



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

**A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH**

**GOODBYE 2016; HELLO 2017!**

As 2016 comes to an end, it is a perfect time to take a step back and reflect on the past 12 months, as well as look ahead to 2017.

I want to thank all of you for the wonderful support I received as I ran for re-election. Because of that generous support, I am proud to begin my fifth term as Summit County Prosecutor. I love serving the citizens of Summit County just as much now as I did when I first took office in 2001. My desire to fight for the rights of victims is even stronger. It truly is a wonderful place to work, with a fantastic staff.

In 2016, the Summit County Prosecutor's Office handled just over 4,000 cases. We've seen everything from low level non-violent felonies to homicides. We also continue to see hundreds and hundreds of drug cases. Prosecuting those cases can vary, with many defendants given the chance to turn their lives around by being sentenced to intervention and treatment. However, I strongly believe people should be held accountable for their

actions. That is why we take an aggressive approach in prosecuting people who supply and sell heroin, fentanyl, and carfentanil to people who then die from ingesting the drug. Since 2013, my office has received convictions of nearly 25 people for involuntary manslaughter for supplying this poison.

The heroin epidemic has consumed our community. Arresting and prosecuting drug dealers and users is only one part of the solution. That is why I continue to work closely with judges, police, treatment centers, health officials and other local leaders in trying to come up with a solution. There is not one simple answer to the problem, and we must work together to educate the community on the dangers of drugs.

Throughout my time in office, I have made it a priority to educate, inform, and protect the community. As

part of that mission, members of my office have interacted with the citizens of Summit County through our involvement in safety speeches

and self-defense classes. In 2016, the Summit County Prosecutor's Office conducted 12 FREE women's self-defense classes throughout the county. Over 600 people took part in these FREE events. In the past year, we also conducted or attended nearly 30 senior safety events, involving over 1,000 seniors. We will continue that mission in 2017 and have expanded our outreach by recently teaming up with the Akron Police Department to provide safety information at monthly events.



My hope is that by taking these simple steps, our communities will be safer.

As 2016 comes to a close, please have a safe and happy holiday season, and have a joyous and prosperous new year.

And, as always, stay safe!

*Sherri B. Walsh*



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# IN THE COMMUNITY

The first weekend of November saw the start of the Autism Society of Greater Akron's annual Autism Summit. The multi-day program is geared to bring attention and awareness to people who have Autism in our community.

One in 66 children is diagnosed with Autism each year. **Prosecutor Walsh** and **Domestic Relations Chief Magistrate Ron Cable** attended the November 3rd luncheon at the Summit Artspace. Both have teenage boys who have Autism. **WKYC anchor Sara Shookman**



moderated a discussion with **Tony Coelho**, the primary author and sponsor of the Americans with Disabilities Act and a former six-term U.S. Congressman from California.

Mr. Coelho emphasized the importance of removing the stigma that can be associated with those who have disabilities. He talked about how a lack of understanding can contribute to the stigma and how we need to talk about disabilities so people are more informed.

Prosecutor Walsh and Magistrate Cable frequently share stories about their sons with Autism with the hope of increasing awareness and sensitivity in our community.

Congratulations to **Kylie Fratantonio**, grand prize winner of our **2017 Safety Kids Calendar** contest.

Kylie's poster, which advises kids



that violence at home is never ok, will be featured on the front cover of our 2017 Safety Kids Calendar.

We received 1,000 entries from 6th, 7th,

and 8th graders in schools throughout Summit County. The posters focused on the 12 rules of safety. Great job Kylie, and congratulations to all our winners!



Thank you to everyone who helped with the event, including our judges who had the difficult job of going through each and every entry!

If you would like information on how to participate in next year's event, please contact Ben Sliwa at [sliwa@prosecutor.summitoh.net](mailto:sliwa@prosecutor.summitoh.net)

Being aware and staying safe is always important, but even more so during the holidays.



Prosecutor Walsh gave important safety information to the **Ed Davis Senior Group** during the group's meeting at the **Lawton Street Community Center**.



Members of the group learned how to be more aware of their surroundings and how to avoid being scammed.

And we also joined forces with the Akron Police Department to provide safety information to seniors living at Akron's Ellet Apartments. **Assistant Prosecutor Elliot**



**Kolkovich** helped APD's Community Outreach in keeping the community safe.

# AVERY'S CORNER

# KEEPING THE COMMUNITY SAFE

The season of giving is upon us. And I got to meet a group of high school students who give year 'round.

That's me with members of Heroes 4 Hope. They are committed to learning about and ending sexual violence.



We met at the Rape Crisis Center's new Hope and Healing Center.

Thank you for all you do to make our community better.

I also love meeting new people, especially at Akron's Haven of Rest.



I go there nearly every week and it is so much fun. I get to play and run around with new friends.

Many times, these families are going through difficult times and maybe my visit can bring some joy.

My hope is that things get better for them and they have a wonderful holiday.

I wish you a very happy and healthy holiday season.



I've been very good this year. I hope Santa brings me something special! Maybe a new toy or bone or even some treats!

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## GUILTY VERDICTS

### November 2016



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

Kassim Ahmed

Tom Kroll

Jon Baumuel

Greg Peacock

Teri Burnside

Angela Poth-Wypasek

Joe Dangelo

Dan Sallerson

## GREAT JOB PROSECUTORS!

# CSEA MILESTONE

Big news concerning the Summit County Child Support Enforcement Agency. The agency just reached a major milestone—collecting **\$40 million dollars from indicted parents.**

That is money desperately needed for Summit County families.

Parents are only prosecuted if they owe at least \$5,000 or have not made a payment in more than six months. Prosecution is only a last resort, after a parent has been offered various types of assistance.

Don't forget to download the CSEA app. It's easy to use and can help streamline the process for families. Just search CSEA in Google Play or iTunes.



**SHERRI BEVAN WALSH**  
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR  
CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AGENCY



**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

## TWINSBURG POLICE DETECTIVE BRIAN DONATO NOMINATED BY ASST. PROSECUTOR JUSTIN RICHARD

As prosecutors, we see and hear about some of the worst things people can do to each other. Some of the more horrifying cases are crimes against children, specifically rape and sexual assault.

But we are not the only ones impacted by these crimes. The officers who investigate them do incredible work in tracking down suspects and handling victims with compassion and empathy.

That is why I nominate Twinsburg Police Detective Brian Donato. Detective Donato was the lead investigator in the case against Patrick Renaud. Renaud was just recently sentenced to two life terms for raping a 12-year-old girl. Detective Donato was tenacious in connecting evidence of the crime to Renaud. Renaud was a predator who targeted the victim and her family.



But this was not Detective Donato's first sexual assault case involving a child. Two years ago Detective Donato was involved in the case of Gregory Kudla. Kudla is currently serving a 42 year sentence for rape.

In both cases, Detective Donato thoughtfully tracked down leads and worked tirelessly to connect the crime to the suspect. Because of his work, we were able to secure convictions and lengthy sentences for these predators.

As the TOP COP for the month of December, Detective Donato receives a gift card from D'Angelo's Italian Ristorante' In Twinsburg. Thank you D'Angelo's for your support of our office and Summit County law enforcement.

### Congratulations Detective Donato!!!

## CRIME VICTIM FUNDRAISER

As we work hard to keep the community safe, the Summit County Prosecutor's Office also advocates for crime victims.

The office recently held its annual breakfast fundraiser. Profits will purchase gifts for some of our crime victims and their families.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by, including Akron Police Chief James Nice and his officers. And a big thank you to Sam's Club, GFS, and Showcase Meats for your generous donations.



## SENIOR SAFETY CALENDARS

### SENIOR SAFETY AWARENESS 2017 CALENDAR



Calendar Sponsored by Summit County Prosecuting Attorney Sherri Bevan Walsh

Our 2017 Senior Safety Awareness Calendars are here! Lots of great information to keep you safe.

If you would like a calendar for yourself or your group, please contact Jennifer Watson at 330.643.7915 or [watson@prosecutor.summitoh.net](mailto:watson@prosecutor.summitoh.net).

## Employee Spotlight

### Meet Our New Assistant Prosecutor—Ty Graham

**Hire Date:** October 17, 2016

**Title:** Assistant County Prosecutor, Criminal Division

**Hometown:** Louisville, Ohio

**Education:** I received my undergraduate degree from the University of Akron in 2009 (Go Zips!). I then attended law school at the University of Akron, graduating in 2014.

**Background:** Stark County Public Defender's Office—Juvenile Division  
Stark County Common Pleas Court—Foreclosure mediator  
Stark County Common Pleas Court—Civil Stalking Protection Order Bailiff

**Fun Fact:** My family owns property in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Southern Ohio where I spend as many weekends as possible hunting and fishing. I have also hunted wild turkeys in Hawaii (yes there are turkeys in Hawaii). They taste just like turkeys found on the mainland, just not as much meat.



## AGENCY SPOTLIGHT

The Battered Women's Shelter of Summit and Medina Counties takes a simple approach to a complex problem. The agency works with victims using three basic philosophies—healing, hope, and empowerment.

More than 40 years after opening its doors, the Battered Women's Shelter has a new way to provide healing, hope, and empowerment. The agency just opened its new Hope & Healing Center.



The Battered Women's Shelter now has a brand new Hope & Healing Center, at the former site of the Middlebury Manor Nursing Home. The 50,000 square foot facility is now the new home of the Battered Women's Shelter and the Rape Crisis Center of Medina & Summit Counties.



**BATTERED  
WOMEN'S  
SHELTER**  
of Summit & Medina Counties

Thanks to the help from over 400 groups in the community, the Hope & Healing Center can assist over

150 people all under one roof. The new space also gives more room for support groups and other activities, including a teen room and playroom for younger children. It is now a welcome sanctuary for all victims of domestic violence.

But the organization still needs help to complete the project. If you would like to contribute or volunteer, please visit the agency's website to learn more - <http://scmcbws.org/>



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