Mercy Medical Center to Build New Intensive Care Unit – On Monday, October 15th, Mercy Medical Center held a groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of a new $20.5 million Intensive Care Unit on the grounds of Mercy Medical Center in Canton. The new addition will feature a new 24-unit Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and will be a family focused, state-of-the-art facility when completed in early 2009. Additional construction will include the expansion of an existing parking deck and a new helipad landing that will be located on top of the deck. The new ICU is another positive community asset in marketing Canton and Stark County to companies as a location for new business and industry.

Fed Ex Ground Constructing New Facility – Fed Ex Ground has begun construction on a $7 million, 76,000 sq. ft. package distribution facility in the Port Jackson Business Park in Jackson Township at the southern edge of the Akron Canton Airport. The new construction is a result of capacity issues they were experiencing at their current facility in Jackson Township. As a result of the expansion, the company will be adding over 90 new employees over the next couple of years. A major factor for locating at the airport site was the recent opening of the new Shuffel Drive interchange on Interstate 77. The new interchange provides direct access west to where Fed Ex Ground is constructing their new facility. The Port Jackson Business Park is located at the Akron Canton Airport (CAK) on land owned by the airport and managed by the Dellagnese Company.

Canton, Ohio Recognized by America OnLine (AOL) – The City of Canton was recently recognized by America OnLine (AOL) as one of the nation’s most affordable housing markets, ranking fourth best of ten cities ranked including: Killeen, Texas; Minot, North Dakota; Arlington, Texas; Canton, Ohio; Muncie, Indiana; Topeka, Kansas; Ft. Worth, Texas; Tulsa Oklahoma; Grayling, Michigan and Wichita, Kansas. The average sales price of a single family house in Canton was listed at $146,333. Click here for more information.

Education and Economic Development – Stark County is fortunate to have The Stark Educational Partnership which is nationally recognized as a leader in the area of educational change and reform. The Partnership was founded in 1989 through the leadership and financial support of the area’s largest companies and community foundations and plays a major role in working with county, state, and national partners in the public, private, and non-profit sectors to improve educational achievement for all Stark County children. In it’s October 19th weekly update, the Partnership recently highlighted some of the positive indicators that show that the Stark County community understands that education and economic development must work together to create the educated workforce of the future. To read about these indicators, please click www.edpartner.org/pdfs/issues_10.19.07.pdf.

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