



The Summit County **SHIELD**

A quarterly bulletin from the Summit County Sheriff's Office

2021, Volume 1



New Beginnings



Fans of the SHIELD will be pleased to know that we will be continuing its publication into the future. As you likely noticed, we have transitioned from a monthly bulletin to a quarterly bulletin. This change will allow us to deliver more substantive content at a lower cost. More for less!

We've also increased our digital availability. You now have three options for reading the SHIELD online at your convenience:

- 1. Receive it via our 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 on our website.** The current issue, as well as the previous year's issues of The SHIELD are available to read on the above-mentioned page of our website.
- 3. Read it on Facebook.** The SHIELD will also be posted to our Facebook page each quarter. You can find us at [Facebook.com/SummitSheriff](https://www.facebook.com/SummitSheriff).

For those who prefer a physical copy of the SHIELD, it will be available at all nineteen Summit County Library branches, numerous recreational centers throughout the county, and most city, township, and village halls and administration buildings. You can also keep an eye out for it at most Giant Eagle stores. *(Please note: Availability at these locations is subject to their individual COVID-19 restrictions beyond our control)*

We appreciate your past and continued support of this bulletin and for making it such a success.

Thank you!

Troy Gawlak
Director, Strategic Communications



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A Message from Sheriff Kandy Fatheree



Hello readers of the SHIELD. I hope you are doing well and staying safe during this time.

I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself. As you know, I was chosen last November to be the new Sheriff of Summit County. I cannot begin to tell you how humbled and honored I am to be entrusted by the voters of our county to lead this organization, which has been at the center of my life for the past twenty-five years.

A little about me: I was raised in Springfield Township, one of six children born to working-class parents, sharing a two-bedroom home. I have wanted to work in law enforcement since the age of nine, but as you know, sometimes life can throw you a curveball or two. By the time I reached my thirties I found myself a divorced single mother, working in the insurance industry, and living paycheck-to-paycheck. One day I had simply had enough, and I decided to pursue my original passion. I enrolled in the police academy, and upon graduation I joined the Lakemore Police Department as its lone female officer.

After two years at Lakemore, I joined the Summit County Sheriff's Office as a Deputy in 1995. It was here that I met my husband Don, who was a fellow Deputy. Over the course of the next two and a half decades, I worked in just about every bureau, and rose through the ranks to reach the level of Captain.

It wasn't until I attended the FBI's National Academy for Executive Leadership in 2008 that I realized my dream of becoming Sheriff. When presented with the physical and mental challenges of the program, I realized I was every bit as smart, strong, and capable as my male colleagues in positions of leadership. So, when Sheriff Barry decided that he would not seek re-election, I threw my hat into the ring. I was officially sworn in as Sheriff on January 4th.

Among my top priorities are making administrative and operational changes at the County Jail and reducing recidivism, modernizing and streamlining the operations of both the Sheriff's Office and the Jail, improving communications and outreach between our Office and the community, focusing on diversity and inclusion within the organization, and tackling the dual opioid and mental health crises currently plaguing our community.

I look forward to seeing and working with you towards accomplishing these and other goals in the coming months and years. Thank you.

Attendees had a blast at the Safe Communities *Super Bowl Kickoff!* Fans were challenged to throw a pass wearing impaired-vision goggles, and plenty of giveaways and prizes were handed out. Thank you Deputy Matson Lance from our office, and Officers Todd Kamp and Perry Chronister from Summa Health for participating and helping to educate attendees on the risks of impaired driving. *(Photos: Scott Moss)*



Fourth and fifth graders at St. Francis de Sales School in Akron partnered with the Sheriff's Office last month to make and send dozens of Valentine's Day cards to homebound seniors throughout the county to brighten their day.



Questions for the Sheriff



QUESTION: If I need to reach the Sheriff's Office or Jail, have any numbers or other contact information changed with the change in administration?

ANSWER: Thank you for asking. All the contact information for all the bureaus and units within the Sheriff's Office and Jail remain the same. Additionally, you can contact us through Facebook, Twitter, and Nextdoor for non-emergency inquiries.

QUESTION: Who should I contact if I see somebody mistreating or neglecting their pet?

ANSWER: We always recommend contacting the Humane Society in such situations, but you can also contact law enforcement, especially if it's an emergency situation. If you live in the City of Green, Coventry Township, Northfield Center Township, or Twinsburg Township, the Sheriff is your local law enforcement; otherwise you should call your local police department.

QUESTION: Our family loves the *Safety City* program run by the Sheriff's Office. Will that be happening again this summer?

ANSWER: Thank you. We enjoy *Safety City* almost as much as the kids do! For those who are unfamiliar with it, *Safety City* is a nationally recognized program put on by the Summit County Sheriff's Office to educate and instruct young children on a host of safety issues, such as stranger danger, fire safety, gun safety, 911, and more. Yes, we will be holding *Safety City* again this year. The dates and program are still being worked out, so stay tuned for more details!

In The News

sheriff.summitoh.net

Your Source for Summit County Sheriff News

- Since 2021

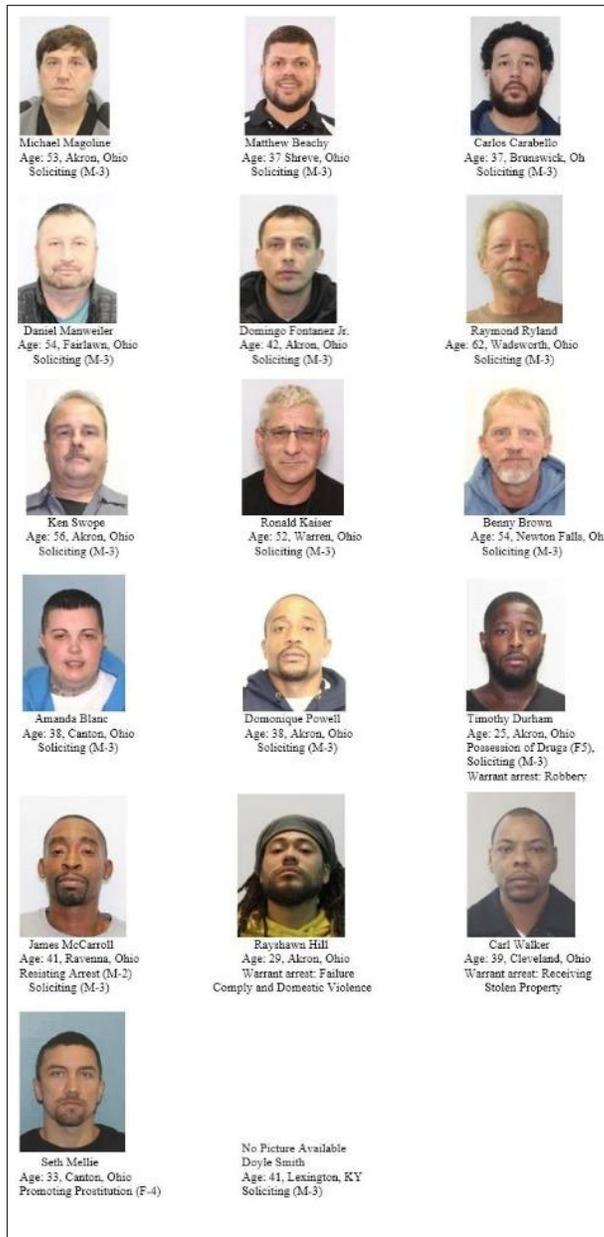
17 Arrested in Human Trafficking Sting

AKRON – Seventeen area individuals were arrested on solicitation and other charges following a joint operation between the Summit County Sheriff's Office, Portage County Sheriff's Office, Summit County Prosecutor's Office, Summit County Human Trafficking Task Force, and the Akron Police Department in early February.

Individuals charged with soliciting, a third-degree misdemeanor, include men from Akron, Brunswick, Cleveland, Canton, Fairlawn, Shreve, Newton Falls, Ravenna, Wadsworth, Warren, and Lexington, KY. Two had outstanding warrants.

One individual, Seth Mellie, 33, of Canton, was charged with promoting prostitution, a fourth-degree felony.

On-scene services were offered to trafficking victims during the sting by RAHAB Ministries and The Rape Crisis Center of Medina and Summit Counties as a part of the Summit County Human Trafficking Task Force.



“To all the men and women who responded to the sexual service advertisements and were not apprehended during this operation, we know who you are,” said Summit County Sheriff's Inspector Bill Holland.

Sheriff Fatheree Makes Several Key Promotions

Sheriff Fatheree made several promotions in January and February, elevating eight Deputies to the rank of Sergeant, and two Captains to Chief.

Promoted to Sergeant:

Christopher Boyd, a twenty-two year veteran of the Office who made headlines in 2019 for rescuing an elderly couple from a house fire in Green.

Daniel Horba, who has also been with the Sheriff's Office for two decades and has earned several accommodations during that time.

Peter Nervo, a retired Air Force Master Sergeant with four wartime deployments who has worked in both the crime scene unit and with the bomb squad.

Jennifer Tyler, who joined the force in 2012 and has worked in multiple training positions both in the field and at the jail.

Matthew Poda, who has worked both in corrections and patrol and recently received an award for saving the life of a man shot multiple times.

Larry Peters, who has been with the organization for 23 years, including 15 years with the SWAT Team, during which time he received the FBI's Shield of Bravery award.

Robert DiSabato, a 30-year veteran of the Sheriff's Office who now works in the Detective Bureau and with Adult Protective Services investigating crimes against the elderly.

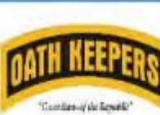
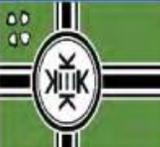
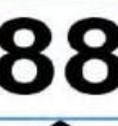
Melissa House, who joined the Sheriff's Office in 2004 and works in corrections.

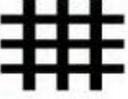
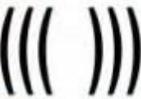
Additionally, **Doug Smith** was promoted from Captain to Chief of Operations, and **Richard Armsey** from Captain to Chief of Corrections. Both men have served nearly three decades with the Sheriff's Office in numerous divisions, bureaus, and units.

Fatheree also promoted two of her administrative staff: **Angela Just**, a twenty-year employee of the Sheriff's Office who has been elevated to Budget Director, and **Michelle Mikulin**, who was promoted from Secretary to Administrative Assistant. Sheriff Fatheree also broke new ground by swearing-in, for the first time, her entire civilian staff.



As recent events have shown, the threat posed by a wide range of radical, ethnically-motivated extremist groups and conspiracy-driven malicious actors is very real. Over the past decade, the US has seen an all-time high in extremist activity and domestic terrorism, surpassing even that of the 1990s, and Ohio has the second-highest number of extremist groups in the country! With that in mind, intelligence bureaus and local law enforcement are working together to educate the public on how to identify potentially dangerous extremist organizations.

Image	Meaning and Common Usage	Examples
	QAnon is a broad conspiracy movement with anti-Semitic underpinnings that falsely alleges, based on purportedly classified intelligence, that an elite cabal of pedophiles, led by Democrats, is plotting to harm children and undermine President Trump. Several adherents to the movement have been responsible for acts of violence and criminality.	
	The Three Percenters are a North American militia movement/paramilitary-style group with members who adhere to a far-right/libertarian ideology with a primary focus on firearms ownership right and opposition to expansive U.S. federal government authority. The group's name is reportedly rooted in the claim that only three percent of American colonist took up arms against the Kingdom of Great Britain.	
	The Proud Boys are a far-right extremist, neo-fascist organization that has promoted and engaged in acts of violence throughout the U.S. and Canada. The group maintains that Western culture is under siege and its members have periodically been involved in violent clashes with counter-protest groups.	
	The Oath Keepers are a far-right, militia organization purportedly comprised partly of former military, police, and first responders, who pledge to fulfill the oath that all military and police personnel take to "defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign, and domestic."	
	National Social Club 131 (the alphanumeric code for ACA) Anti-Communist Action is a U.S. based neo-Nazi white supremacist organization. Several of its members have ties to other racially/ethnically motivated violent extremist groups, including The Base, which has engaged in and/or plotted to carry out ideologically motivated violent actions.	
	The "Kek" flag, which has its roots in online gaming, is an icon appropriated by alt-right extremists and white nationalists. The design is based on the Nazi war flag.	
	The Boogaloo movement is a loosely organized extremist, anti-government, movement that actively prepares for and aims to incite a second American Civil War, referred to as the "Boogaloo." Its adherents, which include far-right/militia supporters, have been responsible for violence and criminality—including the murder of law enforcement officers - and have frequently attended mass gatherings, often equipped with military-style tactical equipment and firearms.	
	National Socialist Order is the successor organization to the rebranded Atomwaffen Division, a U.S. based Racially and Ethnically Motivated Violent Extremist group that seeks to accelerate the collapse of the U.S. government and replace it with a neo-Nazi regime via a race war.	
	This number represents the "14 words," namely: "We must secure the existence of our people and a future for white children," that was coined by David Lane, a prominent member of the white supremacist organization The Order. It is frequently incorporated into online screen names and e-mail addresses. Domestic extremists will typically use the number "14" in conjunction with "88."	
	"88" is used as a numerical representation for "Heil Hitler," with "H" corresponding to the eighth letter of the alphabet. "88" is a common symbol throughout the entire white supremacist movement, and is not limited to neo-Nazis.	
	The swastika is one of the most recognized symbols closely associated with the white supremacist movement, after Nazi Germany appropriated the symbol.	
	The "Sonnenrad" or "Sunwheel," originally a Nordic cultural symbol, has been appropriated by neo-Nazis.	

	The "SS" lightning bolts are derived from the Schutzstaffel (SS) of Nazi Germany. Members of the SS were part of the government's special police force, which included armed guards at concentration camps. Variations of this sign have been adopted by white supremacists, neo-Nazis, and prison gangs.	
	An interpretation of the Celtic Cross, also known as Odin's Cross, Sun Cross, or Wheel Cross, has been adopted by some white supremacist groups. It appears similar to a bullseye. The white supremacist group Stormfront has added "White Pride World Wide" to this symbol on makeshift patches, tattoos, etc.	
	Among domestic extremists, the initials "WP" stand for "White Power." White supremacists have been known to display the "okay" hand symbol to represent the letters "WP." The hand symbol began as a hoax on online forums but eventually spread throughout the movement.	
	The "Archangel Michael Cross," a triple cross symbol representing prison bars, has been used by fascist groups throughout Europe. This symbol has accompanied acts of vandalism and acts of arson.	
	The "Othala Rune," also known as the "Norse Rune," is a Nordic cultural symbol appropriated in recent years by neo-Nazis.	
	The "Norse Algis Rune", or the "Life Rune" symbol, is often used by neo-Nazis, particularly those who subscribe to extreme eco-fascist ideologies.	
	The "Totenkopf" or "Death's Head" skull and crossbones was used as insignia by the police force of Nazi Germany and has been adopted by fascists and neo-Nazis. It is sometimes photoshopped over faces to mask the identity of white supremacists online.	
	The Universal Order symbol is derived from the book <i>Siege</i> by James Mason and is promoted by "accelerationist" white supremacist groups. Such groups seek to speed up what they believe is an inevitable race war through violent means. The symbol is used to represent the fascist concept of Universal Order.	
	The nuclear symbol is used by domestic extremist groups, particularly Atomwaffen Division, an "accelerationist" group.	
	Multiple parentheses, typically three, or the "echo," is used in domestic extremist circles to refer to others as Jewish, without directly identifying them. Anti-Semitic individuals, some associated with white supremacy groups, use these frequently in online chat rooms.	Here's to all the American, German and British heroes who died June 6, 1944, fighting a pointless war brought on by (((globalists))). #DDay
	While not originally meant as a hate symbol, Pepe the Frog, or the "sad frog meme," was appropriated by users who post racist, anti-Semitic, anti-LGBT, and other bigoted content. Individuals will also alter Pepe the Frog to show him in various costumes or as recognizable hate figures, such as Hitler.	

If you are aware of any potentially malicious or violent extremist activity online or in your area, don't hesitate to contact the local FBI office in Cleveland at (216) 522-1400 or at tips.fbi.gov.

SUMMIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE CADET RECRUITMENT 2021-2022

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:**

https://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 any illegal drug use within the last two years (this includes marijuana!)* ▪

FULL POLICE ACADEMY SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE!



THE SUMMIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE OFFERS

- *Excellent Benefit Package* ▪ *Competitive Wages* ▪
- *Paid Vacation & Sick Leave* ▪ *Uniform Allowance* ▪
- *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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Please respond to the questions at - https://sccares.formstack.com/forms/sheriff_cadet_recruitment

FIRST STOP:

A. > Physical Fitness Assessment **RAIN or SHINE**

March 15 @ 1 p.m.	March 28 @ 9 a.m.	<i>Attend any ONE of these dates. Plan on a 60 minute time commitment. See the attached sheet for physical fitness standards. If you do not meet the standards on your first attempt, YOU MAY TRY AGAIN ON A LATER DATE.</i> Location - Bolich Middle School Outdoor Track 2630 13th Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44223
March 15 @ 6 p.m.	March 29 @ 6 p.m.	
March 17 @ 9 a.m.	April 4 @ 9 a.m.	
March 18 @ 1 p.m.	April 5 @ 6 p.m.	
March 21 @ 9 a.m.	April 7 @ 1 p.m.	

SECOND STOP:

B. > Get Yourself Fingerprinted

Call 330-643-2141 to set up an appointment

Location: Summit County Jail- 204 East Crosier Street, Akron, Ohio 44311

Cost: \$15 credit, debit, and cash accepted

Bring your driver's license and the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy fingerprint form

THIRD STOP:

C. > Get a General Physical

See your local doctor and have them complete the attached form.

FOURTH STOP:

D. > Get Drug Tested

Go to Summa Center for Corporate Health,
1860 State Road, Suite C, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44223
(330) 940-5770, Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

• **There is NO CHARGE! Simply take the attached voucher.**

**A COPY OF
YOUR VALID
DRIVERS
LICENSE IS
REQUIRED**

THESE FOUR TASKS MUST BE COMPLETED BY MAY, 21 2021.

THE FORMS MUST BE RETURNED TO ACADEMY COMMANDER BILL HOLLAND AT THE SUMMIT COUNTY JAIL.

Once completed, your background investigation will begin. You MUST cooperate with the SCSO deputy assigned to your investigation. You will also be required to participate in a psychological exam.

First day of class for the full-time and part-time academy is August 2, 2021

Department of Job and Family Services



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Unemployment Fraud on the Rise

Fraudulent claims for Unemployment benefits are on the rise in Ohio. Lieutenant Governor Husted announced that more than half of the 1.4 million Pandemic Unemployment Assistance benefits claims made in Ohio over the past year have been flagged as potentially fraudulent. The largest scam is using other people's identities to receive the benefits. Hundreds of thousands of Ohioans have had their identities stolen or attempted stolen in this scheme, including even the governor! As tax forms are being mailed out by the Ohio Dept. of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), more and more people are learning that their identities have been illegally used to collect benefits.

If you suspect you might be the victim of identity theft for the purpose of Unemployment fraud, please contact ODJFS immediately by going to unemployment.ohio.gov and clicking REPORT IDENTITY THEFT or by calling their hotline at (833) 658-0394.

You can learn more about how to respond to Unemployment fraud and other types of identity theft by heading to the Summit County Sheriff's Office website and selecting IDENTITY THEFT from the Information menu.