



April – June 2023

Volume 60 Issue 2



Planning Progress

Annual Dinner

Over 170 guests attended this year's Annual Dinner at Arrowhead Golf and Event Center on March 15th. The guest speaker was Dan Moeglin, Executive Director of the Stark County Park District.

Moeglin's presentation, titled "What's Happening with Stark Parks," focused on future goals and priorities. The goals include: removing the Molly Stark Hospital building, making parks more accessible by paving trails and adding flushing restroom facilities, updating the Trail and Greenway Master Plan, utilizing Park-owned historical buildings, and maximize education and conservation of local wildlife by providing educational programs at the parks or staff going to various schools, churches and other organizations. Moeglin emphasized that their efforts are a collaboration with several agencies, organizations and volunteers.

"We recognize that as we nurture our environment, our environment in turn nurtures us. We strive to ensure that our Parks are welcoming to all people, to make sure all visitors/staff are treated with dignity and respect, and to have fun doing it."



CDBG Update

The Community Development Department has been diligently working on several different activities and programs. Check out some highlights of our planning progress:

HOME-ARP

In March, the Community Development Department submitted Stark County's HOME-ARP Allocation Plan as a substantial amendment to the FY21 Action Plan to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HUD must approve the county's proposed plan.

Stark County will receive more than \$3.2 million dollars under this program to address the needs of those who are homeless, at-risk of homelessness and other vulnerable populations. Stark County intends to use these dollars for rental housing, supportive services, administration of the program and other eligible expenses.

State of Ohio CDBG-CV

The Board of Stark County Commissioners is scheduled to receive an allocation of CDBG-CV dollars from the State of Ohio.

All funded activities must be accepted and approved by the State of Ohio by providing acceptable documentation of expenses that prevent, prepare for, or respond to COVID-19.

Funding contracts are likely to be sent out in early spring.

FY23 Annual Action Plan

Proposed budgets for the CDBG and HOME programs were presented to the Board of Stark County Commissioners in February.

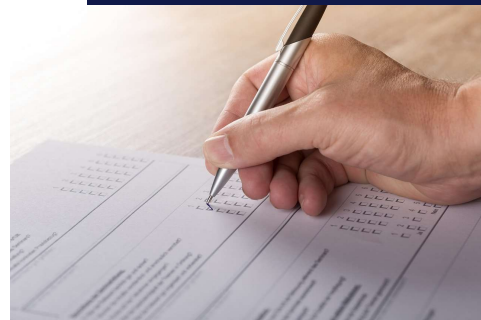
The proposed budgets will be available for public comment and will be adopted by the Board of Stark County Commissioners after the end of the 30-day comment period.

The budgets, as part of the FY23 Annual Action Plan, will be submitted to HUD once Stark County is notified of the exact program allocations.

Perry Township Comprehensive Plan



The Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC) entered into an agreement with Perry Township to complete a comprehensive plan. This plan will provide insight and guidance moving forward when developing Perry Township in accordance with the ideals of its residents and the prospect for future generations. SCRPC staff attended a trustee meeting in January to discuss the scope of the plan and timeline. A survey to gather public input is currently available for Perry Township businesses and residents. SCRPC is looking forward to working with Perry Township on this endeavor.



Canton Township 2022 Comprehensive Plan

A Vision For The Future



On February 27th, the Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC) met with residents of Canton Township to discuss future prospects of the community at the Canton Township Community Center. Approximately 40 people were in attendance. Canton Township Trustee Christopher Nichols gave a brief background on the progress and purpose of a comprehensive plan. A draft of the comprehensive plan was then summarized via a presentation by SCRPC staff. The presentation went over the concerns and goals of the community. Some of these concerns identified include, but are not limited to: declining and aging population; lack of grocery store and sit-down restaurant options; housing types, densities and conditions; and minimal police presence in the community.

The comprehensive plan is a living document and may change due to the will of the public and in response to future circumstances. The comprehensive plan covers various topics such as land use and development; parks and open space; transportation planning; and capital improvements planning. The Canton Township Comprehensive Plan Draft is currently available on the Township's website (<https://www.cantontwp-oh.gov/>) for public review and comment.



Public Comment Period Ending April 10th on the SCATS Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and ODOT Statewide Transportation Improvement Program

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is developing the FY 2024-2027 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). This includes projects from all Ohio Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), ODOT Central and District Offices, and others throughout the state. The Stark Area Transportation Study (SCATS) is the MPO for Stark County.

SCATS is accepting public comments on the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) through April 10, 2023. The TIP is the schedule of highway, transit, pedestrian and other transportation projects that will be implemented over the next four years. Projects must be included in the TIP in order to be eligible for federal funding.

Major upcoming projects include intersection improvements in Perry Township on Perry Drive in 2024; in 2025, access management projects on Dressler Road in Jackson Township, roundabouts on West Tuscarawas Street in the city of Canton, intersection improvements in the city of Alliance on State Street at Beechwood and Sawburg Avenues; in 2026, paving of Cleveland Avenue in the city of Canton as well as Main Street in North Canton; and, in 2027, a roundabout in Greentown at Cleveland Avenue and State Street in Lake Township, and intersection improvements on Lake Avenue in the city of Massillon.

The SCATS TIP can be reviewed at:

<https://www.starkcountyohio.gov/transportation>

The ODOT STIP can be reviewed at:

<https://www.transportation.ohio.gov/stip>

Comments are being accepted through April 10, 2023.

April Marks Fair Housing Month



Fair Housing Act
1968 ~ 2023



This month marks the 55th anniversary of the Federal Fair Housing Act. This is the month to revisit efforts to end housing discrimination and raise awareness of fair housing rights. President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Fair Housing Act into law on April 11, 1968, seven days after Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination. According to the Fair Housing Act, it is unlawful to discriminate in housing transactions based on race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, or familial status (presence of children under the age of 18). Over the years, there have been additional updates and protections added at both the federal and state level to further enhance everyone's right to fair housing without discrimination.

According to research, more than 4 million fair housing violations occur each year. National studies show that minorities, families with children and persons with disabilities still face an alarming amount of discrimination while renting, buying, or financing housing.

Help stop discrimination! Report it to the Stark County Fair Housing Department!

It is unlawful to
discriminate in
housing based on

DISABILITY



It is unlawful to
discriminate in
housing based on

**RACE, COLOR
AND SEX**



It is unlawful to
discriminate in
housing based on

**FAMILIAL
STATUS,
RELIGION AND
NATIONAL
ORIGIN**

"A Wish for a Fish is Not to Swim With Rubbish"

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 or waterbody. Anything that enters a storm sewer flows untreated into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing, and drinking water. Only 1% of our water is usable, drinkable water. We can not afford to pollute and contaminate it.



Sewers and storm drains are not the same thing. Waste water from sinks, showers, and washing machines will travel through the sanitary sewer system to a waste water treatment plant where it is extensively treated before being discharged. However, the water entering storm drains flows untreated to lakes, streams, and rivers. Please dispose of all trash in the proper place. **Do NOT litter!**

Pick up pet waste and dispose of it in the toilet or trash. Hosing dirt and pet waste into storm drains sends it directly to the creeks and rivers.



Remember, Only Rain Down the Drain!



Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle! Check with your local solid waste district to see what is recyclable in your particular area. Keep styrofoam, plastic bags, masks, wipes, and latex gloves out of the recycling bin– they are NOT recyclable. Reduce waste with reusable products such as washable masks, coffee cups, and biodegradable takeout containers.

Fluids in your car can be extremely toxic. Fix leaks so children and pets are not exposed to toxic puddles or toxic fluids that could be ingested. If you change your own oil, use a drip tray and take used oil, filters, and batteries to an automotive store for recycling– most will accept these items. Go to a commercial car wash where the water is treated before going down the drain, reducing potential pollutants. If you wash it yourself, do so on the lawn.



Properly dispose of leaves and grass clippings. Start a compost pile. Never use streams, creeks, or gutters to dispose of yard waste. Sweep the dirt and debris from your driveway and walkways back into the yard.

Do NOT flush medications because they can get into our lakes, rivers, and streams. Prescription drugs can be disposed of at a local drug take back event or local prescription drug drop off box.

- for a complete list of locations -
<https://starkmhar.org/prevention-resources/drug-drop-off-locations/>



Maintain your septic system. Have it pumped at least every three years. Repair or replace malfunctioning septic systems. Do not flush grease and personal hygiene products down the toilet or drain.

April

3	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
4	SCRPC	7:00 PM
24	SCATS	1:30 PM

May

8	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
9	SCRPC	7:00 PM
22	SCATS	1:30 PM

June

5	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
6	SCRPC	7:00 PM
26	SCATS	1:30 PM

Visit our website:
www.rpc.starkcountyohio.gov

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