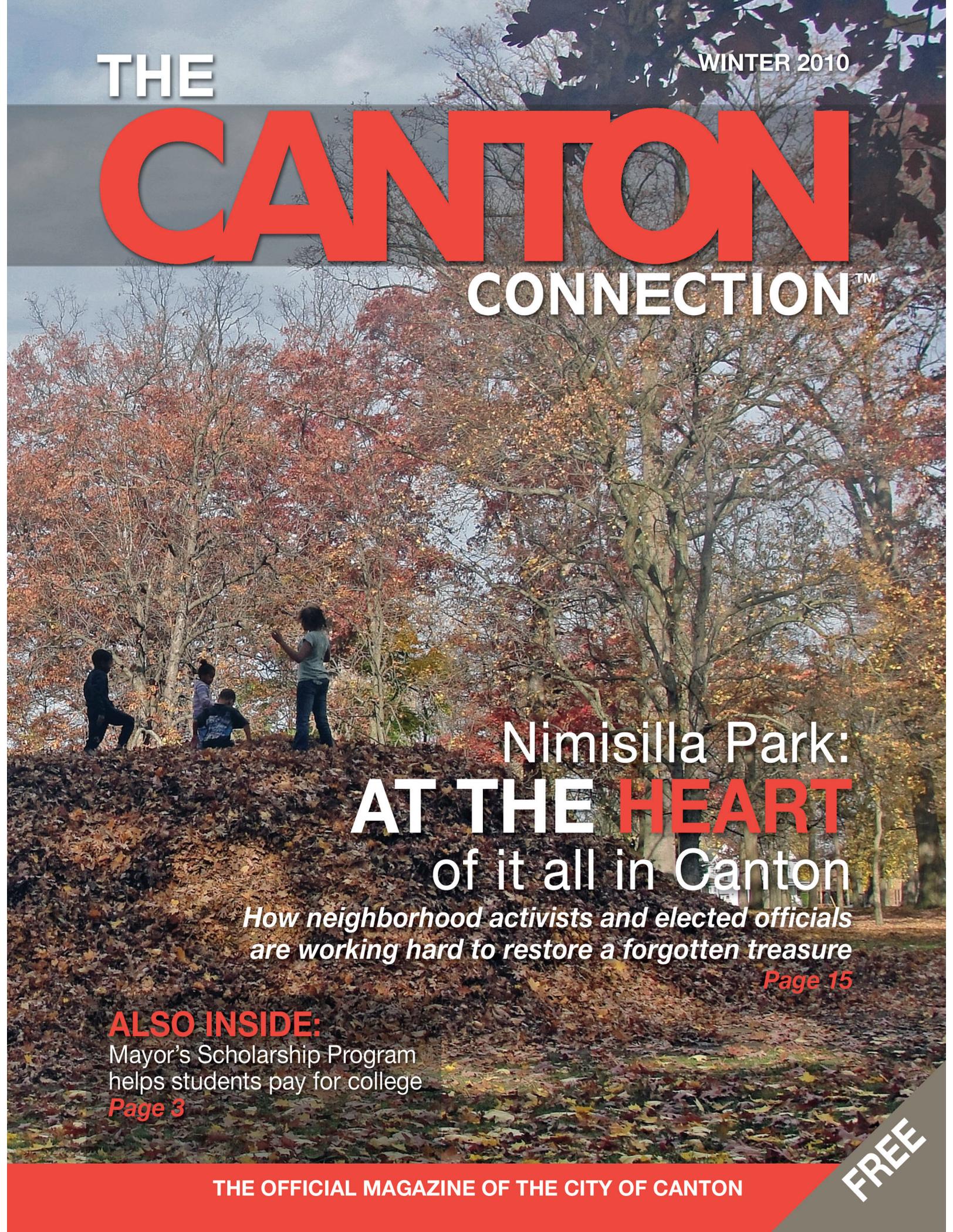


THE

WINTER 2010

CANTON

CONNECTION™



Nimisilla Park:
AT THE HEART
of it all in Canton

*How neighborhood activists and elected officials
are working hard to restore a forgotten treasure*

Page 15

ALSO INSIDE:

Mayor's Scholarship Program
helps students pay for college

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THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE CITY OF CANTON

FREE

in this issue

Winter 2010

THE CANTON CONNECTION™

COVER PHOTO BY JOHN STONE

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LOOKING FOR INFORMATION ABOUT CANTON CITY GOVERNMENT?



Phone Numbers



Important Dates and Deadlines



City Services Information

FIND IT FAST!



Log on to the City's Web site at www.cantonohio.gov

Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week!

letter from the mayor

Dear Residents,



Over the past few years, nearly everyone in our community has been forced to cope with one of the worst economies our country has seen since the Great Depression. The cost of goods has risen while average incomes have fallen, and families have had to make difficult choices when deciding how to make ends meet.

This has also been true for Canton City government. In response to rapidly declining revenue, we have adapted our operations in order to maintain critical services to taxpayers. By cutting our expenses, increasing our efficiency, and providing for those services that are most important to our core mission, we are managing to keep our head above water until the current storm passes. Though we do not know how long it will last, we are working with the long-term needs of the city in mind. We ask for your patience during this process as we make the best of a bad situation.

As you will read in the following pages, we remain hard at work maintaining our streets, strengthening our neighborhoods, and planning for the future success of our city. While we have fewer resources to perform these tasks, their importance has not diminished. Every effort is being made to ensure that reductions have the least possible effect on the quality of life for city residents, and we will do whatever we can to uphold the level of service residents have grown accustomed to until the budgetary situation improves.

2010 will be a year of change for the City of Canton – let us work together to make sure that change is a positive one. As always, please feel free to contact me via telephone, e-mail, or in person whenever you want to share information, request City services, or report a problem in your neighborhood. I am honored to serve as your Mayor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wm. J. Healy II". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

William J. Healy II
Mayor



pick up from last issue,
add current cover on
top (pdf in file)

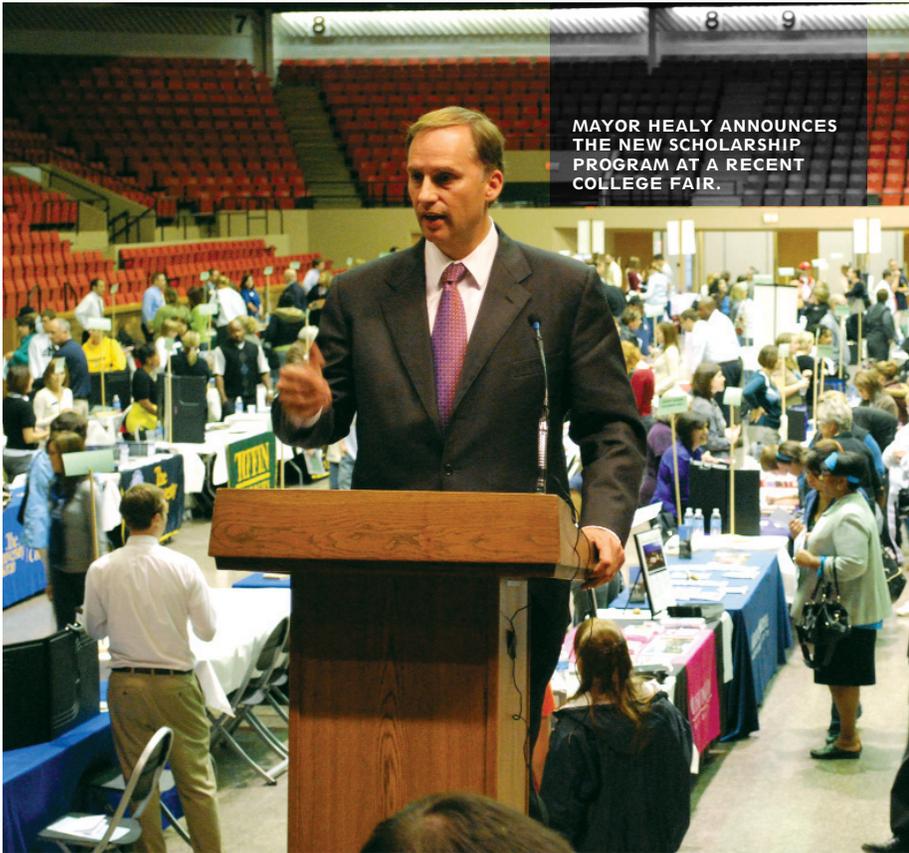


PHOTO BY ADAM HERMAN

Scholarship program created to benefit city students



BY DEREK GORDON
AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH NEW CALENDAR YEAR, CANTON'S HIGH

school seniors begin to look forward to graduation. This year, the Mayor's Office has an exciting new program to offer these students as they pursue opportunities in higher education. Several local, regional, and nationally-recognized colleges and universities have agreed to partner with the City of Canton to offer a variety of scholarships to graduating seniors. Qualifying applicants must live inside the City limits, attend a public school for at least one year prior to graduation, have a valid ACT or SAT score, and maintain a cumulative high school GPA of at least 2.0. Students who are interested in this program can view the variety of participating institutions on our website at www.cantonohio.gov/mayor. To apply, students must download a letter of inquiry form from the website and



submit it to the Mayor's Office at the following address:

Mayor's Scholarship Program
Canton City Hall
 218 Cleveland Ave SW, 8th Floor
 Canton, OH 44702

The Mayor's office will continue to approach new colleges and universities in an attempt to offer new and exciting higher education opportunities to Canton students. Mayor Healy hopes that – by providing extra financial assistance to graduating seniors – the City can help retain more young people to pursue a future career in Canton upon graduating college.

For additional information on this program, log on to our website at www.cantonohio.gov/mayor and click on the Mayor's Scholarship Program logo or contact us via telephone at (330) 438-4307. ♦

vern dale

stark state

FRENCH HORN PLAYER MEGHAN GUEGOLD (FAR LEFT) WILL PARTICIPATE IN THIS WINTER'S SYMPHONYLAND PROGRAM.



PHOTO APPEARS COURTESY OF CANTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Symphony launches new series for young children



BY TRACY JEFFRIES / Canton Symphony Orchestra
"SYMPHONYLAND" IS A NEW SERIES OF TRIO PERFORMANCES BY CANTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA MUSICIANS

targeted toward our youngest audience members – children in pre-school through first grade. Narrated by Assistant Conductor **Matthew Brown**, each performance features a family of instruments in the orchestra – strings, winds, and brass – and centers upon a children's storybook with props, costumes, and activities. The series culminates with a Kinder Concert on April 28 in the Great Court of the Cultural Center for the Arts. Tickets are available for \$5 each (per performance) or \$15 for the entire series (including the Kinder Concert in April) by calling the CSO office at (330) 452-3434 ext. 610.



All performances will be held in the Cable Recital Hall in the Cultural Center for the Arts, located at 1001 Market Avenue N. in Canton. Times for all performances are 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. ♦

String Trio:January 13, 14, 16
Woodwind Trio:February 10, 11, 12
Brass Trio:March 10, 11, 12
Kinder Concert:April 28

ArtSplash! event enters its third year



BY JUDI CHRISTY / ArtsinStark

WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN YOU TAKE A COLD WINTER SATURDAY, A LARGE GROUP OF EXCITABLE CHILDREN, A FEW crates of modeling clay, finger paint, and sand, and sprinkle it all with music, dance, and theatre? *ArtSplash!*

ArtSplash, in its third year at The Cultural Center for the Arts, is ArtsinStark's free family festival of arts projects, entertainment, and – new this year – learning! As part of ArtsinStark's goal of "creating smarter kids," an underlying theme of this year's **ArtSplash** is Smart Splash, allowing past SmArts grant recipients to highlight their school's learning projects that created links between education and the Arts.

ArtSplash!
Saturday, January 23, 2009

11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
 Cultural Center for the Arts, 1001 Market Avenue North, Canton.

FREE Admission and Parking!
www.artsinstark.com

In addition to these projects, **ArtSplash** will include performances by the Canton Ballet, Silver Star Theatre, and Canton Idol. Area companies, including

Diebold, Aultman, Nationwide, and Timken Company will be on site with hands-on art and learning activities for children of all ages. The Canton Museum of Art will also be open with make-and-take projects for children to create in the Museum classrooms. Admission and parking is free – concessions will be available for purchase.

For more information about this event, visit www.artsinstark.com or call (330) 453-1075 ♦

New exhibits usher in Museum's 75th year



BY MARY BYRNE / Canton Museum of Art

THE CANTON MUSEUM OF ART IS PROUD TO CELEBRATE ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2010 WITH AN

exciting schedule of exhibits. As regular readers of the Canton Connection already know from the November-December issue's "Re-discover Downtown" feature, there's always something new to see at the Museum.

Something from Nothing: Contemporary Recycled Sculpture from America's Rustbelt takes us into the New Year. This unusual sculpture exhibit features artists living and working in the Rustbelt region of the United States – Minnesota through New England— who find inspiration from scrap metal, wire, pipe and found objects. A number of Ohio artists will be featured, including Willis "Bing" Davis and local artist Joseph Close. **Something from Nothing** runs through March 7, and is sure to inspire!

TOP RIGHT: REBECCA HARVY, BRICK, 2005, PURCHASE IN MEMORY OF HERTA RAINEY BY HER FAMILY AND CMA POTTERS GUILD. 2007.12, UNTITLED #67, PORCELAIN CERAMIC, GIFT OF THE ARTIST. 2006.4 BELOW: TERRI KERN, HOUSE VESSEL, 2009



PHOTOS APPEAR COURTESY OF THE CANTON MUSEUM OF ART



Also running through March 7 are two special exhibits that compliment **Something from Nothing**. The first, **Curious World: Art from Fabric, Photographs, and Found Objects**, features the art quilts and assemblages of Jane Reeves. Jane, who recently moved from Canton to North Carolina, incorporates photographic images and embellishments into her quilt pieces, giving them a sense of history. Her assemblages are thought provoking combinations of collage, painting, fabric and found objects.

Appearing alongside **Curious World** will be an exhibit by Cincinnati ceramic artist Terri Kern. **45: New Works by Terri Kern** celebrates the artist's 45th birthday with a new collection of vibrant pieces filled with painted imagery of animals and objects that reflect her personal history. Terri carves her wheel-thrown and hand-built pieces and then applies underglaze – sometimes 15 to 20 layers thick, achieving a distinctive richness and depth of color not regularly seen in contemporary pottery.

Ohio's rich history of ceramic art is reflected in the Museum's permanent collection. In April, the Museum will open an exhibit dedicated to Ohio clay artists. **Form, Function and Figure: Contemporary Ohio Ceramics** is a combined effort with the Springfield and Zanesville Museums, showcasing sculptural, figurative and function clay work by extraordinary Ohio artists. In the meantime, enjoy the ceramic work of some of the most notable artists in the country -- **Mix of Style and Function**, an exhibit showcasing the variety of ceramics from the Museum's permanent collection (on display through May 16).

Last, but certainly not least, the Museum asks that you Save the Date for the first annual Canton Museum National Art Show on May 21 – 23, 2010.

For information about the Museum and its exhibits, including those detailed above, visit www.cantonart.org or call (330) 453-7666 to learn more. ♦



PHOTO COURTESY OF NICK J. COOL, IMAGE WORKS

DOWNTOWN EVENTS

First Friday festivities continue all winter long!



BY LAURIE FIFE HARBERT

IT MAY BE COLD OUTSIDE, BUT THINGS ARE STILL HEATING UP IN DOWNTOWN CANTON AT FIRST FRIDAY!

The festivities, featuring art, entertainment and food throughout the Arts District and beyond, happen year-round on the first Friday of every month, regardless of the weather!

January 8th ushers in Fire & Ice, our annual ice carving festival with a bit of fire thrown in this year! Champion ice carver Aaron Costic will create an ice tower that will be set ablaze, combining these opposing elements in a stunning visual display. More ice sculptures by visual and culinary artists will be on view throughout the Arts District, and several flaming surprises will take place during the evening.

First Friday on **February 5th** is sure to make all of your Chocolate Dreams come true! Area chocolatiers will be selling their decadent creations, while downtown restaurants and bars will create special chocolate-inspired desserts and drinks. The theme for the March 5th First Friday is Art Works, the slogan for the 2010 ArtsinStark Fund for the Arts campaign. The revitalization of the Arts District has shown that art does indeed work in our city!

Join us in **March** as we celebrate all aspects of the arts.

For the most up-to-date First Friday info each month, visit www.cantonfirstfriday.com. First Friday is presented by ArtsinStark and the Downtown Canton Special Improvement District. ♦

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Young professionals network and socialize in *ystark!*



BY JESSICA BENNETT

YOU'RE NO STRANGER TO THIS SCENARIO: THE WORKDAY IS DONE AND YOU FIND YOURSELF

wondering "what now?" Should you head home or find something to do after hours? But what's going on? Maybe you're looking for a way to meet new people and network in a casual, non-stuffy way? Perhaps you're new to the area and need a way to get introduced to what Stark County has to offer?

What began as a way to stem "brain drain"—the flow of talented, engaged young professionals out of Stark County—has become one of the most meaningful ways for YPs from all walks of life to converge for networking, socializing and professional development in the greater Canton area.

ystark! – Stark County's young professional initiative – is a department of the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce that is 900 members strong and growing fast. By creating a professional environment where members can rub shoulders with CEOs and business leaders, **ystark!** offers its members opportunities to build relationships with area employers and future colleagues through networking and professional development events (like the one pictured above left).

But that's not to say this group is all work and no play! Social activities are a regular feature of the organization, which run the gamut from friendly mixers with the happy hour crowd to co-ed golf, softball – and yes – even competitive dodgeball leagues. **ystark!** also sponsors and participates in several cultural events throughout the year, giving members a chance to show off their families in the community.

Last but certainly not least, **ystark!** members recognize outstanding area YPs with their coveted "Twenty under 40!" Awards, which acknowledge the incredible work done throughout the year by Stark County leaders under the age of 40. Do you know a young leader in our community that deserves recognition? Submit your nomination online today at www.ystark.org!

YPs who are looking to network and socialize and individuals who want to tap into what's happening in Stark County through volunteering and leadership opportunities should definitely consider joining **ystark!** Members typically range from age 18 to 40, and all professions are welcome.

So why wait? Start tuning into what's going on locally for young professionals. Visit ystark.org to sign up – membership is free and only takes minutes. ♦



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FILE IMAGE

Canton creating Sister Cities in Israel, Mexico to encourage investment



BY ROBERT TORRES / Director of Development

CANTON CITY COUNCIL RECENTLY APPROVED A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CITY'S INTENTION TO ENTER INTO OFFICIAL SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIPS

with Akko, Israel (pop. 46,000) and Saltillo, Mexico (pop. 649,000 - pictured above). The resolution is the latest in a series of actions undertaken by the City to pursue economic development opportunities in international markets. Canton currently has no official sister cities on record.

By establishing relationships with sister cities around the globe, the Department of Development hopes to make it easier for Canton businesses to sell their products in foreign markets. Also important is the opportunity for foreign companies to consider investing or opening U.S. operations in our local economy. One example of the positive impact that foreign investment can have in Canton was the acquisition of Republic Engineered Products by Mexican steel conglomerate Industrias C.H. The facility was scheduled to close just before it was purchased and remains open to this day thanks to its new owners. By fostering good working relationships with international companies, the Mayor believes we can begin to reverse the negative effects of free trade agreements like NAFTA and level the playing field for local workers.

In addition to the economic benefits of sister city relationships, proponents cite the opportunity for unique cultural and educational exchanges that are made possible by partnering abroad. Supporters of the Mayor's Sister City effort include Canton Museum of Art director M.J. Albacete and Malone University president Dr. Gary Streit, who have each begun working on programs that could be implemented between Canton and its new international partners. Examples of such programs include new cultural exhibits at the Museum of Art (like the highly successful Kimono as Art exhibit held earlier this year) and student educational exchange programs at Malone.

The Cities of Saltillo, Mexico and Akko, Israel are the first of what we hope will be many fruitful partnerships with cities around the world. Municipalities in Germany, Japan, and other industrialized nations are also being considered for future sister city status.

For information about Canton's Sister City effort, log on to www.cantonohio.gov/business. There, you can read profiles of Akko and Saltillo and learn how you can become involved in upcoming Sister City activities. ♦

belden brick

CantonRep.com



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- Loudon Motors Minerva
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Cars.

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CANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Safe driving tips for Canton's most slippery season



BY CAPTAIN D. DAVIS

WINTER DRIVING PRESENTS CHALLENGES

and dangers for drivers in northeast Ohio, including slippery road surfaces and limited visibility during freezing temperatures and inclement weather. Basic preparations for your car and a gentle driving style will increase your chances of skating through the season without a scratch.

If you must drive in snowy conditions, make sure that you and your car are prepared by following these common sense winter driving tips.

First things first

While parking your car in a garage or carport will save you precious minutes during your morning commute, remember that it is extremely dangerous to warm up any vehicle in an enclosed area. Always make sure that your exhaust and carbon monoxide fumes can easily escape through an open door or ventilation system – no amount of time saved from windshield scraping is worth putting you and your family at risk!

Before hitting the road...

- **Make certain your tires are properly inflated** and in good working condition. Partially worn or worn tires significantly reduce your ability to get going and stop in snowy conditions.
- **If snow has fallen since your car was last parked, take the time to thoroughly brush off your windshield** and windows – including the roof – and scrape away ice from the headlamps, taillights, and registration tags. This guarantees optimum visibility for both you and other drivers, and prevents large clumps of snow from flying off of your vehicle and endangering other motorists. Not to mention – Ohio law requires your registration tags to remain unobstructed at all times.
- **Use the car defroster and a clean cloth to keep the windows free of fog.** When entering the car, kick as much snow off of your feet as possible. Snow tracked inside the car can contribute to window fogging.
- **If your trip outdoors involves any type of extended driving, be sure to carry an emergency kit** in your trunk as well as a fully charged cell phone. You should also inform your family or friends of your intended schedule.



FILE IMAGE

While out and about...

- **First and foremost, always wear your seat belt.** Not only will it give you a 70% chance of surviving an auto accident, it's the law!
- **During poor weather conditions, be sure to drive with your headlights on.** Ohio law requires that you do – even during the daytime – to increase the chances that other drivers will notice you and lower the risks of traffic crash.
- **When driving on snow or ice SLOW DOWN.** Everything takes longer on snow-covered roads. Starting, stopping, and turning cannot be done as quickly as on dry pavement. Give yourself extra time to maneuver by driving more slowly. For example, on snow and ice, cars traveling 30 mph should be at least six car lengths apart. Also be aware on snow-covered roadways, trucks take even longer to stop. Be sure to give them some extra space and never cut in front of them.
- **Be wary and slow down when approaching intersections, off-ramps, bridges or shady spots.** These all have potential to develop black ice – which is virtually invisible – and makes driving hazardous.
- **Train yourself to look farther ahead in traffic.** Actions by other drivers will alert you to problems and give you extra time to react.
- **Avoid using cruise control or overdrive on snow or ice.** Cruise control does not take road conditions into consideration; don't let your car make a bad decision for you.

• **Stopping on snow and ice without skidding requires extra time and distance.** If you have anti-lock brakes, press the pedal down firmly and hold it. If you don't have anti-lock brakes, gently pump the pedal. Either way, give yourself plenty of room to stop.

• **Don't let four or all-wheel drive cars give you a false sense of security.** 4WD and AWD systems only provide extra traction when accelerating. They provide no advantage when braking or cornering.

• **When stalled or stuck in snow, stay inside your vehicle** and try to conserve fuel while maintaining warmth. Be sure your exhaust is clear of obstructions such as snowdrifts when idling.

Staying home....

While these tips will help you when you need to travel during inclement weather, always ask yourself whether you truly need to be out and about. If you really don't have to go out, don't. Even if you can drive well in the snow, not everyone else can. If you don't have somewhere you have to be, enjoy the snow from indoors.

For additional information about safe driving, or to learn more about the Canton Police Department, visit www.cantonohio.gov/police or call (330) 489-3100. ♦

STREET DEPARTMENT

Snow and ice prevention efforts in full effect this winter



BY KEVIN MONROE / Streets Superintendent

FROM DECEMBER THROUGH APRIL OF EACH YEAR, THE CITY OF CANTON EXPERIENCES A WIDE VARIETY OF WEATHER CONDITIONS THAT CAN MAKE DRIVING POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS.

It is the responsibility of the Street Department to mobilize its resources to ensure the streets are safe as soon as possible following a snow event.

This does not mean that the streets will be free of ice and/or snow immediately following a snowfall. The City aims to provide a road surface where vehicles properly equipped for winter driving can maneuver about the City relatively free of incident. Our objective is to have all priority and major secondary routes cleared with 24 hours following the conclusion of a snowfall of 6 inches or less. Unforeseen circumstances may affect our ability to achieve this objective.

There are many factors beyond the control of the City that can adversely affect our program. Last year, salt shortages were a major problem – resulting in the Street Department operating in conservation mode for much of our winter season. Budgetary constraints always affect our ability to provide desired levels of service. We cannot operate this program without being mindful of what we have available to spend. Unfortunately, this presents a problem for some who feel more resources should be devoted to the program.

Please bear in mind that we consider snow and ice control our most vital function during the winter months. We realize that residents and businesses depend upon the all-weather use of our streets. Because of this dependence, we continue to look for ways to enhance our program. We appreciate having the opportunity to serve you and commit to you that we are dedicated public servants who will do all we can to provide you a reliable snow and ice control service.

To review the City's snow removal policy and learn more about the Streets Department, visit our Web site at www.cantonohio.gov/streets or call (330) 489-3030. ♦



TRI-COUNTY WASTE DISTRICT

Citywide recycling program still going strong



BY LINDA MORCKEL / Education Coordinator

SINCE THE ROLL OUT OF CANTON'S CURBSIDE RECYCLING PROGRAM IN AUGUST OF 2008, THE VOLUME OF

recyclables collected continues to grow! The chart to the right shows the number of tons collected since the program began.

If you've never recycled, here's a quick lesson!

Plastic Bottles (#1 and #2)

Check your plastic container for a triangle of chasing arrows with a number inside. If the number is #1 or #2, the container may be placed with your recyclables for collection. This category includes milk jugs, laundry detergent bottles and water and soda bottles. Lightly rinse them to avoid odors and/or bugs.

Glass Jars & Bottles

Beverage bottles and food jars may be recycled. They should be rinsed lightly to avoid odors and/or bugs.

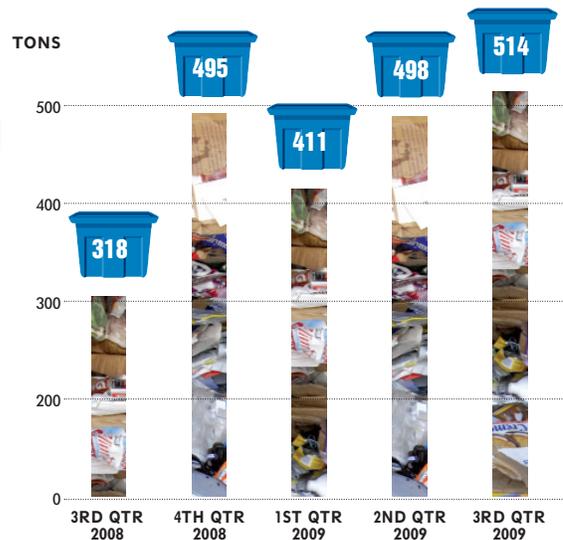
Aluminum & Steel Cans

Cans such as those for coffee, soda, soup, pet food and tuna should be lightly rinsed and recycled.

Paper Products

Paper products should be kept separate from other recyclables by bundling them with twine or putting them in a paper bag. Most paper products may be recycled as long as they're free from contaminants such as glue and food products.

If you have any questions about recycling in Canton, please call (330) 489-3000, or check out <http://recycle.cantonohio.gov>. ♦



If you have any of these in your home, please recycle them:

- Newspapers
- Office Paper
- Cardboard
- Posterboard
- Shredded Paper
- Food Boxes
- Paper Shopping Bags
- Telephone Books

Place your recycling bin next to your trash can on your normal garbage day. It can't get much simpler!

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

City takes action to prevent polluted runoff



BY CHRIS BARNES / Assistant City Engineer

LATE LAST YEAR, CITY COUNCIL ADOPTED A STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM IN COMPLIANCE WITH

requirements of the EPA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (Phase II) Storm Water Program. The goal of this effort was to consolidate and update many existing storm water related ordinances that address both storm water quality management and storm water quantity management for development projects in the City.

These ordinances are important because they address illegal and dangerous pollutant discharges into the City's storm water drainage system. This regulation of discharge is the first step toward the reduction or elimination of polluted runoff from local businesses and factories, and prevents harmful runoff from entering local water bodies such as the Nimishillen Creek.

Also adopted by City Council was a "City of Canton Storm Water Management Manual," which provides additional applicability, policy, engineering standards, design criteria, requirements, and recommendations for various storm water drainage applications.

The maintenance of clean waterways is a top priority of the Canton City Engineering Department, for doing so is essential to protecting our local groundwater supply and preserving the water habitats located both in the City and downstream throughout the Nimishillen watershed.

For more information about the conservation efforts of the Canton City Engineering Department, log on to www.cantonohio.gov/engineering or call (330) 489-3381. ♦

COLLECTION SYSTEMS

Drainage improvements help neighborhood streets stay dry



BY JAMES DIMARZIO / Collection Systems Superintendent

THE REPAIR OF BURIED SEWER, WATER, AND DRAINAGE LINES IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF MAINTAINING TROUBLE-FREE

service to Canton residents. To accomplish these repairs, city streets must be blocked off and torn up for one reason or another – much to the dismay of those who live and work nearby. These repairs are likely to continue through the beginning months of 2010.

It should be noted that – if not for these short-term disruptions – city residents and business owners could expect to experience a number of unpleasant disruptions either inside or outside their home or business as lines deteriorate and give way. Given the fact that most city streets have these lines and many are either approaching or aging beyond their recommended lifespan, this type of work is likely to continue well into the foreseeable future.

Luckily, these repairs do pay off in the end for those affected. Residents are often impressed with how water drainage repairs improve their neighborhoods once completed – as snow and slush begins to melt toward the end of winter, streets and front yards that had once been flooded are now dry and ready for spring.

If your neighborhood is experiencing serious drainage issues, major construction may not be necessary – the Collection Systems Department (CSD) provide crews to inspect, clean and repair sanitary sewers year round. While some situations do require major work, many can be solved with a simple cleaning.

Is your neighborhood having drainage problems? Contact the Collection Systems Department at (330) 489-3031 to schedule an appointment with one of our drainage specialists. For more information, visit www.cantonohio.gov/collections. ♦

WATER DEPARTMENT

Online payment option coming soon for utility customers



BY SHARON WHALEY / Utility Billing

THE UTILITY BILLING DIVISION OF THE CANTON WATER DEPARTMENT BILLS RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS BI-MONTHLY FOR

water, sewer and sanitation services. Commercial and industrial customers are billed monthly. Currently, payments can be made by cash, check, or money order.

In order to make it more convenient for customers to pay their City utility bills, the department is currently working with the City Treasurer's office to create an online customer service portal to manage and pay outstanding utility balances. The system is expected to be operational by the first of the year.

Until the system is up and running, customers can still pay their utility bills using four convenient methods:

Auto Pay – Customers can choose to have payments automatically deducted from their bank accounts on or about the same day that the bill is due. To participate in this program, customers should log on to the Canton Water Department Web site at www.cantonohio.gov/water to download and complete the enrollment form (PDF). Forms are also available at the Customer Service Center located at 626 30th Street N.W.

Check by Phone – Customers can pay their utility bills by phone from a checking or savings account at no charge during normal business hours. Note: Funds must be immediately available in the account to use this service. To pay utility bills by phone, customers should call (330) 649-8100.

Drive-up Window and 24 Hour Drop Box – For customers' convenience, the drive-up window at 626 30th Street N.W. is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 5:45 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. until 12:45 p.m. There is also a 24-hour drop box located to the left of the front entrance for after-hours payments.

Mail-in Payments – As always, utility bills can also be paid by mail in the envelope provided with the bill.

Please be aware that the City of Canton does not authorize any other payment centers. Any business advertising their ability to accept City utility payments may be fraudulent or unreliable.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your account, please contact Canton City Utilities at (330) 649-8100. ♦

Renowned scholar to create revitalization plan for city neighborhoods



BY CARMEN WEST / Deputy Director of Development

THE HOUSING CRISIS THAT HAS AFFECTED NEARLY EVERY PART OF OUR NATION HAS HIT US ESPECIALLY HARD HERE IN CANTON.

Entire neighborhoods that were once full of families are at risk of being lost forever. Luckily, hope is on the horizon. By creating “Neighborhoods of Choice” – neighborhoods where people want to live, invest their time and money, and improve their homes – the Dept. of Community Development hopes to begin a long and prosperous new chapter for our city.

To begin creating “Neighborhoods of Choice,” the City of Canton has partnered with an organization called Community Building Partnerships to hire a nationally-renowned neighborhood strategist named David Boehlke. A graduate of Johns Hopkins University and the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government, Boehlke has spent over thirty years working with community-based nonprofit organizations to improve more than a hundred distressed neighborhoods across the country.

Boehlke’s work is of particular interest to cities with old neighborhoods and declining population growth like Canton.

By creating targeted neighborhood work plans for our city’s surplus and at-risk housing stock, Boehlke will recommend ways that the City can increase the “demand” for existing housing with the most effective use of limited public and private resources. Specifically, the recommendations will take into account what is undermining stability in each individual neighborhood, thereby allowing the City to begin using strategies unique to each area’s specific needs and attributes.

By highlighting our community’s assets and finding proactive ways to galvanize neighborhood change, David Boehlke will provide the City with a new, innovative approach to urban revitalization. We here in the Department of Development are incredibly excited by the potential this partnership has to offer, and look forward to working with residents, businesses, and community leaders to begin addressing the myriad of issues facing our neighborhoods.

For more information about David Boehlke, as well as the many other efforts the City of Canton is undertaking to improve our neighborhoods, visit www.cantonohio.gov/housing or call (330) 489-3258. ♦

kent state

City employees undergo disaster preparedness training



BY COREY MINOR SMITH / Compliance Director

AS THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S ARTICLE ON THIS PAGE SHOWS, ADEQUATE PREPARATION IS KEY TO PREVENTING

potential large-scale emergencies from quickly getting out of hand. Over the past 18 months, the City of Canton has been undertaking a massive effort to train all city employees in the basics of disaster preparedness and emergency response should a major incident occur. This system – the Canton Incident Management System (or CIMS) – is modeled after a national program instituted following the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

In 2003, Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5) called for the establishment of a single, comprehensive National Incident Management System (NIMS). Unveiled by the Department of Homeland Security in the following year, NIMS applies to all federal, state, local, tribal, private sector and non-governmental personnel with a direct role in emergency management and response. The federal government strongly encourages that all government employees have a minimum amount of incident management training to assist first responders and crisis managers during major emergencies, including political and government leaders.

The City of Canton has been working hard to guarantee that city employees will be able to respond in times of crisis and work efficiently to minimize the disaster's impact on city residents. In partnership with the Fire, Health, and Human Resources departments, the Office of Compliance successfully coordinated training (pictured below) for more than 100 employees in 2009.

While disasters are rarely predictable, the City must be ready for to implement a response plan at a moment's notice. By coordinating these training programs and reinforcing employees' knowledge through continuing education efforts, the Office of Compliance wants to guarantee residents are not left to fend for themselves during a crisis situation.

Want to know more about the Canton Incident Management System? Log on to www.cantonohio.gov/compliance to learn more. For information about the National Incident Management System, visit www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/. ♦

PHOTO BY ADAM HERMAN



Health Department responding to H1N1 flu virus



JAMES ADAMS, MPH / Health Commissioner

THE 2009-2010 FLU SEASON ERUPTED EARLIER THAN USUAL LAST APRIL WITH THE ARRIVAL OF H1N1 INFLUENZA –

commonly referred to as “swine flu.” Luckily, the Canton Health Department was prepared and organized to respond to this pandemic with the help of its public health partners, and continues to combat the virus by fulfilling three strategic goals this flu season:

Goal 1: Investigating the Virus

Surveillance of the new H1N1 virus remains a top priority for health department staff nurses and physicians, who are continuing to investigate and document important indicators of the virus and its impact in the greater Canton area. For example, department employees are keeping in close contact with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to receive the most up-to-date information, and area pharmacy sales are being monitored for increased sales in thermometers, cough, and cold medications to pinpoint undiscovered cases. Hospitals are also contributing to the department's efforts by reporting emergency department patients with flu-like symptoms.

Goal 2: Teaching Preventative Measures

Education is key to prevent the spread of H1N1. By informing community members and healthcare providers about the many preventative measures that should be taken to avoid contracting H1N1 (like hand washing, sanitizing, etc.), the Health Department is going on the offensive against the spread of the virus. CDC testing, infection control, and laboratory protocols were faxed and e-mailed to hospitals, pharmacies, laboratories, and private doctors' offices throughout the city. Additionally, brochures and posters were created and information was presented in public meetings in order to provide information in a timely, helpful way to the people of Canton.

Goal 3: Vaccinating High-Risk Populations

The Health Department is committed to immunizing residents at high risk for severe illness resulting from H1N1. These individuals were placed in priority groups for vaccination, and will continue to be vaccinated as needed. In October and November of last year, flu shot clinics were conducted at: Malone University, Canton City Schools, Canton Fire Department houses, the Canton Civic Center, Stark County Fairgrounds, and at the Health Department's main offices downtown. Vaccinations will continue as long as supplies last.

While influenza can be unpredictable, the Canton Health Department is taking all necessary precautions to make sure that the impact of H1N1 is as low as possible in our area.

For more information about H1N1 and the steps the Canton Health Department is taking to prevent its spread, visit our Web site at www.cantonhealth.org. ♦

CANTON PARKS DISTRICT

Parks renamed to better reflect local history, neighborhood identity



BY DOUG PERRY / Director

THE CANTON BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS RECENTLY APPROVED NEW NAMES FOR TWO

city parks. That was once referred to as Playground D at 25th and Cleveland Avenue N.W. will now be called the E. Jay Welch playground. A long-serving board member of the Canton Joint Recreation District (1933-1950), Mr. Welch devoted many hours to the development of recreation facilities for the citizens of Canton during a period of financial stress caused by the Great Depression and World War II. Since the playground was one of the recreational facilities Mr. Welch helped to develop, the Park Board took action to honor his contribution.

Neighborhood association takes charge

Located at 41st Street and Bernard Avenue NW, the park formerly known as Playground F is now called the Bernard Avenue Playground. Members of the O.U.R. (Opportunity, Unity, and Respect) Neighborhood Association approached the Park Board and asked that the park be given a “real” name. Working with association representatives, the playground’s new name was suggested and agreed upon by all parties involved.

For more information about the Canton Park District, visit www.cantonohio.gov/parks or call (330) 489-3015. ♦

CANTON JOINT RECREATION DISTRICT

Registration period now open for girls’ spring softball, holiday events



BY NADINE SAWAYA / Director

IF YOU’RE A GIRL UNDER THE AGE OF 18 THAT LIKES TO PLAY FAST PITCH SOFTBALL AND LIVES IN THE CITY OF

Canton, we need you! The Canton Joint Recreation District will be organizing the 2010 Girls Fastpitch Teams playing in the SCGSA (Stark County Girls’ Softball Association.) Teams travel around Stark County to play games – will you help us make sure Canton represents?

Signups are being held January 25 through February 5 at the Recreation District Office, located in the Canton Memorial Civic Center at 1101 Market Avenue N, during normal business hours (M-F 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.). A special Saturday registration period will take place on January 30 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

A parent or guardian must be present at registration with a copy of their child’s birth certificate. Registration costs are as follows:

Girls 8 & under	\$45.00
Girls 10 & under	\$60.00
Girls 12 & under	\$60.00
Girls 14 & under	\$70.00
Girls 18 & under	\$70.00

**Note: Each player must participate in a fundraiser in addition to their registration fee in order to participate.*

8th Annual Sweetheart Ball arrives in February

Attention all parents, grandparents, and guardians – the 8th Annual Sweetheart Ball is a great way to spend a fun evening with your kindergarten through 5th Grade child this Valentine’s Day season! A casual-dress DJ dance party to celebrate the season of love will take place on **Friday February 12th from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Canton Garden Center in Stadium Park.** Tickets may be purchased at the Recreation Office through January 22 at a cost of \$10 (Canton residents) and \$13 (non-Canton residents) per adult-child couple. Additional children can come for only \$5, so be sure to bring the whole family! Because a tasty sweetheart dessert is included in each ticket price, you’ll want to eat dinner before you arrive!

The Canton Joint Recreation District offers a wide range of activities for residents young and old in the City of Canton. For a complete list of recreation activities offered, visit www.cantonrecreation.com or stop by our office in the Canton Civic Center at 1101 Market Avenue N. to pick up a brochure. You can also call us at (330) 456-4521. We hope to see you soon at one of our events! ♦

FILE IMAGE





Nimisilla Park: In the “Heart of the Heartland”



STORY BY JULIE SPARKS / PHOTOS BY JOHN STONE

FILLED WITH HUNDREDS OF STATELY TREES AND A HISTORY AS OLD AS THE CITY ITSELF, NIMISILLA PARK EVOKES

many warm memories in the minds of Canton residents. Once home to the Stark County Fairgrounds, the Canton Garden Center, and a fondly remembered zoo, the area now known as Nimisilla Park (located at the corner of 12th Street and Maple Avenue NE) has entertained thousands of families for more than a century on the northeast side of Canton.

But, as children grew up, families moved out, and neighborhoods began to change, the number of events and regular visitors to Nimisilla Park slowly began to decline. What

had once been a center of activity for decades was increasingly at risk of being relegated to the history books – and few seemed interested in preserving the landmark for future generations. Luckily, a concerned group of neighborhood activists, residents, and elected officials has stepped up to the plate to save one of Canton’s forgotten treasures.



A BOLD PLAN

Renewed interest in Nimisilla Park began in 2005 when Ward 2 City Councilman Thomas West announced the Nimisilla and Cook Park Bicentennial Revitalization Project. The ambitious plan included the construction of an amphitheater, spray park, multi-purpose field, large playground, walking path, and updated facilities for

neighborhood residents to enjoy. Most importantly, it made long-overdue infrastructure improvements to the park that had been ignored for some time.

Unfortunately, revitalization plans quickly unraveled and little was accomplished over the next three years to fulfill the project's lofty goals. Nimisilla supporters once again became concerned for the park's future, and started looking for new ways to increase public interest in the majestic space.

NEW PLAYGROUND REVIVES EFFORTS

After a period of inactivity, hope for a rejuvenated Nimisilla Park sprang forth in March of last year when it was announced that a new handicap-accessible playground project would be constructed in the city thanks to a grant from the federal government. Seeing an opportunity to give the park's revitalization efforts a much-needed shot in the arm, Councilman West successfully lobbied his council colleagues and the Canton Parks Commission to place the new playground at Nimisilla. Both approved West's proposal last spring, and playground construction is scheduled to begin early this year.

If all goes according to plan, the aptly-named New Horizons Playground will become the largest play area in the city of Canton. Climbing walls, slides, swings, and more are included in the current construction plans (see next page), all of which will be accessible to children with disabilities. In addition to playground equipment, restroom facilities are also being remodeled to allow access for the disabled and prepare the park for increased use.



Nimisilla backers are hoping the construction of this new playground will rekindle interest in the park as a safe, attractive, and fun destination for families and children of all ages. If the volunteer effort that has occurred since the playground's announcement is any indication, their dream will quickly be realized!

VOLUNTEERS PLANT SEEDS OF CHANGE

Shortly after Nimisilla Park was awarded the playground construction project, the self-titled Nimisilla and Cook Park Revitalization Committee came together in April to host an all-day event called B-Earth (pronounced "birth") Day. The pur-

pose of the event was to generate interest in the project and promote the committee's future plans for park revitalization.

Litter clean up, general landscaping, and a community picnic gave those who attended a sense of accomplishment and ownership that had not been present at Nimisilla for some time. This newfound pride could be seen nowhere more clearly than in the garden the volunteers planted inside a non-working fountain located at the center of the park (see photo above).

Modeled after the anatomical structure of a heart, the garden represents the belief among park supporters that Nimisilla Park

January 2010

COMMUNITY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 <i>New Year's Day (City offices closed)</i>	2
3	4 CITY COUNCIL MEETING - 7:30pm, Canton City Hall	5	6	7	8 FIRST FRIDAY - "Fire and Ice" Ice Carving Festival, - 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m., Downtown Canton Arts District	9
10	11 CITY COUNCIL MEETING - 7:30pm, Canton City Hall	12	13 Canton Symphony presents "SYMPHONYLAND STRING TRIO," - 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., Cable Recital Hall	14 Canton Symphony presents "SYMPHONYLAND STRING TRIO," - 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., Cable Recital Hall	15	16 Canton Symphony presents "SYMPHONYLAND STRING TRIO," - 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., Cable Recital Hall
17	18 NO CITY COUNCIL MEETING <i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - City Offices Closed (Garbage pick-up one day behind)</i>	19	20 <i>Employer Withholding Tax for December 2009 due</i>	21	22	23 ArtsinStark presents: ARTSPASH, - 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Main Hall - Cultural Center for the Arts
24	25 CITY COUNCIL MEETING - 7:30pm, Canton City Hall	26	27	28 Canton Symphony presents Aultman Cameo Concert III - 1:00 p.m., Cable Recital Hall	29 Canton Symphony presents Ohio Legacy Casual Concert III - 8:00 p.m., Cable Recital Hall Canton Players Guild presents "CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF," - 8:00 p.m., Players Guild Theatre	30 Canton Players Guild presents "CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF," - 8:00 p.m., Players Guild Theatre
31 Canton Players Guild presents "CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF," - 2:30 p.m., Players Guild Theatre 4th Quarter 2009 Personal Estimated Tax due 4th Quarter 2009 Employer Withholding Tax due						

2010 February

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 CITY COUNCIL MEETING – 7:30pm, Canton City Hall	2 <i>Groundhog Day</i>	3	4	5 FIRST FRIDAY – “Chocolate Dreams,” – 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m., Downtown Canton Arts District Canton Players Guild presents “CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF,” – 8:00 p.m., Players Guild Theatre	6 Canton Players Guild presents “CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF,” – 8:00 p.m., Players Guild Theatre Canton Symphony presents MasterWorks Classical IV “VARIETY & VIRTUOSITY,” – 8:00 p.m., Umstattd Hall
7 Canton Players Guild presents “CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF,” – 2:30 p.m., Players Guild Theatre	8 CITY COUNCIL MEETING – 7:30pm, Canton City Hall	9	10 Canton Symphony presents “SYMPHONYLAND WOODWIND TRIO,” – 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., Cable Recital Hall	11 Canton Symphony presents “SYMPHONYLAND WOODWIND TRIO,” – 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., Cable Recital Hall CANTON REGIONAL CHAMBER ANNUAL DINNER, – 5:30 p.m., Canton Memorial Civic Center	12	13 Canton Symphony presents “SYMPHONYLAND WOODWIND TRIO,” – 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., Cable Recital Hall Canton Symphony presents “MARDIS GRAS FUNDRAISER,” – 7:00 p.m., Metropolitan Centre
14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> <i>Chinese New Year</i>	15 NO CITY COUNCIL MEETING <i>Presidents' Day – City Offices Closed</i>	16 <i>Mardis Gras</i>	17 <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	18	19 Photography Lecture: STEVE MCCURRY, – 9:00 a.m. – Noon, Canton Museum of Art	20 <i>Employer Withholding Tax for January 2010 due</i>
21	22 CITY COUNCIL MEETING – 7:30pm, Canton City Hall	23	24	25 Canton Symphony presents Aultman Cameo Concert IV “A SOLDIER'S TALE” – 1:00 p.m., Cable Recital Hall	26 Canton Symphony presents Ohio Legacy Casual Concert IV “A SOLDIER'S TALE” – 8:00 p.m., Cable Recital Hall Canton Players Guild presents “WINNIE THE POOH” – 7:00 p.m., Players Guild Theatre	27 Canton Players Guild presents “WINNIE THE POOH” – 7:00 p.m., Players Guild Theatre <i>Purim (begins at sundown)</i>
28 Canton Players Guild presents “WINNIE THE POOH” – 2:30 p.m., Players Guild Theatre						

March 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 CITY COUNCIL MEETING - 7:30pm, Canton City Hall	2	3	4	5 Canton Symphony presents Young People's Concert "FRICTION IN MUSIC," - 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., Umstatted Hall FIRST FRIDAY - "Art Works," - 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m., Downtown Canton Arts District Canton Players Guild presents "WINNIE THE POOH" - 7:00 p.m., Players Guild Theatre	6 Canton Players Guild presents "WINNIE THE POOH" - 7:00 p.m., Players Guild Theatre
7 Canton Symphony presents MasterWorks Classical V "LOVE SPEAKS" - 4:00 p.m., Umstatted Hall Canton Players Guild presents "WINNIE THE POOH" - 2:30 p.m., Players Guild Theatre	8 CITY COUNCIL MEETING - 7:30pm, Canton City Hall	9	10 Canton Symphony presents "SYMPHONYLAND BASS TRIO" 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., Cable Recital Hall	11 Canton Symphony presents "SYMPHONYLAND BASS TRIO" 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., Cable Recital Hall	12	13 Canton Symphony presents "SYMPHONYLAND BASS TRIO" 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., Cable Recital Hall
14 <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i>	15 CITY COUNCIL MEETING - 7:30pm, Canton City Hall	16	17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	18	19 Canton Players Guild presents "A CHRISTMAS CAROL" - 8:00 p.m., Cultural Center for the Arts	20 Canton Ballet presents "THE WIZARD OF OZ" - 2:00 pm, Palace Theatre <i>First Day of Spring</i> <i>Employer Withholding Tax for February 2010 due</i>
21 Canton Ballet presents "THE WIZARD OF OZ," - 2:00 pm, Palace Theatre VOCI presents "THE WORKS OF JOHN RUDDER," - 3:00 p.m., Christ Presbyterian Church	22 CITY COUNCIL MEETING - 7:30pm, Canton City Hall	23	24	25 Canton Symphony presents Aultman Cameo Concert IV "THE LINDEN STRING QUARTET" - 1:00 p.m., Cable Recital Hall	26 Canton Symphony presents Ohio Legacy Casual Concert IV "THE LINDEN STRING QUARTET" - 8:00 p.m., Cable Recital Hall Canton Players Guild presents "FIDDLER ON THE ROOF," - 8:00 p.m., Players Guild Theatre	27 Canton Players Guild presents "FIDDLER ON THE ROOF," - 8:00 p.m., Players Guild Theatre
28 Canton Players Guild presents "FIDDLER ON THE ROOF," - 2:30 p.m., Players Guild Theatre <i>Palm Sunday</i>	29 CITY COUNCIL MEETING - 7:30pm, Canton City Hall <i>Passover (begins at sundown)</i>	30	31 <i>2009 Annual Payroll Reconciliation due</i>			

city phone directory

contact your city council members

Annexation 330-438-3293	ID Bureau	330-489-3170
Auditor R.A. Mallonn II 330-489-3226	Information Only	330-489-3100
Building Dept & Code Enforcement 330-430-7800	Impound Lot	330-489-3186
Building Inspector	Impound Fees	330-438-6169
Electrical Inspector	Internal Affairs	330-489-3377
HVAC Inspector	Juvenile Bureau	330-489-3144
Plumbing Inspector	Patrol Division	330-489-3100
Building Maintenance 330-489-3275	Police Chief	330-489-3111
Civic Center 330-489-3090	Record Bureau	330-489-3172
Civil Service 330-489-3360	Tip Line	330-489-3117
Clerk of Courts 330-438-4267	Traffic Bureau	330-489-3162
Civil	Training Bureau	330-489-3180
Criminal/Traffic	Vice	330-649-5929
Economic and Community Development 330-489-3258	Information Technology 330-438-6101	
Canton Community Improvement	Judges-Administration 330-438-4231	
330-438-4122	Judge Belden	330-438-4226
Canton City Council 330-489-3223	Judge Falvey	330-438-4205
DMV 330-489-3012	Judge Kubilus	330-438-4203
EEO Officer 330-438-4133	Judge Poulos	330-438-4202
Engineering 330-489-3381	Law Director	
Parking Division	Joseph Martuccio 330-489-3251	
Traffic Engineering Division	Civil	330-489-3251
Traffic Signal & Lighting Division	Criminal	330-489-3395
Traffic Sign & Pavement Marking Division	Mayor William Healy 330-438-4300	
330-489-3067	Communications Director	330-438-4304
Fair Housing Program 330-438-4133	Finance Director	330-438-4308
Fire Non-Emergency 330-649-5900	Safety Director	330-438-4312
Fire Administration 330-489-3411	Service Director	330-438-4310
Health Dept 330-489-3231	Park Department 330-489-3015	
Air Pollution	Parking Tickets 330-438-6169	
Environment	Purchasing 330-489-3245	
Nursing	Recreation Dept. 330-456-4521	
Public Health Info	Sanitation 330-489-3020	
Vital Statistics	Sewer Collections 330-489-3031	
WIC	Street 330-489-3030	
Human Resources 330-438-4136	Treasurer	
Income Tax 330-430-7900	Robert Schirack 330-489-3261	
Police Non-Emergency 330-649-5800	Water 330-489-3308	
Community Interaction Unit	Water Engineer	330-489-3310
Detective Bureau	Leaks	330-489-3315
Dispatch	Utility Billing	330-649-8100
Holding Facility	Water Reclamation Facility 330-489-3080	
330-489-3197	Youth Development 330-489-3350	
	Zoning 330-438-4726	



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