



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH

ONLINE SHOPPING SAFETY

Since the Covid-19 pandemic hit, many of us have been forced to stay home. Concern over the spread of the disease meant more and more of us were buying items online.

According to recent studies, Americans spent nearly \$350 million dollars online during the first six months of 2020. That's up 30-percent from the same period in 2019. And those numbers are expected to increase.

The jump in online sales is also giving scam artists and thieves more opportunities. So how do you protect yourself and your packages.

First, remember these tips whenever you're buying something online:

- **Think Before You Click.** Beware of ads encouraging you to click on links. If you see an enticing offer, go directly to the company's website.
- **Do Your Homework.** Scammers love to create fake e-commerce sites. Before you make your purchase, review what others say about the site.
- **Consider Your Payment Options.** Using a credit card gives you more protections than just a debit card.

- **Keep Tabs on Your Bank & Credit Statements.** Always check your accounts for any unauthorized activity. Also, set up alerts so you are notified if your credit card is used without your permission.

Now that you've made your purchase, how do you make sure what you bought actually makes it to you?

We have heard stories where thieves keep an eye out for delivery

trucks. Once the driver is gone, the suspect runs up, grabs the package and is gone in a blink of an eye.

Amazon has secure delivery boxes at centers throughout Northeast Ohio, including Whole Foods locations.

You can also buy a locked, secure mailbox. They aren't terribly expensive and buying one could put your mind at ease.

Also, look into renting a mailbox or locker at a nearby store, such as your local UPS Store.

You might want to install video surveillance cameras at your front door. A security camera serves as a deterrent for criminals by catching them on camera. The video and

pictures give police an edge in tracking down the suspect.

When buying items online, require a signature upon delivery. If your package was left unattended, or even worse, lost, because they didn't follow the protocol, delivery companies could be liable to legal actions. You could also be entitled to a full refund or replacement if you didn't get a proof of delivery when you demand delivery by signature.



More deliveries also may mean unfamiliar people and vehicles in your neighborhood. Keep an eye on slow-moving vehicles or ones that are stopped for a long period of time. The driver could be lost, or possibly searching for an easy target. Call the police if you suspect something suspicious.

My hope is taking these precautions will ease your stress this holiday season and ensure those precious gifts get delivered.

As always, stay safe!

Sherri B. Walsh



facebook.com/SummitCountyProsecutorOffice
facebook.com/SummitCountyProsecutorAveryII

co.summit.oh.us/prosecutor



Follow us on Twitter
[@ProsecutorWalsh](https://twitter.com/ProsecutorWalsh)

IN THE COMMUNITY

CHILD SUPPORT AWARD

The Summit County Prosecutor’s Office continues to send out a big thank you to essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Office provided lunch to two more Summit County locations. The first lunch was delivered to our friends at Pebble Creek Health Care Center for all their hard work in keeping people in their care safe and healthy. Thank you to **Manny’s Pub, Ray’s Pub, Mr. Zubs Deli, and Prosecutor Walsh.**



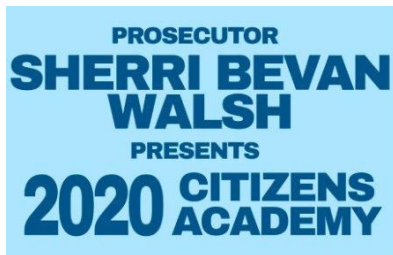
We also had lunch delivered to The Colony Healthcare Center.



It is a small token of our appreciation for all you do!

A big thank you to all who attended the Prosecutor’s Office Citizens Academy via Zoom!

We had about 40 people take part in the 8-week long event, which included open discussions and presentations.



Attendees learned about the Prosecutor’s Office various responsibilities, including how cases are presented to grand jury, as well as certain crimes, trials, and the law.

Plans are underway for our next Citizens Academy. We’ll provide details here and on our social media accounts.



Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh and employees with the Summit County Prosecutor’s Office are always looking for innovative solutions to problems. This is especially true when it comes to restrictions brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

One major concern was how to establish paternity when our offices are closed to the general public. Establishing paternity starts the child support process for half of our cases. It is a vital part of the agency.



In May, Child Support started doing Drive-Up DNA testing to assist parents as well as abide by all health protocols.



The idea was submitted to the National Child Support Enforcement Agency (NCSEA) for its innovative solution to help local families. And the NCSEA selected our program as the most innovative during the agency’s first ever Inspire Event.

“I am so proud of the hard work my team does to help families. This award is in recognition for all the innovative and progressive work happening in my office,” said Prosecutor Walsh. “Establishing paternity is vital to protect important legal rights and privileges, such as inheritance, medical and life insurance benefits, and access to social security and veterans’ benefits.”

TOUGH PROSECUTIONS

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

LaConya Jones, 30

- Rape
- Gross Sexual Imposition
- **LIFE IN PRISON**





AVERY'S CORNER

There is nothing I like more than helping others. That's especially true when it comes to little humans.



This little human is very special to me. She had something bad happen to her. I got to meet her outside in a park! That was fun too. We played and then we sat down and she leaned up against me while I rested on the grass. It was a fun day.

I really like playing with my furry four-legged friends too. This is Cocoa. He lives next door. He's really tiny now but the humans say he's going to get big.



He's so much fun to play with. But he really likes my badge! It distracts him and gives me a chance to rest.

I want to give a special shout out to my good friend Shari. She gave me a new stuffed toy to play with.



It's soft and furry and I can chew on it all the time!

But my humans tell me I need to take it easy on these toys. I chew them up and tear them apart and their stuffing goes everywhere.

But that's the fun part!! I'll try to make this one last.



Follow Avery II on Facebook at:

[www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/SummitCountyProsecutorAveryII)

[SummitCountyProsecutorAveryII](https://www.facebook.com/SummitCountyProsecutorAveryII)



Help Us Go Green!

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



SAFETY KIDS CALENDAR

Since being elected Prosecutor 20 years ago, Prosecutor Walsh has made it her mission to keep the community safe.

As part of that mission, Prosecutor Walsh has sponsored the annual Safety Kids Calendar contest. Each year, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students in Summit County design, draw, and color posters relating to our 12 Rules of Safety. They are:



- Don't Give in to Peer Pressure
- Don't Do Drugs
- Don't Use Alcohol
- Never Play With Guns
- Don't Vape or Smoke
- Safeguard Your Personal Information Online
- Don't Talk With or Go With Anyone You Don't Know
- Say NO to Unwanted Touch
- Never Tell Anyone You Are Home Alone
- Say NO to Gangs
- Stop Bullies in Their Tracks!
- Violence at Home is Never OK!

Typically, the Prosecutor's Office receives around 1,500 posters. However, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, just under 330 posters were submitted from seven different schools.

This year's Grand Prize winner is Lily Headley for her poster telling kids to not give in to Peer Pressure. Congratulations Lily!



Lily, along with the 12 other first place winners, get their poster placed on billboards throughout Summit County each month during 2021..

Thanks to all who submitted—great job!



TOP COPS

AKRON POLICE SGT. ANDREW BOWMAN & LT. MICHAEL MILLER

Each month this newsletter celebrates the great work of our local law enforcement officers who go above and beyond in making our community a safer and better place to live.

We typically highlight officers who work on cases which we prosecute. This month we would like to congratulate officers with the Akron Police Department for their leadership in raising money for local breast cancer organizations.

Sergeant Andrew Bowman and Lieutenant Michael Miller recently received commendations for their role in creating the Pink Patch Project for the department as part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. For a \$10 donation, people would receive either a pink police badge or a pink pin.

The Pink Patch Project raised over \$10,000 for local breast cancer support organizations.

Thank you both for your hard work and dedication to our community!



Great job & thank you!!

ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS

With the weather turning colder, this time of year can be especially dangerous for people who have specific conditions such as Alzheimer's, dementia, and Autism, which may lead them to wander away from home.

November is national Alzheimer's Disease Month. Over five million Americans suffer from Alzheimer's Disease and ranks as the sixth leading cause of death in the U.S.

It's also a good time to remind the residents of Summit County about a unique program offered by the Summit County Prosecutor's Office and the Summit County Sheriff's Office. It's called Take Me Home.

Take Me Home is a secure database, accessible only by law enforcement, which is used to help reconnect



caregivers with children and adults who have a difficult time communicating and may wander from home.

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

Take Me Home began in Summit County in 2007 and currently has nearly 2,000 Summit County citizens registered in the program who would need additional assistance in an emergency.

If you know of someone who could benefit from this program and is not registered, please have them contact Leslie at knoblauch@prosecutor.summitoh.net, or 330-643-2800.

WHY I'M A PROSECUTOR

KEVIN MAYER

"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 Kevin Mayer, who works in our Criminal Division, talks about why being a prosecutor is so important to him.



• WHY DID YOU BECOME A PROSECUTOR?

I became a prosecutor because I was always interested in criminal justice. In fact, I majored in criminal justice in college. I originally planned on becoming a police officer, but the process takes a long time. I even took the exams for the police academy. As I waited, I decided to go to law school. Being a prosecutor was something which aligned with the career I wanted. I have friends who became lawyers and went into civil work, but that never interested me. I've worked as a defense attorney, and now for the past 20 years, I've been an assistant prosecutor.

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

The best part of being a prosecutor is that it is important, exciting, and mentally stimulating. Every day I come to work and there's a new case to review. What we do is so important to the victim and their family as well as the person charged and their family.

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

One of the most difficult things of being a prosecutor is getting people to cooperate. The job is great! You get to review the evidence and interview the people involved. But getting witnesses to come to court to testify is extremely difficult. They sometimes just disappear. That's probably the most frustrating part of being a prosecutor.

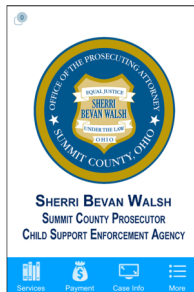
You can watch Kevin's complete video on our website, Facebook and YouTube page.

CSEA VIRTUAL MEETINGS

Meeting a local official face-to-face has been just about impossible because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our offices remain closed to the general public.

But if you have a child support case, a case worker is just a click away. Prosecutor Walsh's Child Support Enforcement Agency is now offering virtual meetings through ZOOM!

The virtual meetings provide a safe way for clients to meet with case managers and get information on their cases. Clients will be able to receive the same level of customer service as if they walked into our office.



To request a meeting, clients have two options to connect with child support case workers.

Call 330.643.2765 and leave a voicemail message. A Child Support representative will then contact the client to schedule the appointment as well as send a link to join the meeting.

Or clients can use the Child Support Customer Service web portal at <https://jfs.ohio.gov/ocs/> to send a message requesting the date and time for a virtual meeting. A link will then be sent out.



Office of Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh

53 University Avenue

Akron, Ohio 44308

330-643-2800

Sherri Bevan Walsh

Summit County Prosecuting Attorney

53 University Avenue, 6th Floor

Akron, OH 44308

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



summitcountyprosecutoroffice

summitcountyprosecutorAveryII



@prosecutorwalsh



@prosecutorwalsh