



*Great history,
bright future!*



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

WWW.FAIRFIELDTWP.ORG

Administration OVERVIEW



6
Full-Time
Administrative
Staff

Fairfield Township Administration includes the Township Administrator's Office, Human Resources, Finance, Special Projects and Events, Development Services, and Communications. The primary role of administration is to implement the policies of the Board of Trustees, lead the day-to-day operations of the Township's four major departments, provide oversight and support of the 140 full-time/part-time employees, and prepare the Township annual budget.

Administration Department Highlights

- Renewed Humana health plan and wellness initiative resulting in net positive results for the Township in 2019.
- Managed the Township's risk and liability insurance and workers compensation programs.
- Processed over 2,500 checks and purchase orders.
- Provided administrative support to the Community Improvement Corporation.
- Planned a year of events for the enjoyment of the residents.
- Implemented new online cyber security training.
- Hired a finance office supervisor and restructured both the fiscal office and front administrative office.
- Conducted annual training for all Township employees to ensure compliance with the Township's Personnel Policy and state and federal laws.
- Provided administrative support for the Township's Zoning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, and Joint Economic Development District Board.
- Created a Parks Committee and Veterans Memorial Committee.
- Maintained the Township's website and social media presence reaching over 100,000 website viewers.
- Prepared and implemented the Township's \$24 million Annual Budget consisting of 28 different funds.

2019 ELECTED OFFICIALS



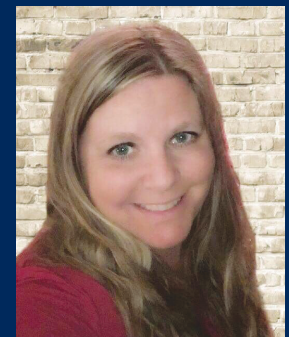
Susan Berding
Trustee President



Shannon Hartkemeyer
Trustee Vice President



Joseph McAbee
Trustee



Shelly Schultz
Fiscal Officer

A LETTER FROM JULIE VONDERHAAR

Township Administrator



“Great Past...Bright Future!” Such a simple statement, but one that so aptly describes the unique and varied nature of Fairfield Township. 2019 personified the proud history and deep roots that exist in Fairfield Township, while also demonstrating the continued forward progress and contemporary vision of the Board. Balancing a mix of old and new can be challenging. Fairfield Township has worked hard to strike that balance, recognizing the long history of Fairfield Township, while welcoming younger families and working towards contemporary thinking.

One prime example from the year is Rock the Block. Sponsored and run by Habitat for Humanity, this was one of the largest events to ever be held in the Township. Focused solely on Five Points, a deeply rooted and historical area of the Township, Rock the Block helped residents remove garbage, paint houses, fix fences, and focus on neighborhood pride. This great event brought together a mix of long time and new residents, long established and new churches, Township employees, and so many other community partners.

Another valuable resource in 2019 included several residents led committees. A Veterans Memorial Committee and Parks Committee worked to create new opportunities at the Shafers Run Park on Vonnie Vale as well as at the newly named Heroes Park along Millikin Road. Improvements included new playground equipment, refurbished tennis courts, the addition of pickle ball lines, and a new walking path at Shafers Run.

Fairfield Township enjoyed many positive community events including Safety Fair, Family Fun Night, Shop With A Cop, Treat Street, and Holiday Lights to name just a few. The annual and ever popular Spring Clean Up Day was more successful than ever and resulted in garbage pickup along both parks, truckloads of donations to Habitat for Humanity, and the removal of hundreds of tires, batteries, and yard waste for residents.

The year allowed the Fairfield Township Board and employees many awesome opportunities to interact with the public. Our residents are the reason we are here and our motivation to work hard day in and day out, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days of the year. It is our pleasure to work for each of you and towards a better and brighter future, while recognizing and respecting the history that brought us to this point.

Thank you for being a part of a tremendous 2019. Both the Board and Administration look forward to additional success throughout 2020!

Thank you,
Julie Vonderhaar



Rock the Block



Veterans Logo



Holiday Lights

Budget & FINANCE

Township Appropriation Process

The Township's budgetary process begins in the fall by drafting temporary appropriations. This process involves the Township Administrator meeting with Department Heads and the Fiscal Officer to discuss available fund balances, expected revenue and the particular needs of each department. Proposed expenditures are reviewed to ensure alignment with the adopted goals and/or strategies of the Township.

The Board of Trustees is presented a draft of the temporary appropriations at board meetings by the Township Administrator and Fiscal Officer. Once reviewed, the temporary appropriations may be modified based on feedback from the Board of Trustees. The temporary appropriations are adopted prior to the beginning of the year or at one of the first meetings of the year. The final appropriations are passed before March 31st after conducting a public hearing, enabling the public to review and provide comment.

Financial Structure

Fairfield Township's appropriations are made up of 28 different funds. Each fund receives revenues from specific sources, such as property tax levies, and is restricted in terms of permissible expenditures. Each fund carries its own balance and carryovers. The general fund permits the greatest discretionary expenditures. All other funds are known as special purpose funds, which have greater restrictions by state law regarding what they can be used for.

The Township's financial structure is best understood as "a la carte" due to the ability of residents, through various dedicated tax levies, to determine the level of services desired. The Township's revenue is primarily received from property taxes with the majority dedicated to public safety (Police and Fire/EMS).

Employment & Payroll

The Township is at a historic high for full-time employment. In 2019, 7 full-time fire fighters were added, one which will act as a day turn inspector. Police strength was authorized to 23, which is the highest staffing to date. The service department is also at a high with 7 full-time employees, all of whom have a snow plow, which makes snow operations more efficient.



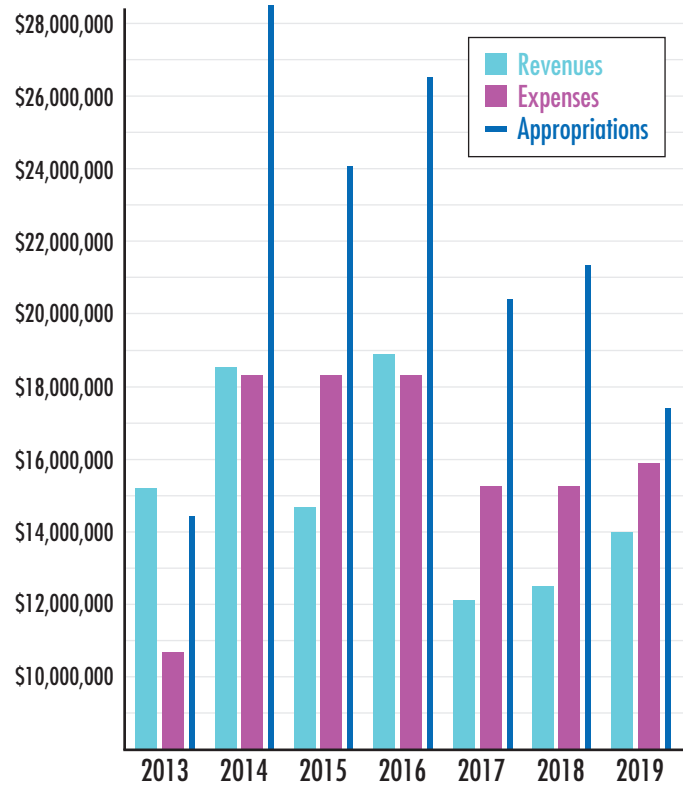
\$4,536,525.88
2019 Wages



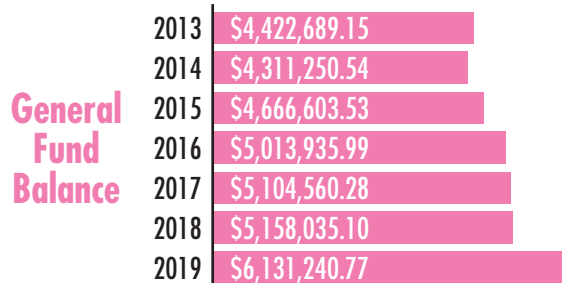
49
Full-Time Employees

64
Part-Time Employees

FINANCIAL RECAP 2013-2019



\$14,059,672.05 2019 Revenues **\$15,944,728.46** 2019 Expenses **\$17,490,628.85** 2019 Appropriations



Economic DEVELOPMENT

2019 was a great year for Fairfield Township, experiencing a number of both commercial and residential improvements. The community will benefit from the introduction of new businesses, sizeable improvements, and renovations along the Princeton Road corridor.

Solid Commercial improvements took place again in 2019 with a total of 42 commercial projects approved, including; tenant finishes, new commercial construction, commercial remodels and sign improvements.

Permits for new residential construction of Single-Family Homes increased significantly from 20 in 2018 up to 53 in 2019.

Zoning and Property Maintenance

In 2019, the Fairfield Township Zoning Department received 226 zoning and property maintenance complaints. By the end of 2019, 189 of the cases were resolved.

Almost 20% of the complaints received in 2019 were through the new online citizen portal. The online portal allows residents to issue complaints along with relevant information including: addresses, details, and pictures. This portal has increased the Departments efficiency in addressing with issues in the community.

StoryPoint Senior Living Construction



282
Zoning
Certificates
Issued



42
Commercial
Improvements



Frisch's Big Boy Ribbon Cutting



Road Improvements



Service DEPARTMENT

The Service Department is responsible for maintaining all township roads, right of ways, and traffic control signs. We plow snow and spread salt as needed on all township roads. During fair weather, we maintain the grass within the township right-of-way as well as the Township's facilities.

To meet these requirements, we were in need of replacement mowers. We dealt with extensive issues using our side trim mower. The township decided to go in a different direction, purchasing a new tractor with a different type of mowing attachment.

With the new fire house completed, we are now responsible for the maintenance of that ground, as well. We cleared out an area north of the property to create a better sight distance for fire department and the residents travelling south on Gilmore. We are also able store four dump trucks at the old 212 station off Tylersville. We currently store four dump trucks at the administration building, as well. While more room is needed for equipment, this is an improvement over previous years.

The 2019 paving plan, which was set in 2018, worked out accordingly with the county. Minor problems with scheduling were addressed and dealt with. In addition, we have used approximately forty-five tons of hot asphalt, along with a crack seal program, to combat the problem of road deterioration. The department has contracted out several items due to man power issues including curb replacement and repairs to the laterals that cross the road.

The Service Department is required to maintain the sump collector line, which runs from catch basin to catch basin. Thanks to the purchase of a push camera, we have been able to locate problems without digging up lines.



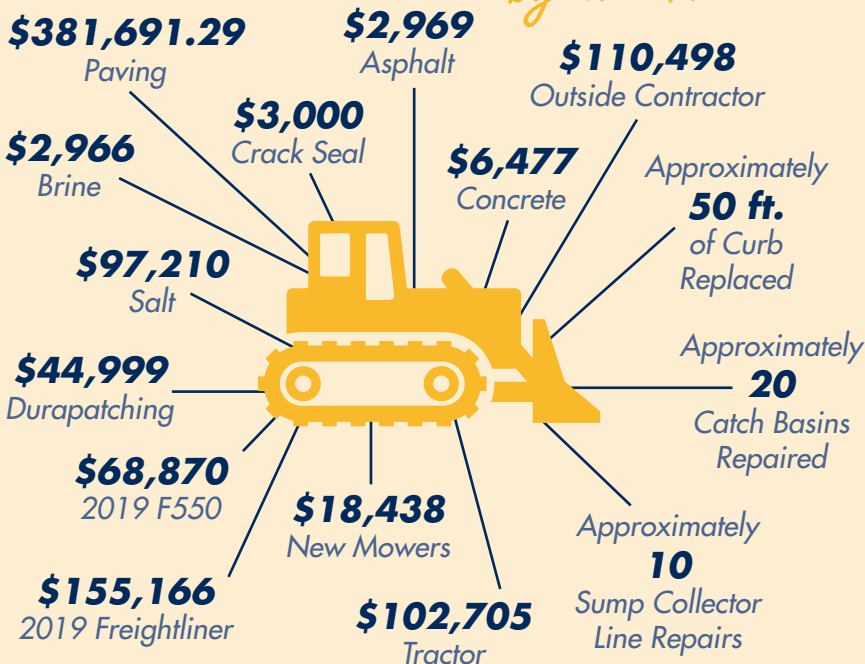
Due to the heavy workload of the department, more equipment has been added or replaced out of necessity. We have acquired a new ford 550 with a dump bed and tool box to replace the aging 550, which was used frequently in the project of curb replacement and asphalt work. We now have a fleet of eight ten-ton dump trucks and a back-up truck all equally equipped to handle the snow and hauling of debris from any of the work sites.



Service Department employees attended and worked the Rock the Block event organized by Habitat for Humanity. The event succeeded in filling approximately eleven dumpsters.

REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE

by the Numbers





PARKS & Recreation

Spring brought on new challenges with the additional responsibility of maintaining the baseball fields. The Service Department is responsible for keeping the fields in playable condition throughout the spring, summer, and fall by dragging them when weather permits. The Department tried to get them into playable condition once a week, sometimes twice.

During the spring, a contractor was contacted to repair the drainage in Holly's Dog Park. Unfortunately, this required keeping one side closed. In the fall, the grass returned and the drainage repair appeared to have worked out as planned.

Along with the drainage repair, the Department has installed new equipment and created a new walking path that circles the park.



Playground upgrades at Shafer's Run Park



In-progress repairs and upgrades to Holly's Dog Park

NatureWorks Grant

To help facilitate playground improvement, Fairfield Township was conditionally approved for \$124,109 in funding through the twenty-sixth round of the NatureWorks grant program.



Police DEPARTMENT



Robert Chabali
Police Chief

The Fairfield Township Police Department is comprised of sworn and civilian employees committed to providing professional and dedicated service to the community. We strive to make Fairfield Township a safe place to those who live, work, recreate, and travel through our township.

Our Department is in a transition phase to meet the demands of a growing and thriving community. As the result of attrition and an authorized increase in staffing, the Fairfield Township Police Department has hired 13 new police officers since March 2018. All of these officers are certified through the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) and are required to complete a challenging Field Training Program and a one-year probationary period before being assigned to the patrol function. One more police officer is scheduled to be hired in the near future, which will bring our full-time sworn strength to 23 police officers. Additionally, we have two full-time Records Clerks, one part-time Community Resource Officer, one part-time Property Room Officer, and one School Resource Officer (SRO) assigned to Butler Tech.

In 2019 we sent an officer through the rigorous two-week D.A.R.E. Instructor training, allowing us to assign a police officer to Fairfield North Elementary School and Fairfield East Elementary School.

Our community engagement continues to expand to make our personnel more accountable to the community they serve. Our



1,199
Arrests



1,249
Traffic Citations



2,381
Offense Reports



471
Crash Reports



12,326
Calls for Service

Officers are routinely interacting with our community members by attending neighborhood meetings, identifying their concerns, and working as a team with other personnel and community resources to address those concerns. Members of the Department attended 61 community/neighborhood meetings in 2019.

The Police Department, along with the Fire Department, participates in the Annual Safety Fair at Bridgewater Falls. Officers also participate in the "Fill a Cruiser" charity event prior to Thanksgiving every year. 2019 was the 3rd year for this very successful and worthwhile event, which generated over 500 lbs. of food, cash, and personal care products. Additionally, officers participated in two shopping events for kids in need during Christmas time.



Equipment needs for our Officers are constantly reviewed. The Department continues the 5-year rotation on our marked units, and we are researching the funding to increase our fleet due to increased staffing. We changed the color of our marked cars along with updating the graphics and lights to a more contemporary look. The patrol rifles were updated in 2019 and less-lethal capabilities were increased. Additionally, we are researching a potential remodel of our police facilities.

International Training Event

Members of the Department participated in an international training event held in Indiana at Maskatutuk. This facility allows crews to train on every type of emergency from flooding, earthquakes, building collapse, and law enforcement activities. The All Hazards Incident Management Team was invited to assist in this international response drill.



Fire DEPARTMENT



3,214
Calls for Service



Timothy J. Thomas, Sr.
Fire Chief

2019 has been a year of great progress for the department. One of the highlights of the year has to be the completion of the long-awaited replacement of Station 212 on Tylersville Road.

This year we were finally able to open the new facility on Gilmore Road. The dedication was held on May 11th. The station has the ability to have up to ten members on duty, with individual bunkrooms for each member.

Apparatus now enjoys four 80 foot bays with housing for up to eight pieces of equipment. The Fire Safety Trailer now has a new home inside, and the service vehicle no longer has to sit outside. We moved the reserve apparatus over to Station 212, which helped to alleviate the crowding at Station 211.

Members working at the new facility now have plenty of room to operate from. We have added storage rooms and purpose-built rooms to meet the demands of today's fire service. We have hopefully designed enough extra space to allow for the changes that will be coming to the department in the future.

Personnel changes during the year also were a major activity. Two of our members left our fulltime positions for other opportunities. We were able to replace them with the hiring of Greg Hoelle and Christopher Ferguson. We also were able to increase our authorized strength with the addition of a fulltime Fire Inspector position.

We continue to struggle with staffing issues. While the full-time staff that we have has certainly made a huge improvement, there are still concerns. The pool of viable part-time employees remains limited. We face a struggle with keeping our standards high. This can result in us not hiring some of the applicants. I am sure that keeping our standards will pay the most dividends. We will continue our efforts to recruit additional part time staff.

Logan DeBord, who serves as a member of the reserves, has been deployed since the beginning of 2019 and is expected to return to work in early 2020. We were able to hire Brennan Berter in late 2019, who will cover the shift opening until Logan returns. At that time one of the full-time members will move to the day turn Fire Inspector position.

Important Upgrades

- Received the new radio equipment purchased by the Township in 2018 at the beginning of 2019.
- Purchased a new Braun Ambulance from Penn Care Medical and a new E-One Engine from Vogelpohl Fire Equipment. Both units will be delivered in early 2020.
- Purchased over \$44,000 of replacement fire hose, switching from "Hamilton" thread to National Standard Thread (NST). This makes the Department compatible with other agencies in the area.
- Purchased a new set of extrication tools and a new stabilization kit. The new tools are Genesis Battery Operated units, allowing the Department to eliminate hydraulic hoses so each tool can operate without the restrictions created by hydraulic lines and their lengths.



Our COMMUNITY

Fairfield Township prides itself on the invaluable partnerships formed with our many community members. We've worked with Fairfield City Schools, Butler County, and the Cities of Fairfield and Hamilton on economic deals. We've also formed partnerships with Butler Tech, the Fairfield and Hamilton Chambers, the Fairfield Community Foundation, Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Butler County, the EMA, Energy Alliance, Butler County Sheriff's Office, the County Commissioners, One Way Farm, Fairfield Rotary Club, Bridgewater Falls, Walmart, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Cincinnati, Matthew Twenty Five Ministries, Ohio EPA, local churches, the Butler County Land Bank, the Butler County Port Authority, the many Butler County Departments and the Butler County Engineer, Fire Corp, CPAA, Parks Committee, Veterans Memorial Committee, scout troops, elected officials and many local restaurants who have donated food and time to Township events. And so many more. Our success is directly related to the incredible partnerships and help received along the way!

Community Improvement Corporation (CIC)

The Fairfield Township Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) acts as an economic development agent for the Township, promoting, advancing, and encouraging economic growth in the area.

Aggregation & Safety

It's all about savings to residents and businesses. In November 2015, the community voted to add an aggregation program through Energy Alliances, Inc. That same month, a \$2.9 million safety levy was approved, affording \$1.6 million to improve Fairfield Township.



Aerial view of Bridgewater Falls

Aggregation Comparisons to Consider

It is true that electric utility rates during the winter months are lower for those that cross a usage threshold. In Duke, the threshold is 1000 kWh. If you are on Duke's Standard Service Offer (SSO), the rate you pay for the first 1000 kWh used is higher than for the kWh used above 1000 kWh. On a per rate basis (\$/kWh), someone that uses 2000 kWh on Duke's SSO will have a "lower" price to compare (PTC) in the winter than someone that uses 1000 kWh on Duke's SSO in the same month. When you have extreme weather in the winter we could temporarily see low PTC's on the bills.

However, aggregation performance is a marathon and not a sprint. In the summer, there is no "discount" for using more than 1000 kWh. Residents pay the same amount for EVERY kWh they use. That same customer that used 2000 kWh in January would see a higher per rate bill in July if they used 2000 kWh even though they used the same amount of energy.

This situation shows the need for evaluating the performance of the aggregation across all months with Energy Alliances preferring to use a rolling 12-month average to assess the strength of a program.

ROCK THE BLOCK

Five Points

On April 13, 2019, here is what we accomplished together!

- (21) families in the Five Points neighborhood of Fairfield Township served as event hosts and received minor exterior home repairs, landscaping supplies, and debris removal
- (33) crew teams
- (75) event crew leaders, floaters, and drivers
- (339) volunteers, 2,034 hours served = \$48,918 value of volunteer time contributed
- (25) blocks
- (47) fire hydrants repainted
- Special thanks to Fairfield Township, Lawn Life, and the Habitat truck teams for a record breaking debris removal for a RTB neighborhood clean-up event!
- (12) pickup trucks in rotation during the event to support debris removal and supply deliveries
- (17) dumpster loads and brush removal, totaling 550 cubic yards, weighing approximately 110 TONS of debris removed! 110 tons is the equivalent of 9 school buses!
- (350) tires removed in total! (216) during RTB – thank you Discount Tire (100% of removal costs donated) and Fairfield Township; AND (134) additional tires removed during the post event clean up – thank you to Firestone Tire (100% of removal costs donated).
- Light breakfast provided by the HOPE Coalition that served over 500 guests during the kickoff event
- (7) church partners
- (50+) Community, service, and business partners. Incredible community support! Thank you!
- (900) bottles of water donated by Pepsico!
- (500) lunches sponsored by North Fairfield Baptist Church and Thrivent, prepared and distributed by the Disciples Christian Church, Fire Corps, and the Fairfield Township team
- Crew Leader lunch provided by WingStop!





6032 Morris Road
Hamilton, OH 45011

UPCOMING EVENTS

in 2020

SPRING CLEAN UP DAY
May 16 • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

CRUISE-IN CLASSICS
June 2 • 5:00 - 8:00 pm

DRIVE IN MOVIE
June 5 • 8:30 pm

DRIVE IN MOVIE
July 10 • 8:30 pm

SUMMER CONCERTS IN THE VILLAGE AT BRIDGEWATER
July 15 • 6:30 - 8:30 pm

SUMMER CONCERTS IN THE VILLAGE AT BRIDGEWATER
July 29 • 6:30-8:30 pm

DRIVE IN MOVIE
August 7 • 8:30 pm

BRIDGEWATER FALLS WALKING CLUB
September 2 • 8:30 - 10:00 am

ANNUAL TOUCH-A-TRUCK SAFETY FAIR
September 19 • 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

FAIRFIELD CHAMBER SPRINGFEST
September 26 • 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

TREAT STREET
October 24 • 2:00 - 4:00 pm

HOLIDAY LIGHTS
December 5 • 5:00 - 7:00 pm

SHOP WITH A COP
December 12 • 11:00 am - 3:00 pm



For more information, visit www.fairfieldtwp.org.