



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

## A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH CELEBRATING WOMEN

In Ohio, I could be considered rare. I am an elected female county prosecutor. Of Ohio's 88 counties, I am currently one of only ten female prosecutors in the state. When I was first elected in 2000, I was one of only four female prosecutors in Ohio.

In fact, I am the only woman in Summit County to win re-election as County Prosecutor. In Summit County history, only two women have been elected county prosecutor; myself and current Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor.

While we have made strides in mainly male dominated fields, women still have a ways to go when it comes to equality in the workplace.

That is why, whenever I get the opportunity, I speak with local women and groups and offer my insight into what it is like to be a woman in a male dominated field.



I am active in state and national organizations which promote the work of female prosecutors. I feel this is vitally important as women blaze a new trail in government.

I also work hard to provide information to help local women be safe. Each month, my office holds FREE Women's Self-Defense classes where we demonstrate simple techniques so women can minimize their chances of becoming a victim.

My office also provides safety information to local groups and organizations throughout the year. As a victim of crime myself, I have a true passion for sharing my experiences to make our community a better and safer place to live.



This is also a good time to speak out about the need for women to take an active role in their community—no matter what the issue. March is Women's History Month.

Following years of presidents issuing proclamations declaring the second week of March as National Women's History Week, Congress in 1987 passed a law designating March as "Women's History Month". Since 1995, each president has issued an annual proclamation designating March as "Women's History Month" to honor women's contributions to American History.

It brings to mind a quote from former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher "disciplining yourself to do what you know is right and important, although difficult, is the high road to pride, self-esteem, and personal satisfaction."

So remember, strive to do what is right and important—and stay safe!

*Sherri B. Walsh*



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# IN THE COMMUNITY

February is always a fun month for the Summit County Prosecutor's Office. The craziness surrounding the new year has wound down and we can refocus our efforts in making Summit County a safer place to live and work.



Even though February has fewer days than any other month during the year, we were able to sponsor two FREE Women's Self-Defense classes.

About 75 people came to Stow-Munroe Falls High School on February 12 to learn potentially life-saving information. **Prosecutor Walsh** led the program with certified instructor Chad Cunningham. A special thanks as well to **Stow Mayor John Pribonic** for helping and being on the receiving end of some of the moves. Thanks for being such a good sport!



The next stop of our February FREE Self-Defense class was Akron's Betty Jane CLC. A great crowd of around 60 people practiced specific techniques to minimize their chances of becoming a victim.

**Summit County Councilman David Hamilton** assisted as we provided this vital information.



Keep an eye on our Facebook and Instagram pages for our next FREE Women's Self-Defense class.

February is also the first of the four WAKR Senior Luncheons scheduled throughout the year. Prosecutor Walsh met with seniors at the St. George Fellowship Hall, as the office provided safety information.

We had a great time seeing old friends and meeting new people. The February event is one of our favorites because of the bright red everyone wears!



Also congratulations to Vivian Phillips who was the lucky winner of our donated prize.

Hope to see you at the next senior luncheon.

It was a busy month for Prosecutor Walsh as she spread the message of safety throughout Summit County.

One stop included a speech to about 50 people at the **Akron Woman's City Club**.



It was a wonderful discussion with lots of great questions. Thanks for inviting us!

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office is also proud and honored to be involved in such a diverse community.

We were happy to take part in last month's diversity celebration sponsored by the Akron Bar Association.

**Assistant Prosecutors Ariana Zimkosky, Heaven DiMartino and Rimma Avanesyan** represented the Prosecutor's Office at the event. Thank you for all you do!





# AVERY'S CORNER

# CRIME & PUNISHMENT

February is a month full of love. I tried to spread as much love as possible, especially with two humans I met.

They both came to my office to talk about something bad that happened to them. They were so strong and I was very proud of them. I was happy to meet them and I hope being with them helped.



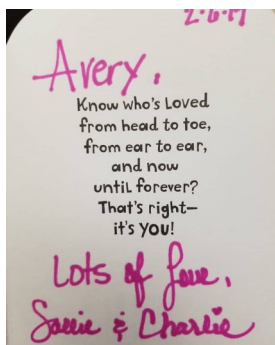
I also got to have fun at a dance. Bet you didn't know I could cut a rug!

It was the annual Valentine's Day dance at Kenmore High School for special multiple handicap students.



It was so much fun taking pictures and playing with the humans. I was pooped at the end!

I also want to share this very special Valentine's Day card from my puppy raiser.



Sallie & Charlie helped me so much when I was younger. They are forever in my heart.

Follow Avery II on Facebook at:

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## GUILTY VERDICTS

### February 2019

Congratulations to the following assistant prosecutors for obtaining a conviction at trial.

**Seema Misra**

**Kelsey Riffle**

**Chris Mastran**



## TOUGH PROSECUTIONS

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

**Marcia Eubank, 50**

- Murder
- **LIFE IN PRISON**



# International Women's Day



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

## TALLMADGE POLICE OFFICER MIKE SCHOLLES

### NOMINATED BY JAMES POLLACK



The Summit County Prosecutor's Office works diligently to inform the public of the latest crimes and scams. Prosecutor Walsh often speaks with seniors to help keep them aware of the latest threats targeting them.

Unfortunately, people still can be victimized by scammers. A recent situation involving an elderly woman had a happy ending. That's why I nominate Tallmadge Police Officer Mike Scholles.

According to Tallmadge Police, an 81-year-old Tallmadge woman recently began receiving calls saying she won a significant amount of money, as well as a car. The caller, a man with a foreign accent was persistent and persuasive. He was able to convince the woman to mail cash to cover the "fees and taxes" of her winnings.

These are the signs of a scam. It is against the law to charge fees to claim your winnings from a contest or lottery.

Typically, by the time police become aware of these situations, the money is long gone. In this case, Officer Mike Scholles was notified quickly and conducted a thorough investigation. Officer Scholles was able to recover ALL \$3,200 of the woman's money. Officer Scholles tracked the money to Oregon and contacted the local police department who located one package. The U.S. Postal Service intercepted the second before it arrived.

Outstanding work! Also, take time to speak with your elderly friends and relatives about these types of scams. Make sure they know to speak with someone, even the police, before sending large amounts of money.

As this month's TOP COP, Officer Scholles receives a gift card to Carrabba's. Thank you Carrabba's for your continued support of local law enforcement.

**Great job and congratulations Officer Scholles!!**

## PROTECTING CONSUMERS

The first full week of March is traditionally designated National Consumer Protection week. But that should not be the only week you are focused on your finances.

In Ohio, tens of thousands of people each year fall victim to scams. Knowing how to identify and avoid these scams can help protect you and your family from losing money.



Recently, a Tallmadge woman was nearly scammed out of more than \$3,000 when someone called saying she won a big jackpot. Most victims are contacted by phone. Don't answer the call if you do not recognize the number.

Never give out personal information, like your bank account number or social security number.

Go to <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/> for the latest information on scams and how to protect yourself.

## FREE SELF-DEFENSE CLASS

With spring nearly here, it's time to head outside and shake off those winter blues. And as you head outside, make sure you are aware of your surroundings and prepared for anything.

You can also attend our next FREE Women's Self-Defense class.

We will be at Copley High School on Thursday March 28 from 6pm to 8pm. We have a great time as people learn potentially life-saving techniques.

Join us for common sense information to help possibly minimize your chances of becoming a victim. And don't forget to bring a friend!



### FREE WOMEN'S SELF-DEFENSE CLASS

Sponsored by **Sherri Bevan Walsh**

Summit County Prosecutor

AND **Chad Cunningham**  
Certified Instructor

No registration required!



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

Thursday, March 28 2019  
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Copley High School  
Main Gym  
3807 Ridgewood Road  
Copley, Ohio 44321



For more information, contact:  
Jennifer Watson  
330-643-2702 JENNER.WATSON@jfs.ohio.gov

# WHY I'M A PROSECUTOR

## GREG PEACOCK

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 Greg Peacock, who's also a supervisor in our criminal division, tells why being a prosecutor is so important to him.



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

The best part of being a prosecutor is when you get to the end of a case and you can tell those involved, whether it be the victim, their family, witnesses, or the investigator, that this chapter of their life is done. The end of a case does not end the grief or anger a crime victim feels. However, finishing a case allows them the opportunity to move on.

### • WHY DID YOU BECOME A PROSECUTOR?

As an attorney, a prosecutor is the one job where you can be consistent in your values and principles. Prosecutors are not paid to take a position. You are rarely compromising your own beliefs. Prosecutors always look at a case and determine what is fair and just. If I see something which is not right I can always say something and make adjustments and possibly look at the case differently.

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

The most difficult part of being a prosecutor is that people come to you to talk about the worst thing that has ever happened to them. Often they don't want to talk about it. Prosecutors can be perceived as a reminder of the bad thing which happened to them.

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

## ARRIVE ALIVE—ST. PATRICK'S DAY

St. Patrick's Day is nearly here. Before you kiss the Blarney stone, make sure you have a safe ride home. If you don't have a designated driver, call our ArriveAlive hotline. Operators will answer the call any time—day or night. If you've had too much to drink, call 330.475.7888 for a FREE RIDE HOME anywhere in Summit County during the St. Patrick's Day weekend.

We're providing FREE RIDES HOME in Summit County from 6pm Friday March 15 to 6am Monday March 18.

Since starting ArriveAlive last July, we have provided safe rides home for close to 200 Summit County residents. This has helped keep drunk and impaired drivers from getting behind the wheel, making the roads safer.

### ARRIVE ALIVE

SPONSORED BY:



**SHERRI BEVAN WALSH**  
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR

Celebrate **St. Patrick's Day** responsibly!

Have a designated sober driver or call **Arrive Alive**



**330.475.7888**



*The life you save may be your own!*

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