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# Survey: Fairfield water/sewer rates low again

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For the fourth consecutive year, Fairfield residents are paying the lowest rates for water service among 66 communities surveyed in Southwest Ohio.

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The annual survey of select communities is done by the City of Oakwood in Montgomery County and includes most, but not all, jurisdictions in the Dayton and Cincinnati areas. (Cincinnati is not included.)

It is meant to show historical trends in rates.

When it comes to sewer costs, Fairfield placed 16th out of 63 communities studied. Other Greater Cincinnati communities – Carlisle, Butler County, Monroe and Warren County – had lower rates.

## Rankings

The combined water and sewer rates for a three-month period of Greater Cincinnati communities survey, and their rank (from lowest) among 63 communities surveyed:

\*Fairfield, third, \$148.10

\*Clermont County, ninth, \$165.30

But when water and sewer rates were combined, Fairfield's rates were third lowest. That's after residents saw a 4.6 percent



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\*Warren County, 10th, \$168.31  
 \*Carlisle, 13th, \$180.90  
 \*Middletown, 18th, 193.23  
 \*Butler County, 23rd, \$202.35  
 \*Franklin, 24th, \$204.15  
 \*Milford, 25th, \$205.05  
 \*Monroe, 26th, \$206.04  
 \*Trenton, 27th, \$207.78  
 \*Lebanon, 29th, \$217.86  
 \*Waynesville, 31st, \$219.30  
 \*Oxford, 32nd, \$219.51  
 \*Hamilton, 34th, \$221.34  
 \*Mason, 45th, \$229.39  
 \*Loveland, 53rd, \$272.52  
 \*Springboro, 56th, \$276.63  
 \*Harrison, 57th, \$280.77

increase in rates this year, slightly above the 3.77 to 3.88 increase reported in the survey.

(The only communities to top Fairfield in the survey were Union, \$132.70, and Englewood, 138.84.)

“We have a lean staffing structure of qualified people who work hard,” said Fairfield City Manager Art Pizzano. “Fairfield gives value for the money, continuity and consistency of product quality.”

The survey of rates was compiled by Oakwood’s finance department. Each community’s water and sewer rate as of March 1 was used in the 2012 survey.

Tables were put together for water rates, sewer rates and a combination of both based on using 7,500 gallons of water per month – the industry standard – and then fees were calculated for three months.

The water rates ranged from Fairfield’s \$54.71 to a high of \$185.04 paid by Tipp City residents. Sewer rates ranged from a low of \$70.44 in Dayton to a high of \$210.84 in Loveland for a three-month period.

In Cincinnati, water bills are sent out quarterly and are based on 18,700 gallons of water. When combined with storm water and sewer fees from the Metropolitan Sewer District, the average household pays about \$177 per quarter, said Michele Ralston, spokeswoman for both utilities.

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