



City of Macedonia

Bi-Weekly e-Bulletin City of Macedonia



Mayor

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City Directory

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- ✉ Finance 330-468-8350 Loren
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- ✉ Fire 330-468-8339
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A Message from our Mayor

Dear Readers,

I have one last issue to talk to you regarding our financial condition. I thought maybe some bullet points might help to give you a snapshot.



- The City was \$3 million dollars in debt when I took office in 2004
- All of that remnant debt has been paid off except one 2000 road note that we have one payment left on (that was due to be paid off last year but because of the economy we couldn't)
- We attacked every way to save money and spend less that we could during the next 5 years of my term, ending up with a \$250,000 general fund carry over and \$5.5 hundred thousand dollar "rainy day" fund in 2008
- All of this was accomplished while fixing roads and paying for them cash in our neighborhoods, and at the same time buying down debt that was left us— We came a very long way from the -\$227,00 that was my first carry over in 2004
- We lost over 1000 jobs in Macedonia and \$1.5 MIL-LION DOLLARS IN REVENUE in 2009. Our City was built on a house of cards, never making sure we had a solid base to tide us through an economic downturn. Real estate taxes are the most steady. Our

The City of
MACEDONIA

The Crossroads of Northeast Ohio

9691 Valley View Road
Macedonia, OH 44056
(330) 468-8300

Questions, comments or concerns
Please Contact Diana Augustine
Office: 330.468.8322

A Message from our Mayor—cont.

taxes will still be less than our neighbors if the tax levy passes!

- This left us no choice but to look to our residents to choose the quality of life they want. It is heard that we overspent. Which project should not have been done over the last 6 years? This kind of malarkey tries to put the blame on me and my staff when the blame should be put on the economic downturn. We were getting things done, buying equipment, doing more with less, and improving efficiency by removing dead wood and replacing it with efficiency.
- Our existing real estate levy is 48 years old so it needs to be addressed. Instead of making it higher than 5.7 mills, we replaced it with a 4 mill levy. Why less? Because we are well aware that things are tough and we don't want to generate more than we really have to. Will it be enough? It will be something steady that we can rely on yearly, while hoping that City income tax will grow. That is still a key factor in the long range picture.

I am forming a financial steering committee. It is my hope that such a committee will give us guidance. It will be composed of people that have a business background that will lead to better buying power, for more tax dollar savings. This will increase interaction between your elected officials and reality.

Note: no threats and all positive stuff. I will just keep striving to make the City the best that it can be...no matter what.

Macedonia will be made well be yearning, learning, and earning.

-Mayor Don Kuchta

Message from our Community

Why Issue 19? Community Comparison Tells the Story

City Profile

- 10th Largest Community in our Vicinity
- Pop Growth past 10 yrs = 13% (rank 2nd)
- Projected Pop Growth = 5.6% (rank 1st)
- Home Ownership = 95% (rank 1st)
- Degreed Residents = 32% (rank 8th)
- Property Value = \$200K (rank 8th)
- School Index = 30 (rank 7th)
- New Home Construction Value = less than current property value (rank 10th)
- Crime = 27.25/1000 residents (rank 3rd)
- Crime incidents per officer = 13/1000 residents (rank 4th)
- Property Taxes = \$1,620 (rank 2nd)
- Avg. City Empl Salary = \$45K (rank 10th)
- Part-Time Employees = 53% of total (rank 2nd)
- Budget Reduction last 5 years = 21%
- Administrative Spending = UN-DETER budget each year for past 4 yrs
- Income Tax Revenue (makes up 45% of total budget) = down \$1.1M in 2009

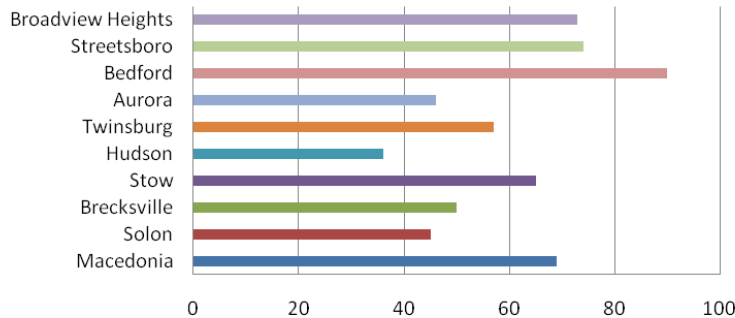
There are many questions revolving around the current financial situation of Macedonia and the proposed Levy facing us in May. "How can't we pass this . . . what will happen if we don't pass this . . . how many more times will the city come back to the voters . . . how did we get here in the first place"? Less effort has been paid to "**How does our city compare to other communities in our region?**"

Please note that as conveyed by city council, our Mayor and our Fire/Police Chiefs (<http://www.macedonia.oh.us/>), **Issue 19 will only maintain the situation presented below.** Without it, these and other metrics will continue to show Macedonia's decline in our region. Many in our community contend IF the situation is so dire, it is because of mismanagement and we simply need to tighten our belts. These individuals also believe our administration is sensationalizing and using other 'fear' tactics to get the levy passed. Allow these comparative graphs to demonstrate some proof of the city's claim.

The study compares the 10 largest communities (larger than 10K residents) in our general area. The Overall Rating is a weighted average of all studies. Visit www.strongermacedonia.com for the complete study.

Community Comparison - Overall

Macedonia Rank: 7 of 10



Macedonia's Reality

Let us draw a correlation here. Brecksville and Macedonia are roughly the same size (comparable demographics in many areas). Brecksville has controlled their population growth, maintain a strong school system, invested in high-value Single-Family homes, pay their city employees well and have better Police coverage per resident. For

their investments, they attract more affluent residents, have less crime, have higher property value and have better school ratings (there are many other metrics not compared in this study).

Our community is at a pivotal cross-road and we require your assistance to make this the community we all desire. **Issue 19 is one of several steps necessary to fix a deteriorating situation.** We are a caring community that understands the need for careful, insightful and strong investments to bolster our overall value and attractiveness to our residents. If we fail to keep up with our neighbors, we will obtain the reputation of not caring about the strategic well-being of our community. Those that DO care will flee to other communities - those that don't will 'flee' to Macedonia - making this conversation that much more difficult in the future.

Data Sources

- City-Data.Com
- Sperling's Best Places
- Summit & Cuyahoga Auditor's Office
- Cranes Magazine
- City of Macedonia
- Cleveland Magazine
- Stow City Hall

Message from Mike Hlad—Building Department
Look for Super Wal-Mart / NHS Phase III / Hobby Lobby / Five Below

Commercial News:

- Wal-Mart construction has begun! Please drive carefully through the parking lot and be aware of the construction equipment.
- Nordonia High School has been approved for Phase III of construction and the contractors continue to work on the ball fields and the stadium.
- Hobby Lobby and Five Below stores in Macedonia Commons are also under construction.

Residential News:

- Arbor Trails Development (off of Valley View Road) will begin construction
- Gardens at Highland Development Phase II will be under construction
- We currently have 29 new homes and 7 additions under construction



High Grass Program

Due to recent budgetary cuts, we are sad to announce that the Building Department will no longer be continuing the high grass program. In recent years, many foreclosed homes have appeared across Macedonia. The homes have become dilapidated and the lawns overgrown. The City pays a company to cut the lawn, and the invoice is then assessed on the property taxes. Unfortunately, we cannot perform this service at this time because the funds have been cut. We will do whatever we can to contact the banks that own these homes and have them attend to the grass; however, most banks have ignored efforts to keep Macedonia beautiful in the past.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at (330) 468-8360.

-Mike Hlad

Message from our Finance Director

“We are at a Financial Cross-Road”



On May 4th the taxpayers of the City of Macedonia will be asked to make a decision when they exercise their constitutional right to vote. As your Finance Director, it is incumbent upon me to provide the financial information with which you can make an informed decision.

It is my professional opinion as your Chief Financial Officer that the City of Macedonia is at a financial cross road. In order to continue the service levels currently provided for the Public Health, Safety, and Welfare of our citizens and taxpayers, a stable and reliable revenue source must be secured. It is to that end I have recommended to the Mayor and City Council to request the voters of Macedonia consider **property taxes as that stable revenue source**. Why? Because, **Income Tax revenues have proven too volatile** to provide for the personnel and operations costs of your City and also provide for the maintenance of the infrastructure/capital assets such as roads, culverts, bridges, sidewalks, equipment for police, fire/ems and service/streets, parks, and public buildings.

It has been the administrations contention that we have made over \$3,000,000 in cuts and I am providing the following annual budget vs. expenditure analysis which clearly shows that our overall actual spending has gone down from **\$16,809,449 in fiscal year 2008** to a **budget of \$13,495,413 in fiscal year 2010**; a **reduction of \$3,314,036**.

Please review the graphic representation and the correlating spreadsheet for our fiscal years 2006 – 2010 and you will find that the **Capital Improvement Fund (401) has been abandoned beginning in 2009, these cuts average out to approximately \$2.0 million annually**. At the same time our **personnel and operating funds have been cut by approximately \$1.7 million annually**.

Unlike the private sector's of our economy which responds to reduced demand for goods and services by reducing production and releasing labor to unemployment, the **City of Macedonia has not had any reduction in the demand for the services we provide** but they continue to escalate with population growth and development of new businesses and residential subdivisions.

I would like to refer you to the budget analysis and state that since coming to the Finance Department in June of 2006 our budgets have not been overspent on a fund basis and in fact you can clearly see that the **Mayor and our administrative department heads have consistently returned budget surpluses** of money's lawfully appropriated and remained unspent none the less! This demonstrates not only our commitment to responsibility and accountability but our being good stewards of our citizens tax dollars!

Message from our Finance Director—cont.



04/19/2010 10:51 AM

Prepared by: Loren Sengstock, Finance Director

City of Macedonia
Annual Budget vs Expenditures Analysis
Fiscal Years 2006 - 2010

Annual Fund Budget & Expenditures Data	Fiscal Year 2010	Fiscal Year 2009	Fiscal Year 2008 **	Fiscal Year 2007 **	Fiscal Year 2006 **
<u>General Fund (101)</u>					
Annual Amended Budget **	\$ 9,608,363	\$ 10,582,273	\$ 11,422,999	\$ 11,259,487	\$ 11,438,516
Annual Expenditures & Encumbrances **	N/A	\$ 10,177,776	\$ 10,991,180	\$ 10,820,353	\$ 11,437,476
Annual Under (Over) Budget	N/A	\$ 404,497	\$ 431,819	\$ 439,134	\$ 1,040
<u>Emergency Reserve Fund (102)</u>					
Annual Amended Budget	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Annual Expenditures & Encumbrances	N/A	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Annual Under (Over) Budget	N/A	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<u>Street Construction, Maint. & Repair Fund (201)</u>					
Annual Amended Budget	\$ 1,732,300	\$ 1,790,900	\$ 1,919,554	\$ 1,901,918	\$ 1,664,517
Annual Expenditures & Encumbrances	N/A	\$ 1,633,324	\$ 1,907,733	\$ 1,827,444	\$ 1,646,594
Annual Under (Over) Budget	N/A	\$ 157,576	\$ 11,821	\$ 74,474	\$ 17,923
<u>Parks & Recreation Fund (204)</u>					
Annual Amended Budget	\$ 352,650	\$ 389,700	\$ 493,238	\$ 553,868	\$ 468,204
Annual Expenditures & Encumbrances	N/A	\$ 376,848	\$ 455,959	\$ 445,424	\$ 456,456
Annual Under (Over) Budget	N/A	\$ 12,852	\$ 37,279	\$ 108,444	\$ 11,748
<u>Family Recreation Center Fund (205)</u>					
Annual Amended Budget	\$ 1,778,500	\$ 1,909,612	\$ 1,717,593	\$ 1,600,785	\$ 1,533,584
Annual Expenditures & Encumbrances	N/A	\$ 1,874,784	\$ 1,565,000	\$ 1,429,913	\$ 1,432,655
Annual Under (Over) Budget	N/A	\$ 34,828	\$ 152,593	\$ 170,872	\$ 100,929
<u>Capital Improvement Fund (401)</u>					
Annual Amended Budget	\$ 3,600	\$ 237,000	\$ 2,168,935	\$ 2,481,705	\$ 1,990,183
Annual Expenditures & Encumbrances	N/A	\$ 228,967	\$ 1,889,577	\$ 2,418,463	\$ 1,929,633
Annual Under (Over) Budget	N/A	\$ 8,033	\$ 279,358	\$ 63,242	\$ 60,550
<u>Annual Operating Funds Totals</u>					
Annual Amended Budget	\$ 13,495,413	\$ 14,909,485	\$ 17,722,319	\$ 17,797,763	\$ 17,095,004
Annual Expenditures & Encumbrances	N/A	\$ 14,291,699	\$ 16,809,449	\$ 16,941,597	\$ 16,902,814
Annual Under (Over) Budget	N/A	\$ 617,786	\$ 912,870	\$ 856,166	\$ 192,190

Data Source: City of Macedonia Annual Cash (Non-GAAP) Revenue/Expenditure Reports (Includes Intergovernmental Transfers)

** Fiscal Years 2006 - 2008 General Fund Adjusted for Income Tax Transfers to Family Recreation Center Fund

The City Charter and Ohio law requires that any municipality evaluate the budgetary needs for the community and when it is determined that new tax revenues are required and deemed necessary to provide for the public health, safety and welfare that the legislative body (City Council) shall place before the voters the request for additional **taxes** so that the majority of the taxpaying citizen may voice their decision and thereby provide a mandate to both the Council, Mayor and administration on what we may base future financial decisions for our community. We have done what the law requires to obtain your input at the May 4th primary as this is your community and we are but your servants.

-Loren Sengstock

Message from Angela Gmerek—Recreation Department

Spring into Summer

STOP IN AND SIGN UP TO RECEIVE PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS BY EMAIL FROM THE RECREATION CENTER!

Spring/Summer Brochures Available Online!

Macedonia Parks & Recreation Spring/Summer Program & Activity Guides are available for viewing at www.macrec.com. Brochure includes information on summer camps, aquatics, fitness classes, youth sports, registration, contact info. and more!

Spring Registration Dates

The Macedonia Family Recreation Center has announced the following Spring Registration schedule:

- ✦ Member Registration - Begins April 19 at 8:00 a.m.
- ✦ Macedonia Residents – Begins April 23 at 8:00 a.m.
- ✦ Open Registration – Begins April 24 at 8:00 a.m.

Spring activities include aquatics, fitness, youth activities, special events & more!



Register Now for Summer Day Camp!

June 14 – August 13

Campers (ages 6-12) will create lifelong memories as they participate in activities and games that will help them develop new skills, interests, hobbies & meet new friends. Everyday will be a new adventure as they enjoy water activities, swim lessons, arts & crafts, nature hikes, sports, games & fun in the sun! Campers will also participate in weekly field trips to exciting nearby destinations. There will be many special events throughout the summer such as talent shows, cookouts, special guests, and more! Campers may register by the week or by the session. Before and After Care is available.

Call (330) 468-8370 for more information.

-Angela Gmerek

Message from Chief Tim Black—Fire Department

STATE FIRE MARSHAL ENCOURAGES CITIZENS TO "SPRING INTO FIRE SAFETY"

News Release from the Ohio Department of Commerce

Interim State Fire Marshal Donald Cooper is encouraging Ohioans to "spring into fire safety" as warmer days approach. Ohio averages more total fires in spring than any other season. More than 60,000 fires were reported during April, May and June to Ohio's fire departments from 2004 to 2008.

"As the spring weather warms Ohio, many people throughout the state begin what is an annual ritual - spring cleaning," said Cooper. "This is also an ideal time to check homes and yards to eliminate fire and safety hazards."



The number of fires can be greatly reduced by taking these simple steps to protect your family and home:

- Clear leaves, debris and other yard waste from around the home, garage and storage sheds.
- Have a qualified professional perform proper maintenance on lawn equipment such as mowers, weed trimmers and leaf blowers.
- Responsibly store flammable liquids and home chemicals; properly discard old containers of paint and solvents.
- Fuels for lawn and garden equipment, tools and vehicles should only be stored in approved containers.
- Check for frayed or damaged electrical cords and wires, and have them repaired by a qualified professional.
- Air conditioning units and electrical cords should be checked.
- Barbeque gas grills, including gas hoses, gas grill lines, and propane tanks, should be inspected prior to use.
- Remove any combustibles from around hot water tanks, clothes dryers and vents and any heating equipment.
- Remove any lint buildup from clothes dryers.
- Get rid of oily rags and cloths used to wipe up fuel spills.
- Windows should be checked to make sure they open and close properly, in case they are needed as exits.

A complete list of fire safety tips can be found on the Division of State Fire Marshal's web site at <http://www.com.ohio.gov/fire>

While you are thinking fire safety, take the time to test your smoke detectors. If you have not already changed the batteries, do it now. Also, dust or vacuum around the detector and replace any that are 10 years old or older. Finally, review your home fire escape plan and make certain every family member has two ways out of the home and knows the outside meeting location.

-Tim Black

Message from Jim Crevar—Service Department
Macedonia is 'Green' Conscious



WHERE to RECYCLE YOUR TELEVISION

No electronics accepted at the
Household Hazardous Waste Recycling Center

Best Buy Stores (www.bestbuy.com):

- **Chapel Hill** – 445 Howe Avenue, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221 (330.928.5410)
- **Macedonia** – 470 E. Aurora Road, Macedonia, Ohio 44056 (330.468.6850)
- **Montrose** – 96 Rothrock Road, Akron, OH 44321 (330.665.1041)

They accept two items per household per day. Best Buy charges \$10 for TV's 32" and under, CRTs, which is offset with a \$10 Gift Card.

e-WASTE, LLC (330.650.0274) 1261 Hudson Gate Drive, Hudson

- \$25.00 Television 32" and under
- \$40.00 Television 33" – 42"
- \$80.00 Television over 42"

Regency Technologies (appointment only – 440.287.7218)

- Accepts Televisions over 32" – cost dependent on size

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Why should I recycle my television?

A: Televisions contain hazardous materials such as lead and cadmium.

Q: Why can't I recycle my television or electronics at the HHWRC?

A: When SASWMA started recycling electronics in 2001, local residents had few options; now this area offers many convenient solutions for this material.

SASWMA strongly suggests contacting these locations for specific information on services and fees (if applicable) prior to use. Inclusion on this flyer does not constitute endorsement by SASWMA.

Visit www.saswma.org
or call 330.374.0383



Summit County's Resource for Recycling

Message from Jim Crevar—Service Department
Macedonia is 'Green' Conscious



WHERE to RECYCLE YOUR ELECTRONICS

**No electronics accepted at the
Household Hazardous Waste Recycling Center**

Donation

1. A OneCommunity/RET3 Education Initiative

(216.923.2200) www.onecommunity.org - Equipment donated is inspected to determine if it can be refurbished. Usable machines are remanufactured to the specifications of participating schools and unusable equipment is completely demanufactured; the raw materials sold to end users and the proceeds used to subsidize Green Computing.

2. Goodwill Industries of Akron [Dell RECONNECT partnership]

(330.724.6995) www.goodwillakron.org - Equipment donated is refurbished or recycled.

Electronic Recycling

1. E-Scrap Solutions (216.431.0796) www.escraprecycling.com
2. e-Waste of Hudson (330.650.0274) www.e-wasteonline.com
3. Itran, Inc. (330.523.0087) www.ItranUSA.com
4. Metallic Resources, Inc. (330.425.3155) www.metallicresources.com
5. RET3 (216.361.9991) www.ret3.org

Cell Phone Recycling

Ohio E-check - All locations: www.ohioecheck.org

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Why should I recycle my electronics?

A: Computers and other electronics contain hazardous materials such as lead, arsenic, and cadmium.

Q: What electronic items can I recycle?

A: Each business listed accepts and recycles different types of electronics. Please contact recyclers for their program specifics and hours of operation.

SASWMA strongly suggests contacting these locations for specific information on services and fees (if applicable) prior to use. Inclusion on this flyer does not constitute endorsement by SASWMA.

Visit www.saswma.org
or call 330.374.0383



Summit County's Resource for Recycling

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