

# The Council Ledger

Winter 2026

## Dickinson and Higham to Lead Council in 2026



**2026 Summit County Council Officers President Erin Dickinson (At-Large) and Vice President Christine Higham ( District 6).**

At its January 5th Organizational Meeting, Summit County Council selected **Erin Dickinson (At Large)** to serve as Council President and **Christine Higham (District 6)** to serve as Vice President in 2026. Dickinson succeeds **Rita Darrow (District 1)** who served as President in 2024 and 2025. Dickinson was formerly Vice President of Council during those years.

Dickinson has previously chaired the Public Safety and Rules Committees and been vice chair of the Public Works Committee. She most recently chaired the Public Safety Committee and was vice chair of the Personnel & Intergovernmental Committee.

Since her appointment to Summit County Council in 2022, Higham has chaired the Personnel and Intergovernmental Committee, been vice chair of the Planning, Building and Economic Development Committee and served on the Public Works and Finance Committees. She also heads the Council's Let's Move Summit County Health and Wellness initiative for children and families, showcased by the "Let's Move Bike & Hike" event held annually at Summit Lake Park on the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail in Akron.

*For complete information on 2026 County Council Committee Leadership and Members please visit the Summit County Council Web-Page at [council.summitoh.net](http://council.summitoh.net). Look for Motion 013-2026.*

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**BIKE HIKE**  
LET'S MOVE SUMMIT COUNTY!

**SATURDAY MAY 16TH**

SUMMIT LAKE COMMUNITY CENTER, OHIO & ERIE CANALWAY TOWPATH TRIAL  
380 W. Crosier St. Akron, OH

**BIKE RIDE**  
7:30 AM - 11:00 AM

**WALK**  
10:30 AM - 2:00 PM

**SAVE THE DATE**

## Council Honors Falls Rotary Club on 100 Years



Summit County Councilman John Schmidt (right) with Rotary Club of Cuyahoga Falls President Taylor Fronk at the Club's "Century of Service" Recognition.

In November, Summit County Council honored the Cuyahoga Falls Rotary Club as it marked 100 years of service. Its first official meeting was held on November 5th, 1925, when a small group of interested men met at the office of Attorney Charles McCluskey. Today, the club is still going strong with a large group of active members meeting on Tuesdays at noon at the Burntwood Tavern in Cuyahoga Falls. Their philanthropic work in the community has included: support of the Ohio Society for Crippled Children (including the donation of a hand-operated "rowbike" wheelchair invented by a club member), the Rex Lake Children's Camp, Falls YMCA, Junior Achievement, Boy Scouts, Cuyahoga Falls Little League, the Falls Family Solutions Pathways Program and Good Neighbors, Inc.

The Club has also hosted the Rotary Youth Exchange Program, allowing students to study abroad and host international students in Cuyahoga Falls; participated in the Rotary Four-Way Test Speech Contest with students from Cuyahoga Falls, Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy, Walsh Jesuit and Woodridge High Schools and provided scholarships for students with outstanding academic achievements. Most recently, the Club has also participated in a number of community service projects including: home and playground renovations throughout the Falls, the Cuyahoga Falls River Cleanup Project, "Adopt-a-Spot" planting areas and Salvation Army "kettle-bell" Thanksgiving Holiday Collections. In addition to the countless acts of volunteerism, the Club also hosts several community fund raisers throughout the year to support their activities including an Annual Dinner with a reverse raffle, silent auction and "wine pull" along with an annual golf outing and club picnic. "It is an honor to present the Rotary Club of Cuyahoga Falls with a commendation recognizing their 100 years of service," said **District 2 Councilmember John Schmidt**, whose district includes the Rotary Club. "Serving the city and community for one hundred years is an achievement club members both past and present should be recognized for."

## Council Recognizes Carovillese Club on 100th Anniversary



The Carovillese Club is the oldest, active private Italian Club in Akron. Now 100 years old, the Carovillese has been a constant, active presence in the Akron - North Hill community. The Club takes great pride in its Italian heritage by hosting community events commemorating shared backgrounds. While other clubs remained largely closed to the outside world, the Carovillese Club found ways to reach out and draw in the North Hill neighborhood around it, putting together various events throughout the year including: The North Hill Memorial Picnic, The North Hill Christmas Party, The Feast of Santo Stefano, The Sausage Dinner Dance and even more.

The Club also hosts weekly pasta dinners, which saved the club from financial ruin over 30 years ago. Tuesday Pasta Nights are open to the whole community. For less than ten dollars you can have a whole spaghetti meal with perhaps one of the oldest spaghetti sauce recipes in the state, passed down through several generations of Carovillese. Pictured at the Club's Cent' Anni Celebration are Councilwoman **Christine Higham (District 6)** with Carovillese Members Bruno and Jacqui Ricchiuti and **Councilman John Schmidt (District 2)**.

# Council Honors Summit MetroParks on Hiking Spree, METRO RTA on National Awards

Winter 2026



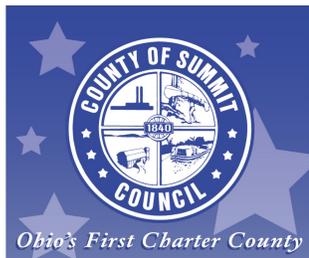
Summit County Councilman **Jeff Wilhite (District 4)** presents Commendations to **Summit MetroParks** (photo left) and **METRO RTA** (photo right) prior to Council Meetings in October and November. MetroParks was honored for their annual Fall Hiking Spree, which attracts nearly 50,000 participants to complete hikes on 8 designated trails between September 1st and November 30th. **METRO RTA** was named the Outstanding Public Transportation System of the Year by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA). APTA presents this award annually to transit systems that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efficiency, safety, operations, customer service, and community engagement and based the decision on qualitative and quantitative measures. METRO was selected from public transportation systems across North America in the category of agencies with more than 3 million but fewer than 15 million annual passenger trips. In 2024, METRO passengers took more than five million trips using METRO services. Additionally, METRO CEO, Dawn Distler (pictured far left in photo at right), was awarded the CEO of the Year at the National TRANSform Conference in 2024.

## Council Honors T-Mobile Home Run Derby Champion

County Council and Executive Ilene Shapiro honored Emma Lindhe (13), who won the T-Mobile Little League Home Run Derby Championship televised live on ESPN. In the national competition, she hit 12 home runs on only 19 swings in the first round. In the semi-finals, she hit 9 homers out of the first 10 swings she took to advance to the finals with nearly 40 seconds to spare on the 90 second clock. In the final, Emma defeated her opponent 19-11. After a slow start in the Championship round, she hit 19 home runs on 26 swings including an incredible run of 8 home runs on her last 8 swings to finish strong and capture the title. In addition to hitting home runs, Emma also was named to the 2025 Region 2 Stripes All American Team with USA Softball and Tallmadge Little League 12U All Stars, Ohio Majors District 1 Champions. She plays softball for the Ohio Outlaws where she is a shortstop and a pitcher, and she also plays volleyball for Tallmadge Middle School and JO Volleyball for NOVA Juniors Volleyball Club. She's an even better student, earning straight A's in her final grading period last school year.



**Emma and her father, are pictured at right with Councilwoman Christine Higham (District 6 which includes Tallmadge) and Executive Shapiro.**



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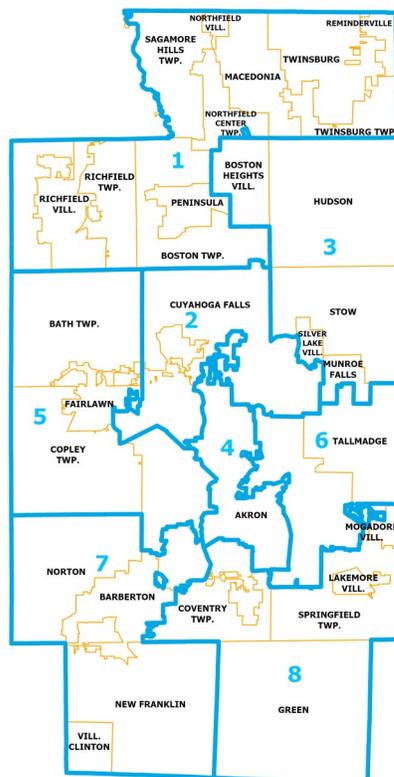
**2026 Council Meeting Calendar**

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
March 2	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
March 9	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
March 16	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
March 23	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
March 30	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
April 6	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
April 13	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
April 20	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
April 27	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
May 4	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
May 11	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
<b>May 16</b>	<b>Let's Move Bike &amp; Hike @ Summit Lake Towpath Trail</b>		<b>7:30 a.m.— 2:00 p.m.</b>

*Reminder — While the Ohio Building is being renovated, Council Offices are temporarily located at the Ohio Means Jobs Center, 1040 E. Tallmadge Ave, Akron OH 44310. Council and Committee meetings are held at the Board of Elections Conference Room located at 1050 E. Tallmadge Ave, Akron, OH 44310.*

**2026 County Council Members**

- Erin Dickinson**  
*President*  
At Large
- Christine Higham**  
*Vice President*  
District 6
- Rita Darrow**  
District 1
- John Schmidt**  
District 2
- David Licate**  
District 3
- Jeff Wilhite**  
District 4
- Brandon Ford**  
District 5
- Bethany McKenney**  
District 7
- Joseph Kacyon**  
District 8
- John Donofrio**  
At -Large
- Elizabeth Walters**  
At -Large



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*The Council Ledger is also available online.*

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