

DOWNTOWN

Developments

A publication of Canton Development Partnership



2009 Downtown Event Schedule

Downtown Canton's streetscape comes alive with fun festivals!



First Friday of every month



Now through April 26!

Mark your calendar and plan to attend!

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A venue so heavenly, you can even look down on the angels

HISTORIC CANTON CLUB RE-OPENS AS AN EVENT CENTER

When you step off the elevator and into the Canton Club, recently reopened in November as an event center, you can almost feel the memories swirl and settle around you. From the intricate woodwork and ornate chandeliers, all original to the 1907 Club (in its current location since 1923), one wonders how many feet waltzed across those marble floors.

"People come here to reminisce. I had a woman up here on her phone, and she was describing every minute detail, almost in tears, as she shared the return experience with her friend," said Chuck Schuster, managing partner for the Canton Club Event Center.

Schuster took over management of the once members-only club in November, and threw his first event, a retirement party, on Nov. 30. Six events followed in December, and he had several events on the books for January and February, despite those months being slow industry-wide. Weddings this summer and beyond are filling up fast.

(continued on page four)

First Friday "Tidbits"



First Friday is going to warm things up this spring by bringing you back month after month to celebrate the exquisite food, fun and friends in the ever-expanding Arts District. All month long, people enjoy our incredible restaurants and their fine dining flair, but First Friday buzzes with a unique sensation. It really is a must do!

March 6: Believe in the Arts

Celebrate the local artists that now call Canton home. Participate in a scavenger hunt and win gift certificates to your favorite downtown establishments.

April 3: Art is Alive

After 17 years of celebration, art is as alive as ever in Canton! This two-day art extravaganza will keep you rolling around the Arts District. A free trolley will circumnavigate downtown, delivering

you to your favorite Arts District hotspots like 2nd April Galerie, Studio 5, and many, many more!

Coming this summer!

Coming up, we'll celebrate our monthly downtown party on May 1 with a Spring Fling - shake off your cabin fever and come outside for the return of the ever-exciting critter parade led by puppets! On June 5, Jumpin' June will make you step up the pace with jump rope performances and lots of live music to herald the arrival of summer!

First Friday is presented by ArtsinStark, the County Arts Council, and the Downtown Canton Special Improvement District. For the most up-to-date First Friday information, visit www.CantonDevelopmentPartnership.com and click on the First Friday logo or contact Kelly Blandford Bah at (330) 458-2063 or kellyb@cantonchamber.org.

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The Canton Development Partnership is a coalition of area development organizations and city government that share an interest in downtown Canton's continual improvement, revitalization, image, and quality of life for its citizens.

Its mission is to support and coordinate the activities and programs of its partner organizations in order to encourage and sustain community and economic development in downtown Canton.

The partnering organizations include: Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Canton Special Improvement District, Downtown Canton Land Bank, Canton Tomorrow, Inc., and City of Canton.

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Statements of fact and opinion within Downtown Developments are the responsibility of the authors alone and do not imply the opinion of the members of Canton Development Partnership or its partnering organizations.

Advertising rates and specifications are available by contacting the Chamber sales department at (330) 458-2067.



by Michael P. Gill,
director, Canton
Development
Partnership

Downtown signage & SID renewal process are priorities for 2009

For those of us who live and work in and around downtown, we have become acquainted with the street names and numbers and one way streets. We also know where to find city hall and county services. We direct people to art and entertainment venues, restaurants and retail services.

Visitors, however, find the experience a bit more daunting. In order to make a visit to our downtown easier, the Special Improvement District and the Canton Engineer's office are developing a way-finding/signage concept. This SID Master Plan initiative will create a consistent look for traffic and pedestrian way-finding. Visitors will be able to rely on consistent looking signs to direct them to notable locations such as the Canton Memorial Civic Center and the Cultural Center for the Arts, Canton City Hall, the county office building, First Ladies' Library and Museum, and the Classic Car Museum. Signs will also identify our arts district. Our goal is to create a user friendly system of signs that make it easier to navigate our central business district and to create more activity downtown. Look for the signage in the coming months!

Another important task to be accomplished in 2009 will be the renewal of the Downtown Canton Special Improvement District. Throughout the year, staff of the SID will be working closely with the City of Canton to prepare all of the necessary legislation and to address the administrative procedures to

ensure another successful SID renewal. The present SID expires at the end of 2009 and the proposed renewal will be in effect from 2010 through 2013. This renewal will represent our fourth consecutive SID plan. Over the years, property owners have voted affirmatively to operate the SID downtown. Their constant support has allowed the SID to do great things. Through a partnership with the City of Canton and the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce, the SID has been successful in revitalizing our downtown by devoting itself to downtown aesthetics, creating activity and supporting economic development. The work of the SID has led to a climate that has attracted significant development and activity downtown. As we petition property owners to again support the SID, we look forward to even more development and revitalization in downtown Canton.

Finally, as we enter into uncertain economic times, it becomes even more important to support our local downtown retailers, restaurants, artists and entertainment venues. Thanks for your continued support of downtown Canton. ●

space available

Downtown Canton renovation opportunity!
The Renkert Building at 306 Market Avenue N has high-quality office space with the convenience of the downtown Canton business assets.

25,000 square feet of office space available now!

For more information contact Mike Gill at the Canton Development Partnership at (330) 458-2090.



business spotlight

Gerardo Cisneros, M.D.

Mercy Professional Care Corporation
601 Cleveland Ave. N.W. • Canton, Ohio 44702
Phone: (330) 456-8592

Mexico City. New Orleans. Houston. L.A. In total, Gerardo Cisneros has lived in seven major cities in Mexico and the United States, each with a population of at least one million. Now, after calling Stark and Summit Counties home for more than a decade, he says Northeast Ohio is the peaceful place to be.

An internal medicine physician and specialist in wound care and hyperbaric oxygen therapy with Mercy Professional Care Corporation, Dr. Cisneros – a native of Tijuana, Mexico – remembers his first glimpse of Ohio in spring.

"I flew into Cleveland on a sunny day in May and everything was completely green. Even from the plane, I could see so much water, so many rivers. It has been the perfect place for someone like me, who loves nature and the outdoors in any season," said Dr. Cisneros.

First Downtown Canton Practice

Certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine, Cisneros has been caring for area residents since 2001, after completing his residency through NEOUCOM (Northeastern Ohio Universities Colleges of Medicine) and its affiliated Canton hospitals. Last year he opened downtown Canton's first general internal medicine practice for individuals age 14 and older on the second floor of the Metropolitan Centre.

He describes the facility – located at 601 Cleveland Ave. N.W. – as the best of both worlds, blending the character of a building that's nearly a century old with the convenience of modern technology and energy-efficiency. Originally built by the Knights of Columbus in 1919, the Metropolitan Centre became Ohio's first restored "green" building in 2007, and includes a ballroom, restaurant, jazz club and roof-top patio.

Cisneros' 2,200-square-foot office is handicapped accessible and provides a comfortable, contemporary patient-care setting, convenient parking and easy access to public transportation. The practice is also connected to Mercy Medical Center systems for fast, real-time hospital and patient updates.

"Many of my patients work in the downtown area, just a short walk or bus ride from the Metropolitan Centre," he said.



Because of Cisneros' fluent Spanish, about a quarter of his patients are Latino. Some travel from as far away as Alliance, Wooster and New Philadelphia for care. To make scheduling easier for these patients, his receptionist is bilingual.

He notes, however, that language simply opens the door to communication; the key to comprehension is culture.

"Whether from the U.S., one of many Latin American nations or somewhere else, to fully understand a patient's concerns, you must have some understanding of his or her culture," said Cisneros. "Caring for people of different ages, personalities and heritage is what I like most about being a physician. I enjoy making a difference in patients' lives, sometimes a little, sometimes significantly."

Best-Kept Secret

When he's not caring for patients, Cisneros enjoys traveling, spending time outdoors and cooking. He also displays his passion for photography at his office, where all the framed photos are his own.

He appreciates the more peaceful pace of living in the Midwest, which allows him to dedicate more time to family and friends, both locally and abroad. Very excited to be part of Canton's downtown revitalization, he says the area's quality of life is one of its best-kept secrets.

He adds, "There is so much potential in this beautiful area, so many great projects going on. I want to continue to be involved in the excellent work that is going on here in Stark County."

Dr. Cisneros is currently accepting new patients. To set an appointment, call (330) 456-8592. ●



Big times in the big city

By Floyd E. Orszak

When I was a very young boy growing up in the very small town of Mineral City, going "up to Canton" was like going to Oz. I have great memories of going to Kresges with my Mom. Sometimes after she finished shopping, we would get a banana split at the soda fountain or go over to The Palace for a matinee. Back in the day, there was a little diner across the street from the theatre that we would stop in to have homemade pie with vanilla ice cream. These were big times for a five year old.

Well, at 55 and a Canton resident, I still get excited about going downtown. And what's even more exciting is that I have the pleasure of being involved in the rejuvenation of our wonderful city. The company I work for has been a part of the renovation of many of our classic downtown buildings. We have worked with Coon Restoration on the Northmark Building, the new American Red Cross, Little Chicago, and a city treasure, the Canton Club. As you can see, I am a big fan of bringing our downtown back to life. This is a great time in Canton history for those that want to participate in this effort. The Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce is a very energetic and active group of people. They encourage the people of Stark County to get involved in the many events that they coordinate and sponsor. I have personally been involved with Zing in the City and I have been a member of the Canton Blues Festival committee for the past five years.

So, join in Canton. It is in all of our best interests to have a strong core. Come downtown and experience your city. I think some of you will be pleasantly surprised. The rest of you already know what I'm talking about!

Floyd E. Orszak
Operations Manager, Roricks, Inc. ●

Provocative NEW MURAL to debut downtown



he creator of *Homage (sans da Vinci)*, “*Mother of Invention*,” and the art deco style of the Millennium

Parking Deck murals downtown will be bringing his vision to a new mural on the corner of Fifth Street and Cleveland Avenue NW.

Tommy Morgan’s raw new mural, “*Shattered Expressions*,” takes onlookers from rage, through sorrow, to joy, via oversized 12’ x 12’ panels. Each panel will be sculpted out of high-density foam, sealed with hard-coated cement, and finished with an application of colorful acrylic shards, accenting the contour of each expression.

Morgan provides custom paintings, wall treatments, sculptures, murals and other artistic services and consultation. His view of artistic expression is simple and solitary – he seeks to provoke or convey emotion. Nothing more, nothing less.

“‘*Mother of Invention*’ pays tribute to the steel industry, ‘*Homage*’ pays tribute to the masters, as well as the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Even the Millennium parking deck has a decorative purpose,” said Morgan. “‘*Shattered Expressions*’ is truly art for the sake of art. No trump loi, no story-telling, no tribute. Just raw emotion.”

Morgan hopes that his latest creation will serve Canton for a lifetime, becoming an iconic and timeless downtown Canton landmark.

For more information about Morgan and his work, or to become a contributor to this project, please visit www.morganfactory.com or call (561) 707-4269. ●



‘*Shattered Expressions*’ aims to shatter the standards for art in downtown Canton!

Canton Club ... (continued from cover)

How has the reopened event center overcome previous problems? Now under Schuster’s control, the Canton Club permits customers to bring in *any professional caterer they wish*, so long as the caterer meets some basic requirements. So far, Iris Restaurant, Sanese Services, Peter Shears, Chef Mark D’Antonio of Acme Foods, Primos, Fedeli Restaurant, Dishes by Design and several other proprietors have all been added to the preferred vendors list and they’ve booked their own events at the Canton Club. Schuster wants his customers to feel like they have complete choice when it comes to their event, but that his operation truly provides an “above and beyond” full-service experience, as evidenced by a recent bridal show in late February, featuring floral, limo, gown and photography vendors, in addition to caterers.

“The Canton Club as an event center has two problems to overcome – the first is location. It’s difficult to describe where we’re located, so we’ve installed a canopy at the Tuscarawas Street entrance,” said Schuster. “The second problem is more difficult to overcome – we have a high-cost perception. The truth is that we’re very affordable. Right now our rental price ranges from only \$175 to \$975, depending on your needs.”

A Canton native, Schuster has worked in Canton his entire life, and was previously executive chef at The Rib Cage. He also worked for the Stark County Family Court for 32 years. After many years in the kitchen, he wants to explore the other side of the business so managing the Canton Club is the perfect place for him.

“I’m an ‘urban kid,’ I have fond childhood memories of coming downtown. The perceptions about Canton are changing – I had to drive around and around, looking for a parking space at First Friday. It’s incredible!” said Schuster.

No question, Schuster is definitely at home at the top of Stark County’s tallest building. And he’s not alone – his second-in-command, and a guaranteed guest at all of the events, is a peregrine falcon named Priscilla. Priscilla joined the Canton Club in 1999 and resides on the 14th floor in a nesting house by the kitchen.

If you’re interested in checking out the Canton Club for your event, you can stop up for a spectacular view of the crowds on an upcoming First Friday, when the Club hosts open houses with live music, cocktails and appetizers, and dinners by Peter Shears and other area venues. A full list of upcoming special events is available online.

But the big question on everyone’s mind – will they bring back the Canton Club’s *signature sticky buns*?

“Great news on that front! We found the woman who made the sticky buns in the 1970s and we’re bringing them back – they’ll be on the menu for special events and for carryout!” said Schuster.

Visit www.cantonclubevents.com or call Schuster at (330) 454-2582 to discuss hosting your next event, large or small, at the Canton Club. ●



Looking inside ...

the Cultural Center for the Arts: CANTON BALLET



Crowley directs an intermediate class full of future performers!

The Cultural Center for the Arts is filled with great entertainment for the art-hungry county, but it's also a training ground for some of the most talented dancers in Northeast Ohio – dancers that will go on to startlingly promising careers through their dedication, drive and diligence in dance.

Founded in 1965, the Canton Ballet has a long history of training young people to achieve their artistic dreams. Canton Ballet is a non-profit organization committed to fostering an appreciation for the art of dance within the Canton community. The school is dedicated to providing the highest quality of artistic instruction for all age and skill levels, and offering a pre-professional company with performances for serious, career-oriented and talented students.

Under the direction of artistic and executive director, Cassandra Crowley, the school of the Canton Ballet is known as one of the finest pre-professional dance schools in the United States. Crowley places strong emphasis on staff development and her guidance assures the highest caliber of training for future professional dancers as well as for those who simply love the art of dance.

While the arts explode throughout Canton/Stark County, Crowley feels that their attendance has been steady.

"We're no longer struggling by ourselves – there's a great deal of support for the arts and many arts organizations in our community. We've felt the support," said Crowley.

Canton Ballet has 325 students enrolled, beginning with the "Mommy or Daddy and Me" toddler classes through teen and adult classes. Once a student reaches a particular place in their training and their skill, they may audition to join the performing group – comprised of students who practice up to six days and about 20 hours per week in classes and rehearsals. Depending on skill and individual student growth, students typically study for five to eight years before becoming a member of the performing company.

The company has launched the careers of many talented dancers; alumni have gone on to dance or direct in respected companies around the country, including New York City Ballet, Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Ohio Ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, Colorado Ballet, Nashville Ballet, Ballet Omaha, Duluth Ballet, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company II, the London stage productions of *Fame and Cats* and other national and international touring companies of Broadway shows. An honor company member of Regional Dance America since 1984, Canton Ballet under her direction has been selected to perform in 21 Gala programs over the last 24 years. One dancer, local celebrity Ashley Spencer, is currently starring in her second Broadway production as Sandy in *Grease*, after appearing in *Hairspray*!

"We seem to be a rather well-kept secret," said Crowley. "When we do something recognizable, something with a story attached to it, like *The Nutcracker*, people come to the performances, but our dancers LOVE to perform new works that offer a variety of dances. We need to get the word out about some of the more eclectic performances so that more people can experience our talented company!"

Crowley and her staff work to constantly revolutionize the company, adding new and exciting performances to the repertoire and brining in various choreographers in order to keep performances fresh and enticing. One such choreographer is Saeko Ichinohe, who runs a dance group in New York. Crowley says her dancers are excited for the transformation into intricate Japanese dancers for their performance of *Whispering Winds* this April. The performance celebrates the KIMONO exhibit and will give the audience a taste of the heroic samurai, the beautiful cherry blossoms and the thrill of combining classical ballet with modern movement.

Crowley joined Canton Ballet in 1980 from her position at the Lexington ballet in Kentucky, where she was ballet mistress. She's been the Canton Ballet's artistic director for 28 years, and just this year added executive director to her position. As artistic director, Crowley oversees all dancer training, performance selection, and the preparation of all performers, musicians, choreographers, sets, costumes and lighting. In short, she's responsible for all creative decisions and management for the school and company. As executive director, she dedicates her time to budgeting, grants and fundraising for the company, including the Canton Ballet's 2nd annual raffle to underwrite live music in the classrooms, with a Disney vacation grand prize!

Crowley began her dance career with Jan Collum and BalletTacomia in Washington State. She performed professionally in England, France and Slovenia, as well as in the United States and received a master's degree in dance from Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana.

For more information about the company or the school, visit www.cantonballet.com.

Look for our upcoming **LOOKING INSIDE** pieces, as we explore all of the fantastic organizations of the Cultural Center for the Arts in future issues of *Downtown Developments!* ●



Canton Cabaret
Dinner theater with a Dance Floor!

LIFE IS A SONG WORTH SINGING
A Tribute to Johnny Mathis
March 20 & 27
Dinner/Show \$42.50 Show \$25.00

Kent LeMar

McKinley Grand Hotel Ballroom
330.280.6507 ccdreservations@yahoo.com



The Metropolitan Centre
BILL THEISS, Marketing Manager

601 N. Cleveland Ave. ■ Canton, OH 44702
330.754.0365 phone ■ 330.754.0366 fax
btheiss@starkmha.org

SWELL RETAILERS swell in downtown Canton

Looking for somewhere new to shop? Seeking the latest trends for your home, or searching for a statement art piece to hang above the mantle? If it's time to treat yourself or your loved one to an extra-special sparkler, and you want something distinctive and glamorous, look no further than downtown Canton!

With everything from **Christian bookstores, floral gift shops, home furnishings, art galleries, jewelers and more** - Canton has unique finds and one-of-a-kind gifts unparalleled in other reaches of our county. Canton's burgeoning downtown retail landscape provides a variety of locally-owned and operated retailers, galleries and studios. There are plenty of well-established, timeless Canton favorites, as well as new, up and coming shops downtown - with more on the way this year!

Planning a shopping extravaganza? Head downtown for the day! Spend a sunny weekend afternoon enjoying one of the many fine luncheon spots and shop until you drop, or come down later in the day for an abundance of shopping and a fun dinner with friends.

Wondering what great retailers await you? Here's a full lineup of current retailers:

APPAREL & ACCESSORIES

Ace Men's Wear
207 Market Ave. N
(330) 455-7510

C&J Enterprises
132 Fifth St. NW
(330) 452-2000

Dumont's Sporting Goods
1003 McKinley Ave. NW
(330) 455-5267

ART GALLERIES & STUDIOS

2nd April Galerie & Studios
324 Cleveland Ave. NW
(330) 451-0924
www.secondapril.org

Lynda Tuttle's Art Center
209 Sixth St. NW
(330) 452-8211

ACME Artists
332 Fourth St. NW
(330) 452-2263
www.acmeartists.com

Anderson Creative
331-333 Cleveland Ave. N
(330) 280-1606
andersoncreativestudio.com

Art Adventures Studio
336 Fourth St. NW
(330) 371-3150
www.artadventuresstudio.com

Bliss Studio
334 Fourth St. NW
(330) 418-2782

Creative Juices Communications & Zephyr Wind Art
337 Cleveland Ave. NW
(330) 438-1909

DA Studio
340 Fourth St. NW
(330) 454-5384
A Gift for You
339 Cleveland Ave. NW
Ohio Arts and Crafts Guild
338 Fourth St. NW
(330) 456-0477

BEAUTY

Aura Salon & Spa
215 Market Ave. N Ste. 300
(330) 456-3889
www.aura-experience.com

Hair Solutions
310 Third St. NW
(330) 456-2328
London's Hair Design
219 Fifth St. NW
(330) 454-0455
S&A Beauty
417 Market Ave. N
(330) 455-6008

FLORAL, SWEETS & GIFTS

Anderson's Flower Shop
413 Twelfth St. NW
(330) 452-4077

Canton Flower Shop
201 Market Ave. S
(330) 453-0183

Carpe Diem Coffee
215 Market Ave. N
(330) 455-2326

Heggy's Candy Co.
743 Cleveland Ave. SW
(330) 455-7703

Muggswigz Coffee & Tea Co.
137 Walnut Ave. NE
(330) 452-6336
www.muggswigz.com

Sheri's Sweets
401 Market Ave. N
(330) 454-8585

GIFT SHOPS

aah Bella's Giftbaskets
310 Fourth St. NW
(330) 455-0994
Canton Classic Car Museum Gift Shop
Market Ave. and Sixth St. SW
(330) 455-3603
www.cantonclassiccarr.org

Canton Museum of Art Gift Shop
1001 Market Ave. N
(330) 453-7666
www.cantonart.org

Comics Cards & Collectibles
724 Cleveland Ave. SW
(330) 456-8907
First Ladies' Tea Room & Gift Shop
421 Tuscarawas St. E
(330) 458-4832
www.firstladiestearoom.com

National First Ladies' Library Gift Shop
331 S. Market Ave.
(330) 452-0876
www.firstladies.org
Pro Football Hall of Fame Festival Store
222 Market Ave. N
(330) 456-7253
Wm. McKinley Presidential Library & Museum Shoppe
800 McKinley Monument Dr.
(330) 455-7043
www.mckinleymuseum.org

HOME FURNISHINGS

Sarafina Inspired Décor Solutions
208 Court Ave. NW
(330) 456-9720
www.sarafinafabric.com

JEWELERS

Capestrain Jewelers
235 Cleveland Ave. NW
(330) 456-4443

Gasser Jewelers
205 Third St. NW
(330) 452-3204
www.gasserjewelers.com
Jülz by Alan Rodriquez
220 Market Ave. N
(330) 493-9300
www.julzbyalan.com

MAGAZINES, NEWSPAPERS & BOOKS

Christian Science Reading Room and Bookstore
217 Third St. NW
(330) 452-6342
The News Depot
220 Market Ave. S
(330) 454-4441
The Paperback Mart
435 McKinley Ave. NW
(330) 452-2119

PHARMACIES & CONVENIENCE

Dollar Respect
425 Market Ave. N
(330) 453-8887
Rite Aid
227 Market Ave. N
(330) 454-4932

TAILORS & SHOE REPAIR

Cobbler at the Canton Square
213 Market Ave. N.
(Lower Level)
(330) 456-1010
Domenico the Tailor
400 Fourth St. NW
(330) 454-4888



Spring awakening at the Canton Farmers' Market

The winter thaw brings a plethora of new activity, and the Canton Farmers' Market is no exception. Farmers are already out working their land to bring you the freshest, most delicious local produce available. The market is set to **open its sixth year on June 19** and run from 8 to 11:30 a.m. in the lot at Cleveland Ave. N between Fourth and Fifth Streets. The market will run every Saturday, rain or shine, through October 19.

The 2009 market will be our strongest yet, with several new vendors and activities to start your summer Saturday mornings off right.

The market has space for new produce vendors as well as limited space for cottage industry and artist vendors. Spaces are reserved on a first come, first served basis - don't miss the opportunity to join this bountiful downtown market!

Vendor applications are currently available for download at www.CantonFarmersMarket.com or by calling market manager, Kelly Blandford Bah, at (330) 458-2063.

For the latest updates, sign up for the Canton Farmers' Market Newsletter at www.CantonFarmersMarket.com.

Turtles and ducks and ... rhinos? *Oh my!*

Patrick Buckohr, mastermind behind the "critters" recycled art sculptures, can't help but transform downtown Canton into a jungle. His larger than life critters delight children and return adults to their childhood fantasies, and now he's set his sights on bringing the lifelike animals of the savanna home to Canton.

Beginning with a realistic rhinoceros, these urban animals will be formed from steel skeletons and life-like rubber skin.

"I intended the critters as giant toys - they are larger than life, like walking around inside an enormous toy box," said Buckohr.

The rubber rhino sculpture will be smaller than its Critter cousins, at 110 percent life-size, approximately ten feet long and six to seven feet tall. The rhino project is a prototype for future animals, as its skin lends itself well to the medium. But Buckohr imagines creating other animals, a baby elephant perhaps or more exotic, challenging creatures, like an ostrich. Buckohr learned to use retread adhesive from Ziegler Tire and gets the shredded rubber from Liberty Tire Recyclers. The shredded rubber is a first cut, and unlike the small pieces that cushion children's playground equipment, the pieces that

Buckohr will use are big hunks of rubber, the length of an arm. The rubber is stretched over steel frames.

"We're skinning the frames with recycled tires. It's traditional armature, except we're substituting clay with rubber. In art, you have to be willing to experiment," said Buckohr.

He believes that art from recycled materials is the right thing to do for our planet, and while he's dedicated to his craft, he's part of a growing movement looking to transform Canton into a center for green art and green artists.

"We're trying to make Canton a 'green art Mecca'," said Buckohr. "We're in the middle of America's trashcan, the heart of the rust belt, and that lends itself to sculptures and other projects created out of recycled materials. It's the perfect fit."

Buckohr, a graduate of The University of Akron, began his formal career as a graphic designer, though he fell in love with Jackson Pollock when he was only six years old. He was working on a mural when Steven Slesnick asked if he could build a dragon out of scrap metal, which he and fellow Canton artist Joseph Close ultimately completed together. The concept helped launch the downtown critters, and Buckohr's passion for sculpture.

Buckohr doesn't like to be limited by choice of artistic medium. In fact, he even began an apprenticeship at Hammers' Tattoo last October. Ultimately, Buckohr wishes to expand his studio and offer artists a new kind of opportunity: a post-baccalau-

reate program aimed at teaching artists how to make money in their chosen craft.

"We don't have an apprenticeship for the arts. We teach students in other trades how to work, how to make a living in plumbing, masonry and electrical work," said Buckohr. "Why not teach our artists how to make a living?"

Buckohr believes that in order to market Canton as a prime community for the arts and for artists, we need to bring new excitement to the arts district, give visitors a reason to return downtown to see what's happening, to see what's NEW in art. He calls on his fellow artists to help grow the standard for art in Canton in order to ensure the long-term survival of the art community in Stark County and to appeal to new artists.

What's next on Buckohr's ever-expanding arts lineup?

The rhino unveiling is scheduled for the March First Friday. Buckohr hopes to sell the concept to Terry's Tire Town for rotating display at store locations. Beyond the recycled tire sculptures, there's another school on the horizon - a school of fish, that is.

"We've been talking about creating hundreds of fish, a whole school, from recycled materials!" said Buckohr.

For more information on Buckohr, and to view a portfolio, visit www.buckohr.com or myspace.com/PatrickBuckohr.

IlluminArts combines art and education in an exciting all day **CELEBRATION**



IlluminArts will host a day of interactive art appreciation, exploration and celebration for the Stark County community. The event, dubbed **IlluminArts Celebration**, is scheduled for **March 28 at Timken Senior High School**, 521 Tuscarawas St. W in downtown Canton. IlluminArts Celebration is the fourth annual arts festival produced by IlluminArts, an all volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the arts throughout Stark County and the surrounding area.

The IlluminArts Celebration, a collaboration of IlluminArts and the Canton City Schools, with funding support from ArtsinStark, the County Arts Council and the Downtown Canton Special Improvement District, is **FREE and open to the public**. Celebration will feature hands-on activities for all ages, musical and theatrical performances, workshops, demonstrations, exhibits and food.

"Once again, the day will encompass all genres of art: music, visual arts, theatre, dance, written word and those falling under the heading of 'beyond tra-

dition,'" said Janie Pavlek, Celebration chairwoman. "It promises to be an amazing day of interactive arts appreciation, exploration and celebration in our county seat's wonderfully revitalized downtown!"

Celebration will showcase the results of the recent IlluminArts Mentoring Program, involving more than 30 artists and more than 100 high school students. In addition, the event will feature a Teen Art Show, top photos from the Picture It! Program, involving youngsters from the Massillon Boys & Girls Club, Battle of the Brush, in which professional and student artists compete in a mural painting contest for prizes, and performances by area high school rock bands.

The annual arts event is supported by donations from individuals, businesses and entities including ArtsinStark, which recently awarded IlluminArts a \$3,000 grant to help underwrite the Mentoring Program.

Merele Kinsey, COMPASS project manager for the United Way of Greater Stark County, is IlluminArts president. **Janie Pavlek**, owner of Creative Juices Communications & Zephyr Wind Art in Canton, is Celebration chairwoman. **Rod Meadows**, of Motter & Meadows Architects, and **Barbara Rosenberg**, IlluminArts board member, are in charge of the Mentoring Program. **Nancy Juhasz**, vice president of IlluminArts, and **Steve Pedro**, assistant director of the Massillon Boys & Girls Club, are in charge of the Picture It! program, **Vicki Boatright**, artist and owner of Art Adventures Studios, is coordinating Battle of the Brush, and **Deloris Angeli**, owner of Plant Et Art and creator of Art Is Alive, is in charge of the Teen Art Show.

For more information about Celebration or to learn more about becoming a sponsor, call **(330) 268-0012**.

What, Where, When ...

Through April 26 **Kimono as Art: The Landscapes of Itchiku Kubota** - Work of Toshiko Takaezu
www.CantonArt.org

Feb. 27 - Mar. 15 **God's Favorite**
Players Guild Theatre
www.PlayersGuildTheatre.com

MARCH

1 **Sound of Music Sing-a-long**
The Palace Theatre
www.CantonPalaceTheatre.org

2-21 **O.H.S.A.A. Boys Basketball Tournament**
Canton Civic Center
www.CantonCivicCenter.com

5, 12, 26 **Art Film**
The Palace Theatre
www.CantonPalaceTheatre.org

6 **First Friday - Believe in the Arts**
Downtown Arts District
www.CantonFirstFriday.com

6 **ArtsInStark Kickoff**
St. Pats Day - The Palace Theatre
www.CantonPalaceTheatre.org

7 **Battle of the Bands**
The Palace Theatre
www.CantonPalaceTheatre.org

8 **Kimono as Art - Songs from the Japanese**
Cable Recital Hall
www.CantonVOCI.org

8 **Academy Award Series**
The Palace Theatre
www.CantonPalaceTheatre.org

10 **Eleanor Roosevelt Red Cross Day**
National First Ladies' Library
www.FirstLadies.org

11 **Young People's Concerts**
w/ "Bash the Trash" - Umstadt Hall
www.CantonSymphony.org

12 **Aultman Cameo Concert**
Cultural Center for the Arts
www.CantonSymphony.org

13-15 **Academy Award Series**
The Palace Theatre
www.CantonPalaceTheatre.org

14 **"The Voice of the American Soul"**
The Story of Singer Marian Anderson
National First Ladies' Library
www.FirstLadies.org

14 **History Day (Snow Day March 21)**
Wm. McKinley Presidential Library and Museum
www.McKinleyMuseum.org

15 **All-Star Cheerleading**
Canton Civic Center
www.CantonCivicCenter.com

18-19 **"Amelia & Eleanor"**
National First Ladies' Library
www.FirstLadies.org

20 **Canton Idol Final**
The Palace Theatre
www.CantonPalaceTheatre.org

21 **Nancy Reagan Caring Hands Day**
National First Ladies' Library
www.FirstLadies.org

21-22, 27-28 **Academy Award Series**
The Palace Theatre
www.CantonPalaceTheatre.org

27-29 **Tadmor Shrine Circus**
Canton Civic Center
www.CantonCivicCenter.com

29 **Brian Regan Live in Concert**
The Palace Theatre
www.CantonPalaceTheatre.org

30 **Tea with the Curator: "Women's Suffrage"**
Pre-paid reservations required
Wm. McKinley Presidential Library and Museum, www.McKinleyMuseum.org

APRIL

1 **Canton Ballet School Performance**
The Palace Theatre
www.CantonPalaceTheatre.org

1 **Senior Expo**
Canton Civic Center
www.CantonCivicCenter.com

3 **First Friday - Art is Alive**
Downtown Canton Arts District
www.CantonFirstFriday.com

3-4 **Canton Ballet Presents Japanese Dances** - The Palace Theatre
www.CantonPalaceTheatre.org

3-5 **O.C.M.A State Dart Tournament Championships**
Canton Civic Center
www.CantonCivicCenter.com

5 **Hollywood Hit Movie**
The Palace Theatre
www.CantonPalaceTheatre.org

9, 16, 23, 30 **Art Film**
The Palace Theatre
www.CantonPalaceTheatre.org

10-11 **Hollywood Hit Movie**
The Palace Theatre
www.CantonPalaceTheatre.org

11 **Lou Hoover Physical Fitness Day**
National First Ladies' Library
www.FirstLadies.org

14 **Theory of a Dead Man**
The Palace Theatre
www.CantonPalaceTheatre.org

15-16 **100 Years of Broadway and Desserts**
Cable Recital Hall
Cultural Center for the Arts
www.CantonVOCI.org

17 **3 Stooges Film Festival**
The Palace Theatre
www.CantonPalaceTheatre.org

17-26 **Princess and the Pea**
Players Guild Theatre
www.PlayersGuildTheatre.com

18-19 **Sesame Street Live: Elmo Makes Music**
Canton Civic Center
www.CantonCivicCenter.com

18-19 **Hollywood Hit Movie**
The Palace Theatre
www.CantonPalaceTheatre.org

19 **About Magazine Showcase Series**
St. Paul's Episcopal Church - Downtown
www.CantonSymphony.org

20 **VOCI Scholarship Luncheon**
Cultural Center for the Arts
www.CantonVOCI.org

20 **2009 Amster-Kirtz Trade Show**
Canton Civic Center
www.CantonCivicCenter.com

21 **2009 Celebrity Cuisine**
Canton Civic Center
www.CantonCivicCenter.com

22 **Volunteer Recognition**
Wm. McKinley Presidential Library and Museum, www.McKinleyMuseum.org

23-26 **O.C.M.A. State Pool Tournament Championships**
Canton Civic Center
www.CantonCivicCenter.com

24-26 **Hollywood Hit Movie**
The Palace Theatre
www.CantonPalaceTheatre.org

25 **Giacomo Puccini's Madame Butterfly**
Umstadt Hall, www.CantonSymphony.org

30 **Soup at Six: "Meyers Lake Revisited"**
Pre-paid reservations required
Wm. McKinley Presidential Library and Museum, www.McKinleyMuseum.org

For more downtown event information log on to www.cantondevelopmentpartnership.com

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