



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH
SPRING BREAK SAFETY

It's March—and for many families that means it's time for spring break. A great time to spend with friends and loved ones. But lurking among the fun in the sun can be very dangerous situations.

Many hotspots turn into bastions of drunken debauchery. Close to half a million people travel to party spots along the Gulf Coast throughout March and April. Even the home of the happiest place on Earth, Orlando, Florida, is not immune. A recent survey, based on crime statistics, car crashes, and murder rates, ranked Orlando the number one most dangerous spring break destination.



Predators are on the prowl, targeting the innocent who are just looking for a relaxing time. So before you pack your bags, make sure you have a personal safety plan as you plan your vacation.

These simple things can help you stay safe and not become a victim.

- Ask the manager of the hotel where you are staying what areas are safe and unsafe.
- Don't leave your hotel room key unattended.
- Don't give a ride to anyone you don't know or just met.
- Don't carry more money than you will need. Leave the rest hidden in a safe place.
- Keep your drink with you at all times.
- Volunteer to be the designated sober driver.
- Travel with at least one other person.
- Grab a card from the front desk of your hotel, which has the hotel's name, phone number, and address, just in case you get lost.
- Also, pay attention if you take a taxi, Uber, Lyft, or other ride service. Follow along on your phone's navigation. Make sure the driver is taking you in the correct direction.
- Travelling on crowded buses or subways could be an ideal place for pickpockets. Make sure you are aware of your surroundings.

This safety information isn't only for college students. Families can also utilize these common sense tips to ensure a vacation full of fun and happy memories.

- If you're taking a long road trip, take turns behind the wheel. Driving while drowsy can be just as dangerous as driving drunk.
- Pack a map if you're travelling to an unfamiliar place. Cell phone service may be spotty.

My office offers many safety and self-defense classes throughout the year. Close to 80 women attended our most recent FREE Women's Self-Defense class at Kenmore High School. And we hope to have more at our next self-defense class on Tuesday March 21st at Akron's First Apostolic Faith Church. Those who attend learn potentially life-saving information, including several moves to help get away from an attacker. I hope to see you there!

Stay safe,

Sherri B. Walsh



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IN THE COMMUNITY

Although February is our shortest month, we packed in plenty of events to help keep Summit County safe.

We had a huge turnout for our first **FREE Women's Self-Defense** class of the year. About 80 people came to **Akron's Kenmore High School** to learn key and potentially life-saving information.



information.



Thank you to everyone who participated. We had a great time! Our next FREE Women's Self-Defense class is Tuesday March 21st at the First Apostolic Faith Church on Easter Avenue in Akron. And stay tuned for announcements concerning our self-defense classes throughout Summit County.



The Summit County Prosecutor's Office will travel throughout the state to find possible solutions to our growing heroin problem.

Chief Assistant Prosecutor Margaret Scott traveled to Columbus to take



part in Attorney General Mike DeWine's conference on fighting the drug epidemic in Ohio. Margaret was involved in a panel discussion that looked at how the criminal justice system is responding to the problem.



Over 1,200 people attended the all-day event at Fellowship Baptist Church in Columbus.

Joe Fantozzi, Chief Assistant Prosecutor for our Child Support Enforcement Agency, travelled to Washington, D.C. to meet with congressional leaders to discuss how the federal government can help the citizens of Summit County. That included a meeting with Congressman Dave Joyce, who represents Ohio's 14th District.



It was a busy time for Congress, as many representatives were on committees involved in approving members of the new administration.

Chief Assistant Prosecutor Margaret Scott also spent time at one of our favorite events—the WAKR Senior Luncheon.



The Valentine's Day themed event at St. George Fellowship Hall provided some great safety and health information for local seniors. About 300 people attended the event.

We had so much fun meeting everyone and discussing ways for people to stay safe. We also want to congratulate Doris Schubert, who won our basket full of romantic candles!



We hope to see you at the next WAKR Senior Luncheon, scheduled for May 10 at Todaro's Party Center on Peninsula Road in Akron.

And we were proud to work with Akron Police at the department's monthly senior safety speech.

Joe Fantozzi teamed up with officers to provide vital safety information at the Northwest Family Recreation Center.





AVERY'S CORNER

KEEPING THE COMMUNITY SAFE

February was a fun month for me. I got to play with new friends and visit with old ones as well.



My favorite time of the week is going to visit new friends at Akron's Haven of Rest. I have so much fun there,

running and playing. I'm glad I am able to help the families through some pretty difficult times.



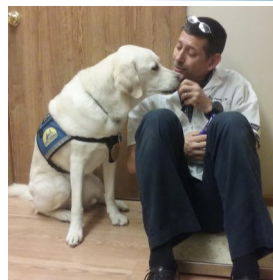
Everyone is so nice. I get to run, and jump, and play catch. But it's pretty tiring too! Sometimes

it's just good to lie down and rest.

I also got to say hi to some old friends at the Court of Appeals. I popped up on the counter to peek over! They just moved to the Summit County Courthouse so I can now see them more often.



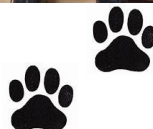
And I got a clean bill of health during my visit to the **Stow-Kent Animal Hospital**. Thank you **Dr. Paroff** for taking such good care of me!



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GUILTY VERDICTS



February 2016

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

Joe Miller

Jeff Puthoff

Angela Poth-Wypasek

Jaime Syx

GREAT JOB PROSECUTORS!

TOUGH PROSECUTIONS

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

Delacey Walters, 27

Billy Patterson, 19

- Rape
- Gross Sexual Imposition
- **LIFE IN PRISON**

- Rape
- Aggravated Burglary
- Felonious Assault
- **15 YEARS IN PRISON**



NATIONAL CONSUMER PROTECTION WEEK

MARCH 5 - 11



Help Us Go Green!

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



TOP COP

AKRON POLICE DETECTIVE TANISHA STEWART

NOMINATED BY ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR JON BAUMOEL

In the early morning hours of January 9, 2016, police discovered 22-year-old Tavael Parker shot in the head. His girlfriend, Kerieda Beavers was lying nearby, apparently after being struck by a car.

A mysterious scene. So what exactly happened? That was the job of Akron Police Detective Tanisha Stewart. Her investigation actually uncovered that Beavers shot and killed Parker and faked being a victim. A Summit County jury found Beavers guilty of murder. Beavers is now serving a life sentence, with parole eligibility after 18 years.

I nominate Detective Stewart as this month's TOP COP because of her thorough evaluation of a complicated scene which required researching unique ballistic and DNA evidentiary issues. She conducted interviews of numerous witnesses to reveal the defendant's motive, access to the murder weapon and was able to eliminate all other possible suspects and scenarios. Det. Stewart's extensive interview of the defendant produced multiple inconsistent



statements and incriminating remarks. Despite limited physical evidence, Det. Stewart's investigation resulted in a conviction due to her detailed and tireless work.

Nine months later, Det. Stewart was again assigned as the lead detective in another horrific case. On September 24, 2016, Billy Patterson broke into a home and brutally raped a 71-year-old woman. Det. Stewart submitted evidence and obtained an undeniable match to the suspect, Billy Patterson. Subsequently, Det. Stewart again utilized her interrogation techniques to obtain more incriminating evidence that left Patterson with no choice but to plead guilty to his crimes. Billy Patterson was ultimately sentenced to 15 years in prison and is required to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.

As the March TOP COP, Det. Stewart receives a gift card to Pizza Fire. Thank you Pizza Fire for your support of local law enforcement.

Congratulations!

PROSECUTOR HIGH 5

Time for a Prosecutor High 5. This month we honor Assistant Prosecutor Tom Kroll.

For the past six years, Tom has worked in our Domestic Violence Unit. Tom is still with our office, but recently changed courtrooms. He's pictured with Chief Assistant Prosecutor Margaret Scott, who oversees the unit, and Summit County Common Pleas Court Judge Paul Gallagher.



Summit County is the only county in the state with a courtroom dedicated to handling felony domestic violence cases. The Summit County Prosecutor's Office also has a team of highly trained prosecutors dedicated to assisting domestic violence victims. The overall goal is to prevent any future acts of violence.


FREE SELF-DEFENSE CLASS

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

Join us at Akron's First Apostolic Faith Church at 790 Easter Avenue 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
Chad Cunningham
Certified Instructor
No registration required!

Tuesday, March 21, 2017
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
First Apostolic Faith Church
790 Easter Avenue
Akron, Ohio 44307
Community Center 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

Meet Our New Assistant Prosecutor—Nora Bryan

Hire Date: January 30, 2017

Title: Assistant Prosecutor

Hometown: Akron

Education: I attended Loyola University—Chicago where I received a BA in Political Science and International Studies. I graduated from the University of Akron Law School in May of 2016. Prior to law school I worked at the Domestic Relations Clerk of Courts. While in law school I interned here for a summer and then worked as a law clerk in the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office.



Fun Fact: I lived in Argentina while studying abroad during my junior year in college. I traveled throughout the northern part of the country, which was largely uninhabited. I spent time hiking, zip-lining, and white water rafting. Afterward I traveled through parts of South America with my sister Jane. I'd like to return and hike throughout Patagonia in the southern part of the country.

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT:

THE FAITH PLACE & FIRST FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Our office meets regularly with local agencies and area leaders to help better understand the needs of Summit County residents.

Recently, Chief Assistant Prosecutor Margaret Scott spent time at The Faith Place and visited with Pastor Samuel Hampton II who is the pastor at First Apostolic Faith Church. Margaret also met Traci Higginbottom-Williams, who is the Director of First Faith Development Corporation.

The First Faith Development Corporation is a non-profit group which rents space from the church. Both organizations are faith-based community outreach programs funded by donations. They have fundraisers throughout the year including a Christmas toy drive where each child receives five toys. First Faith Development is also an official Toys for Tots site.



The Faith Place
First Apostolic Faith Church
 790 Easter Avenue
 Akron, Ohio 44307
 (330) 762-9139
 Pastor Samuel L. Hampton II

The organizations sponsor meals for women staying at the Battered Women's Shelter and Oriana House. The women are also provided with a "shopping" experience where they can take items from tables of clothes, jewelry and toiletries free of charge.

The Faith Place and the First Faith Development Corporation do an incredible amount for the community free of charge. First Faith delivers food boxes to families who are unable to leave their homes to go to the food pantry. And they offer summer camp for kids!

The greatest need at this time is for cots and blankets. Homeless families are able to spend the night in the church gym.

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

Office of Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh

53 University Avenue

Akron, Ohio 44308

330-643-2800

Sherri Bevan Walsh

Summit County Prosecuting Attorney

53 University Avenue, 6th Floor

Akron, OH 44308

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