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**Downtown Canton
Special Improvement District**
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Press Alert

What: December FIRST FRIDAY – Snow Much to do Downtown

When: Friday, December 4, 2009 6-10 p.m.

Where: Canton's Downtown Arts District

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Snow Much to do Downtown!

Tis the season ... And it starts with December First Friday, themed Snow Much to Do Downtown! The frosty phrase nips at the possibilities of Christmas shopping, savory dining and joyous entertainment at all the holiday hops throughout the Canton Arts District.

Begin your evening "uptown" at the Canton Museum of Art, as they open their new exhibit, *Something from Nothing – Recycled Sculpture from America's Rustbelt*, amid a reception with Abou magazine. An art sale and life drawing demonstrations by members of Canton Artists' League, will also be underway.

Kids will want to get to 2nd April Galerie from 5-7 pm to meet legendary Christopher Pop-In-Kins, then skip around to enjoy holiday crafts compliment of Illuminarts at Zephyr Wind Art; ornament-making session with Aultman Wellness on Wheels at the Rotary Club (217 – 2nd Street NW); an Art to Wear project at Lynda Tuttle's on 6th street; face and body painting with Community One Credit Union; and a free showing of "The Polar Express" at 7:30 p.m. at the Canton Palace Theatre.

The Second Annual youth art/poetry showdown, sponsored by the Stark Youth Arts Council will not only feature the spoken word and painting talent of young area artists, but also a special reading by author Allen Hines, from his new book, Screaming Freedom. This will take place at the Kathleen Howland Theatre at 8:00 p.m., following a 7:30 p.m. performance from the Actor's of Farinella's Ghost who will do a teaser for A Christmas Carol before strolling the streets with their merriment.

Ryan Humbert returns to Canton with his musical flair at 8:00 p.m. at 2nd April Galerie. Other musical acts include Michael Bastas at the Joseph Saxton Gallery, Ashley Brooke Toussant at Art Adventure Studios and Jimmy Chesterfield at Anderson Creative. And the sounds of the season will abound. Caroler and elves will be strolling the streets and the shops all evening, and the GlenOak Chorale Drifters will be entertaining at 7:00 p.m. at the Canton Woman's Club, who will be serving dinner until 8:00 p.m.

And, just in time for your Secret Santa – there are sales in the District. A closeout sale of the MDS Boutique will be running at Zephyr Wind Art from 6-9 p.m.; Sarafina Décor will offer a buy 2 – get one free holiday ornament sale; The Dreg Spot is offering 30% off framed art, Designs by Dana will give 20% off all inventory and Bad Girlz Design will be happy to take 10% off your purchase, as will all vendors at 2nd April Galerie & Studios with a donation of canned food for the Stark County Hunger Task Force. Plus a brand new studio -- *A Studio Photography* (602 6th St NW) will have their grand opening this night.

Dancers will delight to another swinging time at the Metropolitan Centre Ballroom with Swing Dance lessons being offered at 8:00 p.m. and a full out swing dance party from 9-midnight, featuring Hep Cat Revival.

Download more information and a map for December 4 *Snow Much to Do Downtown* at www.cantonfirstfriday.com. First Friday is sponsored by the Downtown Canton Special Improvement District in cooperation with ArtsInStark, the County Arts Council. *