



The SHIELD

A quarterly bulletin from the Summit County Sheriff's Office

2025, Volume 4

*The Sheriff's Office
spreads holiday cheer!*



Inmates learn
valuable skills
to help find jobs
after release

Read about the acts
of bravery that earn
commendations
and awards

Front cover: Deputy Hanna and one of our Christmas With a Cop participants enjoy breakfast before their shopping spree.

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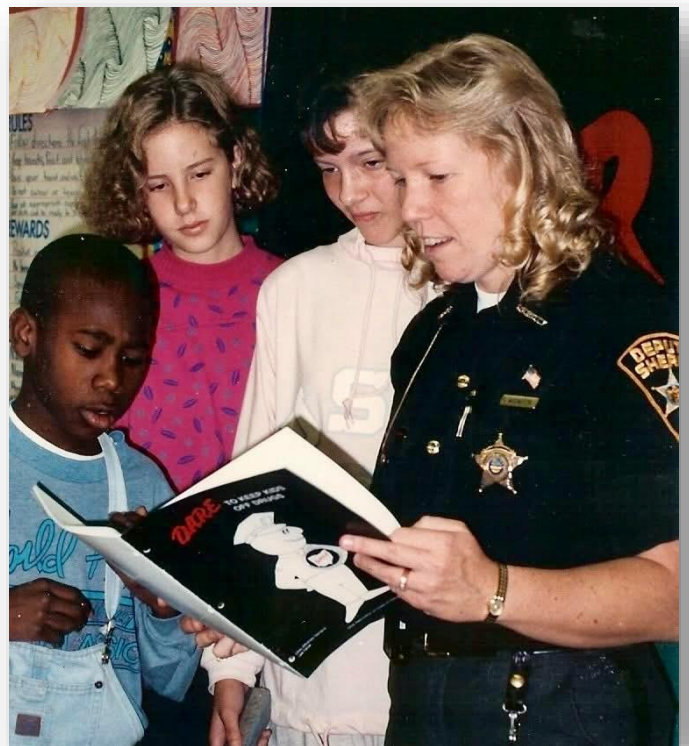
In October, the Sheriff's Office family lost an icon with the passing of retired deputy Sue Wigington. Many will remember her as "Deputy Sue" their school's DARE instructor, or perhaps as Mrs. Wigington, their substitute teacher.

Taken from her obituary...

"[Sue] joined the Summit County Sheriff's Office in 1982 as a Special Deputy and went to full-time status in 1983. 'Deputy Sue' proudly served for 28 years, 19 of those as a DARE Officer in schools throughout Summit County.

Working another 10 years as a substitute teacher in the same schools, Susie positively impacted the lives of everyone who knew her."

We couldn't have said it better ourselves.
Rest in Peace, Sue.





From the desk of

Sheriff Kandy Fatheree

Hello and Happy Holidays!

As the year winds down, I just wanted to take a moment to wish all of you a very safe and happy Holiday Season and fantastic New Year!

In this issue of the SHIELD, you will read about just *some* of the incredible deeds performed by the men and women of the Summit County Sheriff's Office during the past year. In November, I had the pleasure of presenting them with commendations, certificates, and other awards for their bravery and dedication.

While every award narrative is deserving of inclusion, it would necessitate many more pages in the SHIELD! However, you can read about every commendation and award in the "About Us" section of our website at sheriff.summitoh.net.

We have many new initiatives and announcements coming in the new year, but there's one I want to share with you that was just launched.

It's rare that I speak with residents and the subject of scams doesn't come up, and understandably so! We are being bombarded with every variety of scam – on our phones, in our emails, at our doorsteps – and the scammers are getting cleverer by the day. We want to provide as many resources as possible to help residents combat this threat.

As of this month, users of the Summit County Sheriff's Office mobile app will now see a brand new "Scams" feature on the app homepage which will keep you updated about active local scams, allow you to report a scam or notify the FBI of a cyber crime, help you to find scam resources and tips, and educate you about the ever-evolving methods that scammers are using. Please make use of this resource to stay one step ahead of scammers.

Kandy Fatheree

Kandy Fatheree
Summit County Sheriff

Summit County Faith & Blue

In October, we celebrated our 5th annual Summit Faith & Blue, bringing law enforcement and the community together for a day of fun and fellowship.





Spreading Holiday Cheer!

Our annual *Christmas With a Cop* provided a day of holiday fun and shopping for area children in need, while the Sheriff's Office Snoopy-themed K-9 hut at Green's *Christmas at Central Park* brought smiles and gifts to hundreds in attendance!





On Friday, November 21st the Sheriff's Office held its annual Awards Banquet. Below is a sampling of just some of the many awards and commendations given out that evening. To view all of them, visit the "About Us" section of our website at sheriff.summitoh.net



Deputy Charles Dana

On April 14, 2025, Deputy Charles Dana was working as a float in several Akron Public Schools. While speaking to a staff member at one of the schools, he was standing near the security X-ray machine and noticed the shape of a gun on the screen in one of the bags that a student brought into the school earlier that day. Deputy Dana asked staff for security footage and began checking multiple lockers and backpacks until he located the 9mm handgun. Deputy Dana's attention to detail and quick response helped to locate and remove the weapon and potentially avert a tragedy. Sheriff Fatheree has awarded Deputy Dana a Commendation.



Deputy Hunter DeVictor

On April 5, 2025, Deputy Hunter DeVictor was off duty when he noticed a male lying unconscious in the middle of an on-ramp to I-76. Deputy DeVictor instructed one of his passengers to call 911 while he responded to the individual. The male was unresponsive and Deputy DeVictor immediately began chest compressions until Akron EMTs arrived. Deputy DeVictor stayed with the team and relayed all information to Akron Police. It was later determined that the individual was driving impaired and had jumped from his moving vehicle. Due to Deputy DeVictor's quick response and actions, the individual is alive today. Sheriff Fatheree has awarded Deputy DeVictor with a Lifesaving Award.



Deputy Terrell Kemp & K-9 Marlo

On August 16, 2025, Akron Police requested assistance from the Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit to help search for a male suspect who committed an armed robbery at a convenience store. The suspect fled on foot into a wooded area. Deputy Kemp deployed K-9 Marlo to track the suspect who emerged from the woods and began to run, ignoring verbal commands to stop. K-9 Marlo apprehended the suspect who was handcuffed and patted down by Deputy Kemp. A handgun was found in his waistband. For their quick response, proficiency, and skill, Sheriff Fatheree has awarded Deputy Kemp and K-9 Marlo with Commendations.



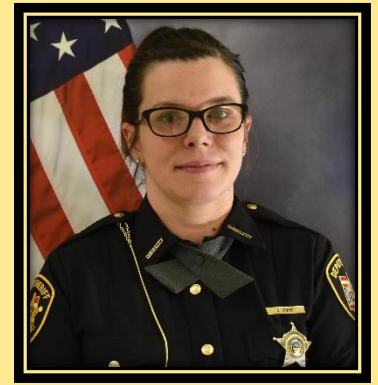
Deputy Tobi Jenkins

On July 31, 2025, Deputy Tobi Jenkins was working her shift at the Summit County Jail, monitoring the video feeds of inmates who were on suicide precautions and those who had made threats towards deputies and staff. Deputy Jenkins noticed an inmate who had fashioned a bed sheet into a noose and was attempting to hang herself. She immediately alerted the other deputies and they responded, removing the noose and calling medical staff. Due to Deputy Jenkins' attentiveness and quick response, the inmate survived and made a full recovery. Sheriff Fatheree has awarded Deputy Jenkins with a Certificate of Merit.



Deputy Starr Crago

On February 21, 2025, while working in intake at the Summit County Jail, Deputy Starr Crago was inventorying property belonging to an inmate. When Deputy Crago went to power off a cell phone belonging to the inmate she noticed a picture on the phone that was criminal in nature. Deputy Crago alerted supervisors who contacted the Detective Bureau. A search warrant was executed, and the phone was found to contain multiple images of child pornography. Due to Deputy Crago's attentiveness and recognition of criminal images, additional child pornography charges were filed against the individual. Sheriff Fatheree has awarded Deputy Crago with a Commendation.



Deputy Robert Bowen & K-9 Nero

On March 24, 2025, New Franklin Police requested assistance from the Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit to track an elderly male with a medical condition that effected his memory and cognition. The night was cold and the man's welfare was a major concern. Deputy Bowen deployed K-9 Nero to track the man, who eventually located him behind a wall laying under a bush. The man was unable to stand without assistance, and likely would not have made it through the cold night. He was transported to the hospital by New Franklin EMTs and survived the incident. For their quick response and resolve, Sheriff Fatheree has awarded Deputy Bowen and K-9 Nero with Lifesaving Awards.

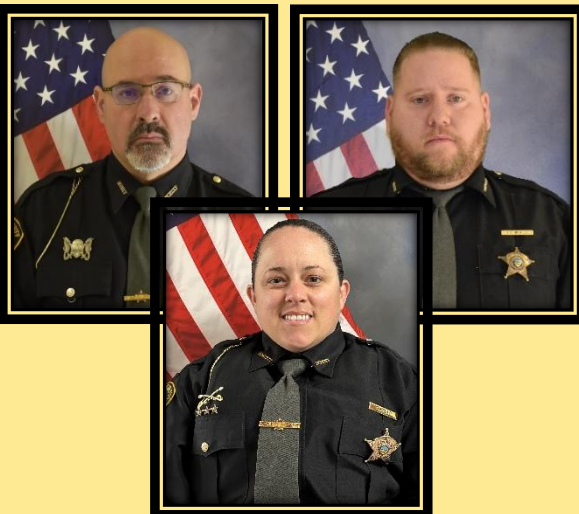
Deputy Aung Oo

On May 24, 2025, while conducting a round during his shift at the Summit County Jail, Deputy Aung Oo observed an inmate hanging from her bunk by a noose she fashioned from a blanket. Deputy Oo quickly called out over the emergency radio, entered the cell, and removed the noose from the inmate's neck. The inmate regained consciousness and was transported to the hospital where she made a full recovery. Deputy Oo's immediate response and the actions he took saved the inmate's life. Sheriff Fatheree has awarded Deputy Oo with a Lifesaving Award.

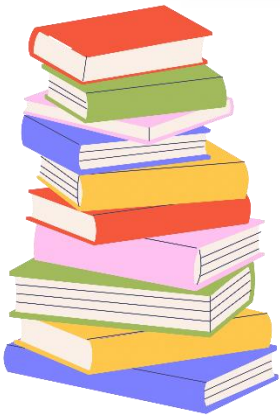


Sgt. Milorad Cucuz, Deputy LeAna Cudzilo, & Deputy Patrick Hunt

On October 30, 2024, Sgt. Cucuz, Deputy Cudzilo, and Deputy Hunt were called to a house fire in Coventry Township. Deputy Cudzilo arrived first and found an elderly female who was suffering from severe burns. The woman told Cudzilo that her two teenage grandchildren were still inside the home. She stayed with the woman and obtained information about the layout of the home and location of the children. Meanwhile, Sgt. Cucuz and Deputy Hunt made multiple attempts to gain entry into the home, but the intense smoke and fire impeded their efforts. Deputies Hunt and Cudzilo provided medical care to the grandmother, and Deputy Cudzilo gave firefighters the details about the layout of the home and location of the teens. Unfortunately, despite the efforts of the deputies and firefighters, neither of the children survived. During the incident, Sgt. Cucuz and Deputy Hunt disregarded their own safety in an attempt to save others, and Deputy Cudzilo's quick thinking allowed firefighters to respond to the best of their ability. For their courage, Sheriff Fatheree has awarded them with Certificates of Merit.



The Sheriff's Office held a Book Drive in November to replenish the inmate library at the jail, and the response was overwhelming, not only in terms of number of books donated but also quality and subject matter. Thank you to everyone who contributed, the library will be well stocked for a long time to come!



In October, we graduated four more participants in the IN2WORK Rehabilitative Program at the jail, a collaborative effort between our office and our meal vendor Aramark that provides inmates with training and education in the food service and retail industries to help them find work after their release. Enrolled inmates learn through both classroom and hands-on training in restaurant settings, and upon completion, they receive certification from The National Restaurant Association and can earn a scholarship from Aramark to continue their education.



In The News

sheriff.summitoh.net

Your Source for Summit County Sheriff's Office News

- Since 1840

Summit County Jail Passes State Inspection with 100% Compliance

AKRON – The Summit County Sheriff's Office announced in October that in their annual jail inspection conducted by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation & Correction that was conducted on October 7, 2025, the Summit County Jail was found to be in compliance with 100% of the 177 standards of operation.

“It has taken time and a lot of effort to get to where we're finally at now,” said Sheriff Fatheree. “I couldn't be prouder of my command staff, deputies, and civilian employees at the jail for their determination and professionalism.”

Among the many standards that inspectors evaluate are booking and release, classification, security, housing, sanitation, communication, visitation, medical and mental health, food service, recreation and programming, staffing, training, and more.

“Between constant renovations, the difficulties posed by COVID, a sharp increase in inmates with mental health and addiction issues, and staffing shortages that are finally easing, we have had a difficult few years at the jail,” remarked the Sheriff, “but this inspection, coupled with many new initiatives and ongoing accreditations, are all signs that we have turned the corner.”



**Department of
Rehabilitation
& Correction**

The Princess Within

We were honored to once again take part in the 8th Annual Princess Within Pageant in October, a non-competitive event designed for ladies of all ages with cognitive, intellectual, or developmental disabilities. Sheriff Fatheree and Lieutenant Rimedio joined other area law enforcement to escort these incredible ladies across the stage.



CONCEALED CARRY WORKSHOP



Presented by

Sheriff Kandy Fatherree &

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, January 21st
6:30pm-8:30pm

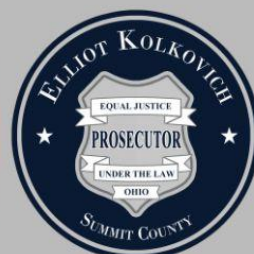
**Patterson Park
Community Center**
800 Patterson Ave.
Akron, OH 44310

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:



Happy Holidays!

From the Summit County Sheriff's Office

