



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

## A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH FIGHTING FOR VICTIMS' RIGHTS

One of my main goals as Summit County Prosecutor is to do everything possible to ensure that no victim is re-victimized by our criminal justice system. But we need better laws to help us do our job.

That's why I support a new amendment to Ohio's constitution - Marsy's Law in Ohio.

Marsy's Law for Ohio would provide victims constitutionally protected rights which could potentially impact their safety. Victims would have the right to be notified about their case, have input on all plea deals for offenders, and the right to restitution resulting from the financial impact of the crime.

We currently do many of those things here in Summit County. My team of victim advocates constantly communicates with victims and their families, and keeps them informed every step of the way. Unfortunately, not all counties provide the same level of service. That's why a new state-wide law is needed.

Don't just take it from me. Take it from one of the strongest people

ever to come through the Summit County Prosecutor's Office: Ronda Blankenship

It was New Year's Eve of 2013 when Ronda's life was torn apart. Two brothers burst into the Barberton home Ronda shared with her boyfriend and his two teenaged children. One of the brothers shot and killed Ronda's boyfriend and his children. Ronda was also shot in the head and stabbed in the face but miraculously survived.

During the trial, lawyers for one of the brothers demanded Ronda turn over protected personal information. Under the threat of being held in contempt and the possibility of not being allowed to testify at trial, Ronda reluctantly provided the private information.

That is why Ronda is for Marsy's Law. "I don't want any victims or survivors to go through what I went through," Ronda said recently. "I'm here to stand up for your rights as long as I



can stand up for mine too."

Ohio currently has a constitutional amendment protecting crime victims, but it does not do enough. Marsy's Law provides crime victims the means to fight back if they feel their rights are being violated. Defense attorneys may also think twice before going on a fishing expedition involving the victim.

Helping in the fight to pass Marsy's Law is the Ohio Crime Victims Justice Center. The Center was founded on the simple principle that crime victims need their rights protected.

The Ohio Crime Victims Justice Center can help in a

variety of ways, including a Crime Victims Rights Toolkit. For more information, head to <https://victimsrightstoolkit.com/>

Don't let someone take your rights—and as always, stay safe.

*Sherri B. Walsh*



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# IN THE COMMUNITY

April is Autism Awareness Month and this year, the Autism Society of Greater Akron is celebrating 25 years of helping promote awareness and providing opportunities for people who have autism and their families. The goal is to increase awareness and improve the lives of all impacted by autism. In the United States, one out of 68 children born are diagnosed with Autism.



Prosecutor Walsh was honored to be visited by a very special family. The Magoulick family stopped by the Summit County Prosecutor's Office and gave Prosecutor Walsh a \$500 check to give to the Autism Society of Greater Akron. The Magoulicks raised the money by designing and selling autism awareness t-shirts.



Thanks to the entire Magoulick family, especially Mary, Neil and Stacy – and a special thank you to Stacy's 4-year-old son Dillon. What a great kid!

Prosecutor Walsh has been very active with the Autism Society, raising a now 18-year-old son with autism.

Our prosecutors are also spreading the word on why we aggressively prosecute drug dealers, especially those whose drugs lead to a person's death. Supervising Assistant Prosecutor Jon Baumoel joined Akron Police Detectives Mike Schmidt and Tim Harvey at the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association annual conference in Columbus.



The three presented key information on fighting the opioid crisis in Ohio—holding drug dealers accountable.

The month of April also brought a big honor for several employees of the Prosecutor's Office. Assistant Prosecutors Teri Burnside and Dan Sallerson, and Victim Advocate Kim Subotin received a Model of Justice Award from the Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center.

The three were honored for their work in assisting crime victim Ronda Blankenship. On New Year's Eve



of 2013, two brothers barged into the home Ronda shared with her boyfriend and his two teenaged children. Ronda was shot in the head and stabbed in the face, but survived. Her family was murdered. Ronda testified at both brothers' trials. Both brothers were convicted and are currently serving life sentences.

Ronda was also honored for her strength, courage and incredible will to live.

We also fight for Summit County even when we are out of state! Recently our Take Me Home coordinator visited Pensacola, Florida and stopped by the City of Pensacola Police Department.

She presented some thank you goodies to the Pensacola PD. That's Officer Matt Maracle accepting the items. A Sergeant with the Pensacola, Florida Police Department created the Take Me Home Program.



The Take Me Home Program is a secure database used to assist local law enforcement when they come in contact with someone who is lost and cannot communicate.

The program is vital for people who have Alzheimer's, dementia, and autism and could potentially wander from home. Nearly 2,000 people are registered in Summit County's database. For more information about Summit County's Take Me Home Program, visit <https://co.summitoh.net/prosecutor/index.php/services/take-me-home>



# AVERY'S CORNER

# KEEPING THE COMMUNITY SAFE

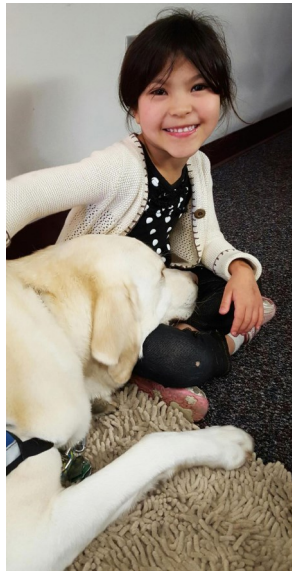
I love this time of year. The weather is getting warmer, and I get to spend more time outside playing.



And last month I got to spend time with one of my favorite humans. That's Wendy Thomas, a teacher with Bolich Middle School in Cuyahoga Falls. I love visiting her and her class.

I also got meet a new friend. That's Faith. Her mom works where I work.

Faith is nice. We are the same age—5! (that's 35 in dog years!). And she's only a little taller than me!

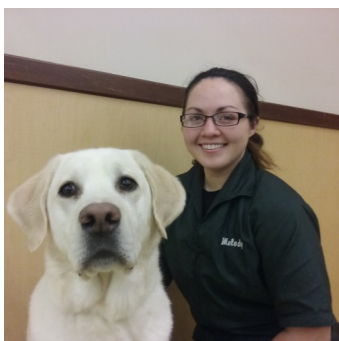


We got to play and sit and talk (well, I just listened).



And a special thank you to Melody at Pet Supplies Plus in Green.

Melody does a wonderful job in helping me look good. When I look good, I feel good and can help more people!



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## GUILTY VERDICTS



### April 2017

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

Jon Baumoel

Brian Stano

Jay Cole

Jeff Puthoff (3)

Ty Graham

Angela Poth-Wypasek (2)

## GREAT JOB PROSECUTORS!

## TOUGH PROSECUTIONS

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

### Willard McCarley, 53

- Aggravated Murder
- **LIFE IN PRISON**

### Carey Collins, 26

- Rape of a Victim Under age 10
- **LIFE IN PRISON**

### Brandon Pheneger, 38

- Aggravated Vehicular Homicide
- Driving Under the Influence
- **7 YEARS IN PRISON**

### Derrick Sales, 24

- Involuntary Manslaughter
- Having a Weapon Under Disability
- Aggravated Trafficking in Fentanyl & Carfentanil
- **8 YEARS 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

### SUMMIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S DETECTIVE ANN MANUEL NOMINATED BY ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR JAIME SYX

Numbers are vital to our day-to-day lives. Numbers were also key in solving a recent crime and the reason why I nominate Summit County Sheriff's Deputy Ann Manuel as this month's TOP COP.

Investigators received information that people were engaging in criminal activity at AJ's Drive Thru in Akron. The case involved food stamp fraud. That's when Detective Manuel stepped in.

Tracking fraud is not easy. In other crimes, evidence may be left behind, like a criminal's fingerprints or bullet casings from a shooting. But food stamp fraud is much different.

This investigation took nearly two years and involved two undercover informants and several undercover buys. Detective Manuel was meticulous in gathering

evidence and collecting surveillance footage of the undercover purchases.



During that two year period, Detective Manuel and Special Agent Randy Battistoni worked together to track the fraud and illegal purchases. They went above and beyond in collecting all of the evidence necessary to secure a conviction.

Detective Manuel did an outstanding job of keeping everything organized and was exceptionally prepared for trial.

As this month's TOP COP, Detective Manuel receives a gift card to Tommy Li's Restaurant & Bar. Thank you Tommy Li's for your continued support of law enforcement. And thank you Detective Manuel for a job well done!

**Congratulations Det. Manuel!**

## WILLARD MCCARLEY GUILTY (AGAIN!)

You may have heard the saying "third time is a charm". Well, that was the case when it came to the murderer of 26-year-old Charlene Puffenbarger.

A Summit County jury recently found Willard McCarley guilty of aggravated murder—for the third time! After an Ohio appeals court overturned his prior two convictions, McCarley was once again convicted of beating, strangling, and suffocating Charlene 25 years ago. McCarley was recently sentenced to LIFE IN PRISON!

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office fought through two appeals and countless court hearings to bring justice to Charlene's family.

Assistant Prosecutors Jon Baumoel and Jay Cole presented the case, with Jay involved in the prosecution of all three trials.

We want to send a special thank you to the investigators involved since Charlene's murder in 1992. Summit County Sheriff's Deputies (Ret.) John Karabatsos and Dennis Balogh, along with Former Twinsburg Township officer



Eric Brieding, who is currently Chief of Police for the Windham Police Department in Portage County.

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication in helping a jury convict McCarley and easing the pain and suffering for Charlene's family.

We never stopped fighting for Charlene and her family and this time justice delayed was not justice denied.

## Employee Spotlight

### Juvenile Division Asst. Prosecutor

# Vonsheay Brown

**Hire Date:** April 3, 2017

**Title:** Assistant Prosecutor—Juvenile Division

**Hometown:** Maywood, Illinois

**Education:** I received my Bachelor's Degree and my Juris Doctor from Michigan State University (Go Spartans!).

**Hobbies/Interests:** I am an avid sports fan, and love volleyball, basketball, and football. My favorite teams are the Spartans and the Chicago Bulls!

**Fun Fact:** I spent a month in Croatia studying Comparative IP Law. If you ever need to know the places to visit, eat, or explore in Croatia, I'm your person! The country's natural beauty, Adriatic Sea, natural waterfalls, and mountains were breathtaking. As for the Comparative Law part—well, let's just stick with the places to visit, eat or explore!



## AGENCY SPOTLIGHT:

# COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

Our agency spotlight this month focuses on Summit County's Community Health Center. The Center provides comprehensive treatment for the rehabilitation and prevention of addictive or compulsive disorders; everything from gambling and eating addictions to drugs and alcohol.



Recently, **Prosecutor Walsh** and **Chief Assistant Prosecutor Margaret Scott** visited the Center's adolescent program and toured its methadone clinic.

Community Health Center provides the only methadone clinic in Summit County, which helps ease the withdrawals associated when someone stops taking heroin.

Part of the Center's mission is to enhance the quality of life and to provide services for compulsive and addictive

disorders, health care, life skills development, prevention, housing, wellness and rehabilitation.

The Community Health Center is also holding its annual luncheon on June 15th, called Break the Cycle of Addiction.

For more information on the programs provided, or to get help, go to [www.communityhealthcenter.org](http://www.communityhealthcenter.org).



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