

The Council Ledger

Council Members Lee, Kurt Host Meetings to Discuss Emergency Response, Summer Flooding Issues

Council Members Tamela Lee (District 5, center) and Sandra Kurt (At-Large, right) listen in on a discussion regarding the combined sewer system in the Akron-Copley Township area. From top left are Pat Gsellman, Environmental Division Manager with the Akron Engineering Bureau, City of Akron Public Utilities Bureau Manager, Jim Hewitt, Ward 4 City Councilman, Russell Neal, Jr., City of Akron Service Director Rick Merolla and County Council President Jerry Feeman.



Following heavy rainstorms in mid-July which left several roads, yards and homes flooded throughout Summit County, particularly in the West Akron, Copley Township area, **Councilwoman Tamela Lee (District 5)** called a meeting of County Engineering, Environmental Services, Consumer Affairs, Emergency Management, County Sheriff, Fiscal and Executive officials in August to review Emergency Management procedures and coordination efforts to respond to the flooding issues. A second joint meeting with City and County officials was hosted in September by **Councilwoman Sandra Kurt (At-Large)**, Chair of the Public Works Committee to gain a better understanding of the storm-sewer system dynamics in regards to Akron and Summit County.

Outcomes of the meetings included a link on the County web-page from the Consumer Affairs office that provides helpful tips and contact information for residents in cases of disaster. The County Fiscal Office has offered property tax assistance for homes affected by the storms. Emergency Management officials will continue to coordinate with local jurisdictions to determine appropriate resources in disaster instances based on policies and procedures developed in the Summit County Emergency Operations Plan.

The need for a regional surface water (storm

water) study was discussed; however the cost for a study, even without funding system repair projects, is significant. Because storm water flow doesn't follow political boundaries, the combined meeting of Akron City officials and Summit County officials provided an opportunity to share knowledge and learn about the history of the areas that flooded and the dynamics that caused the flooding.

"We know that the current storm water system was built when the area was much less developed and as a result, there are sections of the county that are vulnerable when severe weather conditions occur. We will continue to look at options to raise funding to develop a plan," Lee said. "It is encouraging to know that our City and County officials are aware of this issue and are working towards a solution for our constituents," she concluded. Kurt added, "Anytime you get a variety of folks from different perspectives and government entities working together, you're going to come up with a better solution."

Council Members (from left) Tim Crawford (District 7), Paula Prentice (District 8), Sandra Kurt (At-Large), Bill Roemer (At-Large), Gloria Rodgers (District 2) and Summit County Executive Russ Pry pose with University of Akron mascot "Zippy" and METRO Regional Transit Authority mascot "Cool Rider" at the Let's Move Summit County Fall Family Fun Hike, Sunday, October 2 at Firestone Metro Park. For more details, see page 2....

Council Names New Chief of Staff

Summit County Council has promoted **Mark Potter** to Council Chief of Staff.



Potter, had been working as the council's senior research analyst. He replaces **Darlene Mims**, who took a job with the County of Summit Department of Job and Family Services as Assistant Deputy Director, Special Projects.

Potter, who has worked for the county since February 2008, is a former reporter with the Record Publishing Co. He has a master's degree in public administration from the University of Akron and a graduate certificate in applied politics from the Bliss Institute.

Let's Move Summit County !



Councilman Comunale Hosts District Meetings on Healthcare



Councilman Frank Comunale addresses constituents at Wesley Tower on the Health Care Compact at a special Town Hall Meeting on September 27.

On September 27, **Councilman Frank Comunale (District 4)** hosted two Town Meetings in West Akron to talk about the Health Care Compact, an agreement between states to control their own health care dollars. Comunale along with Health Care Compact spokespersons, **Mark Homer** and **Stephanie Simmons**, talked about the benefits of the plan including: more money for states instead of Washington D.C.; better medical insurance coverage, freedom to choose physicians and medical care, more health

care jobs in Ohio, more money for long-term and nursing care for Seniors and more health care decision making at the State and not the national level.

Comunale hosted the meetings at Charles Wesley Tower and the Northwest Family Recreation Center in West Akron.

“We need to have these conversations with our families and peers. Health care is not a one-size fits all program for everyone. Let the states decide what’s best for them and give the people a voice in how their health care dollars are spent,” said Comunale.

“Let’s Move Summit County” Hosts Fall Hiking Event

On Sunday, October 2, 2011, “Let’s Move Summit County,” hosted a Fall Family Fun Hike event at the Firestone Metro Park in South Akron.

In addition to the hike, the FREE event also featured special guests such as the University of Akron’s mascot ZIPPY and METRO Regional Transit Authority mascot, “Cool Rider.”

Three Hundred (300) pumpkins were donated from **Figaro Farms** for participants to take home, and vendors included **Earth Fare Market** (who offered a healthy trail “trail mix” snack); the **Firestone Park YMCA** which provided a fitness activity and showed kids how to make “ants on a log” snacks (celery, peanut butter and raisins); **Akron Public Schools** donated water, dried cherries and yogurt snacks, and **Graf Growers** donated a fresh fruit basket that was part of the Grand Prize Drawing following the hike.

Participants were also able to visit tables with information and giveaways from **METRO Regional Transit Authority**, **Summit County Health District**, **Akron-Summit Public Library**, **Akron Zoo**, **MetroParks** and the **University of Akron’s Athletic Department**. Goodie bags with winter hats, pedometers and gift certi-

ificates from **Chick Fil-A** and the **City of Akron** Lock 3 Ice Skating Rink were handed out to all attendees, and the Prize Drawing included tickets to family entertainment sites such as **Stonehedge Lanes** in Akron, **Fun-N-Stuff** in Macedonia and **Great Wolf Lodge** in Sandusky.

Other prizes included t-shirts, a sweatshirt and gym bag from **Ritchie’s Sporting Goods** in Tallmadge, A family pack of four tickets to the Akron Zoo, and Football Game and pre-game Field passes at InfoCision Stadium for the University Of Akron. The Grand Prize was a Complimentary Family Membership to the Firestone Park YMCA.

Although the weather was cool and damp, the skies were clear for the hike and a good time was had by all who could make it out.

Councilwoman Paula Prentice (District 8) initiated “Let’s Move Summit County during First Night Akron last New Year’s Eve, and plans are underway for another event at the end of the year.

“We are pleased to do our part to help children and families adopt healthy lifestyle habits and we appreciate the support of our community partners in this effort,” she concluded.



Top row from left — Zippy with twin hikers, sisters with Let’s Move winter beanie hats, Cool Rider with a hiker, Middle row — Grand Prize winner with YMCA staff, hikers visit Earth Fare table, Bottom row— a hiking group gets ready to hit the trail at Firestone Metro Park.

Council Members Participate in Father's Walk

On Thursday, September 22, **Council Members, Tamela Lee (District 5) and Paula Prentice (District 8)** participated in the annual "Father's Walk" sponsored by FameFathers. Councilwoman Lee greeted fathers at Schumacher Elementary School in West Akron and Councilwoman Prentice welcomed dads at Rimer Elementary School in South Akron.

FameFathers, supports fatherhood/manhood enriching events including the Annual Father's Walk, where dads walk their children to school, legal seminars and other father/child bonding experiences. Council Members have participated in the Father's Walk for the past three years.



District 5 Council Member, Tamela Lee greets a father at Schumacher Elementary School (left) and Councilwoman Paula Prentice (District 8) welcomes dads to Rimer Elementary School.



Commendations



Susan Hamo, thanks Council Members for her Commendation, presented by At Large Member Ilene Sharpiro (left) and District 1 Representative Nick Kostandaras (right).

On August 15, County Council honored **Susan Hamo**, President/CEO of the Akron/Summit Convention & Visitors Bureau and John S. Knight Center, who was inducted into the Association of Ohio Commodores, an organization formed by Governor James A. Rhodes in 1966 for the purpose of assisting the state of Ohio in advancement in all areas contributing to the growth and development of the state and greater prosperity of its citizens.

Ms. Hamo was one of 16 new members inducted this year, joining a diverse membership of government officials; distinguished university presidents and administrators; banking and legal professionals; leaders of trade organizations; chambers and economic development organizations and senior management executives of large, medium and small manufacturers from across Ohio in a wide variety of industries.

A Pittsburgh, PA native and Akron resident for more than 40 years, Ms. Hamo has served with the Akron/Summit Bureau for more than 25 years, beginning her career as a Sales Manager in 1984. In addition to her leadership with the Bureau and Knight Center, Ms. Hamo has managed the operations of Greystone Hall for the City of Akron since 2009. She also has generously given her time to a wide variety of community organizations, including: the American Cancer Society, Weaver Industries, Akron Civic Theatre & Downtown Akron Partnership. She is a past president of the Ohio Travel Association and the Ohio Association of Convention & Visitors Bureau, past board member of the International Association of Convention & Visitors Bureaus, recipient of the Paul Sherlock and Donald L. Patterson awards, and has been recognized on *Inside Business* magazine's Power 100 List.



Ms. Ruth Anderson Travis is presented with a Commendation for her 100th Birthday by Councilwoman Tamela Lee (District 5). At left is Constituent Services Coordinator, Kent Starks, at right is Ms. Travis' great-granddaughter, Astrid James.

Ruth Anderson Travis was honored by County Council with a Commendation in celebration of her 100th Birthday, at a surprise party for Ms. Travis at Copley Medical Center on September 24.

The first of three children born to Bennie Anderson and Emma Parker Anderson in Pansey, Alabama on September 26, 1911, Ms. Travis moved with her family to Kent, OH in 1923 when she was in the third grade. In 1932, Ruth graduated from Roosevelt High School where she was a star athlete in track and field and basketball.

In 1933, Ms. Travis attended Wilberforce University in Wilberforce, Ohio where she earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Health and Physical Education in 1937. While at Wilberforce, she also pledged Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

Ms. Travis moved to Akron, Ohio and married her high school sweetheart, Ruther (Rudy) Travis in 1937. From that union a son was born – William Bennie Travis. She also has two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Ms. Travis worked for the Ohio Bureau of Employment for 30 years until retirement. She joined Mt. Zion Baptist church in 1943 where she served on the Usher Board as Secretary; President of the Improvement Committee; founder and member of the Sick and Shut-In Committee and was Financial Secretary for over 35 years. She has volunteered with: United Way Women of Summit County, Inc.; Women's Board of Family Services of Akron; Women's Board of the Juvenile Center of Akron and Christmas Giving for Youth. She is also an influential member of a number of organizations including: Zeta Phi Beta/Mu Rho Zeta Chapter; Order of the Eastern Stars/Mary Chapter #47; Daughters of Isis; El Zerubbabel Court #5 and Joyful Seniors Travel Group.

Staff Notes

Kent Starks, Constituent Services Coordinator was promoted to Senior Research Analyst. Starks has been employed with the Council Office since 2008.

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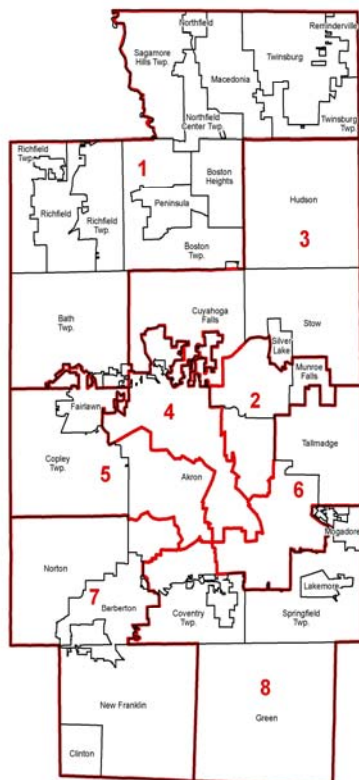
Calendar of Events

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
October 24	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	5:00 p.m.
October 31	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
November 7	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	5:00 p.m.
November 11	Council Offices Closed For Veteran's Day		
November 14	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
November 21	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	5:00 p.m.
November 24-25	Council Offices Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday		
November 28	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
December 5	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	5:00 p.m.
December 12	Council Committee Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
	<i>*Last meeting before Winter Break</i>		
December 23	Council Offices Closed for Christmas Eve Holiday		
December 26	Council Offices Closed for Christmas Day Holiday		
January 3, 2012	Council Organizational Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.

Happy Holidays!

2011 County Council Members

Nick Kostandaras
District 1
John Schmidt
District 2
Gloria Rodgers
District 3
Frank C. Comunale
District 4
Tamela Lee
District 5
Jerry Feeman
District 6
Tim Crawford
District 7
Paula Prentice
District 8
Sandra Kurt
At Large
Bill Roemer
At Large
Ilene Shapiro
At Large



County Council Staff

Mark Potter
Chief of Staff
Faylin Mutch
Clerk of Council
W. Kent Starks, II
Senior Research Analyst

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