



**FROM THE OFFICE OF  
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR  
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH**

**A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH**

# ***KIDS SAFETY WARNING***

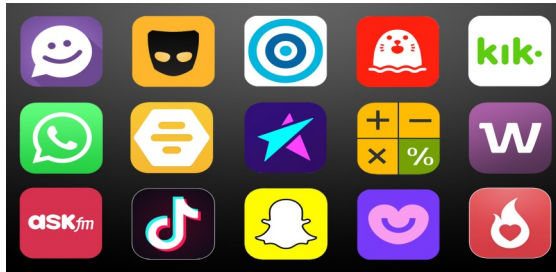
The holiday season is upon us. For many it's an opportunity to take time off from work and school and gather with friends and family. That also means many children could be home alone, unsupervised, and free to explore.

I've spent much of my 20 years as Summit County Prosecutor providing ways to help people stay safe. But now, with technology at our fingertips, it is so difficult to know the difference between what is helpful and what can be harmful. And it's even harder to know what is on your kids' phone.

Predators use a variety of tools to lure their victims. A 22-year-old Florida man was recently arrested in connection with the sexual assault of a 10-year-old girl. Investigators say he met the girl through SnapChat.

Here are 10 apps parents should monitor on their kids' phones:

**Snapchat:** One of the most popular apps. Users think they can send a photo or video and it will disappear. Recent features allow users to view content for up to 24 hours. Snapchat also allows users to see your location.



voicemails, as well as make calls and video chats.

**Skout:** Location-based dating app. While users under 17 years old are unable to share private photos, kids can easily create an account with an older age.

**Tiktok:** App used for creating and sharing short videos. With very limited privacy controls, users are vulnerable to cyber bullying and explicit content.

**Kik:** Allows anyone to contact and direct message your child, sometimes anonymously. Kids sometimes use Kik to bypass traditional text messaging features. Kik gives users unlimited access to anyone, anywhere, anytime.

**Calculator%:** One of several secret apps used to hide photos, videos, files, and browser history.

**Hot or Not:** App encourages users to rate other users' profiles, with the focus on physical appearance. It also allows users to check out people in their area and chat with strangers.

**Whatsapp:** This is a Popular messaging app that allows users to send texts, photos,

**Meetme:** Dating social media app that allows users to connect with people based on geographic proximity. The app's users are encouraged to meet each other in person.

**Holla:** The app's makers admit it's an "addicting" video chat app. It allows users to meet people all over the world in just seconds. Reviewers say they have been confronted with racial slurs, explicit content, and more.

**Whisper:** Anonymous social network that promotes sharing secrets with strangers. It also reveals a user's location so people can meet up.

Even mainstream social media apps like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram can be dangerous if not used properly. Just remember to pay attention—and be safe!



*Sherri B. Walsh*

# IN THE COMMUNITY

As we say goodbye to 2019, please remember to ring in the new year safely.

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office is once again launching our Arrive Alive program. We are offering FREE rides home during the Christmas and New Year's holidays.



We are teaming up with LYFT and City Yellow Cab to offer FREE rides home within Summit County in an effort to keep drunk drivers off the streets.

The picture is of **Prosecutor Walsh** during the Thanksgiving holiday clothes drive held by the Kisling, Nestico, & Redick law firm. Nearly 200 people took advantage of our free rides during the Thanksgiving holiday.

A special thank you to **Kisling, Nestico, & Redick, Roetzel, Burdon & Merlitti**, and **Bevan & Associates** for sponsoring our Arrive Alive program.

As the holidays approach we want to remind people to be safe.

Several dozen people attended our FREE Women's Self-Defense class at the Barberton Active Adult Center. They learned about the best ways to get away from an attacker and minimize their chances of becoming a crime victim.



Remember these simple tips if you go out holiday shopping:

- Try to shop during daylight hours. If you shop at night, take a friend or family member.
- If possible, do not carry a purse or wallet. They are the prime targets of criminals in crowded shopping areas.
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.

**Prosecutor Walsh** was in Fairlawn, spreading the word about safety to members of the Fairlawn City Women's Club.

Several topics were discussed, including avoiding scams, what to do if a stranger knocks at your door, and how to stay safe during the holidays.



Thank you to everyone who attended the event.

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office provides safety information to a wide **range of people**.

**Assistant Prosecutor John Galonski** is giving safety pointers at our most recent Senior Safety Fair in Green.

A special thank you to Summit County Sheriff Steve Barry, Sgt. Mike Walsh, and Director of Strategic Media Paul Matulavich for their assistance.



We also love speaking with younger people—and potential future prosecutors. **Chief Counsel Brad Gessner** went back to school for the annual "Tell Tale Heart" program with students at Hudson Middle School.

The students learned what goes into prosecuting a case and related that to Edgar Allen Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart". Mr. Gessner presented a real-life case involving a Summit County man who admitted to killing his mother and brother at their Hudson home.

Poe's story is of a man who went insane after killing a friend and burying the body under the floor of his room. The character believes he still hears his friend's beating heart, which eventually drives him crazy.





# AVERY'S CORNER

# ARRIVE ALIVE!

I was very thankful to help some humans last month. I sat with them as they waited to go to court.

I think they all had something really bad happen to them.

I'm glad I was around to help.



The Summit County Prosecutor's Office is re-launching Arrive Alive for the Christmas & New Year's Eve holidays.

We are providing FREE rides home through either City Yellow Cab or LYFT for Christmas & New Year's Eve. The information is below and on our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages.

If you drink, make sure you use a designated driver or our Arrive Alive program.

The life you save may be your own!



I also got a chance to meet a very good friend of mine.

I hope he knows I've been really good this year!!



## 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  
**SCPOXMAS19**  
(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 6pm Tuesday Dec. 24 to 6am Friday Dec. 27

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS:



The Law Firm of Burdon and Merlitti



Follow Avery II on Instagram at:

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# Happy Holidays!



Help Us Go Green!

Contact Melanie Hart at [hart@prosecutor.summitoh.net](mailto:hart@prosecutor.summitoh.net) to receive this newsletter by e-mail



## TOP COP

### FAIRLAWN DET. DAVID ZAMPELLI

#### NOMINATED BY ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR SEEMA MISRA

Many of the cases we prosecute are difficult. We see the worst of humanity and the horrible things one person can do to another. Thankfully we have dedicated law enforcement officers who work with us to find truth and justice.

One of those officers is Fairlawn Detective David Zampelli. Det. Zampelli's work on a recent case helped us secure a conviction and justice for the victim.

The case involved defendant Christopher Norris. On December 2, 2019 the 37-year-old pled guilty to raping a 14-year-old he knew and was sentenced to six years in prison. If not for Det. Zampelli's work, it would have been extremely difficult to get a conviction.

Det. Zampelli's compassion when working with the survivor and her family was unmatched. His attention to detail helped keep the survivor and family informed. The survivor of this assault reported what happened months after the incident. Despite the delay in reporting, Det. Zampelli Started By Believing. Det. Zampelli's skill and training were obvious during the investigation and his questioning of the defendant.



Det. Zampelli was able to lock the defendant into a confession. That confession was vital as it corroborated the statement from the survivor of the assault.

Had it not been for Det. Zampelli first believing the victim and second zealously and skillfully investigating her allegations resulting in a confession, we would not have been successful in prosecuting the defendant –

who ultimately pled guilty

Det. Zampelli's tenacious drive when investigating crimes led to not only a conviction in this case but has helped solve numerous crimes. Fairlawn's Police Chief adds that Det. Zampelli is a role model for younger officers in the Fairlawn Police Department.

As this month's TOP COP, Det. Zampelli receives a gift card to TGI Friday's. Thank you TGI Friday's for your support of law enforcement.

**Great job and congratulations  
Det. Zampelli!!**

## PROTECTING YOUR PACKAGES

The term "Porch Pirates" has become popular these days. It refers to criminals who run up to people's homes and grab delivered items. There are ways you can protect yourself and your packages.

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

Look into renting a mailbox or locker at a nearby store, such as your local UPS Store or even Amazon Locker.

Another way to make sure the item you bought online gets to you is have it delivered to your workplace. That could reduce the risk of the package being stolen.

Look at installing 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 legally responsible. 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.

# WHY I'M A PROSECUTOR

## VONSHEAY BROWN

Over the past two years, the Summit County Prosecutor's Office has provided insight into how we approach our jobs by producing videos highlighting our assistant prosecutors. "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.



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

The best part of being a prosecutor is being able to help people. I work with child abuse cases, so for me it's not only being able to help a child be in a safe environment but it's also being able to help a parent get the treatment or services they need to reunite

with their child.

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

The most difficult part of being a prosecutor is we cannot help everyone. No matter how many hours you put into a case, the result you work for is not always the result you get. Unfortunately not every treatment or solution works.

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

Vonsheay Brown, an assistant prosecutor in our Juvenile Division, tells us why being a prosecutor is so important to her.

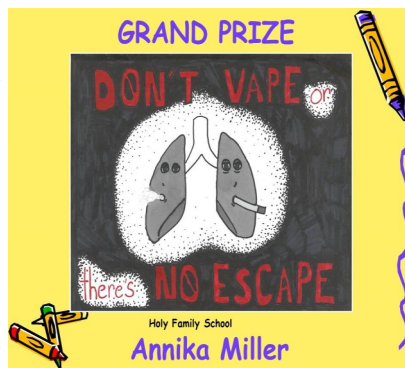
### • WHY DID YOU BECOME A PROSECUTOR?

I became a prosecutor because I always envisioned myself helping people. When I was younger I was told that I debated and argued well so that was my initial love for the law. I always wanted to be an attorney but my passion for being a prosecutor came later in life.

# SAFETY KIDS CALENDAR

As 2019 comes to an end, the Summit County Prosecutor's Office celebrates the achievements of local students with our annual Safety Kids Calendar contest. Each year 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students from Summit County participate by designing original artwork depicting one of our 12 safety rules.

This year, Annika Miller, an 8th grader at Holy Family School, won the grand prize for telling kids that "once you vape, there's no escape". Annika's poster focused on the first change in a safety rule in the annual contest. Kids are now being told not to smoke or vape. Annika's poster will be on the front cover of the 2020 calendar! For her work, Annika received a \$150 Amazon gift card.



Congratulations Annika and everyone who participated. All 54 winners received Amazon gift cards, and first place winners of each of the 12 safety rules will have their designs inside the calendar representing each month. First place winners will also have their posters placed on billboards throughout Summit County.

We received over 1,200 posters from 15 schools throughout Summit County!

Thanks again to all the students and schools who took part in our contest and congratulations to all the winners.

We look forward to more great ideas next year!

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