



Planning Progress

April - June 2013

Volume 51 Issue 2

Annual Dinner



President/CEO of the Akron-Canton Airport, Rick McQueen and RPC Executive Director, Bob Nau

Inside

\$\$\$ Available for
Septic Repairs.....page 2

Chicken
or the Egg?.....page 4

Sediment
Control..... page 6

Ohio State-
Diversion
Champs.....page 7

Approximately 120 guests gathered at Skyland Pines on March 20, 2013, for this year's SCRPC Annual Dinner. Rick McQueen, President and CEO of the Akron-Canton Airport (CAK), was the guest speaker. He spoke of the tremendous growth and impact that the airport has had for northeast Ohio.

CAK is a self-supporting facility that has the average lowest fare in Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, and Kentucky. Thirty years ago 250,000 passengers used the airport in one year. Last year 1.8 million passengers went through. Southwest flies into CAK and just bought AirTran, making it the largest carrier in the U.S. McQueen said, "We are convenient. We have good service and good airlines. We can connect you to the world."

In 2008, the airport's total economic impact in the region exceeded \$398 million annually. In addition to the economic impact figure, the airport contributes to and helps sustain 2,264 jobs. Total tax revenues added up to \$12 million and payroll exceeded \$87 million.

The airport authority has unveiled CAK 2018 – the most ambitious capital improvement plan in the Akron-Canton Airport's history. The 10-year, \$110 million plan calls for 10 vital projects in the next 10 years. From a recently completed major runway extension to a new customs and border patrol facility to accommodate international flights, the projects will create new flight options for travelers in northeastern Ohio.

His interesting presentation was enjoyed by everyone in attendance, and it was exciting to hear about the future plans of this regional asset.

Septic Repairs or Replacement Needed?

Need Septic Repairs? \$\$\$ is Available!

Work may include repair or replacement of your failing septic system.

Homeowners living in Stark County may qualify for an 85 or 100% grant.



It's simple to see if you qualify!

Contact The Stark County Regional Planning Commission at **330-451-7389** to see if you qualify.

Available through the Stark County Community Development Department utilizing Ohio EPA funding.

The Stark County Community Development Block Grant's (CDBG) Housing Rehabilitation Department is just completing the first round of the Home Sewage Treatment Systems (HSTS) program funded through the Ohio EPA. This program is administered by the Stark County Regional Planning Commission on behalf of the Board of Stark County Commissioners. Funding through this program will pay for up to 100% of the cost to repair or replace a septic system where a sanitary sewer does not exist. This past fall and winter 15 qualified Stark County homeowners had new septic systems installed under this program.

The Housing Rehab office is now working to qualify applicants under a second round of HSTS funding. Qualified applicants must own their single-family home for a minimum of one year and fall within the program's poverty income guidelines as established by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. Applicants with incomes below 100% of these guidelines, based on family size, are eligible to receive 100% of their total project costs. Those applicants with incomes above 100%, but less than or equal to 200% of the poverty guidelines, are required to provide 15% of their total project costs, with the remaining 85% being a grant.

Applications are currently being accepted under this second round of the HSTS program. Funding will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. If you yourself are in need of this program or know someone else who may be, please call 330-451-7389 to speak with someone about the program and to obtain an application form.

Public Meeting for SCATS

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is developing the State Fiscal Year 2014-2017 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The STIP is the four-year plan listing highway, transit, pedestrian and bicycle projects that will occur throughout Ohio for the next four fiscal years.

Projects are derived from Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO), ODOT Central and District Offices, and from others throughout the State. This includes projects originated from the Stark County Area Transportation Study (SCATS), which is the MPO for Stark County.

As part of the public involvement process, SCATS will hold a Public Meeting at the Stark County District Library Main Branch on Wednesday, April 10th, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. You are invited to review and comment on the current list of projects scheduled by ODOT for state fiscal years 2014-2017 as well as the SCATS 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and SCATS 2040 Long Range Plan.

Residential Demolition Funds Available

The State of Ohio Attorney General's Office has made demolition funding available to local governments under the Moving Ohio Forward program. The purpose of Moving Ohio Forward is to assist communities in their economic recovery by removing blighted and vacant or abandoned residential structures to reclaim neighborhoods. The funding stems from the national mortgage settlement from the five largest mortgage servicers over foreclosure abuses, fraud and unacceptable nationwide mortgage practices. Additional information on the settlement can be found at <http://www.nationalmortgagesettlement.com>.

In Stark County, the Stark County Land Reutilization Corporation (SCLRC) was the recipient of funds and the Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC) is administering the program on their behalf. The first \$500,000 of the grant is available without a match requirement to complete demolition projects on residential structures anywhere in Stark County. The remaining amount of the grant must be matched on a dollar for dollar basis. Locally, the following communities have committed match dollars to further the reach of the program within their jurisdictions: the City of Canton (\$1,000,000), Plain Township (\$100,000), the City of Alliance (\$75,000), Perry Township (\$15,000) and Pike Township (\$500). These communities are known as program subrecipients and are assured receiving at least the amount of match they are bringing to the program if all requirements and deadlines are met. The \$500,000 non-match grant will be available on a first-come first-served basis in any area of the County. Overall, an approximate total of \$1,590,500 in Moving Ohio Forward funding will be available for demolition projects in Stark County. All funding must be expended by the end of 2013, so the SCRPC has been working closely with both subrecipient and non-subrecipient jurisdictions to meet this deadline. For more information on the program, or to inquire about a specific property, call SCRPC, at 330-451-7389.

The Chicken or the Egg?



Why not have both?! In recent years there has been a growing movement to buy locally-produced foods, which can be seen in the widespread increase of farmers' markets, urban gardens and even local and/or organic food sections in many grocery stores. One of the most popular trends spawning from the local foods movement is the keeping of free-range, or "backyard" chickens. These chickens differ from commercially-raised chickens in that they are allowed to range freely on pasture, or are kept in moveable pens that provide them access to fresh pasture frequently. Beyond having fresh eggs daily, the benefits of raising backyard chickens are numerous. Free-range eggs are said to be tastier and more nutritious than commercially-produced eggs. Several studies have shown that free-range eggs have lower cholesterol and saturated fat, and have more vitamin A & E, beta carotene, and omega-3 fatty acids than commercial eggs.

There are several misconceptions people have about backyard chickens. Some of them include:

- **Noise.** Hens are actually very quiet and only make slight, brief outbursts (and never at night) at the arrival of a new egg. In reality, it is only the roosters that are noisy.
- **Roosters.** Many people think roosters are a necessity to make an egg, but hens can produce 1-2 unfertilized eggs daily on their own. Roosters are only required if the desired outcome of the egg is to hatch a baby chick.
- **Odor.** Chickens themselves do not actually smell. The decaying fecal matter of chickens may smell, but if the pens are relocated frequently, the odor is minimal. The foul smell that most people associate with chickens is typically from the poultry sites where there are hundreds of chickens in crowded and poorly ventilated facilities. Most ordinances allow for a maximum of 3-4 chickens and at five pounds each; the total amount of waste generated from backyard chickens is less than the average dog. Further, chicken manure is high in nitrogen, which can be used to help create a rich fertilizer when composted.

- **Public Health.** People often correlate the term “bird or avian flu” with chickens, but in truth these diseases are generally detected in the contaminated feces of wild birds, primarily migratory waterfowl, who come into contact with each other at ponds. As long as chickens are kept in an enclosed pen, contact with migratory birds should be unlikely. On a further note, free-range eggs are also less likely to contain Salmonella.
- **Bugs and Insects.** Some people also believe that chickens attract bugs and insects, but the opposite is actually true. Chickens will peck the dirt and eat the bugs and insects they find, including mosquitoes and fly larvae. As for attracting rodents, unless chicken feed has been spilled on the ground, a chicken pen is not likely to attract wildlife (which the same can be said for spilled garbage or dog food).



In conclusion, with the proper zoning regulations in place, including maximum number of hens, prohibition of roosters and appropriate property line setbacks, backyard chickens can be easy and inexpensive pets that provide economic and health benefits in return for their care. In addition to the above-noted benefits, by eating food scraps and grass clippings, these animals also help divert waste from landfills and waterways. Raising backyard chickens can be an educational opportunity for children, and lastly, owners will always know exactly where their food has come from, and what's been added (or not) to it.

Sediment Control

What is sediment control?

It is an installed practice or device designed to keep eroded soil on a construction site, so that it does not wash off and cause water pollution to a nearby stream, river, lake, wetland, or property. Sediment controls usually work in conjunction with erosion controls. They must be installed correctly and maintained regularly.

Erosion is the wearing away of soil by water or wind. After soil has been worn away, it is washed away by runoff water, while the heavier sediment is left behind. As creeks and streams fill with sediment, the flow capacity of the stream is diminished, and the risk of flooding is increased. The sediment reduces the amount of light that aquatic plants can use for photosynthesis, spreads pollution and covers over breeding and feeding environments for fish. The effects of excessive erosion and sedimentation affect humans, plants, and animals.

Examples of Sediment Control Devices:

Vegetation and trees help keep soil in place and prevent runoff by soaking up water. Natural land features such as inclines direct the flow of water while natural mulch, such as leaves and pine bark retain soil.

Silt fences are the most common solution. They keep sediment from washing into streets and stormdrains.



Curb inlet protectors keep out sediment throughout the entire construction project.



This protector is used with flat grates and mountable curbs to filter out all sediment-laden storm water.



This open-top bag is designed to hang underneath a storm grate to filter the thickest sediment-laden storm water.

Sediment ponds are often used. The storm water that enters the pond comes very fast during a storm and the water slowly releases over a period of time leaving the sediment behind. Unfortunately, they can be tempting to children and pets. The sediment can be very mucky and a person or pet can get stuck if they try to go in the pond, so caution is necessary.

Ohio State - Diversion Rate Champs



Photo:
The Ohio State University

The Ohio State University was recently named the Diversion Rate Champion for the 2012 Game Day Challenge, a national stadium recycling competition. From September through November, 79 schools competed to divert the most football game day waste.

Ohio State first achieved “Zero Waste,” defined as diverting 90 percent or more of materials from landfills by recycling and composting, on October 20th at the Purdue game. The rate continued to climb, reaching a record 98.2 percent diversion rate on November 3rd vs. Illinois and sustaining that level with a 97.4 percent diversion rate on November 24th for the Michigan game. The diversion rate from the Illinois game is one of the highest ever achieved at a sporting venue and the highest rate achieved by any collegiate venue during the Game Day Challenge.

“Ohio State is working to be a leader in sustainability, and the best place to start is at home,” said Jay Kasey, Senior Vice-President for Administration and Planning at The Ohio State University. “This is proof that when we work together as one university and one community, we can have an impact that goes beyond our borders.”

The university was able to achieve and sustain the goal of Zero Waste in part due to its collaboration with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) and The Vera Institute of Justice. As part of a program to support green and sustainable programs at ODRC, the Southeastern Correctional Institution offered to sort the recycling gathered at the games.

The Vera Institute of Justice’s Ohio Green Prison Project and ODRC were able to offer Ohio State the ability to recycle and compost more of their game day materials and provide precise records of diversion.

Ohio State and ODRC plan to continue to develop the partnership to achieve a full season of Zero Waste for the 2013 football season and beyond, while supporting ODRC’s Ohio Green Prisons project.

Items such as food, napkins, paper products and pizza boxes are all diverted from landfills to be composted. After six months to a year, the compost from Ohio Stadium is ready to be applied to soil. In 2012, Ohio State used some of the compost in the planters around the stadium and athletic fields. Items such as plastic, aluminum cans, cardboard and anything else that is not compostable is recycled, significantly reducing the amount of trash that goes to the landfill. Through this innovative program, which is in its second season and is supported by the President and Provost’s Council on Sustainability, Ohio State is setting a new standard for collegiate stadium recycling. Ohio Stadium is now the largest stadium in the country to achieve zero waste. Website: <http://go.osu.edu/zerowaste>.

Lindsay Komlanc



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

Upcoming Events

April

8	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
9	SCRPC	7:30 PM
22	SCATS	1:30 PM

May

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

June

3	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
4	SCRPC	7:30 PM
24	SCATS	1:30 PM

Credits

Editor/Graphics
Malia Morrison

President
Vince Marion

Executive Director
Robert Nau

Phone
330-451-7389

Fax
330-451-7990

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