

# NEWS RELEASE

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



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**Contact:** Greta Johnson  
Director of Communications & Assistant Chief of Staff  
Office of Executive Shapiro  
[ExecutivePress@summitoh.net](mailto:ExecutivePress@summitoh.net)  
330-643-2510

## **Summit County Celebrates America’s 250th with Heritage Tree Planting**

**SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO**—Summit County marked both Earth Day and the nation’s upcoming 250th anniversary with a ceremonial Heritage Tree planting today at the Perkins Stone Mansion, bringing together community leaders, environmental partners, and residents to honor Summit County’s contributions to the nation.

Hosted by Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro and the Summit County Historical Society, in partnership with America 250-Ohio and The Davey Tree Expert Company, the event was part of the statewide Heritage Trees: Planting History initiative. The program aims to plant a tree in each of Ohio’s 88 counties by the end of 2026 as a living tribute to the nation’s 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

During the ceremony, a native white swamp oak was planted on the historic grounds of the Perkins Stone Mansion, a site closely tied to the legacy of Colonel Simon Perkins and the founding of Summit County. The program featured remarks from partners and community leaders, highlighting the significance of trees as both environmental infrastructure and enduring historical markers.

“This tree represents more than a single moment, it is a reflection of our past and it is a commitment to the future of our community,” said Executive Shapiro. “At a time of uncertainty, strife and division in our nation and our world, moments like this matter more than ever. They ground us. They remind us of what connects us, and of the responsibility we all share.”

“Trees are synonymous with our daily lives reflecting our family roots, personal growth, and a place for rest, reflection and recreation. Here on Mutton Hill, they help us remember our history so that we can move forward to the future,” shared Leianne Neff Miller, Society president & CEO.

Representatives from America 250-Ohio shared remarks on the importance of commemorating the nation’s 250th anniversary through projects that leave a lasting impact across communities. The Davey Tree Expert Company assisted with the planting and emphasized the role trees play in strengthening environmental health and resilience.

In addition to the ceremonial planting, attendees received scarlet maple saplings to take home, courtesy of Davey Tree, and native seeds courtesy of Keep Akron Beautiful, extending the spirit of the initiative throughout Summit County neighborhoods.

Residents can find other local America 250-OH events throughout the year at <https://america250-ohio.org/>.

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