



FROM THE OFFICE OF
 SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

A Message From Prosecutor Walsh

Battling Domestic Violence

Summit County is dealing with the tragic aftermath of two recent domestic violence homicides. In Northfield Center, a January 11th house explosion left a family of four dead. Investigators say the father set fire to the home. And then on March 19th, Hudson police say a man killed his wife after luring their children out of their home.

Both cases have left the community horrified – and asking if something could have been done to prevent the tragedies. In the Hudson case, newspaper articles have said the victim had been estranged from her husband for months and that he violated a protection order. She even had a gun for protection. In the Northfield case, newspapers reported the husband had a history of suicide attempts and depression.

Ohio lawmakers are right now debating the Domestic Violence Offender Gun Ban bill which would prohibit persons subject to certain civil protection orders, as well as anyone convicted of a domestic violence crime, from buying or possessing a gun. Abusers would also have to surrender any weapons to law enforcement. The bill was introduced in the days following the tragedy in Hudson.

On a positive note, 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. Offenders go through a thorough screening process to determine if they are eligible for an intensive 52-week program which aims at getting to the cause of the problem. The overall goal is to prevent any future acts of violence.



Our office handles approximately 300 intimate partner domestic violence cases each year. Unfortunately, these include homicides. Many times that is the first reported act of domestic violence. Domestic violence cases can be very difficult to prosecute because many times victims do not report. And the reasons why a victim may not report are many; fear of safety for their children, financial concerns,

shame, fear that they will not be believed, or they will be blamed.

Prevention begins with education. My office conducts trainings for law enforcement to update them on recent changes in the law. We also provide community education to highlight the importance of prosecuting domestic violence related crimes. There are some red flags if you suspect a friend or loved one is suffering from domestic violence:

- Spouse or partner is not allowed to have employment outside the home.
- They are not allowed access to bank accounts or money – put on an allowance.
- Isolated from friends and family members.
- Verbal abuse
- Threats of violence towards children and/or pets.

You can also call the Summit County Battered Women’s Shelter Domestic Violence hotline at 888.395.4357 for more information.

Stay safe,

Sherrri B. Walsh

In The Community

March is here—and that means spring! Although we had a mild winter, it’s nice to know warmer weather is on the way. And that gives us more opportunities to get out in the community.

We love helping teach people how to stay safe. Our self-defense class at Open M was a blast! We met so many wonderful



people, especially one girl who was so much fun! Everyone who attended came away with important information on how to stay safe and protect themselves. We are planning additional self-defense classes. If you would like to schedule a self-defense class or a safety speech, please contact Jennifer Watson at 330.643.7915 or



watson@prosecutor.summitoh.net.

Prosecutor Walsh also spoke with a number of local groups about the importance of staying safe.



She met separately with the **Barberton Kiwanis Club** and with members of **Queen of Heaven Church in Uniontown**. One of



Prosecutor Walsh’s main objectives is to empower people to take control of their community.

We also feel it is important to help our children know how to protect themselves and stop bullying. Members of our office teamed up with the **Akron Chapter of Jack & Jill of America**. The organization is dedicated to strengthening children and nurturing future leaders in our community. We were



proud to help with the organization’s event at the University of Akron.



The kids and their moms learned important safety information as well as knowing the difference between kidding around and bullying.

We salute the Jack & Jill of America, Akron Chapter, which has helped guide and lead our community for over 50 years.

And we also helped local businesses and employers understand the ins and outs of child support. **Jennifer Bheam, Director of our Child Support Enforcement Agency**, led our employer seminar.

Employers were given information on how to help their employees comply with child support orders.



Employers are key in helping families get the money they need to provide basic things like food and clothing for their children.

Thank you to all who attended, and a special thank you to Brian Leonard from ExpertPay and Tonya Hamilton from the Ohio Office of Child Support for their assistance.

Avery's Corner

Keeping The Community Safe

Wow I had a very busy month. I went to the vet to get checked out. Thankfully **Dr. Paroff at Stow-Kent Medical**



Center said I am in perfect health. Unfortunately I had to get three shots! I was not happy.

But I do have a fun time at the vet, visiting with the wonderful people who take care of me and other pets across our area. They are great!

I also had a wonderful time at the University of Akron with the **Jack & Jill of America, Akron Chapter** event. The Northern Ohio Children's Cluster brought families from all over Northeast Ohio for a day of education and fun.



The good people I work with spoke to the boys and girls about helping each other and stopping bullies.

We also helped the moms learn about safety and self-defense.

And I was honored to take part in the **Partners in Parenting** graduation ceremony at Oriana House.

It was nice to meet with the moms as they reconnected with their families. Great job to everyone who completed the nine week program.



Follow Avery II on Facebook at:

[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/SummitCountyProsecutorAveryII)

SummitCountyProsecutorAveryII



GUILTY VERDICTS

March 2016

Congratulations to the following assistant prosecutors for obtaining convictions at trial in March:

Felicia Easter

Kevin Mayer (2)

Tom Kroll

Ryan Stickel

Brian LoPrinzi

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:

Kevin Dasen, 42

- 12 counts of Rape
- 7 counts of GSI
- 70 YEARS IN PRISON

Daniel Austin, 26

- Rape—Victim Under 13
- Gross Sexual Imposition
- LIFE IN PRISON

Bruce Gordon, 33

- Rape—Victim Under 13
- Gross Sexual Imposition
- LIFE IN PRISON



Help Us Go Green!

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



Child Abuse Prevention

National Crime Victims' Rights Week

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. And you can play your part by doing something simple.

Each year, Summit County Children Services receives more than 10,000 calls of concern involving the well-being of a child.

And you can do something to raise awareness and hopefully stop abuse.

Although April 13 was specifically dedicated to wear blue, you can do so throughout the month or year to bring



attention to the issue.

For more information on how you can prevent child abuse,

call Summit County Children Services at 330.379.2090 or visit www.summitkids.org.

The numbers can be staggering. Last year, the Summit County Prosecutor's Office handled 4,000 felony crime cases. From homicides, to robberies, to assaults, to scams, Summit County Prosecutors and Victim Advocates work with thousands of victims each year.

Victims are our sons, daughters, sisters, brothers, partners, and parents.



On Tuesday, April 12, we helped commemorate National Crime Victims' Rights week by attending the annual victim Right's Week Luncheon. Summit County Domestic Relations Court Judge Carol Dezso was honored as the recipient of the Rev. Robert Denton Outstanding Victim Service Award in honor of her unwavering commitment and service to the victims in our community.

The Investigators

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office is dedicated to keeping the residents of Summit County safe. Our staff includes a team of investigators who help prosecutors on cases by tracking down witnesses and victims and gathering any information which may assist in the case.



Led by Chief Investigator Ben Bergeron, our staff of 13 officers do an incredible job working with prosecutors and police in helping hold criminals accountable. The investigative unit is held to the same standards and annual qualifications as other police officers

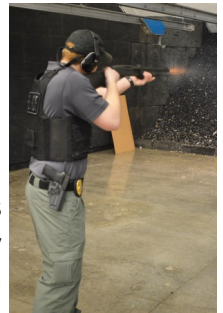


under the Ohio Peace Officers Training Academy. The team provides a number of different services, which include serving warrants, conducting interviews, gathering evidence, and issuing subpoenas.

Recently, Ben, Investigator Jesse LeMasters and Property Officer Claude McCutcheon, went through weapons recertification at the Summit

County Sheriff's Department Training Facility.

Summit County Sheriff's Deputy Provie Tomei led the trio through a series of scenarios to test their ability to use a weapon should they need to.



The tests included hitting close range targets with handguns to firing from 40 feet. They also practiced using the proper procedures when handling shotguns. All passed with Jesse getting a perfect score!

We hope they never have to use their weapons, but we are pleased to know they can protect themselves and the community when needed.

What to Know About Protection Orders

Who is Eligible?

- *Victims of Domestic Violence, Assault, Stalking, Trespassing, & Menacing can get a protection order*

How Can I Get a Protection Order?

- *The Summit County Clerk of Court office has all of the paperwork to request a Protection Order.*
- *There is NO fee for obtaining a Civil Protection Order and you do not have to retain an attorney.*
- *A Magistrate will review your request. If the Magistrate grants your order, you will leave the courthouse that day with a protection order.*
- *For assistance contact the Summit County Victim Assistance Program at 330.376.0040 or Battered Women's Shelter of Summit and Medina Counties at 888.395.4357 and a victim advocate will assist you in obtaining the order.*

Protection Orders

- *3 types—TPO (Temporary), CPO (Civil), & Anti-Stalking CPO*
- *Civil Protection Order (CPO) is a long-term protection order which may address issues of custody, property, and financial support*
- *Judge orders defendant to not have contact*
- *If Protection Order is violated—defendant could be arrested*

Rape Crisis Center Fundraiser

April is Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. And you can take part in helping prevent sexual assault as well as helping victims.

Join the Summit County Prosecutor's Office for the 11th annual Walk A Mile In Her Shoes event at Akron's Lock 3 on Friday April 29th at 5pm.



Last year, our office raised \$800 for the Rape Crisis Center of Medina and Summit Counties. Overall, the event brought in close to \$100,000.

So "get pumped" and raise money for the Rape Crisis Centers of Summit and Medina Counties. Follow along on Facebook and Twitter using #WalkAMileAkron.

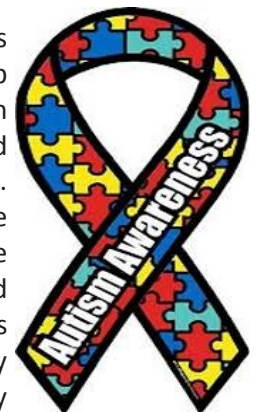
You can also donate to our page at www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/jamespollack/11WAM-Akron

Autism Awareness Month

Not only is April Sexual Assault Awareness Month, it is also Autism Awareness Month.

The Autism Society of Greater Akron provides valuable resources, education and advocacy. Learn more about the organization at www.AutismAkron.org.

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office also has a program to help reconnect caregivers with children and adults who may wander and have a difficult time communicating. Take Me Home is a secure database with vital information about the individual, including pictures and medical information. It is maintained by the Summit County Prosecutor's Office and only accessible by law enforcement.



Contact Leslie Knoblauch at 330.643.2800 or knoblauch@prosecutor.summitoh.net.

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

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



summitcountyprosecutoroffice
summitcountyprosecutorAveryll



@prosecutorwalsh



@prosecutorwalsh