



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH

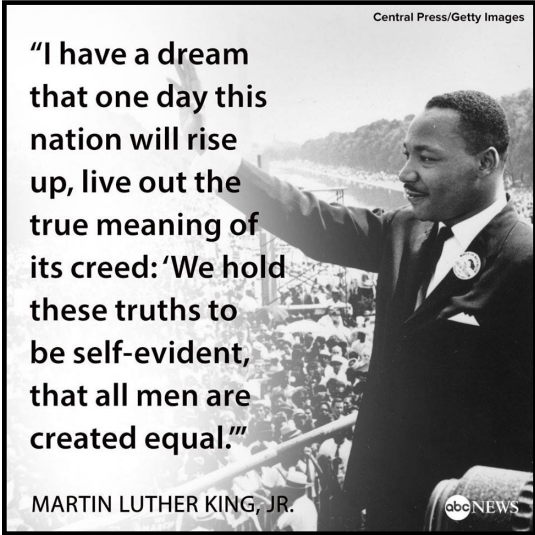
CONFRONTING RACIAL INJUSTICE

For the past several weeks, our country, and our community, has dealt with the reality of racism head-on. We've all seen the horrific video of a Minneapolis Police Officer kneeling on the back of George Floyd's neck for nearly nine minutes while Floyd begged that he couldn't breathe. That was wrong and cannot happen in the country that is known for its freedoms. Protests have followed, as have frank discussions about race relations.

Law enforcement officers in Summit County have such an important job. They advocate for their community and strive to make Summit County a better and safer place to live. They do not want to be judged by those officers who break the law.

As Summit County Prosecutor, I want you to know that I am here with eyes and ears open. I see you, hear you, and will raise my voice with you. We must stop racial injustice and the time to act is now. **Black Lives Matter.** I want to assure you that I remain committed to bringing justice to

victims of crime and I will continue to hold people accountable, regardless of their race or occupation.



I have had conversations with my staff about how we can better address this issue. A number of employees responded, providing their own experiences and concerns about how their family is treated. Some of those responses were heartbreaking. Mothers told me stories of their pain, anguish, and fear of raising a black family in America. The color of your skin should never be a determining

factor in how you are treated, and it will not be in this office.

It has been nearly 60 years since Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have A Dream" speech where he dreamed of a time where his four children will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

This dream must become a reality.

I will continue to work hard to make sure that our community is safe and secure for all individuals. I have initiated conversations with community leaders to make sure our actions bring about change. Alone we can only do so much. But together we can do so much more. I do not have all the answers. But I do know that together we can and will make a difference.

We are at a crossroad. Now is the time for action and change.

As always, stay safe.

Sherri B. Walsh



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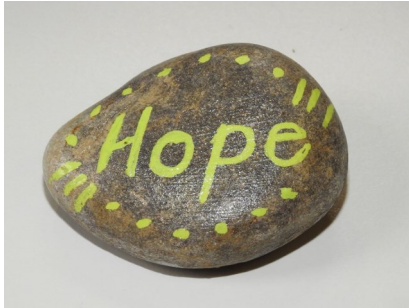


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POSITIVITY GROUPS

We've all had to deal with some heavy topics lately. Many of us are looking for ways to spread positivity and thoughtfulness in our community. Social media, especially Facebook, can help do that.

A public group, started by a Summit County woman who works in the Prosecutor's Office, is spreading joy and love through Northeast Ohio. It focuses on simple ways to brighten a person's day.



The group is called Northeast Ohio Rocks and has over 200,000 members. Members paint rocks with positive messages and images and hide them at random places throughout Northeast Ohio. The groups mission is to act as a "rainbow of kindness to create smiles and chain reactions of kindness."



Members can paint rocks with inspiring messages and leave them "hidden" in plain sight in common walking areas throughout Northeast Ohio. If you see a rock, pick it up and hide it again. Some of them have great shapes and colors.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/northeastohiorocks/>

We have even made these types of inspirational rocks when we meet with crime victims.

Facebook and other social media sites have lots of positive groups where people can work on their hobbies, or find new ones!

And if you don't see a group you want to join—start your own!

We're all looking for something positive to do so why not share it with others.



ARRIVE ALIVE

Restrictions related to the COVID-19 Pandemic are beginning to be scaled back. That means many of you are planning on having gatherings for the upcoming July 4 holiday.

We hope you are still going to impose six foot distancing and will do your best to stop the spread of the virus. However, we also want to stop drunk drivers from hitting the road.

Our Arrive Alive program is back. Beginning Friday July 3, 2020 at 6pm and running through Sunday July 5 at 6am, we are offering

ARRIVE ALIVE

SPONSORED BY :

SHERRI BEVAN WALSH
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR

Celebrate the holidays responsibly!
Have a designated sober driver or use **Arrive Alive**.

CALL **City Yellow Cab**
Mention Arrive Alive
for a FREE ride home
in Summit County
(up to \$65)
330.253.3141



Use **lyft**
for a FREE ride
home
in Summit County
USE CODE: SCP0742

The life you save may be your own!

A FREE Ride Home in Summit County
From 6pm Friday, July 3rd to 6am Sunday, July 5th

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING SPONSOR:



Summit County Sheriff
Steve Barry

get a free ride home in Summit County up to \$60.

The life you save might be your own.





AVERY'S CORNER

I hope you all are doing well and staying safe. I've been able to spend more time outside but still social distancing.



I did get to see my friends at Stow-Kent Animal Hospital. It was my regular trip to get my teeth cleaned.

They were so nice and gentle. I was happy to see them. I hope I made them smile as much as they made me.

I recently got to spend some time with these cute kittens (yes, cats can be nice too!). They live with my hooman neighbor.



They are so tiny. We just sat down and hung out together.

I'm glad I was able to spend time with my animal friends who are different than me.

I do miss my hooman friends. I'm happy to see them when they come to my office.



I recently sent them cards saying how much I missed them and that I hope they're doing ok.

Maybe I'll see them soon.

Follow Avery II on Facebook at:

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FACEBOOK RV SCAM

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office works hard to keep the community safe and inform people of the latest safety alerts and scams.

We've talked about the Grandparents scam, the Jury Duty scam, the IRS scam, and many others. Now the COVID-19 Pandemic has provided criminals another opportunity to scam you out of your money.

Here is something new we just learned about. Many families have been forced to change their vacation plans. Now, instead of flying to some exotic location, families are looking to stay closer to home. That has lead to a big jump in RV rentals. But watch out before you click on a link.

You may have seen a Facebook post about winning a free recreational vehicle. You might have even shared the post yourself.

Well guess what. It's fake!

According to local media reports, even RV companies have taken to social media to say it's a hoax.

These scams are called "Facebook Farming".

Someone creates a Facebook page announcing a fake giveaway. After getting a lot of likes, they turn around and sell the page on the internet's black market. The new owner of the Facebook page then pulls all links to the giveaway, using the site to promote their own information. If you liked or commented on the first page, they now have your information.

To avoid these scams, check out the company's Facebook page. If it's just a few weeks, or even days old, it's most likely a scam. Also, be wary of Facebook pages with just one post. Those are most likely fake as well.



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

Help Us Go Green!



TOP COPS

BARBERTON POLICE OFFICER SEAN PALKO NOMINATED BY ASST. PROSECUTOR ASHLEE JAMES

The Summit County Prosecutor’s Office handles a variety of situations and cases, including felony criminal charges, civil cases, juvenile cases, and child support cases.



Working with Summit County Juvenile Court, the Juvenile Division fights for children who are neglected or abused. We help find safe places for children who are found to be living in dangerous situations. That is why I nominate Barberton Police Officer Sean Palko as this month’s TOP Cop.

Summit County Children’s Services received a referral that two children, ages one and four, were living in a drug filled home. Officer Palko was one of the officers dispatched to the home.

Investigators found clear signs of drug use and drug paraphernalia. Nearly 100 hypodermic needles as well as a number of burnt spoons, and tourniquets, all within reach of the children.

Officers then place the children in the custody of Children’s Services.

During a hearing, Officer Palko did an excellent job explaining the welfare check, providing specific details of when officers arrived and what action they took.

Officer Palko’s memory of the incident, as well as his patience during the video conference, was vital in helping us find a solution to ensure the children’s safety.

Their mother is currently working hard on her sobriety and the County’s Family Reunification Program to get her children back.

As this month’s TOP COP, Officer Palko receives a gift card from Jerzee’s Sports Grille. Thank you Jerzee’s For supporting local law enforcement.

**Great job and congratulations
Officer Palko!**

JUNETEENTH

Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States.

Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19th that Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free.



This was two and a half years after President Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation - which had become official January 1, 1863. With the surrender of General Lee in April of 1865, and the arrival of General Granger’s regiment, the forces were finally strong enough to influence and overcome the resistance.

Today Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and emphasizes education and achievement.

ALZHEIMER’S AWARENESS

June is Alzheimer’s and Brain Awareness Month. It’s also a good time to remind you about our Take Me Home program.

Take Me Home is a secure database, accessible only by law enforcement, which is used to help reconnect caregivers with people who have a difficult time communicating and may wander from home. This includes people who may suffer from Alzheimer’s disease.



The database contains a photo, contact information, and identifying characteristics if a person is reported missing or is found wandering.

If you know of someone who could benefit from this program, please contact Leslie Knoblauch at knoblauch@prosecutor.summitoh.net, or 330-643-2800.

WHY I'M A PROSECUTOR

RICK RALEY

"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. It also helps the public better understand how we approach our jobs.

Assistant Prosecutor Rick Raley who works in our Criminal Division, talks about why being a prosecutor is so important to him.



• WHY DID YOU BECOME A PROSECUTOR?

Being a prosecutor is something I've wanted to do for a long time. My parents taught me about justice and seeking fairness. I liked researching, writing, and arguing and law is a natural fit for those things. In high school I knew I wanted to go down this path. A mentor of mine once told me that as a prosecutor, at the end of the day, you can go home and know that you fought for your community. I've been very honored that I am a prosecutor here and in other offices in the state.

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

The best thing about being a prosecutor is that it is the most unique part of our legal profession. Unlike any other lawyer, I have an obligation to be fair to the other side. I have to give them all the evidence in the case, even if it's bad for my case. I represent our community and the rule of law. It's

challenging but worthwhile

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

The most difficult part of being a prosecutor is tied to the best part. The uniqueness of our job means it can be lonely at times. When you're fighting what's right, that doesn't mean it's always popular.

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

PROSECUTOR HIGH 5!

We like to celebrate the positives in our office. Over the past couple of months we've asked employees a number of different things, including sharing one thing they've learned as a result of the COVID-19 and thanking a co-worker who goes above and beyond in getting work done.

The responses were fantastic, and inspiring. In explaining what they've learned during the pandemic, one employee said she never realized how much she took for granted. It changed her perspective and allowed her to stop and appreciate the simple things.

Many employees learned new skills, or re-learned old ones—all while continuing to work remotely.

Many employees have also stepped up to help others.

They provided examples of their co-workers providing their expertise and kindness to others through this difficult time.

A few have pulled double duty to help.

A big thank you and way to go to all Prosecutor's Office employees.



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