

Akron Documenters

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Ward 9 meeting

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Agency: Akron City Council

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Summary

- Plans are in the works for a traffic-calming program in Ward 9. Community members can suggest the location of temporary speed bumps. To qualify, a street must have a maximum speed limit of 25 mph and not have been newly paved (paving must be five years or older). Council Member Tina Boyes will take into account these factors as she decides where the speed bump will be placed.
- The [Akron Parks Collaborative](#) is seeking nominations for a \$150,000 grant. The Akron Parks Challenge will be awarded to a park with a sustainable plan for usage and the ability to create a “friends group” to offer ongoing support to the park. Qualifiers include the ability to offer sustainable and low-maintenance potential programming ideas and the ability to create a solid friends group. Go [here](#) to nominate a park.
- Clean up is underway this month around Summit Lake in preparation for the June 8 [Cowbell 7k](#). The goal is to create an engagement-driven event for past and present Kenmore residents and anybody else interested in participating. There will be food, bands and the chance to meet with Kenmore business owners. All proceeds will be donated to Akron Promise, an organization that supports Kenmore students and their families. Formerly known as the “Rock Me on the Water 7k,” the new name honors a long-time Kenmore resident known for ringing a cowbell at Kenmore High School sporting events for more than 60 years.

Follow-Up Questions

- What is the significance of the cowbell to Kenmore?
- How did Akron Promise come to be, and how many young adults has the organization helped?
- When will council vote for the street where the temporary speed bump will be placed in Ward 9?

Notes

- The overall tone of the meeting resembled an organized gathering of friends.
 - Pizza, snacks and water were served
 - Chairs were placed around tables to promote conversation
 - Ward 9 Council Member Tina Boyes made an effort to introduce herself to each attendee
 - There were approximately 37 community members in attendance
- Announcements from Boyes:
 - Kenmore updates are available at this [Facebook page](#)
 - Eclipse activities:
 - [Viewing party at the Kenmore Library](#) 11 a.m. to -5 p.m.
 - [NASA livestream](#) at The Rialto Theatre
 - Yoga Center sun salutation class after totality from 4 to 5 p.m.
 - [Drumming symphony](#) hosted by Akron Soul Train overlapping totality from 2 to 4 p.m.
 - Viewing of the eclipse [at Prentiss Park](#) 1 to 4 p.m.
 - Free eclipse glasses are available at the Kenmore Community Center, which will remain open until 5 p.m.
- Kenmore April general events
 - Kenmore Spring Clean Up is April 20 from 9 a.m. to noon
 - Interested attendees will meet at 988 Kenmore Blvd.
 - Hosted by Kenmore CDC
 - Summit Lake Clean Up is April 13 from 8:30 to 11 a.m.
 - Register [here](#)
 - Breakfast and snacks will be offered to volunteers
 - Hosted by Keep Akron Beautiful
 - Better Kenmore CDC [Events](#)
 - Block watch meeting April 17
 - [Good Love Network](#) April 30 at 6 p.m.
 - [Project Shine](#)
 - A youth organization focused on making small home repairs

for the elderly

- Seeking people who need repairs
- Also seeking churches who are able to host youth overnights

Presentation #1- Akron Safety Improvement and Traffic Calming

Presented by Michelle DiFiore, Akron's development engineering manager

- The goal is to better use Akron's infrastructure
 - Using roads in a different way to make them safer (for example, bike lanes)
 - Terms to know: [Complete Streets](#) and [Road Diets](#)
 - Complete Street local examples
 - Waterloo Road narrowed driving lanes
 - Manchester Road re-striping of bike lanes
 - Traffic Calming
 - Slowing traffic to support safety initiatives
 - Local example: Speed tables have been used to slow traffic since 2020. Data was reviewed to decide where to place them. In 2023, 21 speed tables were deployed.
 - Community members can place traffic calming requests [here](#)
 - two sets of solar speed signs will be installed in each ward
 - Cameras will collect data and show each driver's speed
 - In Ward 9, they will be installed at 13th Street SW and Carey Avenue

Community members had the following questions and comments regarding the presentation:

- Why didn't the speed table that was installed on Clearview Avenue work?
 - DiFore said it was a temporary speed table and might not have been the appropriate size for the street. All temporary speed tables are the same size.
- There was a comment about a person who was killed last year while riding in the protected bike lane. The community member asked to consider running bike lanes in a location that would not run along bus routes.
- When will the placement of the 2024 speed table and solar cams be decided?
 - Right now, Boyes is reviewing data and community feedback before the vote occurs.
- Why can't speed tables be installed on freshly resurfaced roads?
 - Director of Public Service Chris Ludle said that 300 holes are required to install a temporary speed table. A better and permanent solution is a raised crosswalk to slow traffic. A grant has been applied for to provide long-term solutions.
 - Boyes encouraged community feedback by having attendees place

stickers on a Ward 9 map where they think speed tables should be installed.

Presentation #2- Akron Parks Challenge

Presented by Sean Blake, board member of Akron Parks Collaborative

- The goal is to nominate an Akron park that, if selected, will win \$150,000 to sponsor sustainable updates that will drive engagement.
- The winning park must have a friends group to do the following
 - Coordinate programs and watch the park, reporting any issues to the city
- Nominate a park [here](#)

Community members had the following questions regarding the presentation:

What makes a good park nominee?

- Blake said the best nominees have a sustainable focus, are able to create a solid friends group, and are low maintenance. He also said there will be two winners this year.

Will Kenmore get a splash pad? Firestone Park residents seem to be enjoying theirs.

- Boyes said there has been discussion about a splash pad along the west side of Summit Lake. She recommended reading her newsletter to stay updated.

Will there be repairs to the concrete portion of Manchester Road?

- Ludle said that, due to the increased cost of asphalt, there will likely be a crack-sealing project on the streets.
- The city is currently reviewing budgetary options to make repairs. These repairs are likely at least two years out.

Presentation #3- [Cowbell 7k](#)

Presented by Nick Korora, Cowbell 7k race organizer

- June 8 at 8 a.m. starting line at the [Rialto Theatre](#)
 - Dedicated to the memory of “Grandma” Ellen Benn, a Kenmore resident who enjoyed ringing a cowbell at games.
 - All proceeds will go to [Akron Promise](#), an organization that supports students and their families
 - After the run, bands, food and fun will take place to bring community members past and present together once again.
 - Registration is free for students 18 and under
 - Spectators can also register and join the fun
 - Prizes will be awarded to military participants
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Notes to reader: Unless quotation marks are used, all text is paraphrased. If you believe anything in these notes is inaccurate, please email us at documenters@signalakron.org with "Correction Request" in the subject line.