



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH
DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

As Summit County Prosecutor, I have fought for justice and safety for all. When criminal cases come to my office, we follow the letter of the law as it pertains to the facts and evidence. Facts do not lie. Malcom X once wrote, "I'm for truth, no matter who tells it. I'm for justice, no matter who it's for or against."

Recent events across the country have made me take an even closer look at how our community is responding as well as how my employees feel. More than 200 people work in the Summit County Prosecutor's Office and I want to make sure that our office is inviting, inclusive, and diverse.

Recently, I announced the formation of a new group within my office to look at issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion. The group, "Ambassadors for Equity and Social Justice", is made up of over a dozen employees.

Group members discuss how we can do a better job of respecting and working with each other. It's part of my overall effort to have

the best work environment in Summit County!

The group, which meets every other week, takes a close look at current events that impact Summit County and the Prosecutor's Office. Members have reviewed articles and videos in order to have a better understanding on diversity issues. Our group has open discussions about implicit bias and we are taking the time to have these really hard conversations about social justice, equity, and race.



The goal is to understand each other, to discuss our fears for our society and our children, and to be Ambassadors to the rest of our office.

My hope is not only that our committee's voice be heard throughout our office, but also throughout our county. When people work together, solutions are found.

Former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Byron White once wrote: "Prosecutors have the obligation to convict the guilty and to make sure they do not convict the innocent. They must be dedicated to making the criminal trial a procedure for the ascertainment of the true facts surrounding the commission of the crime." Prosecutors have an obligation to present the truth, no matter what.

Crimes occur around the country every day. Prosecutors are the ones who represent justice. Prosecutors are the sole voice for crime victims. In doing our jobs, we embrace the fight for victims.

We must work together to better understand each other and make Summit County a better and safer place to live.

Stay safe,
Sherri B. Walsh



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VICTIM CONFERENCE PROSECUTOR HIGH 5!

The Summit County Prosecutor’s Office is committed to giving crime victims a voice. As part of that mission, Prosecutor Walsh has sponsored the annual “Responding to the Needs of Victims’ conference to assist local law enforcement, attorneys, victim advocates, and others in understanding how the trauma of a crime impacts victims.

On September 17th and 18th, the Summit County Prosecutor’s Office is holding the 5th annual “Responding to the Needs of Victims” conference—but with a slight change. This year’s conference will be held virtually via zoom over two days.

From 2pm to 4pm on Thursday, September 17, Jennifer Landhuis will discuss identifying and responding to stalking victims, as well as investigation strategies and behavior. Jennifer has been an advocate and educator on the issues of stalking, domestic violence, and sexual assault for over 20 years.

On Friday, September 18 from 10am-12pm, Anna Nasset will also discuss stalking and sexual assault and present information on safety planning among other topics. Anna is a stalking survivor.

The free training will be conducted via ZOOM and is beneficial for all audiences, but especially those who work with victims of crime. Continuing education credits are available for counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists by the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board.

To register for the 5th annual “Responding to the Needs of Victims” conference, follow this link to Eventbrite:

<https://bit.ly/2YByXzp>

A big congratulations and Prosecutor High 5 to the Prosecutor’s Office Community Outreach Prosecutor Tania Nemer!

Tania received the Ohio State Bar Association’s Women in Profession Section’s “Nettie Cronise Lutes” Award during the OSBA’s annual meeting.



The award, named after the first woman to practice law in Ohio, recognizes women lawyers who demonstrate a high level of professionalism and open doors for other women and girls.

As the Office’s Community Outreach Prosecutor, Tania coordinates events and presentations with local organizations as part of the office’s mission to make our community a safer and better place to live.

Among her many duties, Tania also oversees our Citizen’s Academy and is involved in safety speeches and our FREE Women’s Self-Defense classes.

Thank you Tania for your hard work and dedication in making a difference in the lives of the citizens of Summit County.

Also a big shout out to everyone who is working from home, including Prosecutor’s Office employees.

Recently we asked employees to share their best tips for staying organized and being productive while working from home (we know it’s not easy!)



Here’s hoping they help you too!

- Make a checklist of what needs to be done.
- If you can, add music to your day. It could give you a nice “pick-me-up”.
- Have a dedicated work space at home.
- Plan ahead!

Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh
Presents

Registration Link:
<https://bit.ly/2YByXzp>

Fifth Annual Conference
Responding to the Needs of Victims

Featuring Nationally Recognized Experts
Jennifer Landhuis & Anna Nasset

The participants will learn about identifying & responding to stalking, investigation strategies, stalking behaviors, cyber stalking/use of technology and safety planning with survivors. This training is beneficial for all audiences.

Jennifer Landhuis (M.S.) is the Director of the Stalking Prevention, Awareness, and Resource Center (SPARC), an AEquitas initiative. As Director of SPARC, she oversees the multi-faceted programming on stalking, including the development of resources and publications as well as training and technical assistance.

Anna Nasset is an emerging international speaker on the subject of stalking and sexual assault. Anna is a survivor of stalking, by a man she does not know for the last 8-11 years. She turned her experience into that of speaking, outreach and activism.

Thursday, September 17, 2020
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Friday, September 18, 2020
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Conference will be a virtual meeting shown through Zoom Video Conferencing

CLEs and CSWMT Board
-Pending Approval -
CEUs - MCST09208065



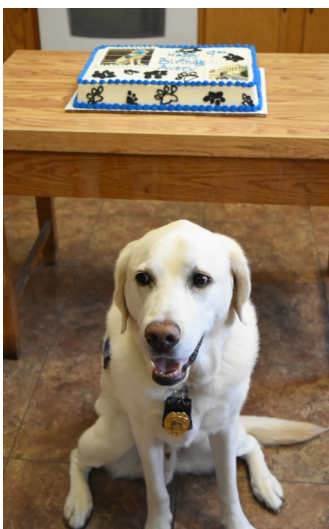
AVERY'S CORNER

August is my favorite month of the year! That's because my birthday is in August.

I even got to have cake!

This year I turned nine years old. I've also worked in the Summit County Prosecutor's Office for seven years.

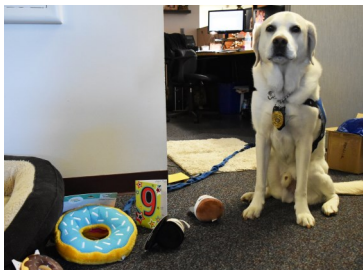
I love what I do and I get to meet so many special hoomans. And I love to help them!



I also got a very special gift from my puppy raisers. Sallie gave me lots of new toys.

I was so happy to get the box.

Thank you so much for the birthday wishes and gifts!



I can't wait until my next birthday. It's too bad that I have to wait an entire year!



I also got to meet a new friend.

That's Winston. His hooman works at my office.

He's cute, but he grabbed one of my toys.

I wasn't real happy about it but he was so nice that I let him play with it.



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AMAZON SCAM!

The COVID-19 pandemic has really taken a toll on a lot of people. Our lives have been flipped upside down with many people losing their jobs or having their hours cut back.

It's also an opportunity for criminals to strike, as they prey on our emotions. Many of us have become so focused on just getting by that we can become susceptible to being scammed.

Since many of us have also cut back on our trips to the store, we are buying a lot of items online—from sites such as Amazon.

Now an older scam is resurfacing, using Amazon to lure you in.

You might have received something similar to the image on the right. The letter claims that your Amazon account has been locked because of use by unauthorized devices. Other notifications say your Amazon account is frozen because the billing information does not match the information on file.

It looks legit—but it's all fake. Scammers hope you aren't paying attention and click on the link they provide. You'll then be asked to enter your account information as well as some personal information. Once you do that, the scammers have all they need to take your money.

It's difficult to keep track of all the scams. The one thing you should always do is trust your gut. If something doesn't seem right, check into it. Don't just click on a link, whether it's from Amazon, a utility company, or even your bank.

Also, check with family, friends, and neighbors to see if they've heard of a scam. You can also do a google search to see if the notice involves a scam.

And you can always reach out to the company, utility, or bank to get the real information.



Your Amazon account has been locked

Dear customer,

We have locked your Amazon account because our service detected two unauthorized devices. Our service has protected your account from someone who has accessed your Amazon account from another devices and locations.

Before someone can change your account information or order some item with your credit / debit card bill. For your security, we have locked your Amazon account.

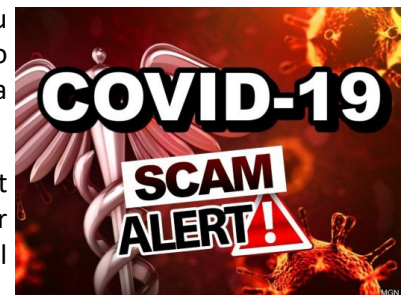
To continue using your account again, we advise you to update the information before 24 hours or your account will be Permanently locked.

[How do I unlock my account?](#)

You need to verify your Amazon account and complete the data information that has been printed on your account when you first registered.

[Verify your account](#)

Amazon service



SummitCountyProsecutorAveryII

Help Us Go Green!

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



TOP COP COPLEY POLICE OFFICER JEFFREY HARRIS

Each month this space is dedicated to thanking a local police officer who went above and beyond in their investigation of a case which is prosecuted.

This month is a little different. We want to send out a big THANK YOU to an officer who went above and beyond to help a Summit County citizen.

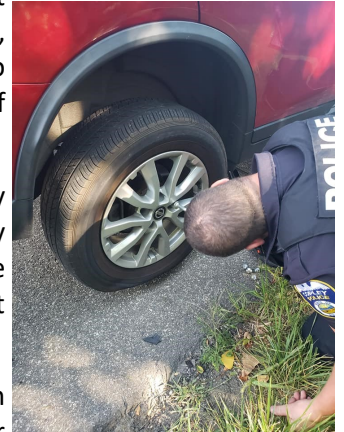
This month's TOP COP is Copley Police Officer Jeffrey Harris.

Jennifer Harper wrote on her Facebook page that she was stranded on a busy highway because of a flat tire. She called police asking for assistance in creating a safe zone as she waited to have her tire attended to.

Officer Harris arrived and asked if there was a spare tire and jack



available. Once he got the spare, Officer Harris went on to change the tire. Jennifer was on her way in no time! But before driving off, Jennifer was able to take a few pictures of the officer's work!



Jennifer goes on to say that she was very appreciative and grateful for the officer's actions and he went out of his way to help.

We want to join Jennifer in thanking Copley Police Officer Jeffrey Harris and the positive impact he made on a Summit County resident.

Thank you Officer Harris!

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

BLACK BUSINESS MONTH

The United States Congress passed the 19th Amendment to the Constitution granting women full and equal voting rights on this day in 1920. Every year on August 26, we commemorate this right with National Women's Equality Day.

On July 30, 1971, New York Representative Bella Abzug presented a bill designating August 26th as Women's Equality Day.

On that date in 1971, rallies, celebrations and political debate filled the country. By 1973, Congress passed a joint resolution declaring Women's Equality Day to be observed on August 26th of each year. Every year since, each President declares this day as Women's Equality Day commemorating the certification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution.



August is National Black Business Month.

Historian John William Templeton and engineer Frederick E. Jordan Sr. founded National Black Business Month in August 2004 to bring focus to the 2.6 million African-American businesses.

Among cities, New York has the most black-owned businesses in the U.S. followed by Atlanta.

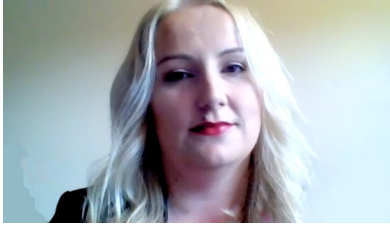
The highest ratio of black-owned businesses is in Washington, DC where 28-percent of all businesses are black-owned. The growth of black-owned franchise businesses has been explosive. In 2012 over 30-percent of franchise businesses were black-owned, up from about 20-percent five years previous.



WHY I'M A PROSECUTOR

UNA LAKIC

"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.



Assistant Prosecutor Una Lakic, who works in our Civil Division, talks about why being a prosecutor is so important to her.

• WHY DID YOU BECOME A PROSECUTOR?

I became a prosecutor to help our community. Moving to America from Bosnia at the age of 12 and not knowing the language or the American culture really made me understand the importance of educating the community on different safety tips. For example, my parents will often get those IRS scam calls asking for their social security numbers. They would get scared and want to provide the information. I had to remind them that those calls are scams and that they should just hang up. People like my parents are susceptible and greatly benefit from the safety tips our office provides. I love that as prosecutors we can help the public by prosecuting crimes but also help in

preventing people from possibly becoming victims of certain crimes.

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

The best part about being a prosecutor is the responsibility that we have to the public. We hold people accountable, help victims of crime, educate the public on different ways they can protect themselves.

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

The most difficult part about being a prosecutor is seeing just how ugly and scary this world can be. We many times see the worst in people. I am grateful for the way our office handles our cases and fights for justice.

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

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

Each August, law enforcement and local communities come together for the annual National Night Out Against Crime. This year is obviously different, with the COVID-19 pandemic cancelling these popular gatherings.

However, the safety message delivered during these events is vitally important, especially since more children will be at home with education being done virtually.

More people working and learning from home could mean more people are out and about in your neighborhood. Instead of the school playground, young children might be in their front yards or riding their bikes more throughout the day.

One of the best ways to avoid being a victim is to just pay attention. Being more aware of your surroundings allows you to see any potential danger.

Also, it's ok to look at people as they walk by you. Don't stare, but pay attention; specifically how they look and what they're wearing. Make a note if someone seems out of place.

These short, common sense reminders will hopefully keep you and your family safe.



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