



The SHIELD

A quarterly bulletin from the Summit County Sheriff's Office

2026, Volume 3

Faith & Blue
 **2026**

Meet our three
newest K-9s!

**Go Inside an
OVI Checkpoint**

Front cover: Deputy Orr speaks with a motorist during an OVI Checkpoint in Stow.



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in the app store



Congratulations to our School Resource Officers Deputy Todd Buck and Deputy Roger Morgan on obtaining “Master SRO” accreditation from the Ohio School Resource Officers Association! This is the highest accreditation for SROs in the State of Ohio, and the Summit County Sheriff’s Office was honored to be the only agency in the state to have two SROs achieve this status in 2026.



From the desk of

Sheriff Kandy Fatherree

Friends,

I hope the summer has treated you well and that, as we head toward fall, we can all look forward to some cooler and more comfortable weather.

Speaking of the season ahead, this issue of The SHIELD includes some important information to keep in mind as students return to school — particularly the rules for yielding to school buses and knowing when motorists are required to stop. Every year, our deputies cite far too many drivers for failing to stop for school buses or yield to children in crosswalks and other pedestrian right-of-ways.

Please take a few moments to familiarize yourself with the rules, only to avoid a citation, but more importantly to help keep the children of our communities safe. A split-second decision made out of ignorance, distraction, or impatience can have devastating and irreversible consequences for a child, a family, and the driver involved.

Also in this issue you will meet our three newest K-9s, take a glimpse inside our OVI Task Force and learn how they conduct checkpoints, and take a journey back in time to the 19th century to learn of the tragic death of Summit County's second Sheriff.

Last but certainly not least, I want to extend an invitation to all readers to join us for our annual *Summit Faith & Blue*, which will be held on Saturday, October 10th at Akron's Reservoir Park. This wonderful event (now in it's sixth year!) is designed to bring law enforcement and the residents that we serve closer together through the common bonds of faith. Fun, interactive events, games, performances, raffles, and more are planned for the day. This unique event is free and open to the public. Please join us!

Kandy Fatherree

**Kandy Fatherree
Summit County Sheriff**



In July we welcomed three new K-9s to the Summit County Sheriff's Office, which now has the largest K-9 Unit in the county!



K-9 Vasek is partnered with Deputy Graber.

A German Shepherd/Belgian Malinois mix, Vasek is trained in tracking, article search, narcotics detection, and apprehension.

Together, Vasek and Deputy Graber will be working patrol in Summit County.



K-9 Zoro is partnered with Deputy Stachowiak. The German

Shepherd is trained in explosives detection, tracking, and

apprehension. Zoro and Deputy Stachowiak will work at the Summit County Courthouse and other county government buildings, helping to ensure the safety of all those who work or have business there.



K-9 Bruno is partnered with Deputy Incarnato. The German Shepherd

is trained in firearms detection, tracking, apprehension, and article

search. Bruno and Deputy Incarnato will also be working in the Summit County Courthouse complex to bolster its safety and security.



Sadly, we also recently lost one of our four-legged deputies: retired K-9 Sasha, who faithfully served as an explosives-detecting K-9 alongside her handler, Deputy Mike Jones, from 2015 until his retirement in 2020.

In August, the entire Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit came together to pay their respects to Sasha. Chaplain Allshouse delivered touching remarks about the unwavering loyalty of a dog to its master, and Sheriff Fatheree presented Mike with a plaque honoring Sasha's years of service to Summit County. Sasha's name will also be added to the memorial stone at our Training Center, where she will take her place alongside other Summit County Sheriff's Office K-9s who have passed over the decades.





Meet The Team Fighting Impaired Driving in Summit County

We recently spent a summer evening with the Summit County OVI Task Force as they conducted one of their regular checkpoints to identify and deter impaired drivers along local roadway.

The joint task force is a collaborative effort involving more than a dozen area law enforcement agencies that work together to reduce the number of alcohol-related accidents and fatalities in Summit County. The Summit County Sheriff's Office commands the task force and oversees its funding, which is allocated through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.



The primary method used by the OVI Task Force to combat impaired driving is the OVI checkpoint. These elaborate operations are planned weeks in advance and are carried out by Sheriff's deputies and officers from other participating agencies. During a checkpoint, they establish a temporary roadblock along a heavily traveled roadway to identify and divert drivers who may be impaired or committing other traffic violations.

The date and time of planned OVI checkpoints are required by law to be announced to the public in advance; however, the specific location of the checkpoints are not disclosed.

The goal of the checkpoint is twofold: not only do they help to identify and remove impaired drivers from the roadway during the evening they are conducted, but they also serve as a deterrent to would-be impaired drivers, both that night and hopefully in the future.

On the evening we spent with the OVI Task Force, several deputies and officers from the Sheriff's Office, Richfield PD, Silver Lake PD, and Summit Metro Parks PD were participating in the checkpoint operation.

The first of the two checkpoints conducted that evening was along State Route 59 in Stow. The roadblock was set up along the westbound lanes of traffic, funneling all vehicles traveling in that direction into a coned-off area where every driver would briefly interact with a member of the task force.

“The guys working the road chat with each driver, asking them basic questions like where they’re coming from or going, whether they’ve had anything to drink, and if they have their driver’s license,” said Task Force Commander Sgt. Lopez. “As they talk to them, they’re looking for signs of impairment or any other type of violation.”



If a driver does not have their license on them, they are diverted into a separate area where deputies can verify their information using their patrol computers. If a driver is found to have a suspended license, they are cited and their vehicle is towed. If a driver has an active warrant, they are taken into custody on-site.

Should a deputy or officer working the roadway suspect that a driver is impaired, that individual is directed out of their vehicle and walked to the diversion area where they are administered a standardized field sobriety test. If they are determined to be impaired, they are cited or arrested.

Planning and executing an OVI checkpoint requires extensive coordination. The Sheriff's Office works closely with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) to establish the operational zone, including measuring the area and coordinating the placement of lighting, traffic cones, barrels, signage, and other necessary equipment to ensure the checkpoint can be conducted safely and effectively.



From 2021-2025, the OVI Task Force conducted nearly 80 of these complex checkpoint operations, resulting in 79 OVI citations or arrests, 334 citations for driving under suspension, 96 seat belt or other restraint citations, and 29 felony arrests.

On the evening we accompanied the Task Force, 254 vehicles passed through the first checkpoint in Stow. After more than two hours in that location, deputies and officers relocated to a second pre-arranged site in Silver Lake. The team continued working into the early morning hours, checking an additional 166 vehicles before wrapping up for the night.

The Task Force is currently gearing up for the *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* campaign, which runs from August 14th through September 7th.

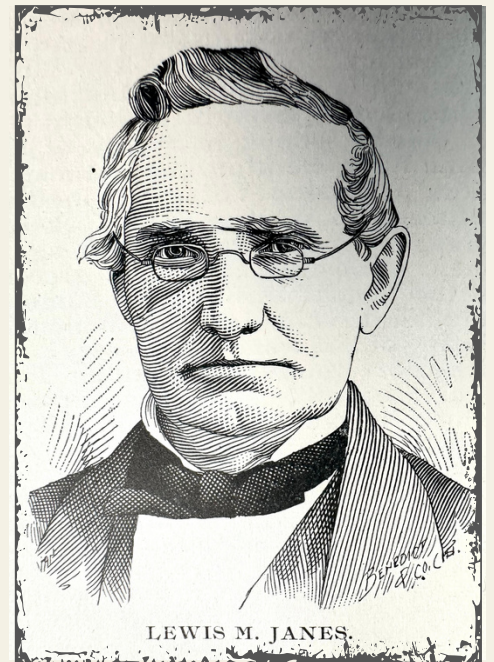
The Summit County Sheriff who Perished in an Infamous Shipwreck

In the 186-year history of Summit County, we know of only one Sheriff or former Sheriff who met a sudden and tragic end: Sheriff Lewis M. Janes.

Janes was just the second person to serve as Sheriff of the newly established Summit County, succeeding the county's first Sheriff, Thomas Wilson. At the time, Ohio law limited sheriffs to two consecutive two-year terms, preventing Wilson from seeking reelection.

When Lewis Janes was born in 1798, the county that Janes would someday serve was nothing more than a sparsely populated territory claimed by his home state of Connecticut. Hudson – the oldest town in what would later become Summit County – was founded the following year.

In his youth, Janes worked in merchandizing in both in central New York and in Montreal, Canada. When he was in his 30s, he moved to York Township in Medina County, then relocated to the Village of Peninsula, which was rapidly being transformed into a commercial center due to the recent opening of the Ohio and Erie Canal.



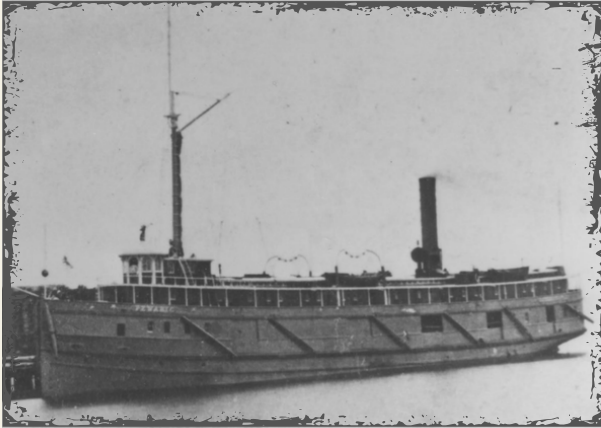
After spending nearly a decade in the lumber business, Janes was elected Sheriff of Summit County in 1844. The county itself had been created only four years earlier by combining portions of Portage, Medina, and Stark Counties, with Akron designated as the county seat.

Janes won reelection in 1846 and served the maximum allowed two consecutive terms. However, even after leaving office he remained committed to public service, continuing to work as a deputy sheriff under several of his successors.

His years as Sheriff were marked by personal tragedy as well. During his second term, his wife, Abbey, died at the age of 50 following several years of illness. Together, Lewis and Abbey had raised eight children.

In 1863, Janes was elected Justice of the Peace for Portage Township, one of Summit County's original townships that no longer exist (its territory today consists of much of North and West Akron). It was while serving in this elected office that Janes' life came to a tragic end.

On August 9, 1865 – only four months after the Civil War came to an end – Lewis Janes and his son Edward found themselves aboard the *SS Pewabic*, a 200-foot package freighter that also transported passengers throughout the Upper Great Lakes region.



The SS Pewabic

Pewabic and her sister vessel, the *SS Meteor*, worked in conjunction; when one was traveling north the other would be traveling south, typically crossing paths with one another in northern Lake Huron.

That evening, the *Pewabic* was traveling southbound from Sault Sainte Marie heading to Detroit. She was carrying over 1,000 tons of cargo and more than 100

passengers, including several Union soldiers returning home from Mackinac Island. The rendezvous between the *Pewabic* and *Meteor* was an opportunity for playful salutes, and the tossing of packages, mail bags, and newspapers between the two ships.

What happened next remains one of the enduring mysteries of Great Lakes maritime history.

As the two ships approached one another around sunset, they closed to within approximately 20 feet. Then, for reasons never fully explained, the *Pewabic* suddenly veered into the path of the *Meteor*. The *Meteor's* bow slammed into the *Pewabic's* port side, tearing a massive hole in the vessel.

Several passengers were crushed in the initial impact, while many others drowned in the sinking. "The pitiful cries of the drowning, struggling for help, are still in my memory, and will remain with me while memory lasts," recalled the *Meteor's* Chief Engineer.

The *Pewabic* sank in 30 minutes, claiming as many as 125 lives, including those of former Summit County Sheriff Lewis M. Janes and his son, Edward.

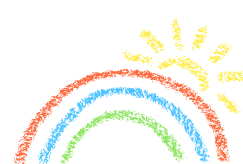
To this day, the sinking of the *Pewabic* remains the deadliest maritime disaster to occur on Lake Huron, and ranks among the ten worst shipwrecks ever to occur on the Great Lakes.



Safety City



Another summer of Safety City is in the books! During the course of this 4-day long program offered in our patrol districts throughout the summer, kindergarten-aged children are taught valuable skills, including crossing the street, traffic lights, stranger danger, calling 911, electricity and fire risks, swimming pool safety, what to do if they find a gun, staying safe on the internet, and much more! Below are some pictures from the Safety City graduation at Green Primary School, when the kids get to excitedly show off what they learned to their families.





School Bus Stop Safety Tips



On any roadway with less than four lanes all vehicles approaching a stopped school bus from either direction must stop at least ten feet from the bus and remain stopped until the bus begins to move again.

TWO OR THREE LANES



ONE WAY ROAD



On any roadway with four or more lanes only vehicles traveling in the same direction as the school bus must stop at least 10 feet from the bus, and remain stopped until the bus begins to move again.

FOUR OR MORE LANES



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
1735 Hillside Terrace, Akron, OH 44305

***New
Location!***

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:

