



Planning Progress

April - June 2015

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Annual Dinner

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Christopher Kenney as
William McKinley



Kenney and
Ex. Director Bob Nau

Approximately 160 guests attended this year's Annual Dinner at Skyland Pines on March 18th. This year's guest speaker was Christopher Kenney, who impersonated the 25th President of the United States, William McKinley. Kenney as McKinley spoke about his life and presidency. After his speech, Kenney, from the William McKinley Presidential Library and Museum, answered several questions from the audience. He was a wonderful speaker and shared many interesting facts and stories. Kenney has a B.A. in History and Music and a M.A. in History Museum Studies. He is also a published author of books on McKinley.



Fair Housing Luncheon



This April marks the 47th Anniversary of the passage of the Fair Housing Act and its promise of equal housing for all Americans. To celebrate the Civil Rights Act of 1968, the Stark County Fair Housing Department will sponsor a luncheon. The Fair Housing Luncheon will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 29, 2015 at Alex Krassas Event Center, 251 - 25th Street NW, Canton, OH 44709.

Timothy J. Moran, Deputy Chief in the Housing and Civil Enforcement Section of the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice, will be the keynote speaker. Mr. Moran received his B.A. from Southern Methodist University, cum laude, in 1987 and graduated from Harvard Law School, cum laude, in 1991. He has over 20 years experience litigating cases enforcing the Fair Housing Act and other civil rights statutes at the trial and appellate court levels. He will speak on this year's theme,

“Civil Rights and Discrimination...How Far Have We Come?”

The Fair Housing Act makes it illegal to discriminate in housing transactions based on race, color, sex, national origin, religion, disability, or familial status. Showing a difference in treatment because there are children in the family, because of a person's gender, or because a person has a disability is discriminatory. In the aftermath of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination in April 1968, President Lyndon Johnson moved for passage of the Fair Housing Act to bring the nation forward and together. Progress has been made, but How Far Have We Come? Fair Housing Month is a time to celebrate the progress we've made in opening the doors of housing opportunity to every citizen of this nation. While much has been accomplished since the passage of the law, more work remains in our struggle to achieve equality and racial justice.

Plan now to attend this special event. Registration deadline is April 17. The cost per person is \$20 or \$160 per table. For additional information or to register, please call Malia Morrison(330) 451-7405 or email mrwatkins@starkcountyohio.gov.



Proper Planting with Clawd

Whether you have a small garden in your back yard or are a farmer of an industrial farm, proper planting is vital to our water. The Nimishillen Creek, Tuscarawas River, and Mahoning River Watersheds are impaired (poor water quality). The primary causes of impairment are pathogens (disease causing organisms), phosphorus, failing septic tanks, and crop production.

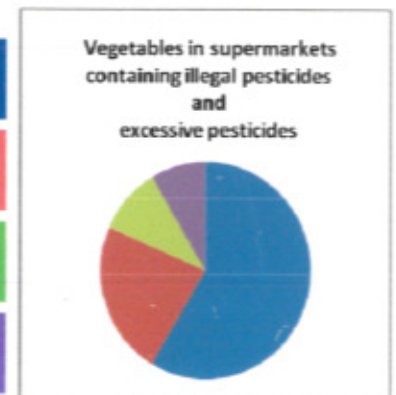
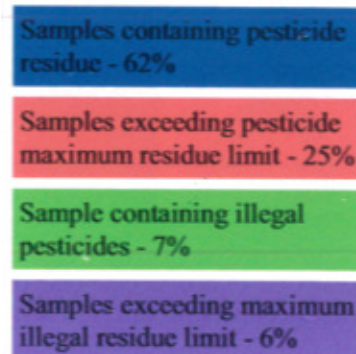
- Crop production is responsible for 50-70% of the surface waters in the U.S. being contaminated through soil erosion, over-grazing, pesticide, fertilizer, and manure application

Best Farming Practices

- Do not farm directly adjacent to any water source
- Maintain wells
- Follow safe manure, fertilizer, pesticide applications
- Manage all farm waste - human, animal, hazardous chemicals
- Create a buffer of trees, shrubs, etc. between planting area and water sources

Organic Farming-

- **Means** - uses green manure, compost, and natural (chemical free) fertilizers - if every farmer in the U.S. converted to organic, 500 million pounds of harmful pesticides could be eliminated from the environment annually



- **Builds healthy soil** - crop rotation and natural cultivation helps to control weeds and produce healthy plants
- **Helps combat erosion** - organic fields have several more inches of topsoil and 1/3 the erosion loss than chemically treated fields
- **Supports water conservation/health** - organic farming helps keep our water supplies clean by stopping polluted runoff, using mulch, and less irrigation conserves water
- **Discourages algae blooms** - phosphorus and runoff from petroleum-based fertilizers cause algae blooms which can be very toxic
- **Supports animal health and welfare** - animals living on organic farms are exposed to clean, chemical free grazing that keeps them healthier and more resistant to illness

For more information, go to www.rpc.starkcountyohio.gov - (stormwater page)

Grants Recommended for Approval

The Stark County Mobility Coordination Committee met on March 12th to review grant applications and make recommendations to the SCATS Policy Committee for funding of the Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program (FTA 5310 program). Six applications were submitted, including four requests for vehicles and two for operating funds. A total of \$269,474 in grant funds was recommended for approval.

The grant requests were as follows:

- The ABCD, Inc. submitted two applications. A capital application to purchase two Modified Mini Vans and an operating grant to assist in transporting Stark County Jobs and Family Services referrals to Medicaid related appointments. The grants would fund transportation services needed before clients meet their required Medicaid spend down amounts and include appointments to locations outside of Stark County and on Sundays and holidays.
- Aultman Hospital submitted a capital application to purchase a Ford Transit that will be utilized in their door-to-door PrimeTime Seniors and Transportation Outreach programs. These programs transport seniors and disabled patients, as well as low-income persons and those with no available transportation in rural areas, for medical treatment.
- First Christian Church submitted a capital application to purchase a twelve passenger van with two wheelchair positions. It will be used to transport individuals with developmental, as well as physical disabilities, to programs which include their adult day-care.
- Foundations: A Place for Education and Recovery submitted a capital request to purchase a light transit vehicle to assist those with severe chronic mental illness who are unable to use public transportation.
- SARTA submitted an operating request to assist in their Travel Training program. The program provides group and individual instruction on how to ride public transportation. Since the program's inception in 2010, more than 13,000 persons, including the disabled, unemployed, seniors, and students, have received training on how to utilize the fixed-route bus service as well as pro-line services.

The committee recommended fully funding five of the applications and recommended funding slightly less than 50% of the ABCD, Inc. operating request with the remaining funds.

This round of grant applications utilized funds made available in FY2013. The next round of funding will occur this fall using almost \$270,000 in available FY2014 funds.

For information regarding the grant program, as well as the Stark County Mobility Coordination Committee, please contact Karl Lucas at 330-451-7386 or kblucas@starkcountyohio.gov.

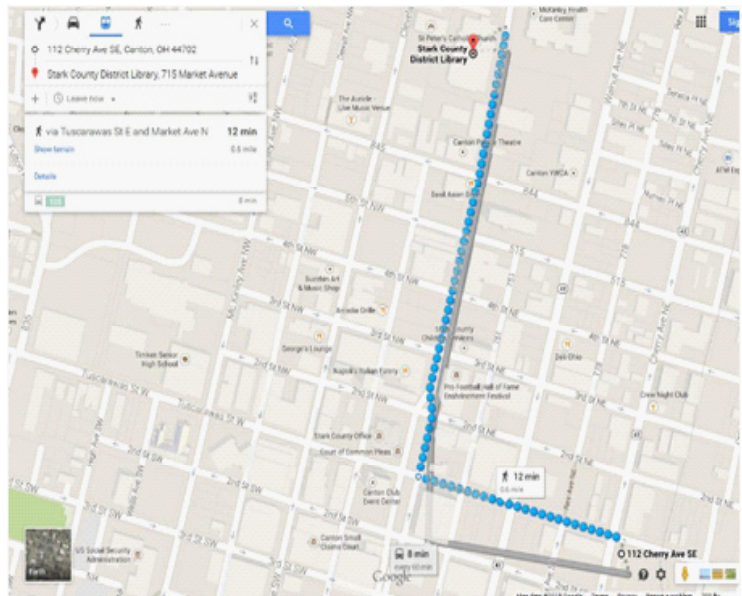
SARTA and Google Transit

Finding out how to ride a bus in Stark County (and Northeastern Ohio) just became as simple as clicking a few buttons. SARTA, the Stark Area Regional Transit Authority, has completed inputting route information into Google Transit, the public transport route planner that is a part of Google Maps.

Google Transit allows you easily identify bus routes and times for traveling, as well showing alternate routes and numerous other choices.

To use Google Transit online:

- Go to Google Maps
- Click on “Directions”
- Click on the “Bus” symbol
- Identify your starting point by
 - *placing a pushpin on the map or
 - *typing an address or place
- Identify your end point by
 - *placing a pushpin on the map or
 - *typing an address or place
- Google Transit will then show you the next available trip. You then have options to:
 - *select a departure time
 - *select an arrival time
 - *see multiple choices of routes
 - *see multiple trips and times throughout the day by selecting “schedule explorer”



One of the most exciting parts of Google Transit is that it ties system information together! Therefore route planning is not limited to Stark County destinations since METRO, RTA and PARTA (Summit, Cuyahoga and Portage Counties, respectively) are all part of Google Transit. You can also go to “Google Transit” for trip planning with transit systems from across the US and the world.



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

Upcoming Events

April

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

May

4	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
5	SCRPC	7:30 PM
26	SCATS	1:30 PM

June

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

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