



April - June 2024

Volume 61

Issue 2



Planning Progress

RPC's Annual Dinner



Over 160 guests attended this year's Annual Dinner at the Holiday Inn in Belden Village on March 20th. The guest speaker was President and CEO of Visit Canton, Allyson Bussey. The title and focus of her speech was "The Power of Tourism."

The mission for Visit Canton – The Stark County Convention & Visitors' Bureau, d.b.a. Visit Canton, is to attract and engage visitors, serve and educate regional tourism partners, and generate economic impact through travel and tourism development in Stark County.

Visit Canton is funded by a lodging tax administered through the Stark County Commissioners. The organization promotes travel to Stark County and facilitates operations supporting the travel and tourism industry in Stark County. To view the full presentation, please visit our website. (Archives - Miscellaneous)



2024 Governmental Law Seminar

On Saturday, March 2nd, RPC and the Stark County Prosecutor's Office hosted their biennial Governmental Law Seminar at R.G. Drage Career Technical Center. Just over 100 people were registered for the seminar. Session topics included: The Future of Solar Development in Ohio (keynote session), Land Bank, RPC Grants, Sunshine Law, Basics of Zoning, Employment Law, Nuisance Abatement, Fair Housing in Zoning, Contracting with a Public Entity, Public Records and Records Retention, Stark County Off Road Drainage/Ditches Program, and Cultivating an Understanding of Agricultural Exemptions. Power point presentations for all of the sessions can be found on our website – www.rpc.starkcountyohio.gov - resources – seminars and workshops.

Thank you to all of those in attendance and our presenters from the Ohio Power Siting Board, Stark County Combined General Health District, Stark County Soil & Water Conservation District, Stark County Prosecutor's Office and RPC. The collaboration from all those involved helped put on a successful event.



Community Transportation Planning Studies Application

Due April 12th

The next round for local **Community Transportation Planning Studies** has begun with applications due **April 12, 2024 by 3:00 p.m.**

Community Transportation Planning Studies are for low-cost targeted studies to meet local transportation needs such as reviewing a high accident intersection or problem section of road, planning for pedestrian and bicycle improvements and many other types of transportation related topics.

An informational brochure and application can be found at:

[https://rpc.starkcountyohio.gov/government/offices/regional_planning_commission/departments/stark_county_area_transportation_study_\(scats\)/programs/community_transportation_planning_studies.php](https://rpc.starkcountyohio.gov/government/offices/regional_planning_commission/departments/stark_county_area_transportation_study_(scats)/programs/community_transportation_planning_studies.php)

We currently have studies underway that are reviewing the US 62 Harmont Avenue intersection, Belden Village pedestrian needs, parking and shuttle bus needs at the Pro Football Hall of Fame Village, etc.

The intersections around US 62 and Harmont Avenue, including Lesh Street and Commercial Road, are among the most accident-prone areas in Stark County. The study currently taking place is looking to identify solutions for this high-traffic high-accident area.



If you have questions about this type of study opportunity, please contact Karl Lucas, Senior Planner, at 330-451-7386 or kb Lucas@starkcountyohio.gov

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5310 Partial Apportionment of \$217,516 Announced

On February 28, 2024 the FTA announced a partial-year funding authorization under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, enacted as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Pub. L. 117-58) in the amount of \$217,516 for the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities program in Stark County, Ohio.

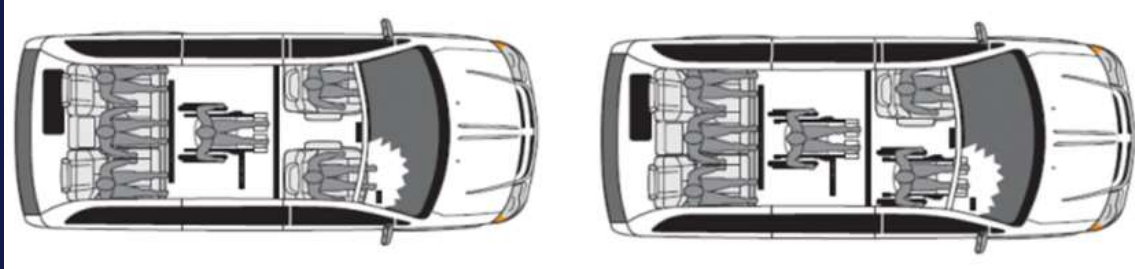
The Stark Area Regional Transit Authority (SARTA) and the Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC) cooperatively manage this grant program which awards funds to local non-profit groups, as well as SARTA, for various programs providing transportation to seniors and those with disabilities. This includes the purchase of vehicles and operating funds. General information regarding the program can be found at

<https://www.transit.dot.gov/sites/fta.dot.gov/files/docs/funding/grants/37971/5310-enhanced-mobility-seniors-and-individuals-disabilities-fact-sheet.pdf>

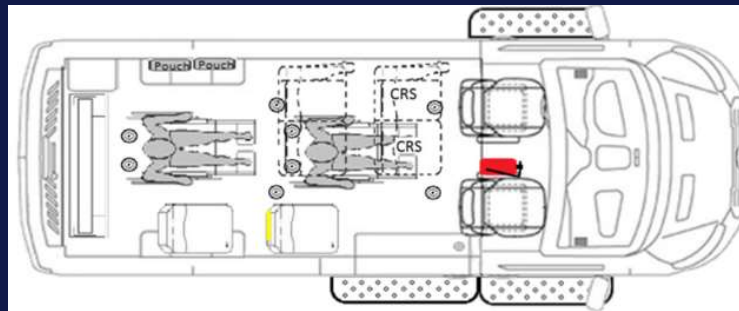
For questions, and to ensure that your non-profit agency is on our contact list for the next round of funding, please call or email Michael Brand, SARTA Grants Manager, at 330-477-2782 ext. 539 or mbrand@sartaonline.com or Karl Lucas, Senior Planner, SCRPC, at 330-451-7386 or kblucas@starkcountyohio.gov.

A Few of the Types of Vehicles Available:

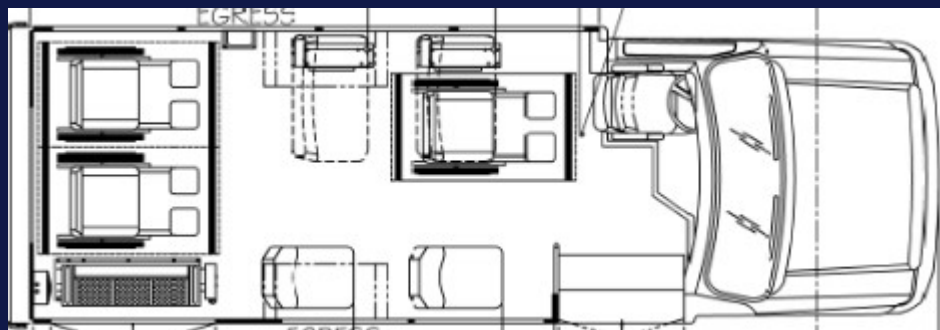
Modified Mini Vans



Accessible Vans



Light Transit Vehicles

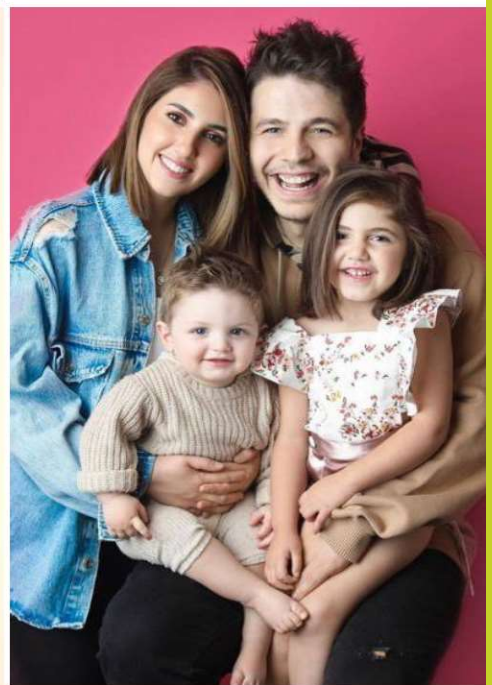


★ APRIL IS ★ **FAIR HOUSING** MONTH



HOUSING DISCRIMINATION IS ILLEGAL!

This month marks the 56th anniversary of the Federal Fair Housing Act. President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Fair Housing Act into law on April 11, 1968, seven days after Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination. According to the Fair Housing Act, it is unlawful to discriminate in housing transactions based on race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, or familial status (presence of children under the age of 18). **Help stop discrimination!** Report it to the Stark County Fair Housing Department!



Signs of possible discrimination:

- Steering minority homeowners to sections of the city where other minorities live or telling white home seekers to stay out of some areas.
- Propositioning a tenant for sex in exchange for rent or deposits and/or inappropriate comments.
- Evicting a tenant because she becomes pregnant.
- Charging higher rent or an additional deposit because someone needs a service animal to assist them with their disability.
- Limiting the number of children in a housing complex or confining them to a specific location or floor.

Demolition and Brownfield Remediation

In October 2023, the Ohio Department of Development (DOD) released new guidelines for the Building Demolition & Site Revitalization Program (BDSR) and the Brownfield Remediation Program for Fiscal Year 2024 and 2025.

Funding for these programs is available through the 2023 state biennium budget. For FY 2024, the BDSR Program provides \$150 million with a \$500,000 set-aside per county. The remaining funds will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Nearly \$350 million in funds are available for the Brownfield Remediation Program; approximately \$175 million will be available in FY 2024 with \$1 million reserved for each county in Ohio. Remaining funds (approximately \$82 million) will be available on a first-come, first-served basis for statewide eligible projects. In FY 2025, approximately \$175 million, plus any unclaimed funds from FY 2024, will become available on July 1, 2024, for eligible projects statewide.

DOD designated County Land Banks as the “Lead Entity”/eligible applicant for both of these programs and applications were due to DOD by April 1, 2024. The Stark County Land Bank will await the announcement from DOD on their applications in the coming months.

One of the applications that the Land Bank hopes to receive an award from DOD is for remediation funding to undertake the removal of contaminated soil and groundwater cleanup at a former Starfire Gas Station located at 2433 Columbus Rd. NE in Plain Township. The Land Bank currently owns the property and had previously received a grant in 2019 for assessment and corrective action from Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA). Work under that previous grant was completed in 2023 upon Bureau of Underground Storage Tanks Regulations (BUSTR) approval of the remedial action plan for the site.



Tax Incentive Review Council (TIRC)

The Fiscal Department undertook the responsibility of collecting and reporting the numbers from companies receiving tax abatements to the Tax Incentive Review Council, otherwise known as the TIRC. The TIRC represents the various entities party to Enterprise Zone agreements (EZ) or Community Reinvestment Area agreements (CRA). A meeting was held on March 11, 2024 to review reports from companies receiving tax abatements under the program as of December 31, 2023 and made recommendations for final action from the Stark County Commissioners, all in accordance with the procedures of law and adopted state rules.

The following recommendations have been made by the TIRC members representing entities in Enterprise Zone 234C:

Canton Township - (Canton L.S.D.)

- Foundation Systems & Anchors, Inc./Jacodar FSA, LLC/Anthony Codispoti – Continue Agreement
- Canton Galvanizing, LLC/Baconi Enterprises LLC - Continue Agreement
- The Hannon Company – Informational Only – No Vote

Perry Township - (Perry L.S.D.)

- Timken Steel Corporation - Continue Agreement

Village of Navarre - (Perry L.S.D.)

- Hendrickson U.S.A., LLC - Continue Agreement

Village of Navarre - (Fairless L.S.D. and Perry L.S.D.)

- Tractor Supply Company - Continue Agreement

The following recommendations have been made by the TIRC members representing entities in Enterprise Zone 252C:

Jackson Township - (Jackson L.S.D.)

- Kenan Advantage Group Inc./North Canton Transfer LLC – Agreement Expired
- The Schroer Group, Inc. - Continue Agreement
- Reeseco Rentals 2 LLC - Informational Only – No Vote
- Gregory Industries, Inc./5GS Properties, LLC - Informational Only – No Vote

The following recommendations have been made by the TIRC members representing entities in the Community Reinvestment Areas (CRAs):

(CRA) #151-12014-330 – Canton Township (Canton L.S.D.)

- Solman, Inc. - Informational Only – No Vote

(CRA) #151-12014-331 – Canton Township (Canton L.S.D.)

- RJAZ Properties, LLC/Young Truck Sales, Inc. - Informational Only – No Vote

(CRA) #151-62988-01 - Plain Township (North Canton L.S.D.)

- Meander Hospitality Group IV, LLC - Continue Agreement

(CRA) #151-62988-02 - Plain Township (Plain L.S.D.)

- One Easton Company, LLC - Continue Agreement

(CRA) #151-99151-02 – Perry Township (Perry L.S.D.)

- Superior Dairy – No Action Taken

(CRA) #151-08504-01 – Village of Brewster (Fairless L.S.D.)

- Brewster Dairy – Continue Agreement

“It’s Not Too Hard to Clean Up Your Yard”

Stormwater runoff is precipitation from rain or snowmelt that flows over the ground. As it flows, it can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and deposit them into a storm sewer or waterbody. Anything that enters a storm sewer flows untreated into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing, and drinking water. Only 1% of our water is usable, drinkable water. We can not afford to pollute and contaminate it.



Properly dispose of leaves and grass clippings. Start a compost pile. Never use streams, creeks, or gutters to dispose of yard waste. Sweep the dirt and debris from your driveway and walkways back into the yard.

Use pesticides sparingly. Fertilize only as needed using natural, organic, or other slow release fertilizers. Do not apply them if it is supposed to rain. Sweep grass clippings, leaves, and dirt back into the yard.



Remember, Only Rain Down the Drain!



Rain barrels help save money and conserve water. Use the rain water to water your lawn and plants— it's better for them. It reduces runoff and saves on your water bill.

Fluids in your car can be extremely toxic. Fix leaks so children and pets are not exposed to toxic puddles or toxic fluids that could be ingested. If you change your own oil, use a drip tray and take used oil, filters, and batteries to an automotive store for recycling— most will accept these items. Go to a commercial car wash where the water is treated before going down the drain, reducing potential pollutants. If you wash it yourself, do so on the lawn.



Pick up pet waste from your lawn and dispose of it in the toilet or trash. Hosing dirt and pet waste into storm drains sends it directly to the creeks and rivers.

Maintain your septic system. Have it pumped at least every three years. Repair or replace malfunctioning septic systems. Do not flush grease and personal hygiene products down the toilet or drain.

April

9	Subdivision Review	10:30 AM
9	SCRPC	7:00 PM
22	SCATS	1:30 PM

May

6	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
7	SCRPC	7:00 PM
28	SCATS	1:30 PM

June

3	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
4	SCRPC	7:00 PM
24	SCATS	1:30 PM

Visit our website:
www.rpc.starkcountyohio.gov

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Executive Director: Robert Nau

President: Joseph Skubiak

