



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

A Message From Prosecutor Walsh

Count to 30. In that time, someone has become a victim of a violent crime in the United States. According to the FBI, there were 1,570 violent crimes reported in Akron in 2013.

Protecting people and helping victims is something my office does throughout the year. This time of year understanding what a victim is going through is even more important. April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Plus, the week of April 19-25 is National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

Every day, investigators and prosecutors use new technology to track down criminals and help victims. As of March 2nd, the Ohio Attorney General's office has tested more than 6,500 sexual assault kits as part of the office's statewide effort to bring justice for survivors of sexual assault. DNA testing has resulted in 2,465 hits to DNA already in the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS). In all, 152 law enforcement agencies from across Ohio have submitted a total of 9,237 kits for testing.

In Summit County, law enforcement has submitted close to 1,500 sexual assault kits to the BCI Lab in Richfield. Akron has handed over the most kits in the county – 1,479 - some which date back to 1993. Akron Police Detective James Pashelich keeps track of all the results and says many times, DNA from the old cases is linked to more recent crimes.

This picture shows just a portion of the old sexual assault kits Det. Pashelich has gone through for Akron cases.

And those numbers are expected to go up. In March, a new state law went into effect making it mandatory to send newly collected rape kits for testing.

Det. Pashelich says Akron Police have already sent all the department's older, untested kits. Now Det. Pashelich waits for those results to come in. And as those results come in, my office will aggressively prosecute any suspect connected to those cases.

My office supports victims any way we can. We will cap this busy month by participating in Rape Crisis Center's 10th Annual Walk A Mile in Her Shoes on April 24 at Lock 3 Park in Akron. If you'd like to join the Prosecutor's Office team, please see James Pollack or Mackenzie Border in my office. You can learn more or register your own team at <https://www.firstgiving.com/22485/10WAM>

The Summit County Victim Assistance Program is hosting a luncheon to honor National Crime Victims' Rights Week.



The luncheon is April 21st at Akron's Greek Community Center. Call 330.376.0040 for reservations.

One of the most powerful ways to help is by volunteering. Call the Victim Assistance Program at 330.376.0040, or the Battered Women's Shelter of Summit and Medina Counties and the Rape Crisis Center at 330.374.0740.

My office has full-time victim advocates who help victims understand the criminal justice system and their rights as victims. The advocates also provide victims with information about other available services.

Advocates try to alleviate some of the stress of having to repeatedly rehash one of the worst moments of your life. They make sure victims are kept up-to-date on the case progress, explain what is happening and provide support during meetings with prosecutors and court appearances. They will even read impact statements to the court on behalf of victims at sentencing.

Victim advocates are truly special people. They provide compassion to people who have experienced incredibly traumatic events, while ensuring that those people are able to have a voice throughout the process. Victim advocates often help crime victims take the first step toward putting their lives back together. Thank you to all of the victim advocates who tirelessly work to ensure the victims' voices are heard.

Stay safe

Sherri B. Walsh



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Testifying for Stronger Sentences for Criminals

My office will go as far as possible when it comes to fighting for victims and getting and keeping dangerous people behind bars.



SB 97 would create the Armed Violent Career Criminal designation for offenders who possess a firearm or dangerous ordinance after having two previous violent felony convictions. In addition, this legislation would allow a judge to sentence for a mandatory range of two to eleven years in prison for a person convicted of a violent felony offense and a violent career criminal/firearm possession specification.

Last month, Margaret Scott, Deputy Chief Assistant Prosecutor with the Summit County Prosecutor's Office, and Akron Police Chief James Nice, testified in front of a State Senate hearing in Columbus on Senate Bill 97. SB 97 is also called the Violent Career Criminal Act.



The second component would increase the current prison terms for firearm specifications by 50 percent.

This legislation seeks to target repeat violent offenders and reduce gun crime by the worst of the worst in our society.



Extending Statute of Limitations for Rape & Sexual Assault

There is renewed hope among rape victims. The statute of limitations in rape cases, when DNA evidence is uncovered, could soon be extended.



Just last month, State Senators passed legislation (Senate Bill 13) which would give prosecutors an additional five years to file rape or sexual battery charges, if DNA evidence is found, regardless of when the crime took place.

Currently, there is a 20-year statute of limitations for rape and sexual assault cases. This proposal would extend that statute by giving prosecutors five additional years to file charges from the date DNA evidence implicates someone. With Ohio's Attorney General ramping up testing of old sexual assault kits, law enforcement officials believe there is a need to give investigators and prosecutors more time. Many of the old sexual assault kits are approaching the 20-year statute of limitations.

Teaching Teens the Dangers of Social Media

Ben Bergeron, investigator with the Summit County Prosecutor's Office, spoke last month with students at Barberton High School about Social Media awareness, sexting dangers, cyber-stalking, and cyber-bullying. The students are seniors enrolled in the school's criminal technology class. Great job Ben & students!



HELP KEEP A SERIAL RAPIST IN PRISON



A reminder that the Summit County Prosecutor's Office is asking for your help to keep Willie Lagway (Criminal Case No. 83-02-0232) in prison. The Ohio Parole Board is considering Lagway's release at a parole board hearing on May 26th.

From February 10-14, 1983, Lagway, then 27, went on a five-day crime spree victimizing six women in Summit County. For his crimes, Lagway was sentenced to a minimum sentence of 109 years and a maximum sentence of 375 years.

We are asking for the public's help in keeping Lagway in prison.

Please send letters or emails to:

Ohio Parole Board

Attn: Cynthia Mausser, Parole Board Chair

770 West Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43222

DRC.Victim.Services@odrc.state.oh.us

Please include Lagway's name and Inmate Number, A173689, on each page of the correspondence.

You can also sign a petition in support of keeping Lagway in prison.

Please note YOU DO NOT HAVE TO DONATE to sign the petition.

<http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/keeplagwayinjail>

GUILTY VERDICTS March 2015

We had 9 guilty verdicts in March. Congratulations to the following Assistant Prosecutors for obtaining convictions at trial.

Kassim Ahmed
Teri Burnside
Pete Daly (2)
Joe Dangelo
Elliot Kolkovich
Tom Kroll
Greg Peacock

Angela Poth-Wypasek
Justin Richard
Jennie Shuki
Brian Stano (2)
Jaime Syx
Angela Walls-Alexander

Great Job Prosecutors!!!!



Tough Prosecutions

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

David Greathouse, 34

- Rape
- Sexual Battery
- Greathouse was sentenced on March 18 to Life in Prison without Parole
- He was found guilty on March 5 of sexually abusing two children under the age of 13 over the course of several years

Daniel Tighe, 41

- Tighe was sentenced to Life in Prison without Parole for the murder of his son Peyton & Peyton's mom Wendy

Eric Miller, 31

- Pled guilty to robbing four young women near the University of Akron
- Sentenced to 10 years in prison



Help Us Go Green!

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



April Top Cop

Detective Joseph Storad

Summit County Sheriff's Department

Nominated by Teri Burnside

"Let the punishment match the offense" said Roman philosopher Marcus Tullius Cicero.

The work of this month's Top Cop made sure that happened. Summit County Sheriff's Detective Joseph Storad's hard work led to 34-year-old David Greathouse being locked up for the rest of his life for sexually assaulting two girls who were under 13 years of age at the time of the rapes.

Detective Storad went above and beyond in his investigation, which led to justice for these two little girls. What began as an investigation into one teen's claims, led to the discovery of another victim, who is now an adult. It took Det. Storad some time to track down this now grown woman, and to



follow up on her original case which dated back to 2000. Because of Det. Storad's tenacity, perseverance, professionalism and his sincere caring, jurors found Greathouse guilty on several charges, including rape and sexual battery.

Judge Amy Corrigan Jones ultimately sentenced Greathouse to two life terms with no parole eligibility, as well as another three life terms where Greathouse would be eligible for parole after 10 years. Kudos Detective Storad, you set an example for us all.

Way to go!

Free Self-Defense Class

With April being Sexual Assault Awareness Month, my office is doing many things to make people aware of sexual assault. We are also doing what we can to help people not become victims. This month, we are teaming up with the Summit County Sheriff to sponsor a free self defense class for mothers and daughters.

The event is set for April 27th at 6pm at the Akron/Springfield Assembly of God, 1551 Canton Road. Lt. Chad Cunningham with the University of Akron Police Department is leading the session.

Learn simple techniques which could save your life. Things like freeing yourself from a chokehold, learning the wrist breakaway, and how to escape if you are pinned to the ground. And you get to practice kicks and slaps.

My office plans on conducting more of these very popular and informative self-defense classes throughout the year, so keep an eye out for more notices.

Please call Mackenzie Border at 330.643.2295 for more information.



FREE MOTHER-DAUGHTER SELF-DEFENSE CLASS

Sponsored by
Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh,
Summit County Sheriff Steve Barry
&
University of Akron Police Lt. Chad Cunningham
Free! No registration required!



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

Monday, April 27, 2015
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Akron/Springfield Assembly of God
1551 Canton Rd.
Akron 44312



For more information, contact:
Mackenzie Border
330-643-2295
border@prosecutor.summitoh.net

Meet our new Victim Advocate: Debbie Leibold

Hire Date: February 17, 2015

Title: Victim Advocate

Hometown: New Philadelphia, Ohio

Education: I am a proud graduate of The Ohio State University with a degree in Sociology.

Background: As a former military spouse, I was blessed with the chance to travel the country and experience new career opportunities at each duty station. I have held the positions of Hotel Front Desk Supervisor, Child Support Officer, Food Stamp and Medicaid Case Manager, Assistant Domestic Violence Coordinator, Corporate Volunteer Manager, Testing Center Specialist, Family Liaison and most recently Patient Advocate. I have had the opportunity to volunteer with Charles County Sherriff's Office as a Victim Advocate, Charles County Circuit Court as a Court Appointed Special Advocate and Honor Flight Columbus as an Office Assistant/Flight day Volunteer. I also had the life-changing experience of spending six weeks in Biloxi, MS as a Red Cross Disaster Volunteer after Hurricane Katrina.

Hobbies/Interests: I am an avid reader. I love spending time with my wonderful boyfriend who recently returned from a year-long deployment to Afghanistan. I also love spending time with his two terrific kids and my amazing nephew. Children definitely keep you busy and keep you young.



Agency Spotlight: Autism Society of Greater Akron



April is Autism Awareness Month. As the parent of a child with autism, I am all too aware of the unique issues facing the caregiver of a person with autism. The Autism Society of Greater Akron provides valuable resources, education and advocacy. Learn more about the organization at www.AutismAkron.org.

If someone you love is on the autism spectrum or affected by another condition that makes it difficult to communicate, consider enrolling them in the Take Me Home Program. Take Me Home is a program offered by my office and the Summit County Sheriff's Office. The initiative supports those who need extra help communicating in an emergency situation;

things like their name or address. The Sheriff's department and my office maintain a database, only accessible to law enforcement personnel. If a person in the Take Me Home program is found alone by a police officer, or

is reported missing, the officer can access the database to identify the person and properly assist them.

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

