

The Council Ledger

Summer-Fall 2019

MY-STARS Camp Concludes Successful Summer at Emmanuel Christian Academy



Pictured with MY-STARS Campers and Staff are Summit County Councilman David Hamilton and Akron City Councilwoman Veronica Sims (far right) and Summit County Department of Job and Family Services Deputy Director Phil Montgomery and Director Terri Burns (far left).

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On July 3, 2019 Emmanuel Christian Academy (ECA) hosted a Culminating Celebration for the 2019 MY-STARS Enrichment Camp. MY-STARS was originally conceived by **Summit County Councilman David Hamilton (District 5)**. The camp is operated by ECA and is funded by Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro's Department of Job and Family Services.

During the Culmination Celebration, MY-STARS students gave presentations and an Awards Ceremony was held followed by a Community Market Day where the young entrepreneurs sold various goods.

The Middle School Youth Summer Transition and Real Life Skills (MY-STARS) Enrichment Camp is a summer day-camp with an emphasis on "real world" skills and experiences needed for success in the future planning for school and life, including exposing campers to their potential as entrepreneurs.

During the 5-week experience, the MY-STARS camp offered class sessions designed to improve their academic, social, technical, leadership, financial and entrepreneurial knowledge and skill.

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Council Steps Up for Stand Down

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MY-STARS Camp Celebration cont.

After enjoying 4 weeks at camp learning about economic power and influence, the young entrepreneurs leveraged their learned skills and marketing knowledge, putting their business plans into action. The campers' small businesses offered the community a variety of goods including consumables (foods and beverages), fashions, novelty goods and more. The Camp and Culmination Celebration was held at Emmanuel Christian Academy, 350 South Portage Path, Akron.

Councilman Hamilton saw a need in the community to provide youth who are too old for day camp, but too young for summer employment, the opportunity to participate in a Camp experience they otherwise would not be able to attend. MY-STARS is in its second year, having been operated by the Akron Urban League in 2018. "The Urban League got the camp off to a great start last summer, and ECA has really taken MY-STARS to the next level. I am so proud and excited about what these kids were able to do this summer and the creative ideas and business models they were able to generate. These kids are the future of my district and this community and we need to continue to encourage and support their work," he concluded.

Emmanuel Christian Academy is a private, chartered Christian school accredited by the State of Ohio as an elementary school. Emmanuel's administration, faculty, and staff believe they are called to "Educate Children in the Spirit of Excellence" and to be positive role models for students so they can become productive citizens in their communities.

Councilman Hamilton serves District 5, which includes parts of Akron, Copley Township, parts of Bath Township and the City of Fairlawn.

Photos from top left:

Councilman Hamilton congratulates MY-STARS campers for completing the Summer program.

Councilman Hamilton and Council Senior Research Analyst, Kent Starks served on the judges panel for the students' entrepreneurial presentations.

Councilman Hamilton presents a Commendation to MY-STARS - ECA Leadership Team (from left): V. Rena Suber – Chief School Administrator; Carla Jackson – Camp Director and Camp Instructors John Smith, Dana Baylor and Cory Amos.

Councilman Hamilton and Ohio House Representative and Minority Leader Emilia Sykes with MY-STARS camper, Lidia Smith.



In the Community



* In June, Council President **Jeff Wilhite (District 4)** attended the reception and premiere of the PBS Documentary Film, **"An Answer From Akron."** at the EJ Thomas Performing Arts Hall on the campus of the University of Akron, hosted by Alpha Phi Alpha Homes Inc. and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Eta Tau Lambda Chapter.

The film chronicles the work of Alpha Phi Alpha Homes Inc. in providing affordable housing as one of Akron's model contributions to civil rights in America. The film is focused on Alpha's collaborative effort to secure funding more than 50 years ago to build Henry A. Callis Tower, a high-rise for seniors named after an African American physician and one of seven who founded Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity at Cornell University.

Today, Akron-based Alpha Phi Alpha Homes maintains 18 well-run rental and for-sale residential properties for senior and family housing in 11 communities including two major U.S. cities (Cleveland and Chicago).

Council presented a commendation to Alpha Phi Alpha Homes honoring the organization and the fraternity on it's outstanding work. Council Senior Research Analyst Kent Starks (an Alpha Phi Alpha member) read the Commendation and Councilman Wilhite (center) presented it to Alpha Phi Alpha Chapter president Daryl Brown and Alpha Phi Alpha Homes Board President, Sam DeShazor.

The documentary is expected to premiere on PBS in the Fall of 2019.



* In August, Council Members, **Gloria Rodgers, Paula Prentice and Jeff Wilhite** were on hand to present a \$10,000 County donation to **"Step Up for Stand Down,"** an annual day of community-based programming to help local homeless and displaced veterans prepare for the winter months. Veterans receive warm clothing, sleeping bags, gloves, hats and shoes. The veterans also receive medical testing, legal counseling and food cards. Counselors are also available to work with veterans on earned benefits and available services. This year, Stand Down will be held on Tuesday, September 10 from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the Firestone VFW Post 3383 located at 690 Waterloo Road in Akron.



* Also in August, the Council Office participated in the 10th Annual **Summit For Kids** at the John S. Knight Center. Council Staff Members Kent Starks and Jeannie Bozak handed out rulers and erasers at the Council table to thousands of school aged children and families as they received various school supplies and services from many Summit County agencies and organizations. The kids also enjoyed plenty of fun games and activities including the costume/selfie station which was located across the aisle from the Council Table. Kent and Jeannie couldn't resist a quick pic!



Commendation

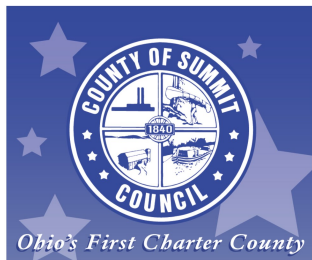
In June, County Council honored the University of Akron, "Akronauts" Student Rocket Design Team for its 3rd Place Finish in the NASA Student Launch Competition at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama in April. The Akronauts were among 45 student teams from 20 states competing for top honors in several categories in NASA's Annual National Competition.

At the competition, teams are tasked with designing, building, and testing a rocket and payload while meeting multiple documentation and review standards with NASA rocketry experts. The Akronauts achieved four successful launches, a successful flight of their student piloted UAV drone, and produced over 1,000 pages of technical reports for NASA. These exceptional efforts resulted in a third place finish, their highest finish ever in the national competition since the team was established in 2014.

The Akronauts are made up of 91 members and competed against schools such as the U.S. Naval Academy, Vanderbilt University, California State Polytechnic University and Virginia Polytechnic Institute. The team received additional awards including: second place, STEM Engagement; third place, Best Vehicle Design; and third place (tied), Best-Looking Rocket.

Pictured at left with Councilman David Hamilton are Akronauts **Matt Stanko, President; Hailee Olsen, Treasurer and Jon Davis, Incoming Vice President.** Bottom left, the Akronauts in action...





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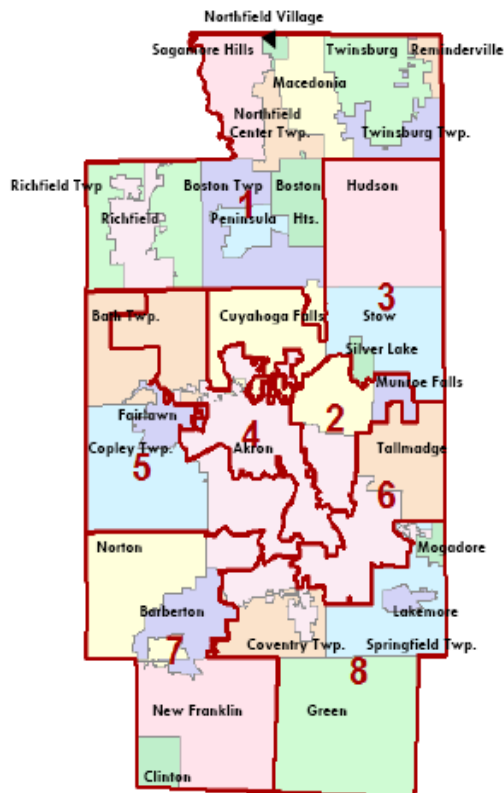
2019 Council Meeting Calendar

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
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	<i>Council Offices Closed for Columbus Day</i>		
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.
November 11	<i>Council Offices Closed for Veterans Day</i>		
November 18	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
November 25	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
November 28-29	<i>Council Offices Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday</i>		
December 2	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
December 9	Council/Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.

Last Meeting Before Winter Break

2019 County Council Members

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

The Council Ledger is also available online.

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