

# The Council Ledger

Fall 2018

## Donofrio, Walters and Dickinson Re-elected At-Large McKenney Wins District 7 Seat



From left: County Council Members at Large John Donofrio, Liz Walters and Clair Dickinson and new District 7 Council Member Bethany McKenney

In the recent November mid-term elections, the three incumbent Democrats holding the at-large Summit County Council seats, **John Donofrio, Liz Walters and Clair Dickinson** were re-elected.

County Council will also be adding a new member with Republican **Bethany McKenney** winning the District 7 County Council race, defeating Michael Soyars, a Barberton Democrat.

Donofrio, is the former Summit County Treasurer and Fiscal Officer who retired in 2011. He is an Akron resident and was first elected to County Council in 2015.

Walters, an Akron resident, is a senior associate at the Morino Institute. Her background includes working at the International Institute of Akron and for the state Democratic Party. She was appointed to Council in 2016 to replace Sandra Kurt who was named Summit County Clerk of Courts. Walters won re-election for the seat in November 2016.

Dickinson, is an attorney with Brouse McDowell. He is an Akron resident and a former appellate judge. He has served other stints on County Council dating back to 1989. He was appointed to Council most recently in 2016 to replace Ilene Shapiro when she was named County Executive. Dickinson won re-election for the seat in November 2016.

McKenney, a New Franklin resident, is a district nurse for Manchester Local Schools and has held other jobs, including being a hospital floor nurse. She will represent District 7 which includes Barberton, Clinton, New Franklin, Norton and part of Akron.

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# Councilman Hamilton Presents Summit County Jail Commission Recommendations



Photo at left:

**Councilman David Hamilton (District 5)** presents findings from a report compiled by the Summit County Jail Commission. Hamilton sponsored legislation to establish the commission in October 2017. The 10-member panel was composed of various county, city and law enforcement officials as well as private citizens from the community.

Mr. Hamilton, who is the Chair of Council's Public Safety Committee, also served as Chair of the commission. Through consultation with the Summit County Sheriff and his staff, the commission studied the operations of the jail in areas such as staffing, inmate services, medical services, population control measures and use of force protocol.

Additionally, the Commission worked to identify potential financial and operational savings and identify best practices to increase diversity amongst the jail staff.

At the August 27 Summit County Council committee meeting, Councilman David Hamilton presented the recommendations of the Summit County Jail Operations Advisory Commission. The Commission's findings focused on increasing staffing of both sworn deputies and civilian employees at the jail, and ways in which to restore and improve inmate services.

One significant project that was introduced to Council includes the installation of a comprehensive CCTV system at the jail that has 243 digital cameras and will provide coverage to all common areas that house inmates. These cameras will replace the cameras currently in use, some of which are more than twenty years old. The cost of the project is estimated at nearly \$450,000.000 and will provide deputies the ability to better supervise their respective areas.

Other improvements to be considered included: re-implementing inmate programming; re-designating the Glenwood Jail to a Community Alternative Sentencing Center and moving deputies from Glenwood to the Summit County Jail; upgrading scheduling software and moving to 12 hour shifts; improving inmate access to mental health services and continued training for deputies on use of force.

"I want to thank all those involved in this Commission's process," said Councilman Hamilton. "It is important for the Summit County community to know that we can all work together to address pressing issues of safety and services at the jail. I am encouraged by the progress we have already made."

## Council Members Join In Groundbreaking Ceremony for Relapse Prevention Center

In September, Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro and **County Council Members Paula Prentice (District 8), Mike Soyars (District 7) and Gloria Rodgers (District 3)** joined other distinguished guests and elected officials at a groundbreaking ceremony for Tyler's Redemption Place, a relapse prevention wellness center, in Lakemore Village. The center will be located on the former grounds of the Edwin Shaw medical campus. In 2017, Executive Shapiro proposed the land donation and Summit County Council then approved the donation of 10.5 acres to the project.

The facility will be operated by Hope United, a nonprofit organization that works to support those impacted by drug and alcohol addiction, and suicide. The organization was founded by Travis and Shelly Bomstein following the loss of their 23-year-old son, Tyler, to a heroin/fentanyl overdose in 2014. Tyler's Redemption Place will offer a wide range of services and programs, such as peer-to-peer coaching, support groups, life skills training, and stress and pain management through health and wellness. It will be the first relapse prevention wellness center in Ohio.



# Commendations

Fall 2018

Council recognized Akron Children's Hospital for its national designation by nationally renowned **Parents Magazine** who published its first "most innovative children's hospitals" list, and included Akron Children's among the top 20 hospitals in the United States. The designation was based on a comprehensive survey sent to members of the Children's Hospital Association, taking into account each hospital's proven track record of innovation leading to medical advances, as well as its adoption of the latest technologies and efforts to share discoveries with other pediatric centers to benefit more children. Akron Children's is the first children's hospital to offer radiation-free ablations to treat irregular heartbeat to being one of the very few hospitals to offer gastric stimulation to treat gastroparesis in children. Their clinicians are leaders in their pediatric specialties and continue to search for new and better ways to care for children. Akron Children's also addresses the demand for mental health services by offering intensive outpatient programs, offering a telehealth program using videoconference equipment, and embedding pediatric psychologists within each clinical area of the hospital so regardless of a child's illness, a therapist with special understanding of the child's unique concerns is available. Akron Children's has designed its facilities to be warm, welcoming and child-friendly to advance the healing process. Their professionals work hard to keep children out of the hospital with advocacy, child safety and injury prevention efforts, and chronic condition management and care coordination programs.



Council Vice President **Jeff Wilhite (District 4)** presents Commendation to Akron Children's Hospital President/CEO Grace Wakulchik.



**Councilmembers Paula Prentice (District 8) and Ron Koehler (District 1)** present Pastor Dennis Shawhan with a Commendation in recognition of the 15th Anniversary of Broken Chains Ministry, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded by Pastor Shawhan in Akron. Since 2004, Broken Chains has been helping people successfully return from incarceration to a purpose-driven life as contributing members of the community.

Since its inception, Broken Chains Ministry has grown to include a full-service café in downtown Akron, a home ownership program and a revolutionary women's recovery home. The Urbean Café, located in the Metro Transit Center, has contributed more than \$2.75 million to the Summit County economy through retail services and local vendor partners and trained trained and employed more than 50 returning citizens.

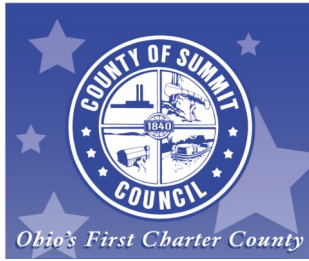
In 2015, Broken Chains Ministry launched a home ownership program, providing the opportunity for successful clients to own a home that they've helped renovate. And, in 2017, Lydia's Home, a women's recovery home was established in the city of Green in response to the opioid crisis in Summit County.



**At-Large Councilmembers Liz Walters (center) and Clair Dickinson (right)** present Akron Civic Theatre Executive Director Howard Parr with a Commendation for his selection to receive the 2018 Ohio Arts Council Governor's Award for the Arts in the Art Administration category.

Mr. Parr's career includes more than 30 years of experience in the arts and entertainment industry. He has served as executive director of the Akron Civic Theatre since September 2007, and as director of development and planning from 1998-2004, during which the theatre completed a \$22.5 million expansion and restoration project. Parr also offers booking assistance for the City of Akron's Lock 3 Park and to the University of Akron's E.J. Thomas Hall. Prior to joining The Civic, Mr. Parr served as General Manager of Ohio Ballet; General Manager of Cleveland Signstage Theatre; General Manager of the David S. Palmer Civic Center in Danville, Illinois, and Performing Arts Coordinator at Western Illinois University.





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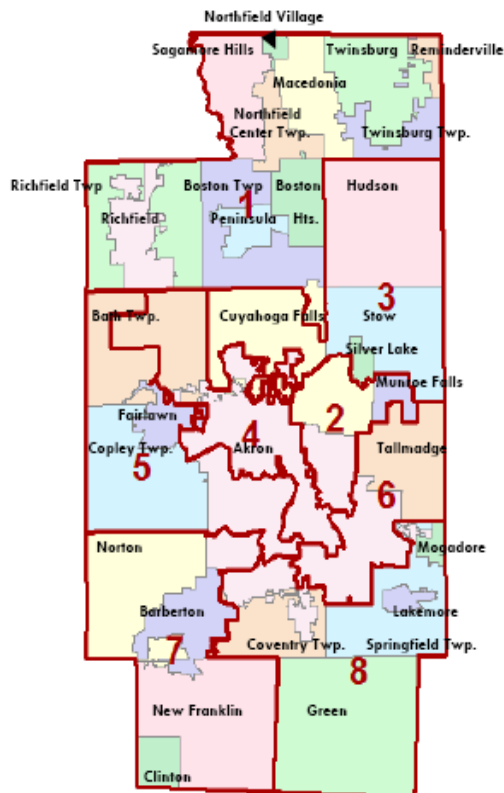
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**2018-19 Council Meeting Calendar**

| DATE                                    | EVENT   | LOCATION         | TIME      |
|---|---|------------------|-----------|
| December 11                             | Committee/Council Meeting                     | Council Chambers | 4:30 p.m. |
| <i>Last Meeting before Winter Break</i> |   |                  |           |
| December 24-25                          | Council Offices Closed for Christmas Holidays |                  |           |
| January 7, 2019                         | Organizational /Council Meeting               | Council Chambers | 4:30 p.m. |
| January 14                              | Council Committee Mtg.                        | Council Chambers | 4:30 p.m. |
| January 21                              | Council Offices Closed for MLK Holiday        |                  |           |
| January 28                              | Council Meeting                               | Council Chambers | 4:30 p.m. |
| February 4                              | Council Committee Mtg.                        | Council Chambers | 4:30 p.m. |
| February 11                             | Council Meeting                               | Council Chambers | 4:30 p.m. |
| February 18                             | Council Offices Closed for President's Day    |                  |           |
| February 25                             | Council Committee Mtg.                        | Council Chambers | 4:30 p.m. |

**2018 County Council Members**

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



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