



The SHIELD

A quarterly bulletin from the Summit County Sheriff's Office

2024, Volume 3

Read about the Sheriff's Office First Deputized Black Woman

Go inside our Fugitive Safe Surrender

A new partnership with our National Park Rangers

Front Cover: Deputies Kemp and Lewis of the Sheriff's Office Honor Guard present the colors at a September 11th memorial ceremony at the Akron-Canton Airport

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Summit County
Sheriff's Office (OH)

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**Congratulations to
Deputy Melanie
Mangan on becoming
our newest School
Resource Officer!
Deputy Mangan will
be posted at Green
Intermediate School.**



From the desk of

Sheriff Kandy Fatheree

What a busy summer it has been at the Sheriff's Office!

In June and August we participated in the county's *Outsmart the Scam* events, designed to educate residents about common scams plaguing our area, ways to avoid being scammed, and what to do if scammed.

In July, I swore in thirteen new cadets who are joining the Summit County Sheriff's Office-University of Akron Police Academy. These cadets are part of our new program in which they are paid to attend the Academy in exchange for coming to work for our office upon completion. This has been a hugely successful approach, investing not only in their future, but also the future of our office and the safety of our community.

In August, we announced that we had obtained nearly a \$1 million in federal funds to purchase new patrol cruisers for a dozen local police departments in Summit and Stark County, including the Boston Heights Police Department, Lakemore Police Department, Mogadore Police Department, Munroe Falls Police Department, New Franklin Police Department, Norton Police Department, Peninsula Police Department, Sagamore Hills Police Department, Springfield Township Police Department, Tallmadge Police Department, Canton Police Department, Stark County Sheriff's Office, and our own office.

Also in August, we had over 400 individuals with outstanding warrants turn themselves in at our Fugitive Safe Surrender, we cut the ribbon on our new THRIVE House facility, and we made history by deputizing our Cuyahoga Valley National Park rangers – all of which you can read more about in this edition of The SHIELD.

In between all of these things, we also hosted a CCW Workshop and an Arrive Alive for the July 4th holiday, had a big presence during National Night Out Against Crime, graduated hundreds of students from our Safety City program, rolled out new vehicles as part of our patrol fleet, participated in several *Coffee or Cone with a Cop* events at area McDonald's restaurants, and participated in countless parades and festivals!

I hope to see you at our upcoming 4th annual *Summit Faith & Blue* on October 5th. You can find more details on the back of this edition of The SHEILD.

Kandy Fatheree

Kandy Fatheree
Sheriff, Summit County, Ohio



We made history again this summer as Sheriff Fatheree deputized a team of Cuyahoga Valley National Park Rangers! This deputization will allow our Rangers, for the first time ever, to pursue state and local warrants within their jurisdiction, and it will improve overall collaboration between their agency and local law enforcement throughout Summit County.



In The News

sheriff.summitoh.net

Your Source for Summit County Sheriff's Office News

- Since 1840

Summit County Sheriff's Deputy helps save life on the side of I-77

GREEN – On the morning of Thursday, August 22 at approximately 10:30am, Summit County Sheriff's Deputy Ruggles was dispatched to Interstate 77 southbound near Lauby Road after 911 callers reported a man having a medical emergency on the side of the highway.

Upon arriving on the scene, Deputy Ruggles found 78-year-old Paul Weitzel of Canal Fulton unresponsive on the side of the road.

Weitzel had pulled over after one of his tires blew, and he was attempting to remove the damaged tire to replace it when he went into cardiac arrest.

Mr. Weitzel was not breathing and had no pulse when Deputy Ruggles arrived. Ohio State Highway Patrol Lieutenant Kaitlan Kowicki also arrived on the scene and she, Deputy Ruggles, and several civilian bystanders performed CPR and administered several shocks from an AED to the man until Green Fire Department arrived.

Mr. Weitzel eventually regained a pulse and was breathing on his own before being transported to Cleveland Clinic Mercy Hospital in Canton.

"People just want to be helpful, and I really, really appreciate that," Weitzel told a local news network.

"I'm happy that those people found it in their heart that day to go above and beyond for someone that they didn't know," Weitzel's daughter said.



Deputy Ruggles



Thriving in Summit County

Summit County officials joined Summit County Sheriff Kandy Fatheree on August 13th for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open the new THRIVE House facility in Akron.

This new facility is designed to provide transitional housing and continued care for newly released individuals from the Summit County Jail who are homeless and participating in the jail's THRIVE program.

The THRIVE program (Transition. Help. Restore. Independence. Value. Empower.) was developed by Sheriff Fatheree in partnership with Summit Psychological Associates. It pairs caseworkers with inmates who are struggling with mental health and substance use disorders to help them with recovery, provide mental health treatment and medication, and connect them with resources and benefits.



"After more than three decades in law enforcement, I've seen firsthand how often individuals with substance use and mental health disorders fall through the cracks and find themselves in an endless loop of incarceration and release," said Sheriff Fatheree. "In most cases, they just need a helping hand and somebody to walk beside them in their treatment and recovery journey."

THRIVE House is a continuation of the Jail's THRIVE program, providing housing for those participating in the program who are homeless at the time of their release.

The fourteen-bed facility is located at 1445 Frederick Blvd in Akron. It will be staffed by Community Support Services who provide vocational, clinical, and housing support.

While in THRIVE House, clients will continue working with case managers to reach their treatment goals and find permanent housing.

The goal of THRIVE House is to help those impacted by mental health and substance use disorders continue their treatment after release, get their lives back on track, and find permanent housing and work.

"The THRIVE program and THRIVE House are helping to reduce recidivism at the county jail, which is a net benefit and savings for everyone in our county," said Sheriff Fatheree. "But more importantly, this is simply the compassionate thing to do."

Funding for the case management portion of the THRIVE program is provided by the Summit County Executive through opiate abatement funds, obtained as part of a settlement in a lawsuit filed against pharmaceutical companies for their role in the opioid crisis.

The THRIVE House property is owned by the Summit County Land Bank and was renovated and leased to Community Support Services. Funding for the transitional housing and on-site services is being provided by the County of Summit ADM Board.



The interior of THRIVE House



A Humble Trailblazer:

Summit County's First Deputized Black Woman



Over the past two centuries, the Summit County Sheriff's Office has had many history-making individuals grace our ranks. Unfortunately, with the passage of time and the change of administrations, this important history is sometimes lost. Emma Banks is one of those history-makers whose story was lost to time – but today that all changes.

We contacted Emma's great-granddaughter Jocelyn earlier this year after learning of Emma's employment at the Sheriff's Office back in the 1940s. Unbeknownst to us, Ms. Emma Banks was the first Black woman to ever be deputized by the Summit County Sheriff's Office! As we talked with Jocelyn, a story began to emerge of an incredible woman who dedicated her life to service.

Emma was born in January 1909, one of seven children born to Reverend & Mrs. Richard Holland of McDonough, Georgia. When she was a young girl, the family relocated to Griffin, GA, where Emma's father became the Pastor at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, whose congregation largely consisted of former slaves and their descendants. After the death of Emma's parents while she was still a child, she was placed in the care of her oldest sister, Nancy, who relocated the family to Akron, Ohio.

Emma graduated from North High School, then attended Hammel Actual Business College (which was located downtown at Market & High Streets). In 1929, she married Earl Robinson, with whom she had two children. Following a divorce, she married again in 1943, wedding a Mr. Charles Banks.

Around this time, Emma worked as a secretary at Akron's Mt. Zion Baptist Church (formerly located at Lods Street & Elizabeth Street, now underneath Akron's "Y" bridge). She also worked for a time at the juvenile detention center on nearby Dan Street.

Emma's granddaughter Linda recalled as a child how her friends' parents would threaten to send their children "over to Ms. Banks on Dan Street" when they misbehaved.



Emma and her first husband Earl on their wedding day, 1929

Summit County FUGITIVE SAFE SURRENDER



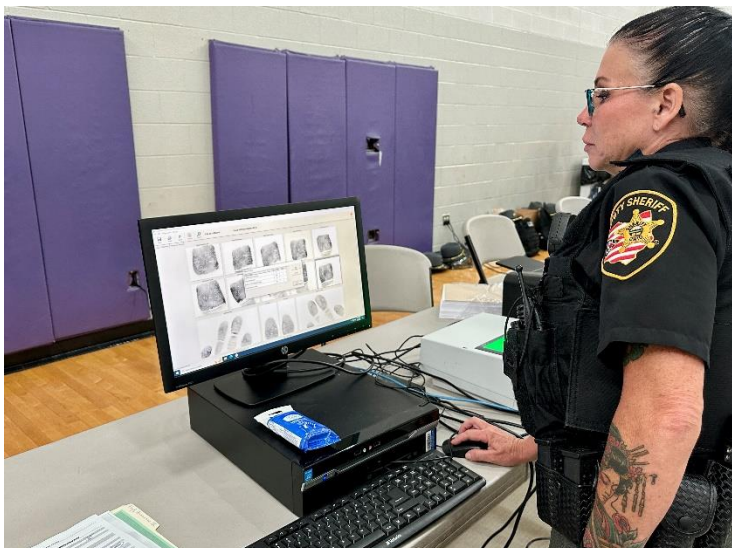
In August, the Sheriff's Office teamed up with numerous other offices, law enforcement agencies, and courts to host our county's first Fugitive Safe Surrender in over a decade. The Fugitive Safe Surrender program provides an opportunity for people with a warrant to voluntarily surrender in exchange for the possibility of favorable consideration in their case. The entire process from surrender to sentencing is conducted "in house" with legal representation provided for each defendant. Thank you to the House of the Lord church in Akron for partnering to host this important event.



Sheriff's Office staff look up the records of individuals turning themselves in.



Deputies perform intake duties just as they would if booking an inmate at the jail.



Deputy Kenna fingerprints and individual with a warrant who came to turn himself in



Common Pleas Judge Jennifer Towell conducts hearings in one of the church's meeting rooms.

Carnival with a Cop



In July, our deputies joined officers from throughout the county for our annual Carnival with a Cop. This long-running program is the summertime equivalent of our Christmas with a Cop program, providing a day of fun at the Summit County Fair for children from economically disadvantaged families or those who have experienced a recent hardship.





Summit County FAITH & BLUE

Summit County Sheriff Kandy Fatheree invites you to join us for a day of fun and fellowship at our 4th annual Summit Faith & Blue! The Faith & Blue initiative is the largest nationwide community-law enforcement collaboration in history, designed to bring law enforcement and the community together through the reach of faith-based organizations.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5th
11:00am - 2:00pm

Free Event!

All Are Welcome!

Hardesty Park

1615 W. Market St, Akron, OH 44313

**Live Performances Games & Contests “Walkie Talkie” Fun Run/Walk
Obstacle Course Food & Drink Touch-a-Truck 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:

