



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

## A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH KEEPING SUMMIT COUNTY SAFE

2019 is here. I hope each of you had a safe and happy holiday. Traditionally, Christmas and New Year's have been a time to spend with friends and family and to celebrate good times. Many of those celebrations probably included alcohol.

People are free to celebrate as they wish. However, they are not allowed to break the law. For years I

have fought to keep Summit County safe. Over a decade ago I was the driving force in getting tougher state laws and stricter penalties for repeat drunk drivers.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, more than 10,000 people died in alcohol-related crashes in the United States last year. If people are going to celebrate, what's the easiest way to keep them from getting behind the wheel. How about offering a service where we provide free rides home within Summit

County? And that's why I started Arrive Alive.

My office launched Arrive Alive during the July 4th holiday weekend. I knew people would be involved in backyard barbecues, taking part in summertime block

parties or out late watching fireworks. I did not want one innocent life put at

risk because someone made the selfish decision to drink and drive. Approximately 25 people took advantage of the program during the July 4th holiday.

Summer ticked away and gave way to fall. As the weather cooled it was time to once again think about gathering with friends and family for Thanksgiving. I was surprised to find out one of the biggest nights for drinking is Thanksgiving eve. It was a perfect opportunity to again provide free rides home within Summit County. This time 80 people called

our Arrive Alive hotline to get a free ride home.

In fact, during the Thanksgiving holiday the Summit County OVI Task Force conducted two separate OVI checkpoints. Not a single driver at those checkpoints was arrested for driving under the influence.

Arrive Alive returned for the Christmas and New Year's Eve holidays. This time close to 100 people received free rides home.

The plan is to bring Arrive Alive back for St. Patrick's Day.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Arrive Alive program— from office employees to the program sponsors, as well as local media outlets who helped spread the word.

My fight to keep Summit County safe has never been stronger. Please remember if you drink, do not drive. The life you save may be your own.

Stay safe,

*Sherri B. Walsh*

### ARRIVE ALIVE

SPONSORED BY:



**SHERRI BEVAN  
WALSH**  
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR

Celebrate the holidays responsibly!



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# IN THE COMMUNITY

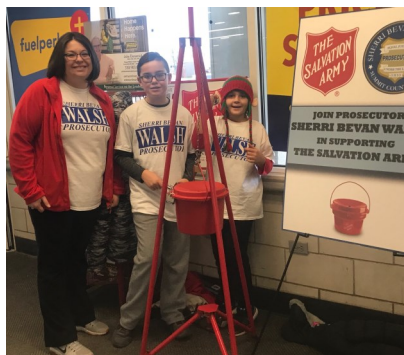
It's 2019—time for those New Year's resolutions. Well, each and every year, the Summit County Prosecutor's Office works hard to make the community a safer and better place to live.

Office employees are seen here playing the role of Santa as they get ready to hand out gifts to some special people. The gifts were for four local families nominated by our Victim Services Division.



Because of the generous donations of organizations, employees, and the public, we were able to provide presents for people who recently dealt with personal tragedy.

Summit County Prosecutor's Office employees were also out in the community throughout December, helping ring in the holiday season. Several were "bell ringers" for the Salvation Army's annual fundraising event.



We had workers at the Giant Eagle locations in both Fairlawn and Montrose.

Thank you to everyone who donated their time and money to the cause!

We also love to meet new people. And that's what we did at the City of Green Senior Event at Guy's Party Center.

Over 150 people attended the event, sponsored by the city's Parks and Recreation department.

Thanks to everyone who stopped by our table!



We got to hang out with some of our favorite people at the WAKR Senior Luncheon at The Tangier.

Over 300 seniors attended the event and stopped by our table.

We provided them with basic but vital safety information.



Santa and Mrs. Claus even stopped by to let us know we were on the nice list!!



We can't wait for the next WAKR senior luncheon so we can see all our friends and wish them a happy new year!



Prosecutor Walsh is a leader when it comes to informing the public on ways to stay safe.

She recently spoke with members of the Akron's Women's Club and provided them vital information to help them minimize their chances of becoming a victim.

Throughout 2018 members of the Summit County Prosecutor's Office spoke to over 6,200 people throughout the county about safety, self-defense, bullying and the dangers of sexting.

We look forward to speaking with thousands of community members in 2019 to help keep Summit County safe.





# AVERY'S CORNER

# CRIME & PUNISHMENT

I love the holidays. It's a time when it is better to give than to receive. And I love giving my time to people who need help.

I spent time with a young girl who came to my office. She was really nice. I hope I was able to help her.



This time of year I also love spending time with my friends and family. I hope you had a safe and happy holiday. Here are some pictures of me and some of my favorite people. Thank you to everyone who brings joy and happiness to others throughout the year.

## 2018 BY THE NUMBERS

- 3,909 TOTAL DEFENDANTS
- 3,734 FOUND GUILTY OR PLED GUILTY
- 96% CONVICTION RATE
- 54 TRIALS
- 70 HOMICIDE CASES
- NINE INVOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER DRUG OVERDOSE CASES



## TOUGH PROSECUTIONS

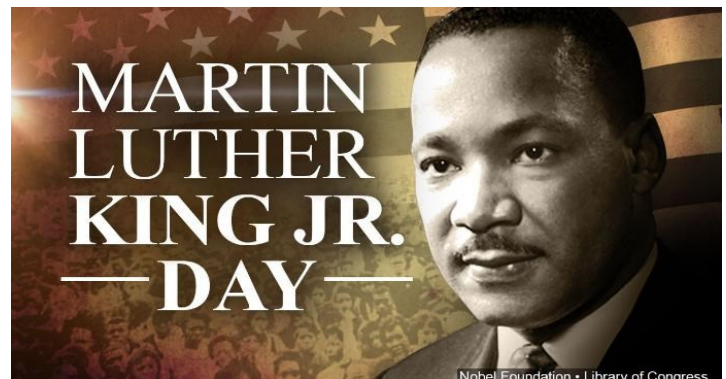
These defendants will be locked up for a lengthy period of time thanks to our dedicated Assistant Prosecutors:

**Raymond Smiley, 39**

- Rape
- LIFE IN PRISON
- Voluntary Manslaughter
- 20 YEARS IN PRISON

**Jauvaughn Penn, 31**

- Aggravated Arson
- Burglary
- 14 YEARS IN PRISON



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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

## CUYAHOGA FALLS POLICE DET. DAWN MCLLVAIN NOMINATED BY ASSISTANT PROSECUTORS DEVORAH PASTERNAK & ARIANA ZIMCOSKY

Getting to the bottom of what happened during a crime is the goal of any investigator. But achieving that goal can be very difficult. Avoiding roadblocks, such as defendants who aren't always truthful, is key to finding out what really happened. That's why we nominate Cuyahoga Falls Detective Dawn McIlvain as this month's TOP COP.



When a party became a crime scene, Detective McIlvain was on the case. A 16-year-old was accused of sexually assaulting another teen at the party. During the investigation Det. McIlvain interviewed the teenaged suspect and caught him in several lies.

Det. McIlvain also put together an excellent written report and collected a substantial amount of evidence, all of which helped us hold the 16-year-old accountable for his actions. Due to Det. McIlvain's perseverance and commitment to the investigation and the victim, this case

resulted in an admission as charged to a felony sex offense in Summit County Juvenile Court.

But Det. McIlvain was not only diligent in collecting vital evidence in the case, she also was a strong advocate for the victim. Detective McIlvain left no stone unturned. She interviewed every possible witness, gained valuable statements from the suspect, collected social media and electronic documentation, returned to the scene to

gather follow-up evidence and stood by the victim and her family through the entire investigative and court process.

As this month's TOP COP, Det. McIlvain receives a gift card to Morning Owl Coffee in Munroe Falls. Thank you Morning Owl Coffee for your support of Summit County law enforcement.

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

## EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Brett Lawrence for being honored as the 2018 Summit County Prosecutor's Office Employee of the Year!

Brett has been with the Prosecutor's Office since September 2015 when he was hired as our IT administrator.

As IT administrator, Brett has been instrumental in keeping our office running smoothly.

Besides the typical computer and connection issues, Brett was instrumental in implementing our new case management system.

Congratulations again, and thank you for your dedication to the office and citizens of Summit County.



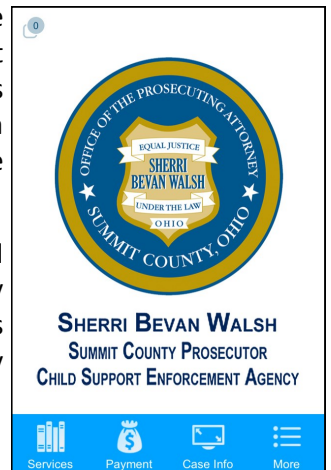
## CHILD SUPPORT AWARDS

We are very proud of the employees who work in our Child Support Enforcement Agency.

In the most recent awards for outstanding performance, the Summit County Prosecutor's Child Support Enforcement Agency received four awards, including **best performance paternity establishment, best performance collections, and best overall performance** in the Metro Caseload Division. That includes the six largest counties in Ohio. This is the third year in a row CSEA was honored by the state for these achievements.

The Summit County Child Support Enforcement Agency collects nearly \$76 million dollars each year and handles nearly 46,000 child support cases.

Great job!!!



# WHY I'M A PROSECUTOR

## PATRICK FENING

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.

2019 starts off with a very personal story from Assistant Prosecutor Patrick Fening who works in our Juvenile Division.

### • WHY DID YOU BECOME A PROSECUTOR?

I've always had an interest in law and crime but there was one incident which pushed it past a hobby for me. One morning I got a text from my college football coach who said one of my former teammates was murdered. I immediately began looking into what jobs were available in law enforcement. Once I got to law school I really had only one goal in mind and that was to work for the prosecutor's office. What happened to my former teammate led me to where I am today and that's all I've ever wanted to do.



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

The best part of being a prosecutor is dealing with victims and giving them as much of a sense of closure as they can get out of the situation. Every day we are given a chance to make the community better.

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

I work on our Restore Court docket which handles those under 18 who are charged with a crime but also may be a victim of human trafficking. We also work with juveniles who are at risk of possibly being a victim of human trafficking. Every day we see the worst society has to offer. Also, the tough part is knowing that no matter what you do and how hard you work, you really never know if the victim and their family ever truly find closure.

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

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS

In his "Why I'm A Prosecutor" above, Assistant Prosecutor Patrick Fening talked about the Restore Court docket. It's a specialized docket which focuses on helping victims of human trafficking.

January is Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention month. Ohio ranks fourth in the highest call volume to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center. The U.S. State Department estimates upwards of 800,000 individuals, mostly women and girls, are exploited.

You can learn more on how to help. A free event is scheduled for Saturday January 19 at the Akron Summit Public Main Library on South Main Street. A survivor and advocate will talk about the signs of human trafficking and how SOAP can help prevent it.

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS

A FREE EVENT—PROTECT OUR YOUTH

FROM HUMAN TRAFFICKING

SATURDAY JANUARY 19TH, 2019

10 AM to 3 pm Doors open at 9:30 a.m.

Akron Summit Public Library 60 S. Main St. Akron Ohio 44326

**FEATURING: THERESA FLORES LSW, M.S.**

**Learn how a simple ride home from school by a boy she liked resulted in two years of sex trafficking.**

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