



Canton Quarterly™

Canton's Official Publication

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Meet our
New Council Members

City of Canton's

War on Truancy

Canton's Fire Department

The Response System
that Saves Lives

The Runoff Rundown

Reducing Storm
Water Runoff

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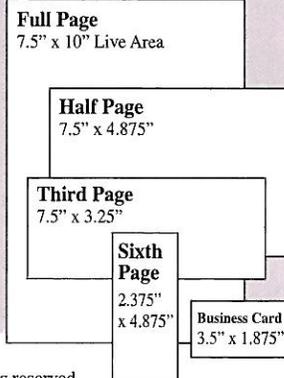
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Fellow Citizens:

It's Winter in Canton, Ohio, and I hope that you and your families feel the warmth of your hearts rather than the cold of an Ohio winter. Please take time to bring your families through our park system and enjoy the spectacular holiday light display and enjoy the work our city departments have done for the enjoyment of all. Our Downtown is also full of holiday decorations.

Speaking of Downtown Canton, the Tuscarawas Street project is nearly complete, considerably ahead of schedule, which will not only beautify the gateway into Canton, but greatly improve traffic flow.

Be sure to check the calendar in this issue and keep it handy for planning to attend events at the Canton Memorial Civic Center and other arts and culture events. I am so proud of our arts community and how Canton is becoming an arts destination.

Best wishes for a happy and safe holiday season.

Janet Weir Creighton
Janet Weir Creighton, Mayor

It's Important

Canton Quarterly™ is published four times a year by Canton Media Works Publishing, LLC, on behalf of the City of Canton.

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THE RUNOFF RUNDOWN

by Chris Barnes P.E., S.I., Your Assistant Canton City Engineer

In the last issue of *Canton Quarterly*[™] you learned that the City of Canton was federally mandated in 2003 to obtain National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit coverage for storm water discharges.

The following information implements a Public Education and Outreach Program on storm water impacts, per the permit's requirements.

Storm water runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snow melt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, rooftops, parking lots and streets prevent storm water from naturally soaking into the ground. As development occurs, storm water runoff increases. Did you realize that storm water runoff can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flow into a storm sewer system or directly into a lake, stream, wetland, or natural water bodies? Did you also know that, unlike sanitary

sewers, storm sewers do **not** treat the storm water and other discharges flowing into them? Everything thing that enters a storm sewer system discharges untreated into the water bodies we use for swimming, fishing and drinking.

Polluted storm water runoff can have many adverse effects on plants, fish, animals and people. Sediment can destroy aquatic habitats. Excess nutrients can cause algae blooms which remove oxygen from the water. Bacteria and other pathogens can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards. Debris washed into water bodies can choke, suffocate or disable aquatic life. Household hazardous wastes can poison aquatic life.

Here are some things you can do to help reduce or eliminate pollution in storm water runoff:

Recycle or properly dispose of household products that contain chemicals.

Don't over water your lawn and use

pesticides and fertilizers sparingly to avoid washing into storm drains.

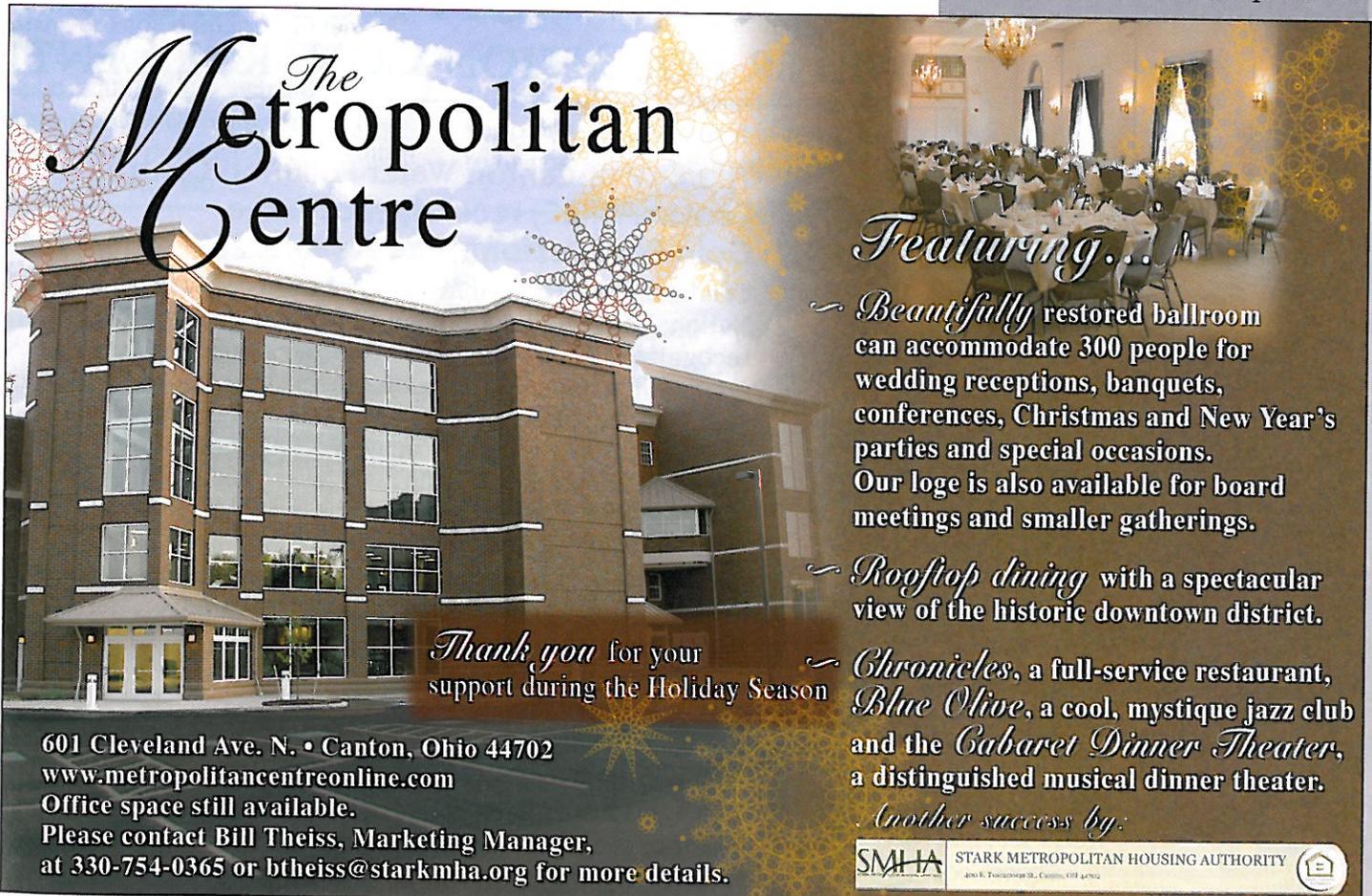
Use commercial car washes that treat or recycle their wastewater. Wash your car on your yard so the water infiltrates into the ground.

Remember to pick up your pet's waste and dispose of it properly.

In commercial areas, sweep up litter and debris from sidewalks, driveways and parking lots, especially around storm drains.

Divert storm water away from disturbed or exposed areas of construction sites. Install silt fences, vehicle mud removal areas, vegetative cover and other sediment and erosion controls and properly maintain them.

Automotive facilities should clean up spills immediately and properly dispose of cleanup materials. They also can provide cover over fueling stations, maintain fleet vehicles and install and maintain oil/water separators.



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