

# The Council Ledger

Spring-Summer 2023

## Let's Move Bike and Hike Draws Nearly 300 in Third Year

On Saturday, May 20, 2023, from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Summit County Council President **Veronica Sims (District 5)** hosted the 3rd Annual Let's Move Summit County Bike & Hike at Summit Lake Community Center on the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail.

Despite some early morning rain and cooler than anticipated temperatures, nearly 300 bike riders, walkers and volunteers participated led by Councilwoman Sims and several local elected officials including: US Congresswoman Emilia Sykes, Summit County Council Members **Gloria Rodgers (District 3)**, **Christine Wiedie Higham (District 6)** and **Erin Dickin-son (At-Large)**, Summit County Sheriff Kandy Fatheree, Summit County Clerk of Courts Sandra Kurt, Summit County Executive Deputy Chief of Staff Greta Johnson, Akron City Council President Margo Sommerville (Ward 3), Councilman Russell Neal (Ward 4), Councilwoman Tara Mosley (Ward 5) and Councilwoman Linda Omobien (at Large).

Bike riders and walkers left in groups of 20-25 every 15 minutes beginning shortly after 8 a.m. Riders were led off on the Towpath by a volunteer group of Akron Police Department officers, following a 6 mile loop route that began at the Summit Lake Community Center, passing the MetroParks Nature Center and heading south to the Nesmith Lake trailhead at Manchester Road on the Towpath Trail before returning to Summit Lake.

Walkers began their hike on the Towpath at 11:00 a.m. They had a choice to follow a mile and a half route north to Park East behind Alpha Phi Alpha Homes' Channelwood Village and then return to Summit Lake, or to proceed on the Towpath trail to Lock 2 directly behind Canal Park, home of the Akron Rubber Ducks and, and turn around there heading back to Summit Lake.

The 2023 State Champion Boys Basketball Champions from Buchtel High School were represented by their outstanding cheerleaders, who performed lively routines for the crowd before leading the last walk group out at 12:40.

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

"Although the weather was a challenge at the start, we had a great day and I cannot say enough about the positive energy and spirit from our volunteers and participants. That's what "Let's Move" is all about, fun, friends and family having a good time and enjoying being active in this wonderful park and trail at Summit Lake," said President Sims. "The true highlight of the day was when one of our walkers told me she had never walked 3 miles before and she didn't think she could make it, but she did and she felt so wonderful about it!



**Akron City Councilwomen Tara Mosley and Margo Sommerville (far left and right) and County Councilwomen Gloria Rodgers (District 3) Veronica Sims (District 5) and Christine Wiedie Higham (District 6) with Let's Move Summit County Coordinator Kent Starks at the 2023 Bike & Hike at Summit Lake on Saturday, May 20.**

### Inside this issue:

Let's Move Summit County 3rd Annual Bike and Hike draws nearly 300 participants **2**

Councilwoman Wiedie Higham Co-Hosts "Building an Age Friendly Community" in Tallmadge **3**

Council Recognizes Safety Town video winner

Council Honors Boys State Basketball Champions from Buchtel and Hoban **3**

Council Meetings Council District Map Council Office Staff Directory **4**

*Continued on Page 2*

# Nearly 300 Participate in 3rd Annual Let's Move Bike & Hike

That's why we continue to do this each year. Our health is so important and we must continue to keep moving each day," she concluded.

"Let's Move, Summit County!" stemmed from former First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move!" campaign which aimed to curb childhood obesity in the United States. Locally, former Summit County Councilmember Paula Prentice began the initiative in 2010, a collaborative effort between the Summit County Council the Summit County Executive's office and several community partners. The group has hosted family fitness hikes, First Night Akron fitness activities, a Community Block Walk, Annual Health Walks at the Akron Zoo and Infant Mortality Health Events at the Buchtel Community Learning Center in past years.

The 2023 Bike and Hike Event was sponsored and supported by:

- **Summit County Council**
- **County of Summit, Ilene Shapiro Executive**
- **City of Akron, Dan Horrigan Mayor**

- **Summit County Public Health**
- **Summit County Fiscal Office, Kristin Scalise CPA, CFE**
- **Cleveland Clinic Akron General**
- **AxessPointe Community Health Centers**
- **Community Action Akron Summit**
- **Alpha Phi Alpha Homes, Inc.**
- **Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority**
- **CareSource**
- **Acme Fresh Market**
- **Summit Metro Parks**
- **Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition**
- **South Street Ministries**
- **METRO RTA**
- **Sandra Kurt, Summit County Clerk of Courts**
- **Key Bank**
- **ADM Board**
- **Summit DD**
- **Oriana House**
- **Akron Children's Hospital**

- **Stewart & Calhoun Funeral Home**
- **GOJO**
- **Akron Area YMCA**
- **Molina Healthcare of Ohio**
- **Akron Urban League**
- **Akron Children's Museum**
- **Summit County Sheriff Kandy Fatheree**
- **Summit County Engineer Alan Brubaker**
- **Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh**
- **Your Guardian Angels**
- **Summer Ready Fitness**
- **Buchtel CLC Cheerleaders**
- **Always Climbing Project**

As District 5 County Council Member, Veronica Sims represents parts of Akron, Copley Township, parts of Bath Township and the City of Fairlawn. For a full photo recap of the event, visit the Council webpage at [council.summitoh.net](http://council.summitoh.net)



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

Akron Police Officer Karlton Starks leads out a group of bikers in the rain on the Towpath Trail headed toward Nesmith Lake.

A cyclist enjoys the trail with her dogs ...

A walk group heads out on the Towpath led by Akron City Councilwoman Margo Sommerville, County Councilwoman Christine Wiedie Higham and Summit County Sheriff Kandy Fatheree.

Summit County Councilwoman Erin Dickinson and her sons walk on the Ohio & Erie Canalway Towpath Trail and the Buchtel CLC Cheerleaders head out on the trail (bottom right).

## Councilwoman Wiedie Higham Co-Hosts “Building an Age-Friendly Community”

On May 8, District 6 County Councilwoman Christine Wiedie Higham Co-hosted “Building an Age-Friendly Community” with Tallmadge City Councilwoman at Large Carol Siciliano-Kilway. The event was held at Danbury Senior Living in Tallmadge. Lots of great information for seniors, caretakers and those planning for senior years was shared by Ethan Lower of Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro’s Office regarding the Age Friendly Task Force and Matt Reed of Direction Home Akron Canton Area Agency on Aging & Disabilities.



*Councilwoman Christine Wiedie Higham talks with a constituent following the “Building an Age Friendly Community” she is joined by Ethan Lower of Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro’s office and Matt Reed of Direction Home Akron Canton Area Agency on Aging & Disabilities.*

## Council Recognizes Safety-Town Video Winner

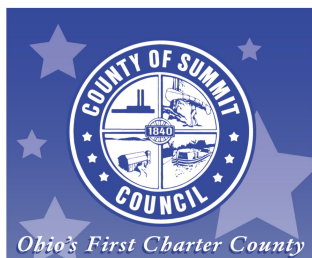


Prior to the April 3 Council Meeting, Council and the Executive Office recognized the winner of the “Safety-Town” video contest, sponsored by the Executive and the County’s Emergency Management Agency. There were 13 submissions from 24 students in 5 school districts in Summit County. The video was an update on the 9-1-1 safety video geared for children ages 5-6. The winner of the contest was Morgan Beatty from Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy. She is pictured with the Executive’s Deputy Director Greta Johnson and Council Vice President Rita Darrow (District 1).

## Council Honors State Boys Basketball Champions from Buchtel and Hoban



At its April 3, Council Meeting, Summit County Council and Executive Ilene Shapiro’s Office honored State Boys Basketball Champions, Akron Buchtel and Archbishop Hoban. Buchtel won the Division II Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) Championship with a 51-49 victory over Lutheran West and Hoban followed that up with its own Division I State Title with a 53-47 win over defending champion Pinkerington Central High School at the University of Dayton Arena. The Griffins (23-6), coached by Buchtel alum Rayshon Dent (**holding Commendation next to Councilwoman Elizabeth Walters**) rode a seven game winning streak into Dayton which included an Akron City Series Championship over Akron East High, an OHSAA District Championship over Cleveland Villa Angela St. Joseph and an OHSAA Regional Title over Gates Mills Gilmour Academy. On the biggest stage, the ‘1040’ would not be denied, taking out undefeated and state #1 ranked Columbus Bishop Ready in the State Semifinal 60-50. After seven trips to the “Final Four,” the Griffins finally earned the school’s first state championship and Akron Public Schools’ first State Crown since the 1986 Central-Hower Eagles. The Knights (26-3), coached by TK Griffith (**with Councilman Jeff Wilhite in photo above right**), rumbled into Dayton on an 11-game win streak, defeating perennial State powerhouse Lakewood St. Edward in the OHSAA Sectional Final, Macedonia Nordonina in the District Final, and Summit County rival, Walsh Jesuit in the Regional Final. Hoban kept their hot streak alive in Dayton, knocking off Toledo St. John’s in the Semifinal 49-36 with a dominating defensive performance. The 2023 team was the third Hoban basketball squad to make the trip to the State “Final Four” with the 1989 Championship team and the 1998 team that made the trip to the semifinal round. Coach Griffith in his 30th season coaching the Knights (he also played on the ‘89 Championship team) won his first state championship and got to celebrate it with his son, Andrew, a key senior on the 2022-23 team .



### Summit County Council

Ohio Building  
175 S. Main St., Ste. 700  
Akron, OH 44308-1314  
Phone: 330-643-2725  
Fax: 330-643-2531

The Council Ledger is a quarterly publication of the Summit County Council Office produced by Council Staff.

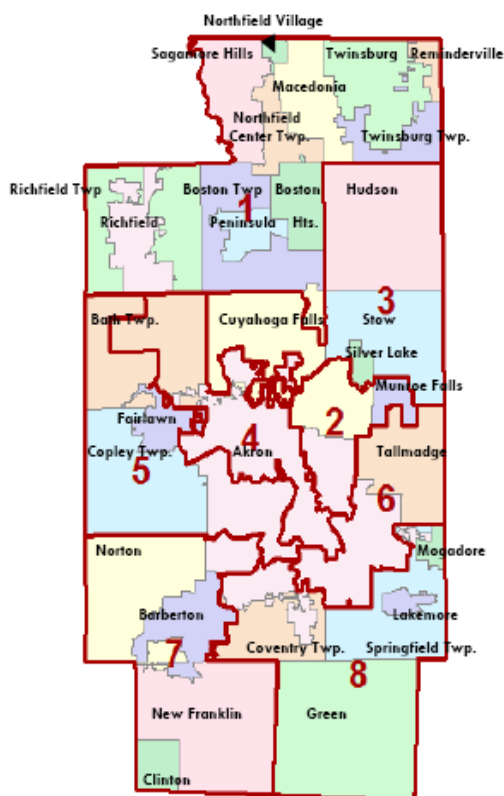
W. Kent Starks II — Editor  
Phone: 330-643-2074  
E-Mail: [kstarks@summitoh.net](mailto:kstarks@summitoh.net)

### 2023 Council Meeting Calendar

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
June 12	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
June 19	<b>COUNCIL OFFICES CLOSED FOR JUNETEENTH</b>		
June 26	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
	<i>Last Meeting Before Summer Recess</i>		
July 4	<b>COUNCIL OFFICES CLOSED FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY</b>		
August 7	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
August 14	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
August 21	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
August 28	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
September 4	<b>COUNCIL OFFICES CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY</b>		
September 11	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
September 18	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
September 25	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
October 2	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.

### 2023 County Council Members

- \*Veronica Sims**  
*President*  
District 5
- Rita Darrow**  
*Vice President*  
District 1
- John Schmidt**  
District 2
- Gloria Rodgers**  
District 3
- Jeff Wilhite**  
District 4
- Christine Wiedie Higham**  
District 6
- Bethany McKenney**  
District 7
- Anthony DeVitis**  
District 8
- John Donofrio**  
At -Large
- Elizabeth Walters**  
At -Large
- Erin Dickinson**  
At -Large



### County Council Staff

**Mark Potter**  
Chief of Staff

**Lauren Marsh**  
Clerk of Council

**W. Kent Starks, II**  
Senior Research Analyst

*The Council Ledger is also available online.*

*For this edition and past issues go to:  
<https://council.summitoh.net>*

*then select "Newsletter" from the menu and scroll and choose the edition you'd like to read.*