

Meeting Your Needs Amidst
GLOBAL CHALLENGES



FAIRFIELD, OHIO
2008 Annual Report

2008 Fairfield 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
*First Ward
Council Member*



Martin H. Judd
*Second Ward
Council Member*



Mitch Rhodus
*Third Ward
Council Member*



Terry Senger
*Fourth Ward
Council Member*

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. Their collective vision and direction over the years to serve the needs of Fairfield's families have created a thriving, contemporary community.

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 wellbeing 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's 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 2008, Fairfield's City Council conducted 43 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 and one part-time staff member who are 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.

New Chambers

This artist's rendering illustrates the appearance of the renovated and expanded City Council Chamber currently under construction. Work is to be completed by early summer.





Meeting Challenges



We live in difficult times. Economic issues challenge governments, businesses and households around the world. Environmental concerns have never been more pressing, as global warming becomes ever more apparent and people begin to worry about the kind of world that may be left to their grandchildren.

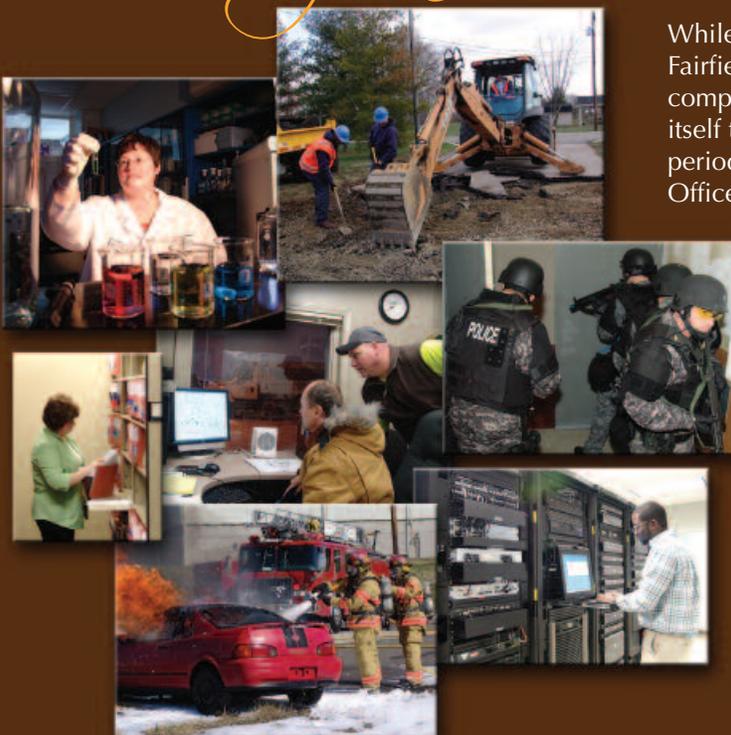
Each Fairfield resident and business owner feels the pressures in varying degrees and copes with the challenges as best they can. On the financial front, belts are tightened and spending is delayed as the economy finds its way to better times. Businesses introduce new strategies to weather the financial storm. Steps are taken to reduce energy costs and conserve the use of fossil fuels in answer to a new level of environmental consciousness.

The City of Fairfield also feels the impact of global challenges. The same issues faced in each household and business also impact municipal government. Just as in each Fairfield business and home, changes have been introduced to ensure an ongoing level of services to each resident and business owner.



A diverse local economy has allowed Fairfield to project a relatively stable revenue base over the coming years. With prudent planning by responsible elected officials, sound financial management by administration staff and a strong work ethic of each City employee, the City of Fairfield has been able to continue addressing local needs and today's challenges.

"Serving the Community with Pride"



While many government entities are faced with cutting personnel, Fairfield has pledged itself to maintaining service levels with its current complement of staff members. Long before now, the City committed itself to economize operations by hiring only essential personnel during periods of significant growth. According to the Government Finance Officers Association, a community should have no fewer than six employees for each 1,000 residents. With 280 full-time employees and 43,000 residents, Fairfield has 6.5 employees per 1,000 residents.

Employees are carefully selected so that their talents are best suited for a position. During 2008, the City experienced a turnover rate of only 4.6 percent. Retirement accounted for half of those leaving a position.

Pictured at left are (clockwise, starting in the top left corner): Lynette Hodnicki tests a sample of treated wastewater, a crew prepares to excavate an area, SWAT members drill in a simulation, Steve Collins checks one of the City's servers, Firefighters train during an exercise, Donna Schomaker files paperwork at the Police Department, (center) Randy Levline checks the latest forecast over the shoulder of Dain McCune at the Municipal Garage during a heavy snowfall.

Dear Fairfield "Stakeholders,"

With the economy at the forefront of concern for most of us, rest assured that the City of Fairfield is poised to endure the current challenges facing local government. Over the years, Fairfield's elected officials have established sound policies and budgetary practices that have provided a solid foundation by which continued services can be delivered at a consistently sound value to you.

Fairfield remains strong and the services you have come to expect will remain secure. The Fire and Police Departments are ready at full staffing. Building inspection services have been enhanced to ensure that zoning standards are maintained as our community ages. The Parks and Recreation Department will continue to offer a wide array of programs where the entire family can enjoy simple pleasures too often taken for granted in a busy world. Water and sewer rates will remain among the lowest in all of Southwest Ohio.

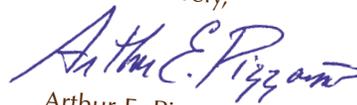
The Fairfield staff is well trained as they undertake their appointed duties, while — at the same time — ready to demonstrate compassion and understanding for families and business owners who might be facing a time like never before in their lifetime. The City leadership remains committed to treat each individual family and business with dignity, respect and responsiveness.

That is not to say that Fairfield is immune from global financial conditions. For example, some of our area businesses have been affected by the decrease in automotive sales or other losses in the economy. However, several creative solutions have been made to shore up the revenue losses, such as partnering in Joint Economic Development Districts with our neighboring communities. While the City's revenue growth may have leveled out over the past year or so, contingencies are in place to maintain all the operations and services Fairfield residents and businesspersons have come to expect from their municipal government.

Times are challenging. That's when the strength, creativity and resolve of government becomes most important. Once the current downturn concludes, Fairfield will be even better positioned to emerge that much stronger in its ability to meet the next series of challenges over the coming years.

In the meantime, we appreciate the public's confidence and support of our efforts on your behalf.

Yours sincerely,



Arthur E. Pizzano
City Manager



Arthur E. Pizzano
City Manager



Addressing today's challenges begins with solid planning. With the clear understanding that Fairfield is not immune to the pressures of global issue, Fairfield City Council established priorities on which departments could focus. Each major priority in 2008 related to a slowing world economy and growing concerns for environmental issues.

■ FINANCIAL STABILITY

Recognizing the slowing economy, City Council has established a goal to achieve a 25 percent operational fund by 2010. Having this reserve would strengthen the City's ability to withstand the prolonged economic recession and be prepared for unanticipated service demands. In order to reach their 2010 goal, City Council has directed that **the fund balance be increased from the current 22 percent by one percent annually** in 2008, 2009 and 2010. The first increment of that goal was accomplished during 2008.

■ ADD TO EMPLOYMENT BASE

Investment in Fairfield increased in 2008 when compared to 2007, despite a slowing economy. During the year, Butler County unemployment increased from 5.1 percent in 2007 to 6.5 percent through September 2008. No specific unemployment

statistics are available for Fairfield. However, despite that fact, the Fairfield business community added to its estimated 30-35,000 workers. **During 2008, several businesses opened new facilities or neared completion of major expansions.** Each expansion projected new employment opportunities: Cincinnati Financial Corporation (500 new jobs by 2010), Ohio Casualty/Liberty Mutual (350 new jobs by 2010), Takumi Stamping (25 new jobs), Iwata Bolt USA (58 new jobs), and Medco Health (adding to staff through 2009).

■ MAINTAIN PROPERTY VALUES

With the nation's recession causing property values to decline, Fairfield City Council established a priority to minimize declines by ensuring properties are maintained to existing property codes. **The number of inspections increased during 2008**, and an additional zoning inspector was added in 2009 to develop a proactive approach to identify problems before they become major violations. City Council also embraced incentive programs aimed at encouraging property improvements, such as the Beautiful Fairfield home improvement contest and the annual Home Improvement EXPO.

■ ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

The City of Fairfield has taken responsibility to address global environmental issues. A variety of staff training programs were provided in 2008 relating to energy conservation and use of alternative fuels. In addition, City Council directed that the City quantify its carbon footprint and develop strategies to reduce the use of fuels that generate greenhouse gas emissions. During 2008, **energy usage at each City facility was scientifically quantified** and converted to greenhouse gas equivalents as a benchmark for future conservation efforts. Energy efforts to reduce emissions not only address global challenges, but also address financial goals since a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions equates to lower energy costs.

Environmental responsibility, however, was not limited to City operations. During 2008, Fairfield residents recycled more volume of materials than any other community in Butler County.



Council Achievements of 2008



■ REDEVELOPMENT FUND

A number of initiatives directed at the **redevelopment of existing business areas in the community were furthered** by City efforts to establish redevelopment funding mechanisms. A Tax Increment Financing (TIF) area was established in the City Center area north of Nilles Road and a Community Reinvestment Area was expanded in the

State Route 4 area. The City also developed a partnering agreement with the Fairfield Chamber of Commerce to promote the Fairfield business community.

Goals for 2009

A summary of Council Priorities of Interest to Residents

MAINTAIN PROPERTY VALUES

City Council has adopted proactive measures to maximize property values as one of its primary concerns in 2009. While the City has no control over national trends relating to property values, ensuring that properties continue to meet existing maintenance codes will help keep Fairfield values at their maximum.

TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

In addition to the widening of the State Route 4 By-Pass, City Council has directed efforts proceed on a plan to upgrade the area around the I-275 interchange at Gilmore/Winton Road. This project is a significant investment in one of the City's prime business corridors, receiving a major commitment of federal and state grant funding.

MAINTAIN FINANCIAL STRENGTH

Fiscal responsibility has always been at the forefront of City planning. In the shadow of current global economic conditions, City Council has become even more financially vigilant. City Council has directed that an operational fund balance be increased by a

margin of one percent in 2009 and 2010 with a goal of establishing a 25 percent fund balance by the end of 2010.

INCREASE ON-LINE SERVICES

As more residents become comfortable with on-line services, Fairfield will strive to offer more interactive services available via the Internet. Plans for 2009 include online sign-up for Parks and Recreation classes, optional online utility billing, improved community calendars and various RSS feeds.

PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Recognizing that the creation — and retention — of jobs are key to economic recovery, City Council has directed that efforts continue to promote development along the State Route 4 corridor and elsewhere in the City, such as Fair Plaza on Patterson Boulevard.



Development Services



Despite the slowing economy which spread throughout the nation, Fairfield saw overall investment increase during 2008. During 2008, **\$54 million in new construction** was reported, compared to \$40 million invested in 2007 projects.

While residential investment dropped from \$8 million in 2007 to \$6.5 million in 2008, significant new commercial projects bolstered development. Five major projects representing investments of \$150 million delivered **more than 2,000 new or retained jobs in the City**.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

Cincinnati Financial Corporation: Fairfield's largest employer completed its \$98 million expansion during 2008. The project added a third tower and a 700 car underground garage to the CFC Campus at South Gilmore and Mack Roads. The third tower provides **office space for 1,500 employees**. The addition will lead to employment for 500 new full-time insurance associates over a few years.

Iwata Bolt USA: A new \$10.5 million facility on Union Centre Boulevard will enable this Japan-based company to **relocate operations to Fairfield** from locations now in California and Vandalia, Ohio. The new 115,000 square foot facility will create at least 50 new jobs over three years. Iwata Bolt USA manufactures and distributes metal bolts and fasteners for the automotive and consumer products industry.



Takumi Stamping

Takumi Stamping: Outgrowing its current leased facility on Seward Road, the company began construction of a **new \$8 million headquarters** at a new site 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 the City and create an additional 25 new jobs.

Ohio Casualty Group: After becoming a division of Liberty Mutual Insurance, the Ohio Casualty Group Insurance Company on Seward Road began a **\$10 million renovation project in 2008**. The improvements will be undertaken in several phases through 2010. Once complete, the company projects employment to increase from the present 800 employees to 1,200 due largely to the consolidation of the Fairfield and Hamilton operations.



Iwata Bolt USA





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.**

Jungle Jim's Expansion: Site work began by late 2008 on construction of a **strip of new businesses north of Jungle Jim's International Market.** The new development will include a Chipotle Mexican Grill, among others to be announced in 2009. At the corner of State Route 4 and Michael Lane, a new building will house the General Electric Credit Union.

the railroad overpass as motorists drive northward. Businesses along State Route 4 will also benefit from the recent designation of the corridor as a Community Reinvestment Area, offering property tax abatements for significant renovations.

REDEVELOPMENT

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

Patterson Drive Initiative: With the 2008 creation of a 150-acre Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District north of Nilles Road, the City will begin **infrastructure improvements that will promote new construction.** During 2009, activity will focus on reuse of the Fair Plaza Shopping Center site on Patterson Drive.

State Route 4 Projects: At the north end of the State Route 4 corridor, a **gateway sign is designed to screen**

State Route 4 Landscaping: To make business areas more visually appealing, **landscaping will be added** to commercial areas along the corridor. One of the projects includes perimeter landscaping at Cornerstone Plaza (formerly Hicks Manor Shopping Center).

PROPERTY INSPECTIONS

To facilitate City Council's goal of upgraded citywide property maintenance, inspections increased during 2008 so that maintenance issues could better be identified before they became major problems for adjacent property owners. Property inspections rose from 3,768 visits in 2007 to **4,613 inspections in 2008** – an indication of a more proactive program

Construction Underway

Work will be completed by this summer on the gateway over State Route 4. The project is designed to screen the overpass as motorists leave Fairfield via the northern end of SR 4.





Public Utilities



Amid plans to stimulate the nation's economic recovery are a myriad of projects to address issues of aging infrastructure throughout the United States. Fairfield began a similar focus nearly two decades ago and, by 2008, had instituted ongoing plans to maintain or update water and wastewater networks and systems. The program is sustained largely by the user fees of Fairfield's water/sewer customers, while Fairfield utility charges remain among the lowest of the 60 utility operations in Southwest Ohio.

■ UPDATING INFRASTRUCTURES

While Fairfield's overall water and sewer systems are regarded as relatively new, some lines are up to 50 years old. Fairfield has a crew of workers who inspect, clean and update aging water and sewer lines. **Advanced technology enables many underground networks to be re-lined** without having to excavate lines. In some areas, where aging networks are simply too small to provide service

deemed adequate, lines are replaced. During 2008, areas along and north of Maggie Avenue were scheduled for major water line replacements. Construction began in March 2009 to expand capacity and further improve service in the area.

■ CONTINUITY OF SERVICE

During 2008, the Fairfield Public Utilities Department produced and distributed **1.8 billion gallons of drinking water**. The Wastewater Division treated **2 billion gallons of sewage** to stringent federal standards before releasing the treated effluent into the Great Miami River.

■ EMERGENCY GENERATORS

Even before the remnants of Hurricane Ike ravaged the region in September, an emergency generator had been ordered for the Fairfield Water Plant. Flooding in the Midwest delayed shipping of the unit which arrived just days after high winds knocked out not only the primary power to the Water Treatment Plant, but also a secondary power supply serviced by a totally separate power grid.

With the new generator, **the Water Plant can now operate without outside power supplies** during regional disasters.

In addition to the water plant, emergency back-up generators were engineered for installation at Fairfield's two pump stations remaining without a source of emergency back-up.



*Updating and
expanding service*

Public Utilities Director David Crouch observes crews as they install new, larger water lines along Magie Avenue as part of Fairfield's ongoing improvements to its public utility infrastructure. Mr. Crouch was named Public Utilities Director in 2009 after serving Fairfield in various related positions over the past 24 years.



Public Works



Maintaining the City's infrastructure is a key element to a strong local economy. An excellent maintenance program not only preserves the viability of public buildings and area roadways, but also conserves funding.

■ WINDSTORM DAMAGE

On September 14, Fairfield was raked by hurricane-force winds, causing widespread damage. After addressing emergency needs in the storm's aftermath, Public Works personnel — with support from other City departments — followed through with clean-up efforts that required **6,400 hours of work over a five week period**. Crews collected 28,000 cubic yards of brush, enough debris to cover a major league football field nearly 16 feet high. To offset the massive cost of clean-up, Fairfield successfully pursued **reimbursement of \$406,000** in funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.



Annually, Public Works crews ensure the safety of roadways during winter weather, perhaps the most visible aspect of their ongoing duties. Another program that regularly impacts residents is the annual street resurfacing program. Roadways are typically resurfaced every 12-16 years. In 2008, **7.5 lane-miles of roads were resurfaced**, along with the replacement of 4.8 miles of curbing, at a cost of \$1.7 million. The single largest resurfacing project was the reconstruction of LeSaint Drive at a cost of \$600,000.

■ ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

In all projects, Public Works personnel challenge themselves to find a better way to reduce their impact on the environment while furthering the safety of residents and visitors.

Conservation: Annually, the Public Works Garage generates about 3,000 gallons of used motor oil in regular fleet maintenance. The oil is collected and used in a furnace specially designed to heat the main



Saving energy for everyone

Saving energy extends beyond a reduction of the City's energy bills. Environmental awareness includes a reduction of energy used by all. Fairfield is in the planning stages of interconnecting signals at all 56 of Fairfield's intersections to minimize wait times at traffic lights and improve traffic flow. All signals should be interconnected via advanced fiberoptics by 2010. Public Works Director David Butsch observes adjustments to a traffic signal. Mr. Butsch was appointed Director during 2008, after serving the previous 10 years as Public Works Director in Springdale.

garage area. The use of the used motor oil saves more than 4,400 CCF of natural gas (**a savings to taxpayers of \$5,400 annually**).

LED Traffic Signals: By 2010, all traffic signals controlled by Fairfield will use energy-saving LED bulbs. Not only are the LED bulbs brighter and more visible, they utilize only **20 percent of the power**.



Parks & Recreation



As many residents face a tightening household budget, they are finding old fashioned fun can go a long way in making ends meet. A loaf of bread, a jar of peanut butter and a blanket can go a long way on a warm afternoon at one of Fairfield's parks. Away from video games and high-tech stress, families are finding ways to disconnect from economic stress and reconnect to lasting family values.

Youngsters can play on gym equipment at most parks, while older children can explore a variety of hike trails. And it doesn't cost a cent.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

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 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 new

program introduced in 2008 during National Camping Week attracted 98 residents for the first annual Family Camp-Out.

A 16-week series of summer concerts offered free entertainment at Village Green Park on Thursday nights. Monthly movies were offered 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, September Dayz Festival and Holly Days Celebration.

Organized programs and classes at the Community Arts Center attracted 62,815 participants in 2008. The theater hosted 92 performances attracting 13,787 patrons. Nationally recognized artists performing at the Center included Livingston Taylor, John Sebastian and Tom Rush.

Memorial Day

One-year-old Mason and mom Lisa Stone share a moment prior to the City's annual Memorial Day observance at Veterans Memorial Park on Wessel Drive.



■ TREE CITY USA

For the 14th 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. Fairfield's Environmental Resources and Community Forest Commission is responsible for the annual designation. In addition

to serving as an advisory commission to the Fairfield Parks & Recreation Board, the group provides a variety of informational programs throughout the year and regularly updates the City's street tree inventory.

*Art:
the common
global language*

In partnership with the Japan-America Society of Greater Cincinnati, the Fairfield Community Arts Center presented a Japanese Culture Fair in the spring of 2008. The free program attracted 300 participants to the cultural experience.

Other cultural events held at the Community Arts Center in 2008 included the Muntu Dance Theatre of Chicago's African and African-American Dance troop, and A Thousand Cranes, the story of the aftermath of the Hiroshima bombing.

At right, Ying Tai demonstrates the dance of Tears as part of a Chinese traditional and folk dance program planned for May 2009 by the Yu Wei Chinese Dance group.





Police Services



The Fairfield Police Department maintains high visibility and employs a proactive strategy to prevent crimes whenever possible. At any given time, a minimum of six officers are available for patrols and to respond to calls. During 2008, the Fairfield Police Department received **28,203 calls for service**, down from the 33,277 calls in 2007.

■ CRIME RATE DECLINE

Overall crime in Fairfield has declined significantly since the late 1990s, according to the FBI's Uniform Crime Report. The FBI report tracks serious crime levels to measure trends within communities. Crimes reported to the FBI annually include homicide, rape, robbery, assault, burglary, theft and auto theft. In 2008, 1,903 crimes qualified for the FBI report. The

number has steadily trended downward from the mid-1990s, when more than 3,000 such crimes were reported.

■ SWAT: COMBINED FORCES

Since 2006, the Police Departments of Fairfield and Hamilton have combined resources to establish a highly effective Special Weapons and Tactics team. The group trains regularly with each member in specialized training at least two weeks each year. During 2008, **the combined SWAT team earned top honors in international competition.** Cooperative funding from both communities have enabled the SWAT members to acquire a specialized vehicle that will be placed in service in early 2009.

■ 4WD VEHICLES HIT THE ROAD

Three 4WD Ford Explorers were added to the fleet to provide officers with off-road capabilities and to better address situations during weather emergencies. The vehicles are also equipped as on-site command posts.

■ STRONGER CURFEW

Fairfield's current law curfews juveniles 12 and under from darkness to dawn and youths from 13 to 17 from 11 p.m. to 4:30 a.m. During 2008, City Council expressed interest having the police department not only more actively enforce current curfews, but also indicated interest in developing a daytime curfew for youths absent from school, truant, or who have been suspended or expelled from school.



Ready

The Fairfield and Hamilton Police Departments have combined resources to establish a nationally recognized SWAT team ready to address a crisis. A response team can be in place within 30 minutes of activation. Pictured, left to right, are Officer Kevin Harrington, Detective Mike Woodall and Sergeant Steve Maynard.



Municipal Court



As the economy slowed in 2008, Fairfield Municipal Court did not see a significant increase in overall caseloads. Felony cases involving **serious crime declined** from 315 cases in 2007 to 301 cases in 2008. Cases involving **DUI offenses, however, did increase by 27 percent**, jumping from 545 cases in 2007 to 691 cases in 2008

During 2008, the Fairfield Municipal Court processed 4,500 traffic offenses and 4,123 criminal offenses. Additionally, the Court also adjudicated 10,759 civil and small claims cases. The Court reported total receipts of \$3,446,900 in various fines and fees, which is disbursed to numerous city, county and state accounts.



Judge Joyce Campbell
Fairfield Municipal 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 2008, those sentenced to community service provided \$54,404 worth of clean-up work to community entities (figured at \$7.50/hour). A comparable jail sentence would have cost Fairfield taxpayers \$58,290 in jail costs (figured at \$60/day per prisoner). Community Service Programs are credited with **saving taxpayers \$112,694** in labor for necessary clean-up assignments and averted jail fees.

■ COMMUNITY SERVICE

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.

■ BEHIND THE SCENES

Understandably, the judge is the most visible figure in any courtroom scene. The time spent on the bench, however, is only a part of the commitment, which requires countless hours of research, case review, attorney conferences, and quiet contemplation to ensure a fair and just conclusion to a court process.

A judge, however, requires the support of dozens of courtroom staff in order to ensure that justice is served with fairness and efficiency. Courtroom security, bailiffs, clerks, probation staff, community service officers, and accounting personnel all work together to conduct the daily operations of the City's judicial services.





Fire & Emergency Services



During 2008, Fairfield's Fire & Emergency Services responded to **more than 7,000 calls for help**, up sharply from the 6,000 calls in 2007. Over the year, 2,366 responses were made to fire calls and 4,675 responses were made for medical emergencies.

As is the case for any first responder, Fairfield's Fire & Emergency Services personnel must be prepared for a myriad of scenarios beyond description by even the most imaginative Hollywood writer. Preparing for such threats is an ongoing task as firefighter/paramedics attend seminars relating to terrorist threats, hazardous materials and natural disasters.

Every situation serves to prompt questions about preparations for a situation even more severe. While standard planning already includes details for command centers, the September 14 hurricane-force windstorm served as a reminder of why the City had

previously begun to develop plans for an **Emergency Operations Center to be based at the Fairfield Justice Center**. Should such a command post be needed, Fairfield will be ready.

■ REGIONAL COLLABORATION

There was a time when having basic fire equipment was the standard at any fire department. To prepare for the range of threats in today's world — natural or man-made — highly specialized equipment and talents are required that individual jurisdictions can not easily afford.

Participation in regional response organizations not only provides the latest equipment, technology and skills to Fairfield residents and business owners, but also — in some cases — equipment is based in the City. **Fairfield is an active participant** in the Greater Cincinnati Hazardous Materials Response Team and the region's Terrorism Preparedness Advisory Team.

■ PAPERLESS REPORTING

Each emergency response requires a detailed report. Over past years, personnel summarized data on 3-part carbonless forms generating thousands of sheets of paper, all needing to be stored over years of records-keeping. Eventually, the paper would be destined for landfills.

During 2008, the Fairfield Fire Department implemented a **totally paperless records system**. Following each run, reports are entered via computer, then stored digitally for immediate and permanent filing. No paper. No storage. No waste for later disposal.

During 2008, with more than 7,000 responses, the paperless system eliminated 21,000 sheets of paper.

Prepared

Tim Jung (back) and Nathan Hall take readings during a simulation of a Level A response to a hazardous material situation. Fairfield is an integral part of a regional response team that covers a three state area. The team's goal is to be in place within 45 minutes anywhere in the region.





Anyone who balances a checkbook can appreciate the enormous task given to the account clerks and supervisors in the Finance Department as they routinely balance a budget of \$64 million. There's accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll for 280 full-time employees, numerous part-time and seasonal workers, income taxes, purchase orders, requisitions, fund transfers... the list goes on.

Add to the daily grind the fact that teams of outside auditors regularly check the books and have the authority to question the accounting of every penny, and it quickly becomes apparent that it's no easy job.

Often the lights are on long after most others have left for the night as someone reviews the ledger for proper accounting. The next day, someone will review the entry because all future numbers will build on that balance.

This report's summary has been checked and double checked for accuracy.

It's the right way to do it. It's the only way we do business.



Account Clerk Melanie Locke assists a resident with her 2008 City Income Tax at the Income Tax Office, located in the Municipal Building Annex on Wessel Drive.

Fairfield's income sources

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 page 16). The total revenues for fiscal year 2008 were \$55,264,888. As reflected in the table on page 16, revenues were up in every category with the exception of income & property taxes and interest. The slight decrease is attributed to the state of the national economy.

Fairfield's expense areas

The three largest program functions in 2008 were Security of Persons and Property, Capital Outlay (see chart and table on page 17) and General Government. Security of Persons and Property includes both the Police and Fire Departments and is historically the largest program within the City's operating budget.

Fairfield's operating budget

The 2008 operating budget, which was prepared in the fall and submitted to Council at the end of 2007, totaled \$64.2 million. The City's five-year Capital Improvement Program totaled \$119 million, of which \$16.5 million was for projects in 2008.

Uses for Fairfield's 1.5% income tax revenue

During 2008, Fairfield's 1.5% income tax generated \$24.1 million. The following is a breakdown of how the money was allocated:

- 1.1% or \$17.7 million which paid for general operations of the City of Fairfield.
- 0.2% or \$ 3.2 million which paid for street improvements for the City of Fairfield.
- 0.2% or \$ 3.2 million which paid for other capital improvements for the City of Fairfield.



Revenue



	2007	2008
Income Taxes	\$23,292,229	\$23,283,790
Property Taxes	5,723,441	5,682,425
Grants and Entitlements	7,061,550	7,121,137
Charges for Services	14,260,437	14,466,992
Fines, Licenses and Permits	2,208,404	2,473,215
Debt Proceeds	8,798	12,171
Interest Earnings	2,284,909	1,629,473
Reimbursements	313,796	360,048
Other	208,381	235,637
Total Revenues	\$55,361,945	\$55,264,888

This overview of the City's financial operation for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, 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



	2007	2008
Government Activities		
General Government	\$6,634,616	\$7,227,264
Security of Persons and Property	14,038,708	14,625,269
Public Health Services	24,166	23,457
Transportation	3,306,726	3,326,702
Community Environment	1,271,354	1,360,008
Basic Utility Services	436,859	452,514
Leisure Time Activities	2,262,236	2,488,850
Debt Service Payments	3,451,078	3,550,092
Capital Outlay	10,192,097	7,450,185
Total Government Activities	\$41,617,840	\$40,504,341
Business-Type Activities		
Water Utility	\$4,324,752	\$4,782,235
Sewer Utility	6,079,643	6,091,581
Solid Waste Utility	2,007,336	2,264,602
Recreation Facilities	1,734,471	1,989,284
Total Business-Type Activities	\$14,146,202	\$15,127,702
Total Expenditures	\$55,764,042	\$55,632,043
Excess of Revenues	(\$402,097)	(\$367,155)
Over (Under) Expenditures		



City of Fairfield

5300 PLEASANT AVENUE • FAIRFIELD OH 45014

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Fairfield Resident or Business Owner
Fairfield, Ohio 45014