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**JUVENILE COURT HONORS TUBMAN, UNDERGROUND RAILROAD IN COUNTY**

February is Black History Month and March is Women's History Month. A banner near the entrance of the main lobby at Summit County Juvenile Court acknowledges both.

The banner honors Harriett Tubman and notes Summit County's key role in Tubman's Underground Railroad. Tubman's place in history is well-documented as the person who created the Underground Railroad and worked tirelessly to network a series of safe houses for slaves to move from the South to the free North during the 1850's and early 1860's. Ohio was the leading state along the Underground Railroad and there were safe houses located throughout Summit County. But perhaps no community played a larger role than Hudson.

The banner cites the locations where 21 safe houses existed in the village, including Western Reserve College, now Western Reserve Academy, and the homes of noted abolitionist John Brown and town founder David Hudson.

This is the fourth time the Court has commemorated Black History Month. In 2007, the image of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was placed on a banner with a Pledge of Peace located below it. Visitors to the Court were invited to sign the banner, which was subsequently sent to and displayed at the Martin Luther King Library in Washington, D.C. In 2008, students throughout Summit County were invited to submit a drawing of Dr. King. John Bok, a student at Walsh Jesuit High School, created and donated a portrait of Dr. King which now hangs in a prominent place at the Court. Last year, Sojourner Truth was honored with her "And Ain't I a Woman?" speech printed below her image. The speech was delivered at the High Street site at the building which now bears her name. Throughout February and March that banner will hang next to the King portrait.

"I think this is a unique way to call attention to both Black History Month and Women's History Month and hopefully educate our visitors and staff of the role Summit County has played in some significant moments in history," said Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio.

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