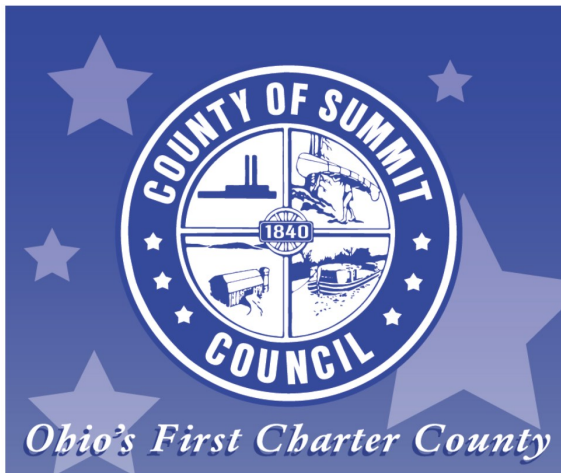




The Council Ledger

Spring-Summer 2026

Let's Move Bike & Hike Hits New Heights in 2026

On Saturday, May 16, 2026, Summit County Council hosted the 6th Annual Let's Move Summit County Bike & Hike at Summit Lake Community Center on the Ohio & Erie Canalway Towpath Trail. The FREE event open to all ages drew more than 600 pre-registrations and 400 participants, despite steady showers throughout the late morning and early afternoon.

"We had another great day on the trails, especially for our bikers. The Bike and Hike continues to grow each year and I can't say enough about the fun we have with our 'community' here. The volunteers, the participants, the families who come back year after year. It's really becoming a 'must-do' event for folks to kick off their spring and summer outdoor activity calendar. People are excited to get out and move about on the Towpath and we continue to try and make it a better experience each year," said Summit County **Councilwoman Christine Higham (District 6)** who chairs the event for County Council.

Bikers began the morning at between 8 and 9 a.m. leaving in groups every 15 minutes led by Akron Police Bike Officers and volunteers following a 6 mile loop route between Summit Lake and the Nesmith Lake trail-head at Manchester Road on the Towpath Trail. At that point, a water/refreshment stop was provided by CareSource before riders returned to the Community Center.

An additional 2.5 extended trail option that took bikers into Barberton at Fairview Trail-head, before turning around and heading back was added this year. A limited number of bikes and helmets were available to rent for the ride with an ID security deposit at the "Bike Corral" supported by the Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition and South Street Ministries.

As an added bonus to the Hike route this year, walkers could cross the bridge on the North Shore of Summit Lake passing the newly completed Summit Lake Northshore Park as part of the 2.75 mile loop around Summit Lake starting at Summit Lake Community Center. Hikers left every 15 minutes between 11 am and 12 noon. The trail crossed the Towpath Bridge near Kenmore Boulevard and passed the Metro Parks Nature Center at Summit Lake before returning to the Community Center. There was a water-refreshment station on the west side of the lake, and hikers were treated to refreshments and interactive activities at the Nature Center on their way back in.

All pre-registered participants received a T-shirt, sport-pack bag and a light lunch upon completion of the route.

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County Councilmembers Christine Higham (District 6) walked and Jeff Wilhite (District 4) biked at the 2026 Bike & Hike at Summit Lake on Saturday, May 16th.

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Let's Move Bike & Hike Hits New Heights in 6th Year

Also returning this year was a prize drawing featuring gift baskets and tickets to various Akron area attractions. Prizes such as passes to the LeBron James Museum at House Three-Thirty, the Akron Zoo and the Akron Rubber Ducks Baseball Team were offered to lucky ticket holders.

"Let's Move, Summit County!" originated from former First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move!" campaign which aimed to curb childhood obesity in the United States. Locally, since 2010, the initiative has been a collaborative effort between the Summit County Council, County Executive Ilene Shapiro 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.

In addition to Councilwoman Higham, **Councilman Jeff Wilhite (District 4)** and **Councilman David Licate (District 3)** participated in the event.

The 2026 Let's Move Summit County Bike and Hike was sponsored and supported by:

- ◆ Summit County Council
- ◆ County of Summit, Ilene Shapiro Executive
- ◆ City of Akron, Shammias Malik Mayor
- ◆ Summit County Fiscal Office, Kristin Scalise CPA, CFE
- ◆ County of Summit, Department of Job and Family Services
- ◆ CareSource
- ◆ Summit County Public Health
- ◆ Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority
- ◆ ADM Board
- ◆ Alpha Phi Alpha Homes, Inc.
- ◆ Community Action Akron Summit
- ◆ Summit County Sheriff Kandy Fatheree
- ◆ Summit County Prosecutor Elliot Kolkovich
- ◆ Tavia Galonski, Summit County Clerk of Courts
- ◆ Cleveland Clinic Akron General
- ◆ Key Bank
- ◆ Summit DD
- ◆ METRO RTA
- ◆ Oriana House
- ◆ Summit County Engineer Alan Brubaker
- ◆ Akron Children's Hospital
- ◆ Clorox/Purell
- ◆ Akron Urban League
- ◆ Stewart & Calhoun Funeral Home
- ◆ Direction Home
- ◆ Tatum Endeavor Group
- ◆ David Tabor Family
- ◆ Family Promise of Summit County
- ◆ Open M
- ◆ Acme Fresh Market
- ◆ Mustard Seed Market
- ◆ The Distillata Company
- ◆ Sam's Club
- ◆ Summit Metro Parks
- ◆ Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition
- ◆ South Street Ministries
- ◆ Akron Area YMCA
- ◆ Central Graphics
- ◆ Akron Public Schools
- ◆ Akron Children's Museum
- ◆ Akron Summit County Public Library
- ◆ Summa Health
- ◆ LeBron James Family Foundation
- ◆ AxxessPointe IPromise Healthquarters
- ◆ Akron Zoo
- ◆ The Spaghetti Warehouse
- ◆ Akron Rubber Ducks
- ◆ Preferred Vascular Group
- ◆ Summit Federal Credit Union

As District 6 County Council Member, Chistine Higham represents parts of Akron, and the City of Tallmadge.

For a Complete photo recap of the event visit the County Council webpage at council.summitoh.net



Photos above from top: (courtesy of Jaci Stein, Allie Goble and Jason Betts — County of Summit, Ilene Shapiro Executive)

Top photos... Let's Move Summit County Coordinator Kent Starks gives final instructions before the 2026 Bike & Hike begins. Councilmembers Higham and Licate lead a walk group out...

Next Photos... The Bike & Hike was enjoyed by Summit County employees, volunteers, elected officials, families and walkers and bikers of all ages. The new 2026 colors and images were displayed on t-shirts, hats and "swag bags." Mark your Calendars — the 2027 Bike & Hike returns on **Saturday, May 15, 2027.**

Council Recognizes Akron Men's Basketball on MAC Tourney "Three-Peat"

Spring-Summer 2026

At its May 4th Council Meeting, Summit County Council honored The University of Akron Men's Basketball Team on its outstanding 2025-26 season, which included a 29-6 record, an undefeated 15-0 record at home and another dominant 17-1 record in the Mid-American Conference. The Zips captured the program's seventh Mid-American Conference Tournament title, eighth NCAA Tournament berth and third consecutive MAC Tournament Championship with a thrilling 76-73 win over the Toledo Rockets at Rocket Arena in Cleveland. Following the Zips season ending loss to Texas Tech in the NCAA Tournament, Coach John Groce accepted the Head Coach position at the College of Charleston. His successor, Dustin Ford served as Associate Head Coach at Akron for the last nine seasons and played a pivotal role in the Zips six Mid-American Conference championships and four NCAA postseason appearances in the last five seasons.

"We congratulate this outstanding team and Coach Groce on another season of excellence and wish Coach Ford continued success with the program," said **Councilman David Licate (District 3)**, who presented the Commendation to Coach Ford and the team.



New University of Akron Men's Basketball Head Coach Dustin Ford (middle) thanks Council for the Commendation Honoring the team for its third consecutive MAC Tournament Championship and NCAA March Madness Tournament appearance.

Council Honors Hoban State Champions

On Saturday, March 14, 2026 at the Dayton Arena on the campus of the University of Dayton in Dayton, Ohio, the Archbishop Hoban Knights girls basketball team faced unbeaten Mount Notre Dame High School in the Ohio High School Athletic Association Division II Girls Basketball State Finals and the Lady Knights upset the Cougars 72-64, winning the school's first girls state basketball championship since 1988. Hoban ended Mount Notre Dame's perfect season with a quick start, and a confident, consistent performance that survived a late Cougars run in the fourth quarter. Mount Notre Dame put up a quick four points to start the game, but the Knights responded with a 23-8 run to end the first quarter and never trailed again.. The 2025-26 team finished their Championship season with a 22-4 record and was the first Hoban girls squad to make the trip to the State Final in 38 years.

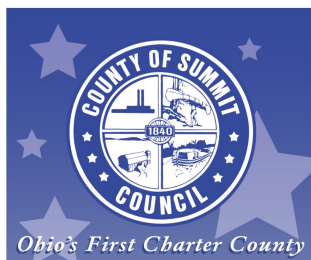
That same day, the Archbishop Hoban High School Mock Trial team came back to the Ohio Judicial Center where the Ohio Supreme Court sits and competed in the Ohio Center for Law-Related Education's 42nd Annual High School Mock Trial State Championship.

Following their state championship win in 2025, this impressive, intelligent team earned their second State Championship Title in a row. The Knights young men and women displayed their strength, diligence, intelligence, wit and grace and proved their dedication and commitment to practicing, learning and mastering every detail of the case.

The State Championship team is packed with impressive next-generation legal minds and they are supported by their faculty advisor at Hoban and their legal advisors at Hanna, Campbell & Powell, Roderick, Linton & Belfance and the Akron Police Department.



Archbishop Hoban won State Championships in both Girls Basketball and Mock Trial Competitions. The teams were honored By Summit County Council at meetings in March and May.



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The Council Ledger is also available online.

For this edition and past issues go to:
council.summitoh.net

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

Want to be included on our e-mail list?
Send your request to:

countycouncil@summitoh.net

2026 Council Meeting Calendar

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
August 3	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
August 10	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
August 17	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
August 24	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
August 31	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
September 7	COUNCIL OFFICES CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY		
September 14	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
September 21	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
September 28	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
October 5	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
October 12	COUNCIL OFFICES CLOSED FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (COLUMBUS) DAY		

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

