



The SHIELD

A quarterly bulletin from the Summit County Sheriff's Office

2025, Volume 2

**Faith & Blue
returns for its
fifth year!**

**A look inside
the Sheriff's
Office Marine
Patrol**

MEET LUNA
OUR NEW K-9 AT
THE AIRPORT!

*Front cover: Eleven new deputies take the oath of office and join the
Summit County Sheriff's Office*

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MOBILE APP:**



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in the app store

We'd like to give a special
shout out to Deputy Brad
Young for receiving the
President's Award from
the Akron-Canton Airport
for his service
professionalism, and
dedication to keeping
passengers and staff safe.





From the desk of

Sheriff Kandy Fatheree

Hello and Happy Summer,

Though it has taken a long time to arrive, the warm sunny weather is finally here. Our office is very busy with community events, parades, picnics, and festivals, in addition to our everyday service to the community. We hope to see you out and about this summer!

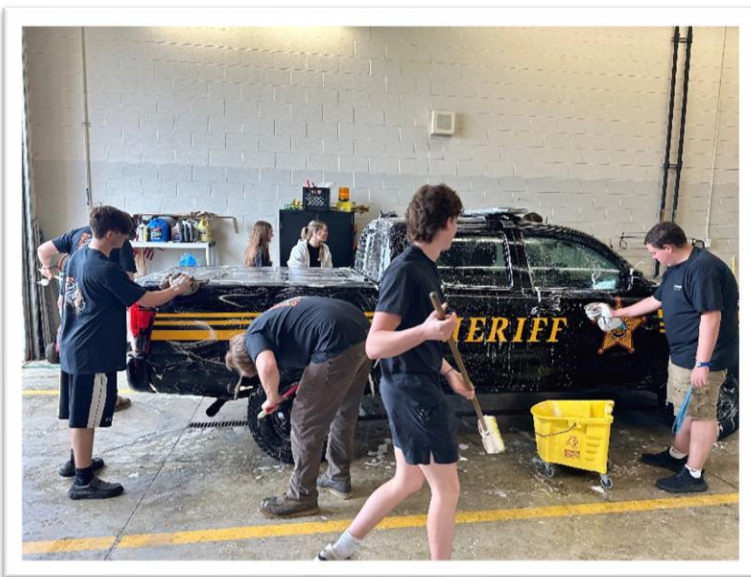
In recent news, I'm excited to announce that through the obtainment of new grant funding, we will be able to take even more steps in our continued modernization and renovation of the Summit County Jail. These updates will further our vision of transforming the jail into a facility that can better serve the needs of inmates with medical, mental health, and substance abuse issues, which is a majority of our inmates. You can read more about this effort in this edition of The SHIELD.

With the arrival of summer, I also want to share a couple safety tips regarding home security and break-ins. This is the time of year when we spend a lot of time outdoors, whether it's gardening, mowing, swimming, playing with the kids or grandkids, or just relaxing. When you're outside, I strongly urge you to lock your doors and close your garage door. It can be very easy to let your guard down at these times, and it only takes a few moments for somebody to slip inside your home or garage and steal something.

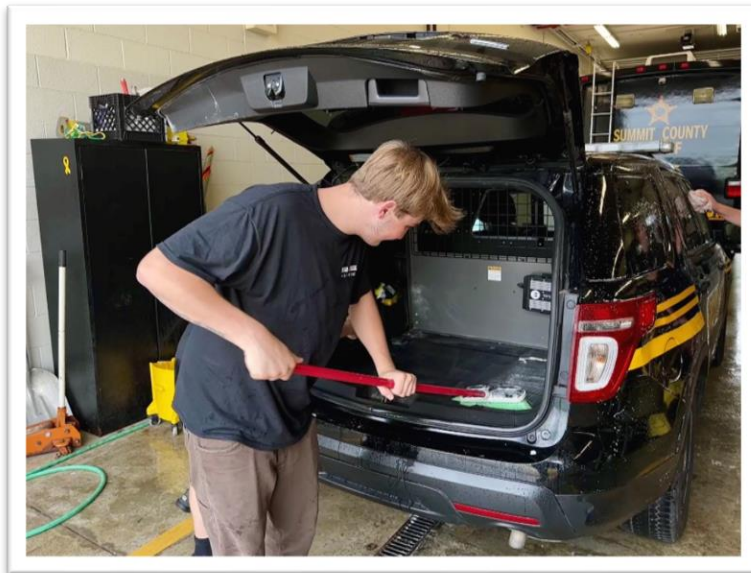
Something else I always recommend to homeowners with attached garages: lock the door leading from your garage into your home! Breaking in and sneaking into a garage is less difficult than breaking into a home, but if the door that leads from your garage to your house is left unlocked, that burglar now has full access to your home as well. It's easy to slip into the habit of leaving that door unlocked, but unfortunately, we see these types of burglaries happening often. Please lock all doors that allow entry into your home.

Kandy Fatheree

Kandy Fatheree
Summit County Sheriff



Thank you to the graduating class of 2025 from Green High School for choosing the Sheriff's Office for their *Senior Payback Day!* Students spent the morning scrubbing down cruisers and sprucing up the grounds at our district office in Green.



Planning for our 5th annual *Summit Faith & Blue* is underway! The national Faith & Blue initiative is the largest community-law enforcement collaboration of its kind. The idea is simple but powerful: the ties that bind officers and residents must be reinforced if we are to build neighborhoods where everyone feels safe and included, and faith-based organizations are key to this mission because they are the largest and most diverse resource in our community and their reach is immeasurable. We hope you can join us in October!



Summit County Faith & Blue

Sheriff Fatheree invites you to join in a day of fun and fellowship at our 5th 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 common reach of faith-based organizations.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4th
11:00am - 2:00pm

Free Event!

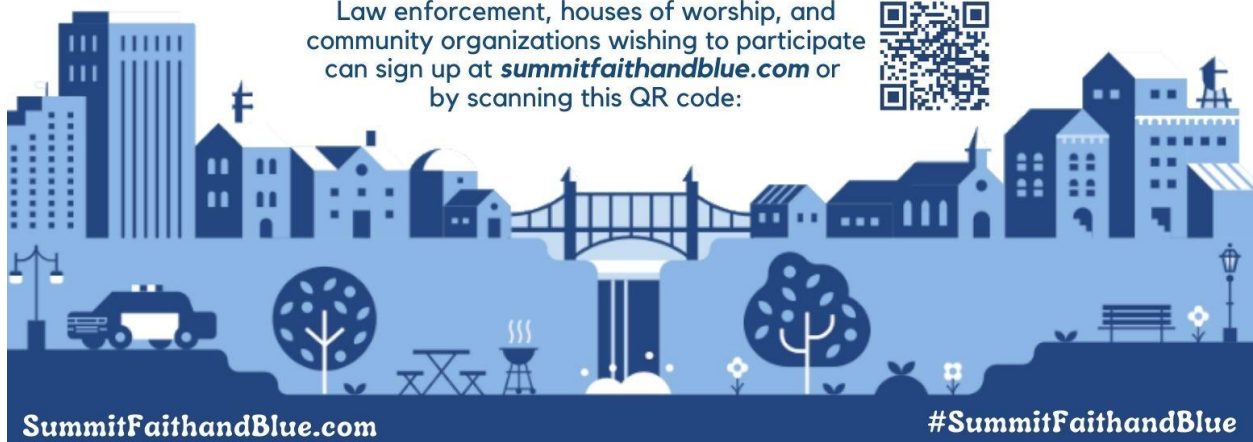
**All Are
Welcome!**

Hardesty Park

1615 W. Market St, Akron, OH 44313

**Live Performances Games & Contests Bounce House & Obstacle Course
Food & Drink Touch-a-Truck Mounted Unit Raffle Prizes 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.com

[#SummitFaithandBlue](https://twitter.com/SummitFaithandBlue)

Keeping our Waterways Safe: The Sheriff's Marine Patrol

"Our job is to keep people safe and educate them so they can enjoy their time on the water," said Sgt. Nervo, who oversees the Summit County Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol Division. "We're here to facilitate you having a good time in the safest way possible."

As Alderman and Nervo worked, they were surrounded by pictures and awards hung on the boathouse walls, accumulated over decades of service.

The Marine Patrol has been policing the Portage Lakes since it was founded by Sheriff Robert Campbell in 1968. "There had been a string of tragic accidents and emergencies on the lakes, and we needed a way to respond better and faster," remembers Sheriff Campbell's son Stacey.

Many deputies and special deputies would go on serve with the patrol over the coming decades as the unit grew and expanded.

Today, the 8-member team patrols the nine bodies of water that make up the Portage Lakes. This 2,000-plus acres and 38 miles of shoreline consists of hundreds of docks, dozens of neighborhoods and businesses, and the popular Portage Lakes State Park.

Marine Patrol deputies respond to accidents, capsized vessels, breakdowns, search and rescue callouts, fires, boats in need of towing, and much more. In addition, they



Sergeant Nervo helping to ready the Marine Patrol boathouse for the summer season



A photo of the Marine Patrol from the 1980s

also provide back-up to patrol deputies responding to incidents on shore. Last year alone, the Marine Patrol assisted 520 vessels and 2,122 individuals on the Lake.

But the unit does more than just emergency response. “We spend a lot of time doing vessel inspections, safety checks, fire extinguisher checks, that

sort of thing,” said Nervo. “If we see a boat and the kids don’t have lifejackets, we escort them back to their dock to get them,” he added. “We’re not out there to spoil your fun, we just want you to be safe.”

The division consists mostly of Special Deputies who work interchanging shifts throughout the season, which typically runs from Memorial Day through September. Most shifts are during the weekends, but they also do periodic weekday patrols, as well as holidays, special events, festival tournaments, and more.

The Marine Patrol has a longstanding and close working partnership with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and they have received the *Outstanding Marine Patrol* award over a dozen times from the ODNR.

The unit’s three boats operate out of the Summit County Sheriff’s Office boathouse located near the old State Park boat ramp.

When the summer ends, they are pulled out of the water and winterized until the next season comes around again the following May.



Special Deputy Steve Norman responding to a call

MEET LUNA

OUR NEW K-9 AT THE AKRON-CANTON AIRPORT!

The next time you fly out of the Akron-Canton Airport, you might notice a new nose hard at work keeping everyone safe.

Meet Luna, the newest member of our K-9 Team. The two-year-old yellow lab is just finishing up her training in explosive detection at Excel K-9 in Hiram, and she will begin working at the Airport in July.

Luna is assigned to work with Deputy Matthew Tait. Together they will patrol the Airport for any type of explosive material, as well as respond to callouts with our Bomb Squad.

You may also see Luna and Deputy Tait working at Blossom Music Center this summer, or conducting sweeps at other community events throughout the county.





Congratulations to our own Chaplain Jim Allshouse on being selected as the representative for the entire State of Ohio for the International Conference of Police Chaplains at their Indianapolis Conference!

The ICPC is a worldwide organization of law enforcement chaplains dedicated to training, advocacy, and mutual support.

DARE gets a Redesign!

Check out the new wrap on our DARE car driven by Deputy Chris Klopfenstein!



In The News

sheriff.summitoh.net

Your Source for Summit County Sheriff's Office News

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Sheriff's Office receives \$3 million for jail renovations, creation of new units

The Summit County Sheriff's Office and Summit County Executive's Office announced in June that they have received \$2,952,750 in grant funds through the Ohio Jail Safety and Security Program.

The program, which is administered by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction's Bureau of Adult Detention, is designed to assist local communities in the funding of renovations and improvements to their jails.



The Sheriff's Office will utilize the funds on several new projects, including:

1. The expansion of the existing sallyport to improve the speed and efficiency of the booking process.
2. A repurposing of the current sallyport into a pre-booking area for those in need of medical and mental health evaluation and care, and to identify individuals eligible for mental health or substance abuse diversion programs.
3. Renovating and expanding the current intake area to prioritize safety, medical assessment, and crisis intervention, including the creation of private mental health and substance use disorder screening areas, and updating current holding cells.
4. The development of a specialized mental health recovery unit that will offer immediate access to medical and psychological support, continuous

monitoring by medical professionals, medication-assisted treatment for substance abuse disorders, support services like therapy and counseling, improved low-stimulation cells for those experiencing mental health crises or withdrawal, and improved cell designs to reduce self-harm and injury.

“We appreciate the State’s recognition of the significant costs involved in maintaining aging county jail infrastructure, and we are thankful for the grant awarded to support our modernization efforts,” said County Executive Ilene Shapiro. “Collaboration between my office and the Sheriff’s team is literally paying off and paving the way for a safer, more functional jail.”

Built in 1990, the Summit County Jail currently houses an average of 570 inmates daily and books nearly 10,000 individuals every year. Around three-fourths of those individuals have undiagnosed and untreated mental health disorders, substance abuse disorders, or both.

“These renovations and the development of a dedicated mental health and recovery area will solve many long-standing shortfalls in our jail, boost efficiency for our agency and all agencies transporting inmates to and from the facility, improve safety for both staff and inmates, and help to reduce recidivism in our community,” said Sheriff Fatheree. “This is a transformational shift in how we approach mental health, substance use, and inmate safety, and it will help many individuals restore their lives.”



As part of Sheriff Fatheree’s ongoing efforts to overhaul the jail’s approach to mental health and substance abuse, the Sheriff’s Office obtained a separate opioid remediation grant of \$187,000 earlier this year from the Ohio Attorney General’s Office, which they have used to hire a full-time Advanced Practice Registered Nurse to serve as an Addiction Services Coordinator. This individual began working in the jail in June.

The Sheriff’s Office, Executive’s Office, and others also collaborated last year to open *THRIVE House*, a facility offering transitional housing and care for newly released individuals who are homeless. The facility is an extension of the jail’s *THRIVE* program, which pairs inmates with case workers to assist with addiction recovery and mental health treatment and connect them with community resources.

CONCEALED CARRY WORKSHOP



Presented by

Sheriff Kandy Fatheree &

County Prosecutor Elliot Kolkovich

Learn about...

- Recent changes to Concealed Carry laws and how they may effect you.
- What gunowners can expect from law enforcement.
- Self-defense, defense of property, castle doctrine, and more.
- Best practices to safely carry and secure your weapon.

Wednesday, August 13th
6:30pm-8:30pm

Richfield Masonic Hall
4586 Streetsboro Road
Richfield , OH 44286

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

REGISTRATION REQUIRED



Sign-up by visiting the CCW section on
the Sheriff's Office mobile app or at
sheriff.summitoh.net, or by scanning:

