

News Release

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Summit County Celebrates Older Americans Month, Senior Summit Conference

SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO—Last week, Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro and County Council declared May Older Americans Month. Sponsored by Executive Shapiro and District 5 Council Member Veronica Sims, the resolution recognizes the contributions of older adults in Summit County, and encourages professionals and residents to attend the 2021 Senior Summit conference.

Each May, the Administration for Community Living leads the celebration of Older Americans Month. This year's theme is Communities of Strength, recognizing the important role older adults play in fostering the connection and engagement that build strong, resilient communities.

"Summit County is stronger when people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds are included and encouraged to make contributions to our community," said Executive Shapiro. "By promoting independence, inclusion, and participation, we are ensuring our older adults feel valued and empowered in the place they call home. This month, I encourage all residents reach out and connect with the older adults in their life."

Like communities around the nation, Summit County is home to a diverse and growing older adult population. To better prepare for the needs of an older population, Executive Shapiro is leading efforts to transform Summit County into an AARP Age Friendly Community. Working with community partners like Direction Home Akron Canton, Summit County is in the early stages of developing an Age Friendly Action plan that outlines how to become a more livable community for people of all ages.

"Every day in the United States, approximately 10,000 people reach the age of 65, and experts estimate by 2030 all baby boomers will be 65 or older," said Council Member Sims. "It is important that we take steps now to prepare our communities for the needs of older adults. No matter their age, all our residents should feel included, connected, and empowered to contribute to their community."

In addition to declaring May Older Americans Month, Summit County will hold the annual Senior Summit conference on May 19 and 20. Hosted by Probate Court Judge Elinore Marsh Stormer, the free, virtual conference targets professionals and residents working with and caring for older adults. More information and registration is available at <https://summitohioprobate.com/senior-summit-2021/>.

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