



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

## A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH PREVENTING TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

My office sees all types of crimes. Of the approximate 4,000 felony cases we handle each year, only a handful get the attention of local media. Those are the high profile murders, rapes, sexual assaults, and robberies.

Some of the more difficult cases involve violence in the home. Domestic violence is defined as violent or aggressive behavior within the home, typically involving the abuse of a spouse or partner. But domestic violence is much more than just a definition. It can be a devastating situation, and breaking away is difficult. Many people are not prepared to handle domestic violence.

However, there is one aspect of domestic violence which may not receive a lot of attention. February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. According to the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, approximately 1.5 million high school students

across the country experience physical abuse from a dating partner.



February is...  
**Teen Dating Violence  
 Awareness Month**

Even more surprising, about 75-percent of parents have never talked with their children about domestic violence. Now is the time. You can raise awareness about dating violence and break the cycle of domestic violence.

Teen dating violence (TDV) is defined as a pattern of abuse or threat of abuse against teenaged dating partners, occurring in different forms, including verbal, emotional, physical, sexual and digital.

We prosecute many cases where teens are involved in abusive relationships. Charges vary depending on the age, injuries sustained by the victim, and whether a weapon was used. A person could be charged with a

misdemeanor and face diversion, or charged with a felony and face prison time.

The same advice applies to teens as it does adults.

If you are a victim of domestic or dating violence, you have options. Call the Battered Women's Shelter of Summit and Medina Counties at 330.374.0740 to develop a safety plan.

You can also call the Summit County Domestic Violence hotline at 888.395.4357.

If you are a parent of a teenager, make sure you speak with them about teen dating violence and abuse. There are several websites which offer toolkits for parents to help start the conversation.

Start with the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence—  
[www.nrcdv.org](http://www.nrcdv.org).

Starting the conversation will help break the cycle of violence.

Stay safe,

*Sherri B. Walsh*



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

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# IN THE COMMUNITY

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office started 2019 off right by providing safety information to people throughout the county.

**Prosecutor Walsh** spoke with seniors at Danbury Senior Living in Cuyahoga Falls. Prosecutor Walsh discussed many ways seniors are targeted by criminals and how to avoid becoming a victim of crime.



Here are some simple tips to minimize your chances of becoming a victim:

- Remember to always be aware of your surroundings. We all get caught up in our daily lives, but don't let that distract you from keeping an eye on those around you.
- Trust your gut. If you have a bad feeling about another person or location, ask someone for help. Also, ask the store manager to have someone escort you to your vehicle. It is always better to be safe than sorry.
- An easy way to avoid phone scams is to not answer a call from a number you do not recognize. Yes, those calls can be annoying. But answering the call and speaking with the caller tells the potential scammer that it is an active line. Interacting with the caller also puts you on what's called a "suckers list". This list is then sold to other telemarketers and possible scammers. If the call is important, the caller will leave a message.
- No organization, company, or government agency will ask that you make a payment using gift cards. This is an immediate red flag that you're being scammed.
- When in doubt, ask for help. And never send money!

Prosecutor's Office employees were spreading the word on safety at the Greater Galilee Baptist Church in Barberton.

That's **Travis Johnson, Community Outreach Advocate** for the Prosecutor's Office, providing safety tips to church members.

Thank you to everyone who invited us out to speak with their group.

If you would like someone from the Summit County Prosecutor's Office to speak with your group, call 330.643.2800.



The Summit County Prosecutor's Office is also very involved in community events.

**Victim Advocate Alyse Ziga, Assistant Prosecutor Heaven Guest, and Administrative Assistant Melanie Hart** attended last month's Human Trafficking Awareness program. Melanie is also the handler for our facility dog, Avery.

The event was sponsored by the Summit County Collaborative Against Human Trafficking. We spoke about the obstacles in prosecuting human trafficking cases and how we work closely with victims to get justice.



Join us for our next FREE Women's Self-Defense class. We'll be at Betty Jane CLC at 444 Darrow Road in Akron.

We'll provide easy to learn moves and potentially life-saving information.

Bring a friend—and spread the word!

Hope to see you there!

**FREE WOMEN'S SELF-DEFENSE CLASS**  
Sponsored by  
**Sherri Bevan Walsh**  
Summit County Prosecutor  
**Chad Cunningham**  
Certified Instructor  
No registration required!

Tuesday, February 26, 2019  
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Betty Jane CLC  
444 Darrow Rd.  
Akron, OH 44305

Learn simple techniques that could save your life!

- Verbal techniques
- Free yourself from a chokehold
- Learn the wrist breakaway
- Escape if pinned to the ground
- Practice kicks and slaps

For more information, contact:  
Instructor Sherri Bevan Walsh  
330.643.2700 | SB@WALSH.LAW.COM | sb@scjps.org





# EVERY'S CORNER

# CRIME & PUNISHMENT

February is here—and love is in the air! Well, I think it's love. Or maybe it's snow. I do love the snow!

I also love helping people. Recently I sat with a young human as she waited to tell what happened to her. She was very nice and I was very proud of her.

I am glad I was there to help. She was very strong and did a great job!



I love hanging out with humans and making new friends. I recently spent time with cadets at the University of Akron. They were very nice. I wish them the best of luck and to be safe.

And did you know February 20th is National Love Your Pet Day? Although I think it should be every day! Oh, and I found out February 23rd is National Dog Biscuit day.



Follow Avery II on Facebook at:

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

[SummitCountyProsecutorAveryII](http://SummitCountyProsecutorAveryII)



## GUILTY VERDICTS

### January 2019

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office had a **100% CONVICTION RATE** at trial for January.

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

Kevin Mayer

Joe Mittica

Zachary Neumann



## TOUGH PROSECUTIONS

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

**Justin Ballard, 36**

- Rape
- **15 YEARS IN PRISON**



Summit County Victim Assistance Program's annual Mardi Gras Gala is Saturday March 2, 2019 at The Tangier Event & Entertainment Center.

For more information go to [www.victimassistanceprogram.org](http://www.victimassistanceprogram.org)



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

## BATH POLICE DET. DANIEL LANCE

### NOMINATED BY ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR FELICIA EASTER

The Summit County Prosecutor’s Office handles just over 4,000 felony cases each year. Most of them go unnoticed by the general public. But there are a few which garner attention.

That is what happened in one of our more recent cases. It’s also one of the reasons why I nominated Bath Police Detective Daniel Lance as this month’s TOP COP.

The case involved a Summit County school counselor who had sex with a student. The case attracted significant public scrutiny as well as news reports.

Throughout it all, Det. Lance conducted a thorough investigation, followed up on every lead, and spent countless hours on this case. His interview techniques were second to none. Det. Lance was able to get the victim and witnesses to open up and reveal details about what happened. If this did not happen, it would have been very difficult to charge and prosecute the defendant Rebecca Sparrow.



Det. Lance considered all the options available and followed the evidence, which eventually led to charges and a conviction. His diligence, determination, and ability to have an organized and detailed report simplified what initially was a very complicated case.

Sparrow was assigned as the student’s counselor. She was in a position of authority as her job was to advocate for the student. She eventually admitted to having sex with the student and was recently sentenced to two years in prison.

As this month’s TOP COP, Det. Lance receives a gift card to Moe’s Southwest Grill. Thank you Moe’s for your support of Summit County law enforcement.

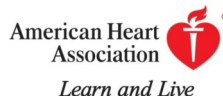
## Great job and congratulations Det. Lance!

## GO RED FOR WOMEN

The Summit County Prosecutor’s Office is always looking out for the safety and well-being of people.

Each year, the American Heart Association spends the month of February focusing on heart health, specifically for women. The goal is to increase awareness about women’s heart health as well as serve as a catalyst to improve the lives of women around the world.

Please make a commitment to take charge of your own heart health as well as the health of those you can’t bear to live without.

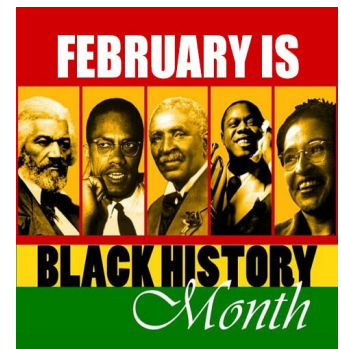


## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February is Black History Month. It is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time to recognize the role of blacks in American history.

The tradition began in 1976. Since then, every U.S. President has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month.

This year also marks 110 years of the NAACP. The organization was founded February 12, 1909.



# WHY I'M A PROSECUTOR

## FELICIA EASTER

Over the past year, 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.

Assistant Prosecutor Felicia Easter tells us why she became a prosecutor.

### • WHY DID YOU BECOME A PROSECUTOR?

My family had always wanted me to be an attorney. They used to always say I could not just answer a question, I had to be argumentative, so I needed to put that to good use! As a child I had wanted to be a psychiatrist. However, I became a prosecutor because I believe it is one of the more admirable and respectable jobs you can have as an attorney. As a prosecutor we are not here to get a conviction, we are here to seek justice. We are here to uphold the criminal justice system and I take that responsibility very seriously.



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

The best part of being a prosecutor is advocating for people. I want people to see our criminal justice system and in particular our prosecutor's office, that we do hold people accountable for their actions but in doing so we do it with fairness.

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

We see survivors and victims of crime at their worst. You would like to put that person back to the position they were in prior to the crime happening. You want to make their life go back to the way it was before that traumatic event. Realistically, you know that is not possible.

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

## LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office is proud to continue its mission of keeping our community safe by helping local law enforcement learn new techniques to hold criminals accountable and help crime victims and survivors.

Members of the law enforcement community are invited to our next FREE presentation on Tuesday March 19—Opening a New Door: Enhancing Community Responses to Sexual Violence. Officer Anthony Greiter will provide a new perspective for officers about how they can positively impact victims. To register—head to <https://goo.gl/jqCBQ9>

**Registration Link: <https://goo.gl/jqCBQ9>**

**Summit County Prosecutor  
Sherri Bevan Walsh  
Presents**

**Opening a New Door**  
Enhancing Community  
Response to Sexual Violence

Presented by  
**Officer Anthony Greiter**  
Community Outreach Specialist  
Iowa State University Police Department, Ames, IA

**Tuesday, March 19th, 2019**  
8:30 am - 12:00 pm

**Red Cross  
First Energy Room**  
501 West Market St.  
Akron Ohio 44303

**Refreshments  
provided**

- Understanding of how trauma affects reporting
- What is your role?
- How will this help hold offenders accountable?
- How will this positively impact victims?

- Understanding the Start By Believing campaign
- Enhancing community relationships
- Opening up investigations
- A new perspective on reports and language

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