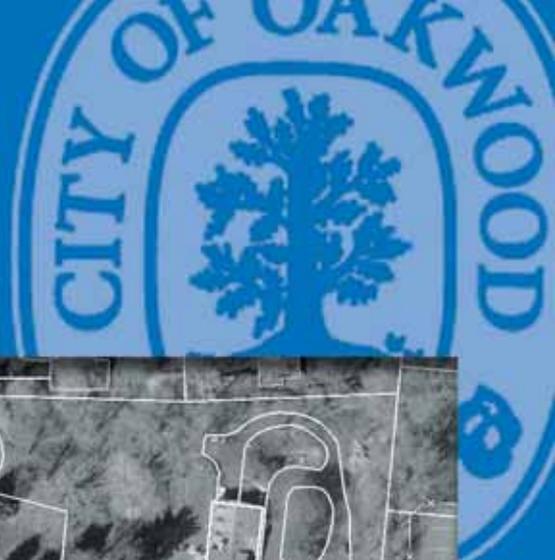




City of Oakwood



Annual Report 2007



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ABOUT THE COVER

Last summer, Oakwood residents Irv Bieser and Cindy Garner, both members of the city’s Centennial Celebration Committee learned of the availability of a 3.1 acre piece of property adjacent to Houk Stream. They informed city officials and urged the city to consider acquiring the land, and for very good reason.

The 3.1 acre property was a buildable lot created in 1995 when an 11.4 acre estate was subdivided. On the cover of this report is an aerial photograph of the Houk Stream public natural area. Encircled in red is the perimeter boundary. Hatched in yellow is the 3.1 acres. Houk Stream is shown in blue. This aerial photo clearly shows the impact of this purchase. Had the city not acquired the land, this 3.1 acres would certainly have become the site of a private estate.

This land purchase is a major component of our Centennial Celebration. Although not yet

formally designated, the land is already being referred to as “Centennial Park at Houk Stream”. Through ownership of this property, the city has greatly enhanced our public land to the benefit of all our citizens.

To connect this new public land to the other portion of the Houk Stream area, the city is constructing a pedestrian bridge across the stream. This bridge will be built with very little, if any, public funds. Members of the Oakwood Rotary Club have taken the lead on planning, designing and obtaining, mostly through private donations, the materials and labor needed to install the 8 foot wide by 35 foot long bridge. The bridge will be officially dedicated in a formal ceremony to be held sometime in late spring.

Other than the bridge, current plans for the property include general site cleanup, planting of wildflowers and other perennial plant material, and removal of undesirable and invasive plants such as honeysuckle, ailanthus and pokeweed.



Phone Numbers

CITY PHONE NUMBERS

POLICE, FIRE & MEDICAL EMERGENCY911
 NON-EMERGENCY298-2122

PUBLIC SAFETY298-2122
 Director of Safety, Police and Fire Services,
 Emergency Medical Services, Public Safety Records

PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT
 INFO LINE (RECORDING)293-INFO

ADMINISTRATION298-0600
 City Manager, Deputy City Manager,
 Clerk of Council, City/School Scene Newsletter

FINANCE DEPARTMENT298-0402
 Finance Director, Assessments, Vital Statistics

HEALTH DEPARTMENT298-0600

INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT298-0531

INSPECTIONAL SERVICE297-2920
 City Inspector, Permits, Zoning and
 Pre-Sale Housing Inspections,
 Property Maintenance Issues

LEISURE SERVICES298-0775
 Director of Leisure Services
 Health Center & Teen Center
 Horticulturist/Smith Gardens
 Parks & Recreation Program
 William E. Gardner Pool.....297-2933
 Leisure Line (Recordings)297-2935

MUNICIPAL COURT293-3058
 Clerk of Courts, Small Claims Court
 and Traffic Violations

PERSONNEL/HUMAN RESOURCES298-0411

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT298-0777
 Public Works Director
 City Engineer, Bulk Pickups
 Street, Alley, Water and Sewer Maintenance
 Waste Collection (Refuse and Recycling)

WATER DEPARTMENT
 Billing & Meter Information298-0400
 Water Softening Plant Information298-0777

CITY WEBSITE
www.mvcc.net/oakwood

OTHER NUMBERS

OAKWOOD SCHOOLS

Board of Education297-5332
 Oakwood High School297-5325
 Oakwood Junior High School297-5328
 Edwin Smith Elementary School297-5335
 Harman Elementary School297-5338
 Lange School (Kindergarten)299-8730

Dayton Power & Light331-3900
 Hills & Dales Shelter Rental Info
 (March 21 - Oct. 17).....333-8400
 Kettering Inspections Department296-2441
 Montgomery County Property
 Tax Information225-4002
 RTA (Route & Schedule Information)226-1144
 SBC Ameritech1-800-660-1000
 Time Warner Cable294-6400
 Vectren1-800-909-7668
 Wright Brothers Post Office1-800-275-8777
 Wright Memorial Public Library294-7171



Oakwood City Council

Oakwood is served by a council/manager form of government. Oakwood's City Council is comprised of five members who are elected on a non-partisan basis for four-year overlapping terms. The mayor and vice mayor are selected by their fellow council members for two-year terms.

City Council is the policy-making body of the community. To implement city policies, enforce ordinances and direct delivery of services to citizens, council appoints a full-time professional city manager. The city manager serves as chief administrative and operating officer of the city.

City Council normally meets in formal session on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the city building, 30 Park Avenue. These formal meetings are broadcast live on the local cable Government Access channel, (Channel 6). The meetings are re-broadcast several times during the week or two afterwards (check www.mvcc.net for dates and times). The meetings are also viewable through the city website at www.mvcc.net/oakwood.

Council also meets in work session typically once each month. These work sessions are also held at the city building and normally begin at 5 p.m. on the third Monday of each month. During summer months, council may meet only once per month. Meetings are open to the public and attendance is encouraged.

To help in performing city business, council members rely on the assistance of many Oakwood citizens through service on city committees. The current list of council-appointed committees is as follows:

- Board of Health
- Board of Zoning Appeals
- Budget Review Committee
- Comprehensive Planning Committee
- Environmental Committee
- Human Relations Commission
- ADA Compliance Committee
- Personnel Appeals Board
- Planning Commission
- Property Maintenance Board
- Public Facilities Task Force
- Tax/Sewer/Water Assembly Appeals
- Martin Luther King Breakfast Committee
- Centennial Film Committee
- 2008 Centennial Celebration Committee

In total, the current slate of committees provides opportunities for over 164 residents to be involved in the business of providing local public services. Citizens interested in serving on a committee should contact the Clerk of Council, Cathy Blum at 298-0600 or should send an e-mail to Mayor Judy Cook at cook@oakwood.oh.us or City Manager Norbert Klopsch at klopsch@oakwood.oh.us



Judy Cook
Mayor



Carlo McGinnis
Vice Mayor



Stanley Castleman
Council Member



Bill Duncan
Council Member



Roger Blumensheid
Council Member
Term Ended 12/31/07



Steve Byington
Council Member
Term Began 1/1/08



Message from the Mayor

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

In the pages that follow, you will find detailed information regarding 2007 city services and projects. It is a report to the community from the City Manager and his staff. Here you can learn how your tax dollars have been used to maintain Oakwood as a special place to call home. It is clearly written and provides extensive information. All the facts and figures are included. The approach is comprehensive so citizens can both know specifically about 2007 events and also gain general knowledge of city management responsibilities.

The past year has been very challenging for the Oakwood staff. The work load required hours far exceeding normal expectations. Accomplishments were possible only because of leadership from senior staff and dedication by the entire staff. Citizen access to staff members remained a priority which added many hours to the work day. The strength of staff knowledge, skill and dedication to service was revealed at its best throughout the year. Our ability to remain a successful, vibrant community is a credit to the management of Oakwood. The members of city staff deserve both our support and thanks.

A review of 2007 reveals the many demands for management attention. We began the year focused on the former NCR Sugar Camp property and that focus remained through out the year. After approval of the master plan in April, staff began the meticulous monitoring of every detail of the plan as activity began. Meeting every condition of the plan and assuring quality work constitutes their agenda at all times. Tracking the study and development of the centralized dispatch plan involved multiple staff members as well as Councilman Stanley Castleman. Gathering all the data and facts was essential to reaching a decision regarding Oakwood's participation. This took coordination of several staff members. After considering all the information, staff recommended against joining the new dispatch center and Council concurred. We will use the center as a backup to our own system and continue to monitor the performance of this new dispatch operation. The transfer of Hawthorn Hill from NCR to the Wright Family Foundation brought proposals for change. Opening the home for limited public tours and giving ownership to the National Park Service created controversy and public debate. Tours began in September and have not impacted the neighborhood and the process of transferring ownership to the National Parks is just beginning. Public housing effects on Oakwood was a topic discussed with high emotion. City staff met with Dayton Metropolitan Housing Authority staff and enlisted their willing assistance in an open meeting for citizen discussion. Our housing inspection program and strict law enforcement removes the fear of potential harm to property values posed by public housing. Reconfiguring Oakwood Ave. between Far Hills and the city's northern border was completed just as the year ended. Safety issues required establishing single traffic lanes going both north and south. The decision to do this in a manner that enhanced the neighborhood came after lengthy discussions with the neighbors and ensuing modifications.

These glimpses of the past year challenges emphasize the capacity of our management team. City Council applauds their performance and appreciates the opportunity to govern with such a supportive team. A healthy decision making process results from close communication between City Council and city staff. The synergism of our working relationship is a true benefit to our citizens.

Sincerely,

Judy Cook
Mayor



Message from the City Manager

Dear Fellow Citizens,

It is my pleasure to present the city's 2007 Annual Report. The report includes an introduction of each operating department followed by a series of questions and answers. The data and narrative will give you a good understanding of the services provided by your city staff. I hope you find this report informative and useful.

Producing an annual report gives us the opportunity to reflect on the past year and to present some thoughts on current issues and opportunities. We chose once again to have this report published in newsprint form by the Oakwood Register and delivered as an insert to your paper. We do this for two reasons.

First, because the newsprint format is an inexpensive method of assembling and printing the report. Other types of printing methods would easily cost two or three times as much. Second, we know from community surveys that many citizens use the Oakwood Register as their primary source of information about the city.

2007 was another good year for Oakwood. Highlights include:

• Sugar Camp Development: We approved the new Master Development Plan for the 36 acre property formerly owned by the NCR Corporation.

• Centennial Park at Houk Stream: We purchased a 3.1 acre piece of undeveloped property adjacent to our Houk Stream natural area. This is a very significant addition to our public greenspace. The area is depicted on the front page of this report and more fully described on the inside cover.

• Oakwood Avenue Improvements: We completed a significant street project enhancing roadway safety and ambiance.

• Park Avenue Parking and Streetscape: We completed detailed plans for major improvements to the public parking lot that serves the City Building and Park Avenue businesses. Construction is scheduled to take place this year. This is the first phase of a 2-phase project focused on enhancing the Park Avenue district. The second phase will

involve major streetscape improvements and will likely take place in 2009.

• Public Safety Dispatch Center: Following City Council's unanimous decision to retain our own dispatch center (in lieu of joining a county-wide center), we began work on developing plans for a major equipment upgrade. The upgrade will take place this year and will include the technology to direct cell phone calls made within Oakwood to our dispatch center. Those cell calls are currently received at the Sheriff's department.

• New Council Members: Our citizens elected three people to new 4-year terms on city council. Bill Duncan and Stanley Castleman were re-elected to second terms and Steve Byington was elected to his first term. The three were elected from a group of seven candidates. They join Mayor Judy Cook and Vice Mayor Carlo McGinnis in service to our city.

Article IV of our City Charter specifies 10 specific duties of the city manager. Four of these duties relate to city finances, making the management of our public funds one of my primary responsibilities. Our most important financial document is the annual budget. The budget includes a broad range of information about our city.

Each year we develop this budget with involvement of our citizen Budget Review Committee ("BRC"). The BRC consists of 34 Oakwood residents representing each of our 11 voting precincts. In December, City Council approved the budget. Here are some highlights:



Norbert S. Klopsch



NON-ENTERPRISE FUNDS

Non-enterprise funds include everything except funds relating to the water and sewer utilities.

Current Balances: At the end of 2007, our non-enterprise fund balances reflected an increase of \$3.7 million over 2006. The primary reason for this is that we received \$9.92 million in estate tax revenue – this is by far the largest amount of estate tax the city ever received in a single year. To put this in perspective, we budgeted to receive \$1 million and our annual average estate tax receipts over the past 10 years were \$2.8 million. Annual estate tax revenue varies dramatically from year to year. From a budget policy standpoint, we view estate tax revenue as “special project” money and guard against relying on that money to cover normal annual operating expenses. That said, over the past few years, we have started using estate tax dollars to pay for some normal city services. This has occurred because our expenses continue to rise, just like any business or government agency, yet we have not asked our citizens or businesses for additional tax dollars since 1991.

In 2007 we invested a significant portion of the unexpected estate tax dollars back into our community. We committed approximately \$3.4 million to public roadways and spent approximately \$760,000 on public property acquisitions. The public benefits from these investments will be realized for generations.

We received an estimated \$5.51 million of income tax revenue last year – this is approximately \$430,000 more than what we received in 2006 and \$200,000 more than we budgeted to receive.

The city did not raise any taxes last year, nor will we propose any tax increases in 2008. Again, the last time the city raised taxes to support city services was 1991.

New Revenues from Sugar Camp Project:

Income Tax – In 2007 we began receiving some income tax revenue from the new commercial office uses at the former NCR Sugar Camp property. The new revenues will continually increase as more professional offices are filled. When all the buildings are full, we estimate new revenues to be approximately \$250,000 annually.

Real Estate Tax – When the project is completed, the new development will significantly increase our total appraised residential and commercial property values. This significant

increase will spread the total tax burden, including taxes for our schools, county, library, Human Services, and Sinclair Community College across a larger tax-paying base.

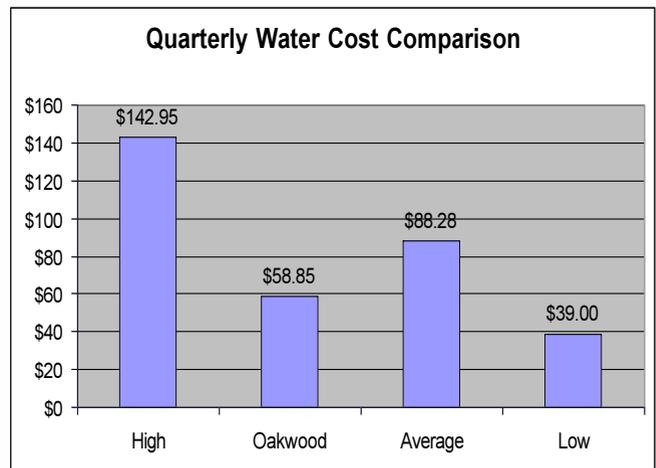
Estate Tax – Estate taxes are received by the local government in which a person resides at their time of death. Providing much needed empty-nester housing in Oakwood certainly bodes well for future estate tax revenue.

Major Non-Enterprise Expenses: Not including the \$2.75 million earmarked for the Sugar Camp commercial and residential developments, the 2007 Major capital expenses totaled \$1.9 million. Between 1998 and 2007, our Non-Enterprise capital expenses averaged approximately \$1.1 million per year. The significant increase last year is primarily attributable to additional roadway work completed using a portion of the unexpected estate tax revenue.

Each year we continue to make significant investments in our roadways, parks, pool and other capital improvements, and replace capital equipment as needed. With those investments, we are keeping up with our infrastructure needs and have the equipment to provide the quality services that our citizens appreciate and expect.

WATER UTILITY

Current Balances: Our 2007 Water Fund year-end balances reflected an increase of \$191,000 over 2006. The 2008 beginning year balance of \$1.1 million is well above the \$500,000 minimum desired balance. This is particularly noteworthy since we have not raised water rates since 1994 and, based on the 2008 rate survey, have the 6th lowest water rates out of 68 jurisdictions in the greater Miami Valley area.





Message from the City Manager

Major Water Utility Expenses: Our average annual expenses on Capital Equipment and Improvements over the past 10 years were approximately \$154,000. In 2007 we only spent \$17,000.

SEWER UTILITY

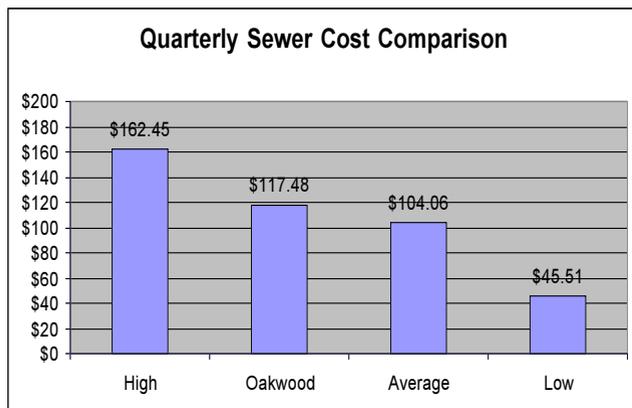
Current Balances: Our 2007 Sewer Fund year-end balances reflected an increase of \$54,000 over 2006. However, the 2008 beginning year balance of \$108,000 is well below the \$500,000 minimum desired balance. Between 1992 and 2005 we did not raise our sanitary sewer rates to keep up with the increasing costs we paid to Montgomery County and the City of Dayton for wastewater treatment. These wastewater treatment costs represent 74% of the total expenses to operate our sewer utility. In January, 2005, we raised our sewer rates by \$4.87 per month. This generated some new revenue, but not nearly enough to offset the increased costs from the previous 13 years. In January, 2007 we raised our sewer rates by \$7.61 per month. We will need to raise our sewer rates again, probably in January, 2009. Based on the 2008 rate survey, our sewer rates are 41st lowest of 63 Miami Valley jurisdictions.

our community and to understand what we do and how we do it. We most certainly can be very proud to live and work in this wonderful city. Our excellent schools, beautiful housing stock, unmatched community character and ambiance, and neighborly environment are second to none. Although you can point to many features or attributes that make our city special, I believe that our most valuable resource is the fine citizens who have chosen Oakwood for the place to live, raise families and retire.

If you have any questions about this report or have any other issues that you wish to discuss with me, please do not hesitate to call (298-0600) or e-mail (klopsch@oakwood.oh.us).

Sincerely,

Norbert S. Klopsch
City Manager



Major Sewer Utility Expenses: Our average annual expenses on Capital Equipment and Improvements over the past 10 years were approximately \$278,000. In 2007 we spent nothing on Sewer Utility Capital Equipment or Improvements.

In summary, our city finances are very sound. We have the resources to continue providing the finest local government services.

I thank you for taking the time to read this Annual Report. I think it is very important that our citizens have the opportunity to learn about





Public Safety

The Oakwood Public Safety Department is one of only 32 fully consolidated police and fire departments in the country. All of Oakwood's sworn officers are state certified in law enforcement, fire fighting and emergency medical services. The underlying strength of the department is premised on the philosophy that public safety service can be most effectively provided by deploying officers trained in the basics of all three disciplines.

A significant advantage to consolidation is that Public Safety Officers (PSO's) on patrol can respond very quickly to a fire call and extinguish small fires or accurately evaluate the status of larger fires. Another distinct advantage is that the PSO's are

trained and equipped to respond to life-threatening emergencies and to take immediate action on any medical situation.

Oakwood's Public Safety Department is the second oldest consolidated department in the United States. Formed in 1927, the concept has been successful in providing our citizens with one of the most secure cities in Ohio and an extremely quick and knowledgeable response to any emergency.

The 39-member Public Safety Department consists of Chief Alex Bebris, two captains, five lieutenants, 25 public safety officers, five dispatchers and a department secretary.

Here are some key questions we are often asked about public safety matters.

CRIME

Question

What are our crime statistics?

Our total reported crime over the past few years has not fluctuated much.

OFFENSE	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Part 1 crimes	258	195	165	202	223
Other major crimes	80	109	106	87	67
Total	338	304	271	289	290

We categorize crimes into two areas:

"Part 1" and "Other Major". A breakdown of each for 2006 and 2007 is as follows:

CRIME	2006		2007	
	OFFENSES	CLEARANCES	OFFENSES	CLEARANCES
PART 1 CRIMES				
Criminal Homicide/Attempted Murder	0	0	0	0
Rape	2	2	0	0
Robbery	1	1	3	2
Assault	11	9	17	12
Burglary	31	8	22	2
Larceny	142	35	176	63
Auto Theft	15*	15	5**	5
PART 1 TOTALS	202	70	223	84
OTHER MAJOR CRIMES				
Arson	0	0	0	0
Forgery, Fraud, Counterfeiting	21	4	18	2
Morals	2	0	3	2
Destruction	51	6	34	6
Narcotics	13	12	11	10
Carrying Concealed Weapon	0	0	1	1
OTHER CRIMES TOTALS	87	22	67	21
ALL MAJOR CRIMES TOTAL	289	92	290	105

*Eleven vehicles were stolen from Oakwood and recovered elsewhere; three vehicles were stolen elsewhere and recovered in Oakwood; one was an attempted auto theft. **Two vehicles were stolen from Oakwood and recovered elsewhere; two vehicles were stolen elsewhere and recovered in Oakwood; one vehicle was stolen from Oakwood and recovered in Oakwood.



As I see in the table below, a majority of our crimes are larcenies. How many of these are investigated and how many are solved?

We investigate every larceny (or theft) and, for that matter, every crime. Shown below are the results of our investigations.

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total Larcenies	159	126	123	142	176
Clearances*	20	19	42	35	63
Percent Cleared	12.6%	15.1%	34.1%	24.7%	35.8%

*Clearance means that the case is no longer under investigation because 1) an arrest has been made; 2) the case is exceptionally cleared; 3) the case was unfounded.

Larcenies (e.g., thefts from vehicles, bicycle thefts) can be difficult to clear. Residents can prevent many of the larcenies in our community by **doing the following:**

- Locking garages.
- Locking vehicles and removing items of value.
- Obtaining bike licenses from the Safety Department and securing bicycles in garages.
- Reporting any suspicious activity to the Safety Department immediately.

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT



Is there a correlation between traffic enforcement and criminal activity?

Yes, there does seem to be a correlation. Traffic enforcement has always been a significant part of the Public Safety Department's mission because of the residential character of our community and the high volume of traffic traveling through Oakwood daily. Annual statistics will vary depending upon community needs and the emphasis given to this important component of an officer's duty. A 5-year history of our statistics is as follows:

YEAR	OVI*	ACCIDENTS	INJURIES	DEATHS	CITATIONS
2003	16	192	22	0	3425
2004	24	207	28	0	2515
2005	15	216	24	0	2334
2006	10	221	28	0	2035
2007	19	203	34	0	2198

*Operating Vehicle Impaired (formerly DUI).



Last year, what were the causes of most accidents?

CAUSES	ACCIDENTS
Assured Clear Distance	.53
Failure to Yield	34
Improper Backing	28
Failure To Control	30
Inattention	5
Improper Turn	6
Disobey Traffic Device	7
OVI	1
Snow/Ice	7
Other	32
Total	203



What do Public Safety Officers do while assigned to patrol duty?

In addition to traffic enforcement, officers also perform vacant house checks, after hours checks on businesses, conduct OVI patrols, respond to calls, perform foot patrols in parks and business areas, conduct crime prevention activities, visit block parties, investigate suspicious individuals and vehicles, make contact with citizens, conduct follow-up investigations on previous complaints, respond to fire and EMS calls for service, direct traffic and monitor school areas.



FIRE



Oakwood citizens and businesses benefit greatly from the fast response time to fires - an important advantage of a consolidated Public Safety Department. What is our response time to fire scenes as compared to the ideal national standard of six minutes?

	2005	2006	2007	National Standard
Average engine response time to scene	3.92 mins.	4.22 mins.	4.28 mins.	6 minutes
Average cruiser response time to scene	1.84 mins.	2.21 mins.	2.14 mins.	



What has been Oakwood's fire loss record in recent years?

YEAR	ALARMS RECEIVED	HANDLED BY		FALSE ALARM	NO DAMAGE	DAMAGE SUSTAINED	TOTAL FIRE LOSS
		FIRE CREW	CREW OFFICERS				
2003	116	100	16	59	108	8	\$150,000
2004	141	112	29	30	116	25	\$910,000
2005	125	102	23	24	118	7	\$118,475
2006	148	127	21	39	126	22	\$97,250
2007	125	107	18	33	112	13	\$100,308

The Public Safety Department responded to a number of significant fires in 2007. In most cases damage was confined and limited due to our quick response and suppression efforts. On November 11, crews responded to a structure fire on Woods Road. The fire was confined to the den with smoke damage throughout. Damage was estimated at \$30,000. On September 27, crews responded to a kitchen fire. The fire was quickly contained and damage was estimated at \$1,300. The most significant fire occurred on February 4, crews responded to a fully involved kitchen fire. A quick knock-down limited fire damage to the kitchen and dining room area, but smoke traveled throughout. Damage was estimated at \$60,000.

RESCUE

Question

**How many medic runs do we have in an average year?
Of those runs, what happened to the patient?**

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total Medic Runs	520	494	510	543	511

ACTION TAKEN	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Taken to hospital by medic vehicle	411	394	417	442	441
Taken to hospital by police cruiser	6	5	1	3	3
Taken to hospital by mutual aid*	26	21	23	20	21
No removal**	76	68	65	72	43
Dead on arrival	1	6	4	6	3

* "Removed" means taken to the hospital.

** "Mutual Aid" means we were assisted by medics from another jurisdiction – usually this is Kettering.

*** These are patients who did not need to be transported to the hospital. They either received treatment on-sight, or refused treatment and transport.

Question

How quickly do safety officers respond to calls for medical emergencies as compared to the ideal national standard of 4 to 6 minutes for the first unit and 13 minutes for a medic?

MEDIC RESCUE TIMES	National Standard	2005	2006	2007
First unit on scene	4-6 minutes	1.81 minutes	2.08 minutes	2.17 minutes
Medic response time	13 minutes	3.35 minutes	3.50 minutes	3.44 minutes
Average on-scene time (medic)		15.46 minutes	16.81 minutes	16.79 minutes
Average run time		54.06 minutes	54.79 minutes	58.09 minutes

TRAINING

Question

How many hours of training are accomplished annually for the department to maintain current certifications for Public Safety Officers?

TRAINING	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Police	1502	1302	1075	1699	2513
Fire	853	1064	946	1891	1713
Rescue	1024	532	1012	1756	1392
Communications/General	34	59	221	79	924
TOTALS	3413	2957	3254	5425	6542

COMMENTS & FUTURE GOALS

Building Access Via "Know Box" — Encourage members of the community to utilize a "Knox Box" system that allows public safety entry to closed buildings after hours in case of emergency. This program will begin with members of the business sector and be expanded into residential neighborhoods.

Upgrade Dispatch Center — Purchase, install and have 100% operational state-of-the-art dispatch center. The current equipment has become difficult to maintain to any acceptable degree of reliability. The equipment also has significant technological drawbacks based on its date of construction that prevents other technological applications from being implemented to their

fullest potential.

Outside Training Partnerships — The Public Safety Department will be co-host training center for the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP). Due to mandated minimum training levels for all sworn law enforcement officers in Ohio, resources in both time and money are diverted to basic recertification and not enhancing the knowledge base of the officer. Co-hosting advanced training on site will reduce personnel costs, eliminate housing and lodging requirements and co-host locations receive free class spaces for each seminar, further reducing cost to the department.



Legal Affairs

The Law Department of the City of Oakwood is headed by our City Attorney, Dalma C. Grandjean, a shareholder in the firm of Altick & Corwin, L.P.A. All of Oakwood's City Attorneys have been affiliated with the law firm of Altick & Corwin, which traces its origins back to 1853.

The office of City Attorney is established by the Charter of the City of Oakwood, which was approved by the electorate on May 3, 1960, and last amended at an election on November 8, 1988. The Charter provides that the Oakwood City Attorney shall serve as the director of the Department of Law. Chapter 127 of the Administrative Code of Oakwood sets forth the duties of the City Attorney and specifies that he or she shall be accountable to the City Manager and to Council.

The Department of Law advises the Council, the City Manager, municipal boards and commissions and the administrative officers

and departments on all relevant matters of law; drafts and reviews legislation, contracts and other legal documents; and represents the City in civil cases and criminal prosecutions.

Also serving the Department of Law are Robert N. Farquhar as Assistant City Attorney, Scott A. Liberman as Tax Collection Attorney, and Dennis J. Adkins as Prosecutor. Mr. Adkins prosecutes charged violations of municipal ordinances and state laws in Oakwood Municipal Court. Mr. Adkins also provides training to the Oakwood Public Safety Department on matters relevant to effective law enforcement and to the personnel of Oakwood Municipal Court on procedural and substantive legal matters. Mr. Liberman serves as the Tax Collection Attorney for the City of Oakwood. As such, he advises the Department of Finance in its tax collection efforts, and, when necessary, files suit against delinquent taxpayers.



Can the City Attorney advise a citizen with regard to matters involving the City of Oakwood or decisions made by the Council?

The City Attorney's role is to advise city officials as they perform the duties of their offices. The City Attorney does not represent any individuals of the public, nor does she represent city officials in personal matters. The City Attorney is a resource for the members of Council and for city officials in the course of performance of their official duties. As such she renders legal opinions on matters of interest to the Council and/or to city officials. As Prosecutor, Mr. Adkins advises Oakwood Law Enforcement officials with regard to the performance their official duties. As Tax Collection attorney, Mr. Liberman advises the tax department on its collection practices. In short, the lawyers who make up the City of Oakwood's Department of Law cannot provide representation to members of the public with regard to their issues, concerns and disputes.



Is it possible to have time limited parking rules amended for my street to allow for permit parking?

Yes. First, residents of an affected area must file with the Public Safety office a written petition signed by all those affected property owners who are in support of changing the regulation. The Public Safety Department will then notify the City Manager, who will schedule a hearing before Council, and mail notice of the petition and hearing to all residents who may be affected. Members of the general public may then present their concerns at the hearing. Council will consider the petition based on factors such as the nature of the restriction, the impact on the surrounding area, and consistency with other regulations. If Council approves, then the residents may obtain a permit from the Public Safety Department that allows them to park on the street for time periods in excess of the posted restriction.



What have I been hearing about cable deregulation and ending cable franchises?

In 2007, the Ohio legislature passed new laws that will effectively terminate agreements cities have with cable operators requiring exclusive service to residents. In exchange, cable providers are now subject to competition, and are required to comply with certain customer service standards, such as restoration of cable service within twenty-four hours after an outage, and implementation of certain procedures for resolving customer complaints. These new laws continue to require that cable service companies provide certain "local access" channels, although some existing channels may be altered or affected. Finally, these laws prohibit cable companies from passing along certain fees and taxes to customers.



I've heard that the Ohio Supreme Court recently outlawed cities from prohibiting vicious dogs. Is this true?

No. The Ohio Supreme Court recently stated that it was unconstitutional for a city to declare a person's dog as vicious unless the owner has been provided an opportunity to argue his or her case. However, Oakwood's ordinances provide such a procedure for an owner to demonstrate that an alleged vicious dog is not legally vicious and may lawfully be kept by the homeowner. Additionally, the Supreme Court stated in another case that it was acceptable for a city to classify certain breeds as vicious, such as pit bulls. Therefore, Oakwood's ordinance which prohibits certain vicious dogs and declares certain breeds of dogs as vicious is still valid and enforceable.



Building & Zoning

In addition to having one of the top school systems in the State of Ohio and offering our citizens a myriad of unique city services, one of the distinguishing features which sets Oakwood apart from other suburban communities is our commitment to diligently enforce the Zoning and Property Maintenance Codes. With a majority of the city's housing stock more than 60 years old, it's important that existing structures be maintained and upgraded as necessary. Deputy City Manager Jay Weiskircher and Inspector Dave Bunting oversee the enforcement of the Zoning Code, and a 15-member Property Maintenance Board assists city staff and acts as an appellate body with respect to enforcement of the Property Maintenance Code.

Although Oakwood employs a full-time Zoning Inspector, we do not employ an inspector certified to conduct plumbing, electrical

or structural inspections. Due to the limited number of building permits generated each year by Oakwood projects, it is not cost effective to have several individuals on staff performing each of these functions, so the city of Oakwood has an agreement in place with the city of Kettering Planning and Development Department to perform plan review, issue permits and conduct the necessary inspections on projects requiring specialized oversight. By contracting with the city of Kettering, Oakwood citizens not only benefit by receiving services from qualified inspectors, but the majority of costs associated with providing these specialized services are borne by users through permit fees.

Here are some key questions and updates on building, zoning, land use and real estate issues which we thought might be of interest to our citizens.



Last April, City Council approved the Master Development Plan for the 36+ acres of property encompassing the former NCR Sugar Camp site and the undeveloped property along the west side of Far Hills Avenue from the north corporation limit to W. Schantz Avenue. What is included in the Master Development Plan and what is the timeframe for completion of the various components?

The action taken by Oakwood City Council last April culminated more than a year of effort by the developers, local consultants and professionals, and city staff to ensure that the Master Development Plan was consistent with the Sub-Area Plan for the area first adopted in 1997 and then modified in 2004, along with the city's 2004 Comprehensive Plan. During the planning process there were several public hearings held in late 2006 and early 2007 to solicit community input and comments on the proposed Master Plan. The Plan approved by City Council last April includes a commercial and residential component, as well as a number of restrictions and conditions that must be met by the two developers.

On the commercial side, the four existing stone buildings along W. Schantz Avenue will remain. One of the buildings is currently being renovated as the new home of Beth Abraham Synagogue. This past October, there was a groundbreaking ceremony for a new access road and parking lot on the site. The former access road entrance opposite Maysfield Road has been eliminated and replaced by a new entrance opposite Kramer Road. Concurrent with the access road work was construction of a new parking lot to serve the existing buildings. Additional parking areas will be constructed this spring on the west side of the site, and each of the new parking areas will have both internal and perimeter landscaping. There will also be foundation plantings installed around each of the four existing buildings. The remaining wood cabins on site will be demolished this spring, and the existing gate house at the W. Schantz and Kramer Road intersection will be preserved and eventually converted into a café serving light fare such as pastries, coffee, tea and sandwiches. A 1,200 square foot, free-standing, Mikvah Building (ceremonial bath) will be constructed

on the west end of the site later this year. Also included in the commercial Master Plan is a proposed three-story professional building on the far west side of the site. This building is speculative and will not be built until such time as tenants have been identified. There are already two tenants in temporary spaces on site awaiting completion of permanent building modifications already underway. The developer is actively marketing the remaining available office space.

On the 24+ acres to the north and east of the commercial property, the Versant Group plans to build an upscale residential development geared towards empty-nesters and retirees. With governance by a condominium association, there are approximately 130 residential units planned, with the majority being single and double residence units located on small lots. There are also several mid-rise condominium buildings planned. The Master Plan approved in April included three condominium buildings located at the northeast corner of the site near the new access road to be constructed opposite Springhouse Road. However, in order to take full advantage of the unique topography on the site and excellent views of downtown Dayton, the developer is now considering relocating the condominium buildings to the northwest corner of the site at the bottom of the hill. This modification to the residential plan, along with eliminating a planned commercial building immediately north of the main entrance and using this space for residential townhomes, requires Planning Commission review and City Council approval. We anticipate review of these proposed amendments in early spring. Other amenities planned for the residential portion of the site include a community building for the exclusive use of the residents of the development. There will also be a small pocket park near W. Schantz Avenue, as well as a scenic overlook, both of which will be available for use by the general public. Site clearing and construction of the roads serving the residential portion of the site will begin this spring. Part of this work will include construction of the main access road, opposite Springhouse Road. Besides serving as the entrance to the residential portion of the site, this road will also be the primary access to the Old River Soccer Field Complex purchased by the city in 2006. Plans are to complete the site work and road construction yet this year and begin actively marketing residential building sites. Depending upon market conditions, the build-out period for the residential portion of the development will occur over a period of 5+ years.

When completed, the commercial and residential improvements will be valued at nearly \$90 million.



I am considering a room addition, adding a garage, building a deck, or some other major improvement. What do I need to do in order to secure a permit?

Major projects such as those described require submission of a certified plot plan and detailed scaled drawings which effectively describe the project. Once these items are submitted, the city reviews the plans for compliance with the Zoning Code. If the zoning setbacks are met and the plans conform in all other respects to city regulations, the plans are approved and forwarded to the city of Kettering for issuance

of the necessary permit(s).

If the setbacks are not met, or if there are other issues which require special use approval, then the application is forwarded to either the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) or the Planning Commission, and a public hearing is scheduled. At the conclusion of the public hearing, the proposed project is either approved, denied, or approved with conditions. If the project is approved or approved with condition(s) that the applicant has agreed to meet, the plans are forwarded to Kettering for issuance of the necessary permit(s).

Since the BZA and Planning Commission only meet once a month, it is important for property owners who are planning major improvement projects to submit their plans well in advance of when they hope to have the project completed.



Along these same lines, what are the requirements for some of the most common home projects?

The following matrix identifies many of the most common improvement projects and whether those projects require a permit or zoning consideration. This list is not intended to be inclusive.

HOME PROJECTS	ZONING REVIEW	BZA OR PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING	PERMIT REQUIRED
Air Conditioning/Heat Pump Equipment	Yes	May be needed	Yes
Arbor or Trellis	No	No	No
Backflow Device	No	No	Yes
Deck	Yes	May be needed	Yes
Driveway Apron Replacement	No	No	Yes
Driveway Resurfacing	No	No	Yes
Driveway Replacement	No	No (If no expansion of existing driveway.)	Yes
Electrical Wiring (New, upgrade or renovation)	No	No	Yes
Entrance Pillars	Yes	May be needed	Yes
Fence	Yes	No	Yes
Flag Pole	No	No	No
Gazebo	Yes	No	Yes
Garage (New)	Yes	May be needed	Yes
Greenhouse	Yes	No	Yes
Hot Tub	Yes	No	Yes
Irrigation System	No	No	Yes
Landscaping (Plant material only)	No	No	No
New Construction (Room additions or new homes)	Yes	May be needed	Yes
Painting	No	No	No
Patio	Yes	May be needed	Yes
Play Structure (12 feet or less in height)	Yes	No	Yes
Porch Enclosure	Yes	May be needed	Yes
Signs (Permanent)	Yes	May be needed	Yes
Roof Shingles	No	No	Yes (Only if roof decking is being replaced.)
New Steps	Yes	No	Yes
Replacement Steps	No	No	Yes
Siding	No	No	Yes
			(If the work requires removal of electric meter.)
Sump Pump	No	No	Yes
Sidewalks – Public	No	No	Yes
Storage Shed	Yes	No	Yes
Swimming Pool	Yes	May be needed	Yes
Walkways (Private)	Yes	May be needed	Yes
Water Heater & Water Softener	No	No	Yes
Window Replacement	No	No	No



Does Oakwood issue any permits?

Yes. Assuming the proposed improvement complies with zoning regulations, the city issues permits for fences, patios, driveway resurfacing or replacement, sidewalks and driveway aprons, and storage sheds.



Much of the investment within the community is driven by renovations or additions to existing structures. What are some of the most common improvement projects; how many permits are issued annually for these types of improvements; and what has been the total investment in new construction and renovation during the past five years?

Total investment in new construction, renovation or other improvements, not all of which are listed above, during the past five years is approximately \$46,842,391.

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Impervious Work on Private Property (Driveways, patios, sidewalk, etc.) # of Permits/Value	186 \$792,780	154 \$678,868	155 \$627,293	170 \$750,064	194 \$866,424
A/C Unit/Heat Pump # of Permits/Value	96 \$528,451	100 \$468,562	113 \$514,537	114 \$664,305	78 \$588,053
Fence/Retaining Wall # of Permits/Value	107 \$255,302	115 \$252,480	74 \$136,718	91 \$249,818	91 \$303,885
Accessory Structure (Garages, storage sheds, decks, etc.) # of Permits/Value	19 \$24,569	13 \$21,650	31 \$60,783	15 \$68,400	24 \$67,465
Residential Addition/Remodel # of Permits/Value	99 \$1,742,188	95 \$2,721,105	80 \$2,786,835	88 \$2,886,955	59 \$1,475,994
Residential – New Home Construction # of Permits/Value	0 0	1 \$1,920,000	2 \$850,000	1 \$950,000	1 \$501,000
Business Addition/Remodel # of Permits/Value	5 \$105,000	13 \$439,402	7 \$547,400	6 \$161,500	2 \$52,000
Business – New Business Construction # of Permits/Value	0 0	0 0	0 0	1 \$975,000	0 0
All Other - 2003 Includes: City Building (\$5,480,000) Oakwood Schools (\$5,960,000) Chabad Center (\$495,500)	123 \$12,645,101	103 \$1,289,877	125 \$1,637,005	126 \$758,320	114 \$4,459,302+
Total Number of Permits Total Value	635 \$16,093,391	594 \$7,791,944	587 \$7,160,571	612 \$7,464,362	563 \$8,314,123



How does the city ensure that residential and commercial property owners keep their properties at a level of care and maintenance consistent with community standards?

The city has three primary means at its disposal to ensure that properties are kept at a standard of maintenance consistent with community expectations.

1. Pre-Sale Inspection: Before a property can be sold, the property owner must arrange for a pre-sale inspection. During the inspection, the city inspector identifies repairs, deficiencies and Code violations that need to be corrected. These deficiencies must be corrected before title to the property is transferred, or a new buyer can assume responsibility for completing the necessary repairs.

2. Change of Tenant Inspections: For non-owner occupied residential and business properties, the city has regulations in place which require that an inspection be conducted upon a change of tenant(s). Any violations identified during the inspection must be brought into compliance with the applicable code within a reasonable period of time.

3. Year Round Monitoring: Besides an annual street by street tour conducted by city staff to identify exterior Property Maintenance Code violations, the city responds to citizen generated complaints regarding property maintenance issues. Each year more than 100 letters are sent to property owners advising of Property Maintenance Code violations. Besides identifying the nature of the violation, the letter also includes a reasonable time-frame within which the property owner is to make the necessary repairs. For the most part, the city is able to gain compliance through voluntary means. In those rare instances where the city is unable to attain voluntary compliance, the city has legal recourse to cite a property owner into Oakwood Municipal Court.



Has the nationwide mortgage lending crisis which has hit the State of Ohio particularly hard had any impact on housing within the city of Oakwood?

Although certainly not a major issue, we have seen over the past 12 months an increase in the number of vacant housing units throughout the community. Although the city already has regulations in place to ensure that routine exterior



If I own rental property within the city, are there either state or local requirements which must be met?

The State of Ohio requires that owners of residential rental property register with the County Auditor. That information is then forwarded to the city of Oakwood.

In addition to the rental property registration, the city of Oakwood requires that owners provide a list of tenants residing at each rental property location. When there is a change of tenant, the property owner is responsible for scheduling the necessary inspection before the vacant units can be reoccupied.

For more information on tenant registration requirements, contact the city offices at 297-2920.



If I own a single family dwelling unit and want to rent the space to multiple tenants, are there any zoning restrictions?

Under the Oakwood Zoning Code, no more than two unrelated persons can reside in a single family residence.

If you are aware of a situation in your neighborhood in which a single family dwelling unit is being occupied in violation of this regulation, contact the Zoning Inspector at 297-2920.

COMMENTS & FUTURE GOALS

The Far Hills Avenue Business District continues to flourish and activity along the east side of the street from Talbotts north to Triangle Avenue is especially busy with the new retail shops, Starbucks, The Oakwood Club and Graeters. With all this success comes the dilemma that during certain times of the day and into the evening, finding a parking space can be difficult.

In recognition of this problem, during the past two years, the city purchased two-4 unit apartment buildings at 22 Orchard Drive and 19-25 Wonderly Avenue in anticipation of eventually razing the buildings and using the available land to address the parking

needs.

During 2008, the city plans to demolish the apartment building on Orchard Drive to construct additional parking for use by business patrons and employees working in the business district. As part of the design and planning process, the city intends to solicit comments and input from the neighborhood. These neighborhood meetings will take place in advance of a tentative summer construction schedule. Property owners will be notified by mail of the date, time and location of these informational meetings.



Leisure Services

The mission of the Department of Leisure Services is to enhance the quality of life of Oakwood residents by offering a variety of activities that encourage overall wellness, cultural enrichment and fellowship with neighbors. Its purpose also includes building upon the natural beauty of the city through the improvement,

care and maintenance of parks, public gardens, boulevards and rights-of-way.

The department is managed by Carol Collins who supervises a full-time staff of seven and provides oversight to dozens of program leaders, volunteers, seasonal and part-time employees.



When the Department of Leisure Services was created in 1987, its goal was to make each recreation program as self-sustaining as possible. What are the top ten program areas for which fees are received?

REVENUES FOR THE TOP TEN PROGRAMS		
	2006	2007
Pool Membership	\$125,873	121,113
OCC/Health Center Membership Dues ..	85,186	79,353
Sports Activities Fees.....	46,015	43,396
Pool Concessions	29,635	32,892
Dance Classes and Lessons	36,234	36,711
Old River Rentals.....	12,665	25,950
Smith Gardens	18,686	20,472
Exercise, Fitness Programs	22,087	21,340
Swim Lessons, Pool Passes	23,001	15,125
Tumbling, Gymnastics	7,511	7,762
Other Misc. Programs	92,410	69,714
TOTAL	\$499,313	473,828



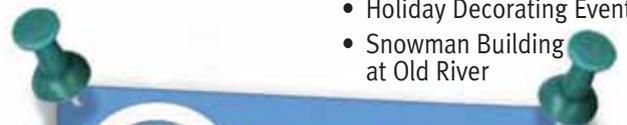
The Department of Leisure Services also has responsibility for maintenance of the city's natural areas and boulevards. What is the value of publicly owned trees and what are the annual expenses to maintain and replace them?

Total value of street/park trees	\$15,150,600
2007 expenses:	
General pruning	\$24,077
Removal and trimming	\$28,605
Stump removal	\$1,495
Johnny Appleseed Street Tree Planting Project (city portion)	\$7,007
Tree & Shrub Replacement in Parks and Boulevards	\$6,061
TOTAL:	\$67,245
Average street tree value	\$1,810/tree
Average park tree value	\$1,674/tree



What are the major special community events and activities that are coordinated by the Department of Leisure Services?

- Pictures with the Easter Bunny/Eggstravaganza
- Family 8 on 8 Soccer Tournament
- Friends of Smith Gardens Perennial Sale
- Spring Health Fair
- New Resident Pancake Breakfast
- That Day in May
- Kite Nite at Old River Complex
- Blanket Concerts at Smith Gardens
- Princess Garden Tea Party
- Teddy Bear Picnic
- Pre-School Story Hour at Smith Gardens
- Family Fun Day at Old River Park
- Orchardly Park Crafts
- Youth Talent Contest
- Ice Cream Social
- Homecoming Hotdog Supper
- Senior Luncheons
- Johnny Appleseed Tree Planting Project
- Pumpkin Carving
- ScareCrow Row
- Family Fall Festival
- Candy Cane Hunt
- Letters from Santa
- Mother/Son and Father/Daughter Dances
- Breakfast with Santa
- Lighting up Oakwood
- Holiday of Lights
- Holiday Decorating Event
- Snowman Building at Old River



To what extent does the General Fund subsidize Leisure Services programs?

The Leisure Services Department received \$377,000 in General Fund tax dollars in 2007 compared to \$404,000 in 2006. The money is used to help pay for Leisure Services programs.



Question

Memberships are an important ingredient of the Leisure Services operation. How many memberships did the Oakwood Community Center have during 2007 and how does this compare to the past six years?

Question

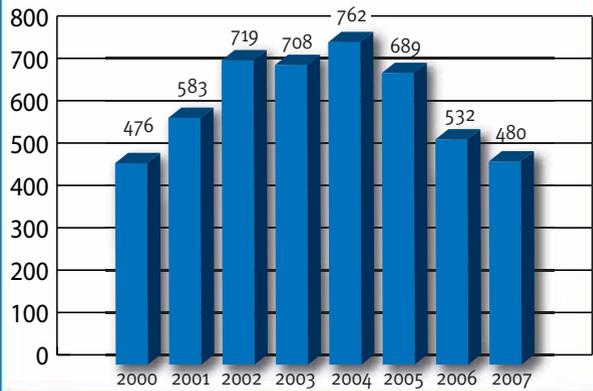
For the year 2007, how many Oakwood citizens purchased memberships to the OCC, Health Center and Pool?

Note: We have approximately 9,200 citizens living in Oakwood.

OCC Membership	3,310
Pool Membership	806
Health Membership	480

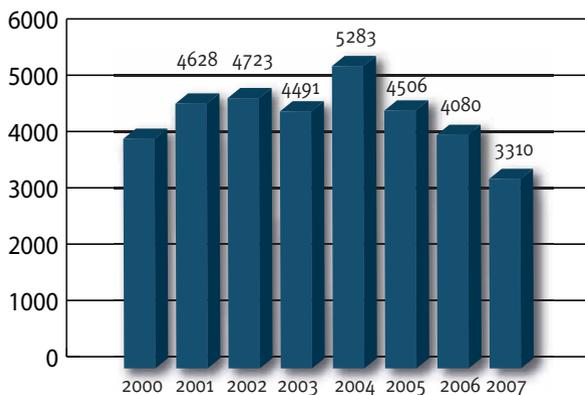
HEALTH CENTER MEMBERSHIPS

There were 10,033 visits to the Health Center in 2007.



OCC MEMBERSHIPS

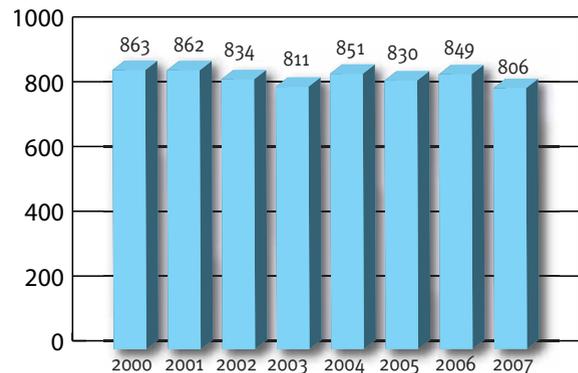
For family memberships, these numbers include all family members.



POOL MEMBERSHIPS

There were an additional 1,026 daily passes purchased in 2007.

Total visits to the pool in 2007 were approximately 36,307 as compared to 33,322 in 2006.



Question

What are the benefits of purchasing an OCC Membership?

By becoming a member, you are entitled to discounts on a Health Center Membership and the Gardner Pool Membership. It also entitles you to the lowest possible rates offered on all of the classes, sports programs and events the OCC sponsors. If you plan on taking classes, your membership will pay for itself in a short period of time.

Question

How many people swim at Gardner Pool every season and how many employees does it take to run the pool?

In 2007, there were 36,307 visits to the pool, which is an increase from 33,322 in 2006. The hot, dry summer attributed to the increase in attendance. The figures do not reflect swim lesson or swim team participants. Staff includes a Pool Manager, Assistant Manager, Head Lifeguard, nine full-time guards, 4-5 substitute guards, a concession supervisor, 6 full-time concession workers and 4-5 substitutes. Additionally, the city employs three swim team coaches.

Question

The City of Oakwood purchased the Old River Sports Complex in 2006. What kinds of activities were held during the year and how many participants?

Old River Sports Complex is open from early spring through late fall allowing for a variety of activities. The city of Oakwood and Oakwood City Schools utilize the area for their sports activities and special events. The city of Oakwood uses the facility in the spring for kickball, T-ball, and coach pitch. In the fall the facility is used for preschool soccer and youth soccer. Special events and camps include Snowman Building in February, Kite Nite in April, Family Fun Day, and Sports Camp week in August. We look forward to continuing these programs and adding others. The Oakwood City Schools also use Old River Sports Complex for the High School and Junior High School Soccer programs in the summer and fall. In addition, the city rented the facility to non-city or school organizations. These include Oakwood United, 3 area soccer tournaments, University of Dayton, Coed leagues, Dayton Armature games, Olympic Development Program, as well as others. More than 85,000 people attended sports activities and special events that were held at Old River Sports Complex from April through November.

Question

How many years has the City of Oakwood been a Tree City USA and what is the significance of this program?

The city of Oakwood has been a Tree City USA for 26 consecutive years and was one of the first communities in the Miami Valley to receive this national award by the National Arbor Day Foundation. Oakwood meets four major criteria each year to qualify for this award. They are as follows:

- A city department is designated and responsible for tree maintenance.
- The city's forestry program must have an annual budget of \$2 per capita.
- The city must have in place a tree ordinance.
- The city must sponsor an Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation.

Oakwood has the honor of hosting the 2007 Tree City USA Recognition Banquet on April 24, 2008.

Question

How many trees have been planted through the Johnny Appleseed Street Tree Planting program?

In 29 consecutive years, a total of 2,368 trees have been planted through this project at a total cost of \$267,120. The program is offered each year and includes a 50% discount to homeowners as long as the trees are planted in the right-of-way. In 2007, the homeowners cost ranged from \$70 to \$79 for a 2" diameter tree.





Are there rooms available to rent at the OCC for meetings or parties?

There are three rooms available to rent: The Great Room, which is perfect for a reunion, reception or large party, the Teen Center, which is just the right size for a birthday party or meeting, and the Large Classroom which can accommodate 10-15 people comfortably for a meeting or presentation. For information on room rentals, please contact Vickie Gearhart at 298-0775.



What new programs were offered in 2007?

The vitality of the Department of Leisure Services is very important to the community. During the year, the Oakwood Community Center staff added new programs to encourage and increase participation. Some of the added programs were the Princess Tea Party, T-Ball and Coach Pitch Clinics, Beginning Knitting, Girl Power, Cartooning Camp, OCC Soccer Camp, Tennis Camp Deuce, Rally Ball and Tennis Demo Day, Football 101, Kids in the Kitchen and Home Alone.



What type of fitness classes are available at the OCC?

We realize that everyone has busy lives, but exercise, health and fitness should be an important part of it! So together with our fitness instructors, we have developed a diverse selection of exercise classes to fit into your schedule and that will suit your individual fitness level and goals. Classes are available in the mornings and the evenings, and you can register for the whole session or buy class passes to attend on a drop-in basis. No more excuses!



I've heard a little about the Emerald Ash Borer insect. Should we be concerned about it?

Prior to the confirmed discovery of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in Huber Heights in July 2007, the city of Oakwood's Department of Leisure Services had already taken steps to deal with the EAB by developing an EAB Management Plan. The city had an inventory already in place and the ash trees in the city right-of-way, parks and natural areas continue to be monitored and inspected by city staff and the city's tree contractor. In the summer of 2007, the city treated 102 ash trees in our parks and boulevard areas. To date, there has been no activity or evidence of the insect. The EAB naturally moves less than a half mile per year. Oakwood is concerned about the possibilities of the insect being transported into or through the community via car, truck or other means of transportation and reminds residents not to transport wood. EAB has destroyed millions of ash trees to date and it is vitally important that Oakwood does their part in recognizing the devastation that can be caused. Removal of the ash trees in Oakwood is presently not being considered. The city remains in contact with the Ohio Department of Agriculture and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources receiving updates every 2 to 3 weeks as to the progress of the insect. The city continues to monitor the situation and if anything changes the Oakwood community will be notified.

COMMENTS & FUTURE GOALS

Customer Service — When renewing an OCC, Health Center or Gardner Pool membership, members often commented that the majority of the information filled out on the membership form remains the same year after year. The OCC front office staff worked to create a database of computer-generated forms of all current members. Now, when sending out renewal letters or when a member stops by the office to renew their membership, we simply print out the form, have the member look it over making any necessary changes and sign the bottom. The OCC staff continually strives to offer our residents excellent customer service.

Fall Festival — The OCC sponsored its second annual Family Fall Festival this past fall. The festival runs in conjunction with the annual Scarecrow Building Contest in mid-October and is held in Shafor Park. Horse drawn carriage rides up and down Scarecrow Row was one of the many highlights of the day. Children

participated in the Costume Parade, played old fashion games and rode on the small train around the park. There was food and entertainment for everyone to enjoy. We estimate that over 2,200 people attended this event, which is sure to become a favorite fall tradition!

Quadrant Tree Trimming Program — The City of Oakwood takes great pride in its beautiful tree-lined streets. Many of the trees in the tree lawn areas needed to be trimmed to meet code height requirements. The City contracted with American Forestry Service to provide this tree trimming service at no cost to residents. Letters of notification are sent to each household prior to trimming.

New Resident Breakfast — The City of Oakwood held a new resident family pancake breakfast on Saturday, April 14, 2007 to welcome residents who moved into the community during the past year. Approximately 125 people attended this wonderful community event.



Engineering & Public Works

The Public Works Department responsibilities include:

ENGINEERING: To provide quality professional engineering and surveying oversight to management, operation and improvement of Oakwood's infrastructure. This includes development of short-term and long-range capital improvement plans and implementing an annual capital improvement program. Services include project budgeting, design, preparation of construction plans and contract documents, and construction engineering and inspection.

PUBLIC WORKS: To provide the following public services:

Refuse Program - Includes weekly household waste collection and disposal, a recycling program, a bulk refuse pickup program and year-round yard debris pickup. Also includes fall leaf pickup and a spring mulch delivery program.

Roadway Maintenance - Includes routine repair of asphalt and concrete streets and alleys, maintenance of sidewalks and other structures within the public rights-of-way, mowing and trimming of public areas, snow and ice removal, and maintenance of the city's traffic control systems including traffic signals and street signs.

Utilities - Includes operating and maintaining the city's water production and treatment facilities and the water distribution system, including fire hydrants. Also includes sanitary sewer line cleaning and repair, and storm sewer maintenance.

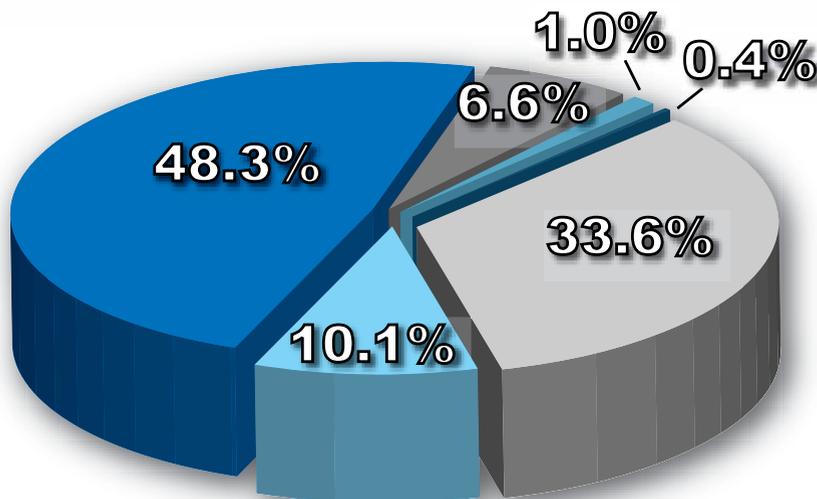
Kevin Weaver, P.E., P.S. is director of this department. The Department includes an assistant director, two foremen, a water production superintendent, an engineering technician, department secretary, and 25 public works employees.



Weekly refuse collection is one of the primary components of the Public Works Department's service delivery program. What is the mix of our solid waste stream?

Total of 7,753 tons of material handled

-  Cardboard
-  Co-mingled Recycling
-  Refuse
-  Bulk Pickups
-  Brush/Natural Material
-  Scrap Metal





Each week refuse, recycling and bulk pickup crews make over 3,200 residential pickups, which translates to over 166,000 pickups for the year. With all these stops, how many times last year did service crews miss scheduled pickups?

	Misses for the year
Refuse and Co-Mingled Recycling	527 Less than 1% of total pick-ups

COMMENT: In 2007, we had 1,183 reports of inaccessible trash. These reflect individual reports from our service crews where they could not make pickups due to locked garages, cars in the driveway, locked driveway gates, loose dogs, etc.



Another important task of the Public Works Department is to make sure Oakwood streets are free of ice and snow. One way to measure this effort, and perhaps the severity of our winters, is to track the tons of salt and overtime used in any one year. What does the data show?

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Tons of Salt	1021	1561	299	1196
Overtime Hrs	784	640	106	886



Part of the city's snow removal operation is the practice of plowing the sidewalks if there is more than one inch of snow accumulation. How long has the city provided this service?

We have plowed sidewalks since 1966, after the completion of major roadway widening improvements to Far Hills Avenue. This plowing is a unique service starting point for ensuring safe walks. Residents are ultimately responsible for the safe condition of sidewalks on their frontage and must view the city plowing as a supplement to and not replacement of their own efforts.



Where does the City get its water?

We produce almost all of our own water. We have eight water production wells and three water treatment plants. In total, we produced 99.73% of our own water in 2007. The remaining 0.27% was purchased from the City of Dayton. The city's total water use over the past five years looks like this.

Water use	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
In million gallons	480	407	424	384	533



What is the value of the city's "infrastructure"?

The infrastructure is valued at over \$100 million and consists of:

- Eight water production wells and three water treatment plants.
- A 1.5 million gallon water storage tower and a water distribution system including 44 miles of underground water main pipes and 343 fire hydrants.
- 39 miles of underground sanitary sewer pipes.
- 25 miles of underground storm sewer pipes.
- 51 miles of roadways and alleys, and 46 miles of sidewalks.
- 15 signalized traffic intersections.



What major infrastructure projects were undertaken in 2007 and what did they cost?

Project	Cost
Curb, Sidewalk and Apron Repair	\$160,000
Dixon Alley Reconstruction	\$38,000
Ridgeway and Forrer Guardrail Replacement	\$40,000
Schantz and Kramer/Sugar Camp Circle Signal	\$60,000
Annual Pavement Marking Program	\$20,000
2007 Asphalt Pavement Maintenance	\$545,000
Oakwood Avenue Safety Improvements	\$450,000*

*150,000 was paid by Ohio Issue 2 grant.



The city has a five-year capital improvement program, which essentially represents a list of projects tentatively planned for upcoming years. What are some street maintenance and repair projects and anticipated costs?

Project	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	5-Year Program
Annual Asphalt Pavement Program	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	2,000,000
Pavement Marking Program	20,000	30,000	20,000	20,000	30,000	120,000
Bi-Annual Concrete Street Repair	100,000		160,000		160,000	420,000
Sidewalk, Curb and Apron Program	160,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	660,000
Deep Hollow Bike Gutter Removal		40,000				40,000
Kramer Road Reconstruction				250,000		250,000
Thornhill Road Curb				100,000		100,000
Park Ave. Streetscape		180,000				180,000
Park Road Reconstruction					250,000	250,000
Sweetwood Rdwy Reconst.		200,000				200,000
Woods & Thruston Rdwy Recons.		300,000				300,000
Runnymede Roadway Reconst.			700,000			700,000
Total Street Maintenance and Repair	680,000	1,305,000	1,405,000	895,000	965,000	5,250,000



I've read about Phase 2 Stormwater requirements with which the city of Oakwood must comply. What are these and what can residents do to help?

In March of 2003, the City of Oakwood was required to submit a stormwater management program (SWMP) to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA). The SWMP is a plan for accomplishing specific goals over the next five years to limit pollution that enters the region's streams and rivers from within the City of Oakwood. The Miami Conservancy District (MCD) is working as a partner with many of the jurisdictions in the Dayton area to help minimize the cost and disruption to operations within the surrounding communities. They have taken on the majority of the public awareness and education campaigns.

Some of the tasks that the city is or will be undertaking to meet these requirements include:

- Continuing street sweeping operations on a regular basis to keep material out of the storm sewer,
- Cry weather screening of manholes to help eliminate identify and illicit connections,
- Capping of the city's outfalls to rivers and streams,
- Controlling construction run-off,
- Codifying internal day to day practices to help limit pollution,
- Submitting an annual report on the year's activities to the OEPA.

Citizens in the community can do some simple things to help prevent pollution to our rivers and streams. Please clean up after your pets because the bacteria from their waste is very dangerous to animals in the streams. Please do not put oil into the storm or sanitary sewers – 1 quart of oil can pollute 100,000 gallons of water. Please keep plant material (except for leaves during the 10 week collection period in the fall) out of the street as it will be washed into the storm sewers and eventually into the streams.

COMMENTS & FUTURE GOALS

Water System Preventive Maintenance: In 2008, we will update procedures for maintaining our water distribution system in order to protect the significant investment the city has made in infrastructure. This will include hydrant maintenance, valve turning, projection of necessary capital projects and other items as needed.

Labor Contract Negotiations: In 2008, Public Works is due for its triennial contract negotiation with the Dayton Public Service Union. We will

strive for equitable and swift resolution of all issues.

Sugar Camp Development: Construction will take place on Far Hills Avenue to accommodate a new entrance to the residential portion of the development across from Springhouse Road. Schantz Avenue between Kramer Road and Far Hills will be milled and overlaid. Sugar Camp Circle will be opened to public traffic. The access road to the Old River fields will be constructed.



Finance

Our Finance Department provides fiscal oversight to seven broad fund classifications, and manages income tax collection, payroll, water, sewer and refuse billing, accounts receivable and accounts payable.

The finance department is managed by Brad Beachdell and consists of seven employees. Six are full-time and one is part-time. In concert with the city manager's office, the finance department prepares the annual budget and monitors all city expenditures.



How is our City budget organized?

Our budget document is organized into seven different fund classifications as follows:

General Fund; Special Revenue Funds; Capital Improvement Fund; Internal Service Funds; Trust & Agency Funds; Enterprise Funds; Debt Service Fund.

The first five (General, Special Revenue, Capital Improvement, Internal Service and Trust & Agency) cover all of our city operations except the water and sewer utilities. We refer to these five as "Non-Enterprise Funds". The sixth (Enterprise) covers all operations relating to our water and sewer utilities. The seventh (Debt Service) accounts for any long-term bond debt. We are pleased to report that the city has no long-term bond debt.



How are the water and sewer Enterprise Funds different than the Non-Enterprise Funds?

Enterprise Funds are operated like a business, but intended to operate at a break-even point, rather than at a profit. Customers are billed for services provided. Water and Sewer revenues cannot be used for any purpose other than to provide water and sewer services to the customers of these utilities.

The Non-Enterprise group of funds is comprised of all other funds which provide public services to the community, and may be subsidized in whole or in part by General Fund Revenues such as Property, Income and/or Estate Taxes. Some examples of services provided by Non-Enterprise Funds are Public Safety (police, fire and emergency medical services), refuse collection, street maintenance and repair, street lighting, and operation of the Oakwood Community Center, to name a few.

It is probably more easily explained, and understood, by splitting the Non-Enterprise Funds, Water Funds, and Sewer Funds into three separate budgets, or companies, as provided below:

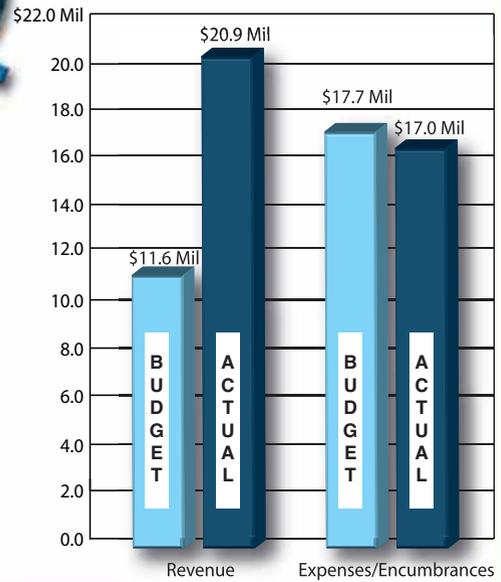
- Company A – Non-Enterprise Funds (Public Services)
- Company B – Water Utility
- Company C – Sewer Utility

From a budgetary standpoint, each of these three companies are operated as separate and unique organizations. All of the costs involved in producing, treating, storing, distributing and billing for our public water are paid for by our residents and businesses who use the water. This is accomplished through our quarterly water billing system. Likewise, all of the costs involved in operating and maintaining our sanitary sewer system and the costs we pay to Dayton and Montgomery County for the treatment of our wastewater are paid for by the residents and businesses who use our sanitary sewer system. This too is accomplished through our quarterly sewer billing system. None of our general tax dollars (e.g., income tax, property tax, estate tax) are used to pay for any costs related to the water and sewer utilities. Rather, 100% of the general tax dollars are used to pay for the other public services offered by the city (e.g. police, fire, emergency medical services, street maintenance, parks and recreation, etc.).



How did our revenues and expenses in 2007 compare to what we had budgeted?

Revenue vs. Expenses Non-Enterprise Funds Year-End 2007



Our Non-Enterprise Fund revenues were substantially more than we originally budgeted, primarily attributable to an unprecedented \$9.9 million in estate tax revenue received during 2007, and expenditures were somewhat less than we budgeted. Included above, Council approved previously unanticipated supplemental expenditures totaling \$3,585,000 as detailed below:

Sidewalk, Curb and Apron Program	\$55,000
Acquisition of real property located at 19 Wonderly Ave., for the purpose of helping to resolve parking issues in the Far Hills Business District.....	\$275,000
Annual Asphalt Pavement Program.....	\$ 400,000
Oakwood Avenue Safety Project	\$200,000
Acquisition of real property adjacent to Houk Stream to be named "Centennial Park"	\$485,000
Street improvements along east side of Far Hills, south of Schantz Ave.....	\$307,000
Street improvements at the intersection of Schantz Ave. and Kramer Rd.	\$231,000
Improvements along the west side of Far Hills at and south of the Schantz Ave. intersection, and construction of a new entrance road off Far Hills and Springhouse Road to the proposed Old River Access Road, and Improvements to a public roadway through the Former Sugar Camp property to be named "Sugar Camp Circle"	\$2,212,000
	\$ 4,165,000

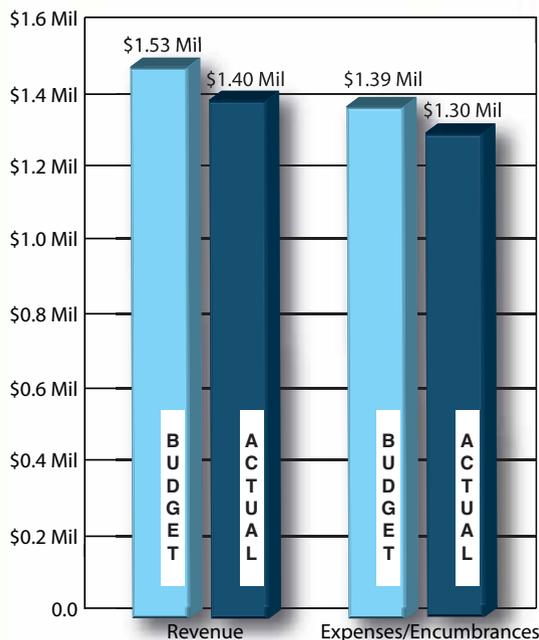
We ended 2007 with Non-Enterprise fund balances totaling \$15,695,542, approximately \$5.7 million more than we had originally budgeted, back in late 2006.

Revenue vs. Expenses Water Funds Year-End 2007



Our Water Fund revenues were somewhat higher than budgeted, which can vary greatly depending in large part on the amount of rain during a given year. The fact that revenues were up in 2007, coupled with the fact that our expenditures were somewhat less than budgeted, our year-end Water Fund balances increased by \$190,691.

Revenue vs. Expenses Sewer Funds Year-End 2007



The 2007 Budget document assumed the imposition of a \$42 increase in the quarterly sewer bill effective Jan. 1, 2007 for the average (3,000 cu. ft) household. However, Council subsequently determined that a \$23 per quarter increase would satisfy the City's current need. As a result, the Sewer Funds received slightly less revenue than expected during 2007. The Sewer Funds expended slightly less than budgeted for 2007.

Accordingly, the Sewer Funds ended the year with balances totaling \$107,987, which is up \$54,005 from year-end 2006.

Note: The three bar charts above reflect actual cash received and spent for the fiscal (calendar) year. They do not include money transferred between funds, money spent that had been encumbered (or committed) from a prior year's budget, or money borrowed or spent to pay off short-term debt.

NON-ENTERPRISE FUNDS FOR PUBLIC SERVICES - COMPANY A

Fund Classification	Actual Balance 01/01/08	Estimated Revenue	Estimated Expenditures	Estimated Balance 12/31/08
Non-Enterprise Funds	15,695,542	11,930,577 ⁽¹⁾	13,875,881 ⁽²⁾	13,750,238

(1) This figure does not include \$3,700,000 that we will borrow in accordance with the debt management policy on our public facilities and land acquisition projects.

(2) This figure does not include \$4,250,000 that we will pay on short term debt.

WATER UTILITY - COMPANY B

Fund Classification	Actual Balance 01/01/08	Estimated Revenue	Estimated Expenditures	Estimated Balance 12/31/08
Water Funds	1,097,269	964,800	1,068,545	993,524

SEWER UTILITY - COMPANY C

Fund Classification	Actual Balance 01/01/08	Estimated Revenue	Estimated Expenditures	Estimated Balance 12/31/08
Sewer Funds	107,987	1,427,900	1,464,727	71,160



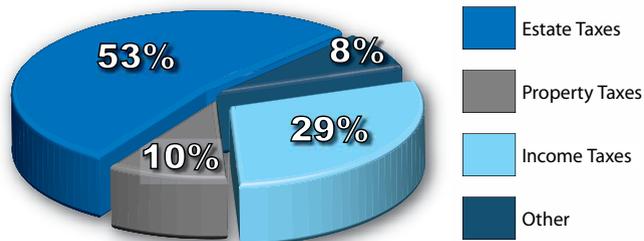
What is the City's annual budget?

Shown are the 2008 budget figures.



What percentage of the City's 2007 General Fund revenue was generated by Income Taxes, Property Taxes, and Estate Taxes?

General Fund Revenue



Income Taxes	Property Taxes	Estate Taxes	Other	Total
\$5,509,919	\$1,814,568	\$9,921,856	\$1,442,769	\$18,689,112

Note: "Other" includes items such as Local Government Fund Monies, Other Miscellaneous Taxes (e.g., Liquor, Cigarettes), and Fines & Forfeitures.



Who receives my residential property tax dollars?

The amount you pay in property taxes is a function of the assessed value of your property and the property tax millage for our city. The residential total effective millage rate used for 2007 property tax collections was 67.77, as compared to our current residential total effective millage rate of 78.69, which may be broken into two components, as follows:

Inside millage (non-voted) – the tax rate imposed by governmental bodies without need for vote by its citizens (maximum 10 mills combined between Montgomery County, Oakwood City Schools and the City of Oakwood).

Outside millage (approved by voters) – the tax rate proposed by the government entity and approved by vote of its citizens.

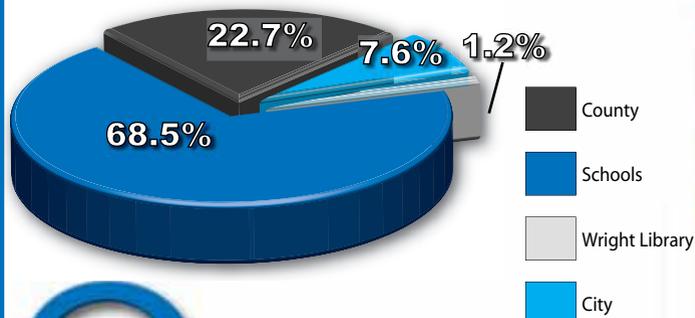
That total effective millage is shared by the four organizations shown below, and Oakwood property taxes are comprised of the following effective millage rates:

	Inside Mill.	Outside Mill.	Total Mill.
Oakwood City Schools	4.72	49.18	53.90
Montgomery County *	1.70	16.15	17.85
City of Oakwood	3.58	2.42	6.00
Wright Mem. Pub. Library	0.00	0.94	0.94
Total	10.00	68.69	78.69

*This includes money that goes to support Montgomery County governmental operations and also includes money supporting Sinclair Community College and the County Human Services Programs (e.g., ADAMHS Board for Montgomery County, Montgomery County Children Services, Montgomery County Combined Health District, Montgomery County Board of MR/DD, etc.).

Based on the listed millages, your residential property tax dollars are distributed as follows:

Residential Property Tax Dollar Allocation



How are my property taxes calculated?

Here is the formula for an owner-occupied single-family property:
Assessed Value of your property
 $\times 35\% \times \text{millage} \div 1,000 \times 87.5\% = \text{Annual Property Tax}$

So, if your property is assessed at a value of \$200,000 your annual property tax would be calculated as follows:
 $\$200,000 \times 35\% \times 78.69 \div 1,000 \times 87.5\% = \$ 4,820$

Based on the percentages shown above, your property tax dollars would be distributed as follows:

Oakwood City Schools	\$ 3,302
Montgomery County	\$ 1,094
City of Oakwood	\$ 366
Wright Library	\$ 58
Total	\$ 4,820



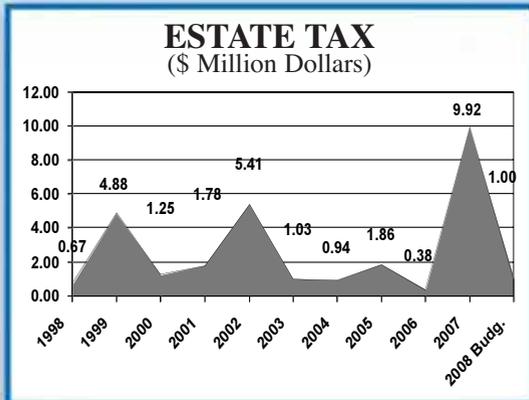
Who receives my income taxes and estate taxes?

The City receives 100% of those revenues. They are used to help pay for the Non-Enterprise Fund public services.

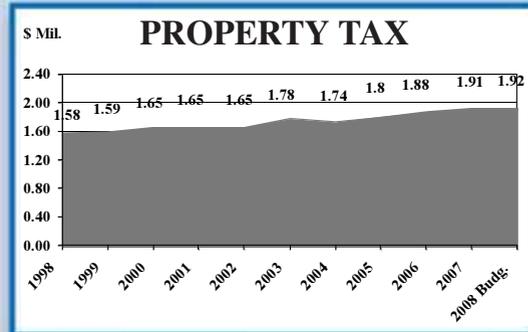


Have the property, income and estate taxes that go to the City changed much in recent years?

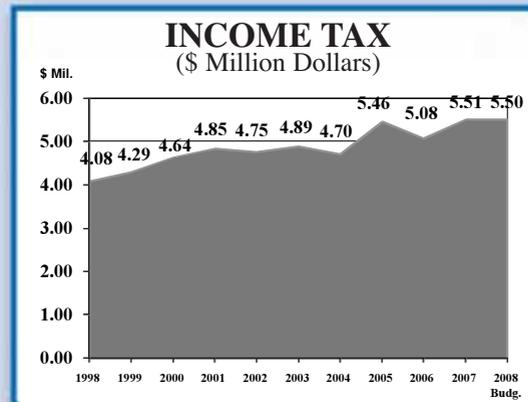
Below is the history since 1998.



•As you can see from the graph above, annual estate tax revenue can vary dramatically from year to year. The spikes in 1999, 2002 and 2007 are very unusual, in fact unprecedented. Our estate tax receipts over the 10-year period from 1998 through 2007 average \$2.8 million per year; however, excluding the three “spike” years, the annual average is reduced to approximately \$1.1 million.



- Property revaluation occurs every six years.
- The 2005 revaluation resulted in a modest revenue increase for the City in 2006.
- The city has not asked property owners for an increase in voted property taxes for city services since November, 1991.



•Our income tax was down somewhat in 2006 as compared to 2005, but rose again in 2007, and is expected to remain relatively flat for 2008. We have not raised our income tax rate since 1984.

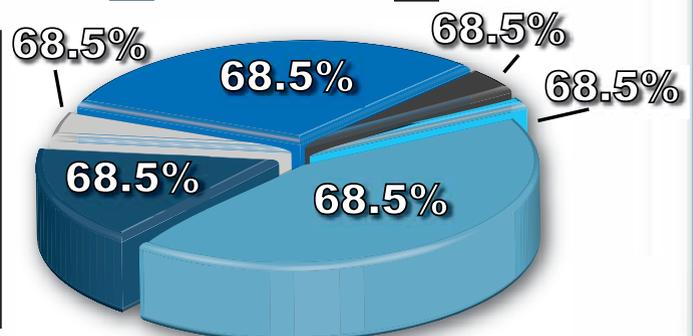


What are the different categories of expenditures incurred by the City, and what percentage of the total was expended in each category for 2007

City of Oakwood 2007 Expenditures by Category

- Capitol Outlay 30.57%
- Personnel Services 43.57%
- Materials & Supplies 4.39%
- Miscellaneous 1.31%
- Contractual Services 16.11%
- Debt Service 4.05%

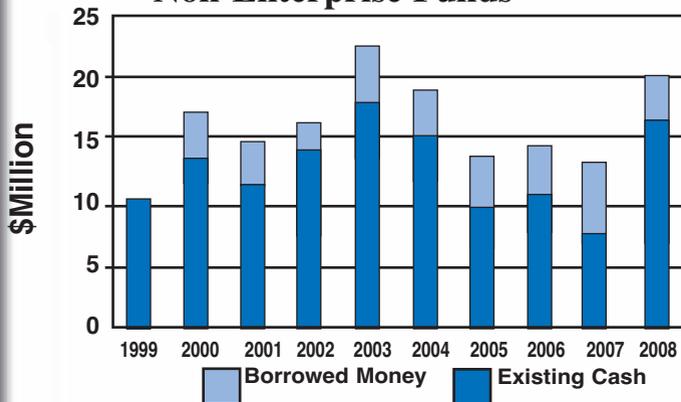
Expenditures	Actual 2007	% Of Total
Personnel Services	8,458,801	43.57%
Contractual Services	3,127,088	16.11%
Materials and Supplies	851,709	4.39%
Capital Expenses	5,938,558	30.57%
Debt Service	785,797	4.05%
Miscellaneous	254,441	1.31%
Total	19,416,394	100%



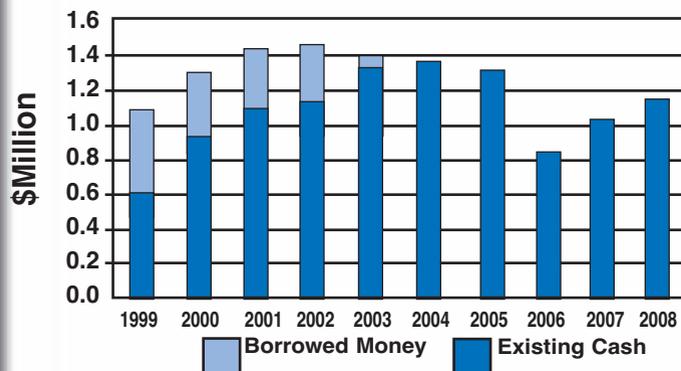


I know that the City has cash reserves that can be used during times when annual expenses exceed annual revenues. What is the 10-year history of our beginning year fund balances?

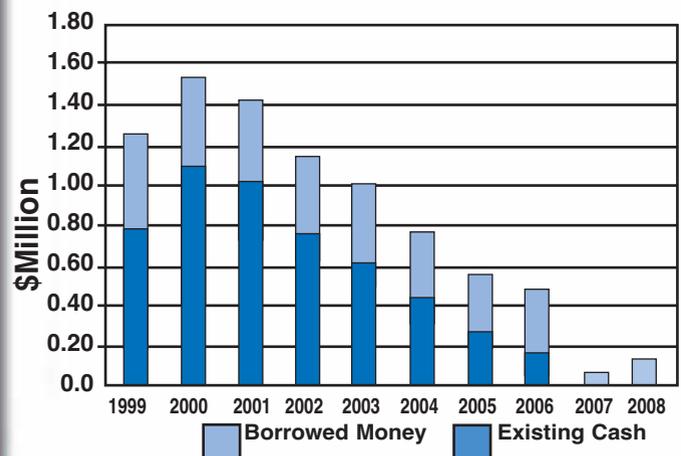
Beginning Year Cash Balances Non-Enterprise Funds



Beginning Year Cash Balances Water Funds



Beginning Year Cash Balances Sewer Funds



Does Oakwood invest the money it holds in the fund balances?

Yes, most of it. We keep all dollars not immediately required for cash flow safely invested. All investments are guided by an investment advisor and are overseen by the City Manager and Finance Director. Our investment protocol is governed by city ordinances which encompass a philosophy of protecting principal first and maximizing value next. As of December 31, 2007 the City of Oakwood had \$20,104,256 invested at an average rate of return of 4.954 %. In 2007, our total investment income was \$862,453.



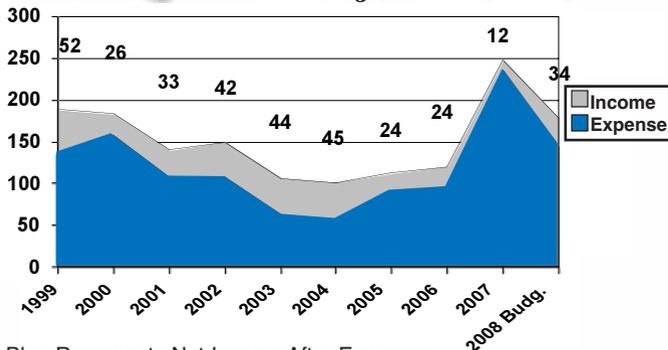
Oakwood began accepting credit cards as payment for various fees and services effective Jan. 1, 2006. How does this work and why can't I just hand my credit card to someone at the counter in the administrative offices?

Effective January, 2006, the City of Oakwood partnered with a firm by the name of Official Payments Corporation to provide this convenient service to its citizens. Credit card payments can be made by calling 1-800-272-9829 or by logging on to the website www.officialpayments.com and providing the requested information. A convenience fee will be added by Official Payments Corporation for providing this service. If charge cards were accepted directly by Oakwood staff at the administrative offices, the City would have to absorb the credit card usage fees, thereby passing on the cost of this service to both users of this service and non-users alike. The Oakwood Community Center continues to accept credit card payments as they have in the past, and their system is not affected by our partnering with Official Payments Corporation. As Community Center fees are structured to accommodate credit card transaction fees, no convenience fee is added to charges made for Oakwood Community Center membership dues, programs or classes.



How much additional revenue have we earned by investing our cash balances as opposed to paying off the debt?

PUBLIC FACILITIES DEBT JUSTIFICATION



Blue Represents Net Income After Expenses
 Gray Represents Expenses Related to Carrying Debt

The lower shaded area in the above chart represents the cost associated with carrying the public facilities and land acquisition debt on our books. The top of the upper shaded area represents the total interest income we earned on our borrowed funds for each of the given years. Accordingly, the upper shaded area, and the respective number labels, represent the annual net profit we earned on borrowed funds, after taking into consideration all related expenses.

Note: As the interest earnings on our investments continues to fall with the market, so too does the amount we pay in interest when re-financing our one-year, short-term debt. Although our profit margin tends to fluctuate with the

market, maintaining the short-term debt on our books, investing the monies, and paying the debt down methodically and strategically, continues to be a prudent investment decision.

As depicted in the above chart, our costs of carrying debt grew in 2006 and 2007, when we took on debt for acquisition of the Old River athletic fields, because we incurred legal costs in both March and October for two separate draftings of note legislation. However, effective for year 2008, we aligned our three debt instruments to all come due in March, thereby enabling us to combine and minimize our ongoing legal costs associated with this debt. Coincidentally, the interest earnings on our investments increased during 2007, the first full year of carrying the athletic fields debt, beginning the year at 4.7% and ending the year at 5.08%. The above chart reflects an estimated 2008 annual average interest earnings of 4.5%, as compared with an estimated average cost of carrying debt at 3.0%, plus associated legal fees and other costs.



Do we have debt?

At the close of 2007, we held \$2.15 million in debt for the public facilities projects (the Public Works Center and Administration/Safety Building) and \$2.1 million for the Old River athletic fields acquired in September, 2006. Annually, we pay down our public facilities debt by an amount of \$350,000, and our Old River acquisition debt by an amount of \$200,000. Although we have the cash reserves to pay off all of our debt obligations, we are earning higher interest on our investments than we are paying on our debt and have therefore chosen to pay the debt off slowly and strategically.

COMMENTS & FUTURE GOALS

Sewer Fund Balance: The City of Oakwood does not have its own wastewater treatment facility to treat wastewater returned via the sanitary sewer system, but rather contracts with the City of Dayton and Montgomery County for these necessary services. These external wastewater treatment costs, over which the City has no control, have increased substantially over the past several years. Until recently, we have allowed the sewer fund balance to absorb these increases, to the extent that sufficient reserve resources no longer exist. Accordingly, we are continually monitoring the balances and expenditures from this fund, and will be recommending increases as may be necessary over the next few years, to ensure that adequate funds are available to meet both current and long-term needs.

Initiate New Audit Team: Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code requirements, the City recently contracted with a new auditor. The year 2008, involving the financial records for the year 2007, will be the first of a five-year contract with Plattenburg and Associates. The first year of such an endeavor typically involves a substantial amount of time from the Finance Department to: 1) familiarize staff with the new audit team; 2) familiarize the new audit team with city proce-

dures, filing, etc.; and 3) provide research assistance and responding to auditor requests for information, reports and/or explanations. We have contracted to pay an average amount of approximately \$22,000 per year over the next five years for this necessary service.

Update Financial Software: The city of Oakwood contracts with Creative Microsystems Inc. (CMI) to provide Finance, Court and Safety application software. CMI has created user-friendly, windows-based software applications, and within the next few years will be discontinuing support for the older character-based software applications. Accordingly, the City is beginning to migrate to CMI's (or another vendor's) newer and more user-friendly suite of financial software applications. The municipal financial suite used by Oakwood consists of numerous applications (Finance, Payroll, Utility Billing, Fixed Assets, Income Tax, and Central Billing and Receipting) involving a substantial investment of both money (acquisition cost) and time (training). Thus far, the City has acquired only the updated version of its Fixed Assets application. The 2008 Budget includes an amount of \$30,000 set aside for the upgrading of additional financial applications.



Municipal Court

The Oakwood Municipal Court was established on January 1, 1934. Its authority is derived from section 1901.01 of the Ohio Revised Code and its territorial jurisdiction coincides with the corporate limits of the City of Oakwood. The court's mission is to provide high quality and courteous services to the litigating public. It is charged with deciding cases fairly and will impose meaningful sentences in

criminal/traffic cases.

Judge Robert Deddens is serving his fourth six-year elected term as Municipal Judge. His responsibilities as Judge include appointing and supervising a full-time Clerk of Courts who in turn supervises the part-time Clerk. A part-time Bailiff is employed to serve subpoenas and eviction notices, and to immobilize vehicles.



What are the court hours of operation?

The court is open to the public Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Non-jury, criminal and traffic proceedings convene at 8:30 a.m. on Thursdays of each week. Jury trials are scheduled every other month throughout the year as needed. In addition, the judge is on call for the purpose of conducting criminal arraignments when called upon to do so by public safety officers. Civil proceedings commence at 1:30 p.m. on Thursdays of each week.



What is the process used by the court in dealing with serious criminal and traffic cases?

When a person is arrested and charged with committing a serious crime or a serious traffic offense, the police officer notifies the court which immediately schedules an arraignment to set bail. Arraignments are held anytime day or night, on short notice. The judge meets with the officer and defendant promptly after the arrest. This reduces police time and the cost of housing and monitoring prisoners. It also ensures that the prisoner is not unnecessarily jailed pending trial. Prisoners who do not make bail are transported to the county jail.



What is the authority of our municipal court?

Like all municipal courts, our court has authority to conduct preliminary hearings in felony cases and has jurisdiction over traffic and non-traffic misdemeanors. The court also has limited jurisdiction in handling civil cases in which the amount of money in dispute does not exceed \$15,000 and in handling small claim cases in which the amount of money in dispute does not exceed \$3,000.



Do we have jury trials in Oakwood?

Yes. When a defendant requests a jury trial, the Clerk of Court on behalf of the Court summons eighty residents from the City of Oakwood to report as prospective jurors. From those who report, eight jurors and one alternate are selected for the actual trial. No jury trial in the last 15 years has lasted more than one day. Jury trials are typically scheduled on Fridays. Jury trials are not permitted for minor misdemeanors (such as a speeding ticket) when jail is not a possible sentence.



When a person pays a traffic citation for a violation of a city ordinance, how much of the fine and court costs go to the state and how much goes to the City and County?

	Court Costs	Criminal Traffic/Fines	Seat Belt Fines	Court Cost Seat Belts
(Total Court Costs are currently \$74.00)				
State	32.5%	-0-%	100%	32.5%
County	0%	25%	0%	0%
City	67.5%	75%	0%	67.5%

The \$24 court cost going to the State is sent to Columbus for the Innocent Victims of Crime Fund and the Public Defender Fund.

Fines for violation of state codes are paid to the County Treasurer while fines for violation of Oakwood ordinances are paid to the city.



What are some of the legal requirements that affect jury duty?

Ohio law modified the circumstances under which a prospective juror may be excused. The circumstances include:

- A physical or mental condition which must be supported by a physician's documentation.
 - If a person can demonstrate that jury service would cause "extreme undue physical or financial hardship."
 - The person is over 75 years of age and would like to be excused.
- A person may be permanently excused if the judge determines that the underlying grounds for being excused are of a permanent nature.
- The law also:
- Provides for a minimum fine of \$100 for failure to appear for jury service.
 - Prohibits employers from taking disciplinary action that could lead to the discharge of any permanent employee as a result of being summoned to serve as a juror, and
 - Prohibits employers from requiring employees to use vacation or sick leave for time spent on jury duty.

COMMENTS & FUTURE GOALS

New Facilities: The court and court staff continues to enjoy the wonderful facilities in the new building. The Court and the City continue to evaluate whether and to what extent a video connection with the County Jail would benefit the City. The video connection would enable the Court to conduct video arraignments with prisoners in the County Jail, saving the expense of paying public safety officers to transport prisoners back and forth between the County Jail and the City for arraignments, and to guard the prisoners in the courtroom until he or she is arraigned. At pre-

sent, cost/benefit analysis has not warranted the expense of video arraignment equipment.

Court Interpreters: The court and court staff are facing more defendants who do not speak English – primarily persons who speak only Spanish. The law requires that the city provide qualified interpreters for accused who are indigent. The court expects this procedure to become more prevalent in the future. In some cases, the cost of the interpreter may be assessed as court costs and paid by the defendant.



City of Oakwood

It is City Council's vision of the City of Oakwood to continue its heritage as a premiere residential community:

Where citizens know and respect one another.

Where principal emphasis is placed on neighborhood, schools, responsive city services and parks.

Where citizens contribute to and benefit from strong, responsible stewardship of community resources.

Where a responsible citizenry helps establish and follows community standards that preserve the quality of individual and community property.

Where residents feel comfortable and secure in their homes as they move about the community.

Where education is a vital community tradition.

Where viable business and professional enterprises are clearly compatible with residential living and not in conflict with the residential integrity of the community.

Where citizen participation is valued and encouraged to give definition to the high expectations to the community and its residents.

Where Oakwood benefits from the involvement of its residents and employees in a variety of regional, business, cultural and governmental activities.

**Annual
Report 2007**