



The SHIELD

A quarterly bulletin from the Summit County Sheriff's Office

2026, Volume 2

*Take an
inside look at
how we train!*

**NEW
RESOURCES
TO FIGHT
SCAMMERS**

**The SCSO earns
Ohio's top law
enforcement
accreditation**



*Front cover: Deputy Beers and Blue honor the fallen with the Riderless Horse at this year's Police Officers Memorial Service in Cuyahoga Falls.
(Photo courtesy of Scott Moss Magical Memories Photography)*

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**The Sheriff's Office
participated in numerous
parades and ceremonies
throughout Summit
County to commemorate
Memorial Day. It was great
seeing so many of you that
weekend!**





From the desk of

Sheriff Kandy Fatheree

Hello readers,

A very happy summer to you all. With nice weather finally here, you'll be seeing my deputies at the many festivals, fairs, parades, concerts, and other events throughout the summer. Please come up and say hello or give us a wave! We love to meet and hear from you, our neighbors.

In this issue, you'll read about our newly expanded Scams & Identity Theft page on the Sheriff's Office website and the new Scams feature on our mobile app. We're fighting a constant battle with scammers who are targeting folks like you every single day. These updated features provide a wealth of information on current local scams, law enforcement impersonation scams, how to recognize scams, and what to do if you or someone you know falls victim to a scam.

You'll also read in this issue about the Summit County Sheriff's Office recent attainment of OCLEAP accreditation from the State of Ohio. This is the highest law enforcement accreditation in our state and only a handful of other agencies have received it. I'm so proud of those within our organization who made this possible and who worked tirelessly to get us to the high standards required to both earn and maintain this honor.

Last but certainly not least, I want to invite you all to join us for our 6th annual *Summit Faith & Blue* taking place on Saturday, October 10th in our new location at Reservoir Park in Akron! Faith & Blue is the largest collaborative effort between law enforcement and the community in the nation, with hundreds of events taking place across the country that weekend. The goal is a simple one: to bring residents and officers closer together through the wide and diverse reach of our local faith communities. I hope you can join us for this fun and unique event!

Kandy Fatheree

Kandy Fatheree
Summit County Sheriff

Summit County



Faith & Blue

The Faith & Blue movement is the largest community-law enforcement collaboration in history, built on the belief that stronger ties between officers and residents create safer neighborhoods. As the largest and most diverse resource in our nation, the faith community is key to bringing everyone together. Sheriff Kandy Fatheree invites you to join us for a day of free, family-friendly fun and fellowship at Summit Faith & Blue!

Saturday, October 10th

11:00am - 2:00pm

Reservoir Park

New Location!

1735 Hillside Terrace, Akron, OH 44305

Free & Open to the Public

*Live Performances Games & Contests Bounce House 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:



WHAT IS FAITH & BLUE?

The national Faith & Blue initiative is the largest community-law enforcement collaboration of its kind. The idea is a simple but powerful one: the ties that bind officers and residents must be reinforced if we're to build neighborhoods where everyone feels safe and included. 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. You can learn more about the national initiative at faithandblue.org.

WHAT HAPPENS AT FAITH & BLUE?

Faith & Blue strives to build connections through events hosted during Faith & Blue weekend each October. Houses of worship, law enforcement, and the community are invited to come together for a day of fun and fellowship.

WHAT DOES SUMMIT COUNTY DO?

Sheriff Kandy Fatheree brought Faith & Blue to Summit County in 2021 and it has continued to grow and evolve. Fun, family-friendly events, games, raffles, and performances are planned. Faith & Blue is FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

HOW CAN HOUSES OF WORSHIP & LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTICIPATE?

The goal is to foster positive and meaningful interactions between law enforcement and the community through the reach of local houses of worship. We ask that those wishing to participate keep that mission in mind. Faith & Blue is not a community expo or a forum for evangelization or recruitment. Participants provide an activity, game, live entertainment, or other interactive experience that engages attendees, helps create a welcoming and non-judgmental environment, and encourages positive interactions between law enforcement and the community. You can sign up to participate at SummitFaithandBlue.com.

From our state-of-the-art Training Center, to the countless hours of training by our specialty units, to the numerous certifications maintained through state and federal agencies – Summit County Sheriff's Office deputies are without a doubt some of the best trained law enforcement in our region.

We're taking you behind the scenes for some of that training...



Bomb Squad members train with a robotic X-ray and review the images taken to determine the structure of a mock explosive device and what would be the best method of disarming it.



The K-9 Unit trains at an area church, which offers a real-world example of public spaces they may have to respond to on a callout.



Training Center staff review techniques and best practices with deputies as they act out realistic scenarios in our newly built tactical training house.



The Crime Scene Investigation Unit trains on a number of techniques including blood spatter analysis, crime scene documentation, recording fingerprints and shoe prints, and more.

In The News

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Governor Awards Summit County Sheriff's Office State's Top Law Enforcement Accreditation

COLUMBUS – On Wednesday, February 25, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced that the Summit County Sheriff's Office was among fourteen law enforcement agencies in Ohio to achieve accreditation through the Ohio Collaborative Law Enforcement Accreditation Program (OCLEAP).

The program was established to recognize law enforcement agencies that meet or exceed state standards of professional excellence and responsibilities such as professional conduct, crisis intervention, bias-free policing, community engagement, career development, use of force, etc.

"Attaining accreditation through this program is a prestigious achievement," said Governor DeWine. "Those living in communities served by an accredited department can be confident that their local agency demonstrates exceptional professionalism and meets Ohio's high expectations for excellence in public safety services."

The goal of the accreditation program is to create and uphold meaningful standards for law enforcement, as well as evaluate their continued performance and increase public trust.



"We're incredibly proud to receive this accreditation," said Sheriff Kandy Fatheree. "It shows that the Summit County Sheriff's Office is not only executing and training on the best practices and policies in the law enforcement field, but that we're also helping to shape those practices and set the standard statewide. It's a testament to the hard work and professionalism of the men and women of the Summit County Sheriff's Office."

To date, only 24 of the more than 900 law enforcement agencies in Ohio have achieved OCLEAP accreditation.

To maintain accredited status, agencies must provide annual documentation of continued compliance, and undergo an on-site checkup visit every two years and an on-site assessment every four years.



We'd like to thank and give a shoutout to **K9 Strong, Inc** for the generous donation of first aid kits for our K-9 Unit.

These kits provide critical life-saving support for our K-9s operating in high-risk environments, including building searches, tracking, explosives detection, narcotics detection, and criminal apprehensions. They will allow us to deliver immediate care in the field should the need arise.



STAY AHEAD OF SCAMMERS!

With scams targeting our residents daily, we've recently revamped the **Scams & Identity Theft** page on our website (under "Resources") and introduced a new **Scams** section on the Summit County Sheriff's Office mobile app. Visitors can stay up to date on the most recent scams targeting our community, including examples of actual calls and texts received by local residents, and you can learn what to do if you've been scammed.

The most important advice to remember if you receive a call or text that seems suspicious or demanding is:

- **Slow down**
- **Verify**
- **Hang up**
- **Don't click**
- **Don't send money**



In May, Sheriff Fatheree joined Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost and law enforcement from across the state in a press conference announcing the results of Operation Spring Cleaning, a statewide human trafficking operation that led to the arrest of 122 individuals — including those seeking sex with minors — and the rescue of 42 victims of sex and labor trafficking.



We've had the pleasure of swearing-in 20 new deputies just in the month of May. We're very excited to continue growing our ranks, and we welcome them to the Sheriff's Office family!



Our deputies recently assisted with a community cleanup event hosted by *Keep Akron Beautiful*, a great organization dedicated to picking up litter, removing graffiti, landscaping, and other activities to help beautify the city.



CONCEALED CARRY WORKSHOP

Presented by
**Sheriff Kandy Fatheree &
County Prosecutor Elliot Kolkovich**



Learn about...

- What changes to Concealed Carry laws mean and how they 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.

Thursday, July 2nd
6:30pm-8:30pm

Tallmadge Community Center
80 Community Road
Tallmadge, OH 44278

FREE & 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:

