

# Common Vision

Newsletter for the Emergency Management Agency of Summit County

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Winter 2002-2003

James B. McCarthy, County Executive

## Are You Ready for Winter Driving?

Winter storms bring ice, snow, cold temperatures, and often; dangerous driving conditions. It is best to avoid traveling by car in a storm, but if you must, let someone know your destination, your route, and when you expect to arrive. Keep a full tank of gas for emergency use and to prevent fuel line freeze up. Have an emergency supply kit in your trunk. Remember to keep enough supplies to be used by all your passengers.

First Aid Kit  
Jumper Cables  
Sand  
Shovel  
Red Tie For Antenna  
Blankets  
Extra Clothing  
Flashlight With Extra Batteries

If you get stuck...

Stay with your car. Do not try to walk to safety. Tie a brightly colored cloth (red) to the antenna for rescuers to see. Start the car and use the heater for 10 minutes every hour. Keep the exhaust pipe clear so fumes won't back up into the car. Leave the overhead light on when the engine is running so that you can be seen. As you sit, keep moving your arms and legs to keep blood circulating and stay warm. Keep one window, away from the blowing wind, slightly open to let in air.



## A message from James B. McCarthy, County Executive

*The Akron/Summit County Domestic Preparedness Task Force completed their required Department of Justice full-scale exercise on October 10, 2002. This drill marks the completion of the Nunn-Lugar-Domenici Training Program Grant requirements. This Akron/Summit County exercise was the largest that the Department of Justice facilitated to date. Participating in the exercise were over 16 local fire departments, 10 local law enforcement agencies, as well as several state and federal agencies. There were over 300 volunteers, made up of University of Akron students from the School of Nursing and the Community and Technical College, as well as local high school students and many local residents. All six local hospitals fully participated with decontamination. Summit County will continue to train, educate, and improve our county wide Emergency Operations Plan to protect the lives and property of the citizens of Summit County.*



*James B. McCarthy*

## Mitigation Grant to Help Hazard Prevention

Summit County Emergency Management Agency received a grant from the Ohio Emergency Management Agency Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program to complement local funding for the development of Summit County's Hazard Prevention Plan. The goal of this Hazard Prevention Plan is to focus hazard prevention and reduction activities in Summit County. Through this process, Summit County will become more efficient at dealing with risks and preventing destruction. Once the plan is

completed, it will act as a guide for community leaders in the pursuit of further state and federal assistance for prevention projects under the Emergency Management System.

...continued on back



### Mission

Summit County Emergency Management leads, coordinates and supports the emergency management system, in order to protect lives and prevent loss of property from all hazards.

## Mitigation ...continued from front

Disaster can affect communities' economy, housing, transportation, cultural resources and natural resources. Disasters do not recognize jurisdictional boundaries. Therefore, representatives from diverse backgrounds have been asked to serve on a Hazard Prevention Sub-Committee. The mission of the Hazard Prevention Sub-Committee is to identify the hazards that affect Summit County, determine which hazards the county is at greatest risk from and work through hazard prevention needs and opportunities to prevent and reduce the effects of a disaster, thus increasing the resiliency of Summit County. In the future, this project may even branch out to surrounding communities.

In an effort to look at the big picture, the subcommittee is seeking your input. We are requesting plans or projects that you may have, which address hazard reduction or prevention. We are looking for both current and future projects to give us an idea of current status and future direction. Please submit all information for consideration to the Summit County Emergency Management Agency no later than Monday, February 3, 2003. For more information or questions, please contact Tina Merlitti at (330) 643-2558.

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Visit us on the web at:  
[www.co.summit.oh.us/executive/ema.htm](http://www.co.summit.oh.us/executive/ema.htm)

## Animal Assistance in the Time of Disaster

Summit County Emergency Management Agency kicked off a new program called "Animals in Disaster". The purpose of this program is to assist citizens with pets or live stock in the time of a disaster. During situations that would force people to evacuate, special



consideration needs to be made to move and shelter animals. Our agency hosted a one-day program on dealing with the care of all animals in a disaster situation. Our keynote speaker was Cindy S. Lovern, DVM, MS from

the American Veterinary Medical Association, which is headquartered in Chicago, Illinois. Dr. Lovern is the Assistant Director of Emergency Preparedness and Response, overseeing the disaster program, which includes the Veterinary Medical Assistance Team (VMAT).

Joining Dr. Lovern was Susan Gundich, Coordinator, for the Animals' Disaster Team of Cuyahoga County, who spoke about their local team and what benefits there are in helping a family get through a disaster knowing their family pet is being cared for by someone who is trained in animal care.

Attending the meeting were representatives from area veterinary clinics, emergency management agencies, zoological societies, animal rescue, law enforcement, fire departments and the humane society.

A committee is being formed, with representation from all these groups, to assist with the planning process. It is our hope that when disaster strikes we would not only be able to help the citizens in our county, but also their pets.

## Hudson Police Department Has A Brand New Home

A dream has been realized in Hudson... the new Police Department has been completed. This magnificent 25,000 square foot building, located at 36 S. Oviatt Street, boasts top-shelf equipment and furnishings.

The structure contains spacious Administrative, Detectives Bureau and Patrol Offices, on the main floor, as well as a basement area with an Armors Room, Evidence In-Take, Storage, Workout Room, Locker Rooms and future meeting rooms. The Communications Center is the heart of the structure with two complete hi-tech workstations, which include Zetron consoles and a DAK security system with 16 cameras, a 20 inch flat-



*Dispatcher Jo Ann Lowman mans the new center.*

screen monitor, with touch screen ease, to monitor all doors, including 3 sallyports and jail facility.

"We are very proud of our new 'home.'" If you would like to arrange a tour, please contact Lt. Becky Mulloy at (330) 342-1817.