



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

## A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH

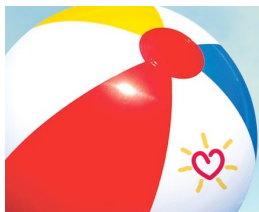
# STAYING SAFE THIS SUMMER

As Summit County Prosecutor, I have made it my mission to help Summit County residents be safe. My office holds numerous FREE self-defense classes throughout the year, conducts safety speeches, sends out email alerts, and lets people know about the latest scams.

But safety is ultimately up to you. You need to take the steps needed to keep you and your family safe.

June is National Safety Month—a perfect time of year to take a closer look at what you are doing and how you can improve your personal safety.

School is out and that means summer vacation season. Besides your bathing suit, pack a bit of caution as well. Before you leave the house, secure your home. This is one of the most important steps you can take. It sounds simple, but can put your mind at ease while you're away from home.



SUMMER SAFETY TIPS

- **Tell a neighbor your travel plans**—ask them to help keep an eye on your property and alert the police to any suspicious activity.

- **Lock all your windows and doors.** Don't forget about doors leading to the garage or second-story windows.

- **Have mail and newspaper delivery stopped.** A sign that nobody is home is a stack of mail and newspapers, as well as garbage cans left at the curb. Make sure any yard tools are put away. A ladder, rakes, and even patio furniture, can all be used as tools to gain entry to your home.



Once you leave for vacation, make sure you don't leave any clues for would-be thieves.

- **Stay off social media.** Don't tip criminals off by sharing too much information on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram (kids too!) Try not to post photos, status updates, or "check in" while on

vacation.

- **Keep cash and credit cards in separate places.** Never carry your

credit cards, cash, and passport at the same time. You'll want to keep some cash in your wallet, and then stash the rest in a pocket or money

pouch. If you have a safe in your hotel room, leave the majority of your cash there and only bring what you'll need for the day.

- **Make a copy of your passport.** Leave one copy at home with a trusted friend or family member and take another copy with you. When you go out sightseeing, take the copy with you and leave the original in a hotel safe until you are ready to travel again.

- **Do a security sweep of your hotel room.** Always keep your hotel door locked and never answer it for someone you don't know. If you can, try to get a room near the front desk or the elevator.

Following these simple, but effective tips can help you and your loved ones focus on having fun instead of worrying about safety.

Stay safe!

Sherri B. Walsh

# IN THE COMMUNITY

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office has been very busy over the past month.

Prosecutor Walsh is dedicated to keeping our community safe. We once again joined with the Summit County Sheriff's Department for our FREE Women's Self-Defense Class. A wonderful crowd at Nordonia High School took part in the informative event.



Thanks to **Sheriff's Detective Paul Wright** for leading the class and **Sheriff Steve Barry** for volunteering to be poked!

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office strives to inform the community and support local organizations.

A team from the Prosecutor's Office took part in the annual fundraiser for the Rape Crisis Center of Medina and Summit Counties. This year's theme was "Walk of Heroes" with many dressing up as their favorite superhero.



Prosecutor Walsh was also honored to speak to the crowd about what the office is doing to

prevent sexual assault and violence in Summit County.

Prosecutor Walsh, our facility dog Avery, and Avery's handler Melanie were the guest speakers at the United Disability Services of Akron.



They explained what the Prosecutor's Office does and how we keep people safe. What a great group! Thank you for having us come by!

Our office is always looking for ways to help in the community. We hold many food and clothing drives as well as several fundraisers throughout the year.

The Office's Child Support Enforcement Agency held its third annual breakfast and bake sale with proceeds going to Harvest For Hunger.



They raised over \$1,500 from the event. Thank you to everyone who participated.

We love meeting people in the community and providing information on staying safe. One of the best places to do that is the WAKR Senior Luncheon.

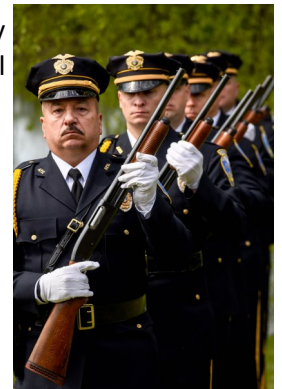
Todaro's Party Center was packed for the Mother's Day themed event. Thank you to everyone who stopped by our booth. And congratulations to the big winner of our Mother's Day basket!



We hope to see you at the next WAKR event on August 9 at St. George Fellowship Hall.

We were honored to attend the annual Akron Police Department's Memorial Service. The ceremony was part of National Police Week. Thank you to everyone who has sacrificed to keep our communities safe.

In 1962, President Kennedy proclaimed May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day.







# AVERY'S CORNER

# KEEPING THE COMMUNITY SAFE

I still get cold just thinking about being at the Humane Society of Greater Akron's Bark in the Park



in Springfield Township Park. I had a lot of fun meeting new people, but the weather was rainy and cold, even for someone covered in fur!

Even with the poor weather, a lot of dog lovers came out to the event.

I had a chance to make new friends. My boss was invited to speak at the United Disability Services of Akron. They were really nice and I loved walking through the classroom as everyone reached out to pet me!



I spent a lot of time with a very special young girl. She was hurt by a bad human and I got to sit with her in court.



She was very nice and I hope I helped her feel better. And the bad person was found guilty!

**Follow Avery II on Facebook at:**  
[www.facebook.com/SummitCountyProsecutorAveryII](http://www.facebook.com/SummitCountyProsecutorAveryII)



## GUILTY VERDICTS



### May 2017

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

Kassim Ahmed

Angela Poth-

Tom Kroll (2)

Wypasek



Jeff Puthoff

Justin Richard (2)

### GREAT JOB PROSECUTORS!

## FREE SELF-DEFENSE

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

Bring a friend to the Gus Johnson Community Center at 1015 S. Hawkins on June 22nd from 6pm-8pm.



### FREE WOMEN'S SELF-DEFENSE CLASS

Sponsored by

**MARGARET SCOTT**  
Chief Assistant Prosecutor

AND

**SHERIFF STEVE BARRY**

No registration required!



Thursday, June 22, 2017  
6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.  
Gus Johnson Community Center  
1015 S. Hawkins Avenue  
Akron, Ohio 44320  
\*GJCC 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 [watson@prosecutor.summitoh.net](mailto:watson@prosecutor.summitoh.net)

Participants will learn basic strikes, kicks, and what to do if an attacker grabs you. We also provide information to help you be more aware.

Hope to see you there!



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

## BARBERTON POLICE DETECTIVE STEPHEN COBURN NOMINATED BY ASST. PROSECUTOR BRIAN STANO

Predators go to great lengths to target the vulnerable. Many use social media to connect with teens.

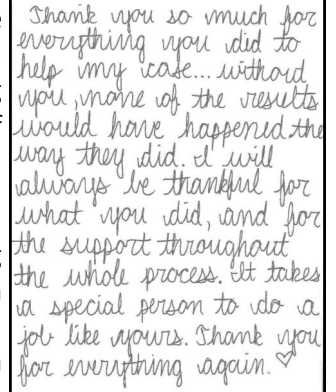
That was the case last year, when 41-year-old Michael Herdman made contact with a 17-year-old girl through an app called "whisper". Herdman met with the teen and took nude pictures and video of her, before being caught and pleading guilty. He was caught because of the hard work of Barberton Police Detective Stephen Coburn, and that is why Det. Coburn is our TOP COP for the month of June.



This case was unique because even though it was a consensual relationship, the teen was being abused and taken advantage of by Herdman.

Det. Coburn was involved throughout the case, providing detailed information which resulted in a conviction and prison sentence. Det. Coburn even spoke to the judge on the

victim's behalf. He was a very passionate and effective advocate. Above is a picture of a note from the survivor of this encounter thanking everyone for their support and hard work..



Det. Coburn went above and beyond, investing a lot of time in this case by cataloguing all of the texts sent by Herdman. After realizing Herdman was a real predator, Det. Coburn spent days posing as a 15-year-old girl and texted Herdman, ultimately setting up a sting which resulted in additional charges.

As the June TOP COP, Det. Coburn receives a gift card to Angie's Italian Restaurant. Thank you Angie's for your support of law enforcement.

### Congratulations Det. Coburn!

## PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE HONORS

We are very proud of the work the Prosecutor's Office does each and every day. It is always great when other Summit County organizations honor our employees. And it happened TWICE recently!

First, **Assistant Prosecutor Jennie Shuki** received the Lt. John "Ed" Duval Outstanding Service award from Summit County Children's Services during the agency's 8th annual Community Appreciation Breakfast. Jennie was honored for her dedication to protecting and advocating for victims. Along with Jennie, **Akron Police Detective Scott Rubes** received the agency's Detective of the Year.

The Duvall Award was established in 2008 by the Summit County Children Services to honor the memory of the late Lt. John "Ed" Duvall, who, while with the Akron Police



Department, was both relentless in his investigations of child abuse cases and deeply committed to speaking out about child abuse prevention.

And **Chief Assistant Prosecutor Margaret Scott** was also nominated for the inaugural Ed Kaufman Leadership in Aging award at the Mature Services Summit Oscars for Aging Resources ceremony.



Margaret was honored for her work in helping Summit County's older citizens stay safe by teaching self-defense classes to seniors.



## Employee Spotlight

### Asst. Prosecutor—Child Support Enforcement Agency

# Elisabeth Jackson

**Hire Date:** April 10, 2017

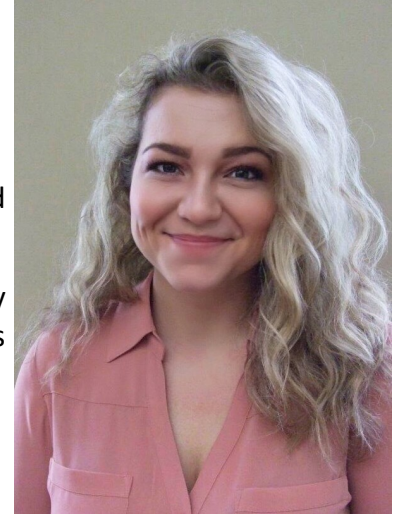
**Title:** Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Child Support Enforcement Agency

**Hometown:** Green, Ohio

**Education:** Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from The Ohio State University and my Juris Doctor from the University of Akron School of Law.

**Hobbies/Interests:** Travelling, Cleveland and OSU sports, and playing with my husky Dany. (Yes, I may have named my dog after a Game of Thrones character).

**Fun Fact:** This summer my sister and I are doing a Grand Tour of Ireland for 11 days. It will be the 12<sup>th</sup> country I can check off my bucket list.



## AGENCY SPOTLIGHT:

# PAWS & PRAYERS

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office has recently handled a number of felony animal abuse cases. Ohio's new "Goddard's Law" creates potentially stronger charges and punishment for those accused of abusing animals.

There are also several local organizations which work hard to help protect animals. **Chief Assistant Prosecutor**



**Margaret Scott** visited Paws & Prayers Pet Rescue in Cuyahoga Falls to learn more about the agency.



Paws & Prayers takes in dogs and cats and places them in foster homes until a forever home can be found. The organization's mission is to rescue, rehabilitate, and re-home unwanted, neglected, abused, and homeless dogs and cats.

But Paws & Prayers needs your help, whether you'd like to volunteer or assist with transportation and care.

For more information about Paws & Prayers, or to learn how to help, please visit their website—[www.pawsandprayers.org](http://www.pawsandprayers.org)

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