



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

## A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS

October has its share of observances and awareness days.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, National Animal Safety and Protection Month, and even National Pretzel Month.

However one observance, in my opinion, does not get as much attention.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

As a strong advocate for victims, I believe we must do everything we can to end the cycle of violence. That is why I am so proud to have our Domestic Violence Unit.

We created the unit in 2004. It is comprised of highly trained prosecutors dedicated to assisting domestic violence victims. Our office handles approximately 300 intimate partner felony domestic violence cases each year.

Also, Summit County is the only county in the state with a courtroom dedicated to handling felony domestic violence cases. Offenders go through a thorough screening process to determine if they are eligible for the intensive 52-week program. The



**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
AWARENESS MONTH**

overall goal is to prevent any future acts of violence.

The statistics can be overwhelming. On average, 24 people per minute are victims of rape, physical violence or stalking by an intimate partner in the United States — more than 12 million women and men over the course of a year.

Domestic violence does not discriminate. People young and old can either be victims or witness domestic violence. In the U.S. one in four women and one in seven men age 18 and older have been the victim of severe physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime.

Also, one in 15 children are exposed to intimate partner violence each year, with 90 percent actually witnessing the incident..

This monthly awareness campaign began over 30 years ago, but many victims still live in fear and silence. Summit County offers many resources to help victims.

Prevention begins with education. My office provides community education to highlight the importance of prosecuting domestic violence related crimes. You can help stop the cycle of violence.

The Battered Women's Shelter of Summit and Medina Counties is a great resource. The agency's 24-hour crisis hotline is 888.395.HELP (4357) for Summit County and 877.414.1344 for Medina County.

The agency also offers advice and resources on its

Twitter and Facebook accounts. Follow them at [www.facebook.com/scmcbws](http://www.facebook.com/scmcbws) or @SummitMedinaBWS.

As always, stay safe,

*Sherri B. Walsh*



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# IN THE COMMUNITY

September was a busy month for the Summit County Prosecutor's Office as employees worked hard to help keep the community safe during Senior Safety Awareness month.

But it wasn't just seniors we were helping protect. About 45 people came out to Jennings Community Learning Center in Akron to our FREE Women's Self-Defense class.

Those who attended learned simple techniques to help them minimize their chances of becoming a victim.

Our next FREE Women's Self-Defense class is Tuesday October 30 from 6p-8p at Tallmadge High School.



We had a great time speaking with the Haven of Rest's Women's Auxiliary group.

**John Galonski, who heads up our Civil Division, and Angela Walls-Alexander, who's our Director of Community Outreach,** provided vital safety information to about 70 women.

Those in attendance learned the best ways to avoid phone scams—get an answering machine! If someone calls from a number you don't recognize, let the call go to the answering machine. More often than not, the unknown caller won't leave a message. Plus, you won't have to worry about speaking with someone who is looking to steal your money.

The IRS won't call you demanding payment through a gift card. If someone calls claiming to be your grandchild, and asking for money, hang up. Then call your family to make sure everyone is ok.

Summit County Prosecutor's Office employees were all over the county providing safety information for seniors.

**Prosecutor Walsh** spoke with members of the Nordonia Hills AARP.

The group learned safety information and key awareness techniques to avoid becoming a victim.



Hudson was the scene of our most recent Senior Safety Fair.

Close to 50 people gathered at the Hudson Library as **Summit County Sheriff Steve Barry, Hudson Police Chief Perry Tabak,** and

Summit County Assistant Prosecutor John Galonski provided safety information.



The Summit County Prosecutor's Office also has a wonderful, dedicated staff. We got a chance to celebrate all the hard work they do by holding the "Nacho-Ordinary" Employee Appreciation Luncheon.

We had a great turnout as employees from the criminal division, civil division, and child support gathered in the atrium of the Ohio Building for a yummy lunch of tacos!

Thank you to everyone who helped organize the event as well as Prosecutor's Office employees who work hard every day to make Summit County a better place to live.



# AVERY'S CORNER

# KEEPING THE COMMUNITY SAFE

I love September. Those hot summer days are behind us. Pups like me love the cooler days and cuddle under a blanket at night.

And speaking of comfy places, I got to hang out with a special girl.



She's had a tough time recently. I hope I was able to make her visit better. She even got one of my stuffed animals!

I also got to spend time with a new friend. That's Magistrate Kandi O'Connor.

I had to be in Magistrate O'Connor's court for a special hearing.

The humans say it was a civil protection order. It sounded like one human was asking for help in keeping a bad person away from them.



I made some more new friends. These are cadets at the University of Akron.

They learned about what I do and how I help crime victims, especially young children.

They were really nice. I wish them nothing but the best.



**Follow Avery II on Facebook at:**

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## GUILTY VERDICTS

### September 2018



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

**Jon Baumoel**

**Dan Sallerson (2)**

**Ty Graham**

**Jennie Shuki**

**Rick Raley**

**Brian Stano**

## GREAT JOB PROSECUTORS!



## TOUGH PROSECUTIONS

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

**Robert Hanford, 27**

**Albert Wade, 46**

- Murder
- LIFE IN PRISON

- Felonious Assault
- 7 YEARS IN PRISON



**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

## AKRON POLICE OFFICER ERIK FENDENHEIM

### NOMINATED BY ASST. PROSECUTOR DAN SALLERSON

Strong police work comes in different ways. The one common aspect is an unrelenting determination to find the truth. That is why I nominate Akron Police Officer Erik Fendenheim.

Breaking up is hard to do—especially when the break up ends in a crime. And it's not always easy for police to find out what happened. This time it walked right up to an officer.

In March of this year, Bryan Arnold went to his ex-girlfriend's sister's apartment to retrieve some personal items. Both his ex-girlfriend and her sister were there. After putting the items in his car, Arnold was approached by three men who assaulted him and took his stuff. Arnold's ex-girlfriend then helped the men put the stolen items in her car.

Arnold walked to a nearby convenience store to call police. On the way, he was able to flag down a police cruiser. Inside was Officer Fendenheim. After investigating, Arnold's ex-girlfriend, Danielle Mitchell, was arrested and charged with robbery.



As part of his investigation, Officer Fendenheim spoke with Danielle Mitchell's sister, Jasmine, getting her to admit Danielle's role in the crime. This made it very difficult for Jasmine to testify on behalf of her sister.

In addition to getting witness statements, Officer Fendenheim immediately started the process of getting surveillance video of the incident.

Officer Fendenheim also did a phenomenal job testifying during the trial. His actions from beginning to end were vital in securing a conviction.

Danielle Mitchell was found guilty of robbery and was sentenced to two years in prison.

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

### Congratulations Officer Fendenheim!!!

## BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. About one in eight women will develop invasive breast cancer some time during their life.

Just this year an estimated 266,000 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed in women in the U.S.



Early detection is key to survival—and you may not have to pay for a mammogram.

To learn more about free breast cancer screenings call the Ohio Department of Health Breast and Cervical Cancer Project at 1.800.381.2489.

## FREE SELF-DEFENSE CLASS

Halloween is right around the corner. We have the perfect thing to help keep those ghosts and goblins away.

Come join us for our next FREE Women's Self-Defense class.

We will be at Tallmadge High School on Tuesday October 30th from 6pm to 8pm. We have a great time as people learn potentially life-saving techniques.

Don't forget to bring a friend for common sense tips to help people lessen their chances of becoming a victim.



### FREE WOMEN'S SELF-DEFENSE CLASS

Sponsored by **Sherri Bevan Walsh**  
Summit County Prosecutor

AND **Chad Cunningham**  
Certified Instructor  
No registration required!



Tuesday, October 30th, 2018  
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Tallmadge High School  
Gymnasium  
140 N. Munroe Road  
Tallmadge, OH 44278

- 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



For more information, contact Jennifer Watson  
330-641-2702, JENNIFER.WATSON2@jfs.ohio.gov

# WHY I'M A PROSECUTOR

## ELLIOT KOLKOVICH

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 Elliot Kolkovich discusses the reasons why he is a prosecutor.

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

I'm a prosecutor because I like to be there for people when they are going through their worst times. As a prosecutor we frequently meet with people right after they've become a victim of crime. This is a very fragile time for them and I want to make sure they're treated with the respect they deserve.

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

The best part about being a prosecutor is helping a victim through the worst time in their life. I also work with some of the most dedicated men and women I've ever met. It's

really a team atmosphere here as we all help each other out.



Going to school and wanting to be a journalist ties in to being a prosecutor because it's about accountability. What I saw in journalism was trying to hold people in powerful positions accountable and what I see as a prosecutor is holding people accountable for what they've done.

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

The most difficult thing about being a prosecutor is there are not always winners in your cases. You do your best in your case as you try to bring justice for the victim, but I don't know if it ever feels really fulfilling for the victim. I think we try to make them at peace but that may not always be possible.

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

## RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF VICTIMS

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office is relentless in its goal of helping victims of crime. Our Victim Advocates are passionate about helping people through this difficult time.

We are also passionate about training others in how to best understand the unique needs of crime victims. Over 350 people attended our 3rd annual "Responding to the Needs of Victims" conference at the Hilton Akron/Fairlawn.

Thank you to presenters Tom Tremblay and Mark Wynn who provided incredible insight and information into the needs of crime victims.

We are already planning next year's event and can't wait to share this training with people who interact with victims of crime.



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