



## Subdivision Regulations Adopted

After several years of work by RPC staff and other county departments and agencies, the revised Stark County Subdivision Regulations became effective on April 4, 2007, after public hearings and adoption by the Stark County Commissioners and the Regional Planning Commission. These new regulations replace the current regulations which were adopted in 1978.

While many changes were of a housekeeping nature, some major changes include:

- the "original tract" or parent tract was created on the effective date of the adopted regulations;
- minor subdivisions will be required to comply with health, sanitary and access management regulations, in addition to subdivision and zoning regulations;
- minimum size of exempted tracts increased from 5.0 acres to over 20.0 acres;
- established large lot developments between 5.001 and 20 acres;
- set width-to- depth ratios for most lots and revised lot requirements in unzoned townships;
- replatting required when changes are made to existing platted subdivisions;
- established clear procedure for commercial/multi-family site improvements;
- created an administrative waiver process for small projects;
- updated the street classifications based on the Federal Functional Classifications;
- strengthened construction requirements for longer lasting roads and public improvements;
- provided clear and consistent requirements for the design and construction of roads as well as other related public improvements.

The newly adopted Subdivision Regulations are available on the "Subdivision" link of the RPC web site: [www.rpc.co.stark.oh.us](http://www.rpc.co.stark.oh.us). Questions should be addressed to Reva Butera, Chief of Planning Administration or Joe Underwood, Subdivision Engineer.

## SCATS Policy Committee Approves 2008-2011 TIP

At its April 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting, the SCATS Policy Committee approved the Stark County Area Transportation Study Transportation Improvement Program 2008-2011 (TIP).

The TIP is the schedule of highway, transit, and other improvements that will be implemented within the next four years. The FY 2008-2011 TIP includes 58 highway projects, some of which include: widening Hills & Dales Road between Wales and Brunnerdale Avenues; rebuilding SR 21 bridges and repaving in Massillon and Lawrence Twp.; resurfacing SR 30 from Wayne County to Massillon; repaving US 62 through Canton and Louisville to State Street; repaving portions of SR 93; reconstructing Main Street in Louisville; resurfacing Lincoln Way from Wayne County to Massillon, Massillon to Canton and portions in Canton; lowering Union Avenue in Alliance under the Norfolk and Southern railroad bridge; widening Applegrove between Marquardt and Market Streets; and intersection improvements and repaving for portions of Wales Avenue.

As can be expected, most transit projects included in the TIP are for bus replacements and bus maintenance, and also include projects that will complete renovations at Gateway and the updating of radio and automated data gathering systems.

The majority of funds expended (excluding transit projects) fall into four categories: 31% for resurfacing, 19% for bridge replacements, 15% for major road widening, and 10% for intersection and traffic signal improvements. Projects must be included in the TIP in order to be eligible to receive federal funds.

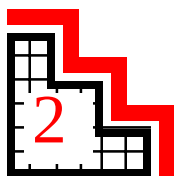


### Specialized Transportation Program Awards Vehicles for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2006

One Stark County agency has received notice from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) that they have been awarded a vehicle through the FFY 2006 Specialized Transportation Program (STP). The program's new guidelines award vehicles on a statewide basis and individual counties are not assured of receiving a vehicle each year.

Stark County's grantee agency for FFY 2006 is Mercy Medical Center. They will be funded for their requested vehicle, a standard minivan, at a total cost of \$22,000. The STP helps fund vehicles for qualifying private, non-profit social service agencies that provide transportation services for elderly and/or disabled citizens. ODOT provides 80% of the vehicle's purchase price with the grantee agency providing the remaining 20%. The grantee agency's matching share must come from non-federal sources.

Vehicles are awarded annually through a competitive application process administered by the SCATS Policy Committee. SCATS staff and the Citizens' Advisory Council review and evaluate the applications before making a recommendation to the committee. The Policy Committee then passes a resolution recommending to ODOT which agency(s) they believe should be awarded the vehicle(s).



# Governor Appoints New ODOT Director

On February 12, 2007 Governor Ted Strickland appointed Brown County Engineer, James Beasley, to be the new director of the Ohio Department of Transportation. Mr. Beasley had served as Brown County Engineer since 1980 and as deputy engineer from 1975-1979. He graduated from OSU in 1972 with a Bachelor's Degree in civil engineering and earned his Master's Degree in hydraulic and hydrologic engineering from OSU in 1973.

While serving as the Brown County Engineer, Beasley also served two terms with the District 15 Ohio Public Works Committee. He was awarded a life membership by the Township Trustees Association of Brown County and received an Award of Merit for Outstanding Accomplishments in Resource Conservation from the Brown County Soil and Water Conservation District. In 2000, Beasley was recognized by ODOT for Covered Bridge Preservation.

---

## Congratulations Stark Area Regional Transit Authority

Congratulations to SARTA, in kicking off their 10th Anniversary Celebration at the McKinley Centre on April 19th.

While the past ten years have included many notable events for SARTA, recently they have been awarded the Outstanding Public Transportation System Achievement Award (2006) by the American Public Transportation Association and the Municipal Project of the Year (2005) for the



Cornerstone Transit Center by the Northeast Ohio Municipal Leader Magazine. Other recent accomplishments include the opening of the Massillon Transit Center and renovations to the Gateway office and maintenance complex. This year they look forward to construction of the Alliance Transit Center, which will improve customer service and provide a location for community meetings.



## First-time Homebuyers Assistance Program

Nearly a year ago, the Stark County Community Development Block Grant's (CDBG) Housing Rehabilitation Department designed and began implementation of a Homebuyer Assistance Program (HAP). This program is designed to assist qualified low- to moderate-income (LMI) families with the purchase of a home. The program, which is funded by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, is administered by the Stark County Regional Planning Commission, on behalf of the Board of Stark County Commissioners.

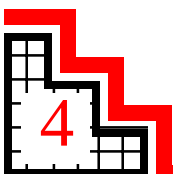
The program is designed to help qualified first-time homebuyers, or those who have not owned a home during the previous three years, with down payment and/or closing costs in the purchase of a house. The homebuyer could be a family, single parent, or displaced homemaker.

Ms. Denise Daniel of Canal Fulton participated in the program and became the first HAP recipient. Ms. Daniels was elated with the program and stated, "I'm a single, self-employed mom, and the HAP program made it possible for me to achieve my goal in purchasing my home."

Qualified HAP applicants are eligible to receive 6-7% of the house purchase price in HAP funds. This assistance is in the form of a 0% interest deferred loan, with no monthly payments required; the loan will not be forgiven. The full amount of the HAP loan is due and payable when the homeowner sells or refinances the property, or if the home is no longer the owner's principal place of residence. Qualified purchasers may receive between \$1,000 and \$10,000.

The homes being purchased through the program must be site-built or modular, single-family dwellings located within the eligible areas of Stark County, including all townships, villages, and the cities of Alliance, Louisville, North Canton, and Canal Fulton. The purchase of a house located in the cities of Massillon and Canton and the Village of Hills and Dales is not eligible for this Stark County program.

For more information about this program, contact Mary Crombie at 330-451-7485.



# Only Rain Down the Drain



Only 1 % of all water is usable, drinkable water. We are contaminating and polluting our water supply.

Stormwater runoff is precipitation from rain or snowmelt that flows over the ground. As it flows, it can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and deposit them into a storm sewer system or waterbody.

Anything that enters a storm sewer is discharged untreated into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water.

To keep the stormwater leaving your home or workplace clean, follow these simple guidelines:

- \* Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly
- \* Repair auto leaks
- \* Dispose of household hazardous waste, used auto fluids (antifreeze, oil, etc.) and batteries at designated collection or recycling locations
- \* Clean up after your pet
- \* Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface
- \* Sweep up yard debris rather than hosing down areas. Compost or recycle yard waste when possible
- \* Clean paint brushes in a sink, not outdoors. Properly dispose of excess paints through a household hazardous waste collection program
- \* Sweep up and properly dispose of construction debris like concrete and mortar



Keep our water running clean !



# RPC's 50th Anniversary Celebration



Fred Abraham -  
Current President

Congressman Ralph Regula -  
Special Guest of Honor

Robert Nau -  
Executive Director

Approximately 200 guests enjoyed an evening of reunion and celebration as they gathered to celebrate the RPC's 50th anniversary at its Annual Dinner on March 23, at Skyland Pines Rustic Lodge. Guests reminisced as they perused the numerous pictures displayed of current and former Commission members, presidents, directors, staff, and various projects the RPC has undertaken over the years. Ten current and former RPC Presidents were in attendance. Dinner music was provided by the Sundance Quartet from Wooster, which was a nice addition to the evening. Congressman Ralph Regula was the special guest of honor and was presented with a mantel clock in appreciation for serving as the RPC's first President, as well as his contribution in creating the agency. Regula gave a first-hand account of the inception of the Regional Planning Commission. The audience was then educated and entertained as a slide show was presented of the last 50 years. Many of the projects and people were included in the presentation, which indicated what a diverse agency the RPC is, and the close interaction it has with the entire county. A special tribute was made to Ken Ogden, the longest-serving employee of the Regional Planning Commission, who celebrated his 40-year anniversary with the agency last fall.



RPC Presidents -



Jim Holl, Mary Regula



John Grogan, Bernie Hunt, Marcia Hunt, Joe Martuccio



Ron Revlock, Bob Leach, Larry Krebs



Bob Nau, John Phillippi, Ralph Boger, Ted Deremer



Toni Middleton, Janie Middleton, Mayor Janet Creighton, Vince Marion, Jerry Bixler

## Proposed FY 2005 Stark County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Programs

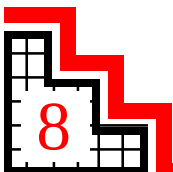
In late April, the Board of Stark County Commissioners will adopt the FY 2007 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME programs. This adoption will take place after the thirty-day comment period for both programs expires on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Both the proposed FY 2007 CDBG and HOME programs have been previously adopted by the CDBG Citizens' Advisory Council in late February and the Stark County Regional Planning Commission in early March, prior to the March 20<sup>th</sup> public hearing. Below is the breakdown of the proposed FY 2007 CDBG and HOME programs.

### FY 2007 PROPOSED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Board of Stark County Commissioners is proposing to undertake the following housing and community development activities during FY 2007.

| PROJECTS                                                           | PROPOSED FUNDING   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 CDBG Administration                                              | 154,165            |
| 2 Comprehensive Planning                                           | 83,310             |
| 3 Fair Housing                                                     | 56,581             |
| 4 Housing Rehab Program Costs                                      | 245,000            |
| 5 Housing Rehabilitation - Emergency Rehab Program                 | 100,000            |
| 6 Stockpile, Inc - Stark County RPC Services, Inc.                 | 40,000             |
| 7 Community Services - Family Living Center                        | 19,720             |
| 8 Salvation Army - Homeless Services Motel Voucher Program         | 33,000             |
| 9 Plain Twp. - 30th St., NE Storm Sewer                            | 77,431             |
| 10 Western Stark Medical - Healthcare for Uninsured & Underserved  | 30,000             |
| 11 Community Services - Micro Business Assistance Program          | 34,120             |
| 12 East Canton - Church Street Water Main                          | 49,950             |
| 13 North Canton - Woodrow St., NW Waterline Improvement            | 81,000             |
| 14 Alliance for Children & Families - Alliance Emergency Residence | 14,989             |
| 15 Paris Twp. - Robertsville Storm Sewer                           | 380,290            |
| 16 Domestic Violence Project - Renew Therapeutic Services          | 35,000             |
| 17 Kent State Univ. Stark Campus-Small Business Development Cnt.   | 27,967             |
| 18 Canton Negro Oldtimers - Three Giving Events                    | 5,000              |
| 19 Contingencies                                                   | 2,759              |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                                       | <b>\$1,470,282</b> |

It is anticipated that the County will receive an additional \$150,000 in program income from the current housing rehab revolving loan fund program. This program income will revolve back into this program.







## FY 2007 PROPOSED HOME PROGRAM

The Board of Stark County Commissioners, as the lead agency for the HOME Consortium, is proposing the following expenditure of funds for the HOME program, which follows the same program year as the CDBG program.

| PROJECTS                                                              | PROPOSED FUNDING |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Massillon Homes II - Development of Lease-Purchase LMI Housing (CHDO) | 40,000           |
| City of Massillon - Housing Rehabilitation                            | 109,713          |
| NRP - Alliance Elderly LLC                                            | 100,000          |
| City of Alliance - Housing Rehabilitation                             | 64,686           |
| Stark County - Housing Rehabilitation                                 | 150,000          |
| Stark County Homebuyer & Rental Activities                            | 323,565          |
| City of Massillon's Homebuyers Assistance Program                     | 3,218            |
| Stark County/City of Alliance Homebuyers Assistance Program           | 14,659           |
| HOME Administration                                                   | 87,551           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                                          | <b>\$893,392</b> |

After adoption by the Board of Stark County Commissioners, the Stark County CDBG program will submit the fully approved "Stark County FY 2007 CDBG and HOME Programs - One-Year Update of the Consolidated Plan" to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) by May 15<sup>th</sup> for their acceptance and a July 1<sup>st</sup> start date.

## April - National Fair Housing Month



The Fair Housing Act was signed on April 11, 1968, just one week after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This landmark bill, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, resulted from the hard work and leadership of Dr. King and others in the civil rights movement and was an important step toward confronting discrimination against minorities in housing.

April 2007 marked the 39th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1968. The Federal Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, and national origin (protected classes) in the sale or rental of housing. Amendments to the act in 1988 extended its coverage to prohibit discrimination based on disability and family status.

The Fair Housing Act of 1968 has helped open doors of opportunity for countless families. Since its passage, America has made significant progress in achieving equal housing access for all individuals. Despite this progress, more work remains in the struggle to achieve equality and racial justice. Several recent studies show that significant discrimination, especially against minorities, families with children, and persons with disabilities, still exists.

Housing discrimination doesn't always mean having a door slammed in your face or a bigoted remark directed your way. Unsuspecting renters or home buyers may be politely turned away from the housing of their choice, even though they are qualified. As a county, and as individuals, we must be vigilant in responding to discrimination wherever we find it to ensure that home seekers have equal access to housing.

This year's theme, for the 39<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the law, informs housing providers and the public that "Fair Housing: It's Not an Option....It's the Law." You cannot be denied a place to live or given different terms or conditions when renting, purchasing, lending or buying homeowner's insurance. The only way to stop discrimination is to report it.

If you believe you are a victim of housing discrimination or want more information about the fair housing laws, contact the Stark County Fair Housing Department at (330) 451-7775. This department provides fair housing services throughout Stark County, including the cities of Alliance and Canton with the exception of the city of Massillon.

---

# Tax Incentive Review Council

The RPC contracts with the Stark County Commissioners and assists local government, business and the general public with two tax abatement programs and provides assistance to all Tax Incentive Review Council(s) (TIRCs). While agreements and monitoring follow state law and rules were put into effect by the Ohio Department of Development, the enterprise zone (EZ) and community reinvestment area (CRA) are administered locally.

As of the March 31st deadline, all reports have been filed with the Ohio Department of Development and copies distributed to local governments and school districts. There were 1,875 jobs retained and 847 new positions created attributing to the tax incentives offered under the enterprise zone program.

A summary of the year-end 2006 reporting as follows:

- \* Ten separate TIRC meetings (only those entities party to the agreement provide oversight and are part of the review)
- \* RPC responsible for five EZs which include parts of Osnaburg, Perry, Canton, Nimishillen, Plain, Lake and Jackson townships, the cities of Louisville, North Canton, Canal Fulton, and the villages of East Canton, Navarre, Brewster, and Minerva
- \* A total of 29 EZ agreements reviewed
- \* Two agreements recommended to be terminated by TIRCs as not being in compliance with commitments
- \* Two agreements have expired - met or exceeded commitments
- \* Commissioners continued agreements with 25
- \* All recommendations of the various Tax Incentive Review Councils were adopted by the Stark County Commissioners

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Canton, Ohio  
Permit No. 357



Stark County Regional Planning Commission  
Stark County Area Transportation Study  
201- 3rd Street NE, Suite 201  
Canton, Ohio 44702-1211

## What's INSIDE

First-time Homebuyer Assistance  
RPC's 50th Anniversary  
Specialized Transportation Program

## Upcoming EVENTS

### April

|    |                            |         |
|----|----------------------------|---------|
| 2  | Subdivision Review         | 1:30 PM |
| 3  | SCRPC                      | 7:30 PM |
| 12 | Citizens' Advisory Council | 1:30 PM |
| 23 | SCATS                      | 1:30 PM |

### May

|    |                    |         |
|----|--------------------|---------|
| 7  | Subdivision Review | 1:30 PM |
| 8  | SCRPC              | 7:30 PM |
| 21 | SCATS              | 1:30 PM |

### June

|    |                    |         |
|----|--------------------|---------|
| 4  | Subdivision Review | 1:30 PM |
| 5  | SCRPC              | 7:30 PM |
| 25 | SCATS              | 1:30 PM |

## Credits

**Editor:**  
Malia Watkins  
**Graphics:**  
Malia Watkins

**President:**  
Fred Abraham  
**Director:**  
Robert Nau

**Telephone:**  
330- 451-7389  
**FAX:**  
330- 451-7990

**Website:**  
[www.rpc.co.stark.oh.us](http://www.rpc.co.stark.oh.us)