

## BOSTON TOWNSHIP BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

**WHEREAS**, in 1811 the area of Range 11, Town 4 of the Connecticut Western Reserve became known as Boston Township, founded by a group of Connecticut surveyors led by Alfred Wolcott and James Stanford; and

**WHEREAS**, the first settlers of Boston Township were New Englanders, who brought with them their religion and architecture. James Stanford's son, George, was instrumental in 1833 in organizing the Boston Moral Society, the forerunner to the Peninsula United Methodist Church; and

**WHEREAS**, between 1825 and 1827, up to two thousand men worked on the Ohio and Erie Canal, providing an outlet for the area's manufacturing and agricultural products including: lumber, flour, quarried stone and bricks. Many of these men were Irish Catholics from New York and Canada. After the completion of the canal, some of these men settled in the area bringing with them some of the earliest recorded Catholic Church activity in Summit County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cuyahoga Valley Railway opened through Boston Township in 1880, bringing new industries to the community and producing an easier and cheaper way for local products to reach their markets. Farmers began to specialize in dairy and cheese production which became a significant part of the area's economy; and

**WHEREAS**, Boston Township had four major stone quarries that produced millstones for the Quaker Oats Company and stones to build St. Bernard's Church in Akron and lakefront retaining walls in Cleveland. European immigrants found employment at the stone quarries and at the Cleveland-Akron Bag Company and paper factories built in the township at the turn of the century; and

**WHEREAS**, by the 1970s, Boston Township was a comprehensive mixture of agricultural, residential, industrial, recreational and commercial uses. Amid concerns associated with development surrounding the valley area, the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area was established in 1975. The National Park Service bought most properties outright resulting in a 30% decrease in population and by the year 2000 when the area was redesignated as the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, the federal government owned over 80% of Boston Township; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2005, township trustees entered into a Joint Economic Development District with the City of Cuyahoga Falls and over time, sewer and water will be extended to the business corridor district which will allow the township to redevelop the area and also collect a portion of income taxes generated.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it known by all and declared by the Council of the County of Summit, State of Ohio that: This Council recognizes the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Boston Township celebrating its place in Ohio's rich history and salute its residents and officials who've shared in its growth and development.

We urge all citizens to join in honoring Boston Township in receiving this commendation in honor of its Bicentennial Anniversary this 13<sup>th</sup> day of July in the year 2011.



Nick Kostandaras  
Council Vice President  
District 1 Representative