



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH

AVOIDING ONLINE SCAMS

The holidays will soon be here. It can be a frantic time as we get ready to have friends and family over to celebrate. Oh and don't forget about holiday shopping!! The crowds alone can make your head spin.

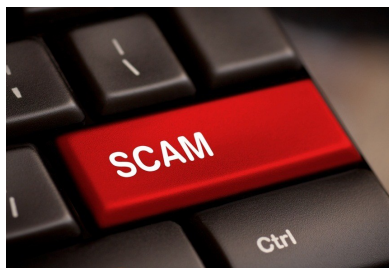
This time of year is also a perfect time for criminals. They know you're busy running around and distracted. So they jump in like a lion attacking its prey. However, there are ways to protect yourself and keep you and your family safe.

We're all looking for the best deal. Maybe you found the perfect item on one of those buy/sell/trade websites and apps like Craig's List, Let Go, and Offer Up. So you set up a time to meet with the seller. This is also a perfect opportunity for a criminal to pounce.

My office has prosecuted numerous cases where the victim was supposed to meet another person to buy something but was instead robbed.

Some local police departments have created "safety zones" as a safe meeting place for making a transaction. The following "safety zones" have video surveillance and monitoring to make sure your sale or purchase happens without incident.

- Summit County Jail — 205 E. Crosier Street, Akron — visitors' parking lot from 8am-8pm. Parking spots have 24 hour surveillance.
- Cuyahoga Falls Municipal Building — 2310 2nd Street, Cuyahoga Falls, OH-use lobby of police department. It has audio and video cameras on at all times.
- Springfield Township Police Department — 2459 Canfield Road, Akron, OH-outside police department and is monitored by surveillance camera.



to their advantage. According to the Federal Trade Commission, millennials are twice as likely as people who are 40 and older to get scammed while shopping online.

So what can you do to not get scammed? The first thing I tell people is to trust your gut. If it seems too good to be true, it probably is.

Recently, scammers have been targeting people who have new virtual assistants like Amazon's Alexa or Google Home. One of the latest trends is that scammers are trying to

convince people they must pay upwards of \$100 to activate those new devices. You don't have to pay to activate them. Criminals even developed look-alike websites to lure people who are searching for help with these devices.

Always check with a legitimate company. The contact information is usually with the device in its box.

A little thought goes a long way.

As always, stay safe.

Sherri B. Walsh

Here are some additional safety tips:

- Don't have the buyer or seller come to your home
- Take someone with you
- Meet at a public place or designated "safety zones"
- Meet during daylight hours

You'd think elderly people are easy targets. Well, people in their 20's are being targeted as well. Millennials rely on their phones and social media to communicate. Scammers use that



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IN THE COMMUNITY

With the holidays nearly here, the Summit County Prosecutor's Office is working hard to make our community safe.

Office employees took part in several safety events throughout Summit County. That included providing tips and information to nearly 100 people at Akron's Firestone Park Community Center during our FREE Women's Self-Defense class. Prosecutor Walsh led the event, which showed participants several moves and techniques to help minimize their chances of becoming a victim.



The Summit County Prosecutor's Office is always looking for new ways to hold people accountable, keep the community safe, and provide alternatives to prison for those who qualify.

Prosecutor Walsh joined several Summit County judges at the annual On The Table event where local leaders, activists, and regular citizens gathered to discuss issues confronting our neighborhoods.



Those who took part will continue the conversation by completing a short survey on the themes discussed. The event was organized by the Akron Community Foundation with support from the John S. Knight Foundation.



Prosecutor Walsh focused on senior safety during our Senior Safety Fair at the Twinsburg Senior Center.

Those in attendance learned about the latest scams as well as how to prevent crime in their neighborhood. **Summit County Sheriff's Sergeant Mike Walsh** also spoke to the group on ways to recognize a burglar.

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office strives to keep the community informed and help prevent crime.

We met with over 100 people who attended the Senior EXPO at Summit Mall.



As part of the event, we provided people with safety information, senior safety calendars, and details about our Take Me Home program.

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office is proud to support many local organizations.



Prosecutor Walsh and staff were pleased to attend two events focusing on making Summit County better.

Above is Prosecutor Walsh with staff at the luncheon for GASP (Guardians Advocating Child Safety & Protection).

On the right is the annual Summit County ADM Board recognition luncheon.



Thanks for all you do!!



Members of Akron's Ed Davis Senior Group met with Prosecutor Walsh to hear about the latest crimes targeting seniors and learn about ways to stay safe.



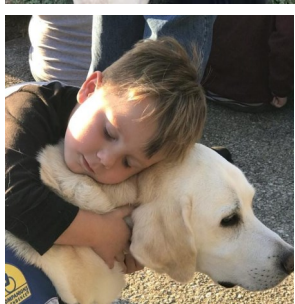
AVERY'S CORNER

CRIME & PUNISHMENT

November is one of my favorite times of the year. The weather is cooling off and Thanksgiving is nearly here.



I have a lot to be thankful for—especially lots of humans who take care of me and are my friends.



I got to meet some more of them recently. We were in Stow for a big open house.

The city showed off lots of neat stuff and I got to meet new friends, like this little human.

This time of year is also fun because lots of little humans dress up in all different types of costumes. I recently spent time at a Halloween party. It wasn't scary. There were lots of little humans who were dressed up in different costumes, like this little monkey.



We sat for a while as he took a break from walking around and getting candy. It was a lot of fun.

GUILTY VERDICTS

October 2019

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

Jon Baumoel

Kevin Mayer (2)

Nik Buckmeier

Devorah Pasternak

Ben Carro

Greg Peacock



TOUGH PROSECUTIONS

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

Kennae Baker, 21

Jovonta Moore, 23

- Murder
- Felonious Assault
- **LIFE IN PRISON**

- Murder
- Felonious Assault
- **LIFE IN PRISON**

Michael Calhoun, 18

- Felonious Assault
- **20 YEARS IN PRISON**



November is Adopt-A-Senior-Pet Month



Stand Up for Senior Pets



Follow Avery II on Instagram at:

@averyscpo



Help Us Go Green!



Contact Melanie Hart at hart@prosecutor.summitoh.net to receive this newsletter by e-mail

TOP COP

AKRON POLICE SGT. MICHAEL VAVRO

NOMINATED BY ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR FELICIA EASTER

One recent case left a big impact on the community. 73-year-old Ernest Liska was struck and killed getting his morning paper. The suspect took off, eventually ditching his car at Akron's Water Reclamation Center.

Mr. Liska served in Vietnam, survived the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon, volunteered at his local church, helped students, and mentored veterans. Mr. Liska's death is a loss for our community.

If not for the hard work by Akron Police Sergeant Michael Vavro, the person responsible for Mr. Liska's death may not have been caught.

Sgt. Vavro assessed the scene, then spoke with a worker at the Akron Water Reclamation Center where the vehicle was discovered. That employee provided a vital clue about the suspect. The driver of the car which struck Mr. Liska dumped his vehicle and then took an UBER home!

While inspecting the suspect's vehicle, Sgt. Vavro discovered a gas station receipt. The receipt showed a purchase approximately 15 minutes before the crash. In following up on that lead, Sgt. Vavro retrieved video surveillance which provided him a picture of the suspect.



Now Sgt. Vavro knew the person who struck and killed Mr. Liska.

Sgt. Vavro's thorough, meticulous, and methodical investigation left no stone unturned. It was because of this investigation we were able to gather overwhelming evidence against Monte Porter, and hold him accountable for killing Ernest Liska.

Vavro made a potentially difficult case easy to prosecute. Based on his investigation Sgt. Vavro spared Mr. Liska's family the pain of a trial. Monte Porter knew he had no other choice than face the consequences.

Sgt. Vavro's work helped our office to get the maximum consecutive sentence for this defendant.

As this month's TOP COP, Sgt. Vavro receives a gift card to the Peanut Shoppe. Thank you Peanut Shoppe for your support of local law enforcement.

Great job and congratulations Sgt. Michael Vavro!!

ARRIVE ALIVE! KEEP DRUNK DRIVERS OFF THE ROAD!

The holidays are nearly here. It's a special time as we get ready to gather with friends and family! For many, that may include drinking alcohol. Did you know Thanksgiving Eve is traditionally one of the top holidays where people drink?

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office works to help keep our communities safe. That means helping keep drunk drivers off the road.

For the Thanksgiving weekend, we have relaunched our Arrive Alive program. Beginning Wednesday November 27 through Saturday November 30, we will offer FREE cab & LYFT rides home within Summit County for anyone who has had too much to drink. See the flyer for additional information including phone number & LYFT code.

ARRIVE ALIVE

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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)

330.253.3141



Use **lyft**
for a FREE ride home
in Summit County
(up to \$20)
Use Code

SCPOTHANK19
(Limit 300 one-time use codes)

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 Wednesday Nov. 27 to 6am Saturday Nov. 30

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS:



WHY I'M A PROSECUTOR

JAY COLE

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.



Jay Cole, an assistant prosecutor in our Criminal Division, tells us why being a prosecutor is so important to him.

- **WHY DID YOU BECOME A PROSECUTOR?**

I became a prosecutor because I lost a bet. I wanted to be an astronaut but I discovered I get car sick! Actually, this is a second career for me. I was deciding on whether to go to law school or medical school because I wanted to go into a profession where I could help people. I chose law school and it worked out great.

- **WHAT'S THE BEST PART OF BEING A PROSECUTOR?**

The best part of being a prosecutor is being able to argue with people. My family argues all the time and I enjoy it. I like to go into court and argue to fight for truth and justice.

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

The most difficult part of being a prosecutor is trying to help people who have gone through probably the worst experience of their life. We have to help them navigate through that the best way possible. It can be very difficult because many times crime victims can be overwhelmed by what is happening. We do the best we can.

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

HONORING VICTIMS

For over 20 years, the Summit County Victim Assistance Program has helped families who have lost loved ones to violence. To memorialize these individuals, the Victim Assistance Program conducts the annual Angel Tree Ceremony service at the Downtown Akron Public Library on the first Monday of December. This year's event is on December 2nd at 6:00 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

The community, as well as family members and friends of homicide victims are asked to place an Angel ornament on one of the Angel Trees on display. Victim Assistance also accepts a photo of a loved one to display on the Wall of Remembrance. These photographs remain on the wall throughout the month of December.

After the presentation, people will be invited to share messages of their loved one before adorning the tree with their angels. For more information please visit victimassistanceprogram.org.



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