

The Council Ledger

Council, Exec Office Host State Budget Roundtable Discussion



County Council President Jerry Feeman makes opening remarks at the Roundtable Discussion on the State Budget, April 28th at the John S. Knight Center. Seated at the table are from left: Summit County Finance and Budget Director Brian Nelsen, Executive Russ Pry, Councilwoman Ilene Shapiro, Dr. John Green, Council Vice President Nick Kostandaras, Sheriff Drew Alexander, Judge Patricia Cosgrove and Prosecutors Chief Counsel Mary Ann Kovach.

On Thursday, April 28, County Council in conjunction with the Summit County Executives office hosted a Roundtable Discussion on the State of Ohio Budget. Held at the John S. Knight Center downtown in Akron, the Roundtable was moderated by Dr. John Green, Director of the Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics at the University of Akron.

County Executive Russ Pry, **Council President Jerry Feeman, Vice President Nick Kostandaras and At-Large Member Ilene Shapiro, Co-Chair of the Financial Sustainability Task Force** participated on the panel, which included a local government fund history presentation from Akron Mayor Don Plusquellic, a Budget Overview from Summit County Director of Finance and Budget, Brian Nelsen, and comments from other Summit County offices and departments most impacted by the State Budgets, including: Sheriff, Drew Alexander, Common Pleas Court Judge Patricia Cosgrove, County Prosecutor's Chief Counsel, Mary Ann Kovach and Jennifer Bheam, Director of the Child Support Enforcement Agency.

Other Government Entities represented at the table included, Barberton Mayor, Bob Genet, Fairlawn Mayor William Roth, Boston Heights Mayor Bill Gony, Bath Township Administrator Bill Snow, and Coventry Township Fiscal Officer Joanne Murgatroyd and Jim Nelson, a Bath Township trustee who heads the Summit County Township Association. State Legislators who attended included State Rep. Zack Milkovich, State Rep. Vernon Sykes and State Senators Frank LaRose and Tom Sawyer.

Gov. Kasich's proposed two-year budget includes a 49 percent reduction in local government funds for counties and municipalities and a 54 percent drop in the amount of money provided to local governments for the reduction in tangible personal property tax. Legislation has also been introduced that would eliminate the estate tax, which is another significant revenue source for local governments.

According to Nelsen, the county stands to lose about \$5.2 million in local government funds and \$1.1 million in tangible personal property taxes. If the state cuts hap-

pen, the county would need to reduce its budget by about 10 percent (\$5.5 million), by cutting salary, pension and Medicare costs. The biggest cut would be to public safety, with nearly \$3.9 million coming from the sheriff, jail, prosecutor's office, probation department and courts. Townships also are concerned about the potential loss of estate taxes. "This would bring an earthquake to our communities," said Nelson.

State Rep. Sykes, D-Akron, a ranking member of the House Finance Committee, said he anticipates changes will be made to the budget, but is not optimistic about local government funding. "Priorities are not the same," he said.

Sen. LaRose, R-Akron, praised Summit County as a model of efficiency because of its collaborations with other government agencies, and would like to see a decrease on the burden to local governments in the state budget. Sen. Sawyer, D-Akron, said about 1,500 amendments to the proposed budget were recently introduced in the Ohio House. "This has been a useful discussion. The amended budget will be a substantially changed document," he concluded.

Clerk of Council Retires



Summit County-Clerk of Council, **Sharley F. Greer** Retired effective May 31, 2011. Ms. Greer provided exceptional service to the

Council Office for the past 15 years. Sharley began her Career with the County in 1989 as a Bailiff in the Common Pleas Court. She also served in the Clerk of Courts Title Bureau office before coming to the Council office in 1995 as an administrative assistant. She became Deputy Clerk in 2002 and Clerk of Council in 2006. Ms. Greer holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Akron in Communications Education and obtained certification as a Municipal Clerk in 2003. She's been an active member of the League of Women Voters since 2004, serving as its treasurer since 2005. A mother of two and grandmother of six, Sharley will now devote more time to her family and hobbies which include gardening, mosaics, stained glass, hiking and biking.

INSIDE: Councilman Smith Resigns to take Exec. Office Post... Let's Move Summit County Spree For All Hiking Event... Tamela Lee Joins Council Commendations and Staff Notes.



Councilman Cazzell Smith addresses the audience following his final Council Meeting on April 18.

Councilman Smith Resigns to Take Executive Office Post

District 5 Councilman, **Cazzell Smith, Sr.** announced his resignation from the Summit County Council, April 18. Smith, who's served on County Council representing District 5 (West Akron, Fairlawn and Copley Township) since 1991, accepted a position as the Assistant Director of Administrative Services with the Summit County Executive's Office that would pose a conflict as an elected official.

In a prepared statement, Smith stated, "It's been a pleasure to be a public servant to the citizens of Summit County. During my time on

Council, we have excelled in bringing good government to the people. I thank my colleagues and the many, many citizens, business people and elected officials at the local, state and national levels that I've had the opportunity to work with over the years."

Smith most recently served as the Chair of the Abandoned and Vacant Property (AVP) Task Force and its subsequent AVP Planning Committee. He noted past achievements on Council including: his involvement in the elimination of a \$10 million deficit owed to Ohio Department of Job and

Family Services and his work with a team on the crafting of Council districts to be of greater service to constituents in Summit County. Smith also served as President of County Council in 1996 and currently serves as the Chair of the Council's Personnel Committee and Vice Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee.

"I've enjoyed my time as a legislator, working to make a positive difference for individuals and families in this community and I look forward to this new chapter in my career," he concluded.

"Let's Move Summit County" Hosts Family Spree for All Hiking Event

On Sunday, May 1, 2011, "Let's Move Summit County," hosted a Spree For All Family Fun Hiking event at the Good-year Heights MetroPark in East Akron.

In addition to the mile and a half hike, the FREE event also featured special guests such as Akron Aeros' mascot ORBIT and members of the 2010 NCAA Champion University of Akron Men's Soccer team, activities, giveaways, healthy snacks and nutrition information. The first 50 youth to arrive received prizes and all attendees participated in the Grand Prize Drawing — a bike and helmet from the LeBron James Family Foundation. Hikers also received spree credits toward their MetroParks rewards.

Metro Regional Transit Authority provided free transportation on its Route 30 bus that day and FREE day passes were provided to attendees following the hike.

In support of reducing childhood obesity, Summit County Council member **Paula Prentice (District 8)** has spearheaded "Let's Move, Summit County!" — a program designed to promote

health and wellness for children and families. The spring Hiking Event drew more than 200 children and families, and Council Members **Tim Crawford (District 7)**, **Jerry Feaman (District 6)**, **Gloria Rodgers (District 3)**, **Sandra Kurt and Bill Roemer (at - large members)** joined Prentice to lead hiking groups.

The idea behind "Let's Move, Summit County!" stemmed from First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move!" campaign, which aims to end childhood obesity in the United States. The initiative is a collaborative effort between the Summit County Council Office, Summit County Executive's Office, Akron Public Schools, MetroParks Serving Summit County, Akron Children's Hospital, Akron General Medical Center, Summit County General Health District Metro Regional Transit Authority and the "Fuel Up to Play 60" program.

Mark your calendars — The next "Let's Move Summit County" Spree for All Hike has been scheduled for Sunday, October 2, 2011 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Firestone Metro Parks in Akron.



Clockwise from Left — UA Men's Soccer Team Members meet fans; MetroParks Leaf Mascot with MetroParks Keith Shy and Council Members Crawford, Prentice, Feaman and Kurt; Early hiking group gets ready to move; Fuel Up to Play 60 reps with MetroParks Leaf, Council Members Prentice, Kurt, Crawford, Roemer, Rodgers and Aeros mascot, ORBIT; Grand Prize Bike winner with ORBIT and Council Members Prentice, Crawford, Roemer and Rodgers.



Tamela Lee Takes District 5 Council Seat

On April 26, Tamela Lee was elected by the Summit County Democratic Party to the Summit County Council as the District 5 representative.

Ms. Lee, a business and community consultant who also is second vice chairwoman of the county Democratic Party will complete Cazzell Smith's term on Council which runs through 2012. She is a graduate of Akron Garfield High School, holds a bachelor's degree in Sociology and Public Health

from the University of Toledo and a master's degree in Business Administration from Cleveland State University.

Her Council membership marks her first experience as an elected official. Ms. Lee lost in the 2010 Democratic primary for the Ohio Senate.

Bringing a business background and an interest in social issues to Council, Lee is interested in expanding entrepreneurship, improv-

ing education and growing opportunities for the middle class.

"We have so many issues, I don't have an agenda. My immediate goal is to do a good job and serve my constituents well," she concluded.

District 5 covers West Akron, Copley Township and Fairlawn. Ms. Lee will be the only African-American on the 11-member council and the first African-American female to serve.



New District 5 Council Member, Tamela Lee.

Commendations



On April 4, County Council honored the **Twinsburg Lady Tigers** and the **St. Vincent St. Mary Fighting Irish Boys Basketball Teams** for their 2010-11 State Championships. The Lady Tigers coached by **Julie Solis** finished

the 2010-11 season with a perfect 27-0 record, the only undefeated girls basketball team in the State of Ohio. Council Vice President **Nick Kostandaras (District 1)** is pictured at left with Coach Solis and the team.



The **Fighting Irish** under the direction of **Coach Dru Joyce** overcame a tough 6-8 start, winning 14 of their last 15 games to capture their second Division II State Championship in the past three seasons.

Councilman **Tim Crawford (District 7)** is pictured with Coach Joyce and the team in the photo above.

St. Vincent-St. Mary's has won six Boys Basketball State Championships since 1984, the second most in the State of Ohio.

Staff Notes



2011 High Point Award Winner, Constituent Services Coordinator Kent Starks with Councilwoman **Sandra Kurt**, Council President **Jerry Feeman** and Vice President **Nick Kostandaras** (right) following Employee Recognition Awards on May 25.

2011 HIGH POINT AWARD

On May 25, **Kent Starks** received the 2011 High Point Award for the County Council Office. Kent has been employed with the Council since February, 2008, utilizing his knowledge and experience in communications, public relations and community resources to become an integral member of the Council staff.

As Constituent Services Coordinator, Kent addresses constituent inquiries, serves as public information officer and coordinates meetings and special events for members of Council.

Council President Jerry Feeman presented the award stating, "Kent is the mild mannered, even-tempered person any organization would love to have working with the public.

Some of the qualities that are characteristic of a good employee would be cooperative, dependable and pleasant. I just described the type of person Kent is. He has taken ownership of his job responsibilities and takes pride in his work and the business of the Council and the County to serve the citizens of our community."



NEW CLERK OF COUNCIL NAMED

Faylin Mutch, formerly the Executive Assistant in the Council

Office has been appointed as the new Clerk of Council, effective June 6, 2011. Faylin holds a Bachelor of Arts in Multi-Disciplinary Studies from Stony Brook University (Long Island, NY) and a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Akron. Faylin interned with the Council office while completing her Masters work and joined the Council staff in 2010.

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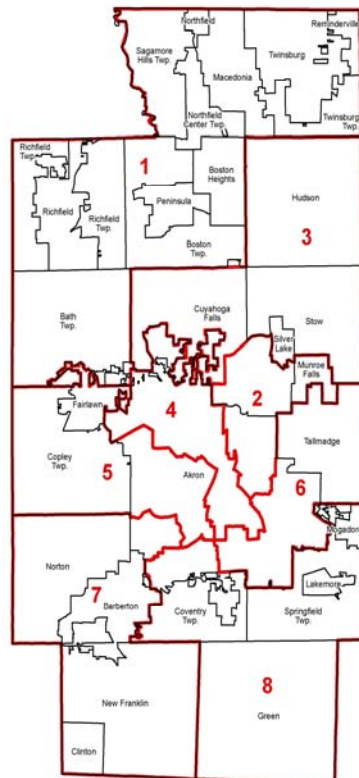


Calendar of Events

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
July 4	Council Offices CLOSED for Independence Day		
JULY	NO MEETINGS - COUNCIL ON SUMMER BREAK		
August 1	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	5:00 p.m.
August 8	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
August 15	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	5:00 p.m.
August 22	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
August 29	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	5:00 p.m.
September 5	Council Offices CLOSED for Labor Day		
September 12	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
September 19	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	5:00 p.m.
September 26	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
October 2	Let's Move Summit County Hiking Event @ Firestone Metro Park 2 – 4 p.m.		
October 3	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	5:00 p.m.

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

K. Darlene Mims
Chief of Staff

Faylin Mutch
Clerk of Council

W. Kent Starks, II
Constituent Services Coordinator

Mark Potter
Senior Research Analyst

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