

Planning progress

July-September, 2006, Vol. 44, Issue 3

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Inside . . .**

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I-77 Construction...Nearing Completion

The continuing construction on I-77 may seem like it has been going on forever, but the end is in sight! This year marks the beginning of the projects' final phase, which is slated for completion in August 2008.

Why does it appear to be taking so long? Believe it or not, it is actually going to be finished sooner than expected. As originally conceived, the widening of I-77 from U.S. 30 to the Summit County line was to take up

The following is a recap and a list of current work:

Phase 1: 13th Street to the Orchard Park overpass (the major portion of this project was the widening at the U.S. 62 interchange). The project began in 2000 and was completed in August 2003.

Phase 2: Wayview overpass (now named Applegrove) to the Summit County line. Construction on

Hall of Fame Bridge Project is Now Complete



photo courtesy of Stark County Engineer

to ten years for the six phases of the project. One reason progress appears to be slow is that various sections were completed, opened to three lanes, then narrowed back to two lanes, due to construction in adjoining areas.

this portion began in 2002 and was completed in 2003. Construction of the new Shuffel Road interchange has narrowed the previously opened three lanes down to two.

(Cont'd. on Page 2)

RPC Staff Welcomes...

Jodi Frenz, who has been a familiar face around Canton City offices, has become a permanent fixture at the RPC. She has been working as a temporary replacement as the RPC Secretary/Receptionist since last summer, and earlier this year was asked to stay on full time.

Jodi's 18-year stint with the City of Canton ended when she decided to give in to her passion for traveling and spent three years in Ghana doing missionary work. Prior to that she had volunteered in Uganda for the Habitat for Humanity and in Tanzania for Global Volunteers. She has traveled to 65 countries and liked Brazil so much that she has returned 11 times! Jodi lives in Canton and volunteers at her church and at Mercy Medical Center.

Sean Phillips is the new Senior Planner/GIS Coordinator. He came to the RPC from Newton Falls where he was the Zoning & Planning Administrator. A graduate of the University of Akron, he has a BS in Science Geography and Cartography/GIS and a Master's in Urban Planning.

Sean enjoys the outdoors and loves to boat, camp, hike, fish and swim. He also likes to travel, primarily in Mexico and the Caribbean, with his favorite destination the Riviera Maya. He and his wife, Janeen, live in Brimfield.

The staff also welcomes summer interns Annette Glatzhofer and Jeffrey Idom, who are both graduate students at the University of Akron. They will be at the RPC through August.

I-77 Construction...(Cont'd. from Page 1)

Phase 3: Orchard Park overpass to Whipple Road overpass began in November 2002, and was completed in September 2004.

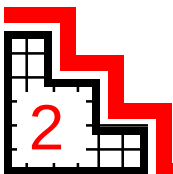
Phase 4: U.S. 30 to West Tuscarawas Street began in August 2003 and was completed in August 2005.

Phase 5: Whipple Road overpass to Applegrove began in January of 2005 and should be completed by August of 2007. This includes the bridges over Whipple Avenue and Everhard Road.

Phase 6: West Tuscarawas Street to 13th Street began in January and will take until August 2008 to complete. This project includes realigning the highway to the west in order to avoid West Lawn Cemetery.

A number of local projects are being done in conjunction with the I-77 widening. These include work on Whipple Avenue, Everhard Road, Portage Street, and at the new Shuffel Road interchange. Finally, the portion of I-77 in Summit County (from the airport to S.R. 241) will be completed by this fall.

Drawings and descriptions of the current projects, including detailed detour maps, can be found at <http://www.dot.state.oh.us/dis4/177/i77.htm>. Information on local road construction and detours, including county road work at the interchanges, can be found at the SCRPC website: <http://www.co.stark.oh.us/>. Go to the website, click on the "transportation" button, then click on the underlined "construction traffic interruptions".



Homebuyer Assistance Program Offers 0% Interest Deferred Loans

A new program for first-time homebuyers, or those who have not owned a home during the previous three years, is designed to assist qualified, low- to moderate-income (LMI) families purchase a home. The program, funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), will be administered by the Stark County Regional Planning Commission on behalf of the Board of Stark County Commissioners.

The homebuyer could be a family, single parent, or displaced homemaker and receive up to 6-7% of the house purchase price in HAP funds. This assistance is in the form of a 0% interest deferred loan, with no monthly payments required. The loan will not be forgiven, and the full amount will be due and

payable when the homeowner sells or refinances the property, or if the home is no longer the owner's principal place of residence. Qualified purchasers may receive between \$1,000 and \$10,000.

The homes purchased must be site-built or modular, single-family dwellings located within the eligible areas of Stark County, including the townships, villages, and the cities of Alliance, Louisville, North Canton, and Canal Fulton. The cities of Massillon and Canton and the Village of Hills and Dales are not eligible.

For more information about this program, contact Mary Crombie, Housing Program Coordinator, at 330-451-7485.

Money
is
Available!

THE OHIO EPA

will host a

PUBLIC MEETING

on

AIR QUALITY REDESIGNATION

The meeting is a step in the process to redesignate Stark County in compliance with the 8-hour Ozone Standard.

Stark County is required to meet the Ozone Standard by June 2009.

Redesignation will enable Stark County to avoid future sanctions by the U.S. EPA.

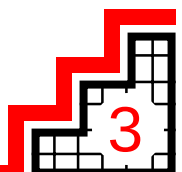
July 27, 2006

6:30 p.m.

SCRPC Conference Room

P l a n n i n g

P r o g r e s s



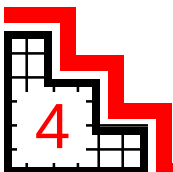
FEDERAL GRANT MONIES ALLOCATED BY STARK COUNTY

In early May, the Board of Stark County Commissioners adopted the FY 2006 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME programs, and tentatively adopted the CDBG program for the 2007 and 2008 years, as well. Both programs were submitted to the Board of Commissioners for final review and adoption after the 30-day comment period for both programs expired. During the comment period, the County did not receive any remarks on the upcoming programs. The adopted programs were the same as those presented by the Stark County CDBG staff during the public hearing held in March. Both the FY 2006-2008 CDBG and FY 2006 HOME 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 21 public hearing. Below is the breakdown of the FY 2006-2008 CDBG and FY 2006 HOME programs.

FY 2006-2008 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Board of Stark County Commissioners will undertake the following housing and community development activities during the three-year funding program, FY 2006-2008.

Projects	FY 2006	FY 2007*	FY 2008*
CDBG Administration	154,490	139,041	125,136
Comprehensive Planning	83,485	75,136	67,623
Fair Housing	56,700	51,030	45,927
Housing Rehab Program Costs	245,000	220,500	220,500
Housing Rehabilitation - Emergency Rehab Program	100,000	100,000	100,000
Stockpile, Inc. - Stark County RPC Services, Inc.	35,000	35,000	35,000
Community Services - Family Living Center	19,720	19,720	19,720
Salvation Army - Homeless Services Motel Voucher Program	33,000	33,000	33,000
Plain Twp. - 30th St., NE Storm Sewer	--	77,431	--
Western Stark Medical-Healthcare for Uninsured & Underserved	30,000	27,000	24,300
North Canton - Sixth St., NE Neighborhood Waterline Imp.	99,325	--	--
Community Services - Micro Business Assistance Program	34,120	34,120	34,120
East Canton-Church Street Water Main	--	49,950	--
North Canton-Woodrow St., NW Waterline Improvement	--	--	117,500
Alliance for Children & Families - Alliance Emergency Residence	14,989	14,989	14,989
Minerva-Valley St./SR 183 Storm Sewer/Road Improvement	150,000	--	--
Canton Twp.-Allenford Drive Flood Mitigation	39,000	--	--
Paris Twp.-Robertsville Storm Sewer	--	380,290	--
Plain Twp.-25th St., NE Storm Sewer	--	--	180,000
Washington Twp.-Beechwood Area Sanitary Sewer	300,000	--	--
Community Legal Aid Services-Legal Asst. to Improve Housing	10,000	--	--
Domestic Violence Project - Renew Therapeutic Services	35,000	30,000	25,000
Hartville-Kent Ave. (Rt. 43) Improvement	--	--	95,025
Kent State Univ. Stark Campus-Small Business Development Cnt.	27,966	27,967	27,967
Contingencies	5,580	10,863	27,626
TOTAL	\$1,473,375	\$1,326,037	\$1,193,433



It is anticipated that the County will receive an additional \$150,000 in program income from the current housing rehab revolving loan fund, which will revolve back into this program.

FY 2006 HOME PROGRAM

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

Projects	FY 2006
City of Massillon - Housing Rehabilitation	150,955
Freed Housing Corp. - Affordable Home Ownership - Target Area #1 (CHDO)	58,357
City of Alliance - Housing Rehabilitation	107,693
North Coast Community CHDO Homes - MR/DD Purchase & Rehabilitation	140,250
Stark Metro Housing Authority - Tenant-Based Rental Assistance	150,000
Stark County - Housing Rehabilitation	187,243
City of Massillon's Homebuyers Assistance Program	3,218
Stark County/City of Alliance Homebuyers Assistance Program	14,659
Administration	88,277
TOTAL	\$900,652

The Stark County CDBG program submitted the fully approved "Stark County FY 2006 CDBG and HOME Programs One-Year Update of the Consolidated Plan" to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on May 11, for their acceptance and a July 1 start date.

*Funding allocations for FY 2007 and 2008 have been tentatively approved by the Board of Stark County Commissioners.

SCATS Updates Public Involvement Process

SCATS and SCRPC staff are working to revise the Public Involvement Process for the Stark County Area Transportation Study, the document that outlines how SCATS involves the public in its planning process. SCATS presented a draft of the revised document at the June 22 Citizens' Advisory Council meeting and will be making additional presentations in the future, before beginning the formal 45-day public comment period.

For more information regarding the Public Involvement Process contact Karl Lucas at 330-451-7386, or email at kbucas@co.stark.oh.us.

Floral Tips...

- ☐ A copper penny, an aspirin, or a tablespoon of hydrogen peroxide can be used in place of chemical flower food to keep cut flowers fresh.
- ☐ Mix used coffee grounds into the soil of houseplants or outdoor plants for a slow-release of nitrogen.
- ☐ Don't know what to do with the leftover coffee in your cup at work? Pour it in your plants!
- ☐ Add used coffee grounds to compost piles to increase nitrogen balance. Coffee filters and tea bags break down rapidly during composting.



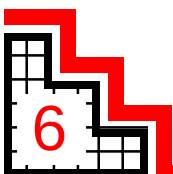
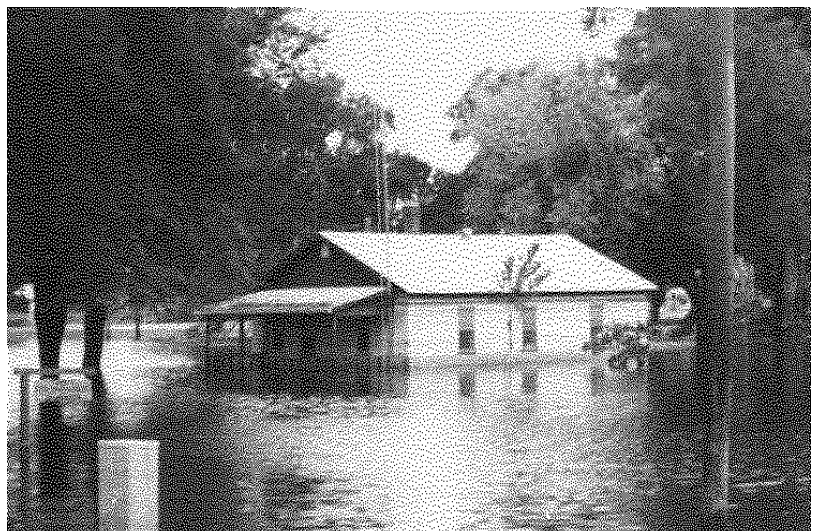
Take the Stormwater Runoff Challenge

1. The area of land that drains into an estuary, lake, stream, or groundwater is known as a _____.
2. The _____ of speeding boats can erode shorelines.
3. Maintaining your _____ tank will help to prevent bacteria and nutrients from leaking into groundwater and surface waters.
4. Wetland plants act like a natural water _____, removing harmful pollutants from stormwater runoff.
5. Leave your grass clippings on your _____ to reduce the need for commercial fertilizers.
6. A single quart of motor _____, if disposed of improperly, can pollute two million gallons of water.
7. Fertilizers and animal wastes contain _____ that "feed" algae and other aquatic plants harmful to water quality.
8. Polluted runoff from both rural and _____ sources has a significant impact on water quality.
9. Storm _____ are not supposed to connect to sewage treatment plants, so runoff can flow directly to rivers, lakes, and coastal waters.
10. Follow directions carefully when applying _____ on your lawn - more isn't always better.
11. Polluted runoff (also called _____ source pollution) comes from so many places that it's hard to "pin-point" a source.
12. Yard and vegetable food waste are suitable additions to a _____ pile.
13. Don't dump used motor oil into storm drains, it _____ it!
14. _____ of soil from barren land can cloud nearby streams.
15. _____ prevent flooding, improve water quality, and provide habitat for waterfowl, fish and wildlife.
16. Excess sediment, nutrients, toxins, and pathogens are all types of runoff _____.
17. Polluted _____ is the nation's #1 water quality problem.
18. The cattail is one wetland _____ that helps purify polluted runoff.
19. Too much _____ in water can harm aquatic life.
20. Proper crop and animal management on _____ helps to control water pollution.
21. _____ impact development helps control stormwater pollution through conservation approaches and techniques.

Choices:

compost	lawn	runoff
contaminates	low	sediment
drains	nonpoint	septic
erosion	nutrients	urban
farms	oil	wakes
fertilizer	plant	watershed
filter	pollution	wetlands

(answers on page 7)



Monitoring for Tax Abatement Programs Completed for 2006

Under contract with the Stark County Commissioners, the RPC employs an Enterprise Zone Manager to assist local governments, businesses, and the general public with two tax abatement programs and provides monitoring of agreements through assistance to Tax Incentive Review Council(s) (TIRCs). While agreements and monitoring must comply with state law and rules promulgated by the Ohio Department of Development, the enterprise zone (EZ) and community reinvestment area (CRA) programs are locally administered programs.

The primary difference in the two programs is that only real estate taxes can be abated under the CRA program, but both real and personal property tax abatement is possible in an EZ. Due to legislative changes adopted last year, however, further changes to the programs are anticipated, since personal property taxes will be phased out in the next few years. Another difference in the programs is while any new business and/or residential improvement may qualify for real estate tax abatement in a CRA, residential and retail uses are not eligible in an EZ.

Any company receiving abatement under the programs must enter into a contract that specifically promises to make a substantial investment and commits to retaining and/or hiring employees. While the cities of Alliance, Canton, and Massillon monitor their own programs, agreements in other cities and townships are the responsibility of the county. All reports have been filed and copies distributed to local governments and school districts as of the deadline, and the following is a summary of 2005 activity:

- Ten (10) separate TIRC meetings were held. Only those entities party to the agreement provide oversight and are part of the review, i.e., the specific municipality or township involved, the school district, the County Auditor, and three (3) representatives of the County Commissioners.

- Twenty-eight (28) EZ agreements and a list of companies receiving abatement under CRA were reviewed.
- Three (3) agreements were recommended for termination by TIRCs for not being in compliance with commitments - one in Perry Township and two in Jackson Township
- After considering the recommendations of the TIRCs, twenty-seven (27) agreements were continued by the Stark County Commissioners. Some were with conditions, i.e., probation to meet employee commitment, submitting further information, or correcting reports.
- 2005 year-end reports were submitted by companies receiving abatement under the enterprise program. They show that 1,907 jobs were retained and 758 new positions were created as a result of the tax incentives offered.

Answers to questions on page 6:

1-watershed	8-urban	15-wetlands
2-wakes	9-drains	16-pollution
3-septic	10-fertilizer	17-runoff
4-filter	11-nonpoint	18-plant
5-lawn	12-compost	19-sediment
6-oil	13-contaminates	20-farms
7-nutrients	14-erosion	21-low





Stark County Regional Planning Commission
Stark County Area Transportation Study
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Canton, Ohio 44702-1211

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What's INSIDE

**SCATS Public Involvement
Is I-77 Construction Ending?
0% Interest Loans Available**

Upcoming EVENTS

July

10	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
11	SCRPC	7:30 PM

August

7	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
8	SCRPC	7:30 PM
24	Citizens' Advisory Council	1:30 PM
28	SCATS	1:30 PM

September

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

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