



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY

February is Black History Month; a month-long celebration of the positive influences made by African Americans and Blacks on our society.

As Summit County Prosecutor, I have fought for justice and safety for all. I also understand there are members of our community who struggle to break free of the systematic racism which exists in our society.

That's why I decided to form a group of Prosecutor's Office employees to look at issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion. The Ambassadors for Equity and Social Justice have been meeting every other week via Zoom since August.

In honor of Black History Month, The Ambassadors for Equity and Social Justice would like to recognize Carter G. Woodson (December 19, 1875 – April 3, 1950) who is known as the "Father of Black History."

In February of 1926 Mr. Woodson launched the Celebration of "Negro History Week" the second week of February. It was chosen because it coincided with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Mr. Woodson believed education and increasing social and professional contacts could reduce racism.

In 1976 President Gerald Ford decreed Black History Month a national observance. Ford said in his message, "we can seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

To combat racism, many voices have cried out with words which have become famous quotes. From generations to generations, the words placed on the hearts of men and women will live on forever.

"When you control a man's thinking you do not have to worry about his actions." **Carter G Woodson**

"America will never be destroyed from the outside, if we lose our freedoms it will be because we have destroyed ourselves from within." **Abraham Lincoln**

"No man can put a chain about the ankle of his fellow man without at last finding the other end fasten about his own neck." **Frederick Douglass**



"We have learned to fly the air like birds and swim the sea like fish, but we have not learned the simple art of living together as brothers." **Martin Luther King Jr.**

"Prejudice is a burden that confuses the past, threatens the future and renders the present inaccessible." **Maya Angelou**

"For there is light if we are only Brave enough to see it, if only we are Brave enough to be it." **Amanda Gorman**

Each month you will find an article in this newsletter written by the Ambassadors which discusses issues of equity and social justice. If you have any suggestions or comments, please contact our Community Outreach Prosecutor, Tania Nemer at tnemer@prosecutor.summitoh.net.

As always, stay safe.

Sherri B. Walsh



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IN THE COMMUNITY

For the past year we have been living with the restrictions brought on because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our ability to go out and shop has been significantly impacted.

Hoping to save some money, or even make some, lots of people have shifted to buying and selling online. Going through apps like OfferUp, CraigsList, and Facebook Marketplace can provide discounts on goods and services, and maybe even help you make a buck or two.

But danger could be lurking on the other side of an online sale. You're buying or selling something to a stranger, and potentially meeting up in an unfamiliar location—and then the other person pulls out a weapon and robs you. The Summit County Prosecutor's Office has prosecuted a number of cases where a potential buyer or seller was assaulted or robbed.

There are ways to be safe AND buy, sell, or trade online.

Follow these simple tips to be safe:

- Don't have the buyer or seller come to your home. Also, don't go to the buyer or seller's home.
- Track the buyer or seller's online profile before agreeing to meet. Typically you will find reviews of that person.
- If you do meet someone to buy or sell something, take someone with you. Never go alone.
- Meet during the daytime.



Many law enforcement agencies have what's called "Safety Zones" where buyers and sellers can meet and safely complete their transaction.

Those "Safety Zones" are typically outside a police department building and under 24-hour surveillance.

Our office is reaching out to all local law enforcement agencies to track all local "Safety Zones".

Once we have a complete list, we will include it in our newsletter as well as our website and social media outlets.

WAYNE DOYLE DENIED PAROLE

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office works hard to hold criminals accountable. We fight for victims at parole hearings if the prisoner is still a threat to the community.

Recently, Chief Counsel Brad Gessner spoke to the Ohio Parole Board during a hearing to determine if Wayne Doyle should be released from prison early.

In 1986, Doyle was convicted in the horrific death of 7-year-old Charlie Wright. Doyle severely beat Charlie and his brother David. Charlie's injuries were so severe that a part of his intestine ruptured. He also had several broken bones which were in various stages of healing. Charlie endured tremendous pain and suffering and died nearly 20 hours after the initial assault.



By a 6-4 vote, the Parole Board reversed an October 2020 panel recommendation that Doyle be released from prison early.

The Parole Board also decided Doyle must serve his entire 40 year prison sentence and will not be allowed to file for parole prior to the completion of his sentence.

At the hearing, representatives from the Prosecutor's Office and Charlie Wright's family successfully convinced Board members to reconsider their original decision for a number of reasons, including lack of a responsibility for the crime, a poorly conceived release plan and the discovery that Wayne Doyle had not taken part in any prison programming for 11 years. Doyle's primary release plan was to move to Oregon to live with the daughter of an inmate he met in prison. The Parole Board also approved the Prosecutor's Office request to deny Doyle any future parole considerations and to complete his entire 40-year prison sentence.

Charlie's brother, David Strittmatter, also testified at the hearing, and urged the Parole Board to not release Doyle early.



AVERY'S CORNER

SCAM ALERT

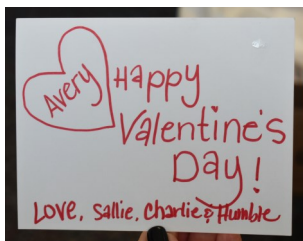
Going to the doctor is not fun. But I'm glad I went.

I recently visited my friends at Eye Care for Animals. That's Dr. Bobofchak. He and his staff take good care of me.

Dr. Bobofchak said I had something on my eye which wasn't supposed to be there. The doctor was able to remove it and said I did a good job!



I love the month of February. It has one of my favorite days—Valentine's Day!



It's great to see hoomans treat others with love and kindness.

And I even got a present from my puppy raiser Sallie!

Sallie is helping raise a new puppy to be a helper just like me. His name is Humble.

They sent me a nice toy. It's a cute piggie! It's soft and makes lots of noise. Maybe a little too much noise. You can watch me play with it by going to <http://bit.ly/3aGWWE>

I love to look my best. That's why I love to visit the hoomans who make me look pretty.

That's Reem. Reem is a groomer at Pet Supplies Plus. They take real good care of me and make me look nice.

Reem gave me a big hug and did such a nice job. It was fun meeting Reem.



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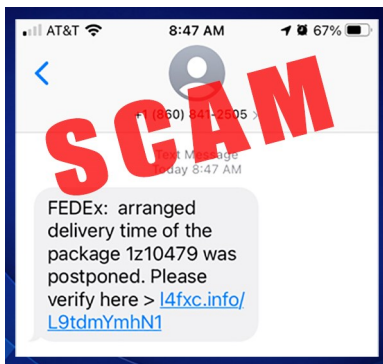


The coronavirus pandemic is giving thieves ample opportunities to try and steal your money, and potentially put your safety at risk.

Many of us have bought items online or had groceries delivered to limit our contact with others and limit our risks of getting COVID-19. And we're notified through text messaging about the status of our order.

Now scam artists are using text message phishing attacks with a new twist. People are reporting getting text messages stating a delivery is on its way and asking if someone would be home. The format often mirrors a text you could receive from a legitimate delivery business.

If you respond, someone calls asking if you'll be home for the next hour. A delivery person then arrives with a package and states there is a small fee which can only be paid with a credit card.



Once they have your credit card information they take off with the ability to charge whatever they want to your card.

If you do get this text, but are unsure if it's real, always double-check using a second source. For instance, if you're expecting something from Amazon, go to the Amazon app or website to see if you are, in fact, getting a delivery.

Also, delete the text and never click on the link provided.



Help Us Go Green!



Contact Melanie Hart at hart@prosecutor.summitoh.net to receive this newsletter by e-mail

A TRIBUTE TO AKRON POLICE OFFICER EDWARD STEWART

Each month, we use this space of our monthly newsletter to thank a law enforcement officer for their outstanding work in one of our cases.

This month, we would like to pay tribute and say thank you to a man who dedicated his life to our community. Akron Police Officer Edward Stewart.

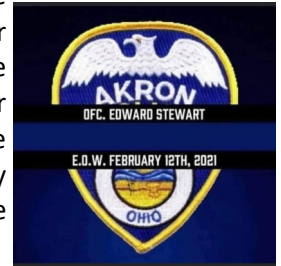
Officer Stewart died earlier this month at the age of 60 following a lengthy battle with COVID-19 related complications.

In our interactions with him, Officer Stewart was always courteous, professional, and dedicated to making the Akron area a better and safer place to live.

According to the Akron Police Department, Officer Stewart, or "Stew" as his colleagues affectionately called him, started his career with Akron Police in 1993.



After graduating from the police academy, Officer Stewart served as the transport wagon officer for the Akron Police Department, where he, by choice, served for his entire career.



Officer Stewart was the epitome of a public servant, caring deeply about the community he served.

Officer Stewart was laid to rest Saturday February 20.

We join with the Akron Police Department and extend our deepest condolences to Stew's fellow officers, and his friends and family.

Thank you for your service and your commitment to Akron!

HELPING SENIORS

As we all try to navigate our way through the COVID-19 pandemic, there are parts of our community hit harder by the virus.

Not only are seniors at a higher risk of dying from COVID, they have also been significantly impacted by the isolation caused from people limiting their interactions with others to help prevent the spread of the disease.



The Summit County Prosecutor's Office recently teamed up with the City of Hudson Senior Advisory Committee to supply local seniors with supplies to help keep them busy.

We donated playing cards, puzzle books, and pens to distribute to the community.

Thank you to everyone who was involved to provide desperately needed supplies to some of our most vulnerable citizens.

DATING VIOLENCE

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. According to the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, approximately 1.5 million high school students across the country experience physical abuse from a dating partner.

Even more surprising, about 75 percent of parents have never talked with their children about domestic violence. Now is the time. You can raise awareness about dating violence and break the cycle of domestic violence.



If you are a victim of domestic or dating violence, you have options. Call the Battered Women's Shelter of Summit and Medina Counties at 330.374.0740 to develop a safety plan.

You can also call the Summit County Domestic Violence hotline at 888.395.4357. The National Resource Center on Domestic Violence has more info as well www.nrcdv.org.

WHY I'M A PROSECUTOR

DEBORAH WATKINS

"Why I'm A Prosecutor" gives our prosecutors the chance to tell their own story and why being a prosecutor is so important to them.

Deborah Watkins, Chief Assistant Prosecutor of our Child Support Enforcement Agency, talks about why being a prosecutor is so important to her.



• WHY DID YOU BECOME A PROSECUTOR?

The reason I am a prosecutor is because I have a chance to make an impact on our Child Support program. My goal is to make the Child Support program better for the families we serve.

I've always wanted to be an attorney. Attorneys can have a strong impact on families no matter the circumstance. Although I originally wanted to be involved in corporate law, I got my start in child support about 20 years ago and am so proud to help the families of Summit County.

• WHAT'S THE BEST PART OF BEING A PROSECUTOR?

The best part of being a prosecutor, specifically in our Child Support Enforcement Agency, is working with and supporting parents as they support their children. Working with parents and our community partners to solve problems is one of the best parts of the job.

• WHAT'S THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF BEING A PROSECUTOR?

There can be multiple answers in our child support cases. In child support, we are always working with a number of people, including both parents, with everyone having their own beliefs on what should happen.

You can watch Deborah's complete video on our website, Facebook and YouTube page.

AMERICAN HEART MONTH

February is American Heart Month. First started in 1964, American Heart Month teaches us the ways we can help reduce our risk of heart disease.

Here are a few signs you may be at risk for heart disease.

- **High blood pressure.** Millions of people in the United States have high blood pressure, even those in their 40s and 50s. If you are one of them, make sure to have it under control.
- **High cholesterol, diabetes, and obesity** are all conditions that can increase your risk for heart disease. If you have any of these risks, work on eating healthy and getting some physical activity a few times a week.
- **Vaping.** Over 35 million adults in America are smokers and thousands of young people are picking up the habit daily. If you vape or smoke, do your best to quit or cut down. It's what's best for your health.



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