



THE SUMMIT COUNTY **SHIELD**

A Community bulletin from the Summit County Sheriff's Office

JULY 2019



BACK ON OUR BIKES

SINCE YOU ASKED . . . THE SHERIFF ANSWERED



Heath in the United Kingdom wrote in and asked: *We are quite fond of our constables here in Somerset, but we've come to admire your agency and its people from reading the Shield every month. Do all Sheriff's in the U.S. put out a newsletter?*

Sheriff Barry replied: "According to the National Sheriff's Association, there are over 3000 Sheriff's Offices in the United States, but only a few publish some form of newsletter on a regular basis. Because of that, little is known

about them. We work hard to develop an open and honest relationship with the citizens we serve, and the Shield is just one way of showing the public exactly who we are and what we do."

Sienna in Boston Township had this comment and question: *I feel pretty safe living in Summit County, but still worry about a major terrorist event happening here. Am I just being paranoid?*

Sheriff Barry answered: "Mass casualty events can occur anywhere at any time, so our agency works closely with the ATF, FBI, and Department of Homeland Security. We receive regular advisories from the Counterterrorism Mission Center, and these classified Intelligence Assessments provide strategic insight into recent terrorist threats and their tactics. 3-D printing of firearms, swarm technology as it relates to UAV's (drones), and the ideological grievances of extremist groups are just a few of the things that we study and train for. That's not being paranoid – that's just being prepared."



Spencer in Clinton wanted to know: *While going through my late Grandfather's farm property, we found two old metal tins containing blasting caps in his barn. How should we dispose of them?*

Sheriff Barry replied: "Leave them right where you found them and call New Franklin police or our office 330-643-2181. Specialists from our Bomb Squad Unit will come out and take them away safely. Despite their size, blasting caps are very dangerous, and should be handled with extreme care – especially when they're old. Back in the day, farmers used explosives to blow up stumps, boulders, and beaver dams, but few people today have any experience with these materials. That's why it's best to leave them alone till we get there."

Got a question? Get an answer! Write to the SHIELD today.

Questions should be brief, clear, and relevant. They should pertain to the agency itself and its services or functions. The most interesting questions will be answered by Sheriff Barry in future issues.

Submit your question by sending an email to shield@sheriff.summitoh.net.

The Summit County Shield is a publication from the Office of Summit County Sheriff Steve Barry
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THE RETURN OF THE SHERIFF'S BIKE PATROL



It's been nearly twenty years since a team of deputies was last seen pedaling through neighborhoods, policing the streets, and promoting public safety in Northfield Center, Twinsburg Township, Coventry, and Green. Well – the bikes are back – at least for the summer, and only in the City of Green, patrolling the parks, businesses, and residential allotments from June 10th through August 17th.

Why now and why only in Green? That's when our School Resource Officers, funded by the school board and the City of Green, leave the schools for the summer and assume their new responsibilities until school resumes in the fall.

Bike patrols were just one of the innovative ideas conceived by Sheriff Richard Warren back in the 1990's, created to improve community relations by immersing our deputies directly into the neighborhoods using a familiar and friendlier form of transportation. People found deputies to be more personal and approachable, and they were naturally a big hit with youngsters on their own bikes. So popular was the Bike Patrol with the public that it operated for ten years before funding for the unit dissolved in 2001.



Sheriff's Bike Patrol circa 2001

Today's Bike Patrol possesses all of the positive points of the original, and is a significant expansion on a program already in place in the parks of Green. School Resource Officers Todd Hart, Roger Morgan, Thomas Bumgardner, Elisha Menefee, and Todd Buck will devote their days and evenings making sure the City of Green stays safe. Keep in mind that the Bike Patrol is not replacing our normal patrol operations in Green, but will act in conjunction with those services within the city limits. Since each of these deputies work in the schools, they are already familiar with many of the children and families they'll encounter along their routes.

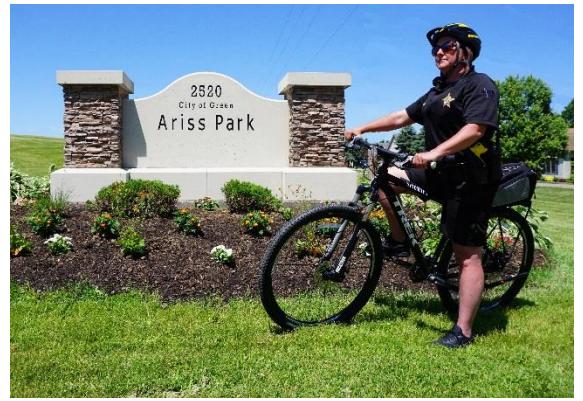


While on patrol in the neighborhoods, they'll be looking for anything that could attract the criminal element – open garage doors, valuables left out in the yard, signs that a home is uninhabited, and unlocked vehicles. Deputies will check off these areas of concern on a special form that clearly explains to the homeowner how their innocent habits can put them at risk. The forms will then be delivered to the property owner, to encourage them to be more cautious.

While policing the commercial districts, our deputies will check businesses for unlocked doors, poor lighting, lack of alarms, and other security concerns, which invite burglaries and shoplifting. Then they'll personally bring these matters to the attention of management, while making sure their list of emergency contacts are up to date.

CONTINUED

While patrolling the parks, our deputies will look for anything suspicious, but will also stop and happily interact with those who are just out to enjoy the day. When they see kids playing smart, wearing safety gear while riding their bikes, or watching out for traffic before crossing the street, our deputies will reward them with free passes to the Summit County Fair and other goodies. And don't be surprised if you see our SRO's hop off their bikes and join those kids in a baseball game, for our mission is as much about building friendships as it is about fighting crime.



But why use bikes instead of cars? Besides the obvious savings in fuel and vehicle maintenance, bikes can go places where other vehicles can't. Criminals instinctively look for cops in cruisers, so the low profile of a bicycle gives the good guys a stealth capability lacking in larger vehicles. Plus – a deputy on a bike is more easily assimilated into a crowd. He can see things that his car-riding counterpart can't – which makes him perfect for protecting the public in the midst of festivals, parades, and other outdoor events. Two wheels or four – when it comes to your safety – we know there's a whole lot riding on it.

BASIC BICYCLE SAFETY FOR ANYONE WHO RIDES



1 Ride with traffic, not against it.

2 Obey traffic laws. Red lights and stop signs aren't just for cars.

3 Use marked bike lanes.



4 Use hand signals or vocal signals while turning or passing.



LEFT TURN

STOP

RIGHT TURN

5 At busy intersections, it's safest to walk your bike across the street.



6 Skip the headphones to keep your ears open, and pay attention to traffic and sirens.

7 Wear sunglasses to lessen distractions from the sun and to keep dust, debris and insects out of your eyes.



8 When passing a bike, vehicles should leave at least 3 feet until safely past the bicyclist.



3 FEET



9 Wear reflective gear or use a bike light at night.



10 Wear a helmet: Helmet use can reduce the risk of severe brain injuries by up to 88%.

SHERIFF ENSURED SAFE BIKING, BACK IN THE DAY

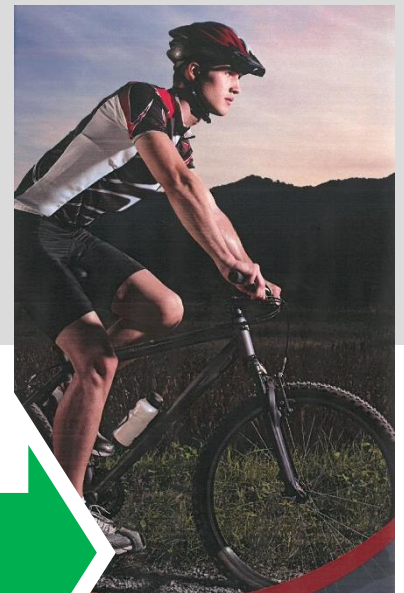


The Summit County Sheriff's Office has always made public safety its top priority, and making sure that our youngsters ride their bicycles in a safe manner was just as important in 1966 as it is today.

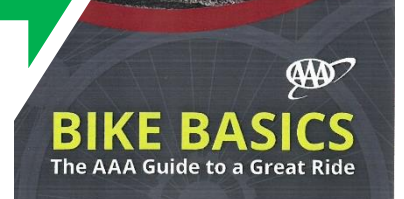
Our Community Policing Unit partnered with the American Automobile Association to promote its Safety Patrol, which visited neighborhoods and checked children's bicycles to make sure they were in proper working order. Things like tire inflation, brakes, chains, steering, reflectors, and even proper lubrication were thoroughly gone over – and if need be, these things were remedied on the spot by the AAA – as shown in this photo taken at Arrowhead Elementary School in Copley.

Back then, bikes had to be licensed, so our deputies would check their plates to make sure records were in order. Once the bicycle and rider passed inspection, they were given a safety certificate that confirmed their status, along with congratulations from the deputy for a job well done.

Remember when . . .



OF COURSE THE AAA IS STILL AROUND AND STILL HELPING PEOPLE STAY SAFE – JUST LIKE THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE. YOU MAY WANT TO READ AN INFORMATIVE BOOKLET PUBLISHED BY THE AAA CALLED "BIKE BASICS" – FULL OF USEFUL INFORMATION ON TODAY'S BIKES. JUST CLICK ON THE COVER TO READ IT.



PROUD TO PARTNER WITH OTHER FIRST RESPONDERS



Members of our elite Summit County Bomb Squad do much more than respond to the occasional bomb threat, conduct searches, or dispose of dangerous munitions. Like every other specialty Unit in our agency, they are always in a state of training. This is essential, for their lives and the lives of innocent civilians would be placed at risk if they lacked the knowledge or experience necessary to do their job.

This team trains throughout the year under all sorts of conditions, and we often invite other agencies to watch what we do in order to help them train their own personnel. Such experience is mutually beneficial, for it allows everyone to hone their skills, strengthen relationships, and put teamwork to the test in real world environments – as we did earlier this summer at the Sheriff’s Training Center.



On this particular occasion, we invited the City of Akron Arson Investigators (part of the Akron Fire Department) to observe and participate in multiple explosive demonstrations. Specifically, the Bomb Squad detonated eight different kinds of explosives, ranging from nitromethane ethylenediamine to C-4, so the arson investigators could see, smell, and feel a variety of compositions both before and after they exploded. The Bomb Squad then disintegrated an automobile using two pounds of tannerite, so investigators could witness the effects, gather evidence, and perform forensic research. This is a perfect example of how we are proud to partner with others.



SEE THIS

TURN INTO THAT

ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL





COLLABORATION IS KEY WHEN IT COMES TO PUBLIC SAFETY



No single squad however highly skilled, nor any agency regardless of size or expertise, could possibly deal with every danger that exists in today's world. There are simply too many different kinds of threats to our freedom for any one entity to face them alone. That's why collaboration is key, so the strengths of the many can come together as one.

Such was the case at the Sheriff's Training Center recently when members of the Summit County Bomb Squad partnered with the regional office of the FBI, Summit

County Hazmat, and several local fire departments to conduct specialized training in the event of the discovery of an RDD. A Radiological Dispersal Device is perhaps better known as a 'dirty bomb', which combines a conventional explosive like dynamite with radiological material. When the device is detonated, the explosion is used to spread the material and contaminate an area with radioactive dust.



While the likelihood of such an event occurring in Summit County is relatively low, our Bomb Squad is an integral part of the Department of Energy and Homeland Security's Stabilization Three Team. Our personnel would be expected to contribute their expertise to the chain of events that would follow.

For obvious reasons we cannot divulge specific techniques or materials used to defuse an RDD, but we

can give you an idea of the sequence of actions that would be taken if one were to be found. First, our Bomb Squad would act as the initial first responder, and would arrive and examine the suspicious item using its portable X-ray tool. If clues reveal particular components, meters would be used that are designed to detect particular types of nuclear isotopes that emit gamma rays and neutron radiation. Once the device is confirmed to be an RDD, special agents from the FBI and Department of Energy would be notified and together we would create an exclusion zone to protect the general public.



Personnel from local fire departments and Summit County Hazmat would converge on scene and coordinate a plan of action. Working closely with the FBI, our Bomb Squad technicians would assemble a special device designed to disrupt the internal mechanism of the RDD and render it inoperable. Fire crews would then use their pumper trucks to dispense a specialized foam used in the suppression of radiological elements, then Hazmat teams would move in and completely decontaminate the area.

The goal of any terrorist is to spread panic and fear. Preventing that from happening is up to law enforcement. We must all work in concert, each bringing our own specific expertise to the emergency, and thus one comes to appreciate the importance of this sort of training – for **collaboration is key, when it comes to public safety.**



HERE'S ANOTHER Warning from Wyatt- **RIDE YOUR BIKE SAFELY!**

The life of a little boy like Wyatt is filled with important business. Places to go - People to see.



Looks like he's in a hurry - because he forgot to put on his safety helmet and pads.



Gotta find Ryan. Meet up with Landon. Head over to see Connor. Put air in my tires. Buy some candy.

Look's like Wyatt has **TOO MUCH** on his mind because he's definitely **NOT PAYING ATTENTION!**



He never saw the parked truck till it was too late!



Fortunately for Wyatt, his crash was only a fender bender. He may not be so lucky next time.

No wonder 75% of bike-related deaths involve head trauma!



REMEMBER THIS WARNING FROM WYATT - SAFETY EQUIPMENT ONLY WORKS WHEN YOU WEAR IT.

MOM AND DAD - PROVIDE PROPER SAFETY EQUIPMENT FOR YOUR KIDS, AND MAKE SURE THEY USE IT.