



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

**A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH
HAVE A SAFE HOLIDAY!**

The holiday season is upon us. A time when we gather and celebrate with friends and family. Unfortunately it is also a time when people are more likely to be injured—or even die—while behind the wheel.

The busiest travel days of the year are usually the day before Thanksgiving and the Sunday after the holiday. According to AAA, more than 54 million Americans are expected to travel 50 miles or more away from home this Thanksgiving, the most since 2005. The majority, close to 49 million Americans, plan on travelling by car for the holiday. Besides avoiding traffic, there are other ways to stay safe.

Unfortunately, many people will drink alcohol and think it's ok to drive. In fact, Thanksgiving eve is typically the biggest night for alcohol consumption. That's why my office is sponsoring our Arrive Alive program. We are providing free cab rides home in Summit County during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend (up to \$65) for those who've had too much to drink. You can get a free cab ride home beginning Wednesday November 21st at 6pm. The program

ends Sunday the 25th at six in the morning. You can read more about Arrive Alive later in this newsletter.

My main goal as Summit County Prosecutor is to make sure people are safe. So before you hit the road, here are some simple tips to help you get to your destination safely, and hopefully on time.

AAA expects to rescue nearly 360,000 motorists during the Thanksgiving holiday. Dead batteries, flat tires, and even locking your keys in your car are just some of the reasons for car trouble. So make sure your vehicle is running properly. You don't want to get stuck on the side of the road.

Some common sense goes a long way in preventing tragedy. Wear your seatbelt and make sure others in your car are properly buckled. Also, get plenty of sleep before hitting the road. And put that cell phone away! The National Safety Council estimates over 400 people may be killed and nearly 50,000 more seriously injured

in crashes during the Thanksgiving holiday. Last year, Thanksgiving was the second deadliest holiday on the roads, trailing only the Fourth of July.

Holiday safety doesn't end once you park your car. Make sure you are aware of your surroundings, especially when you go holiday shopping. Just looking around could lessen your chances of becoming a victim.

Criminals do not want to be recognized, and if they see you are paying attention, they are less likely to target you. And take your eyes off your phone and watch where you are walking!

Don't get overwhelmed with all those packages. If you are concerned about your safety, ask a store manager to escort you to your vehicle.

And finally, make sure you are mentally prepared for the holidays. It can be a stressful time of year. The Summit County ADM Board can help. Call their hotline at 330.434.9144.

As always, stay safe.



ARRIVE ALIVE

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Celebrate the holidays responsibly!



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Sherri B. Walsh

IN THE COMMUNITY

The leaves might be falling and the weather turning colder, but our resolve to help keep Summit County safe is as strong as ever.

October is a big month for the Summit County Prosecutor's Office. It's when we hold one of our most anticipated events—our Safety Kids Calendar contest.

We received over 1,200 posters from 6th, 7th, and 8th graders throughout Summit County about our 12 rules of safety.



During our awards ceremony on

October 29th Prosecutor Walsh presented the grand prize to **Jaylee Greenwell** from Schrop Intermediate School.



This is the first time in the calendar's 17 year history that we have had a person win the grand prize in back-to-back years. Jaylee's poster telling kids to say No To Unwanted Touch will be featured on the front cover of the 2019 Safety Kids calendar. Last year Jaylee was the grand prize winner

for her poster urging kids to stay away from alcohol. And in 2017, Jaylee was a 1st place winner for her anti-smoking poster.

Congratulations Jaylee and everyone else who participated in our annual event.

Thanks to the **Tallmadge Chamber of Commerce** for having Prosecutor Walsh speak at the group's October luncheon at The Venue on Tallmadge Circle.

Prosecutor Walsh spoke about the office's mission of holding criminals accountable and keeping the community safe.



Members of the Prosecutor's Office were also in Tallmadge for our latest FREE Women's Self-Defense class.

About 40 people showed up at the high school to learn vital information, including potentially life-saving techniques like how to properly kick an attacker in the groin (thanks Chad!)



Keep an eye out in this newsletter and on our social media accounts for our next FREE Women's Self-Defense class.

We're making plans for our January location and will announce details shortly.

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office continued on the mission of keeping the community safe as **Prosecutor Walsh** spoke to the Vista Springs Seniors at the United Methodist Church in Macedonia.



About 50 people learned about the latest scams and how to avoid becoming a victim of crime.

We also spread the word about safety to seniors at Akron's Patterson Park. **Prosecutor Walsh** spoke with the Patterson Park Plus 50 group.



Prosecutor Walsh was honored to meet with employees at one of Summit County's largest businesses—JOANN Fabric.

The company held a benefit EXPO for its employees. We spoke with close to 200 JOANN workers and provided them with simple tips to help them stay safe.





AVERY'S CORNER

KEEPING THE COMMUNITY SAFE

This is one of my favorite times of the year. The weather is getting cooler, so I don't have to worry as much about overheating.

And I get to play with new friends. This is Precious. She visits at my house. I really like playing with Precious.



Although she's a cat I think we get along just fine!

I also love meeting new human friends. This is someone who has gone through a lot.

I was able to sit with her and help her as she had to tell people the bad stuff that happened to her.



I'm glad I was able to sit with her. She was very nice.

I hope everyone had a safe and fun Halloween. I did not get to dress up this year, but I got to hang out with a bunch of humans who did!

That's a little human who says he is Spiderman. I'm not so sure but he knew all the moves!

I hope he got lots of candy for the holiday.



Follow Avery II on Facebook at:

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

SummitCountyProsecutorAveryII



Help Us Go Green!

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



GUILTY VERDICTS

October 2018



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

Jon Baumoel

Tom Kroll

Teri Burnside

Brian LoPrinzi (2)

Joe Dangelo

Cletus Pulliam

Elisabeth Jackson

Dan Sallerson

GREAT JOB PROSECUTORS!



TOUGH PROSECUTIONS

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

Darnell Bitting, 32

- Murder
- **LIFE IN PRISON**

Queitin Tyler, 34

- Murder
- **LIFE IN PRISON**

Thorton Thomas, 31

- Aggravated Robbery
- Aggravated Burglary
- Felonious Assault
- **25 YEARS IN PRISON**

Tyler Jones, 20

- Aggravated Robbery
- Felonious Assault
- **21 YEARS IN PRISON**

Darren Townsend, 38

- Trafficking in Persons
- **14 YEARS IN PRISON**

Pearl Coffey, 35

- Att. Trafficking in Persons
- **6 YEARS IN PRISON**

TOP COP

SUMMIT CO. SHERIFF'S DETECTIVE BRIAN BREEDEN NOMINATED BY ASST. PROSECUTORS JON BAUMOEL & CLETUS PULLIAM

We prosecute thousands of cases a year—from murders to robberies to domestic violence. Some of our more difficult cases involve sexual assault and rape. We work very closely with law enforcement to ensure the survivor is treated with respect and the dignity they deserve.

That is why we nominate Summit County Sheriff's Deputy Brian Breeden as this month's TOP COP.

Detective Breeden was the lead investigator in the sexual assault of a 29-year-old woman. The woman left an Akron area bar and was followed by the defendant who abducted the woman and sexually assaulted her.

We all handle trauma differently. Many times, the memory of a person who goes through a traumatic event is scattered. It's like their memories are pieces of a puzzle which dropped on the floor. Det. Breeden worked with the victim and was able to help piece together her memory to complete the story.



Det. Breeden also interviewed the defendant several times. During those interviews, the defendant made incriminating statements. The defendant's story also did not match the evidence. Det. Breeden canvassed the area and obtained security video footage from numerous businesses, reviewed hours of tape, and located segments that corroborated the victim's statement.

Because of Det. Breeden's diligent work, we secured a conviction in the case.

Wayne Andrews was found guilty of sexual battery and abduction and was sentenced to eight years in prison. The judge also designated Andrews as a Tier III sex offender, meaning he will have to register with the local sheriff every 90 days for the rest of his life.

As this month's TOP COP, Det. Breeden receives a gift card to The Waterloo Restaurant. Thank you Waterloo for your continued support of local law enforcement.

Congratulations Det. Breeden!!!

HOLIDAY TREE FESTIVAL

Summit County residents have a wonderful way to celebrate the holidays, while giving back at the same time.

The annual Holiday Tree Festival, now in its 37th year, is lighting up Akron's John S. Knight Center. This year, more than 200 decorated trees, 85,000 strings of lights, more than 85 wreaths and hundreds of other holiday creations are on display.

Since its inception in 1982, the Holiday Tree Festival has raised more than \$5.3 million dollars for the Akron Children's Hospital.

All items on display are donated by local businesses, groups, and individuals.

The event, which is free, runs now until November 25th. You can check out — and even purchase — the fantastic creations. The Holiday Tree Festival is open from 11am until 8pm, except Thanksgiving Day when the event's hours are from 2pm to 6pm.



Presented by the Volunteers of

 Akron Children's Hospital



WHY I'M A PROSECUTOR

SAMANTHA HARDIN

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, one of our assistant prosecutors explains why they chose to be a prosecutor.

This month Assistant Prosecutor Samantha Hardin, with our criminal division, discusses the reasons why she is a prosecutor.

• WHY DID YOU BECOME A PROSECUTOR?

My childhood inspired me to become a prosecutor. I am a victim of child abuse. In my childhood I suffered at the hands of someone who was supposed to protect me. I also witnessed verbal abuse, emotional abuse and domestic violence. I was fortunate that I did not have to stay in that environment. Once I was able to get out of that environment I knew that what I experienced was not normal and was not the way childhoods were supposed to be. It inspired me to go into law and be an advocate for children and I thought the best way to do that was to become a prosecutor.



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

The best part about being a prosecutor is being able to touch multiple people's lives. I started in the Child Protection Unit at the Summit County Prosecutor's Office so I could be the voice for children who could not advocate for themselves. I also enjoy helping victims and being a voice for them in court.

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

The most difficult part of being a prosecutor is seeing what society in general doesn't see. We see trauma and abuse on a daily basis. The hardest thing for me is to see how trauma impacts a person. It changes their personality and outlook on life and it's difficult to get through.

Sam's full "Why I'm a Prosecutor" video will be on our website, Facebook and YouTube page.

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 21, we will offer free rides home within Summit County for anyone who has had too much to drink. Call 330.475.7888 to arrange for a free ride home in Summit County. The life you save might be your own!

ARRIVE ALIVE

SPONSORED BY:



SHERRI BEVAN WALSH
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR

Celebrate the holidays responsibly!

Have a designated sober driver or call **ArriveAlive**
330.475.7888

The life you save may be your own!

A FREE Cab Ride Home in Summit County
(up to \$65)
From 6pm Wednesday Nov. 21 to 6am Sunday Nov 25

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS:



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