



The Planning Progress

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2008 Annual Dinner

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Approximately 130 guests gathered at this year's Annual Dinner. John Hoopingarner, Executive Director/Secretary of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD), was the guest speaker. He graduated from Muskingum College and Ohio Northern University of Law. He practiced law for several years before taking his current position with MWCD.

Hoopingarner provided a power point presentation describing the issues, responsibilities, and efforts of the District. It consists of 16 dams and has serious ongoing maintenance challenges. Their efforts have prevented \$6 billion on property damage and saved countless lives. He presented additional past, present, and future concerns of the District as well.

Gratitude and appreciation were expressed to Fred Abraham, as RPC Vice-President Bob Sanderson presented him with a plaque for his leadership as president of the RPC during 2006-2007.

Robert Sanderson presents
Fred Abraham with a plaque
of appreciation.



Springtime and Your Yard

Spring is finally here. Are you thinking about being outside and sprucing up your yard? There are certain things you should consider before getting started. The following suggestions will be beneficial to you and the environment.

Assess your property: Note the type of soil you have, the amount of sun/shade, and drainage. Be aware of underground utilities and overhead power lines.

Conserve natural resources: Roughly 30% of the water used in urban areas in the east goes to irrigate plants, mostly lawns. Select plants that are native and adapted to your site, cluster them and mulch with compost to conserve moisture, water once deeply rather than several times lightly to encourage the development of deep roots, do not overwater, avoid planting/trans-planting during the summer. Use hand tools as much as possible. Reduce the use of power equipment, gas-powered engines and major lawn/garden equipment. These devices cause more air pollution than car engines, making them responsible for 5% of urban air pollution.

Compost: Leaves, grass clippings, and other yard debris clog landfills, taking up 20-40% of landfill space. This “waste” is actually a valuable natural resource. Once decomposed, this organic matter provides a free mulch, soil amendment and good source of nutrients.



Recipe for Compost

Mix together and moisten and turn occasionally until dark and crumbly (several weeks to a year):

1 part “green” = fresh grass clippings, manure, garden plants, and fruit and vegetable scraps

3 parts “brown” = dried leaves and plants, branches, and woody materials

Use the compost around trees, shrubs, perennials, and even house plants to deter weeds, improve soil structure and retain moisture.

Pesticides/fertilizers: Use as a last resort. They can harm people, pets, and the environment. Monitor the problem - if a pesticide is necessary, use organic or the least toxic alternatives first. Apply when pests are most vulnerable, do NOT apply when rain is expected, follow label directions carefully and apply only to the affected parts of the plants. For more information visit <http://www.epa.gov/reg3esd1/garden/natres.htm>.

Focus on Agriculture



Because agriculture is a land-based industry, land is one of the most valuable resources to maintain the sector and all its related benefits. The Office of Farmland Preservation educates the public about the importance of saving farms and assists farmers and local officials with their farmland protection efforts.

The office implements the Clean Ohio Agricultural Easement Purchase Program and the Ohio Agricultural Easement Donation Program, and provides technical assistance to communities implementing the Agricultural Security Area Program. An agricultural easement is an agreement between the farmland owner and the state to keep a piece of property in agricultural production in perpetuity. While the landowner may sell or pass the property on as a gift at any time, the agricultural easement stays with the property forever.



In 2007, the Clean Ohio Agricultural Easement Program preserved 3,317 acres of farmland in Ohio. Additionally, 933 acres were preserved through the Agricultural Easement Donation Program. All totaled, from 2001 to the present, nearly 31,000 acres have been preserved through these programs. The 2008 applications are due May 23, 2008 and can be filled out online at the Ohio Department of Agriculture's website www.ohioagriculture.gov. Landowners must apply through a local sponsor such as their Board of County Commissioners or Township Trustees, or a non-profit agency, such as The Wilderness Center.

As individual consumers, The American Farmland Trust encourages patronizing local farms and farmers' markets, looking for new sources of locally grown food, shopping at local retail food markets that promote fresh, locally produced foods, and increasing the percentage of your diet that comes from local sources.

PROPOSED FY 2008 STARK COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) AND HOME PROGRAMS

In late April, the Board of Stark County Commissioners will adopt the FY 2008 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME programs. This will take place after the 30-day comment period for both programs expires on April 11. Both the proposed FY 2008 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 20th public hearing. Below is the breakdown of the proposed FY 2008 CDBG and HOME programs.

FY 2008 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Board of Stark County Commissioners is proposing to undertake the following housing and community development activities during FY 2008.

PROJECTS PROPOSED FUNDING

1	CDBG Administration	148,808
2	Comprehensive Planning	80,415
3	Fair Housing	54,615
4	Housing Rehab Program Costs	220,500
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	Western Stark Medical - Healthcare for the Uninsured & Underserved	30,000
10	Community Services - Micro Business Assistance Program	34,120
11	Alliance for Children & Families - Alliance Emergency Residence	14,989
12	Plain Twp. - 25th St., NE Storm Sewer	180,000
13	Domestic Violence Project - Renew Therapeutic Services	35,000
14	Hartville - Kent Avenue (Rt. 43) Improvement	99,025
15	Kent State Univ. Stark Campus - Small Business Development Center	27,967
16	Canton Negro Oldtimers - Three Giving Events	5,000
17	Canton Twp. - Lincoln/Donora Sanitary Sewer Project	60,000
18	Canton Twp. - Waynesburg/14th Street Sanitary Sewer Project	180,000
19	Contingencies	56,033
TOTAL		1,419,192

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 income will revolve back into the program.

FY 2008 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

City of Massillon - Housing Rehabilitation	145,015
Alliance for Children & Families - A-F.I.R.S.T	159,517
YWCA of Canton - YW PHS II	169,593
Stark Metro Housing Authority - Tenant-based Rental Asst.	150,000
Stark Metro Housing Authority - H.O.P.E. Tenant-based Rental Asst.	139,152
City of Massillon's Homebuyers Assistance Program	1,300
Stark County/City of Alliance Homebuyers Assistance Program	5,923
Administration	84,808
TOTAL	855,308

After adoption by the Board of Stark County Commissioners, the Stark County CDBG program will submit the fully approved "Stark County FY 2008 CDBG and HOME Programs - One-Year Update of the Consolidated Plan" to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) by May 15th for their acceptance and a July 1st start date.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) THREE YEAR APPLICATION PROCESS TO BEGIN

On Wednesday, August 27th, the Stark County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program staff will offer a workshop for potential (CDBG) applicants. Municipalities, townships, and non-profit agencies and organizations interested in receiving CDBG funding during the next three fiscal years, 2009, 2010, and 2011, will want to attend. After this period is completed, applications will not be accepted again until the fall of 2011. Applications for the next three years will be due in early November. Invitations will be mailed this summer to all Stark County CDBG eligible municipalities and previously funded non-profit organizations. Persons wanting a packet, but unable to attend the workshop, may contact Lynn Carlone, Community Development Administrator, at 330-451-7774 to receive the needed information. The packets will be sent out after the workshop has been held. Applicants who attend the workshop will be awarded additional ranking points for their projects.

Governmental Law Seminar - 2008

The Governmental Law Seminar was held at The McKinley Grand Hotel on Saturday, February 23rd, and attended by 140 city, village and township officials. Workshops on public records, sunshine law, zoning, nuisance abatement, employment issues, GIS, annexation and CEDA's were led by staff members from the Stark County Prosecutor's Office and the Planning Commission. Thanks to everyone who participated.



NOWHERE ON A RENTAL APPLICATION DOES IT SAY....



YOU MUST BE A WHITE MAN

WITH NO DISABILITIES



AND NO CHILDREN.



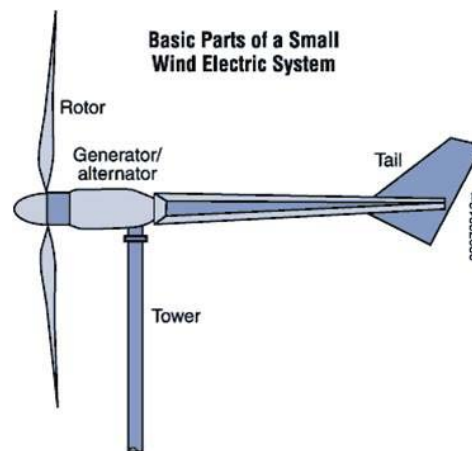
This April marks the 40th Anniversary of the passage of the Fair Housing Act. While much has been accomplished since the passage of the law, more work remains in our struggle to achieve equality and racial justice. Federal law makes it unlawful to discriminate in housing based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability or family status. If you think you have been denied housing, call us. **Fair Housing is not an option, it's the law!**

Stark County Fair Housing (330) 451-7775

Model Zoning Amendments

As the demand for cleaner, less-costly energy alternatives has grown, many people have begun researching the use of small wind energy systems to supplement the use of grid-connected energy. Small wind energy systems are those that are rated for 100 kilowatt (kW) hours or less energy, are designed to supplement the energy used by the principal building, and are not for commercial purposes or to be connected to the energy grid.

Small wind energy systems consist of the tower, rotor, nacelle (generator/alternator housing) and a power center. The nacelle is the enclosure located at the top of the turbine, which houses the gearbox, generator, and other equipment. The power center is usually located at the base of the tower, and serves as the central connection point for the electrical components in the system and provides a number of necessary control functions.



In an effort to provide reasonable regulation of small wind energy systems, the Planning Administration staff has drafted two model zoning amendments which can be used as a guide to assist zoning officials in developing regulations for their townships. One would allow the systems as a permitted use, and the other would be a conditionally permitted use, provided they meet specific conditions.

The model amendments include the following requirements:

- Primary purpose shall be to provide power for the principal and accessory uses of the property and not for the generation of power for commercial purposes
- Minimum lot size required
- One small wind energy system tower per lot or parcel
- Maximum height of tower



- Located in rear yard only
- Minimum setbacks of 110 percent of the tower height from all property lines, structures and above-ground utility lines
- Anchor points for tower guy wires must be set back at least 25 feet from all property lines
- An automatic braking, governing, or feathering system must be installed to prevent uncontrolled rotation
- Some type of anti-climbing device or fence shall be installed, or the tower climbing apparatus shall be no closer than 12 feet from the ground
- System must separately comply with Stark County Building Department regulations
- Each system must be installed, operated and maintained per the manufacturer's instructions, including compliance with Ohio EPA regulations regarding storage and disposal of batteries and other hazardous materials
- The system must be removed when it has reached the end of its useful life or has been abandoned
- Site plan is required for review by the township

The model amendments were prepared using a variety of resources, including the American Wind Energy Association and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

Ohio & Erie National Heritage Canalway (OENHC)

As the weather improves we begin to think of not just yard work, but of relaxing in the outdoors. Stark County is fortunate to be part of the OENHC which offers hiking, biking, canoeing, and horseback riding opportunities, among others. The OENHC was created by an Act of Congress to assist in the development and preservation of the Ohio & Erie Canal (and portions of the Lincoln Highway and Valley Railroad). Development has included building more than 87 out of 110 miles (to date) of the towpath trail, numerous trailheads, visitor centers, and other resources.

What's been happening recently? Stark Parks opened the Exploration Gateway in June in conjunction with the Stark County District Library. The Exploration Gateway is an education center that interprets our natural heritage, the role of the Ohio & Erie Canal in shaping our history, as well as serving as a branch library.



Senate Bill 2739, sponsored by Senator George Voinovich, was recently passed. The bill included reauthorization of the OENHC and is needed to ensure that work on the trail and other resources needed for interpretation of the OENHC are completed. Efforts now continue on passing a House Bill.

To discover more about the Heritage Canalway, including events, the latest development news, and to plan outings, visit one or all of these websites:

- <http://www.starkparks.com/> Stark Parks official website.
- <http://www.ohioanderiecanalway.com/> the official website of the Ohio & Erie National Heritage Canalway
- <http://www.ohioeriecanal.org/> a grass-roots non-profit organization centered on activities in Summit, Stark, and Tuscarawas Counties
- <http://www.ohiocanal.org/> a grass-roots non-profit organization centered on activities in Cuyahoga County

Cleaning Up Diesel Emissions

It's Not All Hot Air, Something Can Be Done to Clean Diesel Emissions

It's not the visible smoke coming out of diesel bus and truck exhausts that you should be worried about. It's the particles that are too small to see and can't be filtered out by our bodies as easily as other pollutants that should concern all of us.

These fine particles, 30 times smaller than the width of a human hair, can more easily find their way into our lungs and have been identified as a contributing cause of asthmatic reactions.

Government entities have recognized this, thus federal and state emission regulations have resulted in cleaner burning diesel engines. But what about older engines? Products are available to retrofit diesel powered equipment that will remove 30-90% of exhaust pollutants.



Diesel Oxidation Catalyst

Diesel Particulate Filter

A number of opportunities exist to fund projects to retrofit, replace and/or upgrade engines that will improve diesel exhaust. Details of these programs can be found at:

- <http://www.epa.gov/midwestcleandiesel/index.html> This is part of a nationwide effort by the USEPA.
- <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/oeef/html/schoolbus.html> This is an Ohio EPA program funded by pollution fines to help school districts with projects.
- <http://www.odod.state.oh.us/diesel-emissions/> This is a program authorized by the Ohio Legislature which has completed its first year of funding. Details for future applications should be announced soon.

The Ohio Environmental Council (OEC), a consortium of more than 100 Ohio non-profit environmental advocacy groups, has been leading efforts to educate the public and government entities about this problem and solutions to it. Details available from the OEC can be found at <http://www.theoec.org/air.htm>. The OEC is also working on a joint proposal as part of a USEPA Midwest grant application and is looking for communities with large diesel fleets that would be interested in participating. Please contact the OEC for details regarding this effort.

For more information, contact Karl Lucas with SCATS at 330-451-7386 or kblucas@co.stark.oh.us.

Upcoming Events

May

5	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
6	SCRPC	7:30 PM

June

2	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
3	SCRPC	7:30 PM
23	SCATS	1:30 PM
26	CAC	1:30 PM

July

7	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
8	SCRPC	7:30 PM

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