

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: February 19, 2008

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COUNTY OF SUMMIT OFFICE OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS JOINS BROAD COALITION TO SPONSOR 10th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONSUMER PROTECTION WEEK

County of Summit Office of Consumer Affairs has joined a group of federal, state, and local government agencies and national consumer advocacy organizations to launch the 10th annual National Consumer Protection Week (NCPW), March 2-8, 2008. NCPW highlights consumer education efforts in the fight against fraud in communities across the nation. NCPW 2008's organizers encourage people from coast to coast to fortify their financial know-how. Financially savvy consumers are likely to make smarter decisions about managing their money, using credit wisely, and building a solid financial foundation.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, consumers conduct some type of financial transaction requiring an educated decision every day: shopping for a mortgage or auto loan; understanding and reconciling credit card statements and telephone bills; choosing savings and retirement plans; comparing health insurance policies; understanding their credit report and how it affects their ability to get credit and on what terms; or simply deciding how to pay for a purchase.

NCPW partner organizations provide practical – and tactical – tips so consumers can learn how to make well-informed financial decisions, avoid credit scams, and protect their personal information. Consumers can boost their financial IQ at www.consumer.gov/ncpw/consumer.htm.

"County of Summit Office of Consumer Affairs is proud to be a part of this year's National Consumer Protection Week campaign, along with our local consumer community," said Director Cynthia Sich. "Education is the first line of defense for consumers who want to manage their money wisely and protect themselves from frauds and rip-offs. We encourage all consumers to come and learn more at the following free events scheduled during NCPW week."

For more information on this or other programs, please contact the Office of Consumer Affairs at 330-643-2879, or visit our website at www.co.summit.oh.us/conaffairs.htm

Financial Literacy a Sound Investment

National Consumer Protection Week
March 2-8, 2008

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date: **Monday, March 3, 2008** Time: **10:00 am – 1:30 pm**
Job Center
1040 E Tallmadge Ave, Akron, Ohio 44310

- 10:00 a.m. "National Consumer Protection Week" - County Executive Russell M. Pry
- 10:10 a.m. "Fake Check Scams" - US Postal Inspection Service
- 11:15 a.m. "Foreclosure Recovery Scams" - Ohio Attorney General's Office
- 11:45 a.m. "Investment Fraud and Identity Theft" - Ohio Dept Commerce, Securities Division
- 12:15 p.m. "FHA Secure Loan Program" - US Dept of Housing & Urban Development
- 12:30 p.m. "Personal Safety" - Akron Police Department
- 12:45 p.m. "Credit Card Repairs Scams and Credit Card Fraud: What to Do If You Become a Victim" - Akron BBB
- 1:00 p.m. "Credit Reports & Credit Scores – Foreclosure Help" - County of Summit Office of Consumer Affairs

Date: **Wednesday, March 5, 2008** Time: **10:00 am – 12:00 pm**
Fairlawn-Bath Branch Library
3101 Smith Road, Akron, Ohio 44333

- 10:00 a.m. "Fake Check Scams" - US Postal Inspection Service
- 11:00 a.m. "Credit Card Repairs Scams and Credit Card Fraud: What to Do If You Become a Victim" - Akron BBB
- 11:15 a.m. "FHA Secure Loan Program" - US Dept of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)
- 11:30 a.m. "Personal Safety" - Akron Police Department
- 11:45 a.m. "Credit Reports & Credit Scores – Foreclosure Help" - County of Summit Office of Consumer Affairs

Date: **Thursday, March 6, 2008** Time: **2:00 pm – 8:00 pm**
Akron Urban League
440 Vernon Odom Blvd, Akron, Ohio 44307

"Borrower Outreach Day"

Ohio Dept of Commerce, Ohio State Treasurer, Ohio Attorney General, US Dept of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), and the Summit County Foreclosure Prevention Partnership Program along with many others will be providing information about how to help homeowner avoid foreclosure.