



Planning Progress

April - June 2011

Volume 49 Issue 2

Inside

Billboard
Winners.....page 2

Frank T. Bow
Federal Building....page 4

CDBG Application
Process..... page 5

Federal Grant
Update.....page 7

Annual Dinner

Approximately 110 guests gathered at Skyland Pines for this year's SCRPC's Annual Dinner. Robb Hankins, President and CEO of ArtsinStark, the County Arts Council was the guest speaker. He has spent the last 30 years directing city, county, and state arts agencies in eight different states. Hankins has built or retooled fund drives, created major community festivals, overseen public programs, redesigned education initiatives all in the area of the arts. He has helped revitalize downtowns as well.

Since Robb's arrival in October of 2005, ArtsinStark's annual arts campaign has reached its goal for the fifth year in a row raising the highest amount ever of \$1,455,000.



"This is an exciting time for Alliance. The explosion of arts and history activity downtown feels like a miracle is about to happen, and the Alliance 20/20 Vision process is meant to create a 10-year plan keeping it moving forward."

-Robb Hankins

Hankins captivated the audience with his passion for the arts. The focus of his speech was "Using the Arts to Revitalize Communities." He gave a special update on how the arts are transforming downtowns, schools, neighborhoods, and tourism. He followed that up with speaking on the new 10-year plan for arts and economic development in Stark County called 20/20 Vision.

Storm Water Billboard Contest Winners

As part of the Storm Water Education Program, middle and high schools students had the opportunity to enter a Billboard Contest. The winning entries had their original artwork displayed on actual billboards throughout Stark County.



Rachel Neal
St. Thomas Aquinas



Rebecca Haley
East Canton Middle School



Emily Day
St. Peter's



Gabrielle Bodo
St. Thomas Aquinas



Kayla Miner
East Canton Middle School



Cathy Moeglin
St. Peter's

Rainwater Harvesting



We need to protect our water!
The solution is fairly easy- collect the stormwater.

Rain water harvesting is accumulating and storing stormwater runoff and is used in a variety of ways from drinking and irrigation to gardens and livestock. Rain barrels are a pretty inexpensive way to collect the storm water and they can be decorative as well. Why waste the treated water on your lawn, car, or flowers? Save money by lowering your water bill.

The solution ranges from as simple as a rain barrel to a more complex system.



What are the major bigger-picture advantages of rainwater harvesting in an urban environment?

- It reduces reliance on finite municipal sources, especially important during times of drought, and it offsets the need for additional capital investments, which generally carry a much higher per unit cost than already developed, existing supplies.
- It substitutes rainwater for treated water, thus avoiding the embedded environmental costs and energy consumption of treatment and delivery associated with using potable supplies for non-potable purposes.
- It provides an emergency, onsite source of water in case of temporary, even prolonged interruption of municipal supplies, for example as the result of an earthquake (stored rainwater can relatively easily and cheaply be rendered potable through boiling, microfiltration, or chlorination).
- It reduces the volume and peak flows of stormwater runoff, reducing the risk of both urban flooding and non-point source pollution.

Frank T. Bow Federal Building



On behalf of the Board of Stark County Commissioners, the Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC) recently submitted an application to the National Park Service (NPS) to obtain the Frank T. Bow Federal Building for historic monument purposes. This application will allow the County to take ownership of the historic building for free, in exchange for keeping the building in use as a historic monument. If the County is approved to receive the building, it will utilize the building as government office space for various departments

of the Common Pleas Courts, and possibly other county offices such as SCRPC. The application was due to the National Park Service on the 7th of March, and once it is received, the NPS has sixty days to respond to the County with any questions or comments. Once all comments are addressed, then the NPS will forward the application to the U.S. General Services Administration for their final review and approval. If approved, the County expects to commence renovation of the Bow building sometime this summer, once ownership of the building has been transferred to the County.

Sustainable Planning and Zoning Handbook



In 2009, Stark County was awarded the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) as part of the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Per the grant agreement, the Stark County Regional Planning Commission is developing a handbook for sustainable development within the County. This handbook, which will be distributed to each local government, will discuss sustainable planning and zoning topics that can be applied to local zoning codes and comprehensive plans. The handbook will also provide model zoning amendments and additional planning resources to assist each community in developing more sustainably. Political entities should look for this handbook to arrive within the next couple of months. It will also be available for download on the Stark County Regional Planning Commission's website- www.rpc.co.stark.oh.us.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Three Year Application Process to Begin

Now is the time to start thinking about future Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects in your community. CDBG staff is currently available to meet with your municipality township, or non-profit to discuss potential projects in your area. An application workshop has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 7th for the next three fiscal years 2012, 2013, and 2014, but it is important to begin the ground work now. The workshop will be offered to municipalities, townships, and non-profit agencies & organizations interested in receiving CDBG funding between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2015. Applications for this 3-year funding round will be due in early November and will not be accepted again until the fall of 2014. Invitations will be mailed this summer to all Stark County CDBG eligible entities. Persons wanting an application 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. Additional ranking points will be awarded to all those that attended the workshop.

Public Involvement Workshop

Stark County's Public Involvement/Public Education (PIPE) Committee for storm water education will be sponsoring a **free** workshop. The focus for this event will be rain barrels and riparian buffers.

Rain barrels are a simple way to catch rain water directly from a roof. The stored water picks up very few contaminants and can be used to water lawns, gardens, and wash your car.

Riparian buffers are areas of trees, shrubs, and grasses located next to a stream, creek, or lake. The buffers protect the water in several ways. Attend the workshop and find out how to help protect our water. After the workshop, we will have rain barrels on display and travel to Alpine Park to see a riparian buffer.

Join us on Wednesday, June 22nd at 6:00 p.m. at the Plain Township Hall - 2600 Easton St. NE, Canton. For more information or to R.S.V.P., contact Malia Watkins at 330-451-7405.



Northeast Ohio Consortium for a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development

The Consortium is an organization of over 20 public and private entities that was awarded a \$4.25 million federal grant to set regional priorities in land use, housing, transportation, economic development and environmental protection. When completed, the Northeast Ohio Sustainable Communities Regional Plan will identify sustainable links between land use, transportation and the environment for the region.

The Consortium has begun assembling the framework by which the Plan will be created. A Code of Regulations has been adopted and a Board of Directors has been established. As members of the Consortium, SCATS, Stark County, the City of Canton and the Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority have appointments to the Board.

One of the first major decisions of the Board has been to select an Executive Director that will oversee the daily activities associated with the Plan's preparation on behalf of the Consortium. On February 16th, the Board of Directors offered this position to Hunter Morrison.

Morrison received a bachelor's degree from Yale College, a Masters in City Planning from Harvard and a Masters in Business Administration from Cleveland State University. His professional experience includes ten years as a Director of Planning with Youngstown State University and 20 years as the Planning Director for the City of Cleveland.

Under Morrison's leadership, the Consortium will promptly begin assembling the pieces of the Northeast Ohio Sustainable Communities Regional Plan.

Specialized Transportation Program (STP)

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) provides federal funds for the purchase of equipment to support transportation services for the elderly and people with disabilities where existing transportation is unavailable, inappropriate, or insufficient. The FTA provides 80% of the cost of capital items; the remaining 20% must be provided by local funding, which may include transportation funding from other federal programs other than U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) programs or from DOT's Federal Lands Highway Program.

The Stark County Area Transportation Study (SCATS) adopted a resolution at its February Policy Committee meeting. The resolution recommends that Association for Better Community Development (ABCD) receives \$25,000 for the purchase of a minivan, Mercy Medical Center receive \$25,000 for the purchase of a minivan, and ABCD receive \$25,000 for the purchase of an additional minivan if funds allow. The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) makes the final decision as to who will receive the money for the vehicles.

April is National Fair Housing Month

A Jackson Twp. family was steered to a basement apartment because they had children. A landlord in North Canton was charged with refusing to rent to a female home seeker because of her gender. A disabled man with multiple sclerosis was refused an opportunity to rent a second floor apartment because the owner of a Canton Twp. complex felt he would not be able to ascend and descend the stairs efficiently. Stark County Fair Housing investigates and processes these cases and other discrimination cases under the Fair Housing Act. This April marks the 43rd Anniversary of the passage of the Fair Housing Act and its promise of equal housing for all Americans.

The Fair Housing Act makes it illegal to discriminate in housing transactions based on race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability, or familial status. Showing a difference in treatment because there are children in the family, because of a person's gender, or because a person has a disability is discriminatory. In the aftermath of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination in April 1968, President Lyndon Johnson moved for passage of the Fair Housing Act to bring the nation forward and together. Fair Housing Month is a time to celebrate the progress we've made in opening the doors of housing opportunity to every citizen of this nation. While much has been accomplished since the passage of the law, more work remains in our struggle to achieve equality and racial justice.

National studies show that minorities, families with children, and persons with disabilities, still face an alarming amount of discrimination in renting, buying, or financing housing. Unsuspecting home seekers may be politely turned away from the housing of their choice, even though they are qualified. Illegal housing discrimination can take many forms, some quite subtle: realtors showing apartments or homes only in certain neighborhoods, advertising housing only to preferred groups of people, denials of property insurance, discriminatory property appraisals, or refusals to make reasonable accommodations or modifications for persons with disabilities.

Federal law makes it unlawful to deny housing, show a difference in treatment, or offer different terms and conditions to certain groups because of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability or family status. It is also unlawful to refuse a disabled person a reasonable accommodation or modification. If you have been 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.

Thermostat Rebate Program

As part of the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant, Stark County continues to issue rebates to residents who purchase programmable thermostats. Over 400 have already been issued, however the grant will cover up to 1000 more. A \$25 rebate is available to Stark County residents (outside the City of Canton) and small business owners (5 or fewer employees) who show proof of purchasing a programmable thermostat.

Thermostats can be replaced fairly inexpensively. It is not necessary to buy a new furnace.

Programmable thermostats can help homeowners save approximately \$180 per year on energy bills by properly setting and regulating the temperature of their residence.

For more information or the application, visit our website at www.rpc.co.stark.oh.us or contact Malia Watkins at 330-451-7405.



Stark County Regional Planning Commission
201- 3rd St. N.E.
Canton, Ohio 44702

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

Upcoming Events

April

4	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
5	SCRPC	7:30 PM
13	CAC/ comments on the TIP	4:00 PM
25	SCATS	1:30 PM

May

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

June

6	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
7	SCRPC	7:30 PM
27	SCATS	1:30 PM

Credits

Editor/Graphics
Malia Watkins

President
Robert Sanderson

Executive Director
Robert Nau

Phone
330-451-7389

Fax
330-451-7990

Website
www.rpc.co.stark.oh.us