

The Canton CONNECTION

SPRING 2016



Mayor Bernabei

NEW LEADERSHIP IN THE CITY OF CANTON



CITY CONNECTION:



COMMUNITY CONNECTION:



ARTS CONNECTION:

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

RICHIE HARPER & BRITTNEY FORT



Hello! As you can tell we have changed the format of The Canton Connection. Living within our means is important, but so is updating our constituents! Thus, while we will no longer be doing our normal print version of the magazine, we will keep you updated through our website: cantonohio.gov and through our social media networks: www.facebook.com/CityofCantonOhio and twitter.com/TheCityofCanton

Canton has elected a new mayor. On December 31, 2015 Thomas M. Bernabei was sworn in as mayor. Mayor Bernabei served most recently as a Stark County commissioner, but spent over a decade as Canton's law director and held a seat on Canton City Council for one term. He has also headed the Stark Area Regional Transit Authority and served as a captain in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. His immediate goals include solving the city's budget shortfalls and implementing the comprehensive plan.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank retired Ward 3 Councilman James Griffin for his many contributions (more on him on page 20), Richard Hart for his service as Councilman at large, and welcome Jason Scaglione and Tom Harmon, Ward 3 Councilman and Councilman at large, respectively.

Also in this issue, you will find updates and events from our city departments, community partners, and our partners in the arts. These updates provide citizens with valuable information such as information on street repairs, healthy activities, where to live downtown, the famous Characters of Canton page, and many more!

As always, feel free to contact us at any time by phone, e-mail, or in person whenever you have questions, need to request city services, or would like to share information about your neighborhood.

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COLLEGE: WHAT ABOUT IT?

RICHIE HARPER// MANAGING EDITOR, THE CANTON CONNECTION

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE UNITED WAY

When they say your college years are some of the best of your life, they are not lying. You are about to step up into a new and exciting part of your life. College is a place where you can be who you want to be, a place where you can truly feel comfortable. You will meet a diverse range of people and learn about cultures you may have previously known nothing about.

Some advice:

1. Take some time to get involved in different activities. College can bring the shyest person out of their shell!
2. Don't feel bad if you change your major. The first two years of college are good years to figure out what you would like to do.
3. Take classes that may not be related to your major, but are on a topic that you have a genuine interest in.
4. Living in the dorms can be an adjustment, but I met some of my best friends there!
5. Find a balance between academics and a social life. You are a student first (that's important to remember), but it is beneficial to have fun and make some social connections.
6. Internships are awesome! Internships are where you take the skills you learn in the classroom and apply them in the field. My internships led me to a full time job right out of college!

Coming from a family where neither of my parents went to college made college a great unknown for me. However, it turned out to be the best experience. For me, the chance to get an education meant that someone like me could excel in my desired field. I am sure that you will do the same!



EXTENDING STREET LIFE

MICHAEL RORAR// SUPERINTENDENT, CANTON STREET DEPARTMENT

Chipped Pavement

Sealed Pavement

In 2015, the Street Department performed their normal road maintenance programs of plowing snow, patching potholes, sweeping the City streets, etc. Additionally, a new maintenance procedure was implemented on our city streets called Chip Seal. This was done in an effort to extend the life of the existing pavements before they turn into pothole ridden surfaces. Chip Seal is a thin film of heated liquid asphalt that is applied by being sprayed onto the entire road surface (sealing all existing cracks), followed by the placement of small aggregate ("chips"). The chips are then compacted to adhere to the existing asphalt, and excess stone is swept from the surface. Chip Seal should be used on roads that have minor patching and the cracking is too severe and too numerous to be sealed with traditional crack sealer.

Chip Seal, as previously stated is meant to extend the life of the pavement and the time between asphalt overlays. This will result in lower costs over the long term. It should severely reduce the number of potholes that occur within the pavement by providing an effective moisture barrier for the underlying pavement against water intrusion by sealing cracks in the pavement. Chip Seal is not a substitute for asphalt pavement. On the contrary, it is a proactive maintenance procedure that is applied to the asphalt pavement, therefore extending the life of the asphalt pavement. Placing a chip seal will allow city residents to benefit from roads that are maintained in better condition.

Existing Pavement

Please Note the Cracks in the Existing Pavement

WATER INFILTRATING BASINS

JAMES DIMARZIO// SUPERINTENDENT, CANTON COLLECTION SYSTEMS

The replacement of civil infrastructure has been part of our city's history for some time. Whether it's increasing a pipe's carrying capacity or rebuilding a bridge or roadway due to wear and tear, infrastructure components deteriorate and eventually fail. To keep pace with this demand, a common vision is necessary between the community and government administrators. This joint awareness brings together the need for solutions. If solutions are adopted, capital dollars are used to upgrade infrastructure that provide a harmonic balance between service, function, and safety. As the process moves forward, Canton will assess their demands and juggle resources to ensure responsible and effective improvements are implemented. This particular scenario is evident in providing streets with new or rehabilitated storm sewers. With solutions, comes the need to invest and sometime at a cost far greater than the dollars available in the pool of community dollars. However, Canton is designing and installing micro-drainage projects to keep pace with their drainage needs. In 2015, the Engineering Department provided a workable solution to our Department to help relieve a roadway drainage problem.

Although a traditional storm sewer was desired (i.e. to design and construct a drainage system that connected the problem to an existing storm sewer), a low-impact/low cost design solution was chosen. Using the existing sandy soil found in the area, the project design contained the drainage water on site rather than conveying it downstream. For this, three infiltrating catch basins were installed to allow water to permeate into a layer of gravel and sand. Thus the need for removing and replacing additional pipe and pavement was eliminated. The project was completed in less than three days; using city personnel and equipment.

Canton's use of this type of method shows good strides in providing a service that helps the surrounding community while ensuring longevity and safety of roadways. Keeping with our infrastructure demands are important, and methods such as this will ensure that our efforts going forward will be met.



SAVE YOUR LAWN THE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY WAY

CHRIS BARNES, PE, CPESC, CPSWQ, CMS4S// CANTON CITY ENGINEERING DEPT.

WHEN YOU'RE FERTILIZING THE LAWN,
REMEMBER YOU'RE NOT JUST
FERTILIZING THE LAWN.



You fertilize the lawn. Then it rains. The rain washes the fertilizer along the curb, into the storm drain and directly into our streams and lakes. This causes algae to grow, which uses up oxygen that the fish need to survive. So if you fertilize, please choose a fertilizer that does not contain pesticides, read and follow the directions, and use sparingly.

Clean water is important to all of us:

It's up to all of us to make it happen. In recent years, sources of water pollution like industrial wastes from factories have been greatly reduced. Now, more than 60 percent of water pollution comes from things like cars leaking oil, fertilizers from farms and gardens, and failing septic tanks. All these sources add up to a big pollution problem. But each of us can do small things to help clean up our water too. And that adds up to a pollution solution!

Why do we need clean water?

Having clean water is of primary importance for our health and economy. Clean water provides recreation, commercial opportunities, fish habitat, drinking water and adds beauty to our landscape. All of us benefit from clean water. And all of us have a role in getting and keeping our lakes, rivers, and ground waters clean.

What's the problem with fertilizer?

Fertilizer isn't a problem if it's used carefully. If you use too much fertilizer or apply it at the wrong time, it can easily wash off your lawn or garden into storm drains and then it flows untreated into lakes or streams. Just like in your garden, fertilizer in lakes and streams makes plants grow. In water bodies, extra fertilizer can mean extra algae and aquatic plant growth. Too much algae harms water quality and makes boating, fishing and swimming unpleasant. As algae decay, they use up oxygen in the water that fish and other wildlife need.

Clean Water tip:

How can you fertilize and help keep our waters clean?

Use fertilizers sparingly. Many plants do not need as much fertilizer or need it as often as you may think.

Don't fertilize before a rain storm.

Purchase a soil testing kit to see if applying fertilizers is even necessary.

Consider using organic fertilizers; they release nutrients more slowly.

Use commercially available compost or make your own using garden waste. Mixing compost with your soil means your plants will need less chemical fertilizer and puts your waste to good use.

Use a mulching mower and leaving your grass higher uses less water.

For more information on fertilizing alternatives and composting, call your County Extension's Master Gardeners program or your local Community to get the answers.

This poster was produced through a cooperative effort between Stark Soil and Water Conservation District and your local community

This information is brought to you by the Water Quality Consortium, a group of public agencies working together to reduce nonpoint water pollution through education.

Partially funded by a Centennial Clean Water Fund grant from Washington State Department of Ecology.



CANTON JOINT RECREATION AND DISTRICT 10 SOFTBALL WIN NATIONAL AWARD

KEN GROVES// DISTRICT 10 ASA SOFTBALL EVENT COORDINATOR

At the recently concluded 84th National Amateur Softball Association (ASA) Council Meeting held in Louisville, Kentucky, Canton, Ohio and the Canton Joint Recreation District took home the top award at the Wilson Sporting Goods award ceremony. ASA is considered the national governing body of softball. This ceremony honors those cities for both their ASA service as well as their excellence in hosting National Championship Tournaments.

The James Farrell Award of Excellence is named in honor of former St. Louis ASA Commissioner and National Office staff member James Farrell. To receive this award, cities must attain an overall rating of 95 percent or greater from the ASA Representative, Umpire-In-Chief, and National ASA Office. This year Canton graded out with a score of 96% for hosting the Girl's 14U Class 'B' Eastern National ASA Fast Pitch Championship in July. This was Canton's seventh National Championship Tournament and their sixth James Farrell Award. It's because of this continued dedication and commitment to ASA Softball that the Canton Joint Recreation District and District 10 ASA have been awarded the Boys 2016 16U, 18U, and 21U National ASA/USA Slow Pitch Championships, scheduled to be played at the Willig Field Complex in mid-August.

District 10 ASA Commissioner, Rick Annen of Massillon, Ohio, accepted this award on behalf of both the Canton Joint Recreation District and District 10 ASA Softball.



Left to Right.: Recreation Consultant, Tim Trbovich, Recreation Programmer, Don Patterson, and District 10 ASA

BIKESMART IS A WINNING IDEA

GREG MYINGER// DIRECTOR, CANTON JOINT RECREATION DEPT

What happens when middle school students are given the ability to present ideas about how to change their community, and then community agencies actually LISTENED and then PARTNERED together to turn the ideas into reality? In Stark County, the answer is the BIKESMART bike sharing program, managed by the Stark County District Library, Stark Parks, and the Canton Parks and Recreation Department.

The idea of providing the community with free bike rentals at existing library branch locations and other community hubs was inspired by middle school students participating in the TomTod 2014 Canton Dreamatory program. The project then moved from concept to reality by the three community partner agencies that identified a vendor willing to work with a library card rental system instead of using credit cards. Each partner agency contributed 1/3 of the total costs of obtaining the bikes and identified six bike hubs for BikeSmart to be housed.

In its first year, 820 members joined and over 2,654 trips were taken around Stark County. People living, working, and visiting Stark County have a great new way to travel, community partnerships are stronger, and young people have been encouraged to continue thinking creatively because their ideas can make a difference! This creative idea was just awarded 1st place with the Management Innovation category offered by the Ohio Parks & Recreation Association. The awards presentation will be held in February to recognize all partnering organizations.

The logo for BikeSmart is displayed vertically on the right side of the page. The word "Bike" is in red, "Smart" is in black, and the "o" is a red location pin icon. To the right of the text is a vertical line of grey dots of varying sizes, with the largest dot at the bottom, resembling a trail or a path.

BikeSmart

SECOND ANNUAL SWEAT NOW WINE LATER ADVENTURE RACE

GREG MYINGER// DIRECTOR, CANTON JOINT RECREATION DEPT



Kayak your way on Nimishillen Creek from Martindale Park to the Middlebranch Trailhead at Spangler Ave. NE, roughly 1 mile. Hop out of the kayak and run or walk the Middlebranch Trail (~2 miles) to Gervasi Vineyard. Enjoy a post-race gathering at Gervasi Vineyard with music and fun atmosphere.

What you get:

- Custom designed short sleeve tech race shirt
- Unique finisher medal
- Certificate for Gervasi Vineyard wine or food
- Finisher food and water
- Use of a kayak, paddle and life jacket
- Free parking and transportation



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHELSEA PERRY

The rules:

- ALL decisions of race organizers are final
- Rain or shine, hot or cold – the race goes on
- Must be 12 or older to participate
- No personal kayaks (organizers not responsible for transporting)
- Kayak maximum weight capacity is 275 pounds
- In the event of unsafe water conditions, this will be a trail run only (no refunds)
- Participants will start in waves approximately one minute apart
- No interfering with fellow kayakers while on the water

New for 2016: Wave Start

This year's race will feature waves starting in 30-minute increments. Register for the wave you prefer and arrive at Gervasi in enough time to pick up your packet (if you haven't already). Board the bus for your wave 15-minutes prior to your start time. Only those registered for a particular wave may board the bus. Waves will fill up in registration and automatically close when they are full. There will be a maximum of 40 people per wave. Register early for your preferred wave. All race day registrations will be placed in the last wave(s). Waves will be added as necessary to meet demand.

Wave	Bus Leaves
9AM	8:45AM
9:30AM	9:15AM
10AM	9:45AM
10:30AM	10:15AM
11AM	10:45AM
11:30AM	11:15AM
12AM	11:45AM

Pricing:

Registration opens on February 8

\$50 thru 3/11

\$60 thru 4/15

\$70 thru 5/2

\$80 at packet pickup and on race day

Packet Pickup

Early packet pickup will be available at the Gervasi Vineyard Crush House from 4:00 PM to 6:00 pm the evening prior to the event.

Race Day pick is available beginning at 8:00 AM in front of the Marketplace.

Parking and Transportation

Gervasi has graciously allowed participant parking in their out lot, closest to 55th St. Due to limited space, please consider carpooling.

Transportation will be provided from Gervasi to Martindale Park.

Gear Check will be available.

Awards will be mailed to overall 1st, 2nd and 3rd place male and female finishers. There are no age group awards in this race.

Questions? Please email info@runcanton.com

TREE CITY

PAT KIRK// MEMBER, CANTON CITY TREE COMMISSION

PHOTO COURTESY OF CANTON CITY TREE COMMISSION

Did you know trees might curb criminal activity? According to a 2012 study by the Tree Care Industry, trees get people outside, and criminals are likely to avoid places where they're easily spotted.

Trees give a lot of: oxygen, shade, pollution control, neighborhood safety, higher property value, storm runoff control, stress recovery, and beauty. In return, they ask for proper placement, trimming, and care. In celebrating the benefits trees offer us, we celebrate Arbor Day once a year in Ohio, on the last Friday in April.

This year the Canton Tree Commission is promoting tree awareness and education by having a children's poster contest for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders through Canton-area schools. Posters will be displayed at the Garden Center at the Arbor Day Event, April 29, 2016. Also in April, matted tree photos by adults will be displayed at the Joseph Saxton Gallery. During the Arbor Day program, we will honor Andy Mitchell, a former Tree Commission member who passed away suddenly in 2014.

Canton is applying for its second Tree City designation after meeting the four conditions: 1) holding an Arbor Day Celebration; 2) enacting a Tree Ordinance; 3) establishing a Tree Board; and 4.) offering a Forestry Program at \$2 a head.

Come and celebrate with us on Arbor Day at the Garden Center and enjoy the trees in our park system!

For more information please visit cantonohio.gov/engineering.



SARTA... WHERE CAN WE TAKE YOU?

KRISTIE PETTY// MARKETING MANAGER, SARTA

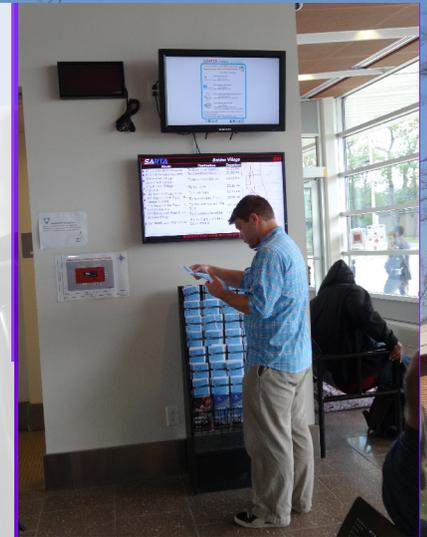
PHOTO COURTESY OF SARTA

Do you wonder...? "**Where does SARTA go?**" SARTA goes to grocery stores, shopping centers, medical facilities, restaurants, schools, the airport, libraries, museums, places of employment and much more. Riders can travel on any of our 32 Fixed Routes in Alliance, Akron, Canton, Cleveland, Hartsville, Jackson Township, Louisvile, Massillon, North Canton, and Uniontown. For riders with ADA recognized disabilities, SARTA operates a countywide service (Proline) that picks riders up at a point of origin and takes them to their desired destination.

"**What routes go where?**" Many Fixed Routes connect cities together. For example, the Route 81 connects Canton/Belden Village to the Akron-Canton Airport and Downtown Akron, the 139 connects Alliance to Canton, the 125 connects Massillon to Belden Village, and the 102 connects Massillon to Canton. Our Route 120 services the Belden Village Mall, surrounding shopping plazas, Stark State, Kent State's Stark Campus, Brown Mackie, and American National University. Route 121 services the North Canton Industrial Park, the Strip Shopping Center, Movies 10, Mercy Medical & Aultman North Centers. Route 102 services the Massillon Library & Museum and Canton Centre Mall. Routes 130, 131, and 132 in Alliance service the Hospital, Mount Union University, Rodman Library, and Carnation Mall. Other routes service the Pro Football Hall of Fame, the McKinley Monument, Stark Parks & Canton Parks & Recreation locations, Veterans & County offices, and hospitals.

"**Who rides the bus?**" Riders could be your neighbor, co-worker, or the lady behind you in line at the grocery store.

"**How is SARTA funded?**" SARTA is funded by a ¼% Sales Tax, Federal Grants, Bus Fares, contracts with agencies and the State. About 80% of SARTA's operating expenses are covered by the sales tax revenue. SARTA must renew the sales tax every five years, otherwise we would not be able to provide quality, reliable transportation to Stark County residents.



PRIVATE LAND + PUBLIC ACCESS= FOOD ACCESS FOR EVERYONE

TOM PHILLIPS//EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, STARKFRESH

StarkFresh, a local non-profit based in downtown Canton, has recently created two edible park spaces on Walnut Ave NE, and connected them with a fitness trail to promote healthy eating and active living in the city. The StarkFresh Edible Park Oasis, located in the rear of Deli Ohio (328 Walnut Ave NE), was built over a paved parking lot. The edible park has fruit trees being grown for shade and tables and chairs to sit outside to eat or conduct a business meeting. Although created on private land, the space is open for public use with over 500 vegetables and herbs planted in the raised beds. There is also a composting bin and some vibrant murals in the Oasis.



Members of the Refuge of Hope, located around the corner from the park, will use some of the beds to supplement their daily meal program. A few blocks to the North, across from the YWCA, is a walking labyrinth, some raised gardens, and a mini orchard. The site, owned by the YWCA, is also open for neighbors to use as a tranquil space of reflection where one can stop and rest or lie under a fruit tree in the grass and read a book. The growing space is used to teach children from the Head Start program all about growing. A marked fitness trail a bit over $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile in length connects the two spaces. StarkFresh is focused on increasing people's consumption of fresh, locally-sourced, nutrient-dense and affordable foods through equal food access and educational opportunities for everyone. For information on this and other projects like the Farmers Markets we run, please contact Tom Phillips at 330.353.8793 or tomp@starkfresh.org



BACKYARD & COMMUNITY GARDEN SPACES

TOM PHILLIPS//EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, STARKFRESH

In recent years, there has been a steady increase in people wanting to learn how to grow their own food. Whether it's for the financial savings it brings, the health benefits afforded by eating organic, nutrient-dense food, or the communal aspect of gardening, one thing is for certain, Stark County is undergoing a local food transformation and at the center of it all is StarkFresh and its work with community gardens.

Last year, an Urban Teaching Farm was created right off of Mahoning Rd. in Canton, creating a space for those who want to learn hands-on how to grow their own produce. The Urban Teaching Farm has every type of gardening method that you can find in an urban setting, creating opportunities for people to learn. After touring or attending one of the many classes being offered for free at the farm, one can take that knowledge and go create their own garden or join a community garden like the Downtown Canton/Summit Community Garden, managed by Project Rebuild. In Stark County, there are 39 known community gardens, 20 of them which are right here in Canton.

There are many things one needs to consider before starting a garden of any size. Soil testing is the first step, and we are lucky to have a new soil testing program being offered through Walsh University. StarkFresh, through several partners, has again been able to supply vegetable seed packets to the public for free to anyone wanting to start their own garden. Free and low-cost educational opportunities for learning to grow, cook, harvest, and preserve foods are being offered through agencies like StarkFresh, the Stark County District Library, Stark Parks, and many more. These classes and workshops are all online at www.meetup.com/StarkCountyOH.

DOWNTOWN LIVIN'

MARANDA SALING// OWNER, BELLFLOWER COMMUNICATIONS

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARANDA SALING

In the last 3 years Downtown Canton has not only continued to be the prime spot for drinks, dining, and entertainment, but has also become a hip and affordable place to live! I've personally lived in Downtown Canton for 2 1/2 years and have loved every minute of it!

The Canton Arts District is the ideal place for 20- somethings, as well as empty nesters alike. The most exciting part about this news is that the growth is only expanding. Steve Coon, owner of The Historic Onesto Lofts and The Bliss Tower, shared his goal to have Bliss finished and ready to rent by November 2016 (IF any units are left.... Many have already put money down to secure their spots). Coon said, "Bliss is the industrial, clean counterpart to The Onesto's historic ornateness". The Bliss Tower with her floor to ceiling windows, 2-story penthouse and central location is every urban dwellers dream!

The other exciting new downtown living opportunity is the old Hercules Engine Factory on Market Ave South. With fantastic history both true and fictional, this space is a bit off the beaten path. If the stars align and all the commercial and residential spaces are as upscale and unique as promised, the walk will be more than worth it! The most exciting element is that these spaces should only run you \$1.00- \$1.50 per square foot! So consider moving to the city center of Stark County. Be within walking distance of your favorite restaurant, bar, art gallery, museum or theater. Discover the rich and deep character of Canton. Be a part of a nationwide movement towards urban revitalization. Move to Downtown Canton!



THE HISTORIC ONESTO



SUITES AT 400

THE BIG PICTURE: CHARACTERS OF CANTON

RICHIE HARPER// MANAGING EDITOR, THE CANTON CONNECTION

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOE ALBERT



Canton is full of character, and fortunately for us Joe Albert is here to document it. Born with a love of travel and inherent knack for capturing multiple perspectives, Joe is the owner of Joe Albert Studios located at 336 4th St. NW, Canton, OH 44702. His passion is capturing life through his camera lens, something he has done since 1988. More recently, however, Joe has used his passion to develop one of Canton's most visited web pages, Characters of Canton.

Characters of Canton is dedicated to documenting the lives, businesses, and happenings of the people and establishments of the Greater Canton Area. While Canton is quite diverse in its economic range of people and size of establishments, these facts do not matter to Joe Albert. On one end Joe can be seen photographing CEOs, on the other end, documenting the lives of Canton's homeless population; most likely having a cigar with both. When asked the purpose of the Characters of Canton page Joe says, "The purpose of this page is to bring awareness to everyone, some have no voice and this page lets them be known. We all are human and we are stronger as a whole." His page has done just that, and then some.

Joe believes that treating people equally is essential not only in his line of work, but in life in general. "I really love getting to know my clients. So often I am granted the honor of photographing the same individual throughout the most memorable milestones in their lives, their senior portrait, engagement photos, their wedding, and ultimately their children. The relationship I have with my clients can be described as a lasting friendship, not a business transaction. These wonderful people have enhanced my life so much over the years!"

While it is easy to get lost in the hustle and bustle of our everyday lives, Joe Albert and his Characters of Canton page remind us of the bigger picture: Character is how you treat those who can do nothing for you.

For more information on Joe, please visit: <http://www.joealbertsignature.com/>



Joe Albert

SPRING IS IN STEP

JUDI CHRISTY//MARKETING & SPECIAL
MGR FIELDCREST ESTATE

In keeping with the calendar, the arts "spring" with sights and sounds, is offering a colorful bouquet to tickle everyone's tastes and budgets.

Rushing to midnight and celebrating the 50th anniversary year, the Canton Ballet offers *Cinderella* on March 12 and 13. Relive the enchantment of this timeless rags to riches tale of poignant yearning, delightful humor, and fulfilled romance with Ugly Stepsisters, a Fairy Godmother, and a Handsome Prince. This everlasting love story turned into a renowned ballet with Prokofiev's high-spirited score, features elaborate costumes and outstanding virtuoso performance that is all the more magical under the starlit skies of the Canton Palace Theatre. Group and other tickets are available by contacting www.cantonballet.org

In keeping with the classics, Players Guild Theatre brings the fantasy tale of Bilbo Baggins to the stage in *The Hobbit*, opening April 8, and running through April 24. Share the adventure as he leaves his home and sets off with a band of adventurers to slay a dragon and recover an enormous treasure, while encountering trolls, elves, goblins, and a host of other freakishly fantastic characters that will capture your heart, imagination, and funny bone. Get your tickets today. www.playersguildtheatre.com

March is the month for *The Big Read*. Kicking off on March 5 and for the ninth consecutive year, thanks to a grant from the national endowment of the arts, Massillon Museum invites everyone to read "In the Time of the Butterflies," by Julia Alvarez. The award-winning author will present a free keynote address on Wednesday, March 23 at the Lincoln Theatre in Massillon. However, all sorts of multi-cultural activities are planned throughout the spring to bring the art and history of this selection to the community. Visit www.massillonmuseum.org for complete details. Also mark your calendar for the compatible exhibit at Massillon Museum, "Masters of American Photography and Gary Harwood: Growing Seasons," opening in March.

While you have art on the brain – rush out –before you miss the closing of three outstanding exhibits at the Canton Museum of Art, currently running through March 6. These include "Moving Toward the Light," large scale paintings from contemporary artist Joseph Raffael; and "BLUE COLLAR" ceramic sculptures from Indiana twins Kyle and Kelly Phelps, whose work, inspired by people in their own lives, reflects the struggles of working class America. Finally, make sure you checkout "Out of the Woods and Into the Ring" a delightful, humorous and sometimes cynical ceramic collection from Kristen Cliffler, that will inspire you to tell your own stories while viewing the work. In April, the CMA hosts, "The Art and the Animal" in cooperation with the Society of Animal Artists and opening on April 26.

If you really want to roar, consider joining SingStark! -- The no-audition, no-commitment chorus, from Voices of Canton, that invites new singers on the third Wednesday of each month at the Canton Brewing Company Speakeasy at 7PM. More info:voicesofcanton.org/singstark And, if you're more of the silent type, mark your calendar for March 19th to attend the "Sounds of Silents" production, at the Canton Palace Theatre. This unique program will feature the VOIC chorus and Jay Spencer at the famous Kilgen organ as they perform a live soundtrack to 1920's silent film 'Beyond the Rocks'. The film stars Gloria Swanson and Rudolph Valentino. That same evening, the Canton Symphony Orchestra will have the tremendous honor of performing the World Premiere of Bel Fleck's second Banjo Concerto! Mr. Fleck performed his Banjo Concerto No. 1 "The Imposter" with the CSO in 2014 and, following that experience, chose the Canton Symphony to premiere his next concerto. And, if this isn't enough enticement, consider that Mr. Fleck has been nominated for 2 Grammy's this year! Get your tickets at www.cantonsymphony.com. And, while on the site, reserve your seat for the Symphony's final performance of the season on April 23 at Umstadd Performing Arts Hall (2323 17th St. NW – Canton).

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT: APRIL COUCH

RICHIE HARPER// MANAGING EDITOR, THE CANTON CONNECTION

PHOTO COURTESY OF APRIL COUCH



Thanks to the vision of Robb Hankins, CEO of ArtsinStark and About magazine's Person of the Year, downtown Canton is the perfect destination for art enthusiasts. Not entirely familiar with art, but certainly appreciative, I made it a goal to visit Second April Galerie & Studios, where I met April Couch. As a relatively new artist to the scene, April's art was something that immediately caught my eye. Crafted with the finest attention to detail, April explained her art as utilizing the "Zentangle method".

"Zentangle is meditation achieved through pattern-making," said April. A Zentangle is a complicated drawing that is built one line at a time. Simple tangles, or patterns, are combined in an unplanned way that grows and changes in unbelievable and amazing ways. Whether you call it Zen Doodle or Zentangle Inspired Art (ZIA), every piece she creates, whether on wood or paper, are unbelievably detailed, unique, and amazing works of art that cannot be duplicated.

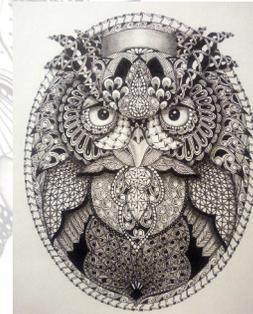
An art form so unique led me to ask April where she found her inspiration for such intricate works of art.

"Mainly from the everyday beauty that surrounds us," said April. If you look at her drawings, you will see detailed plants, flowers, leaves, and berries to name a few. You might also see animals with the fine-line details of Zentangle for an effect that is beautiful and unique.

Something this detailed oriented and awe-inspiring must have been the product of formal training in the arts, right? Think again. April has no formal training and chose to pursue a business degree. Perhaps the artistic talent is genetic then. April's youngest daughter is an amazing young artist. April hopes her journey will be a stepping stone for her daughter as she pursues a career in the arts.

Whether done by business model, genetic design, or through sheer talent, April's art is deserving of the highest admiration.

For more information on April's art, please visit Second April Galerie & Studios located at 324 Cleveland Ave NW, Canton, OH 44702.



MAYOR BERNABEI: NEW LEADERSHIP IN THE CITY OF CANTON

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOE ALBERT





THE CITY OF CANTON

THOMAS M. BERNABEI, MAYOR

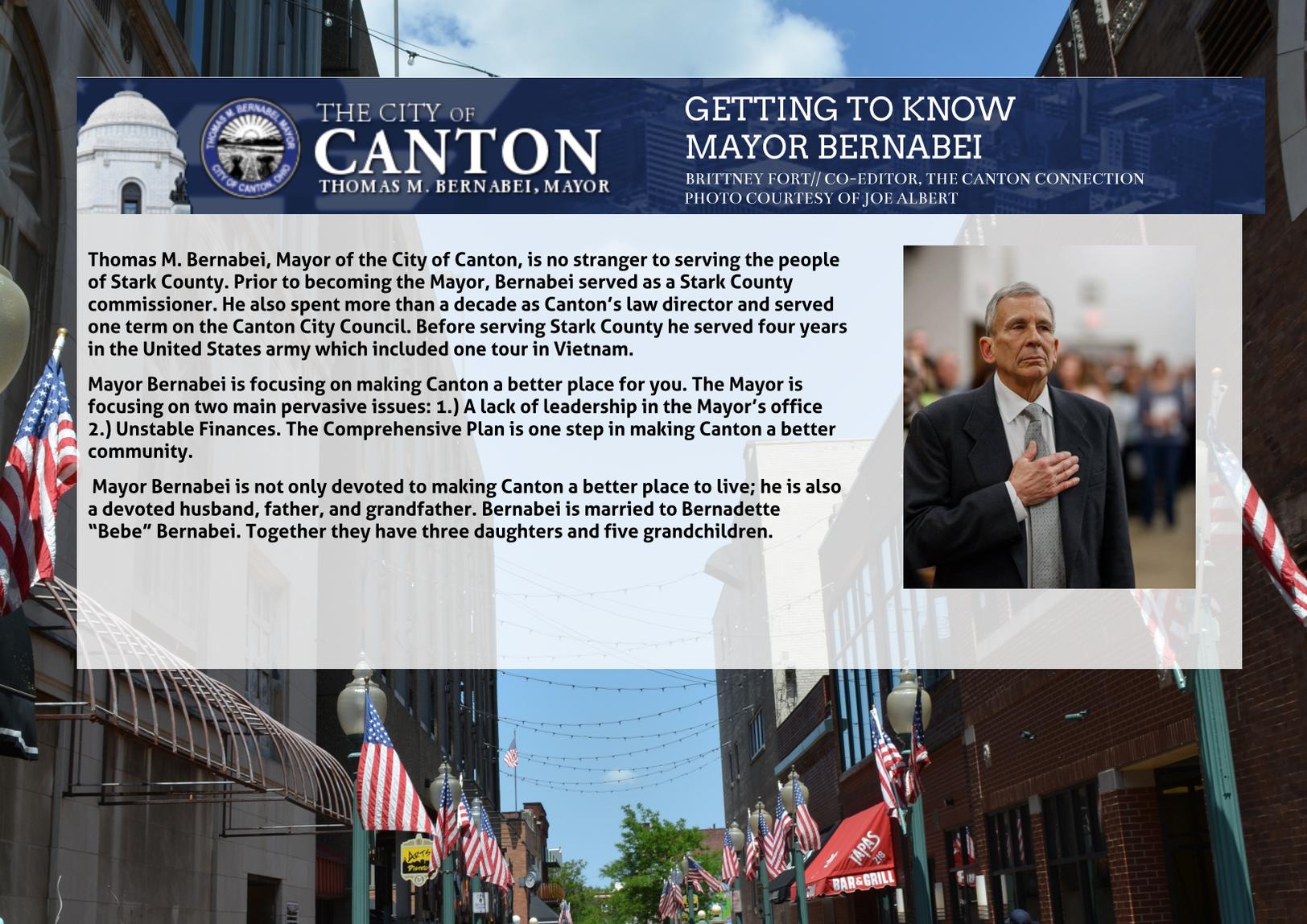
GETTING TO KNOW MAYOR BERNABEI

BRITTNEY FORT// CO-EDITOR, THE CANTON CONNECTION
PHOTO COURTESY OF JOE ALBERT

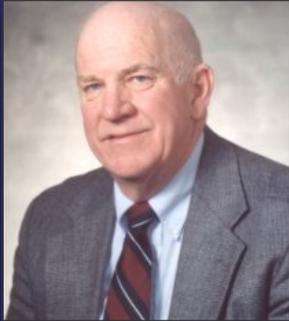
Thomas M. Bernabei, Mayor of the City of Canton, is no stranger to serving the people of Stark County. Prior to becoming the Mayor, Bernabei served as a Stark County commissioner. He also spent more than a decade as Canton's law director and served one term on the Canton City Council. Before serving Stark County he served four years in the United States army which included one tour in Vietnam.

Mayor Bernabei is focusing on making Canton a better place for you. The Mayor is focusing on two main pervasive issues: 1.) A lack of leadership in the Mayor's office 2.) Unstable Finances. The Comprehensive Plan is one step in making Canton a better community.

Mayor Bernabei is not only devoted to making Canton a better place to live; he is also a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. Bernabei is married to Bernadette "Bebe" Bernabei. Together they have three daughters and five grandchildren.



THANK YOU, COUNCILMAN GRIFFIN!



Retiring Councilman, Jim Griffin

The City of Canton would like to thank Jim Griffin for his nearly ten years of service as a Canton City Councilman. Mr. Griffin began his service on January 10, 2005 and retired on December 31, 2015.

As a lifelong resident of Ward 3, Mr. Griffin served with honor, pride, and respect. His focus was on maintaining the safety of the neighborhoods and seeing young families buy homes in Ward 3. Residents say he had a genuine interest in helping families meet their needs.

Mr. Griffin's other involvements include serving as the past President and Secretary of Ex-Newsboys Association, past Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus, as an active member of the Lincoln High School and St. Joseph's Alumni Associations, and as a dedicated member of his church.

We thank Mr. Griffin for all that he has done for our great city and wish him the best in his retirement.

CANTON CITY COUNCIL



President Allen Schulman

330-456-4400



Majority Leader Frank Morris

(Ward 9) **330-224-0913**



Assistant Majority Leader Chris Smith

(Ward 4) **330-327-6376**



At Large James Babcock

330-495-7202



At Large Bill Smuckler

330-327-2761



At Large Tom Harmon

330-268-6834



Ward 1 Greg Hawk

330-455-7333



Ward 2 Thomas West

330-353-0611



Ward 3 Jason Scaglione

330-412-5227



Ward 5 Kevin Fisher

330-412-4681



Ward 6 David Dougherty

330-453-9950



Ward 7 John Mariol

330-705-2397



Ward 8 Edmond Mack

330-323-3755

SANITATION HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Holiday	Work/Off	Pick-up
Martin Luther King Day	Off	One day behind
Presidents Day	Work	On schedule
Good Friday	Work	On schedule
Memorial Day	Off	One day behind
4th of July	Off	One day behind
Labor Day	Off	One day behind
Veterans Day	Work	On schedule
Thanksgiving	Off	One day behind
Christmas Day	Off	On schedule
New Years Day	Off	On schedule