

## NEWS RELEASE

**Ilene Shapiro – Summit County Executive**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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### **County Executive and Council recognize Preparedness and Recovery Month**

**SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO**—Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro and County Council recently passed legislation recognizing September as Preparedness Month and Recovery Month.

Preparedness Month is observed each September to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time. It is sponsored by the Ready Campaign, a national public service campaign designed to educate and empower the American people to prepare for, respond to and mitigate emergencies, including natural and man-made disasters. The 2021 theme is “Prepare to Protect. Preparing for disasters is protecting everyone you love.”

“We do not always have advanced warning when a natural disaster or emergency strikes. That is why it is so important to be prepared,” said Executive Shapiro. “Now is the time for residents to make a plan, share it with family and friends, and encourage them to make a plan of their own.”

In Summit County, the Executive’s Emergency Management Agency (EMA) is dedicated to ensuring county residents are well equipped to protect themselves and their families in the face of any potential disasters and emergencies. Summit County EMA offers different programs to help residents prepare for an emergency. Residents can sign up with Reverse Alert to receive emergency warnings and alerts by phone, email, and devices for the hard of hearing. Reverse Alerts are disseminated when imminent threats to health and safety occur in our communities.

Earlier this year, Summit County EMA launched the EMA Mobile Application. The app provides emergency push notifications similar to Reverse Alert, but also includes preparedness features such as the ability to create a personal emergency plan to share with family and friends, free access to the NOAA weather radio system, and updated traffic information and road closures from the Ohio Department of Transportation. Residents can sign up for both programs at <https://co.summitoh.net/pages/Reverse-Alert.html> and <https://apps.myocv.com/share/a49644308>. Residents can also visit <https://ready.gov> learn more about preparing for an emergency.

Executive Shapiro and Council also recognized Recovery Month, observed nationally each year to promote and support new evidence-based treatment and recovery practices, the emergence of a strong and proud recovery community, and the dedication of service providers and community members across the nation who make recovery in all its forms possible.

In Summit County, the Executive's Office works closely with community partners who lead recovery efforts, like Summit County ADM Board and Summit County Public Health, to ensure treatment and support are available to those who have a substance abuse disorder. To access recovery resources, please visit <https://www.admboard.org/recovery.aspx> or call 330-940-1133.

"In Summit County, we recognize the positive message spread by Recovery Month, that behavioral health is essential to overall health, that prevention works, that treatment is effective, and that people can and do recover," said Executive Shapiro. "If you or someone you know is struggling, please ask for help. There are people and organizations in Summit County ready to help you get on a path to recovery."

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