



Ohio's First Charter County

The Council Ledger

Spring 2017

Upcoming Community Events

SAVE THE DATE

4th Annual Let's Move Summit County Health Walk for Infant Mortality Awareness

Saturday, May 20, 2017
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Akron Zoo
500 Edgewood Ave.
Akron 44307

See Page 3 for more details...

County Council Unanimous in Support of Dating Violence Protection

At its March 6th meeting, Summit County Council passed a resolution in support of Ohio House Bill 132-1, which authorizes dating violence protection orders, and urging the Ohio Senate and Governor Kasich to support the same. The resolution was sponsored by Councilman **David Hamilton (District 5), County Executive Ilene Shapiro and Council of the Whole.**

Intimate Partner Violence includes physical violence, sexual violence, stalking and psychological aggression (including coercive tactics) by a current or former intimate partner (as defined by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention).

Nearly 25 percent of women and 7.6 percent of men have been victims of intimate partner violence (according to CDC) and young women between the ages of 16 and 24 experience the highest

rates of violence in their relationships of any age group (according to Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics).

Current Ohio Law excludes victims of dating violence, and Ohio is one of only two U.S. states that do not include victims of dating violence in Domestic Violence.

Ohio House Bill 132-1 (HB 1) was introduced by Representative Emilia Sykes (D-34) and Representative Nathan Manning (R-55), has been co-sponsored by 32 Ohio Representatives, and will expand the victims of Domestic Violence to include intimate partners, who are individuals in continuing and significant relationships of a romantic nature with an alleged batterer.

HB1 will provide additional protection to Domestic Violence victims of all ages and stronger tools to Ohio Police

forces and Courts to protect Domestic Violence victims and adjudicate alleged batterers; and HB1 will update Ohio Law to comport with the latest and best strategies to address Domestic Violence and the standards of 48 other U.S. States.

Chloe Pays a Visit to Council



At the March 20th County Council Meeting, Summit County Council Members were treated to a visit from Chloe, a 12 year old kinkajou from the Akron Zoo. Akron Zoo president and CEO Doug Piekarz was there to present an annual report on the Zoo and its developments, and brought along Todd Boerner, zoo education specialist and Chloe, part of the Zoo's animal ambassador program. Chloe and other Akron Zoo animal ambassadors take part in hundreds of educational presentations annually at schools throughout Summit County. The Akron Zoo finished 2016 with record high attendance of nearly 400,000 on-site visitors.

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Council President John Schmidt Recognizes Americhem on 75th Anniversary



On February 23rd, Summit County Council President **John Schmidt (District 2)** presented a Commendation to Americhem in recognition of their 75th Anniversary. One of North America's 30 largest color compounders and concentrate makers, Americhem was founded in Akron in 1941 and has been headquartered in Cuyahoga Falls since 1965. Americhem provides color masterbatches, single pigment dispersions, additive concentrates and custom compounds for various markets including: high performance plastics, building and construction, packaging and containers, polymer additives for films, automotive and transportation, carpet, synthetic turf, nonwovens and textiles. The company employs more than 800 workers worldwide at 10 plants with annual sales close to \$300 million.

President Schmidt is pictured with (from left) VP of Human Resources Diane Shields, Director of Global Supply Chain Rod Manfull, Executive VP and Chief Financial Officer Jane Hamrle, and Director of Research Wendy Shuttleworth.

Councilman Hamilton Hosts District Meeting at Vern Odom Library

New Summit County Councilman **David Hamilton** hosted his first District meeting on President's Day, February 20th at the Vern Odom Library in Akron. In an informal "meet and greet" atmosphere, Councilman Hamilton introduced himself to interested constituents in the Southwest Akron area and shared his thoughts on his new role as a Councilman and how he could best serve them. Frequent topics that arose during the meeting included abandoned and vacant properties, small business assistance, consumer protection and neighborhood safety issues. In addition to future district meetings, Councilman Hamilton will also be hosting monthly "Office Hours" the first Wednesday of each month to answer questions and address constituent concerns.



Councilman **David Hamilton (District 5)** explains County Council objectives to constituents at the Vern Odom Library during his initial District meeting on February 20th. Councilman Hamilton plans to host monthly meetings throughout his district which includes parts of Akron, Copley, Fairlawn and Bath.

Council Supports Caps to Payday Loan Interest Rates

Spring 2017

At the April 3rd County Council Meeting, Council unanimously passed Resolution 2017-134, expressing support for Ohio House Bill 123 which will close an existing loophole and cap the annual interest rate for payday loan lenders, and urging the Ohio Legislature and Governor Kasich to do the same.

Ohio has the highest payday loan rates in the nation and more than a million Ohio residents have taken out high cost payday loans. Ohio payday loan rates average an annual percentage rate of 591 percent and a resident who has a \$300 payday loan out for five months must pay back more than double the amount (\$680) in interest and fees alone. The Ohio General Assembly passed legislation in 2008 capping payday lending rates at 28 percent. A subsequent statewide referendum in 2008 to cap payday lending interest rates was approved by almost 3.4 million Ohio voters (64 percent of the vote). Payday lending companies have utilized a loophole under Ohio's Mortgage Loan Act for several years enabling them to continue charging extremely high interest rates despite the legislation passed by the Ohio General Assembly and the results of the referendum. Ohio House Bill 123 (HB 123) was introduced March 9, 2017 in a bipartisan manner by Representative Michael Ashford (D-44) and Representative Kyle Koehler (R-79).

HB 123 would amend the Ohio Mortgage Loan act and set limits on the annual interest rate payday lenders can charge at 28 percent and also ensures monthly payments do not exceed five percent of a borrower's gross monthly income. The County Council resolution was sponsored by **Councilman at Large Clair Dickinson, County Executive Ilene Shapiro, Councilwoman at Large Elizabeth Walters, Councilwoman Paula Prentice (District 8) and Council of the Whole.**

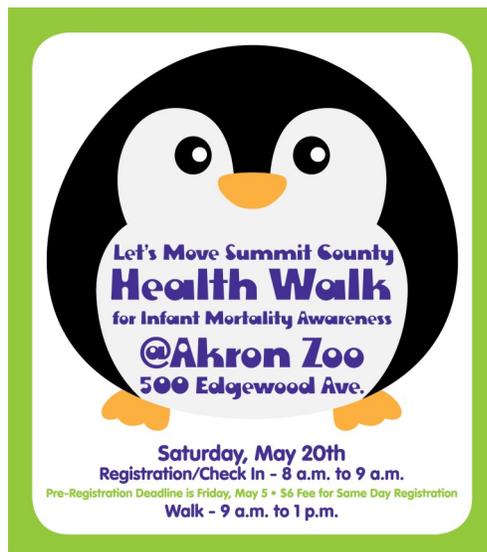
In the Community



Summit County Councilman David Hamilton (District 5) with State Senator Dr. Vernon Sykes, State Representative Emilia Sykes and Ward 4 Akron City Councilman Russell Neal following "Our City, Our Ward" Open House at Buchtel Community Learning Center on Saturday, March 18th.

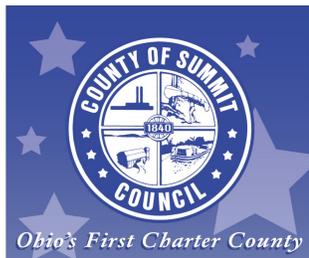


Summit County Councilman Ron Koehler (District 1) answers questions from constituents at the 25th Annual Nardon Hills Expo at Nardon High School on Saturday, March 11th.



REGISTRATION OPTIONS

Register on line at www.co.summit.oh.us/council Click on Let's Move Health Walk link or Call 330-643-2074 Questions? E-mail letsmovesummitcounty@summitoh.net



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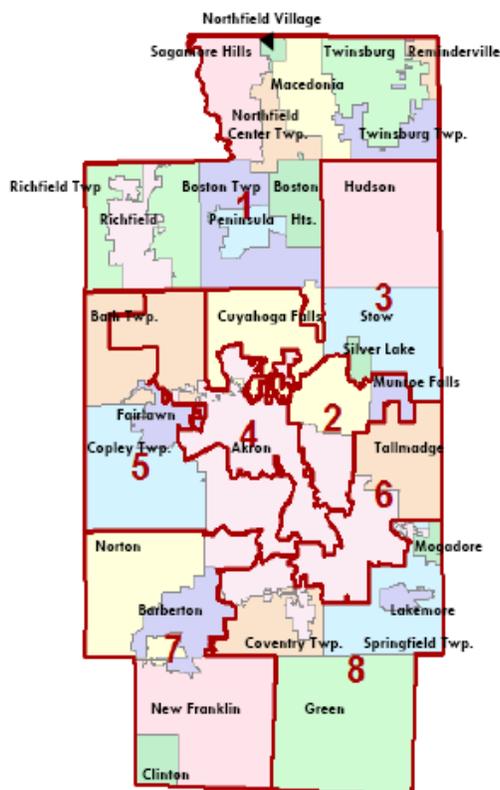
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2017 Council Meeting Calendar

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
May 1	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
May 8	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
May 15	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
May 22	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
May 29	Council Offices Closed for Memorial Day Holiday		
June 5	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
June 12	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
June 19	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
June 26	Council/ Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
<i>Last meeting before Summer Recess</i>			
July 4	Council Offices Closed for Independence Day		
August 7	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
August 14	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.

2017 County Council Members

- John Schmidt**
President
District 2
- Paula Prentice**
Vice President
District 8
- Ron Koehler**
District 1
- Gloria Rodgers**
District 3
- Jeff Wilhite**
District 4
- David Hamilton**
District 5
- Jerry Feeman**
District 6
- Tim Crawford**
District 7
- John Donofrio**
At -Large
- Elizabeth Walters**
At -Large
- Clair Dickinson**
At -Large



County Council Staff

- Mark Potter**
Chief of Staff
- Jennifer Novakovic**
Clerk of Council
- W. Kent Starks, II**
Senior Research Analyst
- Jeannie Bozak**
Executive Assistant

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For this edition and past issues go to: www.co.summit.oh.us

Click on "County Council" then select "News" and then "Newsletter" from the menu.