

City of Canton Community Assessment and Comprehensive Plan  
Draft 12, January 30, 2006

Prepared by: Long Range Planning Task Force,  
Canton Community Betterment Group<sup>1</sup>

## Section 1: Human Resources

The most valuable resource of any community is its people. The community of Canton works in a variety of ways to meet the physical, social and emotional needs of its citizens and to create a healthy environment for all.

### 1.1 Volunteerism:

It is hard to find an hour during Canton's week when a volunteer meeting or activity is not underway. The City is the scene of enormous volunteer energy as citizens meet and plan community, church, school, social services and governmental programs, all running on a financial shoestring, but all powered by an enormous commitment to service and community. The Canton community responds magnificently to emergency disasters such as the 2005 business district fire, the 2003 tornado and the 1993 Mississippi River flood.

Key community organizations are described in **Attachment I**. In addition, many of the community's churches are working to support community needs, develop youth groups and sponsor mission programs. Culver-Stockton College actively encourages service-learning activities among its students. Canton R-V students are actively involved through school groups such as the R-V Key Club.

### 1.2 Health and Social Services

Citizens have access to a range of health and social services within a thirty-mile radius. There are two general medical clinics and a dental clinic in Canton. Both medical clinics accept Medicaid patients. Blessing Hospital in Quincy, Illinois is 20 miles and Hannibal Regional Hospital in Hannibal, Missouri is 30 miles away.

The closest Alzheimer's Family Support Group is at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, Illinois (20 miles) or Hannibal Regional Hospital in Hannibal, Missouri (30 miles). Outpatient counseling and rehabilitation for alcohol or drug abuse may be done in Quincy, Illinois or Hannibal, Missouri. There are several options for Canton residents with mental health needs. Outpatient mental health services are available in the city through Crossroads Counseling Center in Canton. The service provides several types of therapeutic approaches with adults, adolescents, children ages three and older, and families. These services may be provided in the homes of clients or in the clinic office. Mark Twain Area Counseling Center in Hannibal regularly sends a counselor to the Quincy Medical

---

<sup>1</sup> Cindy Barker, Jim Ellison, Lynn Fox, Cindy Kell, Jeff McReynolds, Jarrod Phillips, Brian Peuester, Sherry Taylor, Tina Uhlmeier, Sharon Upchurch, Charlie Walters, Christine Walsh, Carolyn Winters

Group Clinic located in Canton. Residents can also access inpatient and outpatient mental health services in Quincy, Illinois and Hannibal, Missouri. Each of the school districts in the county employs two full-time counselors to oversee the needs of the students.

Mark Twain Area Counseling Center in Hannibal offers a full range of mental health assistance including an employee assistance program, outpatient counseling, crisis intervention, psychiatric evaluation, medication review/monitoring, community education programs, consultation with other professionals, apartment program for persons with persistent mental illness, limited contracted inpatient services and the psychosocial rehabilitation center. The counseling center is supported by United Way contributions, donations and gifts, and revenue is generated by fees for services through private pay, insurance, Medicaid, and Medicare.

An important agency for a wide range of human services in Canton is North East Community Action Corporation (NECAC). NECAC maintains an office in Canton, the central office is in Bowling Green, Missouri. Coordinators provide intake and assessment/referral services which help determine eligibility for many programs. NECAC provides emergency food resources, assistance with job skills/training, resume writing, general life skills, and housing. NECAC also serves the community through programs such as in-home health services, self-help housing and winterization that will enable the low income to become self-sufficient and increase the quality and stability of life for elderly, handicapped, youth and the poor of the community.

The Canton Council of Churches has many important programs including maintaining the Food Bank, a voucher program for transients in need, and, since the 2003 tornado, a group called the Samaritan Well Unmet Needs Committee which has funneled support and money to families devastated not only by the tornado but also by house fires and other disasters. The First Baptist Church distributes commodities to as many as 290 families of 750-795 persons each month.

Health and social services organizations include a task force that meets at the Lewis County Court House to study potential sources of support for families and children at risk. Mark Twain Legal Services in Canton provides services for citizens 60 years of age or older. These services include making wills, living wills, durable powers of attorney, assistance with Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and Veterans Administration healthcare claims. Mark Twain Legal Services also assists these persons in civil cases.

### 1.3 Child Care and Youth Services

There are two licensed day care facilities, one currently seeking licensure plus numerous unlicensed homes in Canton. There is one pre-school facility available to Canton parents (Happytime Pre-School). The Head-Start program has been consolidated in La Grange.

The Canton R-V School district supports the Parents as Teachers (PAT) program, an international early childhood parent education and family support program serving families throughout pregnancy until their child enters kindergarten, usually age 5. The

program is designed to enhance child development and school achievement through parent education accessible to all families. The Parents as Teachers National Center, Inc. (PATNC) develops curricula, trains early childhood professionals, and certifies parent educators to work with parents to provide them with parenting support and information on their developing child.

The Canton School also sponsors “Adventure Club,” offering care before and after school for children K-6. Adventure Club charges a small fee and its programs meet the standards of excellence approved by the Missouri State Board of Education.

Lewis County Family Services provides an array of assistance and child welfare services to the citizens of Canton. Among those are administering the Food Stamp program, Medicaid programs, Medical Assistance for children in care, investigation of child abuse/neglect reports generated through a central registry, licensing of foster homes and day care facilities, supervising court wards placed in care, and adoptive home studies. The Lewis County Health Department administers the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program.

Canton R-V Public School provides specialized education services as required by state and federal law. The district provides special education for most levels of learning and behavior disabilities. The school offers a free or reduced-price school breakfast and lunch program. There are some advanced classes, and a partnership between the Canton R-V High School and Culver-Stockton College allows eligible high-school students to enroll in classes at the college.

Canton parents and children have several options for after-school activities. Canton R-V each operates an after-school program. Several Canton churches provide after school activity programs once a week after school. Many Canton R-V school students participate in after school sport, music and theater programs. Other opportunities for young people to find productive and educational activities for after school and weekends are the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H Program, and Key Club.

#### 1.4 Culture:

Canton has a rich cultural life due to the presence of Culver-Stockton College and an active arts community.

Culver-Stockton College enriches the cultural life of the community through the Academic and Cultural Events programs they offer to their students and to the public. Culver-Stockton College has for many years brought people of national note to the campus, and invited the community to events in which they were featured..

The Canton Area Arts Council (CAAC), is made up of community members who are artists, craftpersons, musicians and others interested in the arts and offers a regular schedule of art shows throughout the year. CAAC's mission is to recognize and promote Midwestern arts, to foster appreciation of these arts among area residents and to provide opportunities for widening artistic experiences through traveling exhibits and visiting

artists from beyond the Midwest. The CAAC has a small art gallery in downtown Canton provided by the generosity of Canton State Bank. The CAAC has also sponsored music recitals and watercolor workshops.

The Wyaconda Art Guild provides area artists an opportunity to meet to inspire, critique, and promote members' works.

Canton Festival Theater is one of the oldest community theater organizations in the state of Missouri. In its early days, Festival Theater performed summer plays on the Culver-Stockton stage, moving outdoors to an open area near the Canton R-V Elementary School in the 1970's. Festival Theater formed part of the core of the Golden Eagle Showboat Company at Canton for 20 years in summer and Christmas shows. Children's theater has always been an important part of the Festival Theater's programming, sometimes as part of the entire company and sometimes performing their own shows. In the summer of 2004, after a hiatus of several seasons, Canton Festival Theater came back to life with the production of Cantonian David Steinbeck's new children's show, "The Return of Tom Sawyer." Several veteran members of the Festival Theater returned to participate as well as a new generation of former Festival families.

Canton is and, historically, has been home to a number of published authors and artists. The college faculty has always been active in publishing creative and the arts but, in addition, several native-born citizens have achieved a measure of fame. Eleanora Tate is the author of several children's books. Frederick Hibbard, whose work includes Tom and Huck statue in Hannibal, became a nationally celebrated sculptor.

Canton R-V Public Schools form another important part of the cultural life of Canton. Their music, theater and art programs provide numerous opportunities for Canton residents. R-V teachers and staff promote and support other arts activities including CAAC and Culver-Stockton arts programming. The Canton Public Library has an array of summer reading programs and activities for children.

Appreciation of the beauty and heritage of northeast Missouri are also important to the community. The Lewis Co. Historical Society preserves and shares local history and its meetings feature communities in the county. Annually, Bald Eagle Day is sponsored by the Canton Betterment Group on the banks of the Mississippi. The River provides a stage for the passing of reenactments of early explorers, the replica of Columbus' flagship "Nina", plus historical river excursion boats, including the Delta Queen, American Queen and Mississippi Queen, the Julia Belle Swain, and others.

### 1.5 Aging:

According to the 2000 Census 13.1% of Canton's population over 65. So there is a significant population of retired and elderly people in Canton and an even larger number (16.1%) in Lewis County.

A special social event is the Senior Citizen Prom sponsored by Canton R-V, held on the Saturday night immediately following the Canton R-V Prom, using the same decorations

as the young people's prom, with more age-appropriate music. There is a Senior Housing complex containing a Senior Center. The Senior Center provides several opportunities for older people to socialize and to get a well-balanced noon meal. Canton churches reach out to visit the homebound as well.

Three nursing homes are located in the county. La Belle Manor Care Center, La Belle, Missouri; Country Aire, Lewistown, Missouri; and Lewis County Nursing Home, Canton, Missouri. Lewis County Nursing Home provides senior day care for older people who need care while their primary caregiver works or runs errands. In addition, Canton residents have access to in-home health care agencies. Two of those are Heartland Resources in Ewing and the Lewis County Home Health Agency operated by the Lewis County Health Department. They offer skilled nursing care (including IV therapy), physical therapy, occupational therapy, and home health aides. Both of these service providers will work with private insurance as well as Medicaid patients.

Heartland Resources located in Ewing, Missouri manages the county Nutrition program including Meals-on-Wheels, in-home services including personal care, homemaker chores, and respite care. They also manage several federal and state Title programs for elderly as well as the Foster Grandparent Program for Lewis County. Some services are provided at no cost to eligible clients. Some are provided through contributions and some are private pay. Heartland accepts referrals from multiple sources including phone, letters, or application in person.

The Lewis County Office of the Missouri Division of Aging in Monticello provides numerous services for elderly in Canton. Among their services are investigations regarding elder abuse, neglect or exploitation, home-based services such as personal care and homemaker/chore assistance, client assessment to determine need and eligibility for services, assistance in nursing home placement, and on-going protective services to elderly persons and handicapped individuals between the ages of 17 and 59. There is no cost to eligible individuals.

The Northeast Missouri Area Agency on Aging in Kirksville provides some services to Canton senior citizens. Those services include referral and follow-up to necessary community or in-home services (including transportation, legal, congregate and home delivered meals, personal care, homemaker/chore aids, respite care, minor home modification and nursing home advocacy). Two additional programs provided include job training for senior citizens and administering the Silver Citizens Discount Card.

Transportation services are available for the elderly. The OATS bus service administered from Shelbina, Missouri, has a local control person. Door-to-door transportation for groups or individuals is provided for trips within Canton or to Quincy and Hannibal as well as other destinations. The cost varies according to service needs and subsidies are available.

Missouri Green Thumb provides employment assistance and training for persons 55 years of age or older who meet the income guidelines. The regional headquarters for this

agency is in Perry, Missouri. Many Canton business and services have benefited from the help of this program.

#### 1.6 Beautification:

The City of Canton supports a variety of efforts to enhance the City's physical appearance, and Culver Stockton College is continuously working to improve its campus appeal.

The Canton Parks Board is a group of citizens who take responsibility for park additions and improvements. This committee has added playground equipment to the various parks in town, and poured concrete pads for the campground on the riverfront. They are responsible for some beautification projects as well. The committee reports to the City Council for approval of all projects and improvements.

Canton beautification attracts considerable volunteer effort. The Canton Civic Club is a group of Canton ladies, who for many years, planted flowers in Canton's Central Park. They also plant daffodil bulbs on the Highway 61 overpasses into Canton. Local Master Gardeners plant flowers in Mississippi Park and Martin Park.

The Council developed a City Tree Board following the guidelines of the National Arbor Day Foundation Tree City U.S.A program. (To qualify as a Tree City in a given year, a municipality must have a tree board or department responsible for tree care and a tree ordinance establishing or designating such; have an urban forestry program supported by the spending of at least \$2 per capita and have a proclamation recognizing and celebrating Arbor Day.) The Tree Board is charged with developing and approving plans for planting trees in city rights-of-way and on other city property and assisting the Park Board in the selection of trees for city parks. The City Council passed the enabling ordinance in 2001. Since that time the Tree Board has developed a list of acceptable trees for various situations. That list was helpful in recent planting to replace trees damaged or destroyed by the tornado. The City Council maintains a small fund in the City budget to pay for the removal and replacement of dying or damaged trees on the city rights-of-way.

The City has an ordinance requiring property owners to repair or dismantle derelict property, including buildings, automobiles or trucks. The City issues notifications to owners of problem properties. Most citizens comply quickly but those who don't are issued violation summons and pay fines until the property is cleaned up.

The City also has an "adopt-a-park" and "adopt-a-street" programs. A number of individuals, families, businesses, and civic organizations are participating in those programs. The City has studied, but not adopted, a sign ordinance for downtown businesses. The Council did adopt an ordinance regulating billboards on Highway 61 within the City limits.

The City maintains a line item in the City Budget to promote the improvement of City sidewalks. The property owner must apply for the program and must supply the labor for

the new sidewalk. The City supplies the forms and material. Each new sidewalk must comply with the width and depths of adjoining sidewalk. Over the years many sidewalks have been replaced and the City hopes to continue the program indefinitely.

The City supports some recycling and clean-up, including two city-wide clean-up opportunities, one in the spring and the other in the fall. Citizens may take their vegetative refuse to the City Mulching Site on Fourth Street north of the levee. Newspapers may be taken to County Market. Other recycling materials may be taken to sites in Quincy, Illinois and Palmyra, Missouri.

### 1.7 Historic Preservation:

The City of Canton has several hundred buildings eligible for listing on the National Register or as a part of a historical district. Most of those buildings are eligible because of their architecture and some because of their importance to the general flow of history. According to the 2000 census, Canton has 413 houses over fifty years old and, thus, eligible for inclusion in an historic district. Of those houses 373 were built before 1940.

Lewis County Historical Society maintains some valuable information on the history of Canton and some older historic buildings. The City Council has considered but not yet approved a preservation ordinance. Despite the lack of formal requirements, local property owners usually work to update their building while retaining the historical look.

There are two buildings in Canton on the National Register of Historic places. Both-- Henderson Hall on the Culver-Stockton College campus and Lincoln School, a historically African-American school located in Martin Park-- have been on the Register since the 1970's. In addition, the state Historical Buildings Commission has tentatively judged Canton Christian Church and Canton City Hall to be eligible for listing.

In 2001 the Canton Community Betterment Group began a historic building survey with the help of Students in Free Enterprise, a Culver-Stockton student group. Completion of this task will likely require the services of a professional as it has in other cities. The extent of the work to be done and the expertise required is beyond the skills of volunteers.

### 1.8 Leadership Development:

There are many formal and informal ways that Canton citizens may provide leadership and participate in the community.

The Canton Chamber of Commerce promotes business education and issue awareness, the Canton Community Betterment Group, founded in 1998, promotes redevelopment and recognition of local initiatives. It also serves as a fiscal sponsor for community initiatives and has sponsored grants for the public library and the Lewis County C-1 school district. The CCBG has provided community leadership that has lead to several statewide awards.

The Canton Kiwanis Club is one of the oldest in the state of Missouri founded in the 1920's. Among the projects of the Kiwanis Club are improvements to city parks, support of Boy Scouts, support for Girl's State and Boy's State attendance, support for book acquisitions at the City library and public school and providing financial support for school supplies for all Lewis County students. This club has not only provided leadership within the Canton Community but has provided leadership at the Kiwanis district level through a number of its members who have served as Lt. Governor. Kiwanis also sponsors the Key Club at Canton R-V High School.

The American Association of University Women, Canton Branch, hosts a variety of educational programs and sponsors election forums. The chapter provides an annual college scholarship for a promising Canton High School senior woman, supports high school essay contests to promote the contribution of women to society, and participates in a junior high career day for young women.

There are additional important civic organizations in which women can develop their leadership skills. One important group is the Canton Civic Club. It is one of the oldest women's groups in Canton and has been instrumental in many civic for the last sixty years. Beginning as a "welcome wagon" group, the Civic Club encouraged Canton City government to install the first street signs in the late 1950's. They have sponsored candidate forma prior to city elections. The Canton Civic Club has worked quietly but steadily for the betterment of Canton.

There are several organizations that manage recreational programs for Canton Citizens. The Canton Recreation Association is responsible for managing Canton's ball fields and summer leagues. The Sun and Surf Board manages the swimming pool.

The City of Canton is very proud of our SMART group. This group of young people formed after the tragic death of a high school student on Highway 61. Their goal was to make highways safer in Missouri and, especially, in this area. It is due to their efforts that Highway 61 improvement projects are being completed earlier than originally planned. Several of the students who began this group have proven to be strong leaders in their college careers. Several are headed toward careers as lawyers and have expressed a desire to continue to support and enhance life for the citizens of this area. Recently the Missouri Department of Transportation honored the SMART group by naming the local portion of Highway 61 the SMART Highway.

In addition to these civic organizations Culver-Stockton College student groups participate in community service in the Canton Community. Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) has developed several student-run businesses and assisted with the historic building survey. The Institute of Management Accountants (IMA) supports community activities and inspired a proposal to re-open the town's movie theatre with a grant of tax credits from the State Department of Economic Development. IMA students also teach working teens about money management through a community initiative called "Your Paycheck" ([www.yourpaycheck.org](http://www.yourpaycheck.org)). Culver's Greek fraternities and sororities regularly participate in community service projects such as collecting food for the Food Pantry,

delivering Meals-on-Wheels, entertaining children at one of Canton's pre-schools, and hosting a Halloween festival on campus.

## **Section 2: Economic Development**

In the 1950s and 60s Canton was a bustling center of commerce for the agricultural and transportation corridor anchored by the Mississippi River. When the agricultural economy faltered in the early 1980s the town center was heavily impacted, with slow and consistent loss of retail businesses. The retail environment also shifted to Quincy as transportation improved and both low and high-end retail and entertainment venues developed. Throughout the period Canton has offered sports enthusiasts an array of hunting, fishing and outdoors activities.

The drivers of the current Canton economy are primarily, although not exclusively, educational and service-related. The largest employer in number is Charles Industries, with an average of 160 employees, primarily hourly wage. Culver-Stockton College is the second largest in number, with approximately 100 employees across a spectrum of skills and wages, and the college has the largest total payroll in terms of dollars. The Canton R-V school district employs 89 full-time. Canton Marine Towing, Ayers Oil Company and County Market are examples of other larger employers.

Overall, business growth in Canton, as assessed by sales tax, is on an upswing. Gross sales tax revenue collected by the City of Canton increased 30% between June 30, 1995 and June 1, 2000. In the next five-year period ending June 30, 2005 the City collected 35% more sales tax. These increases are primarily due to development efforts in the Highway 61 corridor. However, downtown redevelopment remains a concern. On an annual basis, the downtown adds a couple of businesses and loses a couple of businesses. Overall, empty buildings remain in the historic downtown area and are in need of renovation.

Property values of downtown commercial buildings are hard to quantify. Few buildings change hands. Most years only one or two sell. According to the best available information from recent property purchasers and local bank loan officers, downtown commercial property sells for between \$20 and \$30 per square foot. That price has remained static for at least years. New building costs in Canton run between \$85 and \$100 per square foot for either residential or commercial. In recent years there have been a number of commercial buildings built using pole construction with metal siding. The cost per square foot for those buildings is about \$100 per square foot.

Efforts to attract customers and retail to the downtown area have included River Heritage Days (now defunct), Culver-Stockton homecoming events, a pilot farmers' market and plans to renovate a downtown movie theater. The Canton Community Betterment Group has also been supporting a public Eagle watching program.

The Lewis County Industrial Development Authority prepared a Redevelopment Plan for the U.S. 61 Corridor in 1999 to increase local sales revenue in light of studies demonstrating that more than fifty percent of retail dollars spent by Canton households

were expended outside of Lewis County. The plan resulted in the addition of new retail space and construction of a 60-room hotel.

## 2.1 Business Attraction:

There are two groups who focus on the betterment of the Canton community including attracting new business. The older group is the Canton Chamber of Commerce. It is a non-chartered group that has attempted in various ways to promote Canton for many years. The Chamber currently has about 60 paid members. The other group is the Canton Community Betterment Group (CCBG) with 15 members. CCBG is chartered with 501c-3 status. The two groups have significant cross-over membership.

Neither of these groups currently have active programs to attract business. The CCBG has chosen the long-range planning effort as their primary focus for this year. The Chamber has just closed down a long-time program the centerpiece of which was "River Heritage Days". The Chamber has not decided in what ways to focus. One concern expressed by members of both entities is that neither group has a program of consistent follow-up for inquiries that come to the Chamber.

The Recruitment of business and industry to Canton is currently in the purview of the Lewis County Industrial Development Authority (LCIDA). In order to fund this project, the residents of Lewis County approved the collection of a "tipping fee" of \$1.50 per ton of garbage that is deposited in the Back Ridge Landfill near LaGrange. Currently the fee raises \$140,000 per year. The Authority uses the tipping fee funds to make grants and 0% loans of approximately \$70,000 to \$100,000 per year county-wide. The LIDA also provides startup office space for new and expanding businesses at a small business incubator located in the south end of Canton. The IDA has a single employee and is overseen by a board of seven directors. Three of the seven directors reside in Canton.

## 2.2 Site Development:

A portion of the Lewis County Enterprise Zone is located in the city limits of Canton and the benefits of being in the Zone are marketed to prospective businesses.

Canton has several building sites currently being marketed to potential investors. Most of them are in the newly developed Highway 61 Corridor. Some of those sites are owned by LCIDA. Others are still in private ownership. Scaled maps showing sites and access roads, utility lines and boundaries are available to prospective business owners. Also available are legal descriptions of the sites, a development plan showing proposed lots, utility extensions, and new streets/roads where applicable.

The sites on the east side of Highway 61 have adequate acreage to support new business development with appropriate access to the highway, good topography and adequate drainage. The sites on the west side of Highway 61 lack access to adequate water supply and sewer lines and have not been configured for access, subdivision and expansion. The City of Canton has completed negotiations with the consolidated public water supply district whose water transmission lines traverse that area. The Consolidated Public Water

Supply District#1 of Clark County has agreed to cede to the City of Canton all rights to provide water on the east side of Highway 61 and inside the City limits of Canton. The City of Canton has agreed to pay the Consolidated Water Supply District a twenty percent per gallon surcharge on any water provided by the City and sold on the west side of Highway 61.

Riverfront industrial sites are available adjacent to an existing barge terminal and are currently in private ownership. The owner has sold tracts to agriculture related businesses and continues to market these properties.

### 2.3 Business Retention and Expansion:

The LCIDA supports existing business retention and expansion through grants, zero interest loans and technical assistance and also provides advisory services for entities seeking government grants and support. The NEMO Regional Planning Commission also provides startup grants and technical assistance. The Canton Chamber of Commerce has hosted lectures and workshops for local business owners who wish to improve their management and financial skills.

### 2.4 Workforce Development:

Based on the 2000 study conducted by the NEMO Commission, unemployment is not a major factor in the area. However underemployment is a substantial concern. The consulting firm that conducted a regional survey discovered that nearly 8,800 employees in Lewis and surrounding counties are underemployed. Those workers possess skills, experience, and education to qualify them for pay rates that are in excess of their current wage rate. Of those determined to be underemployed more than 25% held a college degree.

Gamm, Incorporated is a private not-for-profit agency that provides workforce development services to residents in a fifteen-county area of Northeast Missouri, which includes the community of Canton.

Many services are available free of charge from any of the six locations where Gamm, Incorporated staff are housed. Those services include:

- Resume Writing Assistance
- Referral Services
- Interviewing Assistance
- Basic Employability Skills Training
- Job Search Assistance

Additional services are available based upon income and other factors. Those services include:

- Basic Skills and Interest Assessment
- Tuition Assistance

- On-the-Job Training
- Child Care and Transportation Subsidies
- Relocation Assistance
- Out of Area Job Search Reimbursement

Gamm, Incorporated was the recipient of National Emergency Grant (NEG) funds to assist the community of Canton with recovery efforts following the tornado of 2003. Those funds allowed Gamm, Incorporated to hire a recovery coordinator who surveyed 233 households that were victims of the disaster to assess what needs were still unmet after the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) had awarded settlements to residents. The coordinator was able to negotiate with FEMA officials and reopen some cases. This review led to \$23,000 in additional FEMA reimbursements for several families.

The coordinator worked closely with the Samaritan Well – Lewis County Unmet Needs Committee. Bi-weekly during the recovery process, the coordinator shared survey information with the committee about residents’ basic needs that were still unmet. The goal of the committee was to enable residents to resume their pre-tornado standard of living. Through this committee, nearly \$100,000 was donated to the recovery effort. These funds provided assistance to families who did not have the financial resources to relocate or rebuild their homes or replace their personal property after the disaster.

On June 19, 2004, a community celebration was held to mark the progress and recovery that had been made in the previous year. Over 700 people attended the celebration that was complete with carnival-style games for young children, bingo, food, music and fireworks. All of the activities and food items were donated and manned by local community organizations. Over 1,000 prizes, the ongoing music, and a 20-minute fireworks display were donated by various businesses in the area.

Even though the NEG funds have been expended, the Unmet Needs Committee continues to meet on a regular basis and responds quickly to personal or community disasters such as the fire that destroyed businesses and apartment residences in downtown Canton in 2005.

Culver-Stockton College has recently begun a new online program for degree completion. This program is aimed at non-traditional students over 25 years old who wish complete a college degree.

## 2.5 Tourism:

Citizens are mindful that the City and surrounding area has potential appeal for tourism. The Canton Community Betterment Group has initiated “Bald Eagle Day” in the winter and the City promotes use of our Mississippi Park Recreational Vehicle campground. The City Board voted some years ago to advertise the campground in national RV directories. The effort has resulted in greater occupancy of the campground during the summer months.

Culver Stockton College hosts and maintains a city web site ([www.showmecanton.com](http://www.showmecanton.com)). Advertising for the city is done through the [www.VisitMO.com](http://www.VisitMO.com) website sponsored by Missouri Tourism Community Calendar, Touring America Magazine, Trailer Life Magazine and through brochures and business directories printed by the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber also puts important city events in the publication, Missouri Life.

## 2.6 Downtown Revitalization

Downtown Canton needs to be a focus for community planning. Recently several buildings have been purchased and/or improved including the old Canton Library building. However, the area was also the site of a devastating fire in January 2005. The Canton Area Arts Council has obtained state tax credits through the Neighborhood Assistance Program to fund restoration of the historic downtown theatre and the LCDIA obtained funds to clear the corner where downtown structures were lost. Numerous other opportunities for development exist. The city's completion of an historic building survey and the drawing of historic districts would allow downtown building owners access to Missouri tax credit programs to help pay for renovation and revitalization.

## 2.7 Agribusiness:

Agribusiness was the historic backbone of the community economically but has now taken a back seat to light manufacturing, small business and education. Supporting businesses include MFA, which sells feed, seeds, fertilizer and other farm and garden supplies, several fertilizer and farm chemical application firms in the area, and a privately owned veterinary clinic. There are still farmers and farms whose influence is felt in the community and, consistent with national trends there are more "hobby" farmers with small acreages producing vegetables or a few animals. The shopping center developer recently recruited a regional agricultural supply store (Orschelin) to once again provide agricultural supplies for regional farmers as well as home gardeners.

The 2000 census shows that 99 people who listed their primary occupation as farming. However, USDA Farm Service Agency lists 1670 producers in Lewis County. Tillable acreage in Lewis County is 207,100 acres. There are 25,000 acres in the Conservation Preservation Program (CRP). The average farm size in Lewis County is about 140 acres, considerably below the national average farm size of 441 acres as reported by the USDA Statistics Service based on 2002 statistics.

The Amish farming community has significant impact on Canton and the community welcomes their presence. Almost daily, citizens can see Amish horses and buggies in the community shopping in the grocery store or shopping garage sales. Several Amish farmers bring vegetable produce, flowers, baked-goods and hand-crafted items to town regularly for customers.

The Missouri University Extension in Monticello provides significant services to the agribusiness community as well as the townspeople of Canton. The menu of educational outreach programs of the University of Missouri Extension includes building human

capital, nutrition and health, alternative agricultural opportunities, agricultural profitability, community resource development, small business development, family and individual well being, youth at risk services and water quality and conservation of natural resources. Some of the services of University Extension are free. Others function on a cost recovery basis.

### **Section 3: Government Organization**

#### **3.1 Community Planning:**

Planning in Canton is taking on new importance as the town begins to recover from the economic and weather-related crises of recent years. The City passed zoning and planning laws in the 1960's becoming the smallest town in northeast Missouri to do so. The City continues to enforce and amend those laws.

In 2001, as plans were underway to develop a new shopping area adjacent to the expanding Highway 61 corridor, the Canton City Council with the assistance of the Canton Community Betterment Group initiated a preliminary planning process. The Canton Community Betterment Group devised and administered a community questionnaire to assess the needs and the desires of the citizens.

The City Council and the Betterment Group met several times to discuss various aspects of the plan. Ultimately, they decided to follow the Missouri Community Assessment Program (MoCAP) as the process by which to generate the plan. On April 15, 2002 the City Council passed a resolution endorsing the MoCAP planning program and supporting the Canton Community Betterment Group as the official planning group. **A copy of the Resolution appears in Appendix II.**

When the draft document is completed, the Task Force will hold at least one public meeting seeking questions and input. As the document progresses to a final stage, a copy will be sent to the Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED) for evaluation. DED will review the report, schedule a visit with our community, determine what else needs to be done and submit a report back to us. The document will then be submitted to the Canton City Council for adoption.

#### **3.2 Budget/Fiscal Control:**

The City of Canton has an annual budget of 2.64 million dollars for fiscal 2005. The major sources of revenue for the City include property and sales taxes. The City owns and maintains municipal water and sewage treatment facilities and is planning major investment in the water plant. Sales of water and sewer services represent a significant source of revenue.

The budget is prepared by the City Clerk with input from the Mayor, the Aldermen, Public Works Director and Chief of Police. This process begins in the spring of each year and the final budget is adopted in June after a public hearing and in time for the beginning of the new fiscal year on July 1. The Mayor and Aldermen have regular

oversight of the City Budget at monthly meetings. The budget and City records are available for public inspection in accordance with Missouri "Sunshine" laws. The City conducts an independent audit in July of each year.

### 3.3 City Personnel:

Canton is a fourth-class city under Missouri statutes. Six aldermen, two elected from three wards, and an elected mayor oversee the management of the City of Canton. In addition the City has sixteen full-time and two part-time employees in three departments. The department of City Administration includes the City Clerk and two clerks plus a part-time building inspector and a part-time janitor. The Police department includes a Chief of Police, four officers and a secretary. The Public Works Department includes a Director of Public Works, a Water/Wastewater Supervisor, and six general laborers. Most of the members of the Public Works Department are cross-trained in several different technical areas such as water treatment and distribution, wastewater management, and operation of heavy street equipment.

The City follows state and federal guidelines relating to employment. All jobs are openly advertised in appropriate venues. The mayor and the appropriate supervisor screen applications, select those individuals to interview and, finally, make hiring recommendations to the Board of Aldermen. City employees have a six-month probationary period. Salaries may be adjusted after that period.

### 3.4 Intergovernmental Cooperation:

The City of Canton endeavors to maintain full cooperation with neighboring municipalities, Lewis County and the State of Missouri. Following is a list of governmental agencies with which the City of Canton regularly interacts.

- Canton Fire Department shares local emergency response and emergency electrical power capacity with the City of Canton.
- Canton Public Library relies on the City of Canton for tax billing and direct deposit of library tax revenue.
- Canton R-V School District relies on the City to provide security and traffic safety support as well as providing various supplemental educational services such as bicycle safety and alcohol/drug education programs.
- Canton Special Road District meets monthly at City Hall and leases an equipment storage building from the City.
- D.A.R.E is a city-supported program offering 17 weeks of anti-substance abuse training for Canton R-V students.
- Lewis County 911 uses mapping, residential addressing and location provided by the City of Canton.
- Lewis County Ambulance District has their ambulance shed inside the city limits of Canton. Until Lewis County 911 was created, the City of Canton provided dispatching service for the Lewis County Ambulance District.

- The Lewis County Assessor's Office shares updated and amended information concerning residential real estate and personal property taxes with the City of Canton.
- The Lewis County Associate Circuit Court holds domestic and juvenile court once a month in the Canton City Courtroom.
- The Lewis County Clerk assists the City in holding all municipal elections and establishing and setting the annual tax rate.
- The Lewis County Division of Family Services uses City created and monitored residential address locations in their work with troubled families.
- The Lewis County Sheriff 's Department cooperates in all law enforcement issues with the City's Police Department.
- The Missouri Department of Conservation leases Riverfront Park to the City of Canton for recreational use.
- The Missouri Department of Natural Resources provides training for water and sewer plant employees as well as information on requirements and water/sewer systems auditing for the City.
- The Missouri Department of Transportation maintains state rights-of-way within the City and cooperates with the City on issues relating to the Highway 61 corridor.
- The Missouri Highway Patrol cooperates with Canton Police Department in appropriate law enforcement issues.
- Missouri Municipal League provides the City of Canton with training and advice on municipal government issues.
- Missouri Highway Patrol-Driver Examiners provide examinations and road tests at City Hall.
- Missouri One-Call (Dig-Rite) provides utility locations services for citizens and for City personnel.
- Northeast Regional Planning Commission, headquartered in Memphis, Missouri provides grant planning, writing and administration services.
- State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) provides disaster recovery assistance, most recently after the tornado of 2003.
- State of Missouri -- Probation and Parole conducts bi-weekly interviews with local clients in City Hall.
- US Army Corps of Engineers assists the City with issues relating to flood protection and management of Lock and Dam #20 at Canton.
- US Post Office exchanges information with the City concerning residential addressing and locations.
- Federal Emergency Management (FEMA) assists with disaster recovery, most recently after the tornado of 2003.

### 3.5 Government Communication:

The City of Canton endeavors to communicate with its citizens in a number of ways. The City complies with all sections of the Missouri "Sunshine" Laws requiring, among other things, that each meeting to be posted in a timely fashion and open to the public. The City also relies on the local newspaper, the Canton Press-News Journal, to communicate with

the public and publish meeting notices, new or amended ordinances, or other announcements. In some cases, the City also uses television and radio media headquartered in nearby Quincy, Illinois. The city has a website hosted and maintained by Culver-Stockton College ([www.showmecanton.com](http://www.showmecanton.com)).

## **Section 4: Community Services**

### **4.1 Law Enforcement:**

The City maintains its own police force currently consisting of four officers, a secretary/receptionist and a Chief. The Chief of Police is responsible to the Mayor and City Council. The City also maintains a good working relationship with outside law enforcement entities such as the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Lewis County Sheriff's department. The police department has three up-to-date emergency patrol vehicles equipped with advanced technology to best serve the community. The average number of calls for service per month is about 140, based on department statistics from the last three years.

In addition to regular police duties the department supports several community-based programs. Those programs include a DARE program for school-age students. The DARE Officer must receive training and provide a multi-week program annually for the Canton R-V schools. The RAD program teaches self-defense techniques mostly for women. The RAD instructor must complete a certification program before teaching the program. The instructor must present at least two programs per year to maintain certification. The City has purchased specialized equipment to aid instruction.

Like the Fire Department, the Police Department participates in a mutual aid program with other local law enforcement agencies. This program allows any individual jurisdiction to request and receive additional support when additional back-up is necessary without incurring additional costs. The mutual aid program is evidence of the level of cooperation there is between local law enforcement agencies.

### **4.2 Fire Protection:**

The R-V Fire Protection District provides fire protection for the City of Canton. The Fire Chief also serves as Fire Marshal for the City. Approximately 30 volunteers who train twice per month man the R-V Fire Department. The Department is currently training all firefighters in Firefighter 1&2 certification. Officers include a First and Second Assistant Chief, a Battalion Chief, a Captain and a Chaplain. The department has 9 vehicles in service. The district is tax-supported and maintains a headquarters building within the Canton City limits. The City of Canton currently maintains an ISO rating of Class 7.

The city maintains an Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Plan, managed by a director and assistant director.

### **4.3 Health Services:**

Health Care Services are available in Lewis County through a variety of sources. Two physician offices (one affiliated with Hannibal-Regional Hospital in Hannibal, Missouri and one affiliated with the Quincy Medical Group in Quincy, Illinois) and one dentist office are located within the city and provide outpatient medical services.

Within the county there is a Quincy Medical Group physician who is the medical director for the Lewis County Health Department and Lewis County Enhanced 9-1-1 Telephone Service. Nurse practitioners also are in all physicians' offices enhancing the availability of service. Hannibal-Regional Hospital also has a medical clinic in La Grange, Missouri, which is directed by a nurse practitioner.

Chiropractic services are available from two practices. Both offices are located in the city.

Lewis County has a Health Department that offers comprehensive health services. The Health Department, located in Monticello, Missouri, is funded through a 10 cent/100-assessed valuation and federal and state dollars. The Lewis County Health Department serves the needs of the county residents by offering the following services: family planning, pre-natal and post-natal services in collaboration with the Southern Illinois University Medical School at Edwardsville, immunization clinics, Women's Health Services, Women's, Infant's & Children (WIC) and Sanitation services which are shared with Clark County. The Lewis County Health Department continues to receive federal and state grants serving as a great role model for rural health. The Department has participated in several federal and state initiatives. A successful home health agency is located within the agency. The home health agency provides skilled nursing care to Lewis County residents. Other agencies not located in the county come into the county to provide home care services.

Acute Care Services are offered within 18 miles by Blessing Hospital, in Quincy Illinois and/or by Hannibal-Regional Hospital, 30 miles away. Lewis County Ambulance District provides the transport. The ambulance district also provides instruction in CPR and provides stand-by services at events. The county has access to a helicopter ambulance through Air Evac, based in Quincy, Illinois.

In February 2003 the Enhanced 9-1-1 agency opened. The centralized dispatching for the county has improved emergency response time in the county. Sales-tax revenue funds the agency.

#### 4.4 Education:

Canton provides its citizens with an assortment of educational opportunities.

Canton R-V School District serves the needs of 500 students between the ages of five and eighteen with a high-quality public school education. R-V is recognized in the state of Missouri for its excellence. The state of Missouri has awarded R-V the Distinction in Performance Award three out of the last four years.

Happy Time Pre-School provides private pre-school education for children ages three and four. Happy Time is distinguished as the oldest and longest running pre-school program in Canton. Canton also has a Head-Start program for those students who qualify.

There are two private k-12 schools just outside the city limits of Canton. One is Cedar Falls in the south side of Canton and Life Tabernacle Pentecostal Church operates the other private school in their facility outside the west city limits.

Culver-Stockton College, an accredited private four-year liberal arts college, is located on a 110-acre campus in Canton. Culver-Stockton currently has about 860 students and is initiating an online education program for adults offering certificate programs in management information systems, computer networks, marketing and management. Culver-Stockton College has a close relationship with Blessing-Rieman School of Nursing in Quincy. Students receive their basic education at C-S. Then go to Blessing-Rieman for their upper division nursing classes and clinicals. The nursing clinical supervisors schedule some of the early clinical experiences at Lewis County Nursing Home.

Beyond the Classroom, sponsored by Culver-Stockton, encourages volunteers in the area to share their expertise in the classroom. Everything from yoga, to photography, to computer and business classes are offered to the public free of charge.

#### 4.5 Energy Conservation:

Electricity and natural gas is readily available and has been rather inexpensive in the recent past. However, like most places in the United States, Canton is experiencing large price increases. Propane has experienced some popularity due to the price difference between propane and natural gas. Energy conservation has not been a high priority for most Canton citizens nor for local governments.

The average home in Canton is almost 47 years old. Energy conservation and efficiency may be a concern in these homes. Canton has many low and moderate-income families who may lack the means to retrofit their homes. The majority of Canton families own the homes in which they live.

Walking rather than driving is a good way to conserve oil and gas. Canton has generally been a “walkable” community if citizens wished to do so. In the recent past the grocery store was within easy walking distance of many citizens, especially the senior citizens living the Senior Housing complex on the south side of town. However, since the grocery store has moved into the Highway 61 corridor most senior citizens must drive or be driven to the grocery store. The public school is still an easy walk for many Canton children. Most churches are within comfortable walking distance. The Post Office and the Public Library are also walkable for many citizens. While the City works diligently with property owners to re-build and replace sidewalks, there are still many places where walking is difficult due to poorly maintained or where there are no sidewalks. Some Cantonians are concerned about the number of people who walk in the street because

there is no sidewalk or because the sidewalk is in bad repair. As the cost of gasoline increases it may become more important to assess and propose ways to make Canton even more “walkable”.

#### 4.6 Animal Control:

Animal control in Canton is a function of City Government and the City is currently using members of its current streets crew to manage the city pound. The crew built the new pound facility in 2002. The City’s pound is state licensed. When necessary, the City can call upon the Missouri Department of Conservation officer, who lives near Canton, to help manage wild animals.

#### 4.7 Emergency Management:

In accordance with the Missouri Civil Defense Act and the Missouri Disaster Operations Plan the Mayor of the City of Canton appoints a Coordinator who is responsible for maintaining records and accounting for actions taking by the Disaster Planning and Operations Office. The Mayor and the Coordinator may expend funds, provide for the health and safety of persons, and direct and coordinate the development of disaster plans and programs.

In 2003 Canton experienced a devastating tornado. As a result of that the City is increasing its disaster preparedness plans. One aspect was improving the city warning system. In 2004 the city implemented Phase 1 of a Warning System upgrade. This upgrade provides digital voice messaging, a digital warning with approximately 85% coverage within the city limits. Requests for funding Phase 2 upgrades have been made from the Federal Government and would provide for 100 % coverage.

### **Section: 5: Community Facilities**

#### 5.1 Parks and Recreation:

Establishing and maintaining parks and open spaces is an important aspect of a community's livability. The City of Canton Park Board oversees the development and maintenance of Canton's parks. Park Board members are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Board of Aldermen. The City of Canton has five city-owned parks. They are Mississippi Park, South Riverfront Park, Martin Park, Central Park and a new park on Brose Avenue yet to be developed. In addition the City leases the Cotton Bowl baseball/softball facility from Culver-Stockton College for use. In recent years the Canton Park Board has initiated several major enhancement projects which have added new playground equipment, an additional shelter house and public bathrooms, new trash cans, improved signage and other projects.

Mississippi Park is notable for its 23 camper pads. This park is among the few along the Mississippi that allow camping on the banks of the river. Mississippi Park also offers a picnic shelter house and some new, inviting playground equipment. On summer

weekends, Mississippi Park is filled with campers. In late winter Mississippi Park offers some of the best views of Bald and Golden Eagles on the upper Mississippi. The City of Canton hopes to be able to expand the number of camper pads in Mississippi Park as well as upgrading more pads to full hook-ups and some to all winter hook-up capabilities. Phase one of the City's plan to overhaul water distribution includes upgrades in Mississippi Park.

Martin Park has many amenities. There are two shelter houses, a public restroom, a basketball court, and new playground equipment. Martin Park is also equipped with electrical hookups so vendors may hold flea markets or craft shows. The Park Board recently had the lighting in Martin Park reconfigured to add more light and make better use of existing light. The historic Lincoln School is also part of Martin Park.

South Riverfront Park provides boat docking facilities adjacent to the Missouri Department of Conservation -- City of Canton river access area at Mississippi River mile 342. The Department of Conservation replaced the old boat ramp this past summer. One important historic feature of South Riverfront Park is the stone wall built by local CCC workers in the 1930's.

Other types of recreation available in Canton include a bowling alley, a community membership swimming pool, soccer league fields, and the Remember When Toy Museum just south of the Canton city limits. The Bowling alley has active league bowling. Games in the Lewis County Youth Soccer League are held on the soccer fields. The Sun and Surf Pool offers memberships to Canton citizens and hosts local swim team meets.

Cantonians have access to wonderful nearby recreational sites. The Canton area offers a large choice of recreational activities including excellent hunting and fishing, boating and water skiing, bicycling, hiking, bowling, swimming, and organized team sports activities. (One of every four Missouri residents hunts and/or fishes, and annual spending by Missouri sportsmen pay \$80 million annually in state sales, fuel and income taxes.) Every year Canton and Lewis County play host to hundreds of deer hunters for the season in November. Over a thousand deer are harvested each year in the Canton area.

Nearby Wakonda State Park features six lakes and a rare sand prairie. Anglers can cast for largemouth bass, crappie, bluegill and catfish. Boat launches are available and canoes and jonboats can be rented at the park office. The park is becoming one of the best places to observe waterfowl in northeast Missouri. The park also features a sandy beach, hiking and bike trails and overnight camping sites.

Deer Ridge Lake is a 40-acre lake built in 1960. It offers quality fishing, a concrete ramp for boaters and shaded pavilions for picnics. The conservation area has horse trails, shooting ranges, hunting acreage, campgrounds and hiking trails.

## 5.2 Water Supply, Treatment and Distribution

The City of Canton Public Works Department is responsible for managing Canton's water supply. The system meets current and projected needs for the City. However, the system requires repair and updates as mandated by the Missouri Division of Natural Resources. The City has embarked on a multi-year plan to complete those updates and repairs. Also, as the Missouri Department of Transportation improves Highway 61 north of Canton, the transmission lines from the water plant were recently moved to a new location west of the new highway.

### 5.3 Waste Water Collection and Treatment:

The Canton Public Works department manages and maintains the collection and treatment of sewage in accordance with Missouri and Federal law. The current treatment plant is just south of the city. It is a three-cell lagoon. The system endeavors to serve all residents while providing for continued community growth. In 2004 the Canton wastewater treatment plant was cited by the Department of Natural Resources as one of the three best treatment plants in Missouri.

### 5.4 Transportation:

The City of Canton has access to an improved transportation system. Included in this transportation system are streets, rail, and river transportation.

Canton is home to Lock and Dam #20. Built in the 1930's, the Canton lock and dam has provided employment for many area residents. The Canton Ferry takes vehicles across the Mississippi to Meyer, Illinois. The Ferry, the oldest on the Mississippi, has been in operation since the 1850's. Canton Marine Towing has operated in Canton since 1959 and serves a 100-mile stretch on the river. CMT operates seventeen harbor boats.

Canton has a Port Authority. A Board appointed jointly by the Canton City Council and the Lewis County commission governs the port authority. Currently, the Port Authority manages one terminal at the Port of Canton.

The completion of the last two lanes of Highway 61 south of Canton has improved traffic safety. The Missouri Department of Transportation is in the process of building the last two lanes of Highway 61 north of Canton. This will complete the Avenue of the Saints. The City of Canton maintains a system of streets and alleys as well as a traffic safety programs to protect lives, property and enhance traffic flow.

Canton was involved in railroading early in its history voting a tax to put in a railroad before the Civil War. The rails were pulled up during the Civil War to be used in a location the Union Army considered more strategically important. At that time most freight in this area was still shipped via the river. So, Union officials believed the railroad was redundant. Local citizens met the Army Corps of Engineers sent to remove the rails with anger and guns but they were soon overpowered and the rails removed. After the Civil War Canton and Lewis County rebuilt the railway that currently runs parallel to the Mississippi River and connects Keokuk, Quincy, Canton, and St.Louis. There was a spur that no longer exists from Canton to Kirksville. Burlington Northern

Santa Fe continues to run freight trains regularly on the line through Canton although the passenger service ceased in the 1960's. No trains regularly stop in Canton.

### 5.5 Housing:

The provision of adequate, affordable, and safe housing is critical to the development of any community. However, Canton has some difficulty providing enough affordable housing for lower income people as well as providing adequate housing for middle-income people who prefer to rent rather than buy a detached home. This is symptomatic for all of Lewis County and most of Northeast Missouri. Housing profiles and needs are subject of a working group under the guidance of North East Community Action Corporation which is developing a strategy and implementation plan to address the deficiencies. The City of Canton is being considered as a demonstration site for the strategy and plan being developed. It is hoped that implementation of the plan will bring a selection of satisfactory housing for most of the needs identified in the "2002 Housing Profile and Needs Assessment" for the Northeast Missouri Housing Network.

Like most communities in northeast Missouri, Canton has many concerns about affordable housing especially for rentals. The 2000 Census shows that Canton's housing stock is aging. The average age of housing units in Canton is 46.9 years. Older homes need maintenance and updating that some owners can't afford or don't understand. Also according to Census data 50% of Canton's rental units rent for less than \$300. At that rate landlords have difficulty keeping rental units in good repair while still keeping them affordable. And it is difficult to build new units while keeping the rents that low.

Home values in Canton are considerably below the national average. The median house value in Canton is \$57,500 according to the 2000 Census. That is both a blessing and a problem. Canton houses are affordable for beginning or low-income buyers. But some of these buyers can afford to purchase the house but can't afford to pay for appropriate maintenance or upgrades. Some are first-time home-owners in their families and have had no experience caring for their own home.

Building of new homes in Canton has been slow in recent years. At the time of the 2000 Census there were only 22 houses in Canton under five years old. Canton has not been an attractive place to build new houses, in part, because housing market values are so much below national averages while construction materials are about the same. There has also been a shortage of available lots and new site development. In the last year a local contractor has opened a new subdivision near the college and is in the process of opening another one. In addition there is some land available for site development on the southeast corner of the city.

Many new homes in the last ten years have been just outside the city limits along the Highway 16 corridor west from Canton and along the Highway 81 corridor leading north of Canton. According to the 2000 census, there were 94 homes under 5 years of age in the 63435 Zip Code. This would include the 22 inside the city limit indicating 72 new houses outside the city limit but still within the Canton mailing address. Since that time even more new houses have been built in these areas.

## 5.6 Library Services:

There are four libraries inside the city limits, each providing special services to patrons. The first is the Canton Public Library downtown. The second is the Public School Library at Canton R-V. The third is the Lewis County Historical Society Library also downtown. And the last is the Culver-Stockton College Library. The Public Library and Culver-Stockton College Library have a reciprocal borrowing agreement that dates from the 1950's. That means that any cardholder in the one library automatically can borrow from the other.

The Culver-Stockton College Library is the largest and most comprehensive of the four libraries. It has 150,000 volumes including over 10,000 periodicals in electronic format, nearly 10,000 audiovisual items, and bound periodicals in paper format and microform. As a public service the College Library maintains a very complete collection of Canton newspapers on microfilm going back to the early days of the town. The College library also maintains the College Archives that contain an array of historic books and documents relating to college and town history as well as many valuable artifacts. The College Archives and the Lewis County Historical Society form a valuable partnership in documenting local history.

The Canton Public Library has a relatively new facility and has served the City of Canton for over 75 years. The Library Board oversees the operations of the Public Library. Its members are appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Board of Aldermen to serve three-year terms. The Board appoints the librarian and an assistant, sets hours of operation and oversees the budget.

The Canton R-V School Library has a new and enlarged facility which not only provides students and teachers with resources but provides the community with a much-needed meeting room. The Library is under the direction of the R-V Board of Education and is managed by a librarian and assistant librarian.

The Lewis County Historical Society Library maintains a collection of important historical memorabilia and documents in their facility on Fourth Street. Volunteer members of the Historical Society manage the library. Currently the Society is engaged in a refurbishing project on their building.

## 5.7 Solid Waste Management:

The Board of Aldermen and Mayor of the City of Canton are responsible for the development, administration and operation of solid waste management. The City has ordinances and plans that provide for waste reduction, education, recycling, and composting in addition to the storage, collection, transportation and disposal of solid waste. The Mayor serves on the Northeast Missouri Solid Waste Board.

The Board of Aldermen places the trash collection/removal and recycling programs out for bids for a three-year contract. In the last contract the Board eliminated the recycling program to save money. Many feel that more education needs to be done to make that

program more cost-effective. The City has recently developed a site for processing of yard waste into mulch at the north end of the city.

#### 5.8 Telecommunications:

Canton, a community of 2,557, has no downlink satellite for cable TV because the provider is currently in bankruptcy. The system isn't attractive to new buyers because the technology infrastructure old and has not been maintained. Most citizens have adopted satellite technology. The schools and the nursing home already have or are building their own internal networks. The local telephone company has recently completed a fiber optic cable installation adjacent to the 4-lane major highway. The precise capability of the fiber link is not known but is sufficient for a planned long-term growth pattern. The in-town central office switch has been upgraded to handle fiber traffic, provide DSL internet service and satisfy most near-term measured growth needs. Quincy, Illinois is an industrial hub in the Tri-States Area that has an abundance of telecommunications capacity that can be economically available by microwave from the city's suppliers.

**ATTACHMENT I**  
**Canton Area Community Groups**

**American Association of University Women**

c/o Mary Carol Lindbloom, President  
700 Washington Street  
Pleiades@adams.net

**American Legion**

L.A. Schryver, Commander  
OTTO Bruner Post 170  
PO Box 23

**American Legion Auxiliary**

Cindy Barker, contact person

**Ancient & Free Accepted Masons of Missouri 0287**

Brad Davis, President

**Order of the Eastern Star**

Carolyn Winters, President  
[cjwinters@socket.net](mailto:cjwinters@socket.net)

**Business Women/Friendship Quilters**

Jan Lewis, President  
711 Jamison

**Canton Area Arts Council**

Carol Mathieson, President  
PO Box 107  
339 Lewis Street  
[cmathieson@culver.edu](mailto:cmathieson@culver.edu)

**Canton Civic Club**

Roberta Holmes, President  
1303 White Street  
[rholmes@nemo.net](mailto:rholmes@nemo.net)

**Canton Betterment Group, Inc.**

c/o Charlie Walters, President  
1402 McRoberts Road  
cwalters001@centurytel.net

**Canton Chamber of Commerce**

Jarrold Phillips, President

**Canton Council of Churches**

Stacey Nicholas, President  
Immanuel Methodist Church  
Xxx Washington Street  
[Coelho@century.net](mailto:Coelho@century.net)

**Canton Library Board**

Sam Tillman, President  
Crisse Smallwood, Librarian  
409 Lewis Street

**Canton R-V Booster Club**

Thornton (Skip) Barton, President  
Canton High School  
200 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street

**Canton R-V PTO**

Canton R-V School  
200 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street

**Fraternal Order of Eagles**

Keith Cary, President  
Lyle Ludwig, Secretary  
[birdsnest@socket.net](mailto:birdsnest@socket.net)

**Key Club**

Zack Neff, President  
Canton R-V School  
200 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street

**Kiwanis International**

Larry Arnold, President

**Knights of Columbus 2526**

Eric Derosher, President  
Kahoka, Missouri

**LaGrange Chamber of Commerce**

Ken Schutz, President

**Lewis County Historical Society**

112 North Fourth Street  
Cindy Kell, President

**Lion's Club at LaGrange**

Sam Tillman, President  
216 South Main Street

LaGrange, MO 63448

**National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution**

Betty Lillard, contact person

**PEO**

Cindy McCutchan, President  
16723 Rustic Avenue  
Monticello, MO 63475

**Veterans of Foreign Wars**

Don Sykes, contact person

**Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary**

Evelyn Evans, contact person

**Fraternities, Sororities and Societies**

Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity

Beta Beta Beta Biological Society

Chi Omega Fraternity

Delta Upsilon International Fraternity, Inc.

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity

Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Psi Chi the National Honor Society in Psychology

Sigma Kappa Sorority

Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, Inc.

Theta Alpha Phi National Honorary Dramatics Fraternity