



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

**A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH
CELEBRATING 2018!**

In my nearly 20 years as Summit County Prosecutor, I am proud of my record of holding criminals accountable and helping keep Summit County safe. My office handles approximately 4,000 felony cases each year—many show the worst of humanity. However, when I look beyond the numbers, I find the positives.

As I look back on 2018, I focus on all the good my office does. My staff of assistant prosecutors, victim advocates, investigators, child support case workers, secretaries and support staff work hard each and every day to make our community better.

This year we held nine FREE Women’s Self-Defense classes throughout the county. Several hundred people of all ages attended these events, learning potentially life-saving information.

My office has also provided safety information to hundreds of seniors at over 30 senior safety events. We discussed the latest scams as well as provide tips to help minimize a person’s chance of becoming a victim.

This year we kicked off our Arrive Alive program. During the July 4th, Thanksgiving, and New Year’s holidays, my office provided free taxi rides home for people. The hope is that we keep drunk drivers off the road. So far, nearly 200 people took advantage of this free service.

One of my favorite things we do each year is our Safety Kids Calendar Contest. Over 1,000 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students submit posters depicting one of my 12 safety rules. Those rules are:

- Trust Yourself: Don’t Give Into Peer Pressure
- Don’t Do Drugs!
- Don’t Use Alcohol!
- Never Play With Guns!
- Don’t Smoke!
- Never Give Out Personal Information Online!

- Don’t Talk to Anyone You Don’t Know!
- Say NO to Unwanted Touch!



- Never Tell Anyone You Are Home Alone!
- Say NO to Gangs!
- Stop Bullies in Their Tracks! Always Tell an Adult
- Violence at Home is Never Okay! Your Home Should be a Safe Place!

The kids do a phenomenal job with their creative and colorful posters. There are 54 total winners including a grand prize winner who has their poster on the front cover of the calendar. And this year, for the first time in the 17 years I’ve held the contest, we had a repeat grand prize winner. Congratulations to everyone who participated and a big thank you to my employees who helped put it all together.

So as 2018 comes to an end, I look forward to 2019 and helping keep more people in Summit County safe.

Have a Happy New Year—and stay safe!

Sherri B. Walsh



**FREE WOMEN'S
SELF-DEFENSE CLASS**
Sponsored by
Sherri Bevan Walsh
Summit County Prosecutor
AND
Chad Cunningham
Certified Instructor



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IN THE COMMUNITY

We hope everyone is having an enjoyable and relaxing holiday season. The Summit County Prosecutor’s Office is working hard to make sure you are safe year round!

That includes teaching people potentially life-saving techniques. About 40 people attended our most recent FREE Women’s Self-Defense class at Revere High School.



Participants learned ways to stay safe while shopping during the holidays. They also practiced techniques to escape in case they are attacked.



We’re planning our next FREE Women’s Self-Defense class in January.

Check your email or our Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram accounts for the latest information.

Prosecutor Walsh also spread the message of safety during a senior safety speech at the Nordonia Hills Senior Center.

Around 50 people learned about the latest scams targeting seniors as well as the best ways to avoid becoming a victim of crime.

Simple things, like answering your door but not opening it if someone knocks, could minimize your chances of becoming a victim.

And an answering machine is a great way to slow the number of robo calls. If you don’t know the number, don’t pick up! Let the machine answer. If it’s important, the person calling will leave a message.



We also love speaking with younger people—and potential future prosecutors. **Prosecutor Walsh and Chief Counsel Brad Gessner** went back to school for their annual program with students at Hudson Middle School.

The students learned what goes into prosecuting a case and related that to Edgar Allen Poe’s “The Tell-Tale Heart”. Prosecutor Walsh presented a real-life case involving a Summit County man who admitted in 2011 to killing his mother and brother at their Hudson home.



Poe’s story is of a man who went insane after killing a friend and burying the body under the floor of his room. The character believes he still hears his friend’s beating heart, which eventually drives him crazy.



The Summit County Prosecutor’s Office takes a lot of pride in assisting our brothers and sisters in law enforcement.

Close to 50 members of law enforcement in Summit County



attended our recent police officer training. Kimberly Overton, the Chief Resource Officer for the North Carolina Conference of District Attorneys led the presentation.



Topics included courtroom presentation and testimony, strengthening memory between the investigation and trial, and improving the

relationship between prosecutors and the law enforcement community.



AVERY'S CORNER

KEEPING THE COMMUNITY SAFE

The weather is getting chilly. Time to cuddle up with someone you love!

I love helping others. That's me with a young girl who was going through some tough times at home.



She asked if I could sit with her. How could I say no! This is one of my favorite things to do.

I'm glad I was able to make her feel better.

I do love meeting new people—especially little humans.

These little ones came to the Summit County Courthouse to learn more about all the things that happen in court.



They're part of a Salvation Army group who visited as part of Veterans' Day.

I had a lot of fun with them. They were very nice.

The colder weather might force my new friend inside.



That's me with my new friend Princess the cat. Princess came by to play with me and my buddy Bogey during a nice November day. I hope the weather clears up soon so we can play together.

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GUILTY VERDICTS

November 2018



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

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Teri Burnside | Jeff Puthoff (2) |
| Amanda Hall | Brian Stano |
| Elisabeth Jackson | Jaime Syx (2) |

GREAT JOB PROSECUTORS!



PROSECUTOR HIGH FIVE!

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office works closely with the law enforcement community. Many officers go above and beyond on a daily basis. We'd like to highlight some of them for their work. Assistant Prosecutor Ariana Zimcosky would like to thank two officers for this month's Prosecutor High Fives!

Akron Police Officer Utomhin Okoh took extra time with a juvenile who was charged with domestic violence to calm her down, not only on the scene but at court too. He was very patient and just wanted to see the girl get some help.

I'd also like to recognize Akron Police Officer DeAndre Holland. Officer Holland asked about different options for parents and kids who have disputes so he can better handle situations in the field.



Congratulations!

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Help Us Go Green!

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



TOP COP

AKRON POLICE OFFICER CHRISTOPHER CROCKETT

NOMINATED BY ASST. PROSECUTOR ARIANA ZIMCOSKY

Investigating a crime has its own difficulties and challenges. From gathering evidence to interviewing the victim, suspect, and witnesses, police officers many times have their hands full in their push to get to the truth.

But getting that information sometimes becomes even more difficult if the person charged with a crime is under 18. Juveniles are provided additional protections once charged with a crime.



Finding solutions without violating a suspect's rights is why I nominate Akron Police Officer Christopher Crockett.

Officer Crockett recently handled a case where a juvenile was charged with criminal child enticement and unlawful restraint. The teen was accused of luring two girls into his backyard and groping one of them.

Officer Crockett handled the case with the utmost professionalism and care, interviewing both the suspect and victim several times throughout the investigation.

As the case progressed, a suppression hearing was held to determine what information and evidence could be used. Officer Crockett was very composed when he testified at the hearing. He provided detailed information and his steps for the investigation. This was vital as the Magistrate ruled in favor of the State. The Magistrate stated that Officer Crockett's interview of the juvenile suspect was a textbook example of how these interviews should be done. The Magistrate also noted that was a good

example of how ALL interrogations should be conducted.

The juvenile eventually admitted to the charges and was placed on probation, ordered to undergo counseling, and apologize to the victims.

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

Congratulations Officer Crockett!

HANDLING HOLIDAY STRESS

'Tis the season for friends and family, dinners and parties, and plenty of holiday stress!

If you feel you're at the boiling point—don't lash out at those closest to you. We've handled plenty of domestic violence cases where people are victimized during the holidays. But before your situation gets to that point, here are some tips from the Cleveland Clinic to help calm things down.

- Stay active. Go out for a walk.
- Volunteer your time to help others.
- Simplify holiday commitments and traditions.
- Allow time for yourself.
- Don't overschedule yourself.
- Limit alcohol consumption.
- Get help. Don't be embarrassed to ask for help any time of the year.

For some, the holidays can also be a depressing time. Feelings of sadness, loneliness, and anger can intensify.

If you or a loved one has expressed feelings of being a burden on others, of feeling hopeless or helpless in coping with personal challenges, reach out for help. Also, check in on a neighbor or friend.

The Summit County Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health (ADM) Board can assist.

Call their help hotline—330.434.9144.



WHY I'M A PROSECUTOR

JENNIE SHUKI

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office has an ongoing campaign to help inform the public about what it's like to be a prosecutor. Each month, an assistant prosecutor explains why they chose to be a prosecutor.

This month Assistant Prosecutor Jennie Shuki, a supervisor in our Criminal Division, discusses the reasons why she is a prosecutor.

• WHY DID YOU BECOME A PROSECUTOR?

I was a social worker between college and law school working with people with disabilities. I worked with one woman who was sexually assaulted by a friend's father. I had to help her at the police station, make reports, prepare for trial—basically I had to help her through the overall process. Because of her developmental disabilities, she had a difficult time understanding what was going on. After that I thought I could take my psychology and social work background and put it to use to help victims who maybe don't understand the process. The experience really helped me decide where I wanted to go in law.



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

The best thing about being a prosecutor, is being able to speak for victims. I think it's really important to help them take back their power. I find that after a conviction victims find closure, especially children. They feel this sense of relief and accomplishment because they were able to take back the power taken from them and maybe help other kids not be victimized.

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

The most difficult part of being a prosecutor is the cases I get. I review almost all the sexual assault cases, including the ones involving children, which come into the office. That can be really trying because I see all the horrible things people do to each other, the way people victimize others, especially those who can't protect themselves.

You can watch Jennie's full "Why I'm a Prosecutor" video on our website, Facebook and YouTube page.

STAN HYWET—DECK THE HALL

The holiday season is here. A wonderful time of year to walk around and check out the holiday lights.

Check out one of Ohio's largest and most spectacular holiday traditions. Head to Stan Hywet Hall for *Deck the Hall*. The estate is illuminated inside and out with over ONE MILLION lights, and the historic Manor House is decorated and inspired by the theme of Winter Wonderland.

The holiday tradition runs select nights through December 30th. For more information www.stanhywet.org/events/deck-hall-2018



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