



## ROTARY CLUB OF STRONGSVILLE

18100 Royalton Road • Strongsville, OH 44136

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 3, 2005

#### News events / photo opportunities:

- 1) Safety Town Ribbon Cutting June 10, 2005, 8:00 a.m.
- 2) Pre-Kindergarten Safety Town classes begin June 13, 2005, 8:30 a.m.

#### Contacts:

**Rick Voigt, President**  
Strongsville Rotary Club  
216-898-4242

**Ken McEntee**  
The Write Company  
440-238-6603

## Kids learn safety at "little" Strongsville

**STRONGSVILLE, Ohio** - Pre-kindergartners this month will begin to learn about safety in a familiar little town just their size. The new Safety Town, sponsored by the Strongsville Rotary Club, features 25 miniature buildings that replicate the businesses and other structures the kids see around town every day.

The \$130,000 project, built mainly by volunteers, will take the Safety Town concept to a new level.

Gone will be the generic box buildings and asphalt painted to represent streets, sidewalks and grass. In their place will be real grass tree lawns, landscaped grounds and concrete sidewalks surrounding the miniature, five-foot buildings. The town also will feature a working traffic light and a miniature railroad crossing. The fenced-in, 14,000-square-foot town will provide a

secure environment where children can practice what they learn during their Safety Town teaching sessions.

Safety Town, a weeklong program sponsored and operated by the Strongsville Police Department, teaches pre-kindergarten children about safety issues such as school bus safety, the danger of strangers, fire safety, crossing the street, bicycle safety and other important lessons.

Rotary's goal for the project was to create a comfortable, real town atmosphere in which children who will be entering kindergarten will learn about safety in a practical, fun environment. The club initiated the project in commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rotary International.

"When the Police Department asked us to spearhead this project we enthusiastically said yes," said Rick Voigt, president of the Strongsville Rotary. "We want to take this opportunity to create a Class A Safety Town that will be another one of the prime jewels in the city. With this being Rotary's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, this was perfect timing for such a project."



Once completed, the state-of-the-art Safety Town will feature miniature replicas of some of Strongsville's most recognized buildings.

According to Officer Don Poney, of the Strongsville Police Department, "We have a great program here. Most cities have Safety Town programs, but we're always getting calls from people in other cities who want to send their kids to our program."

The project was funded through about \$100,000 in cash donations and about \$30,000 in donated labor and materials. Twenty-seven businesses donated \$3,000 each to have their buildings reproduced in the town. The Greater Cleveland Automobile Dealers Association donated \$10,000 for naming rights on a classroom building. Bricks engraved with purchasers' names and used to pave the streets of Safety Town are being sold for \$50 each.



The first class of kindergarten-bound children will begin their Safety Town lessons on June 13, 2005, at 8:30 a.m.

An official opening and ribbon cutting ceremony will be held Friday, June 10, 2005, at 8:00 a.m.

For more information about the new Strongsville Safety Town, visit [www.strongsvillerotary.org/safety\\_town.htm](http://www.strongsvillerotary.org/safety_town.htm).

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**Note to media for scheduling purposes:**

**Four weeklong Safety Town class sessions are scheduled for the weeks beginning June 13, June 27 and July 11, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. On the week of June 20, classes will be held from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. and 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Children are expected to take field trips on Wednesdays and/or Thursdays and will not be at the Safety Town site.**

**To protect yourself against scheduling changes, please call Ken McEntee 440-238-6603, (cell 216-407-8759) to verify times, etc. Or call Lynn Templin, Safety Town coordinator, at the Strongsville Police Department, 440-238-1048.**

**The ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place Friday, June 10, 2005, at 8:00 a.m. Classes will not be in session on that date.**

**Safety Town is situated adjacent to the Strongsville Recreation Center, 18100 Royalton Road, Strongsville, OH 44136. Phone: (440) 878-6000.**