

Planning progress

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New Shuffel Interchange on I-77 Opens

The Shuffel Street interchange on I-77 has opened. The planning and funding of this project involved numerous groups and sources that helped turn a dream of relieving traffic congestion at the Portage Street and Lauby Road I-77 interchanges into a reality.

Here are a few of the dates related to the project:

- SCATS study first identified Shuffel as a possible new interchange in 1991
- It was added to the 2010 SCATS Transportation Plan in 1995
- Preliminary engineering was completed in 1999
- ODOT committed funds in June of 2000
- The consultant began design in June, 2002
- The construction contract was awarded in June, 2004 and the interchange opened on September 6, 2007

This project involved: a completely new and larger bridge over I-77; interchange ramps; relocating and rebuilding Shuffel Street, upgrading and/or building five intersections; rebuilding a railroad crossing; and all the associated utility and environmental work that was required.

As of September, 2007, the project has cost \$14,899,224 (this will change slightly as final figures are tabulated). Funding for the project came from: a State Infrastructure Bank loan, the Transportation Review Advisory Council, federal earmarks garnered by Congressman Ralph Regula, the Ohio Highway Patrol, the Akron-Canton Airport, the Stark County Transportation Improvement District, SCATS, and ODOT. Thank you, everyone, who helped make this interchange dream a reality.



TO PREVENT AND END CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS IN STARK COUNTY

by Lynne Dragomier

This is a vision that may seem daunting, even impossible, to many people. It is a vision that is consistent with the principals of the work funded by programs of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and administered by the Stark County Regional Planning Commission. This is why the RPC has been an active member of force in the Stark County Interagency Council on Homelessness (SCICH), established in 2004.

Homelessness is an enduring tragedy that has long troubled America's conscience and harmed its most vulnerable people. At least half a million Americans do not have a place to call home each night. As many as 250,000 American households – including at least 12,000 to 15,000 families with children – have nowhere to call home for years on end. For chronically homeless people — who measure their homelessness in years instead of weeks or months – mental illness, substance abuse and physical disabilities often create additional barriers to stability and a new life off the streets.

Who are the homeless of Stark County, and just how large of a problem is it in our local community? There is no single profile of the homeless in our community. Many are homeless families in which the mother or father has lost a job, or the family has suffered a divorce, death or illness. Some have been victims of domestic violence. Many suffer from mental illness. Some have alcoholism or other substance abuse problems. Others are young adults who have recently left foster homes. Some work during the day while their lives are unraveling. Some sleep in shelters at night and spend the day seeking help to get their lives back in order.

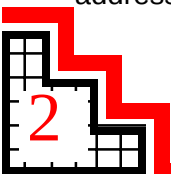
Because no one solution will address the needs of our diverse homeless population, SCICH is developing a strategy with different solutions to provide housing for those who find themselves homeless for whatever reason. This effort requires the involvement of the community and starts with overcoming stereotypes, fear, and sometimes even contempt for the homeless.

SCICH estimates that the average annual prevalence of persons who are homeless in Stark County is over 1,800. To gain a deeper understanding of who comprises the homeless population, a “point-in-time” count is conducted each year in January by the Stark County Homeless Services Collaborative to determine, to the best of the member agencies' ability, how many persons are homeless – both sheltered and unsheltered – during a designated 24-hour period. The count is required for the annual Continuum of Care application for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding of services for the homeless.

On January 29, 2007, about 540 persons were counted. About 115 of those counted were unsheltered or “on the street.” In 2006, the number counted was 757, with nearly half of them unsheltered and 335 of them members of homeless families. This year, 253 of those counted were members of homeless families with dependent children, 79 of them in emergency shelter, 154 in transitional shelter, and 20 of them unsheltered.

The mission of SCICH is to develop and implement strategies and solutions to address the problem of homelessness throughout Stark County, including the development of supportive housing options and the securing of federal, state and local resources to:

- * Prevent and end chronic homelessness in Stark County
- * Insure a coordinated safety net of emergency services for those in a short-term housing crisis
- * Coordinate and consolidate local efforts to provide a cost-effective and streamlined system for addressing homelessness



A critical component of SCICH strategy is the recommendation to add 175 units of Supportive Housing in Stark County. Supportive Housing is a proven, cost-effective approach to end chronic homelessness for people who face the most complex challenges. It is permanent, affordable housing linked to health, mental health and other support services. While some supportive housing is provided in Stark County by ICAN and by Gateway Estates (a collaborative of Community Services of Stark County, Stark Metropolitan Housing and the YWCA of Canton), there is a great unmet need. While 175 additional units will not fill the gap, they will start to build capacity for ending chronic homelessness and caring for many of the vulnerable in our community.



Governmental Law Seminar

Mark Your Calendars and Save the Date!
Saturday, February 23, 2008

Sponsored by the
Stark County Prosecutor's Office
and
Stark County Regional Planning Commission

Who Should Attend?
Township, Village & City Officials
Zoning & Planning Commissions
Boards of Zoning Appeals
Zoning Inspectors

Stark County Regional Planning Commission's Annual Dinner Meeting

will be held on March 26, 2008
at
Skyland Pines Rustic Lodge



P l a n n i n g P r o g r e s s



STARK COUNTY
CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE
AND EVALUATION REPORT – FY '06
(CAPER)

FY '06 CAPER covers the period of July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

Budget Information

- Total funds available for use - \$4,042,860.61
(FY '06 entitlement grant was \$1,473,375.00)
- Total CDBG funds expended - \$2,767,724.41

88.53% of the CDBG funds expended benefited low-to-moderate income (LMI) persons;
100% of the projects undertaken benefited LMI persons.

8 projects were completed:

- Louisville Downtown Revitalization
- Stark County Park District – ADA of Electronic Education Gateway
- Waynesburg Pedestrian ADA Improvement – Phase II
- Washington Twp. – Beechwood Sanitary Sewer – Assessment Fees
- North Canton – Emerson Avenue NW Waterline
- North Canton – Sixth Street NE Neighborhood Waterline
- Stark County Community Action Agency – Housing Weatherization program
- Allenford FEMA Project – Phase II

3 projects were in progress:

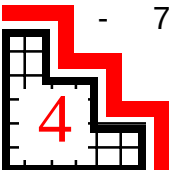
- Plain Twp. – 26th/Harmon area Storm Sewer
- Minerva – Murray Avenue Waterline
- Minerva – Valley St/SR 183 Storm Sewer/Roadway Improvements

10 Public Service projects were provided CDBG funding during FY '06

- Canton Negro Oldtimers – served 1,337 persons
- Salvation Army - Homeless Motel Voucher program – helped 883 persons
- KSU Micro Business Development Program – served 125 business owners/potential owners
- Pyramid Incubator Program – served 46 business owners/potential owners
- Community Services Massillon Homeless Shelter Program – assisted 151 persons
- The Stock Pile – served 955 households
- Domestic Violence Project – Therapeutic Services - served 395 persons
- Community Legal Aid Services – served 2 persons
- Western Stark Medical Van – served 157 persons

CDBG funded Single Family/Owner-Occupied Housing Rehab

- 40 units were completed (17 regular rehab, 23 emergency rehab)
- 7 more units under contract



Stark Development Board – Economic Development – no businesses funded during FY '06 with CDBG funding. SDB canceled the CDBG funded program and returned all revolving loan fund monies to the CDBG office once final payments on the loans were completed in October 2006. The SDB plans to fund additional Stark County economic development request with other funding sources.

HOME Program

Budget Information

- Total funds available for use - \$2,072,813.13
(FY '06 entitlement grant was \$882,775.00 + \$17,877.00 in American Dream Downpayment Initiative-ADDI)
- Total HOME funds expended - \$876,445.99

HOME funded Single Family/Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation

- 6 units completed and brought up to Housing Quality Standards
- 1 more unit under contract

Under ADDI program, 4 LMI first-time homebuyers received Down Payment Assistance, totaling \$20,227.98 in funding and leveraging another \$385,800.00 in new mortgages. Two of the ADDI projects were completed within the City of Massillon; 2 within Stark County.

3 projects completed:

- Freed Housing Corp – Lake Senior Center Housing Garages
- Freed Housing Corp – Stark County Affordable Housing – FY '05
- Freed Housing Corp – Alliance Affordable Housing – FY '06 – CHDO

5 projects underway:

- SMHA Tenant Based Rental Assistance
- City of Massillon's Rehab/Homebuyer program
- City of Alliance's Rehab program
- North Coast CHDO Homes – MR/DD Housing – FY '06 – Stark County
- ABCD, Inc. – Massillon Homes II – Rent to Own Housing – FY '06

1 project was canceled:

- East Alliance Neighborhood Development Corp. – Jennings Country Village – Phase III – Stark County
- 88.08% of the funding expended benefited low-to-moderate income (LMI) persons; 100% of all projects undertaken utilizing HOME funding benefit LMI persons with their housing needs

Community Development Dollars at Work



Downtown
Louisville



After



Waynes-



Beechwood

Sanitary Sewer Still in Progress



Ohio Planning Conference Update

Staff members Cliff Meidlein and Brenda Sarsany recently attended the Annual Ohio Planning Conference in Columbus. In addition to a welcome by Mayor Michael Coleman of Columbus, the planners heard Governor Strickland, keynote speaker for the event. Sessions on brownfield redevelopment, zoning for wind turbines, hazard mitigation planning, current rural zoning issues, Columbus Green Team, flexibility and incentives for Smart Growth, and mixed use development were among those attended.

The Ohio Planning Conference (OPC) released its new book, "A Guide to Planning in Ohio", edited by Jennifer Evans-Cowley, PhD, AICP. The book, which was originally commissioned in 2005 by the OPC Board, is intended to provide citizens and planners of Ohio with an understanding of the principles of planning as practiced in Ohio today. Evans-Cowley is an Associate Professor of City and Regional Planning at The Ohio State University.

Chapters in the book include: The Role of the Planning Commissioner in Land Use Decisions, Introduction to Comprehensive Planning, Introduction to Zoning, Introduction to Subdivision Regulations, Introduction to Transportation Planning, Planning for Sustainable Land Use, and others. If interested, the book will be available for \$15 from the OPC website www.ohioplanning.org.

Strategic Approach to Stream Cleanups

The Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program, required by the Clean Water Act, looks at all sources that contribute to water quality problems in a defined area and identifies the actions needed to restore and protect an impaired water body. Public involvement in local problem-solving and decision-making is a key element of the process, as is partnering with other agencies. With broad support on its strategy for implementing TMDLs, Ohio EPA is moving forward with this critical water quality program. In 2003, Ohio accounted for 61% of all completed TDML projects in the six-state Midwest region.

Reducing Runoff from Farms

Ohio EPA has provided \$25.3 million in low-interest loans to farmers for management practices that reduce water pollution. This program, the first of its kind nationally, works through Ohio EPA's Water Pollution Control Loan Fund in cooperation with county soil and water conservation districts and participating local banks, to develop projects and provide below-market interest rate loans to farmers.

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Canton, Ohio 44702-1211

What's INSIDE

CAPER
Homelessness in Stark County
Ohio Planning Conference

Upcoming EVENTS

November

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

December

3	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
4	SCRPC	7:30 PM
13	Citizens' Advisory Council	1:30 PM

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