

SCOPE



Summit County, Ohio Planning & Economic Development Newsletter

OCTOBER 2006 ISSUE



County Executive
James B. McCarthy

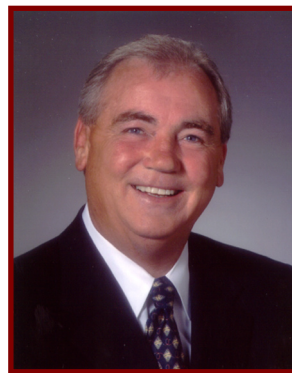
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The SCOPE Newsletter is published quarterly and distributed electronically for townships and municipalities in the County of Summit.

A Message from Executive James B. McCarthy



The Department of Community and Economic Development has had an eventful autumn. The most recent achievements have included the launching of the First Home, First Loan Program, a first-time homebuyer down payment assistance program, and Rebuilding Together, a furnace rehabilitation program to assist senior citizens and low income citizens. These programs illustrate the continued commitment of the County of Summit to best serve the interests of its citizens through its planning and economic development practices.

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Summit County General Land Use Development Plan Update



In July the Department of Community and Economic Development Office mailed out one hard copy of the Summit County General Land Use Development Plan to each Summit County community.

The Summit County General Land Use Development Plan can also be viewed and downloaded from the county's website at: www.co.summit.oh.us/executive/genplan.htm

Planning Department staff is also available to discuss and present the Plan at your community.

Any Summit County community interested in having an individualized presentation of the Summit County General Land Use Development Plan should contact Susan DeChant at 330-643-2005 or sdechant@summitoh.net.

Summit County Planning and GIS Highlighted in NACo Publication

The National Association of Counties (NACo) featured a story on Summit County in its August 2006 County Water Quality Issue. The article details the County's strong commitment to GIS and its use in planning, discussing the genesis of the GIS, the natural resource studies and planning support software, and the Summit County General Land Use Development Plan. The article discusses the integral role GIS has played in environmental analysis - mapping and planning for future land use and development.

October Presentation on the Township Environmental Planning & Zoning Education Program

We are pleased to announce that the Planning Division initiative, the Township Environmental Planning & Zoning Education Program Report has recently been completed. Laura DeYoung, A.I.C. P. from EnviroScience, Inc. and Tom Bowlus, J.D. from Poggemeyer Design Group, will be presenting the Summit County Township Environmental Planning Education Program Report to the Summit County townships on October 24, 2006.

This study was initiated by Summit County Executive James B. McCarthy through the County of Summit Department of Community and Economic Development and was prepared by EnviroScience, Inc. and Poggemeyer Design Group Consultants.

Volume One of this Report is a Review of Environmental Zoning currently available in each township and Volume Two contains Sample Environmental Zoning Regulations that

could be adopted by individual townships.

All Summit County townships will be provided two hard copies of this Report. Summit County cities and villages will soon be given a CD of the Report.

This education program report will provide land use tools that political subdivisions can review and adopt to implement many of the Summit County General Land Use Development Plan recommendations. This education program report is also a result of the Summit County Natural Resources Study completed in 2003 and is intended to provide each township in Summit County with planning and zoning tools and recommendations designed to protect our valuable natural resources. We hope each township will find the education program report useful and will be able to use the recommendations to further improve Summit County's excellent quality of life.

First Home, First Loan Program Launched

On Wednesday, October 11, 2006, Summit County Executive James B. McCarthy's Department of Community and Economic Development launched First Home, First Loan, a first-time homebuyer down payment assistance program, at the Making A Difference Human Service Forum held at the University of Akron Student Union, 303 Carroll Street in Akron.

First Home, First Loan is a first-time homebuyer down payment assistance program that will assist Summit County citizens with the cost of purchasing a home. Through this program, the County of Summit will provide a \$3 to \$1 match for up to \$4,999 of any funds that a prospective homebuyer has to use toward the purchase of a home (maximum match, \$14,997). These funds may be used for closing costs and/or a down payment on a home that is found to be in decent, safe and sanitary condition.

As an extra benefit, there are no monthly payments. Payment on the 2% deferred interest loan is not due until you no longer occupy the home as your primary residence, sell or transfer the property. In addition to financial assistance, the County of Summit will guide First Home, First Loan participants through the entire process of purchasing a home.

To qualify for the First Home, First Loan down payment assistance program, applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Be a first-time homebuyer (a person who has never owned a home, a person who has not owned a home in the last three years, a person who is a displaced homemaker and/or a person who is a single parent);
- Be able to qualify for a mortgage;
- Be willing to purchase a single-family home in Summit County, but outside the cities of Akron, Barberton or Cuyahoga Falls;
- Be willing to purchase a home



that is within the limits determined annually by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development;

- Be able to complete a County of Summit approved first-time homebuyer education class;
- Be willing to participate in post-purchase counseling, if needed;
- Be able to provide a pre-approval letter from a private lending institution; and
- Have a total household income that is between 50%-80% of the Area Median Income (AMI)

For more information, please contact Kathleen Petsko, Community Development Coordinator – HOME at (330) 643-8013 or via email at kpetsko@summitoh.net

Date	Important Events & Deadlines
October 24	Township Environmental Planning and Zoning Education Program Presentation
October 27	OPC Planning and Zoning Conference, Cleveland
November	ODOD director announces Job Ready Sites (JRS) grant award recipients
November 15	12:00PM-District 8 OPWC Integrating Committee Meeting CDBG Action Plan Submitted to HUD
November 16	4:30PM- Planning Commission
December 14	4:30PM- Planning Commission

County of Summit Hosts Annual TIRC Meetings

The County of Summit's Enterprise Zone Tax Incentive Program works closely with local communities to assist companies with their expansion and relocation plans. Over the past twenty years, there have been over 175 Enterprise Zone Agreements resulting in the retention of 21,000 jobs and the creation of 7,000 new jobs. Currently, there are 66 active agreements with companies ranging from traditional manufacturers such as Daimler-Chrysler and PPG to consumer products like Coca-Cola, Pepsi-Cola and Harry London Candies.

Every company receiving a tax incentive is required by the Ohio Revised Code to participate in an annual Tax Incentive Review Council (TIRC) meeting. The TIRC reviews documents relating to matters such as employment level, total payroll and personal property investment. Each company is invited to come before the TIRC and provide an update regarding recent corporate activity. Companies also have the opportunity to answer - in person - any questions that the TIRC may have relating to their level of compliance with regard to the Enterprise Zone Agreement.

During the first two weeks of August, the Department of Community & Economic Development hosted the 2006 TIRC meetings at the Ohio Building in Downtown Akron.

Participating communities included the cities of Barberton, Cuyahoga Falls, Green, Hudson, Macedonia, New Franklin, Stow, Tallmadge and Twinsburg, the villages of Boston Heights and Mogadore and Twinsburg Township. Turnout increased over 2005, with more than 100 individuals from local communities and companies participating in the four-day series of meetings. Local community participants included elected officials, school board members and private citizens. The County of Summit had representation from Executive James B. McCarthy's office, Fiscal Officer John Donofrio's office and Summit County Council.

"The Enterprise Zone program has proven itself to be an effective tool to promote economic development," stated James Oberdorfer, Director of the County of Summit Department of Community & Economic Development. "It is our objective to build a lasting public-private partnership, and the TIRC meetings are a good example of successfully bringing both sectors together."

For more information on the Enterprise Zone Program, please feel free to contact Gregg P. Cramer, Assistant Director of Economic Development at 330-643-8366 or gcramer@summitoh.net.

State Capital Improvement Program Ohio Public Works for You

District 8 received 24 total applications from 15 communities for SCIP/LTIP funding. District 8 was allocated \$8,719,000 for program year 21. \$4.96 million has been allocated for the State Capital Improvement Program (SCIP). These monies can be in the form of grants or loans and can be used for infrastructure such as roads, bridges, culverts, sanitary and storm sewers, and water supply systems. An additional \$3,066,000 has been dedicated to District 8 for the Local Transportation

Improvement Program (LTIP). Derived from state gasoline taxes, LTIP monies are only available in the form of grants. Only roads, bridges, and culverts are eligible for funding under LTIP.

The District 8 Integrating Committee will meet November 15 to finalize its recommended project list. In January 2007 the Committee will forward these recommendations to the Ohio Public Works Commission for funding consideration.

Ohio Job Ready Sites Program

2006 marked the first year of the 7-year, \$150 million Job Ready Sites (JRS) Program. This program was established to assemble an inventory of ready-to-develop sites where future prospective enterprises could locate. The program aims to fill an acute market shortage of large manufacturing, research and development, and smart office locations. The first two funding rounds were combined for calendar year 2006. \$60 million is available this year with the maximum award amount of \$5 million.

The District 8 Integrating Committee is also responsible for approving JRS applications and submitting its recommendations to the State. Unlike the SCIP/LTIP projects, no allocations are guaranteed to the 19 state districts under the JRS program. Thus, Summit County's projects must compete against applications submitted statewide. Nearly 60 applications were submitted throughout the State. District 8 received 5 total applications. All of the projects were excellent and merit serious consideration for JRS funding. Award recipients will be announced in early November.

The following projects from District 8 were recommended to the Ohio Department of Development for funding:

1. Akron Biomedical Corridor - City of Akron
2. White Pond Office Park - City of Akron
3. Lakeside Industrial Site – City of Barberton
4. CAK International Business Park, Phase III – City of Green
5. Stonegate Corporate Park – Village of Richfield

2006 Integrating Committee Members

James B. McCarthy, Executive, County of Summit – Chair District 8

Clair Dickinson, County of Summit Council

Donald Plusquellic, Mayor, City of Akron

John Valle, Deputy Director Public Service, City of Akron – Vice-Chair District 8

Rose Mary Snell, Trustee, Sagamore Hills Township

Richard Huber, Fiscal Officer, Springfield Township

Sam Alonso, Mayor, Village of Reminderville – Secretary District 8

Christopher Grimm, Mayor, City of Tallmadge

Michael Dowdell, Executive Director Community Development, National City Bank

For more information on the State Capital Improvement Program or the Job Ready Sites Program, please contact the District 8 Liaison, Nick Lautzenheiser, at 330-643-7440 or nlautzenheiser@summitoh.net.

HWAP Conducts Successful “Heat the Town Day”

On Saturday October 7, Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP) staff coordinated with Rebuilding Together, to have a successful “Heat the Town Day.” Contractors cleaned and tuned furnaces for 100 senior citizens and low income residents. The program verified that 10 furnaces needed to be replaced and several others needed additional repair. The contractors, Air Conditioning Contractors of America (ACCA) members, volunteered their time and equipment for this project.

OPC Annual Planning and Zoning Conference, Cleveland October 27

The 18th annual Planning and Zoning Workshop, sponsored by the Ohio Planning Conference (OPC), is scheduled for October 27. The workshop will be held in the Wolstein Center at Cleveland State University.