



# News Release

Russell M. Pry – Summit County Executive

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Executive Pry to Issue Proclamation at Summit County GIS Day

Summit County Executive Russell M. Pry, in conjunction with the City of Akron and The University of Akron, announces Summit County GIS Day, November 19, 2008. It will be held at The University of Akron Student Union, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Executive Pry will give the welcoming address and read the official GIS Day proclamation.

Held annually during National Geographic Society's Geography Awareness Week, GIS Day is a global event celebrating geographic information system (GIS) technology, the innovative technology that uses geography to bring countless benefits to the world. Summit County GIS Day provides an opportunity for those curious about GIS to see its applications in action. A GIS is a computer-based mapping tool that takes information from a database about a location, such as streets, buildings, water features, and terrain, and turns it into visual layers. The ability to see geographic features on a map gives users a better understanding of a particular location, enabling planners, analysts, and others to make informed decisions about their communities.

Although you may not be aware of it, GIS touches our lives daily. It is used throughout the world to solve problems related to the environment, health care, land use, business efficiency, education, and public safety. The power supply directed to homes, the patrol cars and fire trucks that keep neighborhoods safe, and the delivery trucks on the road all function more efficiently because of GIS. This technology can also help businesses place ATMs and restaurants at more convenient locations, allow people to pull maps off the Internet, and help farmers grow more crops with less chemicals.

Most recently we have seen how GIS technology can be used to aid Homeland Security initiatives, map the debris field following the *Space Shuttle Columbia* tragedy, and monitor the spread of Severe Acute

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Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). The applications of GIS technology are endless, limited only by the imagination of its users. From border patrol agents to doctors, and from federal agency employees to local city planners, people in nearly every profession all over the world are reaping the benefits of this extraordinary technology.

GIS Day serves to make people aware of GIS technology and the important contributions it is making in the fields of science, technology, information, and the humanities. It is a grassroots event and a reflection of the enthusiasm and commitment of individual GIS users everywhere.

This year's event will feature a panel discussion of professional GIS users. The panel will discuss the application of GIS in their job and the future of GIS. Panelists will include; Gary Gruccio (Sterling Jewelers), Dave Smith (ESRI), Darren Rozenek (City of Akron Public Utilities Bureau), Anne Murphy (Western Reserve Land Conservancy) and Mark Johnson (Summit County Fiscal Office). The panel will take place in Ballrooms C, D, and E in the Student Union, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, at 1:00 PM. An open house featuring GIS-related vendors will follow the panel discussion in Ballroom B. All those attending the GIS panel will be entered in a drawing to win a Garmin eTrex Venture GPS.

This year marks GIS Day's tenth year, so be sure to join the celebration and become a part of this annual tradition.

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