



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH

DRINK RESPONSIBLY—ARRIVE ALIVE

2020 is nearly three months old, and wow, a lot has happened! The biggest thing recently has been the concern over COVID-19, the strain of the Coronavirus.

Local, state, and national health officials are urging people to limit their face-to-face interactions with others. Many sporting events, concerts, schools, and conferences have been closed or cancelled to help slow the spread of the potentially deadly disease.

Long-running traditions are also being shut down, including the annual St. Patrick's Day parades in Akron and Cleveland.

I want to assure you that my office is doing everything we can to keep the community safe. We are following the guidelines provided by local, state, and national health officials.

I also understand that not everyone will heed these warnings, especially with one of the most popular social events coming up—St. Patrick's Day. If you do go out, please be safe, and remember not to drink and drive.

To help prevent people from getting behind the wheel impaired, my office is once again launching our Arrive Alive program.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, more than 10,000 people died in alcohol-related crashes in the United States last year. I want people to know they can go out and celebrate and not put the community at risk by driving drunk.

I launched Arrive Alive in Summit County during the July 4 holiday in 2018. The program has been offered during major holidays, New Year's Eve, St. Patrick's Day, July 4, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

Since it started, close to 2,000 people have used the program to get home safely. We work with LYFT and City Yellow Cab to provide free or discounted rides home anywhere in Summit County. Arrive Alive provides a safe alternative so people who drink alcohol don't put themselves or others at risk.

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)



Use **lyft**
for a FREE ride home
in Summit County
(up to \$20)
Use Code
SCPOIRISH20
(Limit 300 one-time use
codes)

330.253.3141

The life you save may be your own!

A FREE Ride Home in Summit County
(cab rides up to \$65 & LYFT rides up to \$20)
From 6am Tuesday Mar. 17 to 6am Wednesday Mar. 18

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING SPONSOR:



Summit County Sheriff
Steve Barry

Thank you to Summit County Sheriff Steve Barry for co-sponsoring Arrive Alive during the St. Patrick's Day holiday. Thank you as well to everyone who has helped with Arrive Alive since the beginning.

I pledge to you that I will continue to fight to keep Summit County a safe place for people to live and work.

Stay safe,

Sherri B. Walsh



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co.summit.oh.us/prosecutor



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IN THE COMMUNITY

March might come in like a lion and go out like a lamb, but our commitment for safety never wavers.

Close to 50 people attended our most recent FREE Women's Self-Defense class at the Tallmadge Rec Center. They learned vital and potentially life-saving information, including breaking away from someone if they grab your arm.



A special thank you to **Tallmadge Mayor David Kline** and Michael Rorar, Director of the Tallmadge Service Department for their help in the event.



We are working on scheduling our next FREE Women's Self-Defense class.

Community safety is a top priority for Prosecutor Walsh. She speaks to as many groups, organizations, and businesses as she can to promote awareness and safety.

Recently, Prosecutor Walsh spoke to employees of Akron's EarthQuaker Devices. EarthQuaker produces pedals for electric guitars and employs over 50 people.



Prosecutor Walsh emphasized awareness and provided general safety information for many of the company's employees.

If you would like to have someone from the Prosecutor's Office speak to your company or business, contact our Community Outreach Prosecutor Tania Nemer at tnemer@prosecutor.summitoh.net or call 330.643.2800.

February also has one of our favorite events, the WAKR Senior Luncheon.

Close to 300 people attended the event at St. George Fellowship Hall in Fairlawn. They learned about the best ways to be heart healthy and also met with Prosecutor Walsh and picked up information about staying safe.



We were happy to meet new friends and see familiar faces! Thanks to everyone who stopped by our table to either say hi or to grab our office brochures and items.



The next WAKR Senior Luncheon is May 13th, also at St. George. Hope to see you then!



February is Heart Healthy Month. Summit County Prosecutor's Office employees wore red to show support for heart health and to raise awareness about heart disease.

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office was also honored to take part in the Goalgetta Academy — a program which provides local kids with goals to help them succeed. Thanks for all you do!!





AVERY'S CORNER

CRIME & PUNISHMENT

February is one of my favorite months. I see lots of humans celebrating love and making sure they have fun and stay healthy.

That's why I was so happy to once again join the Kenmore-Garfield High School Valentine's Day dance. Kids with the school's Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) program put on a dance for fellow classmates who have disabilities. I just love to cut a rug! Everyone was so nice. I'm glad I was able to be a part of it.



February was fun because I got to spend time at one of my favorite places—Akron's Haven of Rest.

I got to meet a bunch of new friends, including some very small humans. They were fun to play with and were very nice. It was fun to have them pet me when I was lying down.



I got to meet a nice little human. That's Rylie. She sat with me while a family member graduated from a very special program. She was very nice and I liked spending time with her.



Follow Avery II on Facebook at:
www.facebook.com/SummitCountyProsecutorAveryII



Help Us Go Green!

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



GUILTY VERDICTS

February 2020

Congratulations to the following assistant prosecutors for obtaining convictions at trial.

- Felicia Easter Jeff Puthoff
- Elisabeth Jackson Dan Sallerson
- Joe McAleese Jennie Shuki
- Joe Mittica

TOUGH PROSECUTIONS

These defendants will be locked up for a lengthy period of time thanks to our dedicated Assistant Prosecutors:

- Sonny Howard, 26**
 - Murder
 - **LIFE IN PRISON**
- Daniel Lee Jones, 47**
 - Murder
 - **LIFE IN PRISON**
- Christian Pittman, 24**
 - Murder
 - **LIFE IN PRISON**
- Donovan Conley, 48**
 - Unlawful Sex w/Minor
 - **20 YEARS IN PRISON**
- Daniel Shmigal, 28**
 - Murder
 - **LIFE IN PRISON**



TOP COPS

AKRON POLICE OFFICERS MARK SEMBER & ANTHONY TRIMBLE NOMINATED BY ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR RIMMA AVANESYAN

Investigating and prosecuting domestic violence situations can be some of the most difficult cases the Summit County Prosecutor's Office handles. For police, domestic violence incidents can also be among the most dangerous.

These are situations where people who live with each other, love each other, and possibly have a family, are now torn apart by violence.

Victims may not want to prosecute, fearing a loved one will be sentenced to prison and potentially break up the family.

It takes a certain amount of care and caution when responding to these incidents. That is why I nominate Akron Police Officers Mark Sember and Anthony Trimble as this month's TOP COPS.

Officers Sember and Trimble responded to a domestic violence incident between a boyfriend and girlfriend. The officers maintained a calm demeanor as they separately interviewed the suspect and victim to get each side. That allowed the officers to obtain vital details as to what



happened. Those interviews led to the arrest of Dionte Palmer.

During an argument, Palmer grabbed his girlfriend by the throat and started to strangle her. The victim was able to break free and call 9-1-1. Palmer eventually pled guilty and was placed into the court's domestic violence program and ordered to not have contact with the victim.

All officers involved in this case were professional, gave each side a fair opportunity to be heard during their investigation, and took the time needed to make sure the defendant's child was cared for while the defendant was in custody.

As this month's TOP COPS, Officers Sember and Trimble get gift cards to Waterloo. Thank you Waterloo for your continued support of law enforcement.

Great job and congratulations Officers Sember & Trimble!

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

March is one of our favorite months of the year! We celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Plus, the first day of spring falls in March.

March is also the month where we celebrate Women's History Month. The month is dedicated to bring attention to the sometimes overlooked contributions of women



to our history. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first proclamation declaring the week of March 8 as National Women's History Week. Six years later Congress expanded the event to include the entire month.

Summit County has a number of influential women who are leaders in the community, from County Executive to all 10 Common Pleas Court Judges. Also included is Prosecutor Walsh, who is the longest serving female prosecutor in Summit County history.

COVID-19 CONCERNS

In an effort to help stop the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus), please remember this advice from the Summit County Public Health Department.

- Limit Public Interaction
- Thoroughly Wash Hands
- Avoid Touching Your Face
- Stay Home If Sick
- Cover Cough or Sneeze
- Clean & Disinfect Frequently

CORONAVIRUS SYMPTOMS, OR SOMETHING ELSE?

COLD OR ALLERGIES:

- ITCHY EYES
- STUFFY NOSE
- SNEEZING

FLU OR CORONAVIRUS:

- FEVER
- FATIGUE
- BODY ACHES
- COUGH
- WORSENING SYMPTOMS

CORONAVIRUS:

- SHORTNESS OF BREATH
- HISTORY OF TRAVEL
- EXPOSURE



SYMPTOMS AND RISKS VARY FROM PERSON TO PERSON. ALWAYS CHECK WITH YOUR DOCTOR.
Source: CDC, Mayo Clinic

WHY I'M A PROSECUTOR

JEFF PUTHOFF

"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 Jeff Puthoff, who works in our Criminal Division, talks about why being a prosecutor is so important.

• WHY DID YOU BECOME A PROSECUTOR?

I knew I wanted to be a prosecutor mid-way through law school. While in law school I was fortunate enough to clerk at a number of places where I was able to interact with state's attorneys. After watching them in court, I knew that was what I wanted to do. I originally went to school for fine arts because I love to draw, but I knew that's probably not what I wanted to do professionally. I've always been interested in reading, writing, and public speaking and knew going to law school was for me.



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

The best part of being a prosecutor is helping people. We typically work with people who are in the most vulnerable spots they've ever been in. A lot of awful things happen to people. We help them navigate the criminal justice system. That sense of doing good in the community is overwhelming.

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

The most difficult part of being a prosecutor is not getting the results you want. We have to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that someone committed a crime. There are times where we just can't get to that threshold. Our role is to seek justice and sometimes the outcome is not what the victim wanted at the end of the day.



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

PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE CITIZENS ACADEMY



Have you ever wanted to learn more about the criminal justice system? If so, sign up for our Summit County Prosecutor's Office Citizens Academy. Applications will be accepted through March 27, 2020.

The Academy begins April 1, 2020 and runs once a week for eight weeks. Topics which will be covered range from grand jury proceedings, officer involved shootings and bodycams, child support, human trafficking, victim services, sentencing and much more. Head to <http://bit.ly/2Try8YM> to download the application.

**PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN
WALSH
PRESENTS
2020 CITIZENS
ACADEMY**

"Criminal justice touches our lives in ways that most people might not think about."
- SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

 prosecutorwalsh
  SummitCountyProsecutorOffice

TOGETHER WE THRIVE

Learn how we balance the scales of justice. Be a part of the Citizens Academy! Classes begin April 1, 2020 and cover:

- Ethical Decisions**
- Police Shootings & Body Cams**
- Child Support**
- Sex Crimes**
- Human Trafficking**
- Grand Jury**
- Domestic Violence**
- Gun Violence**

For more information on how to be part of this free program, contact:
Travis Johnson
Community Outreach Advocate
330.643.2794
tjohnson@prosecutor.summitoh.net

Registration ends March 27, 2020

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