



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH
KEEPING SENIORS SAFE

Throughout my years as an attorney and Summit County Prosecutor, there has been one common and unfortunate connection. People will take advantage of others and many times break the law while doing so.

My office has prosecuted thousands of cases, including many where the victim trusted the person charged with the crime. That is why I fight so hard for victims and conduct safety speeches to help people learn how to stay safe and be more aware; especially our most fragile residents - the elderly. Seniors can be more trusting, and may not be as knowledgeable about new technologies.

That trust, even of a family member, can result in trouble. Recently, we have prosecuted several cases where a family member has been accused of stealing money from an older relative. The victim gives a family member access to their bank account and then the family member uses the money for their own purposes.

Trusting others also makes the elderly a target for scammers. The "grandparents" scam is one which seems to always be around. The "grandparents" scam is when an older person receives a call, usually in

the middle of the night, from someone claiming to be their grandchild. The caller says they're in trouble and need money immediately. They play on your emotions. The caller will usually ask the victim to buy gift cards and scratch off the back of the card to reveal the ID number, then have them read the number over the phone. This scam has been going on for years.



My office has just become aware of a similar scam, but with a twist. This time, a caller claims to be from Publisher's Clearing House and says you won a large jackpot – over one million dollars. Sounds great! They tell you they're calling because you recently filled out an entry form. Even if you tell them you did not fill out a form, the caller puts more and more pressure on you. That leads to you being put under emotional distress and it's difficult to think clearly under those conditions.

The person who tipped us off received the call and did some research. The caller's phone number goes to Jamaica. Publisher's Clearing House is headquartered in New York City. Thankfully the person did not fall for the scam and hung up. We think that if the call continued, the caller will ask for your personal information, including bank account number, so they can supposedly send you your winnings. Well, that gives them access to your money, which will probably be gone before you blink. One thing to remember, if something sounds too good to be true, then it probably is.

Remember, you do not have to answer the phone if you do not recognize the number. Have an answering machine take the call. That way you can hear the caller. And if it's important, the caller will leave a message. Also, answering the phone lets scammers and solicitors know that the number is a live number. By answering the phone, you're opening the door to lots more calls from unknown numbers.

Some simple common sense can help us all stay safe.

Sherri B. Walsh



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IN THE COMMUNITY

On January 19th, Prosecutor Walsh was honored to be sworn in to a history making 5th term as Summit County Prosecutor. With **Assistant Chief Counsel Margaret Scott** holding the bible, the **Honorable (Ret.) Judge Carol Deszo** administered the oath.

“I want to thank Summit County voters for having the faith in me as their county prosecutor,” said Prosecutor Walsh. “It has been an honor to serve them. My passion and mission has not changed since my first day in the office back in 2001 – to make Summit County a safer and better place to live. Every day I am excited about coming to work and fighting for the rights of victims.”



In 2017, Prosecutor Walsh enters her 17th year as Summit County Prosecutor, surpassing former County Prosecutor Lynn Slaby, who served from 1980 to 1995. Former Summit County Prosecutor Alva Russell is the longest serving prosecutor in Summit County history, holding the office from 1936 to 1956. Prosecutor Walsh will accomplish that feat at the end of her 5th term.

Prosecutor Walsh continued her commitment to keeping our community safe as she spoke to members of the **AARP Nordonia Hills chapter**.

About 50 members of the group attended the event and learned vital safety information including

what to do if someone strange approaches you at the store as well as how to avoid scams which target the elderly, like the grandparent scam.



The community also came to us! Just over a dozen high school students and teachers from **Hudson High School** and **Western Reserve Academy** stopped by the Prosecutor’s Office to meet Prosecutor Walsh and learn about what we do. The sophomores, juniors and seniors are part of **Hudson’s Junior Leadership program**

This is the 8th year students with the Leadership Program have visited the Prosecutor’s Office.

Leadership Hudson introduces participants to Hudson city, business and community leaders with the goal that participants will serve Hudson in future leadership positions.

Thank you to everyone who came by to visit.



The Summit County Prosecutor’s Office was also honored to take part in the annual Human Trafficking Awareness event. **Assistant Prosecutor Ryan Stickel** was part of a panel discussion on what is being done to stop human trafficking in Summit County. We also had a table set up with information



about our office and tips to help people stay safe. The event was organized by the **Summit County Collaborative Against Human Trafficking**.



AVERY'S CORNER

KEEPING THE COMMUNITY SAFE

2017 sure has been busy! But I wouldn't have it any other way. I'm so glad I am able to help people.

I sat with two girls when they testified at trial. The twins showed so much strength in telling what happened with the person who did it sitting just feet away.



They did a great job. And the bad human was found guilty. I am so proud of the girls.

I was also able to have a little fun, spending time with some of my favorite people at police cadet training at the University of Akron. It was really nice to meet them. I wish them good luck and to stay safe.



I was even able to sneak a quick trip to Starbucks! Shh don't tell anyone. That's me with one of my favorite humans, John Galonski. But I couldn't have anything. I have to watch what I eat!

Follow Avery II on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/



GUILTY VERDICTS

January 2016



The Summit County Prosecutor's Office had a **100% CONVICTION RATE** for January. Congratulations to the following assistant prosecutors for obtaining convictions at trial.

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Nik Buckmeier | Joe Miller (4) |
| Joe Dangelo | Jennie Shuki |
| Tom Kroll | Jaime Syx (3) |
| Kevin Mayer (2) | |

GREAT JOB PROSECUTORS!

TOUGH PROSECUTIONS

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

Jeffrey Conrad, 46

- Aggravated Murder
- Felonious Assault
- Domestic Violence
- **LIFE IN PRISON**

Brendan Clark, 37

- Rape
- Domestic Violence
- **9 YEARS IN PRISON**

Detrus Lewis, 49

- Rape
- **LIFE IN PRISON**

Jovonte Veal, 22

- Involuntary Manslaughter
- **10 YEARS in PRISON**

Bernetta Vickers, 42

- Voluntary Manslaughter
- Tampering w/Evidence
- **12 YEARS in PRISON**



Help Us Go Green!



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

TOP COP

CUYAHOGA FALLS DETECTIVE CHAD LENGEL

NOMINATED BY ASSISTANT PROSECUTORS ANGIE WALLS-ALEXANDER & JOHN GALONSKI

Many of the cases we prosecute are difficult, but there are some which stand out. One case which recently wrapped up will be remembered for a long time. The case involved the brutal murder of Amanda Russell, a Cuyahoga Falls resident, who was stabbed to death in 2014 by Jeffrey Conrad. Conrad was brought to justice by the hard work and dedication of Cuyahoga Falls Police Detective Chad Lengel.



In the summer of 2014, Amanda Russell allowed Jeffrey Conrad to live in her garage. Conrad killed Amanda, stabbing her over 50 times. Amanda's teenaged daughter discovered the body, wrapped in a blanket, in her home's backyard. Following the brutal, savage attack, Conrad took off and was later captured, wading in the waters of Lake Erie near Bratenahl.

That's when Detective Lengel stepped in. Det. Lengel spent hours speaking with Conrad, travelling to Cleveland right after Conrad's arrest. During several conversations, Det. Lengel was able to get Conrad to confess to the crime.

Conrad even admitted to several other crimes throughout Ohio and New York where an investigation is currently underway.

Det. Lengel's interview technique in dealing with a difficult defendant was flawless. His attention to every detail was impressive. Conrad was sentenced last month to life in prison for Amanda's murder.

Thank you to Burger Fi at Portage Crossing in Cuyahoga Falls for donating a gift card to our TOP COP!

We would also like to send a special thank you to one of our very own, whose relentless determination helped convict Conrad of assaulting an inmate at the Summit County jail. The incident occurred while Conrad was awaiting trial for Amanda Russell's murder. Chief investigator Ben Bergeron went above and beyond, uncovering evidence and information which helped in the case. Thank you Ben for your hard work!

Congratulations!

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

There is nothing normal about violence in a relationship. However, many people do not realize this can also impact teens. February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.

Did you know that about 1.5 million high school students nationwide experience



physical abuse from a dating partner? And 75% of parents have never spoken with their children about domestic violence.

You can break the cycle of violence. Dating abuse does not always leave scratches or bruises. There are apps—including "Love is Not Abuse" and "One Love Foundation"—where you can learn more about the signs of dating violence. Or log on to www.breakthecycle.org for more information.

FREE SELF-DEFENSE

Get ready to stay safe! Our first FREE Women's Self-Defense class of 2017 is almost here.

Bring a friend to Kenmore High School on February 22nd from 6pm-8pm to learn potentially life-saving information.

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
Chad Cunningham
Certified Instructor

No registration required!



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

Wednesday,
February 22, 2017
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Kenmore High School
2140 13th Street SW
Akron, Ohio 44314



For more information, contact
Jenifer Watson
330-643-7915 watson@prosecutor.summitoh.net

HOPE, HEALING, & HELP

This month, the Battered Women's Shelter of Summit and Medina Counties opens its new facility to help survivors of domestic violence. The new location has plenty of amenities to assist families who escape a violent relationship and have nowhere else to go.



It's a wonderful new facility, with about 15,000 square feet of comfortable space for families who are in desperate need. There are private rooms, laundry facilities, playrooms, and even work stations.



The only thing it doesn't have, for now, is a kitchen.

The shelter is hoping the community can help provide food for 90 days.

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office is stepping up, purchasing food from Nicole's Restaurant and Hattie's Food Hub for people living at the shelter.



If you can help with meals, please contact Kathy Bean at 330.860.5627, Melissa Hamlin at 330.860.5624 or Terri Heckman at 330.777.4717 or go to www.scmcbws.org.



AGENCY SPOTLIGHT

Dealing with grief can be overwhelming. Whether it's the death of a loved one or knowing someone who's dealing with a life-altering situation, the grief can oftentimes be too much to bear. But there is a place which can help. The GriefCare Place.

The GriefCare Place opened 20 years ago, in the summer of 1997, and offers a safe place where those grieving can find support, education, understanding, and a caring place to heal. The center serves individuals of all ages, offers a home-like atmosphere and is a non-denominational faith based organization where those of strong faith or those of none can come comfortably.



THE GRIEFCARE PLACE
Where Hope and Healing Live

The GriefCare Place educates people about grief and provides caring volunteers who walk with them during the grieving and healing process.

The GriefCare Place charges no fees and is funded entirely by fundraising events, donations, and memorial gifts. Since it is a charitable, non-profit organization, all donations are tax deductible.

Individual counseling is offered on Wednesdays between 9:30am and 4:30pm. If you're interested, call The GriefCare Place at 330.686.1750 for information and to arrange an appointment.

You can also log on to www.thegriefcareplace.org.

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