

The City of Canal Fulton and Lawrence Township are one step closer to collaborating on a Joint Comprehensive Plan for our community. The Stark County Regional Planning Commission has submitted a proposal laying out a Scope of Services that they can perform for us. They can provide us with demographic data on the existing population, including age, employment and housing; as well as data on zoning, land use, natural resources, historic resources, agricultural trends, transportation, and infrastructure. The Regional Planning Commission would then identify changes within the City/Township Community that have occurred.

This information would then be analyzed to identify key factors that could affect future growth. Incorporated into this would be an overview of our community's role within the context the Stark County region. This is where you come in.

Mayor John Grogan and members of Council are now inviting concerned citizens to serve on a Joint Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee. The Canal Fulton Mayor and Council and the Lawrence Township Trustees will each appoint six citizens from our community to form a twelve member Committee. The goal is to try to get equal representation from all parts of the city and the township, including our businesses. The deadline to submit letters of interest either by mail or email is August _____.

Joint Comprehensive Plan Committee members will be expected to meet once a month for a period of about one year. All meetings will be open to the general public. This Committee will identify the community's priorities and long-term vision. Plans from other communities will be reviewed. Governmental services will be analyzed and best management practices recommended. Options for community and economic development, types of residential development, transportation and infrastructure planning, zoning, and land use planning will be among the issues discussed and incorporated into the plan.

Canal Fulton has not embarked on anything of this magnitude since the Charter Commission was established when the Village of Canal Fulton became the City of Canal Fulton.

The Canal Fulton Canalway Center was successful its Ohio & Erie Canalway Association grant application for audio visual equipment and interpretive panels. Thanks to the Canal Fulton Park Board for stepping in with monetary support for the local match when there were delays with the grants being awarded. Without the Park Board's help we would have lost an entire season before the audio visual equipment would have been installed.

Thanks also to the Canal Fulton Heritage Society for all the improvements around the Canal Boat Warf and another successful season running the St Helena III Canal Boat. The Heritage Society relies on volunteers to do many of these wonderful things for our community. Volunteers are still needed to conduct tours of the Historic Oberlin and Blank Houses. Anyone interested in volunteering can call the Canal Fulton Heritage Society at (330) 854-3808 or the Canalway Center at (330) 854-6835