

The Council Ledger

Summer 2024

4th Annual Let's Move Bike & Hike Tops 300 Participants

On a gorgeous late spring morning at Summit Lake, Saturday, May 18, 2024, Summit County Councilwoman **Christine Wiedie Higham (District 6)** hosted the 4th Annual Let's Move Summit County Bike & Hike at Summit Lake Community Center on the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail.

More than 300 bike riders, walkers and volunteers participated led by Councilwoman Higham and several local elected officials including: State Senator Vernon Sykes, State Representative Veronica Sims, Summit County Council Members **Gloria Rodgers (District 3)**, **Erin Dickin-son (At-Large)**, **Jeff Willhite (District 4)**, **Bethany McKenney (District 7)** and Summit County Clerk of Courts Tavia Galonski.

Bike riders left in groups of 15-25 every 20 minutes beginning shortly after 8 a.m. Riders were led off on the Towpath by Akron Police Department officers and volunteers, following an 8-mile loop route that began at the Summit Lake Community Center, crossing the new Towpath Bridge on the North Shore, looping around the lake on the new paved trail before crossing the new bridge at Kenmore Blvd. and heading south to the Nesmith Lake trailhead at Manchester Road before returning to Summit Lake.

Walkers began their hike in groups of 30-

50 every 15 minutes on the Towpath at 11:00 a.m. led by Councilwoman Wiedie Higham and other volunteers. They also took the new 2.75-mile route around Summit Lake on the Towpath but instead of turning right and heading south toward Nesmith Lake after crossing the Kenmore Blvd. Bridge, they headed left back to the Community Center passing the Summit Metro Parks Nature Center on the way.

Members of the 2024 Buchtel High School Football team rode in the bike groups led by their head coach and athletic director, Brian Williams and the Buchtel Cheerleaders led by their coach Euniece Carter led the last walk group out at 12 noon.

All participants received a FREE t-shirt and sport-pack bag when they checked in and a light brown bagged lunch from Acme upon their completion of the route. Music was provided throughout the event by DJ Chaka.

"We had another great event this year. The weather was beautiful, our volunteers were outstanding, and we received lots of encouraging compliments from everyone who participated.

What an ideal time to get out and be active in this natural environment and enjoy the new trail at Summit Lake," said Councilwoman Wiedie Higham. "It's good to see so many families and children come out and join us. Our health should be a priority



County Councilwomen Gloria Rodgers (District 3) Bethany McKenney (District 7) and Christine Wiedie Higham (District 6) with Let's Move Summit County Coordinator Kent Starks at the 2024 Bike & Hike at Summit Lake on Saturday, May 18.

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More Than 300 Participate in 2024 Let's Move Bike & Hike

and we need to do what we can to keep moving each day," she concluded.

The 2024 Bike and Hike Event was sponsored and supported by:

- ◆ Summit County Council
- ◆ County of Summit, Ilene Shapiro Executive
- ◆ City of Akron, Shamas Malik Mayor
- ◆ Summit County Public Health
- ◆ Summit County Fiscal Office, Kristin Scalise CPA, CFE
- ◆ Cleveland Clinic Akron General
- ◆ Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority
- ◆ CareSource
- ◆ Summit County Prosecutor Elliot Kolkovich
- ◆ Acme Fresh Market
- ◆ Summit Metro Parks
- ◆ Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition

- ◆ South Street Ministries
- ◆ METRO RTA
- ◆ Distillata
- ◆ Mustard Seed Market & Cafe
- ◆ Tavia Galonski, Summit County Clerk of Courts
- ◆ Community Action Akron Summit
- ◆ Key Bank
- ◆ ADM Board
- ◆ Summit DD
- ◆ Oriana House
- ◆ Akron Children's Hospital
- ◆ Stewart & Calhoun Funeral Home
- ◆ Summit County Sheriff Kandy Fatheree
- ◆ Summit County Engineer Alan Brubaker
- ◆ Summa Health
- ◆ GOJO

- ◆ Akron Area YMCA
- ◆ Akron Children's Museum
- ◆ Akron Summit County Public Library
- ◆ Always Climbing Project
- ◆ Central Graphics and Signs

Photos below from far left: (courtesy of Jaci Stein - Wellness Coordinator County of Summit, Ilene Shapiro Executive)

Top row from left... Let's Move Volunteers, Councilwoman Wiedie Higham, Summit County Deputy Prosecutor John Galonski and Clerk of Courts Tavia Galonski; **Middle Row...** Councilwoman Gloria Rodgers, Councilwoman Bethany McKenney (on bike), State Senator Vernon Sykes, kids waiting to ride; **Bottom Row...** Councilwoman Erin Dickinson, State Representative Veronica Sims with Let's Move Volunteers, Councilman Jeff Wilhite talks with Akron Fire Department Medic.

For a full photo recap of the event, visit the Council webpage at: council.summitoh.net



Council Recognizes “National Animal Therapy Day”



Therapy animal teams throughout Summit County play an essential role in improving human health and well-being through the human-animal bond, bringing joy and comfort to those at various Summit County facilities including nursing homes, Akron Children's Hospital, Hattie Larlham Centers and in schools, libraries and more, interacting with a variety of people in our community including veterans, seniors, patients, students and those approaching end of life. These exceptional therapy animals who partner with their human companions bring comfort and healing to those in need. April 30th was designated as National Therapy Animal Day. Pet owners were encouraged to consider becoming therapy animal volunteers to help the community by creating greater access to meaningful therapy animal visits.

In photo at left, Councilwomen Christine Wiedie Higham and Bethany McKenney present a Commendation to Summit County therapy animal volunteers and their dogs in recognition of National Therapy Animal Day.



Council Honors Camp Christopher on 100 Years

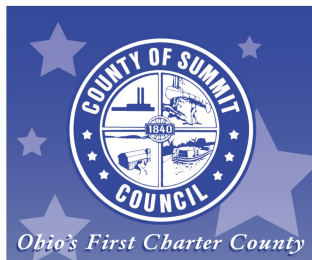
Prior to the May 20 Council Meeting, Council recognized Camp Christopher on its 100th Anniversary. **Council President Rita Darrow (District 1)** presented a Commendation to Camp Christopher Director Olivia Mackey. Located on 160 acres in Bath Township, Camp Christopher is the summer home to thousands of young people every summer. The property offers beautiful lakes, forests, a cave, one of a few natural bridges in the state of Ohio, springs, wetlands, geologic formations, grassy fields, and more. Camp Christopher is operated by Catholic Charities, Diocese of Cleveland. “We are very fortunate to have Camp Christopher here in Summit County,” said Darrow. “They have provided a lifetime of memories for children for generations and hopefully they will continue to provide even more experiences for another one hundred years.”

Council Salutes State Wheelchair Basketball Champions from Tallmadge

At its April 15, Council Meeting, Summit County Council and Executive Ilene Shapiro honored the Tallmadge High School Wheelchair Basketball team who won the Ohio Interscholastic Wheelchair Basketball State Championship, defeating the previously unbeaten and top-ranked Austintown Wheelchair Falcons 24-16 at the James A. Rhodes Arena on the campus of the University of Akron in Akron, Ohio. With the victory, the Blue Devils (15-2) avenged their only losses during the season to Austintown. Freshman phenom Ta'Shaun Myers scored 16 points to lead the Blue Devils and able-bodied junior Ben James added 6 points, along with 10 rebounds and 2 assists. The Wheelchair Blue Devils defeated Beavercreek Wheelchair Beavers 32-10 in the playoffs and the Jackson Wheelchair



Polar Bears 24-23 in the semi-finals prior to securing their first Championship. The team was led by Coach Monica Currey, assistant coaches, Greg and Cory Michalec and assistants Liam Steele and Landon Allen. Team captains are seniors Sammy Blatt, Cerafina Currey and Emma Allen. Several Wheelchair Blue Devils were honored for their outstanding performances during the season including: Myers, a first year player who attends Steel Academy in Akron, was named to the All-Ohio team as a Player with a Disability. Currey, in her 6th year with the team was named to the All-Ohio team as an able-bodied player and was also named the All-Ohio Athlete of the Year for Able-Bodied Players. Sophomore, Michael Mami in his second year, attends Woodridge High and was named Honorable Mention for players with a disability. The Tallmadge Wheelchair Blue Devils began in 2017 under the direction of Lauren Stone and Kallan Ertley. That year the team ended as State Runner-up. Tom Linder then led the team from 2018-2020 for two years and was also State Runner-up. Monica Currey became head coach in 2021 and has had Coach Greg Michalec since then. Cory Michalec was a senior in 2021 and has now been an assistant coach for two years. The 2024 team members include seniors: Emma Allen, Samantha Blatt and Cerafina Currey; junior Benjamin James; sophomore Michael Mami; freshmen Ta'Shaun Myers and Shataeya Patton; 8th grader Iyad Yasin and 6th grader Justin Steele.



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2024 Council Meeting Calendar

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
August 5	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
August 12	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
August 19	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
August 26	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
September 2	COUNCIL OFFICES CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY		
September 9	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
September 16	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
September 23	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
September 30	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
October 7	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
October 14	COUNCIL OFFICES CLOSED FOR COLUMBUS DAY		
October 21	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
October 28	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
November 4	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.

2024 County Council Members

***Rita Darrow**

President

District 1

Erin Dickinson

Vice President

At Large

John Schmidt

District 2

Gloria Rodgers

District 3

Jeff Wilhite

District 4

Brandon Ford

District 5

Christine Wiedie Higham

District 6

Bethany McKenney

District 7

Anthony DeVitis

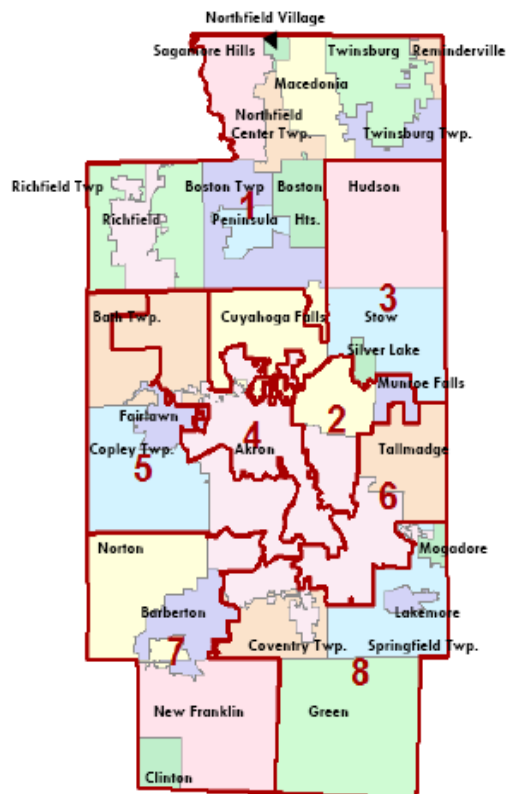
District 8

John Donofrio

At -Large

Elizabeth Walters

At -Large



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Mark Potter

Chief of Staff

W. Kent Starks, II

Senior Research Analyst

Monique Willis

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