



## Hudson's One Red Door and Flip Side swapping storefronts

COMMUNITY, 4A



# Akron Beacon Journal

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## It's raining car washes all over Summit County



A motorist has their ride cleaned at the Splash Car Wash in Fairlawn. JEFF LANGE/AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

## A booming service sector leads to 7 new facilities in 2 years

April Helms

Akron Beacon Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

It's become a running joke on social media forums:

"Hey, there's something new coming in on this street. Any idea what it will be?"

"Probably a new car wash." Usually accompanied by a laughing emoji.

There is more than just a bubble of truth to this punchline. Some parts of Summit County, particularly Akron, Cuyahoga Falls, Green and Stow, have

seen a boom in car wash businesses.

Since 2021, 10 car washes either have been constructed or undergone renovations, said Christopher Randles, chief building official with Summit County Building Standards. Seven of the 10 were new car washes, in Fairlawn, Cuyahoga Falls, Coventry, Akron, Tallmadge and Green. Randles added that the records he has do not include Stow, which has its own building department.

Kamelia Fisher, executive director at the Cuyahoga Falls Chamber of

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**"A lot think there's an overabundance of washes, but this brings money back into the community and provides jobs. This should be supported."**

Julie McClain

Executive director for the Stow-Munroe Falls Chamber of Commerce

## Dropout recovery school opens

### Towpath Trail launches new Barberton campus

Alan Ashworth

Akron Beacon Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A dropout recovery school that operates campuses in Akron and Springfield Township has opened a campus location in Barberton.

Towpath Trail High School, operated by Akron-based Oakmont Education, opened Feb. 28 and has been building its enrollment since then, said Barberton campus director Matt Arshinkoff.

Towpath is considered a dropout prevention and recovery community school by the Ohio Department of Education, focusing on students who haven't found success in traditional schools.

Students who graduate receive a high school diploma, not a GED certificate, said Arshinkoff.

"This isn't a school for 'bad kids,'" Arshinkoff said. "... They don't fit the cookie-cutter mold."

Here's what we know.

### Where is this new school?

Oakmont has invested about \$2 million to open the Towpath campus at the site of a former Key Bank location on Wooster Road West, Arshinkoff said. The company expanded the site from 3,900 square feet to about 14,500 square feet, adding classrooms, offices, a and a lobby.

### What is different about Towpath?

Traditional subjects are taught, but students are encouraged to pick a skill in which they can earn a certificate.

See TOWPATH, Page 3A

## Pet food pantry helps Portage, Summit animal owners in need

Diane Smith

Ravenna Record-Courier  
USA TODAY NETWORK

More than a decade ago, Rene Lamp started a pet food pantry out of her Rootstown home to help owners avoid surrendering their animals to shelters because they couldn't afford to feed them.

Now, she said, the demand for the pantry has surged as the cost of pet food has skyrocketed, and people are struggling to feed their "pandemic pets."

"If I'm struggling, I can only imagine how bad other people are struggling," she said.

See PET PANTRY, Page 3A



Rene Lamp in the garage where she stores donated pet-related items.

LISA SCALFARO/  
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