



Planning Progress

April - June 2016

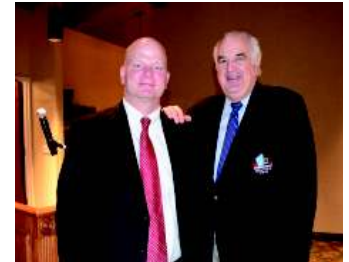
Volume 54

Issue 2

Annual Dinner



Robert Nau
Dave Motts



Over 150 guests attended this year's Annual Dinner at Skyland Pines on March 16th. This year's guest speaker was Dave Motts from the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Motts' presentation focused on the key components and economic impact that the Hall of Fame Village will have.

Key Components-

Hall of Fame Museum
Tom Benson HOF Stadium/
Sports & Entertainment Complex
Legends Landing- assisted living facility
State of the Art Youth Sports Complex
Center for Excellence
Main Street HOF
HOF/NFL Family Experience

Economic Impact-

\$15.3 billion within Stark County over a 25-year period
\$10 billion in cumulative new direct spending
13,375 new full & part time jobs
\$307.3 million net new cumulative Stark County tax revenues
\$14.7 billion cumulative net new total economic impact for Ohio

Motts, the current Senior Vice-President of Corporate and Community Engagement, is a 44 year member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame staff. He began with the Hall of Fame in 1968 as a seasonal employee during his college years, joining the full time ranks in June of 1972.

During his tenure, Dave has directed and overseen Building Operations, Travel & Tourism (local & national), Marketing & Advertising, Private & Special Events, Sponsorship Sales, and elements of the annual Hall of Fame Enshrinement Celebration, specifically the NFL Hall of Fame game. He has played a lead role in developing new business platforms for the Hall in all of those areas of operation.

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Stark County Brownfields Coalition Update

Early 2016 has brought continued progress for the Stark County Brownfields Coalition. The first Phase I Environmental Assessments funded by the US EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant were completed at:

- The Association for Urban Training Opportunities property, located at 2318 & 2322-13th St. NE in Canton.
- The former Doctors Hospital property, located at 420 Austin Ave. NW in Perry Township.
- The former Lehman School property, located at 1120-15th St. NW in Canton.

The Brownfield Technical Advisory Committee (BTAC) also accepted two property nominations that were subsequently approved by the US EPA for assessments. The following assessments are currently underway:

- A Phase I Assessment on a property owned by Furbay Electric, located at 115 Schroyer Ave. SW in Canton.



Property
submitted by
Furbay
Electric

- A Phase II Assessment on a property located at 1832 Kimball Ave. SE in Canton. The BTAC is currently working with the US EPA to determine funding eligibility on several additional brownfield properties in Stark County, but is seeking additional property nominations. If you are aware of a property in your community that may have environmental contamination, please contact Emma Posillico at 330-451-7904 or emposillico@starkcountyohio.gov.

April is Fair Housing Month



They told us to
“Try someplace else.”

So we did. We called
Stark County Fair
Housing Department.

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*We found the perfect apartment near public transportation. We asked for a reasonable accommodation for Nancy's service animal, but the landlord told us “no pets...try someplace else.” So we tried Stark County Fair Housing Department and found out it's illegal for a housing provider to prohibit service animals. We filed a complaint. Now we have a great place to live with Nancy's service animal.*



### Fair Housing Is Not An Option, It's The Law!

Landlords must make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, such as allowing for service animals or providing an accessible parking space. In addition, the Fair Housing Act makes it illegal to discriminate in all housing transactions based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, or familial status. Showing a difference in treatment because there are children in the family, because of sex/gender, or because a person has a disability is discriminatory. This April marks the 48th Anniversary of the passage of the Fair Housing Act and its promise of equal housing for all Americans. 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.

The only way to stop housing discrimination is to report it. Contact...

Stark County Fair Housing Department

330-451-7775

# SCATS Traffic Counting Program

One of many important functions performed by the Stark County Area Transportation Study (SCATS) is conducting an ongoing traffic counting program. This program provides directional classification traffic volume counts for all of the U.S., State and County routes within the county as well as most of the major township routes. Also covered are most of the major streets of the six Stark County cities. The data collected from this program provides a valuable asset in the overall planning process for transportation improvement projects throughout the county.

The counting program currently consists of 1,665 “count stations” or counting locations throughout the county. SCATS staff generally completes about 500 of these station counts during a normal counting season which typically runs from late April through mid-November each year.



The traffic count data for most of the major roadways in Stark County is now available to the public online. Interested persons can access this data by visiting the Stark County Regional Planning Commission's website at [www.starkcountyohio.gov/transportation](http://www.starkcountyohio.gov/transportation) and clicking on the Traffic Counts link located under Resources on the left hand side of the page. Once on the Traffic Count page, simply click on the Traffic Count Database link to access the data.

The traffic count database is hosted by Midwestern Software Solutions located in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Their site is user friendly and the Traffic Counts page also has a Click Here for Help using our database link. This HELP link is a brief tutorial on how to use the site. If additional help using the site is needed, citizens can contact SCATS at 330-451-7389 and ask for Dan Slicker or Rick Keyes.

# Keep Your Lawn Green and the Water Blue

Using too much fertilizer and other lawn care products can cause water pollution. The same rain that helps turn your lawn green also washes excess fertilizers, pesticides, and other pollutants into the nearest creek, turning the water green, or worse. To help prevent pollution, have your soil tested to determine how much fertilizer you really need and use lawn care products as instructed on the product labels. Less is always more when it comes to water quality.

Fertilizer is a pollutant when it is washed off lawns and gardens into streams, rivers and other bodies of water. Fertilizer consists of plant nutrients that help plants grow and reproduce. In the water these nutrients feed naturally occurring algae and can lead to massive algae blooms, particularly during the warm summer months. An algae bloom is an explosion in the algae population that turns the water green, shutting out sunlight needed by bottom-growing plants and leading to oxygen depletion that kills fish and other aquatic creatures.

This season, try applying no more fertilizer than can actually be used by your lawn and the plants you are tending. Here are some practical tips which will limit the amount of fertilizer available to be washed into storm drains and streams:

- Have your soil tested. Then apply only the kinds and amounts of nutrients that your grass and plants need.
- Once your soil has been tested, follow the instructions that come with commercial fertilizer to make sure you apply no more than is required.
- Applying dry fertilizers evenly by hand is very difficult. Use a mechanical spreader device set at the proper application rate and use in accordance with the manufacture's written directions.
- Avoid leaving fertilizer on hard surfaces such as sidewalks and driveways where they are most likely to be washed into a storm drain, where it will end up in a stream. Sweep fertilizer off hard surfaces onto the lawn or into the garden.
- If possible, avoid applying fertilizer just before a large rain storm that could wash much of the fertilizer into the storm collector system.

## Vacant Lots - What's Next?

The Stark County Land Reutilization Corporation's (SCLRC) Side Lot Program began accepting applications in March 2013. This was in an effort to bring tax delinquent/non-productive vacant property, throughout the County, back into a productive use by assisting the acquisition and transfer of lots to qualified contiguous property owners. This program helps property owners expand their yard, improve the aesthetic of neighborhoods and increase property values. To be qualified for a side lot within this program, applicants must meet the following criteria: (1) must own property physically contiguous to requested lot, with not less than a 50% common boundary, (2) must be current on all property taxes, and (3) must not have any code violations, liens, or assessments against any property that they own in Stark County. The process to transfer a lot under this program could take up to a year or more due to the necessary steps of the legal process.

In 2014, the SCLRC was awarded demolition funding from the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) through the Neighborhood Initiative Program (NIP). The goal of NIP is to stabilize property values by removing and greening vacant and blighted properties in targeted areas in an effort to prevent future foreclosures for existing homeowners. Demolition is a critical component of strategies to stabilize home values.

Once properties have been demolished under the Neighborhood Initiative Program, they are also eligible to be transferred to a qualified contiguous property owner through the SCLRC's "NIP Side Lot" Program, with additional stipulations.



Eligible applicants for a “NIP side lot” must meet the SCLRC's regular program requirements and additional NIP requirements as established by OHFA. The SCLRC is required to transfer NIP Side Lot parcels only to applicants that meet the qualifications listed below:

- The applicant must be an owner occupant of a property that is physically contiguous, with not less than a 50% common boundary, to the requested side lot;
- The applicant must be current on all real estate taxes of any/all properties owned in Stark County;
- The applicant must have no outstanding code violations on any/all property owned in Stark County;
- The applicant must have no delinquency or outstanding code violations on any/all property owned by a business in which the applicant has an interest; and
- The applicant must not have had a tax foreclosure since January 1, 2010.

The general process to transfer a NIP side lot is shown below. Applications for NIP side lots will only be accepted/reviewed after the blighted structure has been demolished. Once an application has been approved, the NIP has a quicker transfer completion process.

For questions about acquiring a lot or see if a lot qualifies under either Side Lot Program, please call Sarah Peters at 330-451-7387.

#### **Step One**

County land bank acquires a vacant property, demolishes the blighted structure and obtains reimbursement from the Neighborhood Initiative Program (NIP)

#### **Step Two**

NIP reimburses the land bank for its demolition costs in exchange for a three-year mortgage on the green lot

#### **Step Three**

The land bank identifies a new owner and requests an early mortgage release from NIP

#### **Step Four**

NIP ensures that the new owner is eligible and releases the mortgage -  
The land bank is now able to transfer the land to a new owner



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

## Upcoming Events

### April

|    |                    |         |
|----|--------------------|---------|
| 4  | Subdivision Review | 1:30 PM |
| 5  | SCRPC              | 7:30 PM |
| 25 | SCATS              | 1:30 PM |

### May

|    |                    |         |
|----|--------------------|---------|
| 2  | Subdivision Review | 1:30 PM |
| 3  | SCRPC              | 7:30 PM |
| 23 | SCATS              | 1:30 PM |

### June

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

### Credits

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