



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

October is a time of change. Fall is here and the weather is starting to get cooler. The leaves are changing to beautiful colors of red, orange, and brown. Pretty soon, we'll have snow on the ground!

For me, October has a different meaning. October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. One in eight women are diagnosed with breast cancer. I am one of those women.

As a breast cancer survivor, October brings a renewed strength. As each year passes since my diagnosis, I feel stronger. However, I do not want to forget the journey I took in battling breast cancer. I still remember the day I was diagnosed. It was devastating.

The fear I felt when I was told I had cancer was unlike anything I had ever experienced. I never expected to receive that diagnosis so I was in shock. My biggest concern that first day was how I would tell my sons. My youngest son was 13 years old at the time and very aware of breast cancer from the events the kids participate in during the month of October.

At the time of my diagnosis, I had delayed my annual mammogram as I didn't make the time to fit it into my busy schedule. I was sure that because of my delay, my cancer would be terminal. I was fortunate that it was early stage breast cancer. But I still had to undergo two surgeries and almost five months of chemo as well as 30 radiation treatments.

At first, I was worried about the chemotherapy. How sick was it going to make me? What about my hair? Thankfully, I did not get sick from the chemotherapy. And I'm glad because lots of people were so generous with their time in bringing over loads of food!

One very important thing my doctor told me during treatment was to keep moving. Exercise!!!

During treatment, I walked a total of 1,600 miles! Although I did the walking, I cannot take the credit. I had a wonderful support team, many I had never met prior to my diagnosis. They held me up when I was down and pushed me to get out of the house. They were awesome!

As much as I wish I never had cancer, I did learn some significant lessons—knowledge I would never trade.

The most important thing is that when you go through a really tough experience, something

good or useful will come out of it. I have overcome many obstacles during my life. As a result of my breast cancer diagnosis, I am here to urge all women to not delay getting a mammogram. Early detection saves lives.

We are all busy. Whether it's work or family, we are always finding an excuse not to take better care of ourselves. But who will take care of our family when we're gone? Take care of your health—and take care of it now!

I am a survivor—and you can be one too.

As always, stay safe.



IN THE COMMUNITY

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

The COVID-19 pandemic has cancelled many community events, as well as limited our ability to meet Summit County residents face to face.

But that hasn't stopped us from getting out and about—at a safe distance!

Recently, Lisa Holdt, Chief Administrator to Prosecutor Walsh, handed out safety information to parishioners at St. Matthew Catholic Church.



Lisa made sure she was at a safe distance and wore a mask when interacting with those attending the church.



Thank you to everyone involved in working hard to keep our community safe.

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office is sending out a big thank you to essential workers during the pandemic.

The Office provided lunch to the Stow-Kent Animal Hospital for all their hard work in keeping our furry friends (and other pets) healthy and safe. It is a small token of our appreciation for all you do!

Stow-Kent Animal Hospital and Dr. Paroff take great care of our favorite four-legged furry friend—Avery!

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office plans on bringing lunches for other local organizations and businesses who are providing essential services for our community.

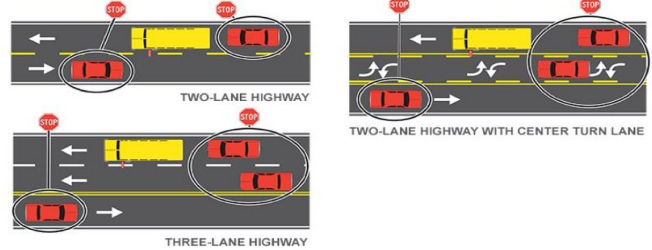


School has been back in session for just over two months. And even though many students are attending school remotely, a number of students are boarding school buses and attending school in person.

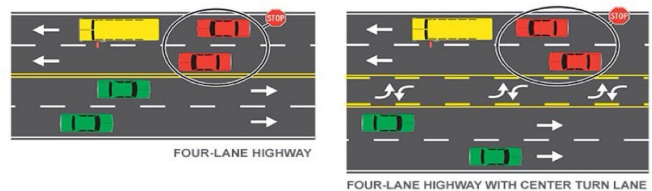
The third week of October is designated as National School Bus Safety Week. Remember these rules when coming upon a stopped school bus with flashing red lights.

When to stop for a school bus in Ohio

On a road with fewer than four lanes, all traffic approaching a stopped school bus from either direction must stop at least 10 feet from the front or rear of the bus and remain stopped until the bus begins to move or the bus driver signals motorists to proceed.



If the bus is stopped on a street with four or more lanes, only traffic proceeding in the same direction as the bus must stop.



Failure to stop for a school bus adds 2 points to your license in Ohio and is punishable by fines up to \$500. You must appear in court and the judge has the discretion to suspend your driver's license for up to one year. A driver who injures a pedestrian while failing to comply with school bus safety laws can face both criminal charges and civil liability. Those liabilities can include the victim's medical expenses, lost wages, rehabilitation, and non-economic damages, such as pain and suffering.

TOUGH PROSECUTIONS

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

Jaysaun Holley, 21

- Involuntary Manslaughter
- Aggravated Burglary
- **25 YEARS IN PRISON**





AVERY'S CORNER

STOPPING SCHOOL VIOLENCE

I love meeting new hoomans—especially little ones.

I met this little one during a recent trip to the park. She isn't much taller than me!

We had so much fun—she told me a few stories and I just sat and listened. Hopefully I'll see her again soon.



I hope everyone is doing well and staying safe and healthy. I'm glad I don't have to wear a mask. But since dog years are like seven years for hoomans, it feels like this has lasted forever!

So I'm here to cheer you up. Let me know if you have any questions about me. I'll answer them with the help of my hooman friends. Head to my Facebook page and leave me a message.



I get lots of messages—like how old am I (I'm 9) and what kind of dog am I (I'm a Golden Retriever/Labrador).

Just go to Facebook and search Avery II and ask me anything!

I was happy my local favorite place reopened—Starbucks!!!

They have the best puppucinos. My hooman says I can't have too many but a treat now and then doesn't hurt!



Make sure you stop by and say hi to them for me—and maybe get yourself a special treat too!



Follow Avery II on Facebook at:

[www.facebook.com/](http://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



Keeping our schools safe is a top priority for any community. But did you know Ohio has a tipline for people to anonymously report threats?

The Safer Ohio School Tip Line is a free safety resource available to all Ohio schools. The tip line is an anonymous reporting system that accepts both calls and texts 24 hours a day.

This tip line allows students and adults to anonymously share information with school officials and law enforcement about threats to student safety—whether that involves a threatened mass incident or harm to a single student.

Things to report to the tip line include (but are not limited to):

- Bullying incidents;
- Withdrawn student behaviors;
- Verbal or written threats observed toward students, faculty or schools;
- Weapon/suspicious devices on or near school grounds;
- Gang related activities;
- Unusual/suspicious behavior of students or staff;
- Self-harm or suicidal sentiments; and
- Any other school safety related concerns.

Ohio
SCHOOL
SAFETY
CENTER

Safer Ohio
School Tip Line

844.723.3764

Report concerns for student safety

Every tip can remain anonymous. School safety analysts may ask for additional information, but the caller can remain secret or leave his or her contact information for later follow-up.

Calls or texts to 844-SaferOH (844.723.3764) are answered by analysts within Ohio Homeland Security. If action is needed, the analysts immediately forward information to local school officials, law enforcement agencies and the Ohio School Safety Center (OSSC) for action and follow up.

Ohio
SCHOOL
SAFETY
CENTER

SPEAK UP
SAVE LIVES

By calling or texting the statewide tip line at **844-723-3764** you can anonymously report anything that is suspicious or endangering you, your friends, or your school.

Safer Ohio School Tip Line
Phone Number: 844-723-3764
Website: saferchools.ohio.gov

TOP COP

BATH POLICE DETECTIVE RICHARD MUNSEY NOMINATED BY ASST. PROS. RIMMA AVANESYAN

Many times, cases which come to the Summit County Prosecutor's Office involve more than one police department. That means officers from one department will have to work with officers from other departments.



Collaboration is key—and why I nominate Bath Police Detective Richard Munsey as this month's TOP COP.

Det. Munsey was investigating a robbery at the Pet's Pajamas. The defendant, Brandon Taylor, stole a puppy worth over \$1,700. Det. Munsey, along with other Bath PD officers, worked to get this puppy back. They spent a considerable amount of time searching for the suspect, contacting nearly a dozen agencies.

About a month after the theft, Taylor led Akron Police on a chase in a stolen vehicle. After crashing into another vehicle and a pole, Taylor ran off. Akron Police eventually caught Taylor and discovered he had multiple arrest warrants.

Det. Munsey interviewed Taylor, who admitted he was the one who stole the puppy as well as the vehicle he was caught driving.

Although the stolen auto case was not assigned to Bath Police, officers went the extra mile to work collaboratively with the Akron Police Department.

Det. Munsey worked closely with prosecutors and even reviewed Taylor's phone calls from jail, where Taylor continued to admit he stole the puppy and the vehicle.

Taylor was indicted on several charges connected to the two separate cases and was ultimately sentenced to three years in prison.

Bath Police Officers Steven Wolf, Kevin Moats, and even Police Chief Vito Sinopoli assisted! Thank you all for your dedication and hard work.

Great job & thank you!!

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

As a strong advocate for victims, the Summit County Prosecutor's Office does everything it can to end the cycle of violence. The office has several highly trained prosecutors dedicated to assisting domestic violence victims. Our office handles approximately 300 intimate partner felony domestic violence cases each year.

The statistics can be overwhelming. On average, 24 people per minute are victims of rape, physical violence or stalking by an intimate partner in the United States — more than 12 million women and men over the course of a year.

Domestic violence does not discriminate. People young and old can either be victims or witness domestic violence. In the U.S. one in four women and one in seven men age 18 and older have been the victim of severe physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime.



Also, one in 15 children are exposed to intimate partner violence each year, with 90 percent actually witnessing the incident.

This monthly awareness campaign began over 30 years ago, but many victims still live in fear and silence. Summit County offers many resources to help victims.

Prevention begins with education. The Summit County Prosecutor's Office has provided community education to highlight the importance of prosecuting domestic violence related crimes. You can help stop the cycle of violence.

The Battered Women's Shelter of Summit and Medina Counties is a great resource. The agency's 24-hour crisis hotline is 888.395.HELP (4357) for Summit County and 877.414.1344 for Medina County.

WHY I'M A PROSECUTOR

JAMILA MITCHELL

"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 Jamila Mitchell, who works in our Criminal Division, talks about why being a prosecutor is so important to her.



• WHY DID YOU BECOME A PROSECUTOR?

I decided to become a prosecutor after my mom was killed in a car crash 20 years ago. It happened one month before I was to enter law school. After meeting with the prosecutor who was handling the case, I knew I wanted to find a profession where I could help people. As we were trying to come to terms with my mom's death, the prosecutors were working hard on my mom's case, trying to seek justice. It was nice knowing we could work on putting the pieces back together while they were working to get justice.

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

The best part of being a prosecutor is working for an office whose sole job is seeking justice. Every minute, every hour, every day you put into a case, it means something to someone. I go home and I feel like I've accomplished something every day.

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

The most difficult part of being a prosecutor is knowing you've given everything you have and you've done your very best and still did not get justice. To know a victim has been brave and resilient enough to come forward and report what happened—it can take your breath away. You sometimes feel like you've let them down.

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

ADOPT A SHELTER DOG

October is Adopt a Shelter Dog Month. ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) sponsors this event to promote the adoption of dogs from local shelters.

According to the ASPCA, approximately 3.3 million dogs enter shelters every year.

In 1981, the American Humane Association founded Adopt A Dog Month in response to the growing number of dogs and puppies entering shelters every year.

Along with the need for shelters and adoptions, spaying and neutering help curb the rise in unwanted pets, too.

For more information on adopting a shelter dog, click on the Summit County Humane Society website—www.summithumane.org/,



They schedule visits and have procedures in place to promote healthy adoptions for families and individuals.

Of course, donations and volunteers are always welcome. Dogs love to be walked, played with and loved even if they haven't found their forever home. During Adopt a Shelter Dog Month, visit, volunteer, donate and adopt!

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