



*The
Heart
of
Fairfield*

2012 Annual Report
Fairfield, Ohio

Building a Strong Community

A strong community doesn't just happen. A city's strength results from careful planning that anticipates future needs. Such planning by elected officials and staff has enabled the City of Fairfield to weather the global recession with minimal impact on the services provided to residents and businesses.

Years of cautious preparation have enabled Fairfield to weather the global recession with minimal impact on the services provided to residents and businesses. While the City implemented internal cost-saving measures as the nation's economy worsened, much of the preparation had already been accomplished years in advance by Fairfield's elected officials' direction to staff, who had been steadily building reserves for just such a scenario.

As a result of the Mayor and City Council's preparation, Fairfield has been able to maintain the community services vital to the high quality of life that residents have come to expect. Elected representatives have made a pledge to work for the good of the community. Over the years, their collective vision and passion have resulted in a robust, thriving community.

Fairfield City Council, in partnership with city staff, conducts an annual review of the five-year capital plan in an effort to anticipate the community's imminent infrastructure needs. Such planning enables city officials to make informed decisions based on sound financial projections of best and worst-case scenarios.

The City of Fairfield is a charter city

Random Act of Kindness:

When Ashton Isler of Northern Kentucky heard about the opening of Miracle League Fields, he was determined to help. An avid baseball player, Ashton requested all gifts for his upcoming 10th birthday be in cash. After his celebration, he donated it all — every last penny — to the success of Miracle League Fields.



The donation touched the heart of a community, prompting the Mayor and City Council, along with Kim Nuxhall, to recognize the young man's contribution, compassion and generosity.

operating under the Council-Manager form of government, which combines the strong political leadership of elected officials with the professional expertise of an appointed City Manager. The Mayor is directly elected and serves as the head of government. The City Council consists of seven members, four of whom are elected from wards, three of whom are elected at-large.

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. The City Manager serves as the City's chief executive officer, overseeing the day-to-day operations of the City.

During 2012, Fairfield's Mayor and City Council conducted 37 public

sessions, including City Council meetings, Council/Manager briefings, special sessions and public hearings. As a result of public input and careful Council consideration, 123 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.

City Council and the Mayor are supported by a full-time Clerk of Council who is responsible for agenda preparation, information packets, media notification and record keeping of Council actions and legislative decisions. The Clerk also responds to the information requests of Fairfield's elected officials. ✨

Mayor & Members of City Council

2012



MAYOR

Ronald A. D'Epifanio



**COUNCIL MEMBER
AT LARGE**

Tim Abbott



**COUNCIL MEMBER
AT LARGE**

Timothy M. Meyers



**COUNCIL MEMBER
AT LARGE**

Michael Oler



**COUNCIL MEMBER
FIRST WARD**

Adam B. Jones



**COUNCIL MEMBER
SECOND WARD**

Jeffrey L. Holtegel



**COUNCIL MEMBER
THIRD WARD**

Debbie Pennington



**COUNCIL MEMBER
FOURTH WARD**

Terry Senger



Progress Toward 2012 Goals

The past several years have presented the City with significant fiscal challenges. Through a combination of proactive planning and strategic financial management, the City has successfully endured the economic slump. The following provides a brief summary of the measures taken by City officials to meet City Council's 2012 goals.

Maintenance of the City's Aa1 Bond Rating

One of City Council's top 2012 goals was maintenance of the City's bond rating. So what is a bond rating and why is it so important? Well, a bond rating is a bit like your personal credit score. A strong rating indicates financial stability which, in turn, translates into lower interest rates for borrowing. Going into 2012 the City possessed a coveted Aa1 bond rating (fewer than 10% of Ohio communities possess a bond rating of Aa1 or better), but due to shrinking reserves and stagnant revenues the Aa1 rating was in jeopardy. Community leaders considered various options with the objective of providing the City with long-term financial stability. Ultimately, it was determined that reappropriation of

the City's municipal income tax would provide the greatest impact without raising taxes. The Fairfield community came together in November when it approved reappropriation of the income tax. Reappropriation has enabled the City to maintain reserves, thus providing Moody's (the bond rating agency) with confidence in the City's long-term financial stability. This confidence resulted in Moody's maintaining the City's current Aa1 bond rating.

Fiscal Accountability

Over the past several years the City has striven to buttress its finances while simultaneously maintaining high standards of service. During this period several traditional sources of dependable revenue have been eliminated by the state, including the Local Government Fund, the Ohio Estate Tax, and the Ohio Personal Property Tax. The cumulative impact of the elimination of these three programs has resulted in a loss of approximately \$1.1 million dollars annually from the City's revenues. Through a combination of proactive planning, managed

attrition, reallocation of resources (the aforementioned reappropriation is an example), and the cooperation of employee groups, City leaders have been able to maintain the first-class services to which Fairfield residents are accustomed without raising taxes. None of this would have been possible without a tradition of sound financial planning.

Maintenance of Financial Reserves

City Council's 2012 goals are inextricably linked to one another, but it would have been impossible to achieve any of them if the City had not diligently maintained its financial reserves. Like a squirrel gathering a stash of nuts for winter, City leaders knew that the good times would not last forever and planned accordingly. Proactive planning by past generations helped to establish a diverse economy which, in turn, enabled the City to build up its financial reserves. A drive around the City will demonstrate that Fairfield is not dependent on any one industry. This provides insulation during economic downturns since different industries decline/resurge at different rates. A healthy balance enables the City to dependably predict revenues, adjusting financial reserves accordingly.

City Council's 2012 Goals

- Maintain the City's current Aa1 bond rating.
- Operate within a fiscally conservative budget without raising taxes.
- Ensure necessary reserves to provide service levels that position Fairfield to retain residents.



Moving forward into 2013, City leadership is committed to continued maintenance of its 2012 goals. Residents and business owners can expect the same high levels of service that have helped to define Fairfield as a superior place to call home and do business. After all, maintenance of our high quality of life is at the "heart" of all that we do. ✨





Office of the
City Manager

Arthur E. Pizzano
City Manager

To the Fairfield Community,

As I reflect on what we as a community value about our City, I imagine that few people would initially point to details such as the number of street improvements, new business starts or low water rates. Rather, most would likely recall their personal recollections of Fairfield's "sense of place" in their lives. A personal act, as simple as seeing a now-mature tree that they planted as a child, might provide an enduring memory. A parent's experience of watching a son or daughter at his or her first soccer game could very well bring back a fond recollection. Perhaps attendance at a baseball game for disabled youth on the "Miracle Field", which was conceived by a personal dream and then collectively built by the volunteer spirit of a caring community, might bring great pride and satisfaction. These are the things that define our City's very core itself. I believe that they collectively represent what many of us value when we think about the heart of our community.

Over the years, the Mayor and City Council have consistently challenged themselves and the City Administration to continue to deliver quality services. Years of planning and financial preparation have enabled us to meet the dual economic challenges of a global recession and substantial cuts in State funding. Our City's employees have risen to the challenge and have performed their responsibilities with professionalism, integrity and dedication.

The successes and accomplishments shown in this year's annual report are paramount to the continual well-being of our robust and thriving City. The following pages portray a series of individual steps that, together, comprise Fairfield's continual journey to meet its diverse needs in a financially responsible way.

The community's expectation of service excellence at an affordable cost drives the decision making in our City. So the next time that you are at a concert at Village Green Park, watching your grandchildren riding their bikes or celebrating the 4th of July, I invite you to take a moment to reflect on what it means to be a part of this community. Truly, "Home is Where the Heart is". In our case, that home is Fairfield.

Most sincerely,

Arthur E. Pizzano
City Manager



AVAILABLE IN ALTERNATE FORMAT
5350 Pleasant Avenue, Fairfield, Ohio 45014 513-867-5350 (TDD-867-5392)





A soldier comes home:

The Fairfield Fire Department joins with Hamilton firefighters to show an entire community's heartbreak upon the solemn return of Army Corporal Nicholas Olivas. A 2010 graduate of Fairfield High School, Cpl. Olivas was killed in action on May 30, 2012, while on patrol in Zharay, Afghanistan.

The Heart of Fairfield

Home is where your kids grow up... and your parents grow old. It's where you work... where you play... where you celebrate... where you cry.

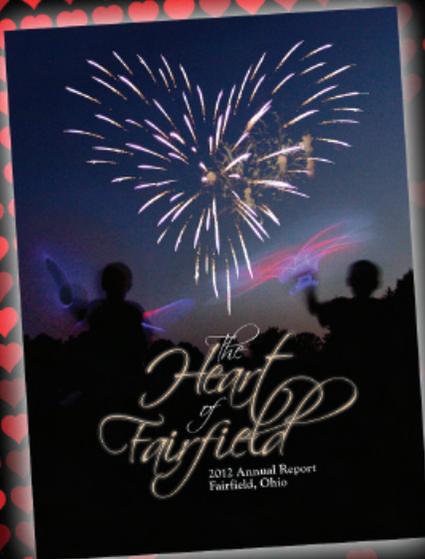
The affection felt for one's hometown is hard to put into words. But you

know that feeling deep inside when you inventory your dreams and relive countless memories.

Building that hometown pride took lifetimes to establish through generations of ancestors... and our

own lifetime to fully appreciate. It is a gift paid forward to each of us. Now, that gift can quietly be passed along to our children and grandchildren... and our great grandchildren.

Time slips quickly by, but the sense of community endures into the future. That's the real Heart of Fairfield. ✨



About the cover

After enjoying a family picnic in Harbin Park, six-year-old cousins Logan Doehlman and Aiden Stitsinger spin glowing necklaces at the start of the annual *Red, White & KaBoom* Independence Day fireworks celebration. City-sponsored festivities for viewing the aerial pyrotechnics show are also held at Village Green and the Aquatic Center. With the display clearly visible from most homes in the City, thousands of families host backyard grill-outs to watch the spectacular display. The hometown fireworks show is, perhaps, the most anticipated City-sponsored event of the year. *(While the aerial burst is an actual photo from the show, the heart-shaped presentation is a computer visual created by Dean Langevin, graphic designer and photographer.)* The *Red, White & KaBoom* celebration is the inspiration for this year's annual report theme. ✨



Development Services

While annual reports tend to focus on numbers, there is far more to Development Services than statistics. Every project is about the creation of a job for a hard-working family. It puts food on the family's table and, if the household budget permits, allows for a round of hamburgers or a night at the movies. That's the heart of what really matters in the place we call home.

Investment on the rise

The most recent data provides hope that the recession is easing in Fairfield. Local investment in 2012 was at its highest level since the nationwide economic downturn in 2008. During the year, valuations on building permits totaled \$30.5 million, a 45 percent increase over the \$22 million recorded in 2011. Commercial investment increased from \$16 million in 2011 to \$22.5 million in 2012. Investment in residential projects also increased from \$6 million in 2011 to \$8 million in 2012.

Western States Machine Company:

A long-time Butler County manufacturer of centrifugal machines, Western States began construction of a new facility on Commerce Drive.



The \$6.5 million plant will bring more than 100 highly skilled jobs to the City of Fairfield.

Koch Foods: Employing more than 700 workers, Koch Foods announced a major expansion of its chicken processing plant on Port Union Road during 2012. The proposed 185,000 square foot expansion will nearly double the plant's size and permit the company to hire an additional 400 new employees. Construction is expected to begin in 2013.

Rolled Alloys: The growing metal working company will relocate to Fairfield when construction is completed on its new 65,000 square foot manufacturing facility on Thunderbird Drive.

Honeymoon Paper Products: A producer of paper products for the food industry, Honeymoon Paper Products purchased the former Pella plant near the corner of State Route 4 and Muhlhauser Road.

OCS IntelliTrak: Continued growth prompted the company to relocate to a building it purchased on Seward Road. The company designs and installs overhead conveyor systems.

Mercy Health Fairfield Hospital: In its continuing mission to provide the latest care options, Mercy Health Fairfield Hospital completed a \$3 million project on the fifth floor of its patient tower. The project resulted in 29 new private rooms, among other improvements. With more than 1,000 jobs, Mercy Health Fairfield Hospital is the City's third largest employer.

Breaking Ground:

Western States Machine Company began construction of its new \$6.5 million plant on Commerce Drive. The long-time local company will relocate more than 100 skilled jobs into Fairfield.



Fisher Park: The old boiler plant and other outbuildings on the north side of the former General Motors Fisher Body Plant were demolished and remediated in 2012. The project cleared 20 acres of land along State Route 4 for future industrial development.

Retail Development: Several retailers commenced operations in Fairfield during 2012. Big Lots moved into the Fairfield Crossings shopping center at State Route 4 and Symmes. In the Town Center area, two new businesses opened operations: Hot Heads Burritos on Nilles Road and Family Dollar on Pleasant Avenue. Fairfield Pharmacy relocated to larger facilities on Nilles Road. Kobe Japanese Cuisine and Jet's Pizza opened on State Route 4 just south of Boymel Drive. Menchie's Frozen Yogurt and Gamestop opened in front of Jungle Jim's.

Property Maintenance 2009-2012



Property maintenance remains high priority

To ensure that property values remain at their highest during the recession, Fairfield City Council has directed the Building and Zoning Department to vigilantly enforce the City's building and zoning codes. During 2012, staff conducted 7,013 inspections resulting in 1,907 violations requiring property owner attention. In addition in to

Building and Zoning Department efforts, Fairfield's Neighborhood Enhancement Action Team (NEAT) conducted 2,130 proactive inspections, with five percent of the inspections identifying a violation requiring attention by the property owner. The NEAT program completed its four-year goal for a citywide review of all single-family homes. The program will begin a new cycle of reviews in 2013. ✨



International Enterprise:

During the year of the 2012 World Choir Games, City officials expressed appreciation to the senior management of Pacific Industries, which employs 700 workers at its Seward Road plant and at its nearby sister industry Takami Industries.





Public Works

Road projects are completed; the City's fleet vehicles are maintained; and brush is regularly picked up from every neighborhood. Often overlooked are the things that collectively make a difference to residents and visitors: the annual plantings that add beauty at each entry point of the City, well-maintained public buildings, and roads free of ice and snow for your morning commute.

During 2012, Public Works crews used 2,826 tons of salt to keep roads safe. A relatively mild winter enabled the

City to reduce costs of winter operations.

Among the larger projects undertaken in 2012 was the completion of the State Route 4 Bypass improvements. The Fairfield portion of the project (*the section from Port Union Road and the north end of the Bypass at State Route 4*) represented the single largest project ever managed by the City's Public Works Department. The \$8.9 million effort was completed on time and about \$300,000 under budget.

Work also neared completion on improvements along Gilmore Road at I-275. The project not only widened the roadway, but included a wider

gateway overpass to accommodate increasing traffic. The project will be completed in the summer of 2013.

Crews also widened and resurfaced nearly three miles of River Road from Nilles Road to Lake Circle Drive, as well as about a half mile of Gray Road. The work enhanced safety along the roadway by providing a wider shoulder for emergency pull-offs. ✨

Heading to First:

Faith makes her way to first base during Opening Day at Miracle League Fields, with the assistance of Brooke and Trey. The three are Joe Nuxhall's grandchildren who participated in the celebration. Behind the plate is Sean Casey, former Cincinnati Red who has remained active with "the Ol' Lefty" legacies, including Miracle League Fields and the Joe Nuxhall Character Education Fund.



Public Utilities

Perhaps it slips your mind on a hot day when you turn on the faucet for a cool glass of water: that crystal clear, thirst quenching drink originated from deep within the underground Great Miami Aquifer. Public Utilities crews are dedicated around the clock to purifying water while maintaining a network of 169 miles of water mains. In 2012, the department pumped and distributed more than 1.9 billion gallons of drinking water to Fairfield customers.

Beating the Heat:

It was a very warm night for Movies in the Park on July 6, 2012. In fact, the official high was 104 degrees, breaking a record set back in the 1800s. So before showtime, Bryson Wene and mom Stacy took a cooling stroll through the water spray at Village Green Park. Despite the record heat, 200 people turned out to watch the movie.

During 2012, crews responded to 57 water main breaks, and responded to 6,942 service orders, and processed more than 1.8 billion gallons of waste water.

Their job is largely unseen, but you can rest assured they carry out their duties with the highest of integrity. To measure their efforts, the Public Utilities Department prepared for a year to be surveyed by the American Public Works Association (APWA) to earn accreditation. On their first review in 2012, the Department achieved the coveted distinction of being the only public utility in the State of Ohio (and one of only 18 nationally) to earn accreditation.

Low water rates

For the fourth consecutive year, Fairfield water rates remained the lowest in the region, according to an

annual survey conducted by the City of Oakwood, Ohio. The study compares the rates of 63 communities in southwestern Ohio. The study also revealed that Fairfield has the third lowest combined rates for water and sewer charges in the entire region.

System maintenance

Recognizing that Fairfield's 169 miles of water lines and 175 miles of sewer lines are aging, the Department has developed a systematic plan to replace lines, some of which were installed in 1957. The proactive replacement will enable the City to avoid unexpected service interruptions. It will also allow the City to budget for the work over a number of years rather than be faced with a sudden comprehensive update of the network. ✨



Parks & Recreation

The curtain opens on a production at the Fairfield Community Arts Center and a child's eyes reveal wonderment at seeing her first-ever theatrical presentation. At Hatton Park/Joe Nuxhall Miracle League Fields, a young boy in a wheelchair hits his first baseball and heads for first base as the crowd cheers wildly. At the new Huffman Park, a resident slowly follows the path around the park's perimeter as he exercises following knee surgery.

While not apparent, there's an entire department of personnel in Parks & Recreation who work hard at providing a variety of recreational programs at the City's 37 parks and recreational facilities. At over 665 acres, the venues include the Fairfield Greens 18-hole and 9-hole golf courses, the Community Arts Center, the Aquatic Center, 1817 Elisha Morgan Farm Mansion, the 45 acre Marsh Fishing Lake, 11 miles of bike/hike paths and two historical cemeteries.

Fun is serious business

Park-related programming is more than just great fun. It's good business. Using nationally recognized formulas, the Butler County Visitors Bureau has estimated that Fairfield's large-scale events have contributed \$2.15 million to the local economy. These events include the MASC soccer tournament (\$1,750,000), Bio-Wheels/UCI Cyclocross Race (\$200,000), the British Car Show and Classic Car Cruise-In (\$200,000), and Summer Music Games (\$100,000). While the economic impact for the Hero's Ride, Summer Community Theatre, and the Crystal Classic were not calculated, the events provide a significant economic boost to local businesses.

Hatton Park/Nuxhall Miracle League Fields host games

Joe Nuxhall's love of the Fairfield community clearly endures as a first-class ball field specifically designed for children with developmental disabilities. After the Hatton Foundation pledged a \$500,000 matching grant to get the project underway, the community quickly joined in to volunteer labor or donate supplies to build the Miracle League Fields (at the

north end of Groh Lane, just past Waterworks Park).

The fields were officially dedicated on June 10, 2012; the anniversary of Joe's first major league pitch. A grand opening followed in July.



Build it and they will come...

Above, volunteers in vintage uniforms emerge from the cornfield at Joe Nuxhall's Miracle League Fields. Below, the dream unfolds.





Community Arts Center

The Community Arts Center (CAC) continues to “exercise the imagination” of the community with its ample classroom/studio spaces for a variety of programs, a senior lounge, a children’s room, as well as space for community gatherings. The CAC is the weekly meeting site of the Fairfield Rotary Club and the Fairfield Chapter of Business Network International. The City, Mercy Hospital of Fairfield and the Sojourner Recovery Services continued their partnership with the Sojourner Concert Series, featuring nationally known artists such as Rick Derringer, Mark Farner, and Jimmy Webb. Other CAC partners, including the Fairfield Footlighters, the Miami Valley Ballet Theatre, Jazz Alive of Cincinnati, and the Cincinnati Christian Schools, also experienced successful theatre seasons.

Huffman Park Dedication:

Above: Guests tour the new Huffman Park during its 2012 dedication. Below: The Huffmans’ great grandniece Mary Grace Guckenberger pets one of the horses.

Huffman Park opens

With dignitaries and Huffman family members in attendance, a dream became reality thanks to a generous donation from the estate of Harold and Anna Huffman. The couple wanted their 22 acre farm on John Gray Road to become an interactive nature area with an emphasis on children’s education. To fund the improvements, the Huffman family donated over \$850,000.

Located adjacent to the South Trace Golf Course, the park has transformed

the southern-most acreage into hands-on educational venues for school-aged youth. The park promotes sustainability, ecology and healthy living. A play area allows children to slide down features integrated into grassy mounds, along with tunnels to explore and logs on which to climb.

Gardens have been interspersed throughout the park and a walking trail encircles the property.

The northern ten acres will for now remain in a natural state, with the potential for a youth golf program in the future. ✨



Fire & Emergency Services

Smoke quickly fills the room and the high-pitched alarm sounds. The little boy is not afraid. He knows to stay low and touch the door before opening it to make a quick escape to grab a telephone and dial 9-1-1. He wants to do it again, so he gets back in line outside the Fairfield Fire Department's mobile Fire Safety House. He is among an estimated 1,400 children who annually visit the unit.

The Fire Safety House makes regular appearances at community functions so that children will better understand how to react to a fire situation. This program is just one of a number of community service efforts undertaken by the Fairfield Fire Department in 2012. After all, there's more to being a firefighter than fighting fires.

The Fire Safety House first began with a donation from the Fairfield Rotary Club, then — when a new house was needed — Fairfield's Elementary School children sold cookies to raise \$7,000 toward the new facility. That's a lot of cookies... and the kind of support that makes a difference to the Fairfield Fire Department.

Taking the Wheel:

Lily Klawitter, 2, sits in the fire engine. With her is mom Minde and Firefighter Ray Webber. The equipment is on display before each monthly offering of the Movies in the Park.



Fortunately, having to dial 9-1-1 for an emergency is rare. In 2012, 5,465 calls for help were made to the Fairfield Fire Department. That's an average of 15 emergency calls each and every day. Of those calls, paramedics responded to 4,559 emergencies, transporting more than 3,424 patients to area hospitals. Fire crews answered 906 fire calls.

Fairfield's average response time for all calls during 2012 was 5 minutes. In most cases, crews respond in minutes

from three strategically located fire stations. Often, however, an emergency unit is already on a call when another call comes in, requiring a unit from a different station to respond.

Such is the reality as call volumes remain high and resources remain constant. Yet, Fairfield's dedicated staff finds a way to address the needs with available resources. ✨

On Patrol:

With temperatures topping 100 degrees, Paramedics Rick Gibbs (left) and Randy McCreadie patrol at a Groovin' on the Green summer concert.



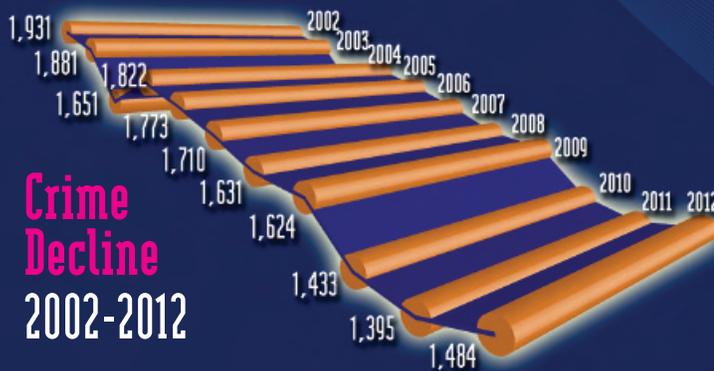
Free Popcorn:

Firefighters prepare free popcorn for a Movies in the Park event.



Police Services

There is comfort in knowing your hometown is as safe as possible. While individual categories may fluctuate year to year, overall crime trends have declined in Fairfield since 2002. In fact, serious crimes of violence have declined six percent, while overall crime is down eleven percent.



Undercover officers were unnoticeable at all as they blended in with crowds or undertook special assignments to ensure the safety of the community.

Fairfield's two canine units were especially effective in 2012 when they were deployed 1,124 times resulting in

more than 100 arrests. Whether sniffing out drugs or tracking the scent of a suspect, Canines Ketcher and Rex put a bite on crime in Fairfield. According to tests by the Ohio Peace officer Training Commission, the two have a 99 percent reliability rating in narcotics detection. ✨

Much of that decline is attributed to solid partnerships with vigilant, concerned citizens who are willing to alert the Fairfield Police Department when they observe something out of the ordinary.

During 2012, the Police Department received 27,984 calls for service, up slightly over the 27,538 calls received in 2011. Every call is important and is handled with caring professionalism.

To ensure citizens that their Police Department operates with the highest of standards and integrity, the Fairfield Police Department achieved its fourth

consecutive three-year accreditation in 2012 from the highly respected national Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The organization bestowed a special honor when it awarded Fairfield an "Advanced Accreditation with Excellence" designation.

During the year, uniformed officers were highly visible on regular patrols and at public events, whether on foot, in a patrol car or on a bicycle.

World Choir Games:

A group from Germany performs at Village Green. In the crowd are officers seen and unseen as Fairfield's Police Department works to keep guests safe and sound.



Municipal Court

The heart of American society is reflected in the laws of the land. Every family deserves the security of knowing that justice prevails when a loved one has been victimized. Administering that justice is a monumental task with thousands of cases proceeding through the Fairfield Municipal Court annually. Cases range from financial disputes in Small Claims Court to violent crime cases that begin on the local level, often bound over to a court of higher jurisdiction.

Since the beginning of the nation's recession in 2008, overall caseloads have dropped significantly. Traffic offenses, criminal cases, and small claims actions all have seen steady declines. A total of 7,677 matters came before the Court in 2012, down from 8,952 cases in 2011 and significantly fewer cases overall than 2008 when the Court recorded 10,759 cases.

Last year, the Court presided over 227 serious felony matters, down slightly from the 234 cases in 2011. Misdemeanor cases also declined from 4,100 cases in 2011 to 3,132 in 2012. Cases involving operation of a motor vehicle while intoxicated continued a steady decline from a high of 691 in 2008 to 430 in 2012. Traffic offenses

have also declined from 2,951 cases in 2011 to 2,859 in 2012. Additionally, the Court adjudicated 1,459 civil and small claims cases in 2012, down from 1667 in 2011.

With overall cases declining, so have overall receipts and disbursements. Receipts paid to the Court in 2012 totaled \$2,659,175, down from \$2,850,306 in 2011. Disbursements to the City of Fairfield declined from \$1,962,807 in 2011 to \$1,726,481 in 2012, significantly less than \$2,034,418 in 2008.

Serving Justice

The Court is far more than just a place where guilt or innocence is determined. Today's society expects a sentence that includes help for a defendant worthy of rehabilitation while also providing for appropriate justice that is fair to taxpayers.

Today's Court has difficult questions to ponder: Does a defendant's nature



JUDGE
Joyce Campbell

require incarceration in order to protect the public? Is there an effective program that can get a person back on the path to productive citizenship? Recognizing that people sometimes make bad choices, is a defendant worthy of a second chance?

These are poignant questions that can determine a person's future... or the future of a family whose quality of life depends

on the Court's intervention. To that end, several programs have been implemented in Fairfield to balance justice, mercy and the opportunity for a second chance.

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

During 2012, those sentenced to community service provided \$30,678 worth of clean-up work to community entities (*calculated at a minimum wage of \$7.70/hour*). A comparable jail sentence would have cost Fairfield taxpayers \$29,880 in jail costs (*calculated at \$60/day per prisoner*). The work undertaken through the Community Service Program, combined with the jail fees avoided, provided a \$60,557 value to taxpayers. ✨

Solemn Escort:

Ohio's Patriot Guard leads the procession for the return of Army Corporal Nicholas Olivas, killed in Afghanistan.





Formulating and managing budgets during tough economic cycles is obviously more challenging than riding a bull market. Like private entities, governmental agencies must estimate revenues, forecast expenditures and ultimately balance the books. Local government revenue sources, specifically from the state and federal governments, have deteriorated as those levels of government struggle to balance their own budgets.

Every revenue source has a varying rate of return. For example, one of the first indicators of economic recovery can be found in retail consumption. Therefore, governments (*such as counties*) that rely heavily on sales tax revenues will experience the recovery at a much quicker rate than governments dependent upon property and income taxes. This is because property and income taxes are paid in arrears, thus they recover at a more gradual pace.

Revenue Sources

The City's primary revenue source is the municipal income tax, which totaled \$24.57 million in 2012. The 1.5% income tax was apportioned into three different areas, 1.1% (\$18.01 million) to general operations, 0.2% (\$3.28 million) to street and 0.2% (\$3.28 million) to capital improvements.

Based on the apportionment and the total revenue for 2012, \$18.01 million went to general operations, including police, public works and development services, \$3.28 million went to street improvements, including annual paving, storm water and concrete repairs, and \$3.28 million went to capital improvements, including building maintenance, fleet and technology replacements.

Expenditures

With total expenditures for 2012 at \$59,204,907, the increases in Capital Outlay and Debt Service payments are a result of the continuation of several projects funded partially or entirely from grants. Those projects include the By-Pass 4 Project, the Flood Prone Home Project and the I-275 Exit 39 Interchange Improvement Project. Though grants are helping these projects to proceed, this type of funding is limited to the specific project and is a one-time revenue source. The City's largest expenditures are Security of Persons and Property (*fire and police services*) and Capital Outlay (*see chart and table on page 17.*)

City Budgets

The City's total expenditures are made up of two separate budgets: operating and the capital improvement program. The operating budget process takes five months to complete, ending with presentations to Council in November and December. The 2012 operating budget totaled \$64.5 million. The capital improvement program budget deals with the City's capital improvements needs over a five-year period. This budget process takes 3 months to complete, ending with presentations to Council in March and April. The 2012 capital improvement program budget totaled \$9.4 million with over \$3.4 million in outside funding from various sources. ✨

Ready for the Movie:

Bryson Wene and little brother Dominic get settled for the show during a summer Movies in the Park installment.



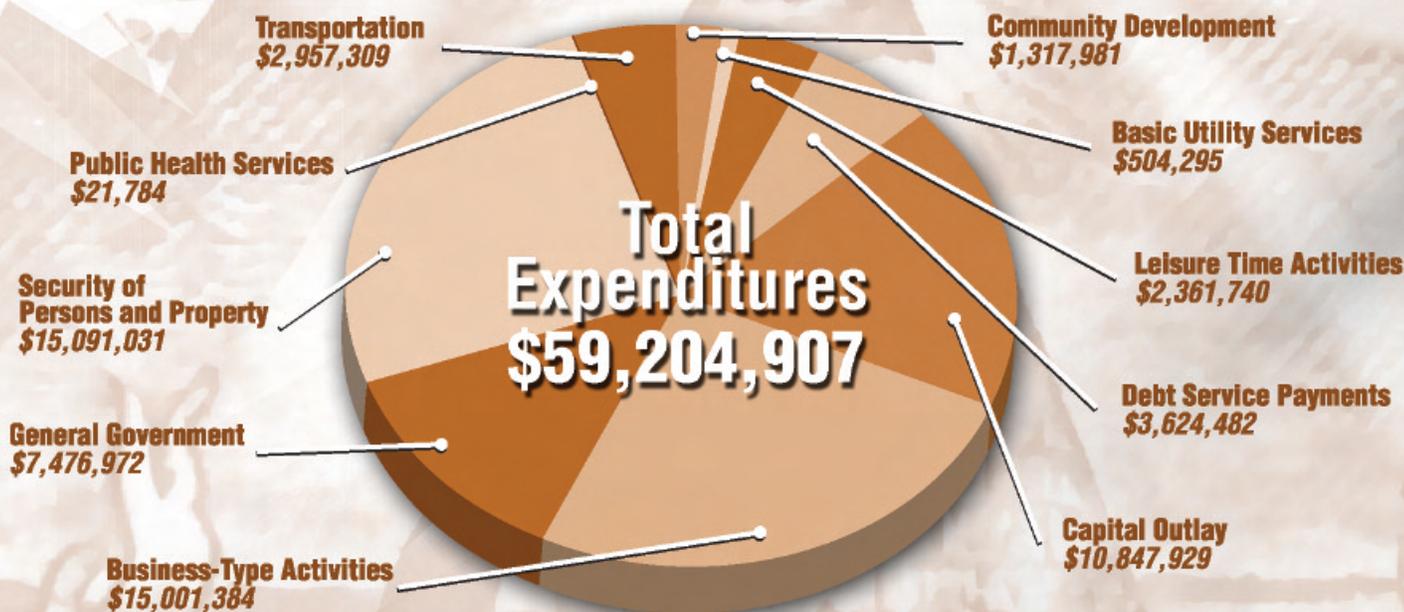
2012 Revenues



	2011	2012
Income Taxes	\$23,494,545	\$24,074,111
Property Taxes	5,229,018	5,361,269
Grants and Entitlements	6,650,457	8,406,346
Charges for Services	15,877,297	16,866,223
Fines, Licenses and Permits	2,247,748	2,057,334
Debt Proceeds	3,763,680	12,028
Interest Earnings	292,586	198,415
Contributions and Donations	865,921	590
Reimbursements	926,265	678,922
Other	346,921	544,401
Total Revenues	\$59,694,438	\$58,199,639

This overview of the City's financial operation for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012, 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 six months after the end of the fiscal year, with an official audit report completed soon thereafter.

2012 Expenditures



	2011	2012
<u>Government Activities</u>		
General Government	\$7,854,337	\$7,476,972
Security of Persons and Property	15,316,668	15,091,031
Public Health Services	21,998	21,784
Transportation	3,390,126	2,957,309
Community Environment	1,325,521	1,317,981
Basic Utility Services	573,762	504,295
Leisure Time Activities	2,590,538	2,361,740
Debt Service Payments	2,894,831	3,624,482
Capital Outlay	9,775,151	10,847,929
Total Government Activities	\$43,742,932	\$44,203,523
<u>Business-Type Activities</u>		
Water Utility	\$5,120,377	\$4,618,902
Sewer Utility	7,013,084	5,910,587
Solid Waste Utility	2,367,065	2,485,172
Recreation Facilities	1,968,050	1,986,723
Total Business-Type Activities	\$16,468,576	\$15,001,384
Total Expenditures	\$60,211,508	\$59,204,907
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	\$(517,070)	\$(1,005,268)





City of Fairfield

5350 Pleasant Avenue • Fairfield, Ohio 45014
www.fairfield-city.org

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