



The Summit County **SHIELD**

A quarterly bulletin from the Summit County Sheriff's Office

2021, Volume 3



FAITH & BLUE

From a new Mobile App to the county's first Faith & Blue event, the Summit County Sheriff's Office is moving towards a better and brighter future!

Sheriff Fatheree Announces the Following Commendations and Awards:

Deputy Andrew Kish

On April 28, 2021, Deputy Kish was dispatched to a fire in an apartment complex in Green. Upon arrival, he confirmed that no one was in that unit. With only a fire extinguisher, he entered the apartment that was filled with heavy black smoke and located and extinguished part of the fire. Due to the smoke and no breathing apparatus, he exited the apartment and continued to evacuate the complex until firefighters arrived on scene. Deputy Kish continued to assist by recording all the names and phone numbers of the occupants of each apartment, allowing the Fire Department to ensure that all occupants were evacuated. According to the Green Fire Department, Deputy Kish's swift actions possibly saved the building from becoming fully engulfed by the fire. As a result of these actions, Sheriff Fatheree will reward Deputy Kish with a Certificate of Merit.

Deputies Shane Smith and Vincent Tersingi

On February 27, 2021, Deputy Smith and Deputy Tersingi responded to a residence in Coventry Township where a suspect was holding his sister hostage in the basement at gun point. During the incident, the sister was able to get away from the suspect and barricade herself and two children in a bedroom, but was unable to exit the residence. The suspect appeared to be on drugs and was extremely paranoid. Upon arrival, Deputies Smith and Tersingi responded to the rear of the residence and were able to extract the victim and her children out through a bedroom window. SWAT responded and after several hours of failed negotiations deployed chemical munitions into the home. The suspect surrendered without further incident. During the search of the home, a loaded handgun was located. Due to these Deputies' actions, the victims were able to escape and were saved from possibly being seriously injured or worse. As a result of these actions, Sheriff Fatheree will reward Deputies Smith and Tersingi with a Certificate of Merit.

Captain Scott Cottle, Deputy Mark Adams, and Deputy John Rimedio

On January 31, 2021, Captain Cottle, Deputy Adams and Deputy Rimedio responded to the Target Plaza on Arlington Road for a juvenile male threatening suicide. The juvenile was observed sitting in the passenger seat of a vehicle holding a knife up to his wrist, threatening to kill himself. Captain Cottle and Deputy Adams engaged in conversation with the juvenile in an attempt to get him to put the knife down. Deputy Adams waited for an opportune moment to deploy his taser in order to incapacitate the juvenile and gain control his arm and the knife. At that moment, Captain Cottle entered from the front driver's side and Deputy Jon Rimedio entered from the rear driver's side. As a team, the three gained control of the juvenile's arms and Deputy Adams was able to remove the knife from the vehicle. The juvenile was treated on scene by EMS personnel and transported to Akron Children's hospital for further evaluation. The team effort employed in response to this incident prevented this juvenile from taking his own life. As a result of their actions, Sheriff Fatheree will present them with a Commendation Award.

Deputies Demetrius Gardner, Kyle Johnson, Nathan May, Frank Vottero, and Corliss Stargen

On March 19, 2021, Deputy Nathan May discovered an inmate experiencing a medical emergency. He immediately called for assistance. Deputies Gardner, Johnson, and Stargen responded to the scene. As a team they carried the inmate from his cell and placed him on the catwalk. Realizing that the inmate was unconscious, Deputies Stargen and Vottero began CPR until the inmate regained consciousness and medical staff arrived on the scene. The Deputies continued to provide assistance and secure the scene until Akron Fire arrived and transported the inmate to the hospital. These Deputies quick response likely saved this inmates live. As a result of their actions, Sheriff Fatheree will award Deputies Gardner and Johnson with a Certificate of Appreciation, Deputy May with a Commendation, and Deputies Vottero and Stargen with the Life-Saving Award.

Deputy Michael Lopez & Shannon Lopez

On May 31, 2021, while on vacation at Disney World in Florida, Deputy Lopez and his wife Shannon, an ER nurse, responded to a woman having a medical emergency. The elderly woman was losing consciousness and showing extremely low blood pressure. While park staff were attempting to contact EMS, the two quickly gathered pertinent information from the woman and engaged with her to keep her conscious until paramedics arrived. Their calm precise actions helped to make a serious situation much easier and likely led to a better outcome for the woman. These selfless acts may have gone unnoticed if not for the great appreciation of the woman's son, a District Court Judge and former prosecutor in Florida. For this, Sheriff Fatheree will honor Deputy Lopez with a Commendation, and Mrs. Lopez with a Civilian Award of Excellence.

Detective William McKinney

On May 25, 2021, the New Franklin Police Department requested assistance for a shooting which occurred at a local bar. All available cars were directed to respond. Summit County Dispatch advised the suspect had fled the scene. While on his way to work an extra detail nearby, Detective McKinney heard the call go out and responded. He obtained a visual of the suspect's vehicle fleeing onto S. Turkeyfoot Lake Rd. He followed the vehicle and found it crashed into a telephone pole at the intersection of S. Turkeyfoot Lake Rd. and Lake Front. The vehicle had rolled onto its side and the suspect was still inside. Noticing an AR-15 at the driver's feet, Detective McKinney held the suspect at gunpoint while awaiting backup. While waiting for back up, another vehicle stopped at the scene with two unknown subjects, one of whom began to approach the Detective and the crashed vehicle, refusing to follow his commands not to approach. Eventually, the subject complied with the commands to get on the ground while the driver of the vehicle remained in the car. Detective McKinney held all three subjects at gunpoint while awaiting back-up. After back-up arrived it was discovered that the AR-15 was found to have a round chambered with an extra capacity magazine. For this, Sheriff Fatheree is awarding Detective McKinney an Office Citation Award.

Lt. Karla Bloomingdale, Kelly Pongracz, Leigh-Ann Slaughter

The three are being recognized for their diligent efforts working to implement a wholly new Records Management System. During this several-year process, meeting upon meeting was held with the company and other police agencies in order to make changes to the program. This was a daunting task because each agency needed the program to work based on their individual needs. Because the program's roll-out schedule had to be changed several times due to different factors, staff had to be trained and re-trained. Bloomingdale, Pongracz, and Slaughter made themselves available at all hours to deputies, dispatchers, and records clerks who had questions and difficulties navigating the program. They did this in addition to their daily workloads, often working on their days off or vacation days. Although, the system is now up and running, they continue to put forth the extra effort necessary to work out problems and answer questions. For these years-long efforts, Sheriff Father is awarding them the Certificate of Appreciation.



Did you know there are now *three* ways you can read the SHIELD?

1. **Receive it via email.** Head to sheriff.summitoh.net and find The SHIELD on the “Information” tab. Click the sign-up link and enter your email.
2. **Read it online.** Current and past issues of The SHIELD are available to read on our website.
3. **Find a hard copy.** The SHIELD will also be available at all Summit County Library branches, numerous recreational centers throughout the county, most Giant Eagle stores, and most city, township, and village halls and administration buildings.

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We'd like to congratulate our Mounted Patrol President and Commander, **Deputy Michael Beers**, on his acceptance to the Buckeye State Mounted Deputies Association training board.

Deputy Beers successfully demonstrated that he has the knowledge and experience necessary to be an instructor for mounted units statewide.

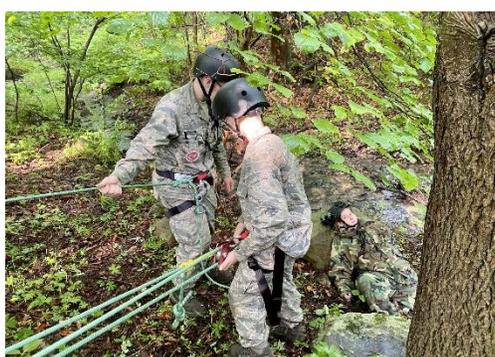
Welcome K-9 Piper!

We're excited to welcome our newest K-9 Deputy to the SCSO family. Piper, a 14-month-old black lab, was sworn in by Sheriff Fatheree at a ceremony on July 13th. Piper will be trained in explosives detection, and will work alongside her handler, Deputy Brian Cutlip, at the Akron-Canton Airport. She will also assist our Bomb Squad in the eight-county region that it serves, and will work at special events and venues throughout the county.



Camp Reliance 2021

Camp Reliance is an annual week-long program for high school-aged students that is jointly hosted by the SCSO, Green City Schools, and Airforce ROTC, with the goal of teaching interpersonal communication and reliance through law enforcement and ROTC-style training, survival skills, camping, and other activities.





NATIONAL
FAITH & BLUE
WEEKEND

Sheriff Fatheree is excited to announce that the Summit County Sheriff's Office will host the county's first ever *Faith & Blue* weekend. This inaugural event will take place on Saturday, October 9th from 11:00am-3:00pm at the University of Akron Fieldhouse.

Faith & Blue is a national initiative with the goal of healing divisions and building bridges between law enforcement and the community through the connection of local communities of faith and houses of worship. Thousands of *Faith & Blue* events will be held nationwide during that second weekend of October. At a time when tensions and distrust between law enforcement and the public are at an all-time high, Sheriff Fatheree believes that *Faith & Blue* is a wonderful and unique opportunity to bring all parties together to engage with one another at a basic level, and rediscover our shared backgrounds, beliefs, and values.

Law enforcement and communities of faith from throughout Summit County are invited to participate. Fun interactive events, contests, and demonstrations are being planned in which the public, members of law enforcement, and local faith leaders can participate together. There will be performances by local faith groups as well as interfaith services. Food will be available to purchase from local food trucks and vendors. Akron Metro RTA will provide free transportation to anyone displaying the *Faith & Blue* event flyer, and the Summit County Public Health Department will host an on-site COVID-19 vaccination clinic.

Houses of worship, local police departments, community organizations, and local businesses wishing to participate or support the event should contact DEI Director Esther Thomas, Chaplain James Allshouse, or Chaplain Glenn George at (330) 643-2152 or ethomas@sheriff.summitoh.net.

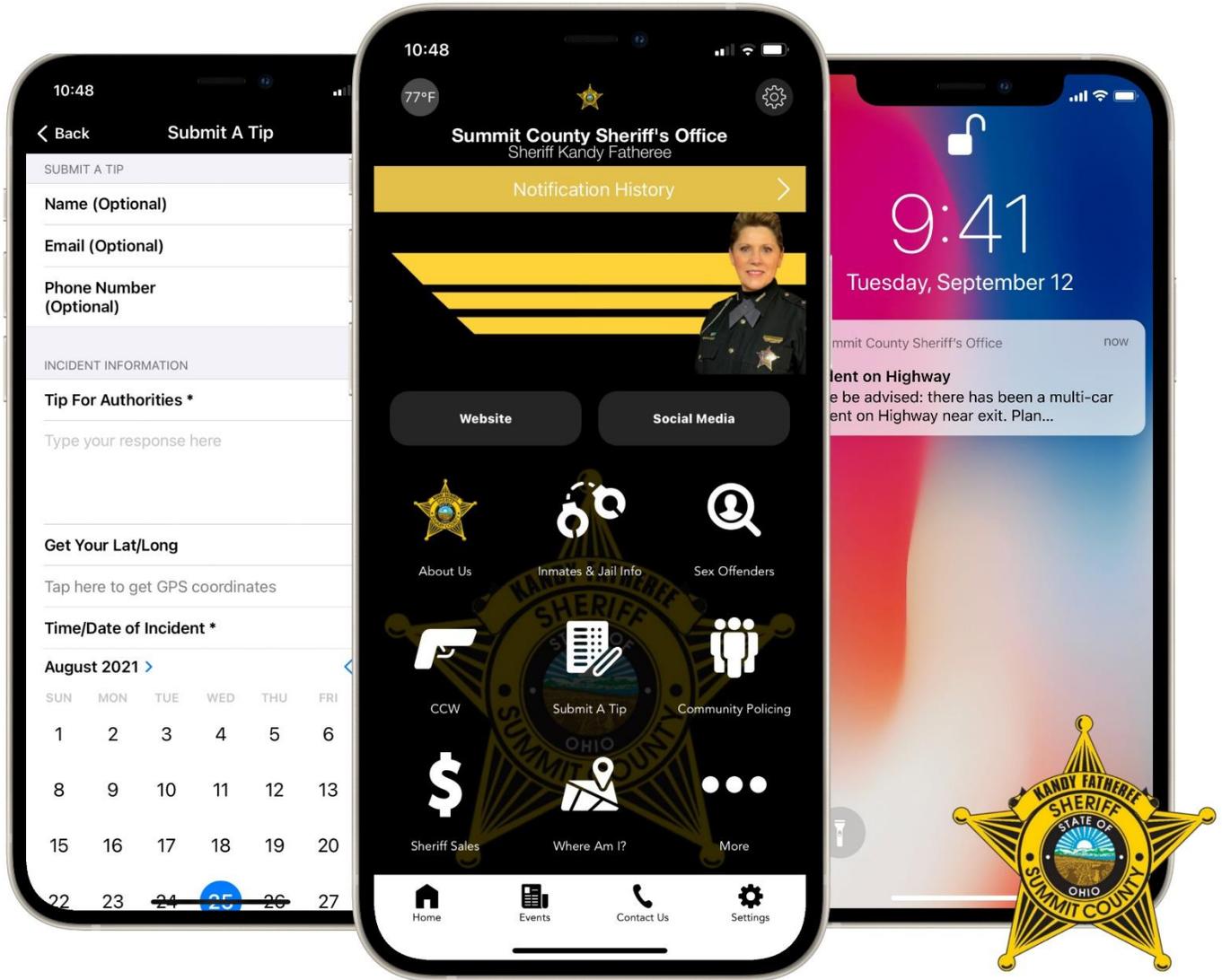
Sheriff Fatheree would like to thank our partners who have helped with this endeavor: The University of Akron, the Akron Community Foundation, Akron Metro RTA, and Thomarios Construction.

For more information visit faithandblue.org.



Summit County Sheriff's Office Mobile App

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INTRODUCING OUR **NEW** APP

Navigating critical information
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A Summer in



Our deputies and Macedonia Firefighters taking a break from teaching our *Safety City* youngsters about fire safety to give them a little cool down.



Sheriff Fatheree throwing out the first pitch at the Green H-League Championship game.



SWAT Team member Deputy Monaco giving excited youngsters a tour of our SWAT vehicle at a church fair in East Akron.



Sheriff Fatheree greeting some first-time attendees of the Summit County Fair.

the Community



Sgt. Mike Walsh launching a new Neighborhood Watch in Northfield Center, one of 42 countywide overseen by the SCSO.



Our deputies participating in a birthday parade for an awesome young girl in Cuyahoga Falls who is currently battling cancer.



Lt. Dave McCutcheon enjoying our *Carnival With a Cop* program at the Summit County Fair just as much as the kids!



Sheriff Fatheree and our deputies and staff greeting attendees at the *Akron Pride Festival*.

Expanding and Improving our CCW Services



Sheriff Kandy Fatheree and Clerk of Courts Sandra Kurt announced in June the opening of a new Concealed Carry license processing station located inside the Title Bureau office at 1030 E. Tallmadge Ave. in Akron.

The goal of establishing this second location is to help alleviate the CCW processing

backlog that has built up over the past year due to increased demand. The new location offers expanded hours to those wishing to obtain or renew their CCW license. It will be staffed 8:00am-4:00pm Monday through Friday, and will welcome walk-in appointments up to 3:30pm.

The original CCW office at the Summit County Jail will continue to operate by appointment from 9:00am-2:00pm Wednesday-Friday. Sheriff Fatheree will also be exploring the possibility of opening two more CCW offices in the north and south of the county in the future.

Additionally, the Sheriff's Office has contracted with the CCW scheduling company *Permitium* to further improve and streamline the scheduling, payment, and

processing of CCW applications. This user-friendly software will be compatible with the new Sheriff's Office mobile app as well as our website, and will allow applicants to schedule their appointment, make their payment, submit all necessary documentation, and upload their photo ahead of time. This will speed up the CCW processing timeframe dramatically, resulting in a quicker and easier process for the public.



“This new CCW office and software is part of a much broader overhaul we are embarking upon at the Summit County Sheriff’s Office to improve, modernize, and expand our services to the public,” said Sheriff Fatheree.

Summit County Earns National Award for Police Academy Scholarship Collaboration

Summit County has been recognized with an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo) for the innovative collaboration between the Summit County Sheriff's Office, the County Executive's Office, OhioMeansJobs, and the University of Akron to establish a scholarship program for those wishing to attend the police academy.



In response to a large number of deputies becoming retirement eligible, the Sheriff's Office and Executive Shapiro worked together with OhioMeansJobs and the University of Akron to establish a police academy scholarship program. The program leverages existing workforce funding and focuses on recruiting diverse candidates. The goal of this program is to remove barriers for individuals who want to serve their community, but face socioeconomic barriers. Each scholarship recipient receives full tuition, a parking pass, a textbook, a drug screening and psychological exam, and school uniforms. Following graduation from the police academy and passage of the state law enforcement certification exam, program participants are guaranteed a job in the Summit County Sheriff's Office.

"We're proud to be a partner with the Executive's Office and OhioMeansJobs in helping to ensure that those interested in serving and protecting our communities are not discouraged by financial or other constraints, and that our deputies reflect the wonderful diversity of our county. Its innovative ideas and collaborations like these that keep Summit County moving in the right direction," said Sheriff Kandy Fatheree.

Nationally, NACo Achievement Awards are given in 18 different categories that reflect the vast, comprehensive services counties provide. The categories include children and youth, criminal justice and public safety, county administration, information technology, health, civic engagement and many more.

SUMMIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE CADET RECRUITMENT

SPRING 2022

BECOME A DEPUTY SHERIFF. SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY AND HELP OTHERS

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PURSUING THIS OPPORTUNITY
PLEASE FILL OUT AND SUBMIT THE SURVEY AT:**

sccares.formstack.com/forms/sheriff_cadet_recruitment

PROSPECTIVE CADETS MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING STANDARDS

- Must be 20 ^{1/2} years of age at the time of application •
 - Must be in good physical condition •
 - Must have a valid driver's license •
- Must have a GED or High School diploma •
- Must NOT have any Felony convictions •
- Must NOT have Domestic Violence convictions •
- Must NOT have two or more OVI convictions •
- Must NOT have used any illegal drugs within the last year •

FULL POLICE ACADEMY SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE!



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- Public Employee Retirement System •

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Academy Commander Bill Holland @ 330-643-2114 or wholland@sheriff.summitoh.net

Department of Job and Family Services



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