



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH

RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF VICTIMS

As County Prosecutor for the past 16 years, I have made it my mission to inform the community and help people understand the needs of victims. As a victim of a violent crime myself, I know firsthand the emotional impact of being a victim.

That is why it was so important to me to conduct our first ever Victim Assistance Symposium on September 29th. "Responding to the Needs of Victims" gave us a chance to inform local law enforcement, first responders, nurses, doctors, attorneys, and victim advocates about the various ways crime victims are affected by trauma and how that can impact what they recall to investigators.



Nearly 200 people attended the all-day free event at Akron's Quaker Station. We had 11 different speakers cover topics from learning about the Battered Women's Shelter of Summit & Medina Counties to treatment

SAVE THE DATE SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH
PRESENTS

RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF VICTIMS:
A FREE ONE DAY CONFERENCE
FEATURING NATIONAL EXPERT, DR. JIM HOPPER PH.D.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2016
8:00A - 4:15P
QUAKER STATION 135 S. BROADWAY ST. AKRON, OH 44308

TOPICS TO INCLUDE:
▶ THE NEUROBIOLOGY OF TRAUMA AND SEXUAL ASSAULT
▶ VICTIM COMPENSATION
▶ WORKING WITH SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
▶ TRAUMA INFORMED RESPONSE TO VICTIMS

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROVIDED

services available for perpetrators of domestic violence. This is especially important since October is Domestic Violence Awareness month.

Our main presenter was Dr. Jim Hopper, who is an independent consultant and teaching associate at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Hopper spoke about sexual assault and trauma and how it impacts the brain, behavior and memory. It was incredible to hear how fear plays a role in what a person remembers and how fear can "short-circuit" a person's brain. In fact, the impact of fear can be so strong that a victim may pass out, then regain consciousness several times during an incident. This could have a significant impact on what a victim remembers and what they can recall to investigators.

But the training is not just for professionals. I think it would be

great for the general public to better understand how trauma, stress, and emotions impact people. You can view the powerpoint presentations by visiting the following website—<http://bit.ly/2duqDd8>. Even if you are not a victim, you most likely have come in contact with a crime victim. Understanding their needs may impact how you help.



I also want to thank everyone who assisted in organizing the event, especially Crystal Baker, Director of my office's Victim Services Division, who planned the event.

As county prosecutor, I will continue to work on behalf of victims and fight for their rights. Last month's event is just one way to spread the word on the needs of victims.

Stay safe,

Sherrri B. Walsh



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IN THE COMMUNITY

It was a September to remember as the Summit County Prosecutor's Office spent the month spreading safety information throughout the community.

Prosecutor Walsh was joined by **Sheriff Steve Barry**, **University of Akron Police Lt. Chad Cunningham**, and **Domestic Relations Chief Magistrate Ron Cable** for our latest **FREE self-defense class** at **Kimpton Middle School in Munroe Falls**.



Over 100 people came out to learn vital safety information and potentially life-saving self-defense moves, such as the Trachea Notch Push Off and how to break away from a chokehold.



If you missed the event, we will be in Hudson

at the end of October for our next **FREE Women's Self-Defense class**—details are on page 4.

One of our favorite events to attend is the annual **Akron Zoo Senior Safari**. The event falls at the beginning of September, which Prosecutor Walsh declared as **Senior Safety Awareness Month**.

Seven hundred people attended the September 2nd event—the largest crowd ever! And we think every one of them stopped by our table. We met so many wonderful people and were able to hand out our brand new 2017 Senior Safety calendars.



If you would like a calendar mailed to you, please contact Jennifer Watson at watson@prosecutor.summitoh.net or call 330.643.2800

We also had a wonderful time at the **10th annual PawFest** at **Stow's Bow Wow Beach**. It was wonderful meeting everyone and telling people all the positives about having our facility dog **Avery**. We have had Avery for three years and he has helped on over 100 cases.



And we got to meet lots of people who brought their dogs to the event. Thank you to everyone who came by our booth to say hi.



The Summit County Prosecutor's Office also works hard in making our community better. Last month we took part in the annual **Stand Down for Homeless and Displaced Veterans**.

The event provides essential items for our military veterans who have fallen on hard times. We salute and thank you for your service to our country.

Brad Gessner, Chief Counsel of our Criminal Division, and **Assistant Prosecutor Heaven Guest**, spoke to 600 students at Akron's **St. Vincent—St. Mary High School** about the dangers of social media, sexting, and cyber-bullying.

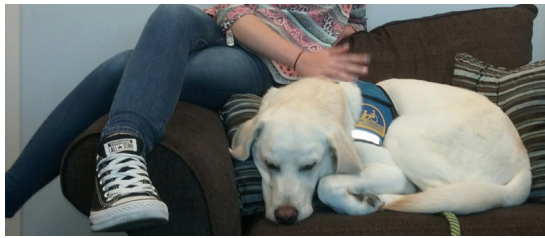
The students learned about the law and how possessing, sending, or requesting nude or partially nude pictures from someone who is underage could impact them for the rest of their lives.



EVERY'S CORNER

KEEPING THE COMMUNITY SAFE

September was a busy month for me. I was dog tired by the end of the month—but I had lots of fun and helped some people too!



I was involved in two trials where I sat with the victims outside of court. They were so strong and I am so proud of them. The bad humans were both found guilty.



I have been involved in over 100 cases since I began working with prosecutors. I am so glad I am able to help.

I also had a very fun time at the 10th annual PawFest in Stow. There were so many nice humans and I got to meet lots of new friends.



This is one of my favorite pictures from the Akron Zoo's Senior Safari. I got to play with lots of people.



I even got to visit some furry friends. I couldn't get real close to them which was ok. They were still fun to see.

Follow Avery II on Facebook at:

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

SummitCountyProsecutorAveryII



Help Us Go Green!

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



GUILTY VERDICTS

September 2016

Congratulations to the following assistant prosecutors for obtaining convictions at trial. GREAT JOB PROSECUTORS!

- Dustin Roth Greg Peacock
- Tom Kroll Pete Daly
- Kassim Ahmed



PROSECUTOR HIGH FIVE!

Congratulations and a Prosecutor High Five to one of our very own!

Investigator Jesse Lemasters (on left with Chief Investigator Ben Bergeron) achieved his Master Criminal Investigator Certification through the Ohio Peace Officers Training Academy. The certification requires nearly 200 hours of advanced training and takes several years to complete.



The training provides the tools needed to help with investigations and evidence gathering, and ultimately prosecution.

Jesse received his official certification on October 11th.

Congratulations Jesse!



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

October is special. The transition from summer to fall is complete and many of our thoughts begin turning toward the holidays.

But October also has special meaning for two reasons. It's National Breast Cancer Awareness month and Domestic Violence Awareness month.



OCTOBER IS domestic violence awareness month

Making the community aware of domestic violence is a major part of the Summit County Prosecutor's mission. The Summit County Prosecutor's Office Domestic Violence Unit was created in 2004 and is comprised of highly trained prosecutors dedicated to assisting domestic violence victims. Our office handles approximately 300 intimate partner domestic violence cases each year.

Also, Summit County is the only county in the state with a courtroom dedicated to handling felony domestic violence cases. 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.

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.

Also, the Battered Women's Shelter of Summit & Medina Counties is starting a purple light campaign. The organization is urging everyone to show support for Domestic Violence Awareness Month by lighting up the night with purple.

The Battered Women's Shelter of Summit and Medina Counties is a great resource. Their 24-hour crisis hotline is 877.414.1344 for Summit County and 888.395.4357 for Medina County.

FREE SELF-DEFENSE CLASS

HALLOWEEN SAFETY

Please join us for one of our FREE Women's Self-Defense classes in October, on Tuesday October 25th from 6p-8p at Hudson Middle School or at the University of Akron Rec Center on Wednesday October 26th from 6p-8p.

FREE WOMEN'S SELF-DEFENSE CLASS

Sponsored by **Sherri Bevan Walsh**
Summit County Prosecutor

and **Lt. Chad Cunningham**
University of Akron Police Dept.

No registration required!



Tuesday,
October 25th, 2016
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Hudson Middle School
77 N. Odant Street
Hudson, Ohio 44236

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:
Sherri Bevan Walsh
330-649-7315 wwalsh@prosecutor.summitoh.net

FREE WOMEN'S SELF-DEFENSE CLASS

Sponsored by **AAU & Sherri Bevan Walsh**
Summit County Prosecutor
and
Lt. Chad Cunningham
University of Akron Police Dept.

No registration required!



Wednesday
October 26, 2016
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Court 4, U of A "Rec Center"
3825 Carroll St.
Akron, OH 44325

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:
Sherri Bevan Walsh
330-649-7315 wwalsh@prosecutor.summitoh.net

Learn potentially life-saving information, from how to escape if someone grabs you, to the best way to get help if you are attacked.

Bring a family member or a friend for a night of fun and information. Plus, plenty of refreshments!

It's October and that means ghouls and goblins will soon be running around.

Halloween is right around the corner and we want to make sure families are safe when they hit the streets.

Remember these simple tips if you or your kids are on the hunt for some tasty sweets—or if you are handing out candy.



- Go with friends only in well-lit areas.
- Teach your children to never go into a home for candy.
- Use reflective tape on your child's costume so drivers can see them.
- Have children carry a glow stick or flashlight.
- Keep lighted candles away from costumes.

TOP COP

CUYAHOGA FALLS POLICE DETECTIVE BRETT REYNOLDS NOMINATED BY ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR DUSTIN ROTH

The facts in the case are difficult to read. An innocent child, just 8-months-old, shaken so severely that the infant suffered temporary paralysis and potentially permanent damage.

Now imagine being the investigator assigned to find out what happened and who was responsible. This is no easy task. Thankfully Cuyahoga Falls Police Detective Brett Reynolds was on the case.

I nominate Detective Reynolds not only for his thorough investigation, but for his ability to lock the defendant, William Jobe, into a story. Jobe's statement to Detective Reynolds turned out to basically be a confession. This was key in securing a conviction and getting Jobe to plead guilty to child endangerment charges.



Detective Reynolds was able to get Jobe to admit being alone with the infant at the time of the incident and that he violently shook the baby.

Jobe is currently serving a five year prison sentence after pleading guilty in August.

Thanks to Detective Reynolds' ability to get Jobe to admit to this horrible act, we were able to hold the defendant accountable for his actions. For that, I thank Detective Reynolds.

As the October TOP COP, Detective Reynolds is the recipient of a gift card from Swensons.

Thank you Swensons for your support of our office and local law enforcement.

CONGRATULATIONS & GREAT JOB!

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT

One way to win the war on crime is to give people hope, and a safe place where students of all ages can learn, play, and feel loved.

One Summit County organization is doing just that. Our October agency spotlight focuses on First Glance. First Glance has been around for 16 years, and since 2000, over 5,000 different students have walked through the doors located in Akron's Kenmore neighborhood. The faith-based youth center works with teens and young adults and provides them and the community hope through education programs including sewing classes, football dinners and dance parties.

They bring in speakers and teachers and hold events such as "ladies night out" and "man-up" which deal with topics such as self-esteem and the basics of how to be a

young man. They provide childcare for ages from newborn to nine-years-old.

Since many of these kids' parents are either absent or uninvolved, they attend court, graduations, and funerals almost acting as "stand-in" parents. They even plan weddings.

Ninety volunteers assist at First Glance, with nearly half living within a one mile radius of the center. They are starting an afterschool program in the three local elementary schools and are partnering with local churches to do this.

The hope is First Glance empowers teens and young adults to reach their potential and become who they were created to be.

For more information head to www.firstglance.org.

First Glance

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