



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH
WHY I'M A PROSECUTOR

I love my job. I love fighting for justice and standing up for victims. However, when I speak with members of the community, not many people know or understand what it means to be a prosecutor.

Many times, we see the worst of human behavior. We see and hear things your average person only can imagine if they watch crime dramas or keep a close eye on the news.

We also see the best humanity has to offer like survivors of crime who have the courage to face the person who did awful things to them.

So why does someone want to be a prosecutor—and more specifically, why am I a prosecutor?

I decided to become a prosecutor because I wanted to help people who were victims of crime. I also wanted to play a role in keeping our community safe. Shortly after I became a prosecutor, I was the 11th of 13 women attacked by a serial rapist. I was very fortunate as I was able to fight off my attacker and suffered only minor physical injuries. After that experience I became an even stronger advocate for crime victims. While it was a horrible experience, I am glad I was able to turn it into something positive.

Being a prosecutor brings the satisfaction of knowing that every day you go to work you are making a difference in the lives of people. There are not a lot of jobs where you have the impact that a prosecutor has in protecting our community from dangerous criminals and seeking justice for crime victims.

The most difficult part of being a prosecutor is having to see and hear about the unimaginable crimes which are committed. Personally meeting with a victim of a violent crime is often heartbreaking. We meet with parents who have lost their children to murder. And we meet with young children who have been repeatedly sexually assaulted. We handle 4,000 felony cases every year, so we see a lot.

The one case which impacted me the most as a prosecutor is one I personally handled many years ago. A young woman and her baby were abducted by a man in broad daylight. The victim was forced to drive from another state to Ohio. She was robbed, raped, and threatened at knifepoint. The suspect threatened to harm the baby if the victim did not comply with all his demands. After more than five hours, the suspect released the victim and her baby.

Police caught him the next day. The case went to trial where the victim was forced to relive this horrible experience. I will always remember how I felt when the victim testified. I was so proud of her and when she was done with her testimony, I had trouble holding back tears. Her bravery throughout the whole ordeal is something I will always remember. Thankfully, the offender is spending the rest of his life in prison.

There are also some misconceptions about being a prosecutor. One of the things I hear often when meeting people in the community is "you're really nice, I didn't expect that". I guess people assume that someone in a job like mine will be mean and nasty! I speak to people called for grand jury on the last day of their two-month term and they always tell me they have so much more appreciation for prosecutors and law enforcement after everything they hear and see. That's why I feel being called to serve on a jury is vital to a fair and balanced judicial system.

I am proud and honored to be serving as your prosecutor.

Stay safe!

Sherri B. Walsh



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IN THE COMMUNITY

'Tis the holiday season. A time when many of you focus on family. But it's also a time to think about safety. That is something the Summit County Prosecutor's Office thinks about throughout the year.



Last month, Chief Assistant Prosecutor Margaret Scott joined Summit County Sheriff's Deputy Paul Wright in teaching people how to protect themselves.



Close to 80 people attended our most recent FREE Women's self-defense class at Silver Lake Elementary School. They learned vital safety information and key maneuvers to protect themselves in case they are attacked.

Our employees got into the holiday spirit of giving during our annual pancake breakfast. Prosecutor's Office employees flipped, sizzled, and baked their way to raising over \$1,300. 100 percent of the money goes toward making the holidays a bit brighter for four local families. The families have dealt with personal tragedy this year and were nominated by our Victim Services Division. Our hope is that this small gesture will help ease their suffering. Thank you to everyone who helped make this a success.



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We would also like to thank a number of local businesses who helped with this year's event—Eat 'N Park, Sam's Club, Showcase Meat's, McDonald's and Cracker Barrel. Also a big thank you to Gavin McGowen. Gavin is a former intern who worked at Sam's Club and purchased all of the pancake batter used for our fundraiser.

We also take great pride in assisting local law enforcement agencies with ongoing training. Our investigative unit, led by Chief Investigator Ben Bergeron, facilitated social media training for over two dozen law enforcement officers from federal, state, and local departments. This is vitally important as evidence discovered through social media is a way to track a criminal's digital footprint.



Jack Hall, co-owner of the Law Enforcement Officer Technology Training Associates, led the training. Topics



included best practices in gathering and documenting digital evidence, as well as tracking criminal activity online.

A big thank you to the Summit County Chapter of the American Red Cross for providing space for the training.

We also love speaking with potential future prosecutors.

Prosecutor Walsh and Chief Counsel Brad Gessner spoke with students at Hudson



Middle School. The students were studying and discussing 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. The students learned what goes into prosecuting a case and related that to Poe's story of

a man who went insane after killing a friend and burying the body under the floor of his room.

PAW AVERY'S ADVENTURES KEEPING THE COMMUNITY SAFE

November was a great month and I have a lot to be thankful for.

I also meet a lot of great people. This is my good friend Cameron. Cameron just received the Shining Star award in Judge Croce's Turning Point program. That means he's doing a great job in battling addiction. I think Cameron is a superstar!



I'm also thankful for my family and friends. I know many people who struggle throughout the year just to get by. That's why I love spending time at Akron's Haven of Rest.



The people there do such great work and help so many people. I do love meeting new people, especially kids. We have so much fun together!

TOUGH PROSECUTIONS

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

William Lane, 38

- Sexual Battery
- Illegal Use of a Minor in Nudity Oriented Material
- **10 YEARS IN PRISON**

Terrence McCormick, 19

- Aggravated Robbery
- **9 YEARS IN PRISON**



GUILTY VERDICTS

November 2017

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

Kassim Ahmed

Dustin Roth

Joe Dangelo

Brian Stano

Cletus Pulliam

Angela Poth-Wypasek

GREAT JOB PROSECUTORS!

Holiday Pet DON'Ts

Xmas Trees

Toxic Plants

Holiday Foods & Drinks

Candles

Guests & Parties = Doggy Stress

Happy Holidays!

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TOP COP

AKRON POLICE DET. SCOTT RUBES

NOMINATED BY ASST. PROSECUTOR RIMMA AVANESYAN

Investigating crime has certain challenges. Many times those challenges are compounded when the suspect is a juvenile. Officers and prosecutors need to work together when interacting with the juvenile, their parent or guardian in order to understand what happened.

That is why I nominated Akron Police Detective Scott Rubes as this month's TOP COP. I worked with this outstanding police officer on two recent cases. In both cases, Det. Rubes went above and beyond in his investigation and communication.

On one case, a juvenile was charged with robbing another teen of his backpack at gunpoint. Detective Rubes was very thorough and took time to follow up on the investigation and prosecution. On both cases he spent a considerable amount of time on the phone discussing all the important background information to the case. He provided all discovery in the case in a timely manner, completed a well written report of Investigation, and was present at meetings with the victim of the robbery case.



Then, after the robbery case was resolved, the victim reported he was being threatened by the juvenile who robbed him. The information was relayed to Det. Rubes who said he would keep an eye out for the victim. The victim's family was very happy to know Det. Rubes was watching out for them. I appreciate all his hard work!

Det. Rubes has been honored for his work in the past. This past April, Det. Rubes was named Detective of the Year by Summit County

Children's Services.

As the December TOP COP, Det. Rubes receives a gift card to Texas Road House. Thank you Texas Road House for your support of local law enforcement



Congratulations & great job!

DRUNK DRIVING AWARENESS

The holidays mean family get-togethers and parties. We want to make sure you get home safe and sound. Please don't drink and drive.

December is National Impaired Driving Prevention Month.

Every day, almost 29 people in the United States die in alcohol-impaired vehicle crashes. That means one person every 50 minutes. Drunk-driving fatalities have fallen by a third in the last three decades; however, drunk-driving crashes claim more than 10,000 lives per year



Don't become a statistic. Get a designated driver or call for a ride.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING SAFETY

The holidays are nearly here. While you shop for the perfect gift, bring along a little safety.

- Try to shop during daylight hours. If you must shop at night, take a friend or family member.
- If possible, do not carry a purse or wallet. If you do carry a wallet or purse, be extra careful. They are the prime targets of criminals in crowded shopping areas.
- Stay alert to your surroundings.
- Keep a record of all of your credit card numbers in a safe place at home in case you lose your credit card.
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.



Follow these simple tips to keep you and your family safe when hitting the stores during the holiday season.

Employee Spotlight Lori Uminski Receptionist

Hire Date: November 27, 2017

Title: Receptionist

Hometown: Massillon

Hobbies/Interests: My biggest interests are my two sons, 18-year-old Austin, and 9-year-old JJ. My hobbies include being a football mom (GO TIGERS)!

I also have my cosmetology license. I love to color and style hair.

I'm a huge football fan (did I mention GO TIGERS!!). I also have a very big sweet tooth—candy, cake, and ice cream are my favorites! Of course I love to bake. Right now, I'm baking Christmas cookies! Thanks to everyone for all your support in filling Deborah's shoes!



SAFETY KIDS CALENDAR

As 2017 comes to an end, the Summit County Prosecutor's Office celebrates the achievements of local students with our annual Safety Kids Calendar contest. Each year 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students from throughout Summit County participate by designing original artwork depicting one of our 12 safety rules.

This year, Jaylee Greenwell, a 7th grader at Springfield Junior High School, won the grand prize for telling kids that drinking alcohol can have serious consequences. Her

"Don't let yourself fall because of alcohol" poster will be on the front cover of the 2018 calendar! For her work, Jaylee received a \$150 Amazon gift card.

Congratulations Jaylee and everyone who participated. All 48 winners received Amazon gift cards, and first place



winners of each of the 12 safety rules will have their designs inside the calendar representing each month. First place winners will also have their posters placed on billboards throughout Summit County.

Jaylee and all of the first place winners also get to be on TV! The 13 middle school students took part in videotaping public service announcements at WBNX. Those public service announcements will air throughout the holiday season. The announcements talk about how each of us can make the right choices and stay safe.

We received nearly 1,500 posters from 20 schools throughout Summit County! Thanks again to all the students and schools who took part in our contest and congratulations to all the winners. We look forward to more great ideas next year!



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