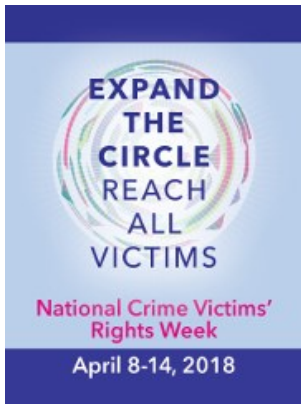




FROM THE OFFICE OF  
 SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR  
**SHERRI BEVAN WALSH**

# A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH FIGHTING FOR VICTIMS—WE CAN HELP

April is a special time of year. Spring starts to break the icy grasp of winter. There are also several organizations and groups which I support that conduct awareness campaigns this month. April is Autism Awareness Month as well as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.



The second week of April is very important to me. April 8-14 is National Crime Victims' Rights Week. For nearly my entire professional career, I have fought for the rights of crime victims. That's why the second week of April is so important to me. It provides me an opportunity to highlight all of the work my office does to help victims of crime.

This is also the second year in a row my office is conducting a public awareness campaign for victims of crime.

"We Can Help" began last year with bus ads and



billboards throughout Summit County. The ads, which are once again showing up on Akron area buses, provide information for people if they are a crime victim or if they know someone who is a victim of crime. The ads are in four different languages - English, Spanish, Arabic, and Nepalese. We are also designing posters and handing out umbrellas and drawstring bags with the same message—all thanks to a grant from the Victims of Crime Act, administered by the Ohio Attorney General's Office.

The various signs have phone numbers of local agencies which assist crime victims—the Rape Crisis Center of Medina & Summit Counties, Summit County Victim Assistance Program, the Battered Women's Shelter of Summit & Medina Counties, as well as my office.

The message is key—that we can help if you are a victim of a crime. Many times, people just don't know what to do if

they or someone they know is a victim of crime.

It is also vitally important that the messages are in different languages.

People who do not speak or read English can feel isolated and overwhelmed. That feeling is then compounded if they become a victim of crime. My goal is to help make the justice system easier to navigate for everyone.

So keep an eye out for the signs—and as always, be safe.

*Sherrri B. Walsh*

<p>More than <b>20,000</b> people in Summit County are crime victims each year.</p> <p><b>WE CAN HELP</b></p> <p>Call: Victim Assistance Program 24 hour hotline: (330) 376 - 0040</p> <p><b>SHERRI BEVAN WALSH</b> SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR</p> <p>(330) 643 - 2800 CO.SUMMITOH.NET/PROSECUTOR</p>	<p>Más de <b>20,000</b> personas en el Condado de Summit son víctimas de crímenes cada año</p> <p><b>Podemos ayudar</b></p> <p>Call: Programa de asistencia a las víctimas Línea directa de 24 horas: (330) 376 - 0040</p> <p><b>SHERRI BEVAN WALSH</b> Fiscal del Condado de Summit</p> <p>(330) 643 - 2800 CO.SUMMITOH.NET/PROSECUTOR</p>
<p>सम्मिट काउन्टीमा प्रत्येक वर्ष <b>२०,०००</b> भन्दा बढि व्यक्तिहरु अपराध पीडित छन्।</p> <p><b>हामी मद्दत गर्न सक्छौं।</b></p> <p>पीडित सहायता कार्यक्रम २४ घण्टा हटलाइन: (३३०) ३७६ - ००४०</p> <p><b>शेरी बिभन वाल्श</b> सम्मिट काउन्टी प्रोसेक्युटर</p> <p>(३३०) ६४३ - २८०० CO.SUMMITOH.NET/PROSECUTOR</p>	<p>ضحية للجرائم في مقاطعة سوميت سنويا أكثر من <b>20,000</b> شخص</p> <p><b>نحن نستطيع أن نساعد</b></p> <p>مساعدة الضحايا 24 ساعة الخط الساخن البرنامج (330) 376 - 0040</p> <p><b>SHERRI BEVAN WALSH</b> SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR</p> <p>(330) 643 - 2800 CO.SUMMITOH.NET/PROSECUTOR</p>

# IN THE COMMUNITY

As spring begins to bloom across Northeast Ohio, the Summit County Prosecutor's Office is planting the seeds of safety throughout our community.



We also take pride in assisting other Summit County agencies and celebrating their accomplishments.

Members of the Prosecutor's Office attended the **Summit County Victim Assistance Program's 26th Annual Mardi Gras** event.

For over 45 years, the Summit County Victim Assistance Program has helped thousands of people navigate through the aftermath of becoming a victim.

Members of the Summit county Prosecutor's Office were also in the community helping teach people how to stay safe.



Our monthly FREE Women's Self-Defense classes took us to Akron's Buchtel Community Learning Center.

Those who attended learned techniques to be more aware of their surroundings plus basic self-defense moves to help escape an attacker.



If you would like to have our FREE Women's Self-Defense class in your community, contact Jennifer Watson at [jennifer.watson2@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:jennifer.watson2@jfs.ohio.gov).

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office was also pleased to team up with the Akron Police Department for a recent safety event for local seniors.

Assistant Prosecutor John Galonski spoke with seniors at Firestone Park Community Center and provided tips on how to stay safe. He also provided information about our Take Me Home Program.



Take Me Home is a secure database used by local law enforcement to help reconnect people who have a difficult time communicating with their caretakers.

We also take a lot of pride in helping the less fortunate in our community.

Summit County Prosecutor's Office employees helped prepare and serve food at Open M Ministries. Open M's mission is to break the cycle of poverty and improve the health of our community.



We also like to share the positive work we do in our community with other people across the country.

Prosecutor Walsh just returned from presenting at the National District Attorneys Association annual spring meeting. Members learned about our FREE Women's Self-



Defense classes, our safety speeches, Take Me Home, our safety calendars, and of course, Avery!





# AVERY'S CORNER

# KEEPING THE COMMUNITY SAFE

Anyone know when the weather will get warmer? I want to go play in the park.

In the meantime I'll do my best to help humans who have had bad things happen to them. Recently I sat with two people right before they told their story in court.



I also get to bring a special treat to court to help celebrate humans who graduate from a special program.



I bring a mug full of candy to veterans who complete Valor Court. Valor Court provides veterans access to programs, treatment, and interaction with mentors to help them if they get in trouble.

Thank you to all veterans who sacrificed so much to help keep us safe.

And I love meeting new people. Recently, I got to hang out with some new friends at the Rape Crisis Center.



They were handing out information at the University of Akron.

**Follow Avery II on Facebook at:**

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

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



## GUILTY VERDICTS

### March 2018



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

Jon Baumel

Seema Misra

Zachary Neumann

### GREAT JOB PROSECUTORS!

## TOUGH PROSECUTIONS

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

**Anthony Long, 39**

- Rape
- **LIFE IN PRISON**

**Ed Piechowiak, 66**

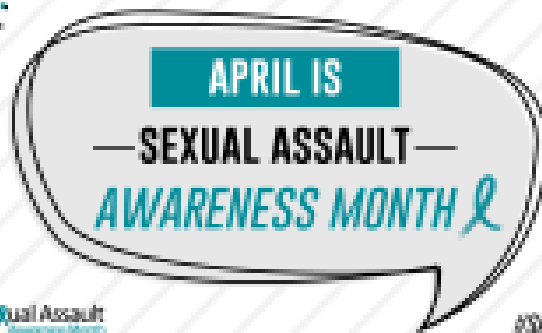
- Aggravated Murder
- **LIFE IN PRISON**

**Davon Irvine, 24**

- Aggravated Robbery
- Aggravated Burglary
- **26 YEARS IN PRISON**

**Donald Watson, 47**

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



Sexual Assault Awareness Month

#SAAM



**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

## SUMMIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTY WES DOBBINS

### NOMINATED BY TAKE ME HOME COORDINATOR LESLIE KNOBLAUCH

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office is very proud to work with local law enforcement to help make the community safer.

We also work hard to try to prevent people from becoming victims. That's why we started the Take Me Home Program—and that's why I nominated Summit County Sheriff's Deputy Wes Dobbins.



Take Me Home is a secure database where we collect the names, descriptions, and images of Summit County citizens who have a difficult time communicating and may have a tendency to wander—such as people with Autism, Down syndrome, Alzheimer's Disease, and other developmental or cognitive disabilities. If a law enforcement officer comes upon someone who seems out of place and can't communicate, they can check the database and hopefully reunite the person with their family or caregiver.

April is Autism Awareness Month. It is a perfect time to remind people about the Take Me Home Program. Deputy

Dobbins plays a key role in updating our database as well as spreading the word about the program.

Recently, Deputy Dobbins researched about 40 individuals in the Nardon Hills City School District who should be in the Take Me Home program.



Deputy Dobbins is currently getting information on these individuals to enter in the database. Officer Dobbins is dedicated to these people and our Take Me Home program!

As this month's TOP COP, Deputy Dobbins receives a gift card to Akron Family Restaurant. Thank you Akron Family Restaurant for your support of local law enforcement.

If you would like more information about our Take Me Home Program, contact Leslie Knoblauch at [knoblauch@prosecutor.summitoh.net](mailto:knoblauch@prosecutor.summitoh.net).

### Congratulations Deputy Dobbins!

## ALICE CERTIFIED!

The mission of the Summit County Prosecutor's Office is to help keep Summit County safe. As part of that mission, **Prosecutor Walsh** and Chief Investigator **Ben Bergeron** took part in intensive, two-day training to become certified ALICE active shooter instructors.

Training included 16 hours of on-site instruction plus an hour of online testing. Prosecutor Walsh and Chief Investigator Bergeron also took part in simulated live shooter scenarios, including finding ways to distract and subdue the shooter.



As certified ALICE instructors, Prosecutor Walsh and Investigator Bergeron can train organizations and businesses to become better prepared and increase their chances of survival if they encounter a violent intruder.

## FREE SELF-DEFENSE CLASS

Get ready to stay safe! Our next FREE Women's Self-Defense class is almost here.

Join us at Hyre Community Learning Center on Wedgewood Drive in Akron on Thursday April 26th, from 6pm to 8pm for potentially life-saving techniques.

We provide common sense tips to help people become more aware plus simple self-defense techniques in case a person is attacked. Hope to see you there!



### FREE WOMEN'S SELF-DEFENSE CLASS

Sponsored by  
**Sherri Bevan Walsh**  
Summit County Prosecutor  
AND  
**Chad Cunningham**  
Certified Instructor  
No registration required!



Thursday,  
April, 26, 2018  
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Hyre Middle School  
2385 Wedgewood Dr.  
Ellet, OH 44312

- 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



**GIVEAWAYS**

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

# WHY I'M A PROSECUTOR

## KATIE TOMKO

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office has a new campaign to help inform the public about what it's like to be a prosecutor. Each month, an assistant prosecutor in our criminal division will explain why they chose to be a prosecutor.

This month, Assistant Prosecutor Katie Tomko discusses her reasons why she is a prosecutor.



### • WHY DID YOU BECOME A PROSECUTOR?

When I was 15 my sister was killed while running and that was something that really motivated me to want to fight for other people and fight for other victims of crime.

At the sentencing hearing for the guy responsible for my sister's death, I remember meeting with Prosecutor Walsh and she told me about why she became a prosecutor and that was something that had an impact on me and it gave me a sense of hope that out of a really terrible situation something good could come from fighting for other victims.

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

The best part of being a prosecutor is getting to fight for people who can't fight for themselves. I'm in the Child Protection Unit and I get to fight for kids who are witnesses or victims of crime; getting to fight for those children and then getting to see them get into a home where they can be safe.

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

Whenever we encounter opposing counsel who make this a game and it's about winning. That's something that I think is really sad and unfortunate because we're dealing with people's lives and what we do in court has an impact on people and that's what it should be about. It should be about others and not us as attorneys.

Katie's full "Why I'm a Prosecutor" video is on our website and Facebook page.

## CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Did you know over seven million children in the United States are referred to their local child protective services agency? A report of child abuse is made every 10 seconds.

It may be difficult to tell if a child is being abused or neglected. Abusers oftentimes convince and manipulate a child to be silent about their abuse.

You can help stop the abuse of these innocent children. If you think a child may be abused or neglected, monitor the situation as closely as you can and contact authorities. In Summit County, call 330.434.KIDS (5437) to report abuse or neglect. Together we can stop child abuse.



APRIL IS NATIONAL  
**CHILD ABUSE**  
PREVENTION MONTH

Office of Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh

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**Summit County Prosecuting Attorney**

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