



The **SHIELD**

A quarterly bulletin from the Summit County Sheriff's Office

2024, Volume 1

**The importance of
Crisis Intervention
Training**

**Meet
Deputy Dottie,
our rescue K-9
in training!**

**Get an Inside
Look at our
Fleet Services
Operation**

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Sheriff's Office (OH)

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Congratulations to our own Lieutenant Karla Bloomingdale on being sworn in as a Commander of the Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission by the Attorney General's Office.

Lt. Bloomingdale will be responsible for investigations in Summit, Portage, Stark, and Medina Counties. She is a 22-year veteran of our Office, and is the commander of our Detective Bureau.



From the desk of

Sheriff Kandy Fatheree

Happy Spring! Though truthfully, it really hasn't been that bad of a winter, has it?

The Sheriff's Office is back to work in this new year on some new projects, and we've revamped and reintroduced some existing programs as well.

Our **Donut with a Deputy** program has returned, and once again we'll be moving throughout the county to various Dunkin' Donuts locations to spend some time meeting and chatting with residents over a coffee and a complimentary donut.

We've also brought back our **CCW Workshops**. The topics we present in these Workshops continue to expand and evolve based on the interests and questions from attendees. When we initially launched this program, it was to educate residents on changes to concealed carry laws that went into effect in 2022. Now, we not only cover this topic, but we also touch upon "stand your ground" laws, the castle doctrine, when and where you're allowed to carry, and other self-defense related laws. Our next CCW Workshop will be held at the Community Hall in Green on Wednesday, April 17th. Check out the CCW section of our website for more details, or to sign up.

The Summit County Sheriff's Office has also been making the news quite a bit this year.

In January, our Human Trafficking Task Force conducted an operation that led to 12 arrests and four rescues. Later that month, we took on the lead investigative role in the tragic accident that occurred when a tanker truck plummeted from the I-271 on-ramp onto Rt. 8. The investigation is ongoing.

In February, our detectives investigating the fatal shooting that occurred on I-77 in Green last summer announced their third arrest in the case only a week after issuing a warrant. This investigation also remains ongoing. A couple weeks after that, after a year-long investigation conducted by our office, three more individuals associated with the House Bill 6 corruption scandal were also arrested.

On a happier note, in January we introduced the public to our youngest ever "cadet," K-9 Deputy Dottie (more about her in this issue). Dottie also features in this month's issue of *Akron Life Magazine*, which highlights the pioneering approach our office and others are taking in adopting rescue dogs to train as K-9s. Look for it wherever local publications are sold!

Kandy Fatheree
Sheriff, Summit County, Ohio

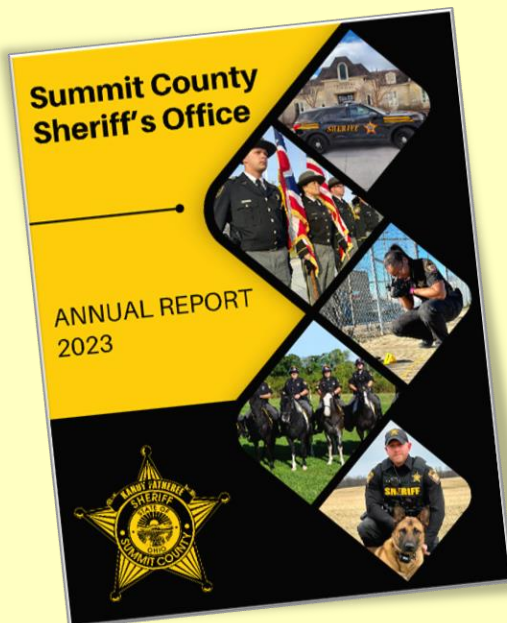


School Resource Officer Appreciation Day



On February 15th we marked *School Resource Officer Appreciation Day* by honoring all of our deputies who are SROs, DARE Instructors, or who work security in schools across the county.

Deputy Mike Beers, Deputy Chris Klopfenstein, Deputy Matt Robinson, Deputy Jason Hart, Deputy David Pulvermacher, Deputy Terrell Kemp, Deputy Todd Buck, Deputy Roger Morgan, Deputy Tim Paul, Deputy Joe Salsler, Deputy Josh Gruelle, Deputy Patrick Hunt Jr., Deputy Mía Trustdorf, Deputy Justin Robinson, Deputy Carmen Ingram, Deputy Gina Whitmore, Deputy Steve Klopfenstein, Deputy Samantha Walker, Deputy Garrett Patterson, Deputy Frank Kalapodis, Deputy Charlie Dana, Deputy Stacey Clark, Lt. Dan Napier, Sgt. Chris Kline, Sgt. Larry Peters, Sgt. Jerome Angerstein, Sgt. Mike Lopez, and Sgt. Timakya Lewis.



- 66,994 Patrol calls for service
- 1,285 Detective Bureau cases
- 407 vessels assisted on the Portage Lakes
- 117 survivors of Human Trafficking rescued
- Over 500,000 grams of narcotics seized
- 73 Bomb Squad callouts
- 6,460 students taught DARE instruction
- Over 8,000 inmates booked at the Jail

These stats and more are available now in our 2023 Annual Report, which you can read in the "About Us" section of our website at sheriff.summitoh.net

In The News

sheriff.summitoh.net

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- Since 1840

Sheriff's Office Investigation Leads to Arrest of First Energy Executives, PUCO Chairman

COLUMBUS – The former chairman of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, and two former FirstEnergy executives were indicted in February by a Summit County grand jury for their alleged role in the House Bill 6 scandal.

The indictments came on the heels of a year-long investigation by the Summit County Sheriff's Office, and involved a total of 27 felony counts against Sam Randazzo, former PUCO chairman; Chuck Jones, former CEO of First Energy; and Mike Dowling, former First Energy senior vice president of external affairs.



Sheriff Kandy Fatheree and Summit County Prosecutor Elliot Kolkovich took part in a press conference the morning of February 12th, alongside Attorney General Dave Yost, during which the indictments were announced. By midday, all three suspects had been booked at the Summit County Jail and released on bond as they await their trial.

"The crimes committed by these individuals impacted the pocketbooks of every hard-working Ohioan," said Sheriff Fatheree. "Today, we take another important step in ensuring that justice is served, and that those who took advantage of the public's trust are held accountable."

The House Bill 6 scandal first became public in 2020 with the arrest of Ohio House Speaker Larry Householder, after investigators discovered that FirstEnergy had paid roughly \$60 million to Generation Now, an organization controlled by Householder, in exchange for passing a \$1.3 billion bailout for the company's nuclear power plants. FirstEnergy then poured millions into the campaigns of 21 candidates during the 2018 election to secure their support for the bill.

The scandal has been described as the "largest bribery, money laundering scheme ever perpetrated against the people of the state of Ohio" by the US Attorney who charged Householder and four others with racketeering. Householder was sentenced to 20 years in prison last summer.

Randazzo, Jones, and Dowling will appear for a virtual hearing on April 19th. If convicted, the trio could face decades in prison.



Jones

Dowling

Randazzo

Fleet Services: An Inside Look

“I’ve found that a surgical scalpel works best,” remarked Kevin Tinney, concentrating intensely as he trimmed the excess gold vinyl adhesive making up one of three stripes above the fender of a Sheriff’s Office cruiser. “You develop your own technique when you’ve done this as long as I have.”



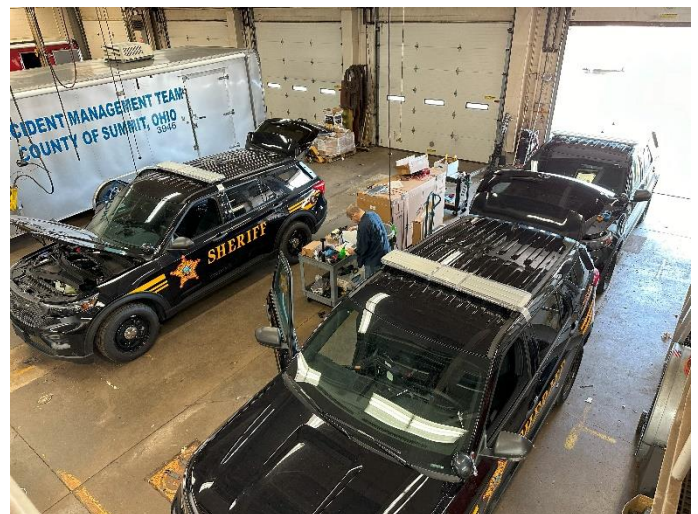
A one-man encyclopedia of Sheriff’s Office vehicular knowledge, Tinney has worked in Fleet Services for more than 22 years.

He still recalls vividly his second day on the job. That morning, he received a breathless phone call from Sheriff Alexander telling him to get every vehicle in the garage up and running immediately, regardless of how incomplete their modifications may be.

Hijacked passenger planes had struck the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon, and law enforcement nationwide was on high-alert and deployed to protect any further potential targets.

“It made for a memorable second day of work,” said Tinney.

The Summit County Sheriff’s Office fleet is made up of more than 200 vehicles, ranging from a 22-ton armored SWAT truck to an ATV, and everything in between: SUVs, sedans, pickups, inmate transport vans, unmarked cars, Marine Patrol boats, ATVs, and several other specialty vehicles used by the SWAT Team, Bomb Squad, Negotiators, Mobile Field Force, and CSI.



Tinney services them all.

“The only thing I’ve never worked on is a train!” he joked.

When we visited the Fleet Services garage on Howe Road in Tallmadge, Tinney was in the middle of customizing two newly acquired 2023 Ford Police Interceptors.

Though designed for law enforcement, the vehicles arrive without any modifications. Tinney must install lights, siren speakers, light and siren controls, fuse boxes, computers, center consoles, gun racks, radios, GPS, prisoner cages, and what seems like miles of wires and cables.

All of that is before he even gets to the exterior cosmetic elements.



As we spoke, a cruiser pulled up to the garage door and one of our deputies stepped out to meet Kevin. He had some minor dents on the rear of his vehicle that needed fixing.

“Yes, I do this too,” Tinney said with a grin, anticipating the next question.

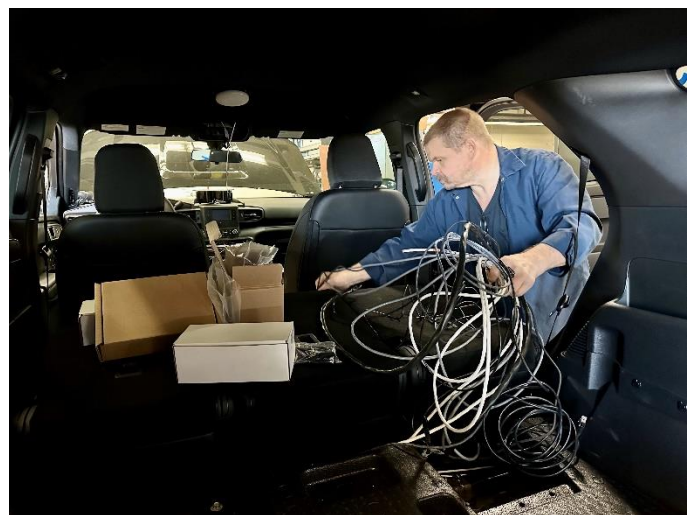
He has seen his share of changes during his more than two decades working on law enforcement vehicles.

“Just think of how much your cell phone has evolved since 2001,” he said.

Light bars have gone from large and incandescent to low-profile and LED, radios that once contained crystal diodes now contain chips and processors, GPS and computer terminals have become standard features, and all that was once analogue now is digital.

Tinney rolls with the changes as they come, learning and adapting to new technologies right alongside the deputies.

There have even been a couple times during his career when he was forced to develop his own modifications, like the time a batch of new Tacoma pickup trucks were added to the fleet. The layout of the interior did not fit our existing gun rack design, so Tinney simply got ahold of some metal and crafted his own custom design!



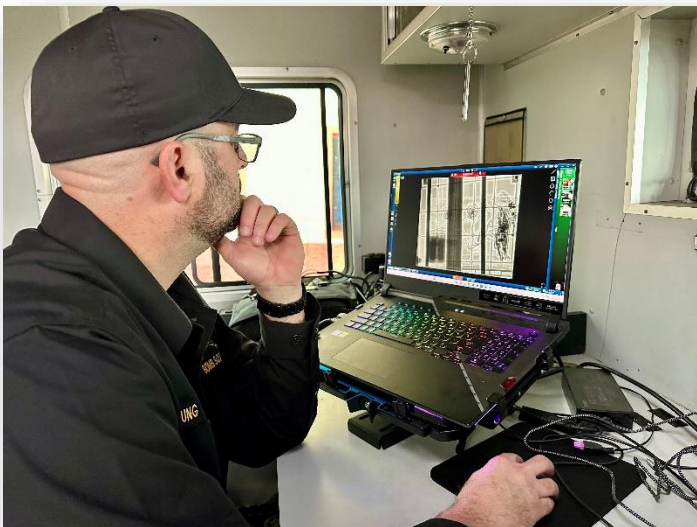
“I just enjoy doing it,” he remarked, unraveling another strip of gold vinyl.

A FRONT ROW SEAT TO TRAINING

For the past couple months, Sheriff's Office specialty units have been using the closed Regal Cinema in Green for training exercises. After the theater went out of business, the property was purchased by Serra AutoPark. They plan to eventually demolish the building, but in the meantime the dealership offered to allow law enforcement and fire to train there. "We just wanted to give back to the community," said Managing Partner Tom Flory.



Members of the Bomb Squad train with a mock explosive device.





Crisis Negotiators role-play a hostage scenario involving a suicidal parent.

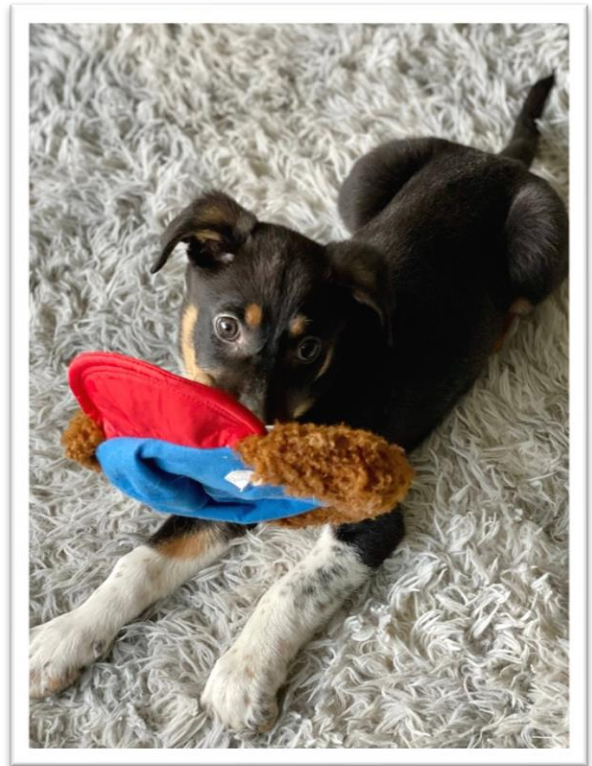


The K-9 Unit practices apprehensions and conducts narcotics and gun sweeps.



Deputy Dottie

The Summit County Sheriff's Office and a handful of other agencies around the country are pioneering a new approach to their K-9 programs of adopting rescue dogs and training them to be K-9s. In January, Sheriff Fatherree swore in Dottie, our youngest ever "cadet." Dottie is training to become our next narcotics-detecting K-9. She is a rescue pup adopted from Pawsitive Hope in North Canton. We'll keep you updated on her progress!



Crisis Intervention Team Training



In this issue we want to shine a spotlight on Crisis Intervention training, a very important yet often overlooked aspect of modern-day emergency response. Unfortunately, the lack of mental health services across the U.S. has resulted in law enforcement officers often serving as first responders when individuals are facing a mental health crisis. Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training is an innovative approach to improve the outcomes of these encounters.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), over 2,700 communities nationwide now offer CIT programs designed to educate and train first responders in how to interact with individuals suffering with schizophrenia, dementia, autism, addiction, PTSD, brain injuries, and a host of other disorders. Having a better understanding of these disorders, how they affect people, and how to respond to them can greatly improve the outcome of these interactions – for the sufferer, for their families, and for first responders.



In Summit County, CIT training is provided by the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board (ADM). The Sheriff's Office has been a participant in the ADM Board's CIT training program for 24 years, with a total of 228 deputies having completed the course.

CIT Training sessions are 40 hours long and taught over the course of a week. They are held quarterly, with each class containing more than two dozen law enforcement officers, firefighters, paramedics, dispatchers, and civilians. The Session that's being held this March is the 53rd since the program began. Each quarter, our Office sends no fewer than four deputies to this training.



Deputies Brandon Paul, Glenn Orr, and Jerrime Weathers on the completion of CIT Training in December

The sessions not only consist of classroom instruction provided by mental health professionals, doctors, and experts in de-escalation, but also involve ride-a-longs with caseworkers, visits to psychiatric hospitals, crisis centers, and detox clinics, as well as staged scenarios and roleplay.

Our Office also proudly assists in the instruction portion of the CIT trainings, with Major Matamba Kaalima and Assistant Clinical Director Ruthann Paulus-Bland presenting on mental health issues, treatment, suicide prevention, and measures within the Summit County Jail.

In addition to our more than two-decades of participation in the ADM Board's CIT training, all Summit County Sheriff's deputies receive 24 hours of Crisis Intervention training as cadets in the Sheriff's Office Academy.

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