



The Planning Progress

January-March 2008

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Inside

Law Seminar

..... page 2

Annual Dinner

.....page 3

"Giving"

..... page 4

OPWC

.....page 5

As we begin a new year at the RPC, we add some new members to our staff. Jeff Dutton joins us as the new SCATS Technical Director. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from Ohio Northern University and his Master of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from Purdue University. Dutton is a licensed Ohio Professional Engineer and Professional Surveyor and has worked as such for several years. He served as Administrator and Director of Public Works for Plain Township, and most recently as County Administrator for the Board of Stark County of Commissioners.

He comes to us with a wealth of knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm. Dutton will be a definite asset to the agency. He replaces Paul Jaeger who was the SCATS Chief for 20 years and retired in December.



"I'm happy to join the staff of the Regional Planning Commission and look forward to assisting with transportation planning for the communities of Stark County."

We have also added another member to our staff. Jill Gerber joins us in the front office. She has varied office skills and comes here with extensive experience. She was an Administrative Assistant for the Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority and Administrative Specialist for the Stark County Commissioners. Jill is originally from Sugarcreek, Ohio. She and her husband reside in North Canton, have two children and four grandchildren. She enjoys biking and spending time with her family.

Governmental Law Seminar

Saturday, February 23, 2008

McKinley Grand Hotel
320 Market Avenue South
Canton

Your invitation should have arrived recently, so mark your calendar and send in your reservation. Cost is \$25, which includes morning coffee, lunch and informational materials.

This is a great opportunity for all zoning commission and board of appeals members, zoning inspectors, and elected officials within any city, village, or township to acquire valuable information.

Workshop leaders will include Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys: Sharon Miller, Deborah Dawson, David Brindenstine, Ross Rhodes, Lisa Barr, and Amy Sabino, Tom Burns from the Canton City Law Department, as well as RPC staff members Reva Butera and Sean Phillips.

Seminar Topics

Public Records and Sunshine Law

Fundamentals of Zoning

Boards of Zoning Appeals

City and Village Zoning

Nuisance Abatement

Employment Issues

Annexation and CEDAs

Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

For questions and reservations, call Cliff at 330-451-7904



Hoopingarner to Speak at RPC Annual Dinner

John Hoopingarner, Executive Director/ Secretary of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD), will be the guest speaker at the 2008 Annual Dinner Meeting. He will discuss the future plans of the MWCD.

A graduate of Muskingum College and Ohio Northern University College of Law, he practiced private law for several years as well as serving as chief counsel to MWCD. Hoopingarner was appointed to his current position in 1989 and has quite an extensive background. His duties at the District include Public Relations and Civic Affairs Repre-

sentative; supervising the Operations Manager, Chief Engineer and Treasurer; administering and coordinating the development of the District policies, rules and regulations, and overseeing the District's involvement in the operation and maintenance of Atwood Lake Resort and Conference Center.

The RPC Annual Dinner will be held at Skyland Pines Rustic Lodge on Wednesday, March 26, 2008. For more information and to make a reservation, contact Pat Charlton at 330-451-7934 by March 19, 2008.

Water Quality Around Your Home

Spring is just around the corner so it's time to think "green." The Stark County Regional Planning Commission and the Stark Soil and Water Conservation District are co-sponsoring a workshop regarding storm water. This two-hour class is designed to teach residents simple practices that can improve water quality and reduce pollutants in storm water run-off around their homes and communities.

Directions for making rain gardens and rain barrels will be given as well as basic information on keeping your water clean. The gardens and barrels are designed to collect and conserve water and capture and filter pollutants in storm water run-off.

The workshop will be held Tuesday, February 26, 2008, at GlenOak High School, 6:30-8:30 p.m. The class will be repeated Wednesday, March 12, 2008, at Hoover High School, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Classes are open to the public. For more information, contact Malia Watkins at 330-451-7405.

'Twas the Season

The statement "It is better to give than to receive" is a truth held by the RPC staff. The proof of this is the way the staff responds to requests for help. This year marks the 27th year that the RPC has participated in some form of Christmas giving.

In 1980, Santa's helpers stepped in to help a family during a difficult Christmas season. From that first experience, the staff has found various ways to help out during Christmas. We have been involved with the Community Christmas organization to adopt a family for the past 20 years and this year added the USO to our outreach. The staff contributed nearly \$1,000 as well as donated items for the troops this year. Approximately \$600 went to our "family" and \$400 in donated items and cash to help with mailing costs for the USO. Staff donates cash as well as items for the family and then Santa's helper does the shopping for the family. "The generosity of the staff is heart-felt and uplifting" says Santa's helper Beth Pearson. "Even when cash was stolen in a break-in a few years ago, the staff made up the difference and still made a good Christmas happen for our adopted family."



The RPC staff raises funds throughout the year by paying \$1.00 to wear jeans on Fridays, and a silent auction is held with the proceeds going for the family. Additionally, staff contributes yearly to the United Way campaign. With only 23 employees, over \$2,100 was donated to the local campaign. Last year three employees took vacation days in order to participate in the yearly "Day of Caring" held by United Way.

In tough economic times, it is encouraging to know that people still give to help others.

Program Year 2008 OPWC Projects

The District 19 Public Works Integrating Committee met in November to approve projects for FY 2008. Approximately \$6.5 million in loans and grants will assist in funding over \$21 million in infrastructure improvements. The projects are:

Stark County – Walnut Avenue Bridge

Stark County will replace the Walnut Avenue Bridge in the City of Alliance. A new single span steel bridge will be constructed on new concrete abutments over the Mahoning River.

Louisville – Main Street Reconstruction

Main Street in Louisville, from California Avenue to SR 44 will be widened. (A center turn lane will be added and the drainage system upgraded) OPWC funds will assist the city in paying the local share of this federally funded project.

Canton – Kimball Road Storm Sewer

This project consists of lining an existing 42” brick storm sewer. The lining process will stop the problem of infiltration of the surrounding contaminated ground water. The project is located near Thurman Munson Stadium.

Canton – 49th St. NE Storm Sewer

This is Phase 2 of a project previously funded by OPWC. The project will alleviate flooding along Cedarglen, Ellenhurst and Gardendale NE, as well as provide additional capacity for the sewer system along Market Avenue.

Alliance – Influent Pump Replacement

Two screw pumps will be replaced, and four submersible pumps with associated piping and electrical components will be installed at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Massillon – Keuper Blvd. NE Storm Sewer

The project includes replacing a deteriorated storm sewer near the intersection of Amherst and Lake Street NE.

Stark County – Hills & Dales Widening Phase 2

Hills & Dales NW will widen from the current two lanes to four and five lanes. The project extends from the Massillon corporation line to just west of Brunnerdale Ave. NW. The 2.25 mile project also has federal funding.

Stark County – State/Middlebranch Intersection Improvement

This project includes widening the intersection of State and Middlebranch Ave. in Lake Township. Sight distance will be improved by cutting back a bank on the west leg of the intersection.

Need Home Repairs?
Apply NOW for Spring Fix-up for your Home!
Money is Available!

Work may include: heating, windows, doors, insulation, roofing, siding, electric, plumbing and more.



Homeowners living in Stark County*, may qualify for a grant/low-interest (4%) loan/deferred (0% interest) loan combination

It's simple to see if you qualify!

**Contact Mary Crombie at
 330-451-7485 for further information.**

Available through the Stark County Community Development Block Grant Housing Rehabilitation Program.
 *(Program does not include residents living inside the city limits of Canton, Massillon, Alliance or the Village of Hills & Dales.)

Specialized Transportation Program

The most recent round of the Specialized Transportation Program is nearing completion as applications from prescreened participants were recently submitted to SCATS. The program is managed by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Office of Transit, who sent application packages to interested agencies.

Three local agencies were reviewed for qualifications and received application packages from ODOT: the Association for Better Community Development, Inc. in Canton, Louisville's Juilliard Senior Center and Mercy Medical Center in Canton.

The program provides federal funds for the purchase of equipment, usually para-transit vehicles or minivans, to support transportation services for the elderly and people with disabilities where existing

transportation is unavailable, inappropriate, or insufficient. In the past, each Metropolitan Planning Organization received a fixed allocation for this program. ODOT has recently begun consolidating the funds statewide and now reviews applications and recommendations on a statewide basis.

Upon receiving applications, SCATS staff reviews and scores those applications per ODOT guidelines. Ranked projects are then presented to the Policy Committee and the Stark County Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Coordination Committee for their review. The applications and recommendations from the two committees are then forwarded to the ODOT Office of Transit for funding consideration. Please watch for the announcement of award(s) in the next issue of the Planning Progress.

Stark County Coordinated Transportation Plan

A coordination committee of SCATS and SARTA completed work in December on a Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan for Stark County. Grants are available to meet needs and gaps in service that are identified in the Plan. The entire document and application can be reviewed at SARTA's website: http://www.sartaonline.com/projects_call. Examples of gaps in service and needs can include emergency transportation availability, door-to-door service, expanded rural coverage, vehicle aids, one call-one ride referral service, convenient transportation for seniors and others to out-of-county government offices, and more. Please refer to the Plan for a complete list and description.

Successful applicants will be awarded grant funds for fiscal years 2006-2009, with each year's allotment spent over three years. Funded projects include Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) and the New Freedom programs. JARC projects, funded at about \$115,000 per fiscal year, are to transport welfare and/or low and moderate income persons to jobs and employment activities. New Freedom projects reduce barriers to meeting transportation needs beyond what is required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Approximately \$70,000 per fiscal year is available.

SARTA is responsible for management of the grant program and auditing the grant recipients. SCATS assists in the application process and preliminary review of project proposals. Projects must also be approved by SCATS' Policy Committee as amendments to the Stark County Transportation Improvement Plan, tentatively at its March meeting.

The Coordination Committee meets on the fourth Friday of each month and invites interested persons and organizations to participate in improving transportation services for Stark County residents. Please contact Karl Lucas of SCATS at 330-451-7386 or email at kblucas@co.stark.oh.us, or Carole Kuczynski of SARTA at 330-454-6132 ext 521 or email at CKuczynski@sartaonline.com if you have any questions regarding the grants or the Coordination Committee.

Upcoming Events

February

4	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
5	SCRPC	7:30 PM
23	Governmental Law Seminar	9:00 AM
25	SCATS	1:30 PM
28	CAC	1:30 PM

March

3	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
4	SCRPC	7:30 PM
24	SCATS	1:30 PM
26	Annual Dinner	6:00 PM

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