

Portraits of



CITY OF FAIRFIELD, OHIO
2009 ANNUAL REPORT

2009 Mayor & City Council



Ronald A. D'Epifanio

MAYOR



Tim Abbott

COUNCIL MEMBER
AT LARGE



Timothy M. Meyers

COUNCIL MEMBER
AT LARGE



Michael Oler

COUNCIL MEMBER
AT LARGE



Michael D. Snyder

COUNCIL MEMBER
FIRST WARD



Martin H. Judd

COUNCIL MEMBER
SECOND WARD



Mitch Rhodus

COUNCIL MEMBER
THIRD WARD



Terry Senger

COUNCIL MEMBER
FOURTH WARD

Mayor & City Council

Fairfield's government services are directed by elected representatives, each from diverse backgrounds who have a common pledge to represent the will of the community. Over the years, their collective vision and direction have created a thriving, contemporary community to serve the needs of Fairfield's families.

Addressing a challenge becomes far more manageable with sound planning. Each year, Fairfield City Council reviews and revises a five-year capital plan that anticipates most needs. Elected officials are able to make informed decisions based on sound financial projections of best-case and worst-case scenarios.

In the hands of the elected officials rests the well-being of the community. It's no small task. The Mayor and City Council invest countless hours in meetings, public hearings and

informational sessions so that they can make the important decisions that set the course for the future. Then there are the hours each elected official invests in reading and studying as they weigh the positives and negatives of each calculated decision.

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 2009, Fairfield's City Council conducted 53 public meetings, including regular meetings, council/manager briefings, special sessions and public hearings. As a result of public input and careful Council consideration, 191 ordinances and resolutions were adopted during the year.

City Council is comprised of seven committees: Community and Public Relations; Development Services; Finance & Budget; Parks, Recreation & Environment; Public Safety; Public Utilities; and Public Works. Each Council member serves as a chairperson, a vice chair and a member on three separate committees.

Council and the Mayor are supported by one full-time staff member responsible for agenda preparation, information packets, media notification and record keeping of Council actions and legislative decisions. Staff also responds to information requests of the Mayor and each Council Member.

Leadership by Example

Fairfield City Council establishes policies and determines the direction of the City. One priority is to contain costs, so when Council Chambers were enlarged to accommodate growing audiences in 2009, Council led by example. Existing chairs were refitted with new cushions to save a significant cost over the purchase of new chairs.





Getting ready for the show

Chris and Melissa Wulfeck (Standing) and Fairfield residents Scott and Lori Leslie prepare for the Red, White & KaBoom fireworks at Harbin Park. Scott holds daughter Buttercup, with Megan Wulfeck in Lori's lap. Seated are Kara Wulfeck (left) and Neakailen Leslie.

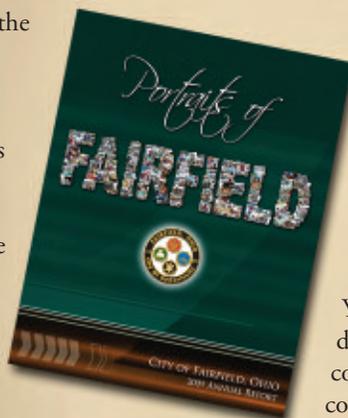
Portraits of Fairfield

Years from now, 2009 will be history. The events and the accomplishments will fade from memory. With this publication, the City of Fairfield pauses to take a snapshot as a report to the stakeholders of Fairfield. Even amid difficult times, the strength of the community shines brightly, not just in economic terms, but in the resolve of its businesses and residents to persevere.

Throughout history, difficult times have introduced new ways of thinking and have enabled us to determine what is really important in life. Is an expensive night out more satisfying than a quiet backyard gathering with friends and family? The answer can only be defined in the heart of each resident or business owner.

As America faces its greatest contemporary economic challenge, its citizens — many of them Fairfield residents — have collectively donated millions of dollars to help those in Haiti. They have volunteered to personally help a neighbor — either in good deed or to pay a debt. Fairfield City employees have joined together to exceed their 2009 goal during the most recent United Way campaign. A Fairfield police officer called to duty in the U. S. Army, stands firm against terrorism in the Middle East.

Yes, we live in difficult times. But those difficult times define the essence of who we are... individually and as a community. Just as each picture in this publication is comprised of thousands of tiny, colored dots, thousands of Fairfield residents and business owners collectively define Fairfield. Smile. It's time for a portrait.



Dear Residents and Businesspersons,

Whether you own a business, manage a household, or live alone, the sluggish economy has touched us all. At every level, we have been challenged, as never before, to achieve more with less, to better appreciate the basics, and to understand the importance of compassion for those who have experienced a personal economy that may be far worse than the national recession statistics convey as a whole.

Despite the reality that the City of Fairfield has also been impacted by the difficult economic times, its operations remain sound and the services you continue to receive have remained at the high level of quality that you have come to expect. Our highly trained public safety forces continue to provide for our security, road crews are addressing transportation needs, clean drinking water flows from the taps of utility customers at competitive rates, park programs are second to none and planning continues for better days ahead.

Fairfield's economic condition, however, is not a matter of pure coincidence. The City's solid financial base is the result of years of dedication to efficiency and sound planning. Long before the dark financial clouds began to gather, Fairfield's officials had already begun to renew their commitment to achieving higher efficiency at every level. As a team, and as individuals, the Mayor and City Council have challenged and empowered City staff to find new and improved ways to serve residents and businesses. For example, energy expenses have been trimmed, innovations have been explored and the collection of existing revenue sources is being maximized. This annual report will present the results of many of those initiatives.

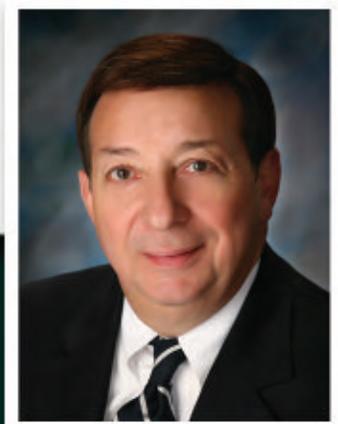
In light of today's economy, Fairfield has been fortunate to experience a relatively modest revenue decline, thanks to a diverse business community cultivated through decades of strategic economic development and advanced planning. This year's reduction in revenues has been largely offset by deferring several capital projects, coupled with an aggressive program to receive new state and federal revenue. Additional operational efficiencies and continued efforts to reduce other recurring costs have also been key to a successful formula.

We remain hopeful that the economists' forecast for brighter economic trends on the horizon will prove to be accurate. In the meantime, the City will remain fiscally vigilant to ensure that residents and businesses continue to have the best services at the lowest possible costs well into the future.

Yours sincerely,



Arthur E. Pizzano
City Manager



Arthur E. Pizzano

CITY MANAGER

Major City Council Achievements

Just as City Council holds the administration accountable, Council holds itself accountable for attaining goals they've set for themselves. Many of the goals in 2009 related to the weak global economy and the need for even more efficiency from each City department:

Maintenance of Property Values

Historically, economic recessions cause properties to fall into disrepair, promoting a general decline in neighborhood values already hard hit by the housing crisis. To ensure that property values in Fairfield remain as high as possible, City Council added a third zoning inspector during 2009 to proactively identify properties needing attention. A hotline was also introduced so that neighbors could report concerns that may — in turn — impact their property values.

By year's end, 9,611 inspections were performed, more than double the inspections completed in 2008. As a result, the effort identified 3,538 maintenance violations, three times more than found in 2008.

Transportation Projects

Three major projects progressed during 2009. Planning continued for the widening of By-Pass 4 within the City of Fairfield, with construction to begin in mid 2010. Planning also progressed for the I-275 interchange with South Gilmore and Winton Roads. Efforts also continued during the year on a central traffic control system to regulate traffic flow through 20 major intersections within Fairfield.

In all cases, Fairfield utilized local funding as leverage to attract significant state and federal funding.

Maintain Fairfield's Financial Strength

At a time many municipalities have seen financial ratings downgraded, Fairfield's financial vigilance maintained the City's excellent Aa2 bond rating. The economic strength of the City enabled outstanding debt to be refinanced at much lower rates. The City also maximized revenues by establishing a Joint Economic Development District (JEDD) with neighboring communities to share in

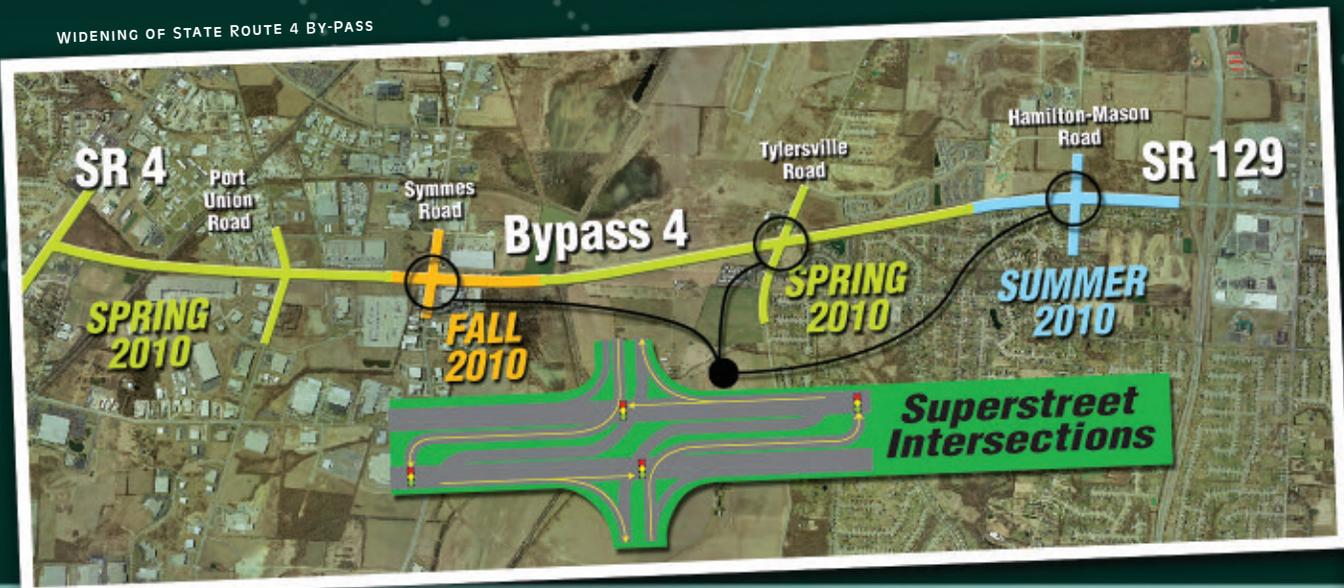
tax proceeds that result from cooperative developments. General Electric is planning to move hundreds of jobs to a facility within the JEDD, becoming Fairfield's ninth largest employer. City Council also directed that the City budget maintain a 25 percent fund balance carryover by the end of 2010. The most recent budget adopted by Council for 2010 achieves the goal.

Promote Economic Development

Through a partnership with the Fairfield Chamber of Commerce, the City joined with businesses along State Route 4 to undertake an "Explore Route 4" advertising campaign to promote business along the SR4 corridor. In addition, the effort to beautify the SR 4 corridor in the southern part of the City has been expanded to add landscaping and other visual improvements to the northern SR 4 corridor. Most notably is the sign over SR 4 that was designed to screen the railroad overpass at St. Clair Avenue.

The City also created a Tax Increment

WIDENING OF STATE ROUTE 4 BY-PASS



Financing District in order to partner with the owner of the Fair Plaza Shopping Center on Patterson Boulevard in the Town Center area. The agreement has paved the way for the much of the shopping center to be demolished so that a new senior citizen housing complex can be constructed in its place. The cooperative agreement has received wide

media attention as a model for public-private partnerships to revitalize areas of a community.

Increase Online Services

Significant improvement has been completed on Fairfield's e-tax filing system, enabling residents to more easily

log into the online feature and complete onscreen tax forms that eliminate common errors made on paper forms. Utility customers during 2010 also will see new features when logging in to pay for utilities online. Not only will they have an even higher level of security, they will be able to review past utility usage to see trends that may help them conserve water.

Goals for 2010

A summary of Council Priorities of Interest to Residents

Economic & Community Development

Many communities place an emphasis on business retention. While the level of satisfaction of local employers always is important, City Council is also concerned that Fairfield residents are equally satisfied with their hometown. To ensure ongoing citizen satisfaction, Council has directed that a residential retention program be addressed, including such issues as property maintenance, redevelopment, and overall quality of life for residents. The effort will benchmark demographics (*i.e. age, economics, neighborhood crime trends, etc.*) and establish measurable data to monitor results and trends.

Public Safety

While Fairfield's Fire and Police Departments operated at full staff in 2009, City Council has renewed its commitment to residents and business owners in 2010 to even further improve the safety of the community.

This goal reinforces the City's efforts to utilize all resources — including new technologies — in the most efficient manner possible.

Parks & Environment

As residents and businesses anticipate better economic times, City Council has underscored the importance of affordable recreational opportunities for residents. Already recognized in the region for its premier facilities and programs, City Council has directed that even more quality of life events and attractions be introduced, all with an environmentally friendly focus.

Continued Operational Excellence

Recognizing that there is always room for improvement, City Council has challenged each City department to evaluate and further improve efficiency and communication. Departments have been directed to establish benchmarks for measuring progress during 2010.

Utility/Public Works Infrastructure

Utility services and public works comprise the life-blood of a thriving community. City Council has directed that Fairfield's utility and public works infrastructures be reviewed to ensure sustainability so that both efficiently meet the ongoing needs of residents and businesses.

Community Relations

City Council has directed that the City seek ways to foster cooperative projects with the school district to promote economic development and — ultimately — the creation of additional jobs.

Development Services

After defying national economic trends the past few years, overall construction in Fairfield slowed in 2009. During 2009, \$19 million in new construction was reported, a sharp decline from the \$47 million invested in 2008. The residential housing market, however,

did show improvement with \$8 million invested in residential construction, up from the \$6 million invested in 2008.

Major Developments

Ohio Casualty Group: A division of Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, the Ohio Casualty Group continued progress on a \$10 million interior improvement project at its Seward Road campus. Once completed in 2010, the company projects employment to increase from the present 800 employees to 1,200.

Iwata Bolt USA: A new \$10.5 million facility on Union Centre Boulevard opened in 2009, enabling the Japan-based company to begin relocating operations to Fairfield from locations in California and Vandalia, Ohio. At least 50 new jobs will be created at the plant over three years. Iwata Bolt USA manufactures and distributes metal bolts and fasteners for the automotive and consumer products industry.

Takumi Stamping: After outgrowing a leased facility on Seward Road, the company finished construction of a new \$8 million headquarters on Seward Road, north of its current location. Along with its other facilities in Texas and Canada, the company produces metal auto parts for Toyota. The new 150,000 square foot building will retain 300 workers in Fairfield and create an additional 25 new jobs.

Port Union Commerce Park: National Developer DCT Industrial completed the first phase of its commercial development along the border of Fairfield and West Chester. The development will eventually house 1.7 million square feet of space. The first phase includes a 290,000 square foot facility.

Redevelopment

With limited vacant ground available for development, improvements to current buildings become more critical to maintaining a vibrant business environment.



PORT UNION COMMERCE PARK



LIBERTY MUTUAL'S OHIO CASUALTY GROUP





Fairfield Home Expo

The popular Fairfield Home Improvement Expo was offered for its seventh year during April 2009. The event features City departments and local companies who showcase various home improvement services.

Patterson Drive Initiative: The creation of a 150-acre Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District north of Nilles Road was the catalyst to begin the redevelopment of the 1960s-era Fair Plaza Shopping Center site on Patterson Drive. Owner Neyer Properties demolished half of the plaza and unveiled plans for a 120-unit, three story senior housing complex, along with an adjacent condominium development.

State Route 4 Projects: Businesses along State Route 4 can now benefit from the designation of the corridor as a Community Reinvestment Area, offering property tax abatements for significant renovations. After completion of several beautification projects along the southern corridor of State Route 4, similar projects will be undertaken in the northern corridor. One of the projects includes perimeter landscaping at Cornerstone Plaza (formerly Hicks Manor Shopping Center). Attractively landscaped designs have also been completed just north of Jungle Jim's with the opening of the GE Credit

Union and a building containing medical offices and a Chipotle Mexican Grill.

Property Inspections

During recessionary times, properties can fall into disrepair, further impacting values in an already declining market. To ensure properties are maintained, the City of Fairfield has redoubled efforts to inspect properties and respond to neighborhood concerns.

During 2009, 9,611 inspections were undertaken, more than double from 2008. As a result of this proactive approach, violation notices have more than tripled, totaling 3,538 in 2009. Recognizing that property owners may be hard pressed to hire a contractor, inspectors often go beyond their primary duty to talk with an owner about ways to address a violation. In some cases, resource information is provided so that a financially qualified property owner can access community services to remedy a violation.

Comprehensive Plan

The City's 20 Year Comprehensive Plan serves as a map into the future. Since its development in 1966, the document has only been updated twice. After 25 years since its last revision, City Council ordered a major review of the document. After a year of review, the plan was adopted projecting general plans and policies regarding future development, transportation needs, housing, utilities, schools and City services.

National Accreditation

During 2009, the Fairfield Development Services Department committed its Building and Zoning Division to achieve accreditation through the International Accreditation Services. The goal is to earn certification during 2010, distinguishing the Building and Zoning Division as the first in Ohio to earn accreditation.

Public Utilities

During 2009, the Fairfield Public Utilities Department produced and distributed 2 billion gallons of drinking water to Fairfield residents and businesses. The Wastewater Division treated 1.9 billion gallons of sewage to stringent federal standards before releasing the treated effluent into the Great Miami River.

Among Lowest Rates in the Region

Consistently, Fairfield water and sewer rates have been the lowest in Butler County and among the lowest in all of southwestern Ohio. According to a 2009 survey by the City of Oakwood, Fairfield has the second to the lowest combined rates for water and sewer costs out of 63 systems in the annual survey.

Economies of Service

With the ongoing challenge to reduce costs and maximize efficiency, a number of initiatives were introduced during 2009. The Public Utilities Director moved from the Municipal Building to the Water Plant on Groh Lane to create a more centralized operation. For the convenience of customers, the Billing Office remained at the Municipal Building. To reduce staff time and travel between the Billing Office and the Water Plant for service requests, an electronic system was introduced to communicate service needs.

With the extra effort of a dedicated staff, overtime requirements were significantly curtailed to reduce operational costs. A new partnership agreement was initiated with Duke Energy that will trim energy costs at

the water and wastewater plants by \$486,000 over a 26-month period.

Updating Infrastructures

Fairfield has a crew of workers who inspect, clean and update aging water and sewer lines. Many underground networks can be re-lined without major construction. In some areas, aging networks are simply too small to adequately serve the growing demands, such as in the Hicks Manor Subdivision. During 2009, major water line replacements were installed to better serve the neighborhood.

Continuity of Service

Recognizing that key employees retire or accept employment outside the City, the Public Utilities Department has begun a program to encourage staff members to cross train in various disciplines and seek progressively higher operator certifications. Having a well trained staff helps ensure seamless transitions in the event a key management official leaves a position.

Emergency Generators

The Water and Sewer Divisions continued preparedness for operations during regional emergencies which may interrupt normal power supplies for extended periods. By the end of 2009, emergency generation equipment had been installed at all wastewater stations. In addition, emergency equipment was secured to operate a second groundwater well. Emergency capabilities were successfully tested in September when water and wastewater operations were powered for a 24-hour period without outside power. The test is conducted annually in September.

Rolling up their sleeves to save tax dollars

Repurposing a room as a lab office at the Wastewater Treatment Plant was going to cost \$45,000 for outside contractors, so City workers decided to do it themselves to save \$20,000. The workers were (left to right) Randy Hassler, Larry Whittman, Jason Hunold and (kneeling) Brad Abner.



Public Works

With 376 lane-miles of roadways, four public buildings, and 288 vehicles, Public Works has a lot to maintain. Add to that the task of stormwater management, snow removal, brush/leaf pick-ups and storm clean-up, the task can sometimes be overwhelming. Keeping up with everyday needs in itself is an achievement. In addition to ongoing responsibility, the Public Works Department also accomplished several major tasks during 2009.

Major Projects

Flood Control: The City of Fairfield, with the cooperation of Performance Toyota, AurGroup Credit Union, and the Fairfield City Schools, completed work on a stormwater retention basin near the intersection of Port Union Road with Holden Boulevard and South Gilmore Road. Designed with a capacity for future development in the area, the retention basin was installed to address flooding issues in the aftermath of heavy rainfall.

River Road Improvements: In spring 2009, when the Butler County Engineer's Office planned to replace a bridge on River Road near the Bolton Water Plant, the Public Works Department took advantage of the scheduled road closure to improve and relocate River Road away from the Great Miami River. The road had been closed on prior occasions due to erosion along the riverbank.

State Route 4/Crescentville Road: Improvements to the southern-most corridor of State Route 4, including the intersection with Crescentville Road, were completed during 2009.



The project was coordinated with the Ohio Department of Transportation and the City of Springdale.

Ongoing Upgrades: More than 13 lane-miles of roadway were resurfaced and nearly seven miles of curbs were replaced during 2009. The annual resurfacing program was undertaken at a cost of \$1.8 million. The Public Works Department has introduced the use of such emerging technologies as asphalt rejuvenators and inter-layers to extend the life of asphalt, reducing the frequency of repaving.

Windstorm Aftermath

After the September 2008 hurricane-force winds caused widespread damage, Public Works personnel — with support from other City departments — logged in 6,400 hours of work over a five week period. The overtime was costly to the City, which documented its costs in a request for reimbursement from the Federal

Emergency Management Agency. In 2009, the City received nearly \$500,000 in federal funds to offset the costs of clean-up.

The extended power outages from the 2008 windstorm also prompted Public Works to initiate a five-year plan to install emergency power sources to operate traffic signals at all major intersections.

Environmental Awareness

The Public Works Department replaced 97 lighting fixtures with high efficiency units at its North Gilmore Road complex. At a cost of \$25,722, the new fixtures will quickly pay for themselves by saving \$5,000 in energy costs annually.

The Public Works Department continues to utilize used motor oil to heat the maintenance garage. In 2009, the use of about 2,000 gallons of waste oil saved an estimated \$3,600 in energy costs.

Parks & Recreation

Fairfield maintains 35 parks and recreation facilities, including 9-hole and 18-hole golf courses, the Community Arts Center, Aquatic Center, the historic 1817 Elisha Morgan Mansion, Marsh Fishing Lake, bike/hike paths and two historic cemeteries.

Free annual programs during 2009 provided priceless opportunity for seasonal fun at such events as Red, White & KaBoom fireworks, Pumpkin Patch and the Easter Eggs-travaganza, all based at Harbin Park. A 16-week series of summer concerts offered free entertainment at Village Green Park. Monthly movies were offered at Village Green Park following safety displays and demonstrations. Other free events at Village Green Park included the Swinging on the Green Jazz Series, Fine Arts Fair, Gospel on

the Green, Custom Car Show, a performance by the Hamilton-Fairfield Symphony Orchestra, a Hero's Ride event and the annual Holly Days Celebration.

Organized programs and classes at the Community Arts Center attracted more than 65,000 participants in 2009. The theater hosted 84 performances attracting 15,516 patrons. Nationally recognized artists performing at the Center included Poco, Roger McGuinn and Colin Hay. A new event unveiled in 2009 was the Celtic Cultural Fair, an event planned for return in 2010.

Black Bottom Park

A 2005 purchase of 31 acres along the Great Miami River is closer to becoming the City's newest park after

the City contracted with Bayer Becker Engineers in 2009 to prepare construction plans for access points off River Road. The park, acquired from Martin Marietta Aggregate, Inc., would become Fairfield's first park along the Great Miami River. Construction plans will be ready for bidding in 2010.

Nuxhall Pavilion at Waterworks Park

To honor the memory of "Fairfield Joe," the City of Fairfield dedicated the Nuxhall Pavilion at Waterworks Park, the home of the Fairfield Youth Baseball Association's baseball program. The Pavilion replaced a 1960s concession stand, providing a perfect location for a bronze casting of "the Ol' Lefthander" showing two children how to throw a baseball.



Dedication of Nuxhall Pavilion

A new concession area at Waterworks Park honors the memory of Fairfield's Joe Nuxhall with a bronze casting of the "Ol' Lefthander." Ceremonies included the Fairfield Police Department Honor Guard, Kim Nuxhall (left) and former Cincinnati Red Sean Casey (right).





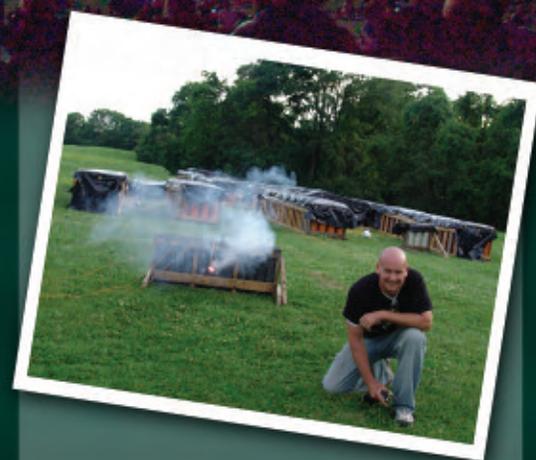
Opening ceremonies featured Kim Nuxhall and former Cincinnati Reds player Sean Casey.

Public Safety Tribute

Plans progressed for the development of a memorial honoring Fairfield's public safety personnel. The memorial will be constructed on property at the southwest corner of Nilles Road and Sandy Lane adjacent to the Fairfield Justice Center. The focal point of the memorial plaza will be a bronze casting depicting public safety personnel. The initial phase of the tribute is planned for 2010.

Tree City USA

For the 15th consecutive year, Fairfield has been designated as a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation. To receive the Tree City USA designation, a community must meet four standards: having a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, a comprehensive community forestry program and an Arbor Day observance.



Fire on the mountain!

Fairfield's premier event, Red, White and KaBoom, celebrated America's Independence Day with City events at Harbin Park, Village Green and the Aquatic Center. Above, Rob O'Brien of Rozzi's Famous Fireworks launches a safety charge before the show to test wind conditions.

Fire & Emergency Services

During 2009, Fairfield's Fire & Emergency Services responded to 6,846 calls for help, down slightly from the 7,000 calls in 2008. Over the year, 4,684 responses were made for medical emergencies and 2,162 responses were made to fire calls.

Frontline Advanced Lifesaving Equipment

When a medical emergency happens, every second counts, which is why some medical runs are first answered by the arrival of a fire truck in the event one of Fairfield's three life squads is not readily available. Three of Fairfield's front-line fire trucks are now equipped with the technology and personnel certified in care that may require Advanced Life Support (ALS).

Each of the three trucks has ALS medications, advanced airway equipment, and a 12-lead ECG defibrillator, the kind of equipment carried on each squad.

Perpetual Training

Firefighters and Paramedics engage in ongoing training as they constantly prepare for their next run. During 2009, three Emergency Medical Service (EMS) lieutenants were designated, all of them certified as EMS instructors. They play an important role in providing the training necessary for each of the personnel to gain critical EMS-Basic or EMS-Paramedic recertification every three years. In addition, quarterly classes are offered featuring an area physician who covers specific topics from cardiac emergencies to child birth.

In addition to medical training, fire

personnel also train on other skills with great regularity. A new pump simulator was a key acquisition during 2009, providing operators real-life scenarios they could — and do — encounter during a major fire event. The \$52,000 simulator uses a 2,000 gallon water tank that is connected to a pumper truck, with hose lines reconnected back to the tank. When the pumper truck begins operation, the simulator can challenge the operator with the routine opening and closing of nozzles, an occasional hose kink, a burst hose, or a failed water supply.

The portable unit can be set up at any fire station so that personnel can train without going out of service. Recycling the 2,000 gallons of water during the training also saves the use of 200,000 gallons of water which otherwise would be sprayed on the ground during a traditional eight-hour pumper training session.



PUMP SIMULATOR

Quietly Serving

Firefighters are regularly seen at a variety of community events. Bicycle-based paramedics are always front and center at major events, such as the Independence Day fireworks display, MASC Soccer Tournament, and the Drum & Bugle Corp competition. Firefighters also present safety demonstrations and mingle with the children attending the Fire Department's monthly Movies in the Park at Village Green Park on the first Friday of the summer months. They are also seen "passing the boot" for local charities and helping with weekly track practice for the local Special Olympics.



Safety Services now

A widespread emergency results in initial chaos. Imagine trying to coordinate hundreds of first responders without the benefit of direct communications, which has always been a problem... until now.

During 2009, Fairfield — and all of Butler County emergency operations — began using a new, state-of-the-art 800 MHz digital radio system, which offers greatly increased clarity, wider range and multiple ground channels to coordinate different parts of an operation. Simply put, emergency responders can now communicate directly with each other on

FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC MATT SCHUMANN

Police Services

The City of Fairfield is served by a force of 61 sworn peace officers supported by a civilian staff of 21 full-time and 10 part-time personnel. The Fairfield Police Department maintains high visibility and employs a proactive strategy to prevent crimes whenever possible.

CALEA Reaccreditation

To ensure citizens that the Fairfield Police Department operates with the highest of standards, the Department achieved its initial accreditation in 2003 by the highly respected national Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). To maintain this prestigious accreditation, the Department demonstrated strict compliance with 371 standards of operations during a five-day visit in 2009 by a three member assessment team. The team found that the Fairfield Police Department had met or exceeded CALEA standards, granting a three-year reaccreditation.



Crime Rate Decline

The Fairfield Police Department responded to 31,583 calls for service, up sharply over the 28,203 calls for service in 2008. While calls for service were up, violent crime (*homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assault*) declined in 2009.

Instances of serious crime have declined in Fairfield since the mid-1990s, when more than 3,000 crimes were reported. In 2009, a total of 1,908 such crimes were recorded. Additionally, the number of arrests made have declined. Adult arrests dropped from 1,663 in 2008 to 1,527 in 2009. Juvenile arrests dropped significantly from 497 in 2008 to 387 in 2009.

Cost reduction

Ever mindful of the need to be judicious steward's of limited tax dollars, the police department continues to seek ways to economize. During 2009, Fairfield partnered with the Hamilton Police Department to increase the training available to Fairfield police



Involvement

Fairfield Police offer programs that interact with residents, among them are a Safety Day and personal defense training.



officers without substantial capital investments.

The training facility has provided officers an ongoing opportunity for physical and weapons training.

SWAT Team

Another cost saving measure was the use of a joint SWAT team staffed by Fairfield officers, along with officers from the Hamilton and the Miami University Police Departments. During 2009, the Fairfield Police Department contributed five officers and \$10,000 toward this regional team.



using digital radios

the same radio. Previously, a variety of radios had to be juggled to communicate with each frequency.

Fairfield police and fire personnel now use the advanced digital communications equipment and can better communicate among all departments in Butler and Hamilton Counties during a mutual response to a widespread disaster. In addition, Fairfield's Public Works Department is considering a similar switch so they can also coordinate efforts during emergencies, such as the 2008 windstorm that knocked out power to the region for days.



OFFICER NATALIE COCKFIELD

Municipal Court

The caseload in the Fairfield Municipal Court increased in 2009. The Court, which also hears cases initiated by some county and state officers, presided over 305 felony matters, up only slightly from the 301 cases in 2008. Misdemeanor cases jumped from 3,822 in 2008 to 4,397 in 2009. Cases involving operation of a motor vehicle while intoxicated dropped sharply from 691 in 2008 to 493 in 2009.

During 2009, the Fairfield Municipal Court processed 3,814 traffic offenses, sharply lower than the 4,500 cases in 2008. Additionally, the Court also adjudicated 1,837 civil and small claims cases, also lower than the 2,136 cases in 2008.

With the troubled economy, the Court reported a significant decline of total receipts, dropping from \$3,446,900 in collections for various fines and fees in 2008 to \$2,858,792 in 2009.

Community Service Savings

Increasingly, the Court is far more than just a place where guilt or innocence is determined. Today's society demands that justice be served, but also expects a sentence, when appropriate and effective, to include help that prevents a defendant from returning to court.

While violent offenders understandably face incarceration, non-violent defendants may receive a fine and/or a sentence of monitored house-arrest, mandated participation in therapy/counseling, community service or probation.

During 2009, those sentenced to community service provided \$63,510



Judge Joyce Campbell
FAIRFIELD MUNICIPAL COURT

worth of clean-up work to community entities (*figured at minimum wage of \$7.30/hour*). A comparable jail sentence would have cost Fairfield taxpayers \$65,250 in jail costs (*figured at \$60/day per prisoner*). Community Service Programs are credited with saving taxpayers \$128,760 in labor for necessary

clean-up assignments and averted jail fees.

New OVI Program

After ten years of successful outcomes with an alternative court for non-violent mentally ill defendants within the Fairfield Municipal Court, a similar program was introduced in early 2009 for repeat offenders arrested for operating a vehicle while intoxicated. The program, named the STAR Program (*Sobriety/Treatment/Accountability/Recovery*), is funded by a grant from the Ohio Department of Public Safety. The goal of the new program is to provide effective treatment and supervision that holds the defendants accountable.

Learning about the Judicial System

Local students see the court first hand during field trips and tours provided by the Fairfield Municipal Court.



The Finance Department is responsible — to the penny — for all City accounting functions. Ongoing audits — internal and external — ensure the accuracy of every financial record. This annual report is an abbreviated summary of a much more detailed document known as the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) available for download at www.fairfield-city.org (*Departments > Finance > Budget & Reports*).

For the past 22 years, Fairfield's CAFR has earned the Award of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the nationally respected Government Finance Officers Association.

The Finance Department is also charged with the responsibility of making online information more responsive to citizens and businesses. During 2009, two areas received significant upgrades:

Online Utility Account Management

Residents already had the benefit of paying for utility services online. During 2010, City Council has directed that residents have on-line access to their account history so they can review usage trends in their household, giving customers another tool to gauge conservation efforts. The upgrade, expected to be in place by the end of September, will also introduce an even higher level of on-line security.

E-Tax filing System Improvements

Filing City taxes online will be easier in 2010, thanks to resident suggestions for further improvement to the City's e-tax filing system. A simplified log-in process has been implemented and online forms have been improved to allow residents to complete their City taxes electronically. The on-screen forms help filers minimize errors commonly made when completing paper forms manually.

The City's audited financial statements are generally completed in July, or approximately 6 months after the end of the fiscal year, with the official audit report completed soon thereafter.

Therefore, the following overview of the City's financial operations for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009, is presented on a cash basis rather than in conformance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). For more detailed information regarding the City's finances, please contact the Fairfield Finance Department or visit the City's website, www.fairfield-city.org (*City Services > Publications*).

Where the Money Comes From...

The major sources of revenues for the City include income tax, charges for services, grants and entitlements and property taxes (*see chart and table on next page*). The total revenues for fiscal year 2009 were \$52,470,451. As reflected in the table, all revenues were down with the exception of charges for services. This

decrease in revenues, other than charges for services, is attributed to the state of the national economy. The increase in charges for services is attributed to water, sewer and solid waste rate increases.

Where the Money Goes...

The two largest program functions in 2009 were Security of Persons and Property and Capital Outlay (*see chart and table on page 17*). Security of Persons and Property contains both the Police and Fire Departments' budgets and is historically the largest program within the City's operating budget. Capital Outlay had a significant increase due to several large improvement projects from 2008 and 2009. Some of the large projects begun in 2008 and completed in 2009 include the River Road Bridge, Nuxhall Pavilion at Waterworks Park, and the Route 4 Stanchion. 2009 projects include the Fair Plaza Demolition and the Port Union Road Detention Basin.

How the Money is Budgeted...

The 2009 operating budget, prepared in the fall of 2008 and submitted to Council at the end of the year, totaled \$63.3 million. The City also prepares a five-year Capital Improvement Program totaling \$133.4 million, of which \$15.6 million was for new projects in 2009.

What income tax revenue paid for in 2009...

During 2009, Fairfield's 1.5% income tax generated \$21.44 million. The following is a breakdown of how the money was allocated:

- 1.1%, or \$15.72 million, which paid for general operations of Fairfield.
- 0.2%, or \$2.86 million, which paid for street improvements for Fairfield.
- 0.2%, or \$2.86 million, which paid for capital improvements for the Fairfield.

2009 Revenues

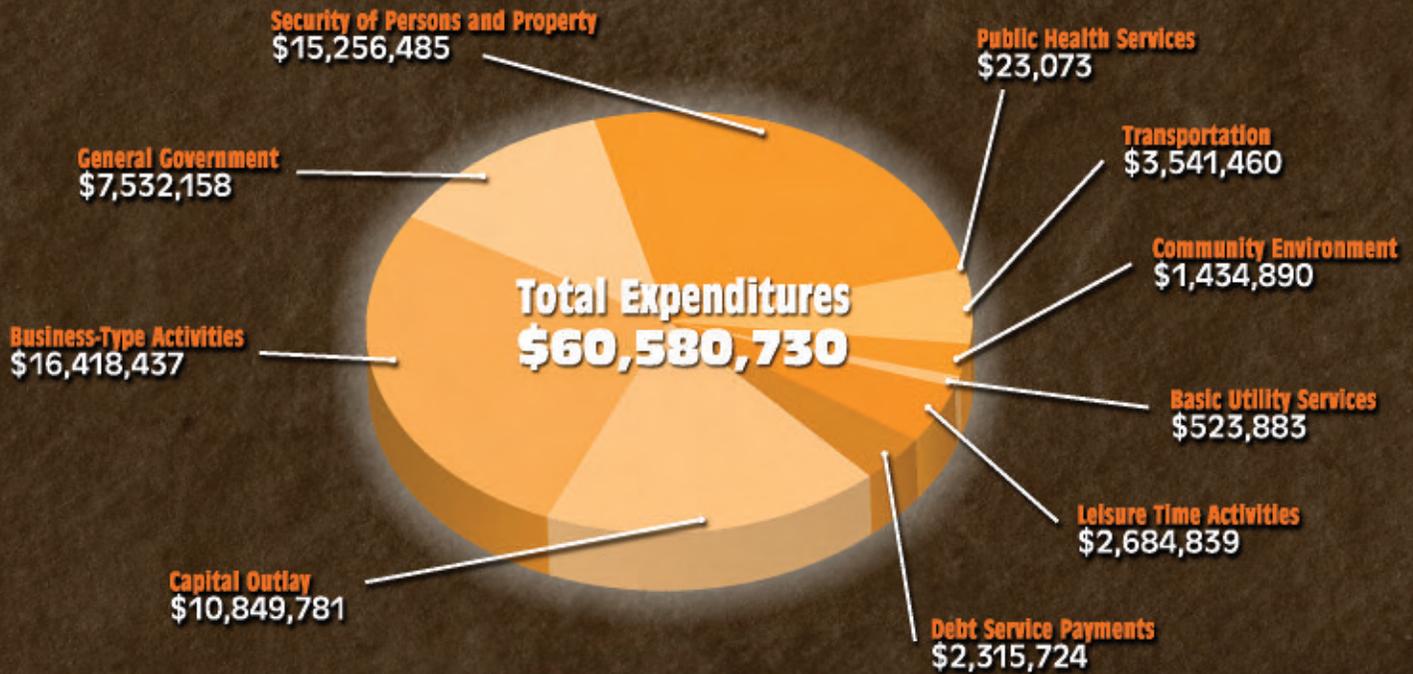


	2008	2009
Income Taxes	\$23,283,790	\$21,443,969
Property Taxes	5,456,585	5,444,748
Grants and Entitlements	7,121,137	6,284,473
Charges for Services	14,466,992	15,171,101
Fines, Licenses and Permits	2,473,215	2,180,870
Debt Proceeds	12,171	145,812
Interest Earnings	1,629,473	831,651
Reimbursements	360,048	324,714
Other	235,637	643,113
Total Revenues	\$55,039,048	\$52,470,451

This overview of the City's financial operation for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009, is presented on a cash basis and is not intended to be presented in conformance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). The City's audited financial statements are generally completed 6 months after the end of the fiscal year, with an official audit report completed soon thereafter.

Expenditures

2009 Expenditures



	2008	2009
Government Activities		
General Government	\$7,227,264	\$7,532,158
Security of Persons and Property	14,625,269	15,256,485
Public Health Services	23,457	23,073
Transportation	3,326,702	3,541,460
Community Environment	1,360,008	1,434,890
Basic Utility Services	452,514	523,883
Leisure Time Activities	2,488,850	2,684,839
Debt Service Payments	3,550,092	2,315,724
Capital Outlay	7,450,185	10,849,781
Total Government Activities	\$40,504,341	\$44,162,293
Business-Type Activities		
Water Utility	\$4,782,235	\$6,361,504
Sewer Utility	6,091,581	5,620,653
Solid Waste Utility	2,264,602	2,373,109
Recreation Facilities	1,989,284	2,063,171
Total Business-Type Activities	\$15,127,702	\$16,418,437
Total Expenditures	\$55,632,043	\$60,580,730
Excess of Revenues	(\$592,995)	(\$8,110,279)
Over (Under) Expenditures		



City of Fairfield

5350 Pleasant Avenue
Fairfield Ohio 45014

WWW.FAIRFIELD-CITY.ORG

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