



Planning Progress

July - September 2014

Volume 52

Issue 3

HOME Program #1



Bradley Place-
Elderly Housing
Apartments in
Massillon

Inside

Billboard
Winners.....page 2

CDBG/HOME
Programs.....page 4

Requalifying
For Funds..... page 6

Contractors
Needed.....page 7

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently released the dashboard reports for the HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) for the period ending March 31, 2014. **The Stark County Consortium was tied for the #1 ranking program in the nation.** HUD takes into consideration the program progress, low-income benefit, and lease-up. The Consortium includes Stark County and the cities of Alliance and Massillon and has been receiving funds from the HOME program since its inception in 1992. The Stark County Consortium has consistently ranked #1 of the 22 programs in the State of Ohio. HOME funding is utilized to provide housing of various types for persons at or below 80% of the area median income. The types of programs that have been undertaken over the years include housing rehabilitation, elderly housing, lease-purchase housing, permanent supportive housing for homeless persons and tenant based rental assistance. The Board of Stark County Commissioners is the lead entity for the HOME program which is administered by the Stark County Regional Planning Commission. Congratulations to the Community Development Department for all of their hard work!

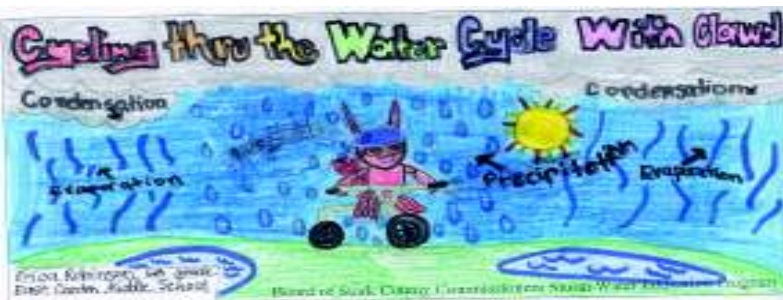
Billboard Contest Winners

As part of the Stormwater Education Program, middle and high school students had the opportunity to enter a Billboard Contest. The winning entries had their original artwork displayed on actual billboards throughout Stark County. This year's theme is "Cycling Thru the Water Cycle." "Clawd," the County's stormwater mascot, is teaching kids about the water cycle as he "cycles" by, as well as the importance of keeping the water clean. All winners were from East Canton Middle School this year.



Cassy Wolfe

McKenna Helwig



Erica Robinson

Emily Bigler



Stormwater Education Activities



Jackson Township will be sponsoring a program called “Gardening with Zest.” Part of this educational series is on “Making Your Own Rainbarrel.” It will be held on July 29th at 6:30 p.m. at the Jackson Township North Park Pavilion-7660 Fulton Rd. NW across from Jackson High School. The workshop is FREE and no registration is necessary. For more information, contact Mary Reno at 330-832-7416.

Stark’s Stormwater Public Involvement/Public Education Committee is co-sponsoring a free workshop with the Massillon Museum. We will address various water issues and helpful solutions to keep our water clean. The audience will then tour a traveling exhibit at the Museum on Tuesday, September 9th from 6:30-8:00. Stark County is one of only five sites nationwide where this exhibition will be shown.



Fragile Waters, a traveling exhibition, opens June 7, 2014 and runs through September 14, 2014. This groundbreaking exhibition features 119 black and white photographs—spanning a century—by Ansel Adams, Ernest Brooks II, and Dorothy Kerper Monnelly. A powerful aesthetic and environmental statement, the exhibit assembles work by internationally renowned artists to address the fact that water is crucial for all life on planet Earth. The photographs focus on the natural landscape, and the imagery will invite audiences to connect with the beauty of water, and to consider action about restoring and conserving this important resource. If you can’t attend the workshop, plan to visit the exhibition another time. Museum hours are Tuesday-Saturday 9:30-5:00, Sunday 2:00-5:00. There is no cost for a tour. Contact Malia Morrison at 330-451-7405 for more information.

Save the Date- Conference on Freight



The 8th Ohio Conference on Freight will be held September 18-19, 2014 at the Hyatt Regency in Columbus. The theme for this year is “Driving Change in Global Logistics.”

To register, go to ohiofreight.org.

For more information, contact Christine Connell at 419-241-9155 ext. 119 or connell@tmacog.org.

Adopted FY 2014 Stark County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Programs

In mid-April, the Board of Stark County Commissioners adopted the FY 2014 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME programs. This adoption took place after the thirty-day comment period for both programs expired on April 8th. Both programs were previously adopted by the CDBG Citizens' Advisory Council in late February and the Stark County Regional Planning Commission in early March, prior to the March 19th public hearing. Below is the breakdown of the FY 2014 CDBG and HOME programs.

FY 2014 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Board of Stark County Commissioners plan to undertake the following housing and community development activities during FY 2014.

<u>PROJECTS</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
CDBG Administration	160,468
Comprehensive Planning	65,000
Housing Rehabilitation Program Costs	180,000
Housing Rehabilitation Project/Activity Costs	101,740
Emergency Rehabilitation Program	60,000
Fair Housing	60,000
Stock Pile, Inc. - LMI Reuse Warehouse	45,000
Prescription Asst. Network of Stark Co. - Prescription Medication Access	12,800
Alliance for Children & Families - Alliance Emergency Residence	13,312
Community Services of Stark Co. - Family Living Center	18,000
Kent State Stark - KSU Micro Enterprise Development Program	32,982
Village of Hartville - Hartville Waterline Extension III	378,038
TOTAL	\$1,127,340

It is anticipated that the County will receive an additional \$100,000 in program income from the current housing rehab revolving loan fund program. This program income will revolve back into this program.

FY 2014 HOME PROGRAM

The Board of Stark County Commissioners, as the lead agency for the HOME Consortium, plan the following expenditure of funds for the HOME program, which follows the same program year as the CDBG program.

<u>PROJECTS</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
Stark Metro Housing Authority - Tenant Based Rental Assistance - HOME XIII	85,512
Stark Metro Housing Authority - Tenant Based Rental Assistance – HOPE V	101,520
Stark County Housing Rehabilitation	160,399
City of Massillon - Homebuyer and Housing Rehab Activities	113,567
City of Alliance - Housing Rehabilitation	125,326
Administration	65,147
TOTAL	\$651,471

After adoption by the Board of Stark County Commissioners, the Stark County CDBG program submitted the fully-approved "Stark County CDBG and HOME programs – First Year of the Action Plan - FY 2014", in addition to overall "FY 2014-2018 Stark County Consolidated Plan" to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on May 5th for their acceptance and a July 1st start date.



Village of Hartville-
Waterline Extension

Stark County Requalifies for Community Development Block Grant Funding

The Stark County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is in the process of prequalifying as an urban county for the next three years. With this requalification, Stark County will be guaranteed to receive CDBG funding during Fiscal Years 2015, 2016, and 2017 (July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018).

The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires that entitlement counties must requalify every three years as an urban county in order to receive a formula allocation of CDBG funding. An entitlement urban county automatically receives CDBG funding for use in the community; an entitlement urban county does not need to submit a yearly application to HUD to receive this funding.

In order to qualify as an urban county for CDBG funding, HUD regulations state a county must meet certain population thresholds. Stark County qualifies as an urban county because the county has a total combined population of 200,000 or more, excluding the metropolitan cities of Canton, Massillon, and Alliance.

If Stark County did not requalify as an urban county, local municipalities, non-profits, etc. would be forced to submit applications to the Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA) in order to receive State of Ohio CDBG funding. The ODSA receives hundreds of CDBG applications each year and only has enough available funding in order to provide monies to just a portion of the applicants; thus many worthy Stark County projects may not receive the needed CDBG dollars.

It is expected that over the next three fiscal years, all of the municipalities in Stark County (excluding *Canton, *Massillon, *Alliance, and **Hills & Dales) will be participating in Stark County's CDBG program. During these three years, Stark County can expect to receive over three million dollars of CDBG funds to be utilized to benefit the citizens of the county.

*receives CDBG funding from HUD, independent of Stark County's CDBG program

**community chooses not to participate in Stark County's CDBG program.

HOME Consortium Requalification

Stark County has completed the process to requalify as a Consortium under the HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME). Since 1993, the County has participated in the HOME program as a Consortium with the cities of Alliance and Massillon. Every three years, the Consortium must requalify in order to receive HOME funding. The Board of Stark County Commissioners is the lead entity for the Consortium. All paperwork has been submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the County will be notified of its requalification later this summer.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Three Year Application Process to Begin

Now is the time to start thinking about future Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects in your community. CDBG staff is currently available to meet with your municipality, township, or non-profit to discuss potential projects in your area. An application workshop has been scheduled for **Wednesday, August 20th** for the next three funding cycles for fiscal years 2015, 2016, and 2017, but now is the time to begin the ground work on your application. The workshop will be offered to municipalities, townships, and non-profit agencies & organizations interested in receiving CDBG funding between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2018. After this sub-

mission period is completed, applications will not be accepted again until the fall of 2017. Applications for this three-year funding round will be due in early November. Invitations will be mailed this summer to all Stark County CDBG eligible municipalities, townships, and previously funded non-profit organizations. Persons wanting an application packet, but unable to attend the workshop, may contact Lynn Carlone, Community Development Administrator, at 330-451-7774 to receive the needed application information. The packets will be sent out after the workshop has been held. Additional ranking points will be awarded to all applications in which the applicant attended.

Attention General Contractors

Stark County Regional Planning Commission Housing Rehabilitation Department

is searching for contractors who are committed to undertaking quality rehabilitation work under a federally funded program.

Section 3 and Minority/Women-Owned Businesses are encouraged to apply.

Contact Steve Williams at 330-451-7398 for further information and to obtain an application packet.



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

Upcoming Events

July

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

August

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

September

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

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