



The SHIELD

A quarterly bulletin from the Summit County Sheriff's Office

2023, Volume 3

The half-century
tradition of our
Marine Patrol



Faith & Blue
returns for its
third year!

Back-to-School
bus stop safety tips

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Summit County
Sheriff's Office (OH)

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in the app store



The Summit County Sheriff's Office mourns the loss of one of our deputies, Jacob Nees, who passed away suddenly in August after being involved in an off-duty vehicle accident.

Deputy Nees joined the Sheriff's Office two months ago after graduating from our Academy. He is a 2018 graduate of Mount Union where he studied Criminal Justice, and previously worked as a parole officer before joining our team. In his spare time, he played drums in a few local bands.

Deputy Nees will be greatly missed by our Office. We extend our deepest condolences to the Nees family and to Jacob's friends and loved ones.





From the desk of

Sheriff Kandy Fatheree

It's hard to believe that summer is nearly over, kids are back in school, and before long the leaves will be changing and temperatures cooling. As we head into the latter half of the year, I wanted to provide a brief update on just some of the projects we have been working on this year at the Summit County Sheriff's Office.

Earlier this year, the Sheriff's Office received grant funding to pay cadets who are going through our Academy. This funding eliminates a significant barrier for those with family, job, or economic constraints, making our Academy more accessible and inclusive to a more diverse pool of cadets. Additionally, through a separate grant geared towards hiring more minority and women deputies, we significantly expanded our recruitment methods, utilizing radio and online video advertising. These efforts have already paid great dividends, as our two most recent academy classes are completely full!

In June, we launched a *Donut with a Deputy* program, in which residents are invited to chat with our deputies over a donut and a coffee and get to know them and better understand who we are and what our office does. We have held five so far (West Akron, Tallmadge, Cuyahoga Falls, Twinsburg, and Coventry Twp.), with more planned for the autumn. We'd like to thank the participating Dunkin' Donuts shops for hosting us and providing a free donut to all participants. We love getting out and meeting the community that we serve!

And speaking of serving the community, this year the Sheriff's Office has added four new K-9s to our team. You met Taro and Nero in Volume 1 of the SHIELD earlier this year. Those two are soon to be joined by Marlo and Freddie this autumn. Marlo and Freddie will be patrol K-9s, and they are also cross-trained in narcotics detection and gun detection, respectively. These four new dogs, along with our existing bomb-detecting K-9, Piper, now form the most robust K-9 team the Summit County Sheriff's Office has had in a decade.

On the corrections front, we've begun working with the Painters & Allied Trades Union on what will hopefully blossom into a new program within our jail, offering training and an opportunity for employment to soon-to-be-released inmates looking to improve their lives. Inmate applicants must be non-violent, able to pass a drug test, have a GED or equivalent, and have some experience painting, drywalling, glazing, etc. Recidivism reducing programs like these give inmates a great opportunity to turn their lives around and stop reoffending.

Lastly, our ongoing *CCW Workshop* program will be winding down soon. This program has been an overwhelming success and has been very well received in every corner of the county. Over 500 residents having already attended a session, with hundreds more viewing the recorded session on our YouTube channel. If you are interested in attending one of these remaining *CCW Workshops*, designed to update and educate residents on concealed carry and other gun laws, please visit the "CCW" section of our website at sheriff.summitoh.net.

Kandy Fatheree
Sheriff, Summit County, Ohio

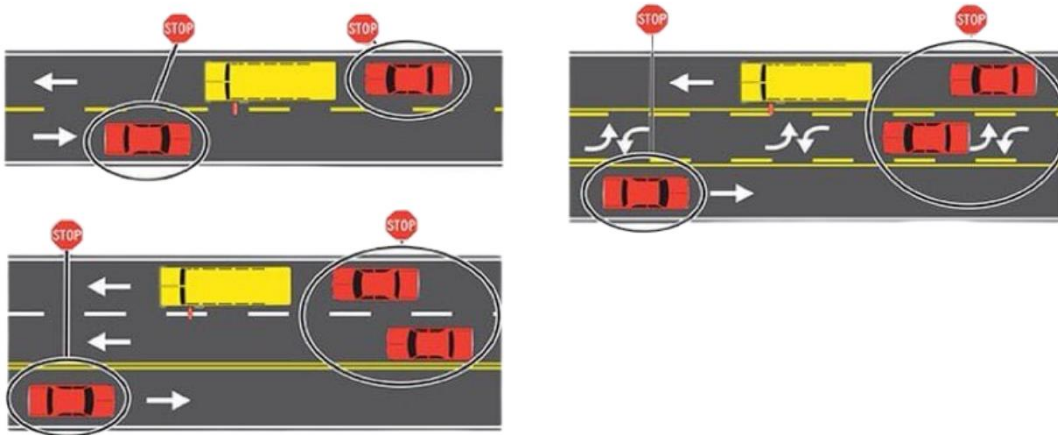


School Bus Stop Safety Tips

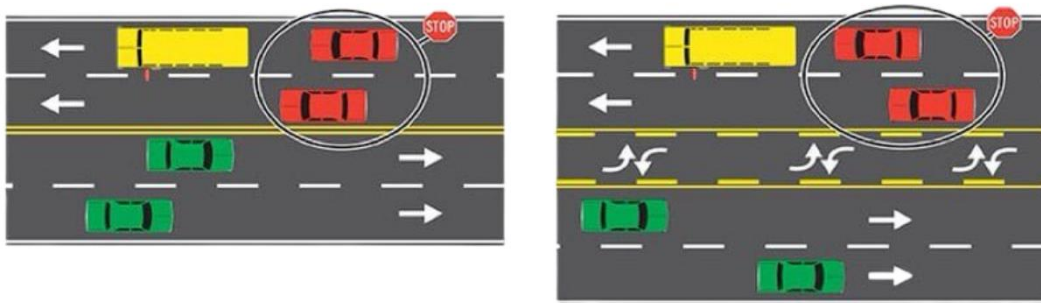


With kids now back to school, we wanted to remind residents what Ohio's laws are regarding stopping for a school bus.

On any road with less than four lanes, all vehicles approaching a stopped school bus from either direction must stop at least ten feet from the bus, and remain stopped until the bus begins to move again.



On any road with four or more lanes, only vehicles traveling in the same direction as the school bus must stop at least 10 feet from the bus, and remain stopped until the bus begins to move again.



And just because a member of law enforcement wasn't there to witness an infraction doesn't mean you won't be cited. Most buses have on-board cameras, and we will issue citations from camera footage. Most importantly, try to remember the precious cargo that is aboard these buses. Nobody wants to injure a child, or worse. The consequences of a few seconds of impatience could wreck lives, including your own.

Donut with a Deputy

In June, Sheriff Fatheree launched the 'Donut with a Deputy' program, sending deputies to Dunkin' Donuts locations throughout the county all summer long to meet and chat with residents over coffee and a complimentary donut (courtesy of Dunkin'). The public reception and interactions have been wonderful! Stay tuned to our social media or the Sheriff's Office mobile app for upcoming 'Donut with a Deputy' dates.



A half-century tradition of patrolling the Portage Lakes

To the untrained eye, it looked like a nice pontoon boat out for a sunset cruise on the Portage Lakes. Nothing unusual for a late summer evening.

To Deputy Stacey Campbell, there was something off as the boat slowly passed. Literally, the “OH” number that is required to be prominently displayed on every watercraft running in the state of Ohio.

So, with a quick whip of the wheel and slight acceleration of the Yamaha motor powering his boat, Deputy Campbell turned to intercept the cruising pontoon.

“I don’t see an OH number and he’s got a big wake,” Campbell said as he swiftly pulled next to the boat.

The pontoon owner and the woman who accompanied him smiled and waved as Campbell approached.

“Good evening!” the man said.

“Hello,” Campbell replied. “I didn’t see an OH number on your boat. Is it new?”

“Just got it today,” the proud owner stated. “This is my first time out.”



Deputy Stacey Campbell patrolling the Portage Lakes in late August.

Deputy Campbell is one of 9 Summit County Sheriff’s deputies who operate two patrol boats on the Portage Lakes between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Campbell has a special connection with the unit: his father – legendary Summit County Sheriff Robert Campbell – started the unit in 1968.

Ask Stacey Campbell why his dad started the unit and he’ll pause, smiling. Then tell the story.

It started with an unfortunate drowning on the south end of Turkeyfoot Lake. The Sheriff’s Office didn’t have a boat. The Fire Departments didn’t have dive teams. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources ran a tight ship.

So, the Sheriff borrowed a boat from a resident and took it to the drowning site. But afterwards, it wasn’t pretty.

“How do I say this politically correct,” his son later mused. “There was a discussion between my dad and the park manager at the time as to who had jurisdiction. And the park manager didn’t want to go to jail.”

He paused. Then with a smile and a chuckle he said, “but that was on the table.”

Over the years, the Marine Patrol has become one the Office’s many specialized units – Mounted, SWAT, Bomb Squad, Negotiators, etc. – that have made the Summit County Sheriff’s Office one of the more attractive places to work for law enforcement officers.



One of two boats utilized by the Sheriff’s Office Marine Patrol.

“Units like the Marine Patrol give us a leg up when recruiting candidates to join our Office,” said Summit County Sheriff Kandy Fatheree. “We’re really fortunate to have such a wide variety of opportunities for our deputies to explore during their careers. We’re a one-stop shop.”

Starting in the mid-1980s, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources started pitching in with money and boats to help partner with the Sheriff’s Office to patrol the Portage Lakes more regularly.

In the years since, the unit has won the Outstanding Marine Patrol award sixteen times.

This year, the state awarded \$33,145.70 to the office to patrol the Lakes, with the county chipping in some money as well. The Summit County Sheriff’s Office was one of 24 Ohio Marine Patrols to receive a slice of the \$579,653.92 the state sent out this year. The Muskingum Watershed received the largest grant of \$35,000. The Shelby County Sheriff’s Office received the smallest award at \$3,758.94

Given that the Portage Lakes is the busiest inland lake system in the state, that money isn’t a ton. But Campbell and his fellow Marine Patrol deputies make do with two aging boats and another they scavenged in case the two go out.

They could use a new boat house. But the state won’t put up the \$100,000 it would take to build a new one. The state operating budget that just passed in June contained \$191 billion – including another \$300 million set aside in the state’s Rainy Day Fund.

The deputies typically work alone on weekday nights and in pairs on the weekends. And while it’s rare that they have to engage in high-speed water pursuits, it does happen.

A few years ago, the Patrol was called over to the Harbor Inn where a man was accused of hitting his wife. When the deputies arrived, the man jumped in his boat, ran at them and sped away.

Where the guy thought he was going, given that the Portage Lakes are landlocked, who knows.

After several minutes imitating cigar boat chases from Miami Vice, the guy jumped out of his moving boat as it approached one Lake's end. He tried to swim for the shore.

He was caught.

Most of the stops are for OUI – operating under the influence. Or moving too fast in a no-wake zone. Or water skiing in the wrong lake at the wrong time. As Campbell said, the goal is more education about boat safety than bringing down the hammer on every boater for every little violation.

Like failing to register your boat – what Campbell was doing recently with the newly minted pontoon boat.

The owner pulled out his bill of sale and explained that he was headed home to drop the paperwork in the mail. Deputy Campbell wrote him a warning. Then he did a safety inspection. Two lifejackets. Check (in brand-new plastic wrap no less).

Fire extinguisher? Check. Life float? Check.

Deputy Campbell gave the owner a sticker showing his inspection, as well as a copy of the Portage Lakes boating rules and a small map of the lakes. The boat was shipshape. The owner educated. The job done.

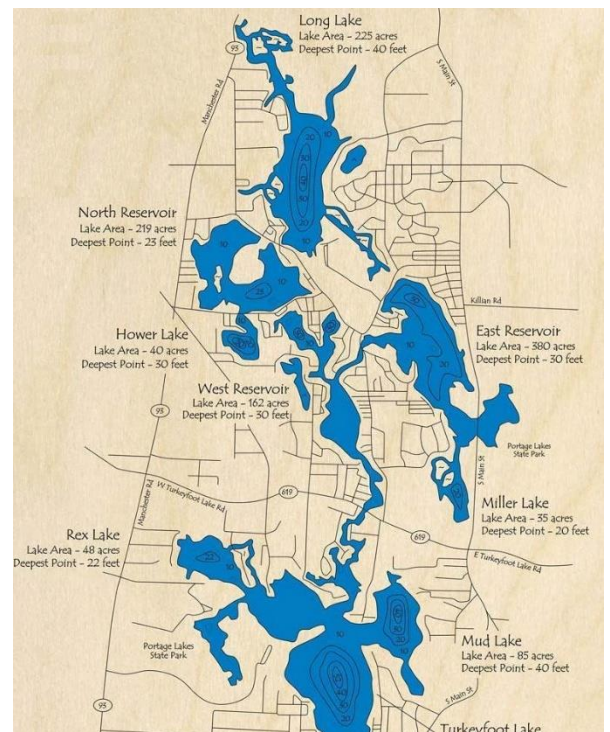
“Enjoy your new boat!” Campbell said, pushing away from the pontoon, which also moved off – this time much more slowly and with zero wake.

As the cooling sun dropped lower in the summer sky, Deputy Campbell returned to scanning the horizon for other boaters. After a short time quietly cruising the lake, he was told there were worse ways to spend 4 hours.

He smiled, quietly. If his dad could see him now.

Then he turned ever so slightly, put a finger to his mouth and said, “Shh. Don't tell anyone.”

He returned to attention and slipped his boat further into the dying day, smiling as broadly as the disappearing sun.



The Portage Lakes consist of 2,034 acres of water, 411 acres of park land, and 32 miles of shoreline.



SUMMIT COUNTY



FAITH & BLUE

Sheriff Fatheree invites you to join us for a day of fun and fellowship at our third annual Summit Faith & Blue! The Faith & Blue initiative is the largest nationwide community-law enforcement collaboration in history, with the goal of bringing law enforcement and the community together through the reach of houses of worship and faith-based organizations.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7

11:00AM - 2:00PM

Free Event!

All Are Welcome!

HARDESTY PARK

1615 W. MARKET ST, AKRON, OH 44313

**Live Performances Games & Contests Fun Run/Walk
Food & Drink Touch-a-Truck K-9 Demos Mounted Unit
Giveaways ...and more!**

Law enforcement, houses of worship, and community organizations wishing to participate can sign up at summitfaithandblue.com or by scanning this QR code:



#SummitFaithandBlue



Deputies hand out school supplies to students at the Akron Zoo's Backpack Adventure.



Deputies Klopfenstein and Kennedy at the National Night Out event in Cuyahoga Falls.

A Summer of Community!



Sheriff Fatheree discusses favorite flavors at the Hudson Ice Cream social.



Deputy Moran and youngsters at Carnival with a Cop wave to their friends on a ride at the County Fair.



Deputies Goclano and Scofield hand out goodies at the Akron Pride Festival.



The Mounted Unit in the Twins Day Parade in Twinsburg.

Congratulations to Sheriff Fatheree on receiving the prestigious *Civil Rights Outstanding Law Enforcement Executive, Justice by Action* award from the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) for her work to improve and increase diversity and inclusion within the Sheriff's Office recruitment, hiring, and training.



**Summit County Prosecutor
Sherri Bevan Walsh Presents**



**SCAN QR CODE
FOR TICKETS**



Cost: \$40⁰⁰

Eighth Annual Conference Responding to the Needs of Victims

Featuring Nationally Recognized Experts

Florida Dept. of Law Enforcement Special Agent

Jennifer Spears

Jen is currently a Special Agent with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. She has over 18 years' experience investigating both homicide and cold case homicide. She is an experienced instructor, lecturer, and conference presenter. She is current President of the Southeastern Homicide Investigators Association.

Homicide Survivor/Founder and Executive Director of Project: Cold Case

Ryan Backmann

Ryan Backmann is a survivor of homicide (his father was murdered in 2009 and it remains a cold case). He is Founder and Executive Director of Project: Cold Case. He has spoken at NOVA and many other conferences. Years of working closely with Florida lawmakers and establishing relationships with law enforcement was instrumental in establishing a Florida Cold Case Advisory Commission and a statewide Cold Case Database.

**Friday, September 29, 2023
8:00 am - 4:30 pm**

Registration 8:00 am - 8:30 am

Hilton Akron / Fairlawn 3180 W Market St. Akron, OH 44333

**Continuing Professional Training by the
Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission -
Pending Approval**

**Continuing Legal Education & CEU's with
CSWMFT Board - Pending Approval**



A common scam that's sweeping our area is one in which scammers phone residents claiming to be Sheriff's Office deputies or other law enforcement officers or court employees. These scammers may use the name and rank of actual deputies who work for our office, and in some cases they even make it appear as though the call is coming from a phone number associated with our office. This is called "spoofing."

The scammer may claim that the resident has failed to pay some sort of fine or outstanding traffic ticket, has failed to respond to a jury duty summons, has a warrant out for their arrest or the arrest of a loved one, or that a loved one has been arrested and is in our jail awaiting bond. They may also simply leave a voicemail urging you to call back regarding an "urgent matter."

The scammer will ask the resident to make some sort of payment over the phone, through an online payment system, or through a pre-paid credit card. These scams are designed to alarm and shame residents into taking immediate action. The scammer may even tell you that refusing to pay will result in criminal charges or arrest.

If you receive a call such as this, please take a moment to pause. Do not let the caller scare or bully you into remitting any sort of payment. Remember...

- The Sheriff's Office does **NOT** phone residents to notify them of outstanding warrants or unpaid fines, nor do other law enforcement agencies.
- The Sheriff's Office does **NOT** issue warrants for missing a jury summons.
- The Sheriff's Office does **NOT** ask for or accept payment for anything over the phone, PayPal or similar systems, or pre-paid credit cards.

If you receive a call such as this and want to verify its legitimacy, please contact our Dispatch at (330) 643-2181.