



THE SUMMIT COUNTY
SHIELD

A Community bulletin from the Summit County Sheriff's Office

JUNE 2019

**SUMMIT COUNTY
SHERIFF
DETECTIVE**

SEX OFFENDER

ROUND UP

SINCE YOU ASKED . . . THE SHERIFF ANSWERED



Luke in Copley wrote in and asked: *Everyone knows that soldiers can suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, but how common is it in members of law enforcement?*

Sheriff Barry replied: "Actually, anyone can suffer from PTSD – including children, and it is common to find it among first responders. This can occur after an officer is involved in a shooting, but can just as easily happen after responding to a fatal car crash, investigating a suicide, or performing a rescue that didn't end well. Anyone who can say that such things never bother them is

suppressing the truth, for such experiences are commonplace in our profession. Much can be learned by exploring this subject, and there will be a full-length article about PTSD and law enforcement, written by Paul Matulavich, in the July issue of the Shield."

Travis in Munroe Falls wanted to know: *Are there many people looking to become deputies today?*

Sheriff Barry answered: "Well, approximately 200 people attended our last recruitment event. Some were looking to acquire one of the scholarships we were offering and others were looking to sign up for the academy as an open-enrollment cadet. Those who were awarded a scholarship must pass a physical fitness assessment, go through a background investigation, and then pass the academy. Once they do, they must agree to work for us for at least 3 years. We received 60 applications for the 16 available scholarships. The open enrollment cadets must pass the physical fitness exam and once they graduate from the academy they can work for any agency in Ohio. For more information about our recruitment campaign, please call Inspector Bill Holland at 330-643-2114."



Joyce in Goodyear Heights wondered: *Would it be possible for me to bring my two children to one of your district offices and have a deputy tell them they will be arrested if they don't start listening to me and their father?*

Sheriff Barry replied: "Not only won't we do that – we ask everyone to please stop using that fear tactic to gain authority over your children. For one thing – it sends a negative message to the child by portraying us as a threatening force. Secondly, the day may come when that child is separated from you and doesn't know where to turn. Do you want your child to look for a police officer to help him, or do you want him to hide, out of fear he is going to jail? We would

prefer that children learn to trust us, and much of what we do is directed at gaining that trust."

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 best 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
The Shield is written and photographed by Paul Matulavich - pmatulavich@sheriff.summitoh.net

WHAT TO DO – BEFORE AND AFTER AN ACCIDENT

Being involved in a car accident can be a very stressful and emotional experience. Even a simple 'fender-bender' can throw some people into a panic and prompt others into a fist fight. Depending on the severity of the crash, you may not think clearly due to an injury or reacting to the other driver. That's why it's important to prepare now - before an accident occurs, to save time and aggravation.



Nobody has more experience dealing with traffic accidents than our patrol deputies, so we asked them to provide their insight and advice on how to prepare for – and get through – your next accident.

BEFORE AN ACCIDENT HAPPENS

Many insurance companies offer an Accident Report Worksheet to keep in your car. It contains a list of the critical information you need to collect in case of an accident. Keep it, or a note pad in the glove box, along with a pen or pencil to jot down information at the scene. Other important items to have in your vehicle include a simple first aid kit, road flares or reflectors, blanket, and flashlight. By the way, if you are currently driving without insurance, STOP NOW and get insured. It's the law in Ohio!

AFTER THE ACCIDENT

Immediately take safety precautions and turn on your hazard lights. If safe and mechanically able to do so, move your vehicle off the roadway. Remaining stopped on a road to inspect the damage to your vehicle can place you and others at risk of another accident. Place reflective triangles or flares on the edge of the roadway in the direction of oncoming vehicles to warn other motorists of the situation.

Check on the welfare of all involved, if you are able. Call 911 if emergency medical services are required or ask someone else to do it for you. In most jurisdictions, calling 911 will also dispatch the local law enforcement agency. But even in cases of a minor accident without injury, you should notify the appropriate police, highway patrol, or Sheriff's Office - thus ensuring the accident is documented and you will have a record of the details. This may be critical later on, if you or others develop medical complications, discover further vehicle damage, or file a claim with an insurance company.

Remain calm, and courteously exchange information with the other driver or drivers. Write down all contact information, license plate numbers, make and model of all vehicles, and gather insurance information. If there were any witnesses to the accident, make sure to collect their information as well.

Use your cell phone to take photos or video of the accident scene and the vehicles involved. Include several panoramic photos that capture the entire scene. Film the road conditions, weather, and traffic control devices such as stop signs or lights. Note the behavior of the other driver, such as being under the influence of alcohol or drugs - or whether they had been driving while distracted. More and more people are investing in dash cams, which can be helpful if the cause of the accident is ever contested.



A FINAL WORD FROM OUR DEPUTIES - DRIVE SOBER. DRIVE INSURED. DRIVE SAFE.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE SHERIFF



If there is one profession where stamina plays a key role in the execution of one's duties, that job has got to be that of County Sheriff - particularly when that person takes his responsibilities as seriously and feels so passionately about serving the public trust as the man we are about to follow – Sheriff Steve Barry. If you've ever wondered what some of his days are like – this will give you a pretty good idea.

08:00 – The Sheriff (or S-1 as he is also called) usually leaves his residence between 0800 and 0830, depending on his schedule for the day. With few exceptions, Mondays and Thursdays are staff meeting days and these conferences begin at 9am. On other days when there is no staff meeting planned, the Sheriff will sometimes stop at the Robert D. Campbell Training Center and speak with Training Bureau Commander, Captain Rich Paolucci and his staff. S-1 may even talk briefly with those deputies who are attending in-service training that day. Occasionally he will stop at the District 3 Office in Green and confer with one of the sergeants in the Patrol Bureau.

08:35 – Regardless of where he is when driving, Sheriff Barry routinely monitors radio traffic from his Communications room. Because both the Training Center and the District 3 Office are located within the jurisdictional confines of his Patrol Bureau, the Sheriff will provide backup for those deputies when they are alone on a traffic stop, or answer a call himself when others are busy on calls that require a two-unit response. After completing this, he will head for his office in downtown Akron.

09:00 on Staff Meeting Days – Sheriff Barry arrives at the agency's main office in the Summit County Safety Building and convenes his Command Staff meeting (one of two held weekly) in a conference room where key personnel from each of the agency's Bureaus and Divisions are present. Attending are; Chief Brad Whitfield (Operations), Inspector Bill Holland (Corrections), Inspector Chris Rhoades (Drug Unit), Captain Doug Smith (Court Services), Lt. Mike Sanchez (Patrol), Lt. Scott Cottle (Detective Bureau), Mr. Mike Cody (Legal Advisor), Mrs. Leigh-Ann Slaughter (Communications), and Mrs. Donna George (Personnel).

In round-table fashion, each person provides the Sheriff with a status report on their individual departmental activities. In this way, he is fully briefed on current conditions and concerns within the agency. This includes ongoing investigations, policy and personnel changes, major crimes, drug arrests, high profile cases, and conditions at the Summit County Jail. These meetings usually last 30-60 minutes but may go as long as 90 minutes to 2 hours in some cases, depending on the prevailing circumstance. Occasionally these meetings are held at the Summit County Jail 2nd floor Training Room.

10:00 Following the Staff Meeting, or earlier on those days when there isn't one, Sheriff Barry will meet with his Executive Assistant, Ms. Denise Carter. Ms. Carter updates the Sheriff on a variety of matters, including requests for meetings from news media, private business, and the public at large. She will remind him of events he needs to attend, and presents documents that require his signature. Ms. Carter assists the Sheriff in prioritizing his busy schedule to accommodate as many people and events as he can. On a typical day, he will reply to 40 or more emails, a dozen texts, and ten phone calls.



Continued



11am to noon - Sheriff Steve Barry has many obligations that involve his lawful duties, his position as a county official, and his role as representative of the agency through its many community programs. Because of this, on any given day, he will attend a wide variety of gatherings at various locations throughout the county. He serves on many boards of government, and frequently discusses critical issues with county, city, township, or village officials. He has always been active in school safety programs.

1:30 to 2:30 - On any given day, the Sheriff can attend a DARE or Safety City graduation for children, host a luncheon or picnic for our senior community members, meet with students fulfilling an obligation for a school or civic project (like obtaining their Eagle Scout badge), join the Easter Bunny at Children's Hospital, speak to a group of CEO's, or serve on one of the many committees he is obligated to attend.



3:30 to 5:00 - Sheriff Barry usually arrives back home, depending on his evening schedule. If he is teaching, speaking at a public forum, attending a law-enforcement academy graduation, or meeting with his deputies, this will dictate his evening. If able, he will relax an hour or two while home, possibly eat, shower, and change clothes before leaving the house somewhere between 6:00 and 7pm to attend these events.



6pm to 8pm - A few nights a week, when he doesn't have any evening activities scheduled, the Sheriff will review documented activities of his deputies and when warranted, will write letters of commendation or appreciation to his employees. He routinely monitors the agency's social media platforms like Facebook and Nextdoor, and will post comments or personally reply to citizen interests or concerns. The Sheriff will usually shut down his computer a little after 11pm, but that doesn't mean he's out of communication.

From 11pm-7am, all Command Texts will be transmitted to the Sheriff's cell phone in real-time. These texts inform him that one of our specialized units (SWAT, Bomb Squad, Crime Scene Investigation, Crash Team) has been summoned somewhere in Summit County. And in case you're wondering how the Sheriff stays awake through his many long days – he's a McDonald's coffee junkie, and usually consumes 4 to 6 large cups each day.

Sheriff Steve Barry began his career with the Summit County Sheriff's Office in 1979 as a Special Deputy (reserve). He then graduated from the Ohio Peace Officer's Training Academy in 1982, and became a full-time Deputy Sheriff in October of that year.

Steve Barry's entire law enforcement career has been with the Summit County Sheriff's Office – an undeniably proud and distinguished accomplishment spanning nearly 40 years.



KEEPING TRACK OF SUMMIT COUNTY SEX OFFENDERS



On the day a sex offender is released from prison, he or she has exactly seven days to register their home address with the Summit County Sheriff's Office. After that, they are required by law to report to us on a set schedule, known as periodic verification. Depending on the nature of their crime, some will need to check in once a year for ten years. Others must do it every three months for life. But with 1,100 sex offenders currently living in Summit County, who is keeping track? That's the job of the Sheriff's highly motivated Sex Offender Unit.

This specialized Unit is comprised of five classification deputies and one civilian employee who work at the Summit County Jail and maintain the registry and compliance of every offender. The Unit's primary detective is Bill McKinney, who investigates these cases and makes arrests – over 100 in the past 18 months.

Every sixty days, the Sex Offender Unit will perform what is called a 'random verification check' in which thirty names are drawn at random from the 1,100 on record. Recently, Channel 19 News reporter Shannon Houser and videographer Devin Lamb followed detectives Bill McKinney, Mike Coughenour, and Larry Brown as they searched Summit County checking to make sure that offenders were living at their registered address. (Click on photo to watch.)



When nobody answers the door, detectives will leave a bright green notice in plain sight – instructing the person to contact the Detective Bureau. In some cases, the offender is away at work so they will call later that day and confirm they are still living at that address. Occasionally, detectives will arrive at a residence that is clearly abandoned with no utilities or sign of habitation. In this case, detectives will contact next door neighbors and ask if the offender has been seen. If not, the offender is clearly out of compliance and the neighbor will be asked to complete and sign an affidavit so a warrant can be issued. The penalty for failing to comply as required by law is a stiff one, as a judge can send the offender back to prison for another three to six years.

As of this writing, about 100 offenders report they are homeless, but they are still obligated to provide an address. As Detective McKinney explains, "In this case, they must use a specific street corner such as the intersection of Arlington Road and Archwood Avenue. I will go out with a 'failure to verify public notice' with their name and photo on it, and place four copies – one on each street corner – in an attempt to notify the person. If they fail to contact us within a week, then a warrant will be issued for their arrest." Detective McKinney said he has written twenty-five warrants so far this year.

Of course, sex offenders move from place to place like anyone else, so every day detectives will check the National Offender Watch website to see who is moving into Summit County and be on the lookout for them. As you can see, keeping track of all these offenders is a daily priority at the Sheriff's Office.

***Want to know if there is a registered sex offender living near you?
Click on this box to see the Summit County Sheriff Sex Offender Registry.***

SHERIFF BARRY BRINGS CODE 3 TO SUMMIT COUNTY

'If only I had seen the signs,' is a regret often spoken by grieving parents after the death of their child from a drug overdose. But what if there was a way to 'show you the signs' so you'd know what to look for, before it's too late? Well, that's the purpose of the Code 3 trailer – a traveling exhibit that teaches parents the early warning signs of drug abuse in their home.



The inside of the Code 3 trailer looks like a typical teenager's bedroom, but look closer, and there are plenty of clues that a youngster is doing drugs.



A pair of sneakers with the laces removed from one shoe points to its use as a tourniquet when injecting drugs intravenously. An ear swab with cotton removed from one end, or an unsmoked cigarette with its filter missing indicates someone is using these materials to screen or purify their drugs.

Kitchen spoons with scorch marks hidden in the sock drawer, straws cut short to snort drugs, remnants of tiny baggies universally used in the drug marketing trade, bits of aluminum foil or bottle caps with strange residue having been cooked in them – all point to the common tools and techniques of someone fully entrenched in abusing drugs.

These clues, and many more, will become obvious once they have been pointed out to you by Code 3 personnel who travel with the trailer and conduct the tours. Mr. Joseph Abdalla, Director of Operations and Mr. Kevin Barrows both accompanied the trailer when it visited Summit County earlier this year. Both gentlemen are former drug unit officers with many years of experience in teen drug abuse. The exhibit is based on factual information gathered from former addicts, their parents, and emergency medical staff who shared what they saw after responding to the bedrooms of teens who had overdosed.

But most kids don't start off planning to become a drug addict - it usually begins with an innocent introduction. As Summit County Sheriff Steve Barry explains, "Teenagers often get their first exposure to drugs by way of prescription medication proscribed after a sports-related injury. Opioids are so addictive, that youngsters are hooked before they know it. When prescription painkillers are exhausted or unavailable, they turn to heroin, which is cheap and easy to get now. Continued abuse of other drugs just escalates from there."



Sheriff Barry adds, "That's why the Code 3 trailer is an important training tool. If we can teach parents what to look for, they can get their kids the help they need before it's too late."

CODE ³

The Code 3 exhibit is co-sponsored by RALI (Rx Abuse Learning Initiative) and was brought to Summit County at the request of the Sheriff. It has proven to be popular with communities wherever it's been, and is thus in high demand. We hope to bring it back for a return visit in the near future.

THIS MONTH Wyatt learns the hard way **NOBODY LIKES A THIEF**

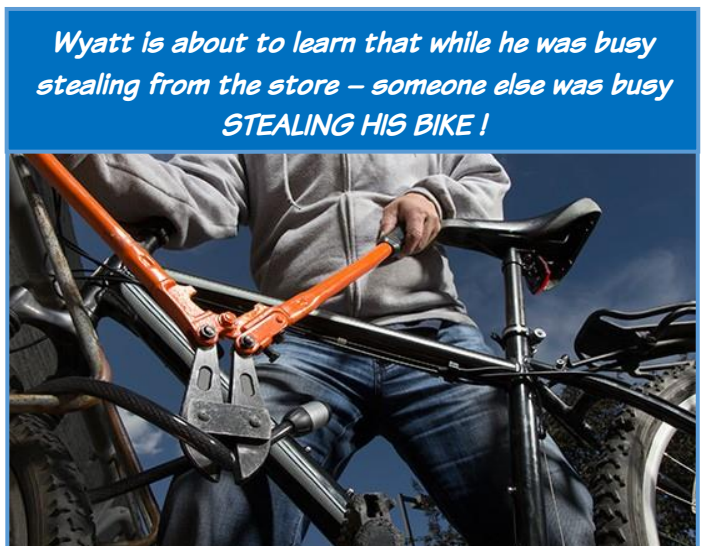
Wyatt takes a ton of photos with his cell phone.



So he rode his bicycle to the nearby store . . .



Problem was - Wyatt didn't have enough money.



Wyatt is about to learn that while he was busy stealing from the store - someone else was busy **STEALING HIS BIKE!**

REMEMBER KIDS - STEALING FROM OTHERS IS WRONG. NOBODY LIKES A THIEF!