversary planning, visit the City's website at www.fairfield-city.org and click on the link for the 50th Anniversary Committee.

Your ideas for celebrating the 50th are encouraged by calling Angie

Johns at 867-5383 or by submitting ideas via the website link.



Nostalgic items dating back to the founding of the City, as well as its early history, are being sought for displays to be held during the celebration. If you have items that should be considered for inclusion in displays, contact Susan Gassner at smdg@fuse.net.

1958



1958: Fairfield moves City operations to new offices next to its only volunteer firehouse on Pleasant Avenue (now Lawyers' Title). The old Township Hall nearby is torn down later in the year.

1959

1959: In order to equitably fund services, the City enacts its first income tax of 0.6 percent.

1959: Fairfield establishes the Municipal Court to accommodate the growing caseload of the overburdened Mayors Court.

1960



Circa 1960: The police cruisers of yesteryear.

Reflections from Leadership

City
of
Fairfield



To the Citizens of Fairfield:

We are pleased to present the 2003 Annual Report of the City's finances, as well as administrative and legislative activities.

As Fairfield prepares for an important milestone in its history, this report reflects on not only the highlights of the past year, but also offers an informative review of the entire history of our community. From year to year, the City has always focused on meeting the needs of residents. In the early years, that focus was on the most basic elements of preservation of an identity now cherished by residents. The young community matured and was then able to focus on utilities, safety services and public works.

In the 1950s, persons of vision and perseverance worked diligently to ensure a way of life that could be passed on to their children... and to their grandchildren. While today's Fairfield is a product of modern technology and state-of-the-art services, in reality, little has changed in the philosophy of what we do. Many of the projects and accomplishments highlighted in this report demonstrate the result of a team approach to city government. Without such a dedicated group, including City Council members, Commission members, and a broad range of community volunteers, little could have been accomplished over the years.

Together, we—as a community— have accomplished much. From the early days of government meetings in the homes of involved forefathers and foremothers, the City has matured. We can look back with great pride at humble beginnings... while also looking forward to tomorrow with the confidence in knowing that our community will continue to ascend to great heights from what once was yesterday's vision for today. Each year, our community stands at the threshold of greater things, but only once in history do we stand on the threshold of a Golden Year.

Respectfully submitted,

ERICK COOK
Mayor

Arthur E. Pizzano
City Manager



Erick Cook has served as the City of Fairfield's Mayor since 2002. Formerly principal of Fairfield High School, Mayor Cook has also served as interim Superintendent of Fairfield Schools.



Arthur E. Pizzano has served as Fairfield City Manager since 1998. He serves as the City's Chief Executive Officer and oversees its seven operating departments and \$64.9 million City budget.

1961

1962

1963

1961: Business is booming at Fisher Body. Another expansion is begun.

1961: As the City continues to mature, the first Parks & Recreation Commission is formed.



1961: To address significant enrollment increases, the Fairfield School District opens its new high school on Nilles Road. The facility is now the District's Middle School.

1962: Fairfield's first Street Maintenance Building opens on Groh Lane.

1962: To address growth, Fairfield builds a second volunteer fire station on State Route 4.

1962: To ease traffic congestion, State Route 4 is widened to four lanes.



1962: Fairfield benefits from the opening of its first U.S. Post Office on Patterson Boulevard.



1963: Fairfield's City Seal is adopted. With interconnecting gears, the seal symbolizes the interrelational importance of government, education, business and technology.



Construction of Fairfield's Community Arts Center began in the fall of 2003.

Work begins on Community Arts Center

After years of anticipation and planning, work began in the fall of 2003 on the long-awaited Fairfield Community Arts Center on the east side of Village Green Park. When completed in 2005, the 39,489 square foot Center will provide residents a multi-use center with a large multipurpose room, a senior activity center, classrooms, children's activity area, a dance/fitness studio, and a 250-seat theater. The plans include such amenities as a second floor balcony off the multipurpose room overlooking Village Green Park and a spectacular two-story gallery. The \$8 million Center also includes a 200 car parking lot which will also offer parking for events held at Village Green Park.

Mack/Muhlhauser/SR 4 improvement progresses

During 2003, motorists along State Route 4 witnessed a massive transformation of Muhlhauser Road, at the intersection of Mack and SR 4. Scheduled for completion in late 2004, the \$12 million project provided for a

bridge over the CSX Railroad tracks that parallel SR 4 to the east. In order to build the overpass, a tunnel also had to be created over Business Center Drive. More than 10 years in the planning, the project is a joint effort between the City of Fairfield, the Butler County Engineer's Office and the State of Ohio.



Crews made significant progress on upgrades at the Mack/Muhlhauser intersection with SR 4. The improvements include an overpass and tunnel.

1964



PHOTO BY EDNA ANTES

Circa 1960: Street Superintendent Al Hayden (right) supervises a crew at work.

1965

1965: Fairfield's Water Plant is expanded to produce up to 750,000 gallons of drinking water per day.

1965: The new Fairfield Municipal Building is opened on Pleasant Avenue at Wessel Drive. This photo was taken at a 1969 Flag Day event.



1966

1966: The Fairfield Lane Public Library opens in new facilities on Wessel Drive next to the Municipal Building.



Circa 1965: Fairfield's Police Officers.



Renovations at Fire Station Three provide facilities for a contemporary fire staff.



Station 3 work completes fire department upgrades

To better address the needs of today's fire fighters and state-of-the-art equipment, improvements were completed to Fire Station Three on Winton Road. The renovation and addition expanded the station by 2,500 square feet and provided dormitory space, shower facilities, restrooms and fitness facilities for a contemporary team of fire personnel. The improvements represented the final phase of upgrades to Fairfield's three fire stations.

City addresses issues along flood prone creek

After recurring issues of high water placed residents on edge along Pleasant Run Creek, Fairfield—with technical support from engineering consultants—made application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for a grant to purchase 23 homes considered at high risk for future flooding. Fairfield learned in 2004 that it was awarded a \$2.58 million grant that would be matched by nearly \$1 million to fully fund this \$3.44 program.

Fairfield was the only Ohio city to receive FEMA funding under this program and serves as a model for other communities. Studies continue into additional measures that can be undertaken to minimize the flood risk in the area. In addition, ongoing maintenance work continued along the creek to keep the channel clear.

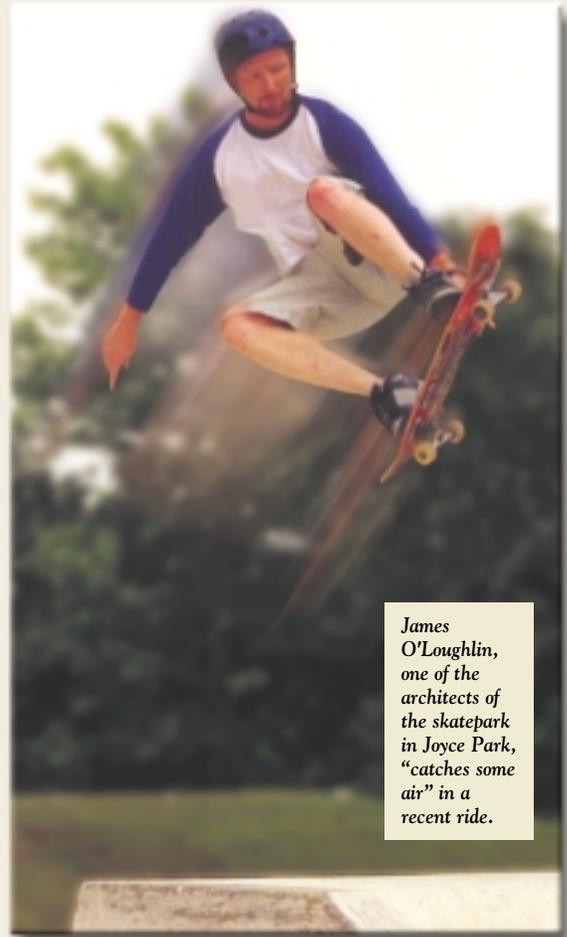
Site cleared for new Justice Center

City Council in 2003 identified the recently acquired site of the former Kroger's store as the future location of Fairfield's planned Justice Center. In order to facilitate redevelopment of the site, the structure that housed Kroger's and its adjacent Fairfield Mall was razed in 2003. Also during the year, preliminary planning began for development of a building that will be shared by Fairfield's Police Department and Municipal Court.

New skatepark answers hopes for area youth

It may not be viewed by some as a true legacy project, but the new Hamilton-

Fairfield Skatepark that was constructed during much of 2003 is regarded as a major milestone for area youth. Located within a 10-acre site on the south side of Forest Lake Lane at the entrance gate to Darrell Joyce Park, the skatepark was opened in the spring of 2004. The park is a cooperative effort between the City of Fairfield, the City of Hamilton and the Hamilton Community Foundation. The groups joined together to provide \$202,894 and the land necessary to make the park a reality.



James O'Loughlin, one of the architects of the skatepark in Joyce Park, "catches some air" in a recent ride.

1967

1967: The City dedicates its newly completed sanitary sewer system and treatment plant.



Circa 1960s: Fairfield's Joe Nuxhall makes a donation to benefit Fairfield Little League.

1968

1968: Wildwood Planned Unit Development gains approval.

1968: Fairfield's Water Plant is expanded to double its output to 1.5 million gallons daily.



1968: I-275 opens to traffic from Route 127 to SR 4. One of the overpasses is shown here during construction.

1969

1969: The State of Ohio opens the State Route 4 By-Pass, carrying traffic from south Fairfield to north of Hamilton.

1969: After careful review and consideration, Fairfield City Council adopts its first Master Plan.

Making Tomorrow Even Better

Fairfield bond rating gains Moody's upgrade

Fairfield's stability, growth, and financial outlook in 2003 earned the community an improved bond rating by the internationally respected Moody's Investors Service. After careful review of various aspects of government operations, Moody's upgraded Fairfield's rating to Aa2, even better than the highly respectable Aa3 rating previously held by the City.

Fairfield's higher bond rating means that bonds issued to fund large-scale projects carry a much higher level of financial security for

investors who buy the bonds, then receive payments – with interest – over future years to retire the debt. With the bonds carrying a higher level of security, the City pays lower interest payments on its debt obligations.

In making its bond upgrade, Moody's report cited several points which praised Fairfield's financial position, as well as its strong potential for continued economic development. The report cited that Fairfield's socioeconomic profile reflects per capita income and median family income at 117 percent and 122 percent of state averages, respectively, as well as an unemployment rate significantly below state unemployment rates.



Some members of the Fairfield Police Department gather to celebrate the national accreditation for which they worked over the past few years.

Police Department earns national accreditation

After four years of diligent effort to demonstrate attainment of 444 standards covering every aspect of police operations, the Fairfield Police Department earned national accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).



Accreditation standards assure the community that its police department meets specific criteria established by a national governing body comprised of law enforcement leaders, as well as involvement by leaders from business and government.

created by a terrorist's weapon of mass destruction. Taking advantage of a federal training program offered at no cost to the City, fire personnel attended training in post blast effects in New Mexico, radiological emergencies in Nevada, and various gas agents in Alabama.

Fairfield acts to protect drinking water supplies

In America's war on terrorism, defensive actions are mandated by the federal government. One such directive, an assessment of vulnerability, was accomplished in 2003, a year earlier than required by the Homeland Security Act. Using stringent guidelines prepared by Sandia Laboratories, a private research institute specializing in security issues, Fairfield determined that overall security at the water treatment plant complies with industry standards. The report regarding the water system is on file with the federal government as a classified security document.

Fire Department trains for WMD scenarios

Hoping the worst never occurs, the Fairfield Fire Department in 2003 prepared for the aftermath of disaster

1970

1971

1972



1970: The Fairfield Branch of the YMCA opens. Dignitaries gathered in late 1969 to install the cornerstone of the building.

Pictured left to right are Mayor Noah Creech, unidentified, unidentified, Mel Ruder, Harvey Goldsmith, Bennett Bartels and Sam Spoerl.

1972: Fairfield is selected by the Home Builders' Association for the 1972 Homearama, held at Windsor Village northwest of Resor and Winton Roads.



Circa 1971: A 1970 Cadillac life squad is parked outside Station One on Pleasant Avenue. At the time, it was staffed by EMTs of the volunteer department.

Bike/Hike Paths

Thanks to a \$600,000 grant in 2003 from the Ohio Department of Transportation, a two mile bike/hike path is being constructed from Waterworks Park, over the Pleasant Run Creek, west to the Great Miami, then north to Joyce Park. The grant also funded a spur off the main path to the football fields north at the bend in Groh Lane. Another path was opened in 2003 connecting Broadview Drive, along Pleasant Run Creek to Wessel Drive. A \$150,000 state grant also paid for 80 percent of the cost.

Entrance beautification installed on Route 4

With major road improvements nearing completion along State Route 4 near Muhlhauser, a \$760,000 grant from Ohio and the Ohio/Kentucky/Indiana Regional Council of Governments was secured in 2003 to install landscaping along the State Route 4 corridor in the vicinity of the Mack/Muhlhauser Road improvements. This project will welcome visitors to the City of Fairfield at a primary entrance from the City's southern border.

Public Utilities get latest state-of-the-art upgrades

With growing concern about possible effects of chlorine byproducts, the Fairfield Public Utilities Department introduced a state-of-the-art disinfection system for treated wastewater just as it is released by into the environment. Instead of chlorine, the system uses bright ultraviolet light.

In addition, the Public Utilities Department also introduced free online payment of utility bills for residents.

Brush/Limb options expanded in 2003

With the success of Fairfield's curbside brush pick-up program, a new service was introduced in 2003. For major cleaning projects, residents can request a City dump truck (or dump box unit) be left at their residence for overnight or weekend use. When the resident's job is complete, crews return for the truck or container and dispose of the materials. A full color brochure was mailed to each household to explain the various brush and limb programs.

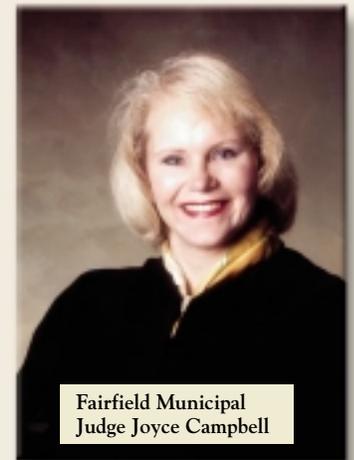
Ongoing services quietly make major impact

Annual reports traditionally focus on one-time significant projects that define a service year. Yet, the everyday services residents come to expect amount to significant contributions to improving the community. In 2003, crews worked 3,424 hours (including 836 overtime hours) to collect 6,800 cubic yards of leaves in the fall. Road crews were called out on 40 occasions to plow or treat icy roads. Thirty-seven streets were resurfaced (including repairs to four concrete streets). Drainage crews completed 27 small drainage projects, cleaned 937 feet of storm lines, and inspected 706 locations. Crews at the Municipal Garage maintained 257 City vehicles, which were driven more than 1,308,460 miles in 2003.

Municipal Court gains national recognition

The Fairfield Municipal Court celebrated its first graduate from the Treatment Alternative Court (TAC). The TAC Program is designed to serve 25 to 35 defendants per year whose misdemeanor offenses are the direct result of untreated mental illness. The nationally recognized diversion program affords mentally ill defendants treatment in lieu of a conviction or incarceration.

The Fairfield Municipal Court also continued to utilize community service as an alternative to incarceration for certain first-time, non-violent offenders. Community service saved limited jail space for violent or repeat offenders, avoiding the \$60 per day jail cost (amounting to an annual savings of about \$70,000). The program also contributed nearly \$48,000 worth of labor (calculated at minimum wage) for the benefit of the City of Fairfield, the Fairfield City Schools, and various non-profit groups.



Fairfield Municipal Judge Joyce Campbell

As another alternative to incarceration and to better utilize jail space and taxpayers' money, the Fairfield Municipal Court utilized a home incarceration program, when appropriate, with the costs paid for by the offenders.

1973

1973: Land is acquired on the west end of Hunter Road for a major park. Mayor William Harbin and Historian Esther Benzing survey the property that would later be named Harbin Park in memoriam to the Mayor.



1974



1973: Work is well underway on the widening of Nilles Road.

1973: Fairfield is again selected by the Home Builders' Association for the 1973 Homearama, held at Reswin Village southeast of Resor and Winton Roads.

1975

1975: After operating a roadside stand across from Fisher Body since 1973, Jungle Jim's establishes a 4,200 square foot permanent market on State Route 4.

1975: Fairfield is again in the spotlight as the location of the 1975 Homearama, held in Reswin Village, northeast of Resor and Winton Roads.



Amenities that Define a Community

Police cars and street signs gain new look

A new look was brought to Fairfield in 2003, with the installation of new traffic signal mastarms and introduction of a new design for police cruisers. The mastarms also include large, rear-lighted street signs for easy identification. The new design for police cars is a return to the "black and whites" of yesteryear... but don't be fooled by the classic look. Each unit is well equipped with a mobile data terminal, cellular communications, high tech radio gear, and well trained officers who are second to none.



Fire and Police units establish Honor Guards

In memorial tribute to fallen police officers, fire fighters, military personnel and veterans, the Police and Fire Departments each established their own Honor Guards. With meticulous precision through hours of training and rigorous drilling, the units have honored Fairfield through their participation in ceremonies



and memorial tributes. In spring 2004, the Fire Department's Honor Guard captured first place honors in regional competition.

Veterans Memorial offers fitting salute to heroes

In tribute to American Veterans, Fairfield unveiled the third phase of improvements to Veterans Memorial Park. Additional engraved paver stones comprise a walkway leading to a 10-foot monument honoring those who have served in the armed forces. Dedication of the new memorial garden area followed Fairfield's Memorial Day parade.



Red, White & KaBoom wows citywide parties

Thousands gathered in backyards and City parks to enjoy the annual Red, White and & KaBoom fireworks show over the July 4th holiday. The annual tradition attracted an estimated 11,000 people to festivals at Harbin Park, Village Green and the Aquatic Center, concluding with a spectacular aerial display staged by Rozzi's Famous Fireworks high above Harbin Park.

Citizen academies show police/fire challenges

During 2003, an estimated 45 area residents participated in Citizen Fire and Police Academies. The multi-week programs introduce citizens to real world issues faced by emergency and law enforcement personnel. A similar program was also instituted for students in the Fairfield Middle School.

"Wall Street Journal" makes Fairfield its home

A second piece of sculpture by of nationally known artist Glenna Goodacre entitled "The Wall Street Journal" was acquired in 2003 and placed in the Village Green Plaza near Symmes Tavern. The work depicts a man reading the famed business publication.

Ms. Goodacre sculpted the renowned Vietnam Women's Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. She also designed the Sacagawea Millennium Dollar Coin, a collector's item among coin enthusiasts. Goodacre's "Family" was acquired in 2002 and placed at the entrance to the Fairfield's Village Green at Pleasant Avenue and Wessel Drive.



1976

1977

1978

1976: In honor of the nation's Bicentennial celebration, Fairfield City Council meets in costumes of Colonial America. Antiques in the Council Chambers were provided by the Butler County Historical Society. The meeting followed a nostalgic dinner at the historic Symmes Tavern, built in 1852 at the corner of Pleasant Avenue and Nilles Road.



1977: Fairfield acquires the 18-hole Fairfield Golf Course on John Gray Road.

1976: During the year, 10 officers received training on emergency victim care. Sergeant Thall, left, and Patrolman Graft learn CPR from Instructor John Purvis, right.



1978: Mercy Hospital South opens (later named Mercy Hospital of Fairfield)

1978: Fire Station Three on Winton Road opens.

1978: Fairfield Charter Commission is elected to refine the manner in which City government is operated.

Fairfield continues its Tree City status in 2003

Thanks to the work of the Fairfield Community Forest Commission, the City was named as Tree City USA for the ninth consecutive year by the National Arbor Day Foundation. The Foundation also awarded Fairfield with the prestigious Growth Award for ongoing programs that preserve its urban forest.



Celebrations abound at Village Green Park

During 2003, programs were further enhanced at Fairfield's Village Green Park. In addition to a 16-week concert series, the Fire Department's Movies in the Park series, Fairfield Footlighters performances and Holly Days celebration, new programs were added to the schedule of activities. Among them were a Fine Arts Fair, performances by the Hamilton-Fairfield Symphony and the first annual September Dayz Festival. With the approaching opening of the Community Arts Center, additional programs will occur at the park.

Diverse programs offer fun to all ages in 2003

Recreation is hard work! Maybe not for participants, but it is for those arranging all the programs offered in 2003. Thousands took advantage of diverse programs throughout the City. Patrons played 67,018 rounds of golf at

the North and South Traces of Fairfield Greens. At the Aquatic Center, the 39,400 admissions comprised an eight percent increase in visitors over 2002. Lessons helped 650 children learn to swim. Summer Fun Camp, a 10-week program for children 6 to 15 years old, attracted 5,119 participants. At Marsh Fishing Lake, 6,751 patrons tested their skill in catching their share of 6,000 pounds of game fish stocked at the lake during the season. Scores of area adults took advantage of special group trips to Hawaii, the Caribbean and out West.



Fairfield Home Expo attracts 2,000 visitors

When the Building Division organized its first Home Expo, they had no idea how many people would be interested in attending the free program which spotlighted dozens of vendors who manned booths and gave out door prizes. Held at Receptions Conference and Banquet Center, the event proved so popular that it became an annual event.

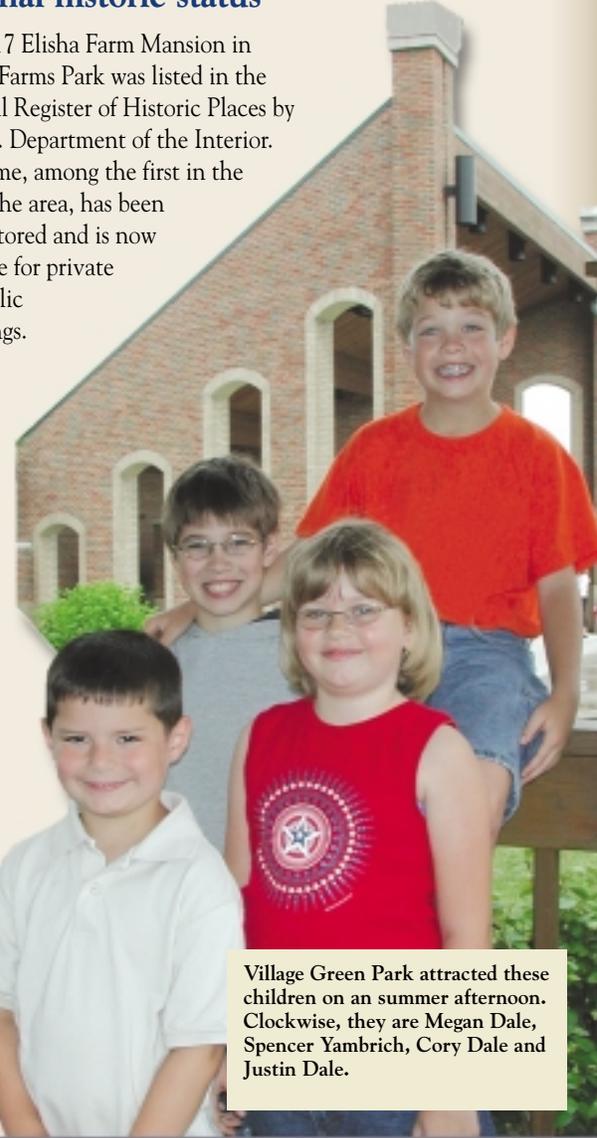
RASKALS hit Fairfield

Hundreds became RASKALS (Random Acts of Simple Kindness Affecting Local Seniors) to volunteer for spring and fall events that helped area Senior

Citizens and persons with disabilities with chores around their home. The RASKALS were introduced to the City in the spring to expand the opportunities to assist those members of our community.

Elisha Morgan gains national historic status

The 1817 Elisha Farm Mansion in Gilbert Farms Park was listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the U.S. Department of the Interior. The home, among the first in the first in the area, has been fully restored and is now available for private and public gatherings.



Village Green Park attracted these children on a summer afternoon. Clockwise, they are Megan Dale, Spencer Yambrich, Cory Dale and Justin Dale.

1979



1979: A training exercise at Mercy Hospital South involves area fire units, all of which would respond in a true emergency.

June 1979: Fairfield's City Charter is adopted.

1979: City of Fairfield initiates efforts to control flash flooding along Pleasant Run Creek.

1980

1980: The Fairfield City Council employs its first City Manager.

1981

Circa 1980: The Municipal Pool at the Fairfield Community Center on John Gray Road was a popular summer destination. Here, children appear to be receiving swimming instruction at the 5 foot end. The pool was replaced by the new Aquatic Center in 1997.

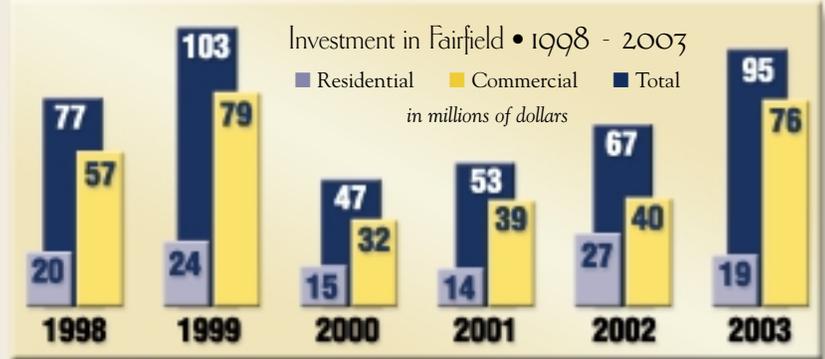


PHOTO BY JIM DENNEY

Great Foundations for Business Growth

Business continued at brisk pace in 2003

While the nation began to emerge from a sluggish economic time, Fairfield witnessed a continuation of a robust local economy made evident by important business starts and expansions. Based on valuations listed on building permits, a total of \$95 million dollars was invested in commercial/industrial and residential projects. The totals were second only to Fairfield's record year of 1999.



Expansion continues at Fairfield's Mercy Hospital

The \$54.6 million expansion of Mercy Hospital's Fairfield campus will add 100,000 square feet to this 25-year-old regional facility, enabling expansion of virtually every department. The

expansion not only will double the size of the hospital, but will allow the hospital to be elevated to become Butler



Mercy Hospital construction progresses toward the rendering below.



County's first and only open-heart surgery program. When completed in late 2004, the hospital will have a new entrance, lobby, gift shop, cafeteria and expanded office space for physicians. An additional 100 employees will be added to the existing 900 staff members, raising the hospital's payroll by an additional \$5 million annually.

Takumi leads Fairfield manufacturing growth

Throughout America, manufacturing jobs may be on the decline, but thanks to Japanese based Takumi Stamping on Seward Road 80 new manufacturing positions have been created by the firm's \$10.25 million dollar addition completed in 2003. With the 51,000 square foot addition and new jobs, more than 100 workers will be employed at the plant, which produces parts for the automotive industry.

Jungle Jim's expansion to offer ease of use

Already recognized as one of the top ten markets in the nation, the 185,000 square foot Jungle Jim's is surely destined to head to the top when work is completed in 2004 on an \$8 million, 90,000 square foot addition. The expansion will allow even more diversity to the store, but also will enable a reorganization that will offer customers a well organized "store within a store" where weekly groceries can quickly be purchased. For the more adventurous, side trips can be taken to the more exotic fares only available at



Jungle Jim's

1982



Circa 1982: Crews complete renovations of the north side of the Municipal Building. The entrance to the Fairfield Police Department, located in the north wing, is just to the right of the picture.

1983

1983: Paramedics begin 24-hour coverage.

1984



Circa 1983: An unidentified child begins her descent down the sledding hillside at Harbin Park.

the Jungle. The expansion will also accommodate several tenants adjacent to the food superstore. Among those are Fifth Third Bank, Starbucks Coffee and Maggie Moos Ice Cream.

Cincinnati Mills heads toward 2004 reopening

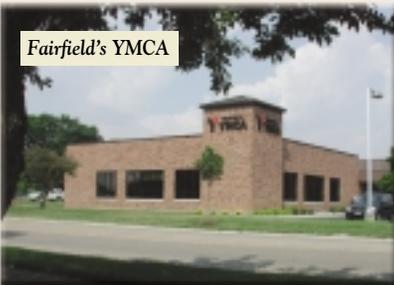
During 2003, a major metamorphosis was quietly transforming the former Forest Fair Mall into the soon-to-reopen Cincinnati Mills. The work currently underway represents an \$80 to \$90 million dollar investment in Fairfield and neighboring Forest Park.



Cincinnati Mills' new look

Fairfield YMCA addition offers more fitness space

At a cost of about \$2 million, the Fairfield YMCA on Bibury Road enhanced its fitness program with a 4,000 square foot addition. The expansion provided a for a brand new



Fairfield's YMCA

fitness area, therapeutic pool, aerobics room, expanded locker facilities and new teen suite.

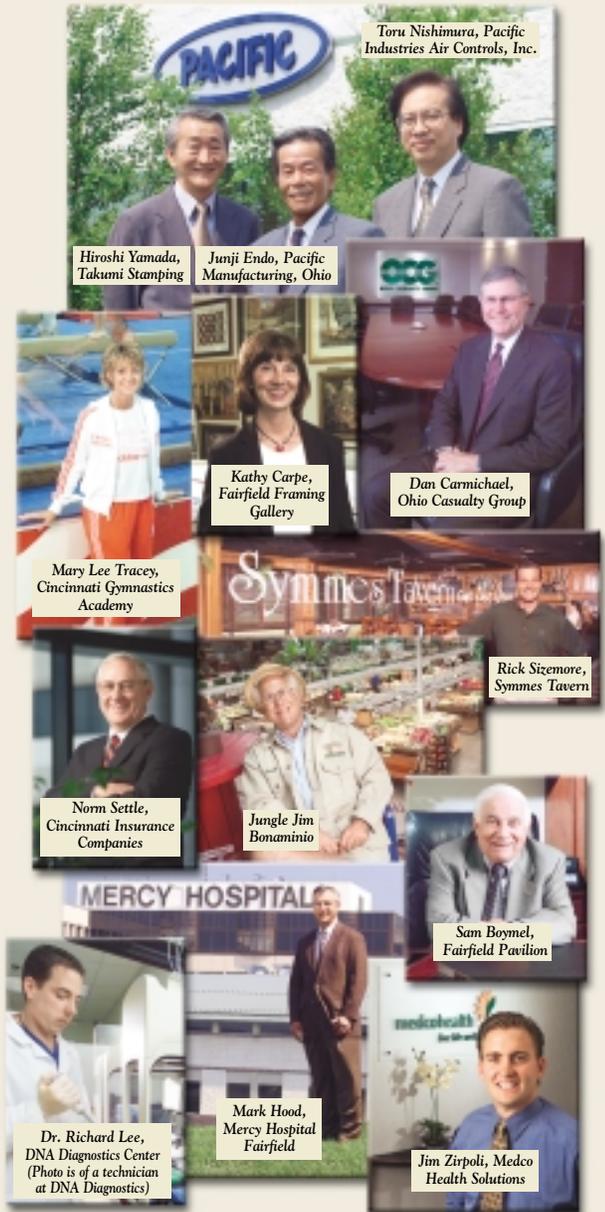
Companies announce plans for expansion

While major expansions help boost annual investment figures, a cumulative total of more modest plans by area firms combine to create a major impact on Fairfield's economy. Several firms announced projects that have a significant effect on the local economy: Brazing Concepts announced plans for a new manufacturing facility in the City; Color Resolutions International planned a combination of a new headquarters and production facility; Custom Distributors indicated it will create a new headquarters and showroom; Deveroes planned a new office and distribution operation; Foxtail Foods unveiled expansion plans at its production facility; and Parillo Performance started construction of a new office and production operation.

Area CEOs sing the praises of Fairfield in '03

Recognizing that personal recommendations of successful, local companies are the best form of promotion, the Fairfield Development Services Department created a publication featuring testimonials of local business executives to recruit even more quality companies into the City. The well designed publication offers

first hand endorsements from key company CEOs regarding the reasons their firms found Fairfield to be a great place for their operations.



Toru Nishimura, Pacific Industries Air Controls, Inc.

Hiroshi Yamada, Takami Stamping

Junji Endo, Pacific Manufacturing, Ohio

CCC

Kathy Carpe, Fairfield Framing Gallery

Dan Carmichael, Ohio Casualty Group

Mary Lee Tracey, Cincinnati Gymnastics Academy



Rick Sizemore, Symmes Tavern

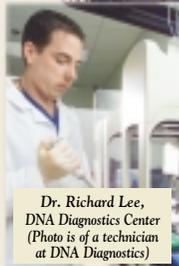
Norm Settle, Cincinnati Insurance Companies

Jungle Jim Bonaminio



Sam Boymel, Fairfield Pavilion

MERCY HOSPITAL



Dr. Richard Lee, DNA Diagnostics Center (Photo is of a technician at DNA Diagnostics)

Mark Hood, Mercy Hospital Fairfield

Jim Zirpoli, Medco Health Solutions

1985

1986

1987



1985: Construction begins on the first tower of Cincinnati Financial on Gilmore Road.

1985: Fairfield completes expansion of the Water Treatment Plant to increase production to six million gallons daily.

1987: After sending shockwaves throughout the region, Fisher Body begins the first phase of closing its Fairfield location. The closure is planned as a two-year process.

New Police/Court Facility design underway

Fairfield City Council provided direction in spring 2003 to begin design for a new Police Services and Municipal Court facility on the former site of Kroger's, a site acquired when the

food store moved to Village Green. The facility would provide adequate

space for these operations, which have outgrown their current location on State Route 4.



An artist rendering of the new police/court facility

New 30-acre park planned on River Road

Fairfield's purchase of approximately 30 acres of land off River Road will allow planning to begin for a major recreational facility along the Great Miami River near the Bolton Water Plant. Over time, the facility will offer water-based recreation and connect to nearby Marsh Lake via a bike/hike trail.

Plans underway for Cresentville Road work

A grant for \$1.45 million announced in 2003 cleared the way for engineering to begin on major improvements to the Cresentville Road intersection with State Route 4. Plans will add a northbound lane from Cresentville and a southbound lane approaching the intersection. The project, which will

be coordinated with Springdale, will improve access to I-275 from SR 4. Work is expected to begin in 2007.

Training facility planned for Fairfield fire fighters

To provide the training required to maintain safe operations in fire suppression, the Fairfield Fire Department is planning a training facility over the next several years. Planned near the City's Water Treatment Plant, phase one will provide a two-story residential module with two burn rooms for suppression training. The second phase will include the installation of a gas-burning module for live fire training, eliminating the need to burn ordinary combustibles. The third phase will add an attached four-story tower for training on high-rise, ladder and rescue operations.

Joyce Park to gain new north entrance

With the growing popularity of Joyce Park, a second entrance to the park is being coordinated by the Hamilton-Fairfield Task Force. Current long-range planning calls for a north entrance in the vicinity of St. Clair Avenue's termination into River Road.

Cable service agreements to be finalized in 2004

Fairfield's Cable Television Task Force in 2003 began the assignment of reviewing future needs and assessing

performance of Time Warner and Adelphia Cable (which provides limited service for specific private customers within Fairfield). Franchise agreements with both companies must be renewed by Fairfield in 2004, since each utilizes public rights-of-way for their distribution networks.

Needs assessment for Seniors undertaken

With Fairfield's Community Arts Center nearing completion, significant programming will be added to the already wide array of recreational opportunities afforded area residents. To better ensure that planning addresses the needs of Senior Citizens, the City contracted with the Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands at Indiana University in 2003 for a formal needs assessment to shape a significant Seniors program at the Center.

Improvements to Pleasant Run Creek area

While progress was made during 2003 to address the issue of flash flooding in residential areas along Pleasant Run Creek, the City continues to seek additional solutions to protect the impacted neighborhoods. Engineering consultants completed a detailed flood mitigation study for the Pleasant Run Creek area in 2004. This study provided information on what other options may be available for addressing the reoccurring flooding problem along the creek.

1988

1989

1990



1989: The City completes renovations of the former Duff's Restaurant on State Route 4, using the facility as its Justice Center, housing the Fairfield Municipal Court and Police Department.

1990: After outgrowing its original Fairfield location, the US Postal Service opens a new post office on Wessel Drive at Sandy Lane.

1989: The area's largest shopping destination, Forest Fair Mall, opens. The mall's name recently was changed to Cincinnati Mills as it repositions itself in the marketplace.

1990: The Fairfield Fire Department opens its new Headquarters on Nilles Road and moves from the original fire house on Pleasant Avenue.

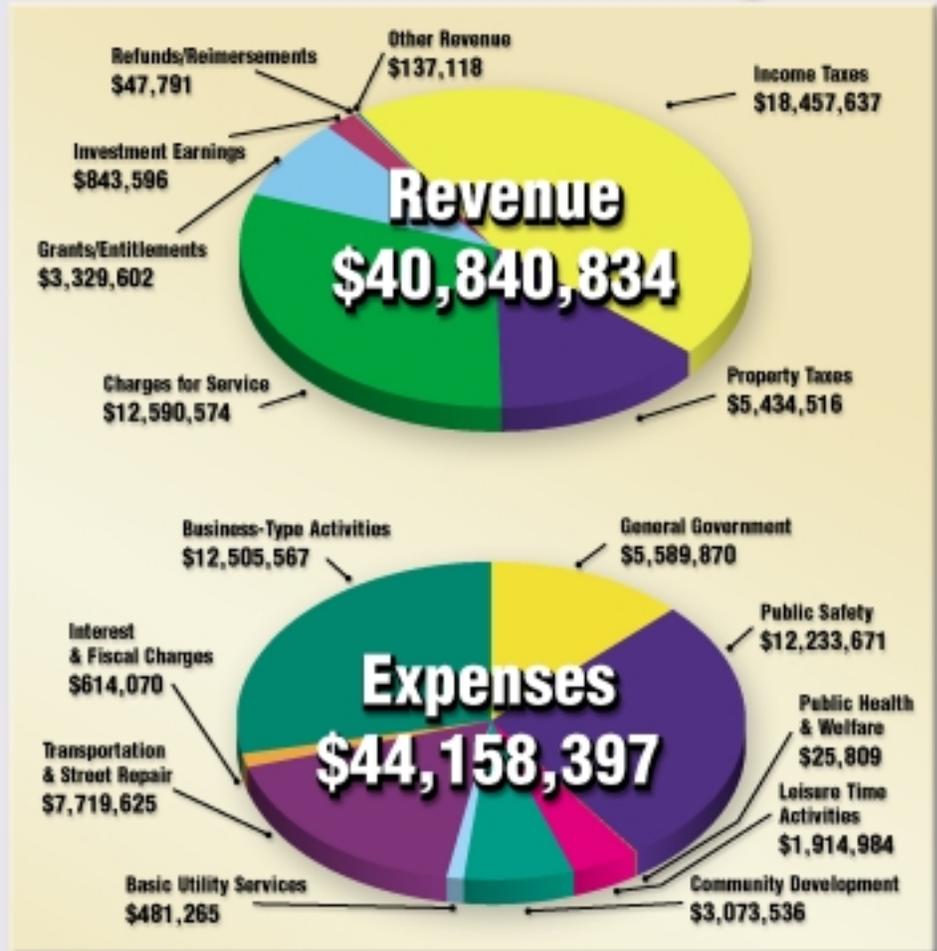
2003 Financial Report

Fairfield's 2003 operating budget amounted to \$45.1 million. In addition to regular operations, the City's administration prepared a five-year Capital Improvement Program totaling \$75.5 million, of which \$13.9 million was for projects programmed in 2003. By the end of the year, Fairfield had spent \$55.6 million in operating and capital improvement expenditures.

At year's end, the City's General Fund balance was approximately \$6.9 million.

Capital Outlay expenditures of approximately \$10.5 million included the design and initial construction phase of the City's new Community Arts Center (programmed at \$10 million), site work associated with the construction of the City's new Justice Center that will house the Police Department and Municipal Court, the purchase of a new fire pumper and ambulance vehicle, the construction of a new bike path as part of a growing network of hike/bike paths, intersection improvements along Pleasant Avenue at Patterson Boulevard, Sandy Lane and Nilles Road, the repainting of water towers at Winton Road and Seward Road, and the construction of a new storage facility at the Public Works Department.

In 2003, the Finance Department was responsible for the collection of approximately \$19 million in income tax revenues and \$11.1 million in user charges for water, sewer and solid waste services. In addition, the department is responsible for managing an investment portfolio of more than \$40 million which generated



\$843,000 in investment income in 2003.

The Finance Department is also responsible for servicing debt of more than \$37 million and maintaining records on fixed assets valued at approximately \$78.1 million.

Not only was the Finance Department able

to accomplish its responsibilities, efforts by the staff were recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association Award for Excellence in Financial reporting for fiscal year 2002. The award was the 17th consecutive year the City has received this prestigious annual recognition.

1991

1992

1993



Circa Mid 90s: Fairfield acquires a new E-1 Pumper. Standing (left to right) are Captain Jim Howell, Jamie Ruhl, Fire Chief Don Bennett. Kneeling is Chris Theders with Jazz the Firedog.

1993: Fairfield begins engineering of a massive \$15 million renovation of its sanitary sewer system.

1993: Fire Department begins 24-hour coverage at all three fire stations.

1993: Faced with potential annexations, Fairfield Township discusses a merger with the City of Fairfield. A Merger Commission is approved by voters for detailed study. The merger discussion ends in 1994 when the township seeks Village status (later reverting back to Township status).

Financial Assets

Cash & Investments: includes City funds deposited in checking accounts and invested in interest bearing accounts.

Receivables: represents the amounts owed to the City for revenues that have been earned.

Inventory: represents supplies and materials on hand.

Issuance Costs: prepaid costs for the issuance of debt.

Capital Assets: includes infrastructure, equipment, vehicles, land, buildings, and furniture that provide an economic benefit of greater than one year net of depreciation expense.

Financial Liabilities

Accrued Wages & Other Payables: represents amounts owed for employee payroll and amounts due to vendors who have supplied a service or good.

Deferred Revenue: includes property tax revenues and reimbursable grant revenues that are due to the City but not yet received.

Notes Payable & Long-Term Debt: represents the amount of notes and bonds, which the City has issued and that are still outstanding at year-end.

Net Assets

Invested in Capital Assets, Net of Related Debt: equals capital assets net of accumulated depreciation and any outstanding borrowings used for their acquisition.

Restricted Net Assets: assets are reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use by legislation, creditors, grantors or laws or regulations of other governments.

Unrestricted Net Assets: represents the difference between assets and liabilities not restricted for use.

Assets less Liabilities: The amounts in the chart at right represent the difference between the financial assets of the City and the liabilities which the City of Fairfield must pay. The amount indicated provides the net worth of the City of Fairfield.

Statement of Net Assets

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31

<u>Assets</u>	2002	2003
Cash and Investments	42,813,938	47,160,277
Receivables	13,316,300	11,488,468
Inventory	202,886	220,507
Issuance Costs	112,261	96,354
Land	8,695,166	12,430,487
Depreciable Capital Assets, Net	103,026,255	99,221,097
Total Assets	168,166,806	170,617,190

Liabilities

Accrued Wages and Other Payables	1,886,571	2,674,404
Deferred Revenue	6,937,768	6,196,768
Notes Payable	1,500,000	1,500,000
Long Term Debt	29,960,356	35,681,470
Total Liabilities	40,284,695	46,052,642

Net Assets

Invested in Capital Assets, Net of Related Debt	83,837,510	78,067,205
Restricted Net Assets	18,439,582	24,840,210
Unrestricted Net Assets	25,605,019	21,657,133
Total Net Assets	127,882,111	124,564,548

1994



1994: Voters in the Fairfield City School District approve a bond issue for a new high school. Major road improvements are planned to accommodate the increased traffic, including the realignment of the intersection of Holden Boulevard with Port Union and Gilmore Roads, shown in this 1997 photo.

1995

1995: City Council authorizes additional personnel for the Police Department, bringing employment to 50 sworn officers, nine full-time dispatchers and three part-time dispatchers.

1996



1996: The fishing lake opens at Marsh Lake Park.

Statement of Activities

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31

<u>Government-wide Revenues</u>	2002	2003
Income Taxes	18,714,424	18,457,637
Property Taxes	4,558,801	5,434,516
Charges for Services	12,246,334	12,590,574
Grants and Entitlements	6,759,463	3,329,602
Investment Earnings	1,172,763	843,596
Refunds and Reimbursements	304,120	47,791
Other Revenues	518,307	137,118
Total Government-wide Revenues:	44,274,212	40,840,834

Government Activities

General Government	5,977,427	5,589,870
Public Safety	12,033,560	12,233,671
Public Health and Welfare	25,576	25,809
Leisure Time Activities	2,051,333	1,914,984
Community Development	1,812,689	3,073,536
Basic Utility Services	521,909	481,265
Transportation and Street Repair	6,656,322	7,719,625
Interest and Fiscal Charges	539,959	614,070
Total Government Activities	29,618,775	31,652,830

Business-Type Activities

Water Utility	3,696,360	3,829,485
Sewer Utility	4,164,390	5,255,632
Solid Waste Utility	1,749,193	1,685,319
Recreation Facilities	1,680,839	1,735,131
Total Business-Type Activities: . . .	11,290,782	12,505,567
Total Government-wide Expenses	40,909,557	44,158,397
Change in Net Assets	3,364,655	(3,317,563)
Net Assets Beginning of Year .	124,517,456	127,882,111
Net Assets End of Year	127,882,111	124,564,548

Government-Wide Revenues

Income Taxes: includes proceeds of tax on earned income.

Property Taxes: includes real estate tax, personal property tax, state shared tax and a variety of miscellaneous and smaller taxes.

Charges for Services: includes payments such as utility services and refuse collection fees.

Grants and Entitlements: including state and federal pass-through grants and local government funds received from the county.

Investment Earnings: funds generated from conservative, safe investments of City funds on account.

Refunds and Reimbursements: monies repaid to the City for various reasons.

Other Revenues: a variety of other funding resources.

Government-Wide Expenses

General Government: expenses associated with administrative offices such as Council, City Manager, Law Director, Municipal Court and the Finance Department.

Public Safety: includes expenses for the Police and Fire Departments.

Public Health and Welfare: expenses for the Butler County Health District.

Leisure Activities: expenses associated with the Parks & Recreation Department.

Community Development: costs for planning and regulating building/zoning codes.

Basic Utility Services: the cost of street lighting.

Transportation and Street Repair: costs associated with the City's Public Works Department and maintenance of City streets.

Interest and Fiscal Charges: interest payments for debt issues.

This publication contains condensed financial reports and is not intended to be presented in conformance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). Information contained in this document is provided for summary purposes only. The City of Fairfield publishes a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) in conformance with GAAP which is inclusive of all funds. The CAFR can be obtained by contacting the Department of Finance; 5350 Pleasant Avenue; Fairfield, Ohio 45014.

1997

1998

1999

1997: New Fairfield High School on Holden Boulevard is dedicated.

1998: Fully restored, the 1817 Elisha Morgan Mansion is opened to the public.

1998: Merck-Medco opens on SR 4 in former Rink's Building.

1999: Fire Department hires nine new fire fighters, bringing personnel to 14 full-time and 62 part-time staff.



1997: The Fairfield Aquatic Center on Augusta Drive opens. Shown is the Competition Pool in final stages of construction.



1998: Mercy Hospital - Fairfield opens its state-of-the-art HealthPlex.



1998: The Ohio Casualty Group acquires the former Mercantile headquarters on Seward Road.



1999: Fairfield opens new Public Works Building on Gilmore Road in the former Pacific Industries facility.

Awards & Honors

City of Fairfield gains recognition in 2003



Innovation and leadership get attention. Two publications featured the City of Fairfield in 2003. The national publication *Public Management and Cities & Villages*, the official magazine of the Ohio Municipal League, focused on the

development of the Fairfield Village Green area. The features covered the overview of the planning process, historical issues, and special challenges faced by the City.

Aquatic Center earns Golden Guard Award

For the fifth consecutive year, the Fairfield Aquatic Center was recipient of the National Aquatic Safety Award from Ellis and Associates Aquatic Safety Consultants/National Safety Council. In addition, staff members Katie Argus, Heather Seyfried and Tom Harnden were singled out for their professionalism by winning prestigious Golden Guard Awards.

STAR Awards recognize outstanding service

Each quarter, Fairfield recognizes staff members for extraordinary public service. In 2003, Brian Rose was selected as the STAR of the Year. Others recognized for outstanding service included Don Bennett, Paul Clear, David Crouch, Ken Lombard, Kevin Mack, Bob Schappacher, Yvette Scott, George Sisson, Jim Turner and Jeff Zimmerman.



Circle Award is second only to the highly coveted SAVVY Award, regarded as the pentacle of government communications. The awards were given in recognition of Fairfield's website, referred to as the eGovernment Center, and in recognition of the City's electronic newsletter.

Fairfield employees offer generous support to area United Way campaign

If success is measured not by how much one has, but how much one helps, Fairfield City employees are winners in life. Together, City workers contributed more than \$15,000 to the Butler County United Way in its 2003 campaign, a 21 percent increase over the previous year.

eInfo team repeats SAVVY performance

The Fairfield eInfo team of Ben Warner, IT Manager, and Yvette Scott, the webmaster behind Fairfield's electronic communications, earned two highly prestigious Silver Circle Awards from the City-County Communications and Marketing Association (3CMA). The Silver



2000



2000: New Fire Station 2 on SR 4 opens. The 1962 building is razed.

2000: Cincinnati Financial completes second office tower.

2001

2000: Water Plant expansion is finished, raising daily output from six to 10.5 million gallons.

2000: Fire Levy passes. Paramedic service offered 24/7 at all three fire Stations.

2000: Veterans Park dedicated across from Fairfield Post Office on Wessel Drive.

2000: Village Green Park completed.

2001: Insight.2010 Steering Committee formed to provide strategic planning for the future.

2001: Fairfield's I-75 Connector opens with the extension of Symmes Road to Union Centre Blvd.

2002

2002: Mercy Hospital opens a Cardiac Center and begins major expansion project.



September 2001: The new Fairfield Lane Public Library opens at Village Green Park.

2002: Fairfield hires six new police officers, bringing the authorized strength of the Department to 60 sworn officers

2002: Fairfield North Trace opens as nine-hole executive golf course.

2002: Construction begins on major expansion at Jungle Jim's.

Reflections from 50 Years Ago

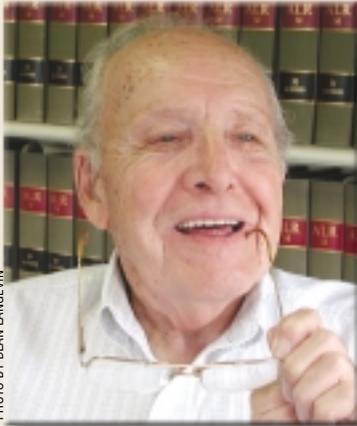


PHOTO BY DEAN LANGEVIN

Robert Wessel
Fairfield's First Mayor

As Fairfield looks to its 50th birthday in 2004, celebrations will mark the occasion and today's exciting new major projects will become a marker on a future timeline of tomorrow's generations.

Fifty years ago, when community founders began the task of forming their own government, they listed two primary goals: Protect the school system and protect their right to govern the community. Looking back, both goals were achieved.

"As Fairfield looks toward its Golden Anniversary, the Avenue of the Future is a shining path," said Robert Wessel, who was Fairfield's first mayor.

"The goal of a quiet, peaceful, rural ambiance has been augmented with a thriving, bustling community," he added. "The founders are proud and very pleased!"

Fairfield, Ohio (2004)



2003

2003: City Council approves former Kroger's site for new Police/Court facility.

2003: Construction begins on Fairfield's Community Arts Center.

**Award for
Outstanding
Achievement in
Popular Annual
Financial Reporting**

PRESENTED TO

**CITY OF FAIRFIELD,
OHIO**

For the fiscal year ending
December 31, 2002



Edward Harrison
President

Jeffrey L. Esser
Executive Director

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has given an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Financial Reporting to the City of Fairfield for its Popular Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2002. The Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports.

In order to receive an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Financial Reporting, a government unit must publish a Popular Annual Financial Report, whose contents conform to program standards of creativity, presentation, understandability and reader appeal.

An Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is valid for a period of one year only. The City of Fairfield has received a Popular Award for 2000 and 2001. We believe this annual report will continue to conform to the Popular Annual Financial Reporting requirements, and we are submitting it to GFOA.



City of Fairfield
5350 Pleasant Avenue
Fairfield, Ohio 45014

www.fairfield-city.org

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