



The SHIELD

A quarterly bulletin from the Summit County Sheriff's Office

2023, Volume 1

Join us at
an upcoming
CCW-Workshop



Read how the SCSO
helped restore sight
to hundreds of blind
people nationwide!

Meet our new
four-legged
deputies!



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Summit County Sheriff's Office (OH)

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In January, our Dispatchers won the **Local Heroes** contest from 94.9 WQMX.

This monthly program honors everyday heroes throughout the area for their hard work and dedication to the community. DJs Scott and Sarah presented the Dispatch Team with free lunches from Mr. Hero, and spent some time visiting the Office and meeting Sheriff Fatheree!

We're proud that our very own Summit County Sheriff Kandy Fatherree was appointed to the National Sheriff's Association Board of Directors in February!



**98,000 Dispatch Calls
900 Arrests
10,000 Warrants and Indictments
1,200 Investigations
6,000 Students taught drug safety**

These and many more facts, figures, and interesting data can be found in our 2022 Annual Report, available now at sheriff.summitoh.net in the ABOUT US section.

CONCEALED CARRY WORKSHOPS



In January, Sheriff Kandy Fatheree and Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh teamed up to host a series of CCW Workshops designed to educate the public on changes to state law that passed in 2022 concerning concealed carry permits.

The Workshops were divided into two halves. The first half was taught by an assistant prosecutor and focused on the new changes to Ohio's concealed carry laws that went into effect last summer and what impact those changes will have on gunowners and law enforcement.



Prosecuting attorney Kevin Mayer instructs a classroom of around one hundred attendees at the Akron CCW Workshop



Sheriff Fatheree welcomes a classroom full of attendees at the Green CCW Workshop at our Training Center.

The second half consisted of a basic gun safety primer taught by a Sheriff's deputy instructor.

The Workshops closed with Q&A with both the attorney and deputies, and attendees were sent home with a complimentary gun lock. Classes were held in Northfield, Akron, and Green.

“As Sheriff, I am statutorily responsible for our county’s CCW program,” said Sheriff Fatheree. “Regardless of what changes may occur in state law, our Office will do whatever we can to educate the public and help keep them and our members of law enforcement safe.”

“Ohio law has changed when it comes to citizens legally allowed to conceal and carry a gun and we want to make sure as many people as possible are aware of those changes,” added Prosecutor Bevan Walsh. “We are honored to work with the Summit County Sheriff’s Office to provide this important training.”

Due to the overwhelming positive response to the three January classes, and many calls from the public to hold more, Sheriff Fatheree and Prosecutor Walsh announced in February that the CCW Workshop program would continue throughout 2023, with future Workshops held in different parts of the county.



Sheriff’s Office instructors Captain Rich Paolucci and Deputy Chase Rose speak to a group of about 70 attendees at the Northfield CCW Workshop.

Future CCW Workshops will be announced on the Summit County Sheriff’s Office and Summit County Prosecutor’s Office social media, and under the “CCW” section of the Sheriff’s Office website.

Those interested in attending upcoming CCW Workshops must register in advance, as seating is limited at each venue. Registration can be found under the CCW section of the Sheriff’s Office website at sheriff.summitoh.net, or the CCW section of the Summit County Sheriff’s Office mobile app!

All Eyes on the Summit County Sheriff's Office!

United Airlines pilot waits patiently at the bottom of the airstairs that lead up to the Boeing 720 he flies weekly. He peers across the tarmac of the Akron-Canton Airport, watching as the familiar black Chevy emerges from behind the recently built terminal and heads in his direction. The flight's passengers are in their seats, stewardesses serving drinks, and luggage fully loaded – save for one piece of cargo.

As the cruiser pulls alongside the jet, two Sheriff's deputies step out. One of them holds what could easily be mistaken for a lunchbox or coffee thermos. A label affixed to the container reads "Hot Cargo," though it is ice cold to the touch. The pilot makes fleeting chitchat with the deputies before bounding up the stairs. The deputies return to their cruiser and make way for the jet to begin its taxi down the runway. Within minutes the flight is airborne, en route to Chicago, with the frigid, tightly sealed container carefully nestled in the rear of the cockpit. Inside of it... a pair of human eyeballs.



Peculiar as this scene may appear, it would be repeated hundreds of times throughout the 1960s as part of a partnership between the Summit County Sheriff's Office and the Akron Area Eyebank. These donated eyeballs were speedily escorted to the Akron-Canton Airport by deputies, then flown to all parts of the country to help save or restore someone's eyesight.

The non-profit Akron Area Eyebank was established in 1959 to "acquire eyes or parts of eyes of human beings or animals" for use in research and medical procedures. Eyeballs and other ocular tissue were donated by area residents upon their death. The deceased's next-of-kin were required to notify the Eyebank within two hours of their death. That phone call then set into motion a series of steps that ultimately led to a surgical transplant occurring within 24 hours.



The need for speed when delivering the precious cargo led the Eyebank to seek the assistance of the Sheriff's Office, who ensured that the transport and hand-off happened as quickly as possible. "The Sheriff's Office, the doctors, the hospital, and United Airlines have been wonderful in helping us," said Eyebank vice president, Amy-Jean Prince in a 1963 interview with the Akron Beacon Journal.

In that year alone, 176 deliveries were made to all parts of the country, and in some cases even internationally. Two deputies worked over 1,000 hours assisting with this special project. They remained on-call 24 hours a day. The following year the number was increased to five deputies as the program expanded.

The Akron Area Eyebank closed its doors in 1983. We do not know how many years the partnership with the Sheriff's Office continued, but we are very proud to know that, through the dedication and determination of our deputies, the eyesight of hundreds or even thousands of people were saved.

A February 1963 edition of United Airline's monthly publication (ironically, also called the Shield) features a photo of Summit Sheriff's deputies alongside photos of jazz virtuoso Louis Armstrong and TV personality Merv Griffin.



FRIENDLY GREETING — Cuban refugees flying from Miami to new homes in the Allentown area made a brief stop at Pittsburgh during their trip. Stewardess Shirley Platts found a balloon on an ice-breaker with the youngsters. Man at left is Henry Toder of Church World Service, which arranged the resettlement.



PRECIOUS CARGO — A human eye, to be used in restoring the sight of some blind person, is delivered to Capt. N. M. Kelly at Akron-Canton Airport by two sheriff's deputies. The Akron Area Eyebank provides special refrigerated containers for the precious cargo.



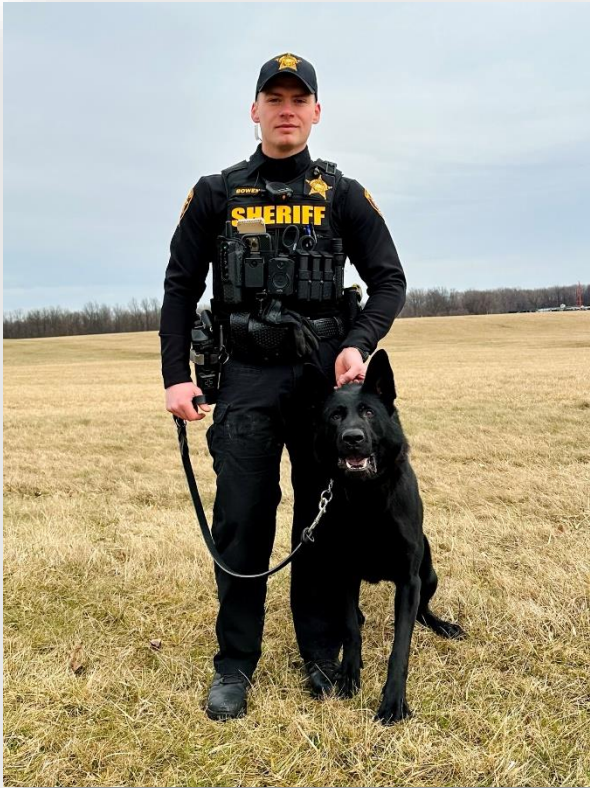
HE GETS AROUND — In recognition of his extensive air travels, jazzman Louis Armstrong receives a United Million Miles Plaque from Stewardess Ann Cohen of San Francisco.



SIGNING SCENE — Merv Griffin, popular TV personality, signed autograph for Stewardess Carol Bender at Newark before taking United flight to Atlanta.

Gone to the Dogs!

In December, the Summit County Sheriff's Office welcomed two new four-legged deputies to our team. Meet Nero and Taro...



NERO



TARO

Nero, a two-year old black German Shepherd, and Taro, a three-year-old Shepherd/Belgian Malinois mix, joined the Summit County Sheriff's Office in December. Both were bred in Slovakia and trained together in as part of a six-week course at Excel K-9 Services in Hiram, Ohio. Taro and Nero respond to commands given in the Czech language by our two newest K-9 deputies.

Deputy Bowen is Nero's handler. Together they patrol the City of Green, responding to all manner of calls. Nero is trained in tracking, article searches, building searches, narcotics detection, apprehension, and more.

Taro is paired up with Deputy Gary, who has a history of owning hunting dogs. Deputy Gary and Taro are assigned to the Summit County Drug Unit, where they conduct special assignments, patrol throughout the county, and assist other agencies with narcotics cases.



Piper & Dep. Cutlip
Explosives Detection

Taro & Dep. Gary
Narcotics

Nero & Dep. Bowen
Patrol



Sheriff Fatherree swears-in Taro



Piper goes airborne!



Nero plays backseat driver



Taro smells something suspicious...

Meet our new Corrections Commander: Chief Donna Nicholas

When Sheriff Fatheree swore-in Donna Nicholas as Chief this past January, she became the first female to rise to that rank in the 180-year history of the Summit County Sheriff's Office.

For those who know Donna, this comes as no surprise. Chief Nicholas has always been a mold-breaker and a history-maker. Her resilience and determination over the course of her three-decade career with the Sheriff's Office has led her to this point, and has helped pave the way for other female deputies aspiring to leadership roles within the organization.



Sheriff Fatheree swears in Chief Donna Nicholas in January.

A native of Coventry Township, after high school Chief Nicholas attended the University of Akron, earning a B.A. in Sociology with a minor in Criminal Justice. She then attended the Sheriff's Office Academy, completing her Peace Officer and Corrections training in early 1994. Later that year she was hired as a Deputy with the Summit County Sheriff's Office, where she has served for the entirety of her law enforcement career.

Chief Nicholas was promoted to Sergeant in 2003, then Lieutenant four years later. Along the way she obtained numerous certifications and was chosen "Top Cop" by the Summit County Prosecutor's Office in 2009 for her work on a 21-month-long real estate fraud investigation as part of the Mortgage Fraud Task Force.

Twelve years before her history-making promotion as first female Chief, Nicholas had already broken the glass ceiling by being the first female in our office's history to be promoted to Captain in 2011. As Captain, Nicholas worked both in Corrections, then as an Administrative Captain.

Nicholas retired at the end of 2021, but returned to service a year later at the request of Sheriff Fatheree to accept the promotion to Chief and assume command at the Jail she knows so well.

PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH



SHERIFF
KANDY FATHEREE



TAKE ME HOME

Started in Summit County by Prosecutor Walsh and maintained by the office of Summit County Sheriff Kandy Fatheree, Take Me Home is a secure database facilitated by the Summit County Prosecutor's Office and is accessible only by law enforcement. The program allows for the rapid identification and safe return of children and adults who have a difficult time communicating and may wander from home, including those living with dementia, Alzheimer's, Down syndrome, and Autism. The database contains a photo, contact information, and identifying characteristics that can be searched if a person is reported missing or is found wandering.

- For those Living with Dementia, Alzheimer's, Down Syndrome, Autism
- Difficulty Communicating
- Rapid Identification and Safe Return of Adults & Children
- Contains Photo, Contact Information, and Identifying Characteristics
- Secure Database
- Accessible Only by Law Enforcement



For additional information about the Take Me Home Program, or to register, go to the Summit County Prosecutor's Office website – www.prosecutor.summitoh.net – the Take Me Home page is under "Innovative Programs". Or you can follow this QR Code to sign up.

***Meet some of the incredible men and women
that joined the SCSO family in 2022!***

