



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH
PROTECTING OUR SENIORS

It can happen in an instant. Your identity and personal information made available for scammers and thieves. It just happened with Equifax, one of the country's top three credit reporting agencies. For about two months, hackers had access to people's names, social security numbers, and birth dates.

Now you're getting a call from someone claiming to be with Equifax. They want you to verify your account information. **DON'T TELL THEM ANYTHING!** It's a scam. Just like the other scams which target vulnerable people.

I've warned you about the Grandparents Scam, the Jury Duty Scam, and the IRS Scam. People call at all hours of the day, demanding that you pay immediately or you'll be arrested. Some of the calls may even sound convincing. But it's all fake—a scam to take your money.

Recently, a Tallmadge resident was called and told they owed the IRS \$4,000 and that if they didn't pay, the amount would jump to \$35,000. The caller used a phony Tallmadge police officer name. Even the number on Caller ID showed up as the Tallmadge Police Department non-emergency number. This is called

"spoofing". That's when scammers use an application to make their number appear as if it was from a local business or police department. Thankfully, the person who received the call did not give any money.



These scams are one of the reasons why I declare each September as Senior Safety Awareness Month. I want to bring even more attention to protecting Summit County's seniors.

This month, my office is out in the community, giving safety speeches and holding self-defense classes to help people minimize their chances of becoming a victim. You can learn more about the locations and dates of the events by clicking on the link — <http://bit.ly/2vQriwS>.

There are things you can do right now to help minimize the chance of becoming a victim.

- Check your bank account as much as possible. That way you can immediately take care of a questionable transaction.

- No organization, company, or government agency will ask that you make a payment using gift cards. This should be an immediate red flag that you're being scammed.
- The Summit County Prosecutor's Office or Sheriff's Office will not arrest you for missing jury duty. You might get a strongly worded letter or even phone call, but you will not be arrested or fined.
- Try to have an answering machine for your home phone. If you see a number you don't recognize, let the answering machine pick it up. If it's important, the caller will leave a message. There are also several apps available to block telemarketers or potential scammers from calling you. Once you answer these calls, you are then added to what's called a "sucker list". You'll soon start getting a lot more calls!
- And when in doubt, hang up and ask someone you trust for help. And by all means, don't send money.

Hopefully you won't become a victim, and as always, stay safe.

Sherrri B. Walsh



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IN THE COMMUNITY

Summer break is over and kids are now back in school. August brought the dog days of summer as well as some assistance for parents who need help with their child support payments.

ARE YOU STRUGGLING TO PAY
CHILD SUPPORT?
Summit County Prosecutor
Sherri Bevan Walsh
Presents
Child Support Solutions

Our annual Child Support Solutions Day helped 150 parents, and collected over \$4,000. The one-day event provided a one-stop shop to help with payment arrangements and support modifications. Those who attended were able to get up to date on their payments, and received services from several local agencies which provided information and resources to help attendees finish their education, get a new job, or become a better parent. Some were even able to get their driver's license reinstated.



Prosecutor's Office employees were also spreading the word about safety at the annual National Night Out Against Crime. The annual event, held the first Tuesday of August, promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live.



Volunteers were at locations throughout Summit County speaking with people and offering information on staying safe. It was great to see so many people come out and care about their community.



Thank you to everyone who took the time to meet their neighbors and work toward making our community a safer and better place to live. Thirty eight million people took part in 16,000 communities nationwide.

We also help local clubs and organizations when they have questions. Chief Assistant Prosecutors **Margaret Scott** and **John Galonski** spoke with members of the Barberton Kiwanis. Thanks for inviting us to speak to your group about election law.



We also had a blast at the County's 8th Annual Summit4Kids event at the John S. Knight Center. Summit4Kids is held to help support Summit County's families and give them opportunities to succeed.



We gave out lots of supplies, like pencils, pens, erasers, and sharpeners, to help the kids as they headed back to school.

Thousands of families who attended got free back to school supplies, and took part in a number of different exercises and games.

Thanks to everyone from the office who helped out. We were honored to take part in this annual event.

Friends old and new were on hand at one of our favorite events. The WAKR Senior Luncheon at St. George Fellowship Center in Copley.



The quarterly event is always fun, with great health information and a tasty lunch!



Thank you to everyone who stopped by our table and said hi.

We hope to see you at the next WAKR Senior Luncheon, scheduled for December 6 at the Tangier.



AVERY'S CORNER

KEEPING THE COMMUNITY SAFE

August is such a great month. Among other things, my birthday is in August! I turned 6 this year (that's 42 in my years). I may have to apply for social security soon!!!



I got some presents, but the best part was cake! Thank you to everyone who wished me a happy birthday. I'm a very luck pup!

I also spent some time with some girls who have had a difficult time. They were in court this week to tell a judge about some bad things that happened to them. I laid down with them to help them relax.



I'm really glad I was able to help them and make them feel safe.

I was also happy to spend some time at Green High School. The humans I work with were helping the students be safe, especially on social media. I wish I had a smart phone. But I don't have thumbs.



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GUILTY VERDICTS



August 2017

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

- Kassim Ahmed (2)
- Brian LoPrinzi
- Kevin Mayer
- Greg Peacock
- Angela Poth-Wypasek
- Cletus Pulliam
- Justin Richard

GREAT JOB PROSECUTORS!

TOUGH PROSECUTIONS

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

Trent Turner, 28

- Murder
- Aggravated Robbery
- Aggravated Burglary
- Felonious Assault
- Grand Theft
- **LIFE IN PRISON**

Brian Griffin, 24

- Involuntary Manslaughter
- Corrupting Another With Drugs
- Trafficking in Drugs
- **8 YEARS IN PRISON**

Daniel Gibbons, 26

- Two Counts of Rape
- **20 Years IN PRISON**



Happy Grandparents Day!
September 10, 2017



Help Us Go Green!

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



TOP COP

TWINSBURG POLICE DEPT. DET. BRIAN DONATO

NOMINATED BY ASST. PROSECUTOR BRIAN STANO

The wild west made a trip to America's heartland, and it landed one woman in big trouble. It's not often Northeast Ohio investigators handle a case involving horses. But that's exactly what landed in the hands of the very capable Twinsburg Police Department.



Investigating a regular crime, with just one victim in one location, has its own set of challenges. Imagine looking into a case with 22 victims spread out all over the country. That is what faced Twinsburg Police Detective Brian Donato, and why I nominate him for TOP COP.

Lydia Culp was accused of selling horses to people across the country, but she never delivered. Culp also sold horse related materials which never existed. She bilked nearly two dozen people, including two 10-year-old boys from New Mexico, out of a total of \$130,000. Culp is currently serving a six year prison sentence. Not only did she steal their money, Lydia Culp stole their dream of owning their

own horse. The work of Detective Donato was key in securing a conviction.

Detective Donato partnered with several local and out-of-state jurisdictions at the outset. He worked tirelessly to get copies of all the correspondence between the victims and Culp. He wrote a very detailed report which was easy to follow.

Detective Donato was also very attentive, assisting me with detailed information about the case. He personally contacted each victim to make sure all the information we had was accurate.

As this month's TOP COP, Detective Donato receives a gift card for his outstanding work.

Congratulations and great job Det. Donato!

LEADERSHIP EXCHANGE

Congratulations to Assistant Prosecutor Chelsea Bollin for becoming a member of the Child & Family Leadership Exchange Class XXIII announced August 16.

Chelsea is the supervisor of our Juvenile Division's Child Protection Unit and has been with the Prosecutor's Office for 10 years.

She's excited about the prospect of having a say in the future of Summit County families. Participants meet monthly during the year-long program to promote communication and collaboration across several Summit County agencies.

Congratulations again Chelsea and good luck!



FREE SELF-DEFENSE CLASS

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

Join us at Copley High School's Auxiliary Gym on Ridgewood Road on Tuesday September 26 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

MARGARET SCOTT
Chief Assistant Prosecutor
AND



SHERIFF STEVE BARRY

No registration required!



Tuesday, September 26, 2017
6:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.
Copley HS Auxiliary Gym
3807 Ridgewood Road
Copley, OH 44321

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
330-643-2702 jennifer.watson@jc.ohio.gov

Employee Spotlight

Jeff Puthoff

Assistant Prosecutor—Criminal Division

Hire Date: June 2016

Title: Assistant Prosecuting Attorney—Criminal Division

Hometown: Dayton

Education: I received my Bachelor's degree in History and Political Science from Miami University and my Juris Doctor from Capital University Law School.

Hobbies/Interests: : I love to draw. Growing up, I was always doodling in class to the point where my teachers encouraged me to pursue a career in art. In fact, my first year of undergrad was in fine arts. Although I eventually switched studies, I still draw actively to this day (though you can't do it in court!).

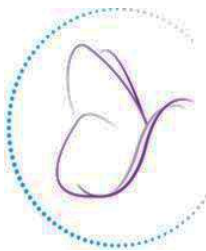
Fun Fact: I got married at Disney World in 2015!



AGENCY SPOTLIGHT:

STEWART'S CARING PLACE

People battling cancer need as much support as possible. Family and friends can offer a foundation to help, but many times, more assistance is needed. That's where Stewart's Caring Place comes in.



Stewart's
CARING PLACE
CANCER WELLNESS CENTER

financial planning. There is a butterfly garden where patients and family members can sit and relax in a place of peace and hope.

Started in 2001, Stewart's Caring Place is named after Dr. Stewart

Chief Assistant Prosecutor Margaret Scott recently visited the Akron location to learn more about how the organization helps.

Stewart's Caring Place is a non-profit organization which serves 14 counties and provides support services and programs free of charge for adults and children diagnosed with cancer.

Through grants, donations, fundraisers, and volunteers, Stewart's Caring Place offers camps, counseling, wigs, gift cards, food, aromatherapy, massages, and even

Surloff, who shared the struggles and triumphs of his cancer experience. In the past 16 years, Stewart's has assisted approximately 1,500 families.

Right now, the organization's greatest need is food for its food pantry, and gift cards for groceries and gas.

You can learn more about Stewart's Caring Place, volunteer opportunities, as well as their annual fundraiser, by calling 330.836.1772 or heading to their website <http://www.stewartscaringplace.org/>.

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