



FROM THE OFFICE OF
 SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH
WE CAN HELP

April is a special time. Spring is here. The weather is getting warmer and the days are getting longer.

But for me, April is special for another reason. Historically, the first week of April is designated as National Crime Victim Rights Week.



The week helps remind us to recommit to our mission of ensuring all victims of crime are provided specific rights.

My office works with about 2,000 crime victims each year. My dedicated team of victim advocates speaks with each victim and their family, taking them step by step through the criminal process. We try to help as many people as possible.

That is why I have launched a new victim awareness campaign, entitled "We Can Help". We purchased billboards and bus ads throughout Summit County with the assistance of a Victim of Crime Awareness grant. The ads run through the end of April

and let crime victims know they are not alone. The ads also provide contact information for other local agencies, such as the Battered Women's Shelter of Summit and Medina Counties, the Summit County Victim Assistance Program, and the Rape Crisis Center of Medina and Summit Counties.

But my office also did something a little different. Some of the ads are in languages other than English. The message is also in Spanish, Arabic, and Nepali. I felt it was important to reach out to underserved populations of Summit County. My office worked with the International Institute of Akron and Asia, Inc. to determine which languages to use and the best way to reach people.

Throughout my career, I have found that many times victims do not know where to go for help. The emotional impact of being a crime victim can be overwhelming. Victims can feel isolated and alone. That is especially true when it comes to people who may not know our language, laws,

and customs. They are new to our country, which in itself can be very intimidating. But then what happens if they are a victim of a crime?

More than **80,000** people in Summit County are crime victims each year.

WE CAN HELP

Battered Women's Shelter 24 hour hotline: (888) 395 - 4357
 Rape Crisis Center 24 hour hotline: (877) 906 - 7273
 Victim Assistance Program 24 hour hotline: (330) 376 - 0040

SHERRI BEVAN WALSH
 SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
 (330) 643-2800 CO.SUMMITOH.NET/PROSECUTOR

This project was supported by a Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) grant award (#2017-VOCA-43553119) administered by the Ohio Attorney General's Office.

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Call: Victim Assistance Program 24 hour hotline: (330) 376 - 0040

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PODEMOS AYUDARTE

Lláme al: Victim Assistance Program línea directa 24 horas: (330) 376 - 0040

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اكثر من **80,000** شخص ضحية للجرائم في مقاطعة سوميت سنويا

نحن نستطيع أن نساعد

الخط الساخن لمساعدة الضحايا 24 ساعة: (330) 376 - 0040

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ममिड काउन्टीमा प्रत्येक वर्ष **२०,०००** भन्दा बढि व्यक्तिहरु अपराध पीडित हुन्।

हामी मद्दत गर्न सक्छौं ।

पीडित सहायता कार्यक्रम २४ घण्टा हटलाईन: (३३०) ३७६ - ००४०

शेरी बिवान वाल्श
 SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
 (330) 643-2800 CO.SUMMITOH.NET/PROSECUTOR

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The hope is they see a reassuring message in their native tongue that tells them they are not alone and there is help available. Victims, their family, and friends now know someone is on their side and will fight for their rights.

A final message for all—stay safe!

Sherrri B. Walsh

IN THE COMMUNITY

March started out with a tremendous honor for Prosecutor Walsh.

At the **Victim Assistance Program's 25th Annual Mardi Gras** celebration, Prosecutor Walsh received the **2017 Bernard Rosen Community Service Award** for her commitment to helping victims of crime.



Pictured are Prosecutor Walsh with **Leanne Graham, Director of the Summit County Victim Assistance Program.**

Several members of the Prosecutor's Office also attended.

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



That commitment to keeping the community safe continued with our Free Women's Self-Defense class at **Akron's First Apostolic Church.**

About 70 people took part, learning potentially life-saving techniques to help them get away from an attacker.

Summit County Deputy Sheriff Paul Wright helped lead the class and provided key information.

Here are some very important things to remember, even if you don't know any self-defense moves.



Do you know the best place to stand in an elevator?

The best place to stand in an elevator is by the control panel. In case someone grabs you, hit all of the buttons so you can get out on the next floor. It increases your chance of escape.



Also, always make sure someone knows where you are, especially if you are travelling alone. But don't walk around in a daze or distracted. Be aware—and keep your head up and your eyes off your phone!

Our next FREE Women's Self-Defense class is scheduled for Thursday April 27 at Nordonia High School from 6p-8p.

Also at the event, Prosecutor Walsh handed over a check to the church to help pay for supplies. The First Apostolic Church opens its gym to members of the community, providing them with a warm place to stay, as well as food and clothes.



The First Apostolic Church was featured in the March edition of our criminal newsletter.

For more information or to learn how you can help or donate your time or money, go to www.firstfaithdevelopment.org.

And we had a great visit from **Girl Scout Troop 90518 from Hudson.** We love teaching young people the importance of staying safe.

Plus, they got to meet our most popular employee—Avery!





AVERY'S CORNER

KEEPING THE COMMUNITY SAFE

March sure came in like a lion—which isn't too bad because I like lions (and I'm not lyin'!).

But I sure was busy! I got to help so many people. That's me with a bear (not a real one) which went into kits to help survivors of sexual assault.



I was with my friends from the Prosecutor's Office who helped put together the kits at the Cleveland Clinic Akron General Hospital. The Fear2Freedom kits have brand new things, like clothes, a toothbrush, soap, a resource card, and a "Freedom Teddy Bear". I'm so glad we are able to help.

You can help and learn more about the kits by going to www.fear2freedom.org.

I also had a chance to visit the volunteers at the Rape Crisis Center.



They do such wonderful work and I was very happy to join them and say hi.

The weather will hopefully get warmer so I can go outside and play.

Have a safe April and don't eat too many chocolate bunnies!

Follow Avery II on Facebook at:
www.facebook.com/SummitCountyProsecutorAveryII



GUILTY VERDICTS



March 2016

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office had a **100% CONVICTION RATE** for March—the third month in a row! Congratulations to the following assistant prosecutors for obtaining convictions at trial.

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Nora Bryan (2) | Ty Graham (2) |
| Joe Dangelo (2) | Jeff Puthoff (2) |
| Angela Poth-Wypasek (2) | Jennie Shuki |

GREAT JOB PROSECUTORS!

TOUGH PROSECUTIONS

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

Phillip Battle, 52

- Involuntary Manslaughter
- Tampering with Evidence
- Domestic Violence
- **14 YEARS IN PRISON**

Darien Mingo, 23

- Involuntary Manslaughter
- **10 YEARS IN PRISON**



APRIL IS NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

join us in CELEBRATION



Help Us Go Green!

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



TOP COP

AKRON POLICE DETECTIVE ANTHONY SUTTON NOMINATED BY ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR JEFF PUTHOFF

Cases involving violence between family members can be very difficult. Many times, family members do not want to press charges and will change their story to protect the person who committed the crime.

Recently we prosecuted such a case. Brandon Greene shot his cousin in July of 2016. Several family members witnessed the shooting, including Brandon's mother, aunt, and girlfriend. However, none were cooperative with police on the day of the shooting. The victim himself even changed his story and at one point claimed his aunt, who died a few months after the incident, shot him.

That's when Akron Police Detective Anthony Sutton stepped in and the reason why I am nominating him as this month's TOP COP.

Detective Sutton interviewed all of the parties several times following the incident. He was able to pick apart



inconsistencies in their respective stories and get to the bottom of exactly what happened.

Det. Sutton also did a fantastic job when he took the witness stand at trial. He withstood some harsh questions from the defense attorney but came through with flying colors!

After the trial, one juror said it was Detective Sutton's testimony that sealed his decision to find the Defendant Guilty.

Brandon Greene was convicted of two counts of Felonious Assault with firearm specifications and one count for Having a Weapon Under Disability.

As this month's TOP COP, Det. Sutton receives a \$25 Gift card to Diamond Deli. Thank you Diamond Deli for your support of local law enforcement.

Congratulations Det. Sutton!

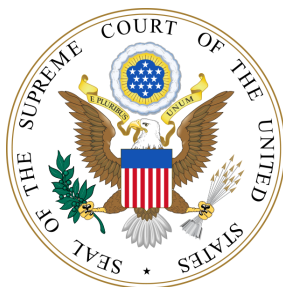
SUPREME DECISION!

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office fights for the rights of crime victims not only in Summit County, but also at the U.S. Supreme Court.

Three Summit County Assistant Prosecutors, Heaven Guest, Colleen Sims, and John Galonski, have all been approved to practice at the U.S. Supreme Court!

That means John, Heaven, and Colleen are allowed to argue cases in front of the high court and are provided access to the Supreme Court's massive law library.

Congratulations to all!




FREE SELF-DEFENSE CLASS

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

Join us at Nardon High School in Macedonia on April 27th from 6pm to 8pm for potentially life-saving techniques.

We offer some common sense tips to help people become more aware and pay attention to their surroundings, plus simple self-defense techniques.

Hope to see you there!



FREE WOMEN'S SELF-DEFENSE CLASS


Sponsored by

SHERRI BEVAN WALSH
Summit County Prosecutor


AND

SHERIFF STEVE BARRY

No registration required!



Thursday, April 27, 2017
6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.
Nardon High School
8006 S. Bedford Road
Macedonia, Ohio 44056
*High School Gym



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
330-643-7915 watsone@prosecutor.summitoh.net

Employee Spotlight

Rimma Avanesyan

Asst. Prosecutor—Juvenile Division

Hire Date: January 9, 2017

Title: Assistant Prosecutor—Juvenile Division

Hometown: Armenia

Education: Ohio University (best place on earth!) where I majored in political science, Spanish, and pre-law. I received my JD in 2016 from the University of Akron. I also take night classes from the University of Akron College of Business and plan on getting my MBA this year!



Fun Fact: I immigrated to the United States in 1992 from Armenia. At the time, not one person in my family spoke English. I also studied abroad two times; during my second year of college when I spent time in Ecuador where I lived with a host family and travelled around the country. Then, during my third year of college, I studied terrestrial and marine biology in the Bahamas. Needless to say, I love to travel!

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT:

OHIO CRIME VICTIM JUSTICE CENTER

Normally, our agency spotlight focuses on a Summit County organization working to make our community better. This time, we're taking a slightly different approach.

The Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center might be based in Columbus, but its impact is felt here in Northeast Ohio.

The Center's mission is to protect the rights of Ohio's crime victims. We felt it was a perfect organization to highlight, especially with the first week of April designated as National Crime Victim Rights Week. April is also Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

The Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center was founded on the simple principle that Ohio's crime victims deserve legal representation to enforce and protect their legal rights throughout the criminal justice process.



Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center

The Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center is the only crime victims' rights legal center in Ohio that provides free legal representation in criminal court to protect victims' rights.

The agency provides vital information for crime victims including a list of rights for victims of crime, as well as key resources.

One of those resources is a Crime Victims Rights Toolkit. The Toolkit serves as a self-help resource, designed to help crime victims understand and exercise their rights.

To learn more log on to <https://ocvic.org>. You can also find the agency's toolkit for crime victims at <https://victimsrightstoolkit.com>.

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