



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

## A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH

# UNDERSTANDING TRAUMA & HELPING VICTIMS

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office is committed to keeping our community safe. By aggressively prosecuting serious crimes, we fight for justice and protect the rights of victims. We are an advocate for crime victims, keeping them informed of their rights, updating victims on their cases, and ensuring victims have a voice. Through our continuous safety and self-defense programs, scam alerts, and our annual senior calendar, we strive to make our community a better place to live.

My office also takes great pride in helping others in the community understand the needs of crime victims. Being a crime victim can be very traumatic, with many experiencing a series of emotional and even physical reactions.

On September 22nd, my office is hosting its second annual all-day program—"Responding to the Needs of Victims". Hundreds of local law enforcement officers, victim advocates, first responders,

hospital staff, as well as many other professionals are expected to attend the event.

Our goal is to give those who speak and interact with crime victims and their families an idea of what it's like to walk in their shoes.

When people experience trauma, they undergo changes which they may not understand. Because of that trauma, our minds may not fully recognize or record events. That could cause victims to have difficulty remembering the information, making it

tough for investigators. Strand and Heitman are experts in helping investigators and advocates break through and unlock information vital to solving the crime.

We are looking forward to another exciting event. We are expecting over 300 people to attend and learn more about how to respond to the needs of victims.

As always, stay safe,

*Sherri B. Walsh*

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh Presents**

**Second Annual Conference**  
**Responding to the Needs of Victims:**

Featuring: Internationally recognized expert Russell W. Strand and nationally recognized expert Lori D. Heitman

**Friday, September 22, 2017**  
 8 am - 5 pm  
 Quaker Station, 135 S. Broadway St. Akron, Oh 44308

**Cost: \$20<sup>00</sup>**

**Objectives:**  
 Advanced interview techniques designed to aid in successful investigation & prosecution of many forms of violence, with a trauma informed approach to victims  
 Sex offender behaviors / motives /strategies to reduce the risk sex offenders pose  
 Understand the impact & neuroscience of sexual assault  
 Alcohol facilitated Sexual Assault  
 Understanding Vicarious Trauma

**BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROVIDED**

**Law Enforcement**  
 This seminar meets 8 hrs of the 2017 CPT requirements, per Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy standards.  
**CPE/CLE pending approval**

This year we have two special speakers, Russell Strand and Lori Heitman. They are internationally recognized experts in educating, training, and consulting professionals in sexual assault, domestic violence, trauma response, and innovative interview techniques. Russell Strand's presentations are incredibly powerful, moving, insightful, and passionate. You can learn more about their presentation by heading to <http://www.russellstrand.com/>

# IN THE COMMUNITY

We love being a part of the Summit County community and getting out to meet people. We also love helping people stay safe.

**Chief Assistant Prosecutor Margaret Scott** recently led members of the Prosecutor's Office in providing safety information to young girls taking part in a summer program at the Portage Path Community Learning Center.

The girls are heading into 4th & 5th grades. Even though they are young, the girls knew a lot about staying safe and how to keep out of trouble.



We also love helping in the community. Members of the Prosecutor's Office came together to prepare meals and serve lunch to those in need.

They volunteered at Open M, preparing food at the local center.

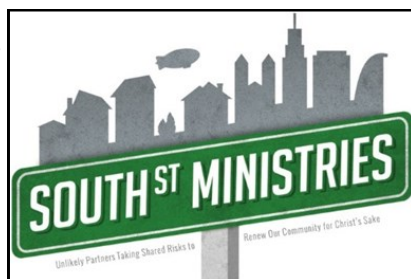


Open M's mission is to break the cycle of poverty and improve the health of our community. The agency does that by fostering health, wellness and nutrition for the body, education for the mind, and hope, joy and spiritual growth for the soul.

For more about OPEN M log on to [www.openm.org](http://www.openm.org).

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office also provides opportunities for local students to learn more about our office and the court system. Each year, both law students and undergrads come together as interns in the Prosecutor's Office.

This summer, our interns learned not only about the Prosecutor's Office but about the community we serve.



They spent time at the Front Porch Café and

South Street Ministries. **Pastor Duane Crabbs** joined us and provided insight into how the agency helps the community.



Go to <http://southstreetministries.org/> to learn more about South Street Ministries and the Front Porch Café.

Summit County Prosecutor's Office interns also got a first-hand look at the Ohio State Penitentiary in Youngstown. Built in 1998, the Ohio State Penitentiary manages high risk offenders in a safe, humane and secure environment.



A special thanks to members of the Ohio State Penitentiary who helped schedule the tour, including Mike Beebe and Mike Wylie.

Members of our office are very proud of the relationships they build with members of the community, including law enforcement.

We were pleased to take part in the Cuyahoga Falls First Responders night. The event honored first responders who have gone beyond the call of duty. The Metro SWAT team, which is comprised of 18 agencies in Summit and Portage Counties, was recognized for its work in several recent incidents.



Thank you for all you do!





# AVERY'S CORNER

# KEEPING THE COMMUNITY SAFE

I love this time of year. It's the "dog days of summer", a good reminder to make sure your pets have plenty of water and are not left in the car.



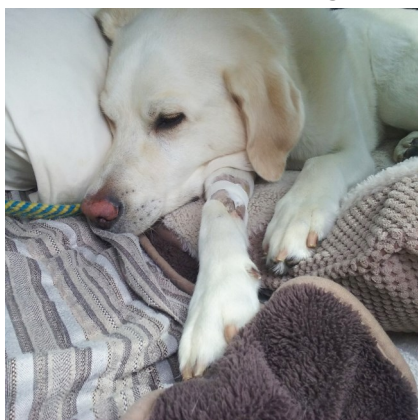
I even got to take part in a picnic! There were a lot of kids and friendly people. I heard humans call it KNAFF, which stands for Kids Need A Firm Foundation. Very nice to see the kids have so much fun with police officers.

I also had a great time playing with the boys and girls at Akron's Haven of Rest. I'm glad I was able to spend time with them.



That's me smiling with a little help from my new friend. She was a lot of fun to play with and I'm glad I got to spend time with her.

But it wasn't all fun and games for me. I had a very bad crack in one of my teeth and it really really hurt. It was so bad that I had to go to the doctor.



Thanks to my friends at **Stow-Kent Animal Hospital**, I am much better now.

**Dr. Paroff** and his helpers did a wonderful job.

Follow Avery II on Facebook at:

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

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



## GUILTY VERDICTS



### July 2017

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

**Brian LoPrinzi**     **Jeff Puthoff**

**Joe Miller**             **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:

**Terrence Robinson-Bey, 54**

- Felonious Assault
- Abduction
- **18 YEARS IN PRISON**

**Adam Shaffer, 35**

- Rape (Victim Under 10)
- **LIFE IN PRISON**

**Fred Taylor, Jr., 19**

- Murder
- Felonious Assault
- **LIFE 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 OFFICERS NATE MILSTEAD & VINCENT TERSIGNI NOMINATED BY ASST. PROSECUTOR JOE DANGELO

Domestic violence cases can be some of the most troubling to prosecute. Responding officers have the difficult job of being the first on the scene. And that is why I nominate Akron Police Officers Nate Milstead and Vincent Tersigni.



On April 16, 2016, the victim called 911 reporting she had been assaulted by her former live-in boyfriend. Officers Milstead and Tersigni arrived to find a dazed and confused woman, bleeding from her head. The officers immediately got the victim medical attention and began taking photographs of the scene and the victim. Officer Milstead obtained a detailed statement from the victim. Officers Milstead and Tersigni eventually located and arrested the suspect.

Once in custody, the defendant called the victim and convinced her not to cooperate. Sadly, this is a common scenario in domestic violence cases. But due to the work of Officer Milstead and Officer Tersigni, our office was still able to prosecute the defendant and secure a

conviction. The Defendant was later sentenced to 18 months in prison.

Officers Milstead and Tersigni did excellent work in gathering statements, taking photographs, and giving great detail in reporting the victim's statements and actions. Their work made the prosecution "evidence based" as opposed to being strictly based on the word of the victim. In some instances, cases are dismissed where the victim

is not cooperative and no further independent evidence is gathered. Not so in this case. Officer Milstead and Officer Tersigni did excellent and compassionate police work to ensure that justice still prevailed.

As this month's TOP COP, Officers Milstead and Tersigni receive a gift card to Spaghetti Warehouse. Thank you Spaghetti Warehouse for your support of law enforcement.

### **Congratulations Officer Milstead & Officer Tersigni!**

# VICTIM ASSISTANCE TRAINING

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office works hard to keep up with the latest information and training, especially when it comes to assisting crime victims and their families.

Last month, our victim advocates took part in a three-day training session focusing on how to respond to the needs of people traumatized by crime.



The training provided techniques and protocols for the best ways to help people traumatized by crime.

Our victim advocates learned how to become

proficient in providing psychological first aid and are now certified crisis responders through NOVA, the National Organization for Victim Assistance.

We are also proud to collaborate with other local agencies, including the Victim Assistance Program, PATH Center at Akron General, the Battered Women's Shelter, and the Rape Crisis Center.

The training was a great reminder as to how resilient victims and survivors of crime are.

A grant from the Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) paid to bring the trainer to Akron.



# Employee Spotlight

## Cletus Pulliam

### Assistant Prosecutor - Criminal Division

**Hire Date:** June 12, 2017

**Title:** Assistant Prosecuting Attorney—Criminal Division

**Hometown:** Youngstown

**Education:** I received my Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Youngstown State University and Juris Doctor from the University of Akron Law School

**Past Experience:** United States Marine Corps, Judicial Attorney for Akron Municipal Court Judge Annalisa Williams, Cuyahoga County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney.



**Fun Fact:** I was a volunteer announcer for my son's football games last year. The pressure was intense to provide a professional performance to meet the expectations of a pee wee football crowd. I made a music playlist for pauses in the action and catchphrases. Thank God my son is playing soccer this year. Ironically, I sometimes have a difficult time pronouncing a person's name in court.

## AGENCY SPOTLIGHT:

# PEOPLE CARE PET PANTRY

It's the dog days of summer, a time when the hot weather is joined by thoughts of last minute vacations and back to school plans.

As you switch routines, our furry friends also need a boost. That's where

People Care Pet Pantry comes in. The non-profit organization helps families who need help to care for their pets. Many families throughout Northeast Ohio struggle to make ends meet. That's where People Care Pet Pantry steps in.

The organization's mission is to provide aid necessary for families to keep cherished pets during times of financial crisis. They



provide pet food and supplies to families going through financial hardship. They also act as a social services organization, with phone numbers, connections, and resources to help families keep their beloved pets.

People Care Pet Pantry also goes out in the community and hands out food and supplies to area homeless. Those supplies include these pet travel water bowls as well as a leash and information on why you should never leave your pet inside a vehicle.

You can help by calling 330.389.5116 or go to the agency's website at [www.peoplecarepetpantry.com](http://www.peoplecarepetpantry.com).



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