



Planning Progress

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Ribbon Cutting



SARTA CEO, Kirt Conrad, SARTA Board President and Vice-President Charles DeGraff and Nancy Johnson, respectively, Congressman Jim Renacci, and Commissioner Tom Bernabei

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The new Belden Village Transit Center, located at the intersection of Whipple Avenue and 47th Street, was dedicated on September 1st.

It will service the Belden Village area and provide a climate controlled transfer location for passengers traveling to the mall, surrounding businesses, and Stark State College, Kent State University and Brown Mackie College.

The transit center will also facilitate travel between Canton, Massillon, Hartville, North Canton and the Akron Canton Airport.

"The New Belden Village transit center will provide greatly improved passenger amenities and customer service for our riders. The Belden Village area is the fastest growing ridership area in Stark County. This facility allows us to respond to this increased demand," said Kirt Conrad.

A convenient passenger drop-off lane, located on 47th Street, was included as part of the design, as well as public restrooms, a bus operator lounge with restrooms, and passenger seating inside and out. Featuring geothermal heating and a number of other energy saving features, SARTA is anticipating the building being LEED certified, an internationally recognized green building certification award.

Stark County's Sustainable Planning and Zoning Handbook

In late 2009, as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), Stark County received an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) from the U.S. Department of Energy to develop various energy-saving programs. One of these programs provided funding for the Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC) to develop a Sustainable Planning and Zoning Handbook on behalf of the Board of Stark County Commissioners. The handbook is designed to provide local communities with guiding principles and model zoning amendments to assist them in developing more sustainably.

Each chapter of the handbook covers a core planning theme, such as land use, transportation and environment. The chapters are then broken down into sections consisting of various sustainable planning and zoning best-practices related to the planning topic for that chapter:

Chapter 1: Economic Development & Land Use

- Compact, Mixed-Use Development
- Infill Development
- Site Design
- Local Business Focus
- Parks and Green Space

Chapter 2: Transportation & Mobility

- Complete Streets
- Pedestrian-Oriented
- Transit-Oriented Development
- Parking

Chapter 3: Housing & Health

- Affordable Housing
- Housing Density
- Food Production and Security

Chapter 4: Environment

- Water Management
- Cluster/Conservation Development
- Agricultural Preservation
- Brownfield Redevelopment

Chapter 5: Energy

- Energy Efficiency and Conservation
- Renewable Energy
- Recycling

The handbook's appendix contains sustainability-designed model zoning amendments that can be easily tailored to conform to individual zoning codes. The model amendments cover a broad array of topics ranging from Conservation Development and Alternative Energy to Affordable Housing and Shared Parking. They come from a variety of sources and include links to similar amendments currently utilized by local communities. Additional references to even more sustainable planning tools and resources can be found in the final section of the guide. This handbook is meant to be a tool for Stark County and its townships, villages and cities to assist them in becoming communities focused on livability, longevity and prosperity. It will be distributed to all local political subdivisions this fall. Please feel free to contact Rachel Lewis at rlewis@co.stark.oh.us or (330) 451-7390 for more information or for questions about the handbook.



Attractive Site Design for
Downtown Canal Fulton, Ohio

Wilson Pointe Senior Apartment
Complex, Downtown Canton
serves older low-to-moderate-
income residents



Plant More Trees

Not that it's a real surprise that trees clean the air, but a new study shows that greenery in cities can have a significant effect on air quality.

A new study out of the University of Kent in the UK found that a 10 percent increase in urban tree coverage in mid-size cities, like Leicester, can absorb about 12 percent of carbon emissions, contributing to cleaner air. The study is yet another addition to the argument that any sound urban planning or transit policy to improve air quality must be supplemented with green spaces.

To reach their intuitive, yet essential, conclusion, the conservation scientists first calculated tree density and vegetation on a city-wide scale, and later derived the biomass and carbon storage potential in each vegetation category. Based on their calculations, the researchers found that above-ground vegetation stores 231,521 tons of carbon, of which 97.3 percent is stored by trees.

And although the study brings some much needed positive news to the greenhouse gas debate, the researchers express the importance of maintaining this valuable resource for the city's air quality.

Full Story: [Urban Green Space Key in Improving Air Quality](#)

Source: [TheCityFix.com](#), July 19, 2011

Annual CleanUp

The 10th annual Nimishillen Creek LEAP (Litter, Elimination, Awareness, and Prevention) CleanUp was held Saturday, September 17, 2011 at the William McKinley Presidential Library & Museum. More than 40 volunteers had the opportunity to view the Presidential Library & Museum and participate in stream education activities organized by local environmental professionals after the cleanup. They helped pick up debris and litter along the west branch of Nimishillen Creek.

Nimishillen Creek LEAP was sponsored and organized by William McKinley Presidential Library & Museum, Stark Parks, Marathon Petroleum, Earth Action Partnership, Stark County Regional Planning Commission, K.W. Zellers & Sons, City of Canton, and the Northeast Ohio Four County Regional Planning & Development Organization (NEFCO).

More Transit News

Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)

As diesel prices continue to climb, SARTA has been using many methods to decrease costs. These include joining fuel buying pools, buying hybrid buses, testing bio-diesel and researching alternate fuels. SARTA is now working to add CNG as one of its fuels of choice. Why compressed natural gas? SARTA can replace 1 gallon of diesel fuel with about 60 cents of natural gas. That works out to about 1/3 the cost of what they are paying for diesel fuel. CNG buses also have incredibly clean emissions- water vapor and carbon dioxide. SARTA is working to add a fueling station that will allow additional agencies to participate in the CNG program- spreading the potential savings to others. Metro, Serving Summit County, has been using 45 CNG buses for a number of years and is now expanding their fleet.

Trail Dedication

On August 25th the latest multipurpose trail was dedicated in Canton's Monument Park. Bob Fonte, the Stark County Park District Director, emphasized the importance of partnerships in supporting the creation of the trail system that is being constructed throughout the county. The West Branch Trail is an important link in the countywide trail system that will eventually connect almost every community in Stark County.



The trail is almost 4½ miles long and begins in West Park at 9th St SW and continues to Covered Bridge Park at Guilford Ave NW. The trail was funded by a \$445,000 Clean Ohio Trail Fund grant made possible by the sale of bonds approved by Ohio voters. For more information on this and other trails, visit www.starkparks.com.

Stark County Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report - FY '10 (CAPER)

FY '10 CAPER covers the period of July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

- Budget Information:
 - Total funds available for use - \$2,678,370.51
 - (FY '10 entitlement grant was \$1,562,467.00)
 - Total CDBG funds expended - \$1,142,573.74
- 74.5% of the CDBG funds expended benefited low-to-moderate (LMI) persons;
100% of the projects undertaken benefited LMI persons.
- 3 Infrastructure/Rehabilitation projects were completed:
 - Plain Township – SMHA Zircon Street Waterline
 - Canal Fulton – High/Erie Street Culvert
 - Minerva – Murray Avenue Storm Sewer
- 3 Infrastructure projects were in progress:
 - Marlboro Township – Design Phase of Marlboro Storm/Sanitary Sewer
 - Hartville – North Prospect Street Improvements
 - North Canton – Hower/Witwer Sanitary Sewer
- 7 Public Service projects were provided CDBG funding during FY '10:
 - Canton Negro Oldtimers – served 1,089 persons
 - Salvation Army - Homeless Motel Voucher program – helped 800 persons
 - Community Services Massillon Homeless Shelter Program – assisted 125 persons
 - Alliance Emergency Residence – served 170 persons
 - The Stock Pile – served 1,031 persons
 - Western Stark Medical Van – served 40 persons
 - Prescription Assistance Network – served 134 persons
- 1 Economic Development project was provided CDBG funding during FY '10:
 - KSU Micro Business Development Program – served 85 business owners/potential owners
- CDBG funded Single Family/Owner-Occupied Housing Rehab:
 - 39 units were completed (9 regular rehab, 6 sewer/sanitary connections, 24 emergency rehab)
 - 3 more units under contract

The HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) Program

- Budget Information:
 - Total funds available for use - \$2,057,803.95
 - (FY '10 entitlement grant was \$938,928.00)
 - Total HOME funds expended - \$1,097,807.18
- HOME funded Single Family/Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation:
 - 17 units completed and brought up to Residential Rehab Standards
 - 1 more unit under contract
- Under the Down Payment Assistance Program, 12 LMI homebuyers received Down Payment Assistance, which accounted for \$48,931.60 in Stark County funding. Both the Stark County and Massillon programs leveraged \$916,074 in new mortgages. Four (4) of the Down Payment Assistance projects were completed within the City of Massillon; eight (8) within Stark County.
- 9 projects underway:
 - SMHA Tenant Based Rental Assistance program
 - SMHA HOPE Tenant Based Rental Assistance program
 - City of Massillon's Rehab/Homebuyer program
 - City of Alliance's Rehab program
 - Stark County's Rehab program
 - Stark County's Homebuyer Assistance program
 - YWCA of Canton – YW – Permanent Supportive Housing
 - Alliance for Children & Families – A-F.I.R.S.T. – Permanent Supportive Housing – City of Alliance
 - Alliance for Children & Families – A-F.I.R.S.T. Phase II – Permanent Supportive Housing – City of Alliance
 - Bradley Place – LMI Senior Housing – City of Massillon
 - Hunter House – Permanent Supportive Housing
- 91.2% 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.



A- F.I.R.S.T.



A- F.I.R.S.T.
Phase II



Bradley Place

The Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP)

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC) received both State and Federal funds to address homelessness for individuals and families who need short to medium term homeless prevention or rapid re-housing assistance. During FY '10 the Stark County Regional Planning Commission partnered with Community Services of Stark County to carry out the prevention piece of the program and the YWCA of Canton to carry out the rapid re-housing portion of the program. A total of \$382,100.98 was expended from the Federal allocation for prevention, rapid re-housing and administrative activities. Below is an outline of FY '10 expenditures for the Federal HPRP Allocation:

HPRP Line Items	Beginning Balance	Program Income	Transfers	Expenditures	Balance
Administration	\$8,880.54	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,104.75	\$4,775.79
Homeless Management Information System	\$46,323.14	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$35,941.37	\$10,381.77
Prevention Administration	\$3,220.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,078.25	\$2,141.75
Prevention Financial Assistance	\$228,996.87	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$172,927.51	\$56,069.36
Prevention Stabilization	\$103,865.63	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$96,740.91	\$7,124.72
Re-Housing Administration	\$1,384.42	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$384.42	\$1,000.00
Re-Housing Financial Assistance	\$71,822.84	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$55,594.94	\$16,227.90
Re-Housing Stabilization	\$33,210.58	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,328.83	\$17,881.75
TOTAL	\$497,704.02	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$382,100.98	\$115,603.04

Houses Rehabilitated Under the Stark County
Rehab Program

before

after





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

October

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

November

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

December

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

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