

# The Council Ledger

## Council to Welcome Two New Members

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On January 1, 2009 County Council will officially welcome two new members, **Jerry Feeman (D-District 6)** and **Gloria Rodgers (R-District 3)**.

Mr. Feeman and Ms. Rodgers were elected by Summit County voters in November. They each will succeed four-term Council Members **Dan Congrove (D-District 6)** and **Louise Heydorn (R-District 3)**.

Mr. Feeman brings previous legislative experience to Council as a former president of the Tallmadge City Council. His budgeting skills and advocacy of regional government services will be valuable to Council as the county faces financial

challenges. He's ready to represent the people of Tallmadge and the southeast area neighborhoods of Akron.

Ms. Rodgers is a registered charge nurse at Portage Path Emergency Services. She looks forward to serving her constituents in the Stow, Hudson, Silver Lake and Cuyahoga Falls communities and feels that her experience as a public health employee, her local volunteer activities and her small business experience will bring a "broad perspective" to County Council.

**New Summit County Council Members, Jerry Feeman (District 6) (top) and Gloria Rodgers (District 3)(right).**



## Council Sponsors Legislation in Support of Taste BUDS Cafe



**Taste BUDS Program Manager, Heidi Imhoff (back row second from left) with Taste Buds Café staff in the basement of the DJFS building in downtown**

With support of legislation passed by County Council, United Disability Services (UDS) was given the opportunity to operate the employee cafeteria at the Department of Job and Family Services (DJFS) and provide affordable, healthy, homemade meals and snacks. The **Taste BUDS Café** has been welcomed by a steady clientele of DJFS employees and visitors who are pleased with the

convenience of having a place to get a good cup of coffee in addition to breakfast, lunch and snacks. Among those visitors was County Council Member at Large, **Ilene Shapiro**, who eagerly spread the word about this new "hidden gem" in the lower level of the DJFS building. "Taste BUDS is an innovative business venture that provides the employees of DJFS with food options while providing UDS consumers with job opportunities and job training in the food service industry. In addition, it gives UDS a chance to educate the public about its programs and demonstrates firsthand that

people with disabilities can be integrated into the workforce," said Shapiro. "When given the right resources it's amazing what people can achieve. The UDS food service program is a great opportunity for individuals with disabilities to develop valuable job skills," states Taste BUDS Program Manager, Heidi Imhoff.

Taste Buds was cleverly named to incorporate the agency's initials (**BUDS**) and opened on February 20, 2008. Ms. Imhoff, a former food service director for the Cuyahoga Valley National Park Association, designs a daily menu with hot breakfast and lunch

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Council Member at Large, Jon Poda



A Summit County Sheriff's official sorts through evidence at a Meth-lab site.

(photo from Meth Awareness Web-site)

## Council Member at Large Jon Poda Announces Meth Awareness Web-Site

A new county-wide Web site aimed at helping provide residents with resources about the dangerous drug methamphetamine is now up and running.

The Summit County Meth Awareness site <http://www.co.summit.oh.us/SCMA.htm> provides general resources about methamphetamine as well as links to affected property searches and other helpful tools. The Web site can also be found on a link labeled "Summit County Meth Awareness" on the county's main Web page [www.co.summit.oh.us](http://www.co.summit.oh.us) under "Other Links."

"I am very excited to announce that this Web site is now up and running and ready to help residents gather information on methamphetamine from one central site," said At-Large Summit County Councilman Jon Poda. "If someone wants to see photos of the ravages caused by this drug, they can go to the site. If someone wants to link to a property search for homes found to have the presence of meth, they can do that too."

The idea of the Web site stemmed from a recommendation set forth from the Summit County Methamphetamine

Property Awareness Task Force earlier this year. Mr. Poda, who sponsored legislation establishing the task force and served as its chairman, said he is pleased to see the hard work of the task force exemplified with the establishment of this Web site.

"After meeting and debating on the best way to provide residents with information that could keep them safe in our communities, we decided to establish a Web site that would be a 'one-stop-shop' for anything meth related," Poda said.

## Councilman Cazzell Smith Sponsors Legislation for Abandoned and Vacant Homes Task Force



District 4 Councilman Cazzell Smith

County Council Member **Cazzell Smith (District 5)** introduced legislation at the October 20 Regular Council meeting to establish the "Summit County Abandoned and Vacant Property Task Force." The legislation was unanimously passed by the members of Council.

The task force, which would consist of representatives from a variety of Summit County municipalities, agencies, departments, non-profit organizations and lending, insurance and real

estate industries, would collaborate and work to find ways to promote civic responsibility and engagement in maintaining local neighborhoods and reducing the number of abandoned and vacant properties.

"There is a definite need in Summit County to reduce the number of abandoned and vacant properties and make more productive use of existing residential areas that are blighted by this problem," said Smith.

Bringing together different representatives in Summit County, this task force hopes to engage community stakeholders in developing viable solutions to remediate and reuse abandoned and vacant properties.

"This will be good not only for the economic development of the county, but also for the environmental protection, restoration, health and social equity of the people in our neighborhoods," he concluded.

## Taste BUDS Café, cont.

specials and items that include fresh cut salads, hot and hearty soups, sandwiches, loaded baked potatoes, fresh baked scones and much more. Taste BUDS is staffed by four consumers working under the direction of a job coach. The consumers assist with cashiering, food prep, dish washing and cleaning the dining room. A food service assistant rounds out the staff.

Taste BUDS will be opening a second location, serving the employees of Summit County

Children Services Board (CSB) in mid-January 2009. Five additional employees are expected to be hired and with the capacity to add additional UDS consumers and staff, Taste BUDS can also handle larger events and catering opportunities at either CSB or DJFS locations.

"We're pleased to have UDS providing cafeteria service for our staff. In my opinion, this cafeteria relationship represents a win-win situation where our employees can enjoy excellent

on-site food service, while UDS simultaneously provides valuable job preparation training for some of their associates," said **Steve Zimmerman**, assistant director of Administration and Finance for DJFS.

For more information on Taste BUDS Café and other UDS programs and services, contact **Phyllis Boerner**, Community Relations Director at 330-762-9755 ext. 222 or visit the UDS web-site at [www.udsakron.org](http://www.udsakron.org).



Council Member at Large, Ilene Shapiro (left) visits Taste BUDS Café with Heidi Imhoff and Phyllis Boerner from UDS.



## Local Artist Jack Richard Presented With Commendation For Years of Contributions to the Local Art Scene

Cuyahoga Falls artist **Jack Richard** was presented with a commendation for his years of dedication and work influencing the art scene in Summit County and to bring awareness to his recent public viewing.

Richard's artwork was featured in the Executive's "Room With a View" exhibit in the eighth floor Executive conference room this past Fall. The exhibit is an ongoing program – first opened in 2003 – that celebrates and recognizes local artists by giving their work exposure in the public setting.

"I'm very appreciative of the honor," said Richard after the commendation was presented to him from Summit County Councilman **John Schmidt (District 2)** and **County Executive Russell M. Pry**.

"Having grown up in Cuyahoga Falls, it's impossible not to know about Jack Richard and the great contributions he has made to the art world," said Schmidt. "I was pleased to have had the opportunity to present him with this commendation."

Richard's studio is located at

2250 Front Street in Cuyahoga Falls and he has taught many successful artists throughout his impressive career.

Best known for creating annual portraits of NEC Invitational World Golf Championship Ambassadors, 13 photo replicas of Richard's NEC Invitational portraits were on display in the "Room With a View," which made a colorful and historical exhibit.



**District 2 Council Member John Schmidt (left) and County Executive Russ Pry (right) present Commendation to artist, Jack Richard.**

## Councilwoman Shapiro Receives 2008 Athena Award

Summit County **At-Large Council Member Ilene Shapiro** was presented with the 2008 Northeast Ohio Athena Award sponsored by ATHENA International and Inside Business Magazine.

The Athena Award recognizes the efforts and successes of women who demonstrate creativity and initiative in their profession, improve the quality of life for others in the community and have helped women maximize their leadership potential.

Councilwoman Shapiro was one of six Summit County finalists considered for the prestigious honor.

An accomplished business leader with a history of successful business ventures, Shapiro currently serves as Vice President of Sales, Marketing & Strategic Business Development with Summa Enterprise Group, a subsidiary of Summa Health System.

"It is truly an honor to receive such a prestigious award," said Shapiro. "I feel privileged to be selected from such a worthy group of women who make such a positive impact on the community. Helping women fulfill their potential is very important to me and I will continue to give my best to help others."



**Council Member at Large Ilene Shapiro (center) receives the 2008 Athena Award from Norma Rist (left), Chairman of Athena International and 2007 Winner, Teresa Carter of OMNOVA Solutions Foundations (right).** (ohio.com photo)

## In The Community



**County Council President Nick Kostandaras (left) receives an Appreciation Award from Summit County Veterans Administration Director George Baker.**



**Councilwoman Paula Prentice (District 8) makes a "Going Green" presentation for the Portage Lakes Community Council.**

**Councilmen Kostandaras (top photo) and Smith (bottom photo) greet Dads at a Father's Walk to School Day at Mason Elementary School.**



## Staff Notes...

### STAFF INTERN PASSES BAR

**Beth Tuschner**, a Graduate Assistant in the County Council office recently passed the Bar Exam for the State of Washington, where she plans to practice law.

### WELCOME TANYA!

**Tanya Hylton**, a graduate student in the Public Administration department at the University of Akron has recently joined the Council Office staff as a Graduate Assistant.

### YMCA AWARD

**Kent Starks**, Constituent Services Coordinator, was honored by the Akron Area YMCA for his volunteer work with the Minority Achievers Program.

## SUMMIT COUNTY COUNCIL

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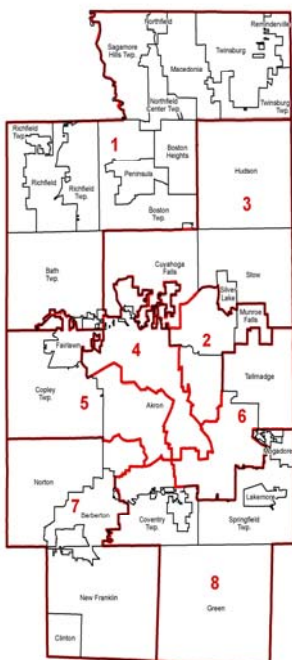


## Calendar of Events

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
December 15	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	6:00 p.m.
December 24-25	<b>Offices Closed for Christmas Holidays</b>		
January 1	<b>Offices Closed for New Years Day</b>		
January 2	Organizational Meeting	Council Chambers	5:30 p.m.
January 5	Committee/Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
January 12	Council Committee Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
January 19	<b>Offices CLOSED for Martin Luther King Day</b>		
January 26	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	6:00 p.m.
February 2	Council Committee Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
February 9	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	6:00 p.m.
February 16	<b>Offices CLOSED for Presidents' Day</b>		
February 23	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
March 2	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	6:00 p.m.
March 9	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.

# Happy Holidays!

### 2009 County Council Members



<b>Nick Kostandaras</b>	District 1
<b>John Schmidt</b>	District 2
<b>Gloria Rodgers</b>	District 3
<b>Frank C. Comunale</b>	District 4
<b>Cazzell Smith, Sr.</b>	District 5
<b>Jerry Feeman</b>	District 6
<b>Tim Crawford</b>	District 7
<b>Paula Prentice</b>	District 8
<b>Pete Crossland</b>	At Large
<b>Jon Poda</b>	At Large
<b>Ilene Shapiro</b>	At Large

### County Council Staff

<b>K. Darlene Mims</b> Chief of Staff
<b>Sharley Greer</b> Clerk of Council
<b>W. Kent Starks, II</b> Constituent Services Coordinator
<b>Mark Potter</b> Senior Research Analyst
<b>Erin Siebel</b> Executive Assistant
<b>Tanya Hylton</b> Graduate Assistant





