



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

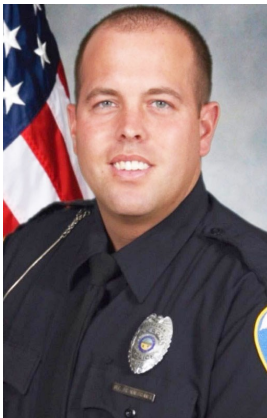
## A Message From Prosecutor Walsh

# Thanking A Hero

The holidays are nearly here. A time to spend with friends and family—to share stories, laughter, and sometimes tears. For one local family, the past year has been extremely difficult.

Just over a year ago, in the early morning hours of November 16, 2014, Akron Police Officer Justin Winebrenner was shot and killed.

Justin was with friends and his fiancé at Papa Don's Pub when Kenan Ivery returned with a gun after being asked to leave.



After seeing the gun, Justin, along with two others, confronted Ivery, and tried to get him outside and away from the crowd of people inside the bar. Ivery opened fire and shot Justin twice. Justin collapsed in the parking lot and died a short time later. But his actions undoubtedly saved the lives of others inside the bar. Ivery is now

serving a life sentence with no eligibility for parole.

For many, this one moment, this one sacrifice, is how Justin will be remembered. As a hero. But Justin did, and was, so much more.

He was a father. A son. And was soon going to be a husband. And he loved being a police officer, following his father's footsteps. My office had many interactions with Justin during his nine years as an Akron Police Officer. Prosecutors say Justin was more than a police officer. He truly cared about his community and his family. His smile and boundless energy could fill a room. Justin was and will forever be remembered as one of the good guys.

Others in the office point to Justin's devotion to his daughter Charlee. Justin worked the overnight shift and on many occasions he would have to bring Charlee to the Prosecutor's Office for meetings. One prosecutor pointed out that Justin was incredibly sweet with Charlee and

it was interesting to see him in a different light as a dad instead of an officer.

One quality many remembered was how Justin tempered his vigorous pursuit of justice with reason and compassion. Justin was always well prepared, which ensured the best possible outcome for the residents of Akron.



I said it last year, and it holds true again this year. This Holiday Season, may God keep watch over all those who protect us, and bless our families with the hope each New Year brings.

Stay safe,

*Sherri B. Walsh*



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# In The Community

The holiday season is upon us. And we want to make sure everyone is safe. Prosecutor Walsh, along with several members of the Prosecutor's Office, held a self-defense class at **Hudson's Laurel Lake Retirement Community**.

Those who attended learned vital information on how to get away from an attacker, as well as how to keep your personal items safe when shopping.

Remember these simple tips when you're out and about.



- *Take as little with you as possible—maybe just a credit card, a small amount of cash, and an ID.*
- *Also, when putting packages in your car, remember to secure any valuables first.*
- *And be aware—always look around and be familiar with your surroundings.*

Also, when holiday shopping, don't forget to bring with you some common sense, so you don't become a victim.

- *Lock all of your windows and doors whether you are leaving the house or staying home. Use alarms when possible.*
- *Always lock your vehicle and store all items out of sight. Breaking into an empty car isn't worth a thief's time.*
- *Dispose of your garbage wisely. Do not leave boxes from recent purchases or gifts visible to others outside. Try to dispose of such things by taking them to a recycling destination or by putting them in the garbage collection right before pickup.*



Hopefully everyone will have a safe holiday season.

Prosecutor Walsh was honored to be part of the inaugural **Autism Summit** at the **Northeast Ohio Medical School** in Rootstown on Friday November 13th.



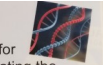
Prosecutor Walsh was among six people who participated in a panel discussion on Autism

and possible solutions to community issues. Thank you to everyone who participated, and a special thank you to **Laurie Cramer, Executive Director of the Autism Society of Greater Akron** for organizing the event.

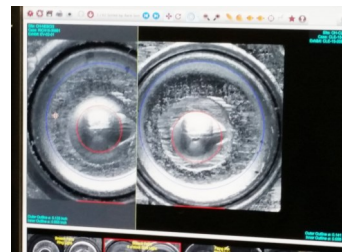
The Summit County Prosecutor's Office also keeps up on the latest technologies when it comes to investigations. The office's monthly In-service in November was held at the

#### DNA Unit

DNA profiling is a powerful tool for convicting the guilty and exonerating the innocent. BCI has implemented the most modern forensic technology for DNA casework, including 15 distinct DNA tests plus gender determination. Results of analyses can be compared to the DNA profiles of suspects and victims as well as to those within the CODIS database.



MIKE DEWINE



#### Ohio Attorney General's Bureau of Crime Investigation

in Richfield. Prosecutors learned about DNA testing, ballistics testing, and new information about the latest illegal drugs in Summit County.

Assistant Prosecutor Joe Dangelo presented important safety information to about 50 people at a monthly gathering at **St. Ashwood Temple** on Vernon Odom Boulevard. A special thank you to Ohio State Trooper Andre Bradford who invited us to take part in the event. Trooper Bradford is a Deacon at the church and his father is the former pastor of the church.



If you would like to have someone from our office speak to your organization about safety, please contact Jennifer Watson at 330.643.2800 or email her at [watson@prosecutor.summitoh.net](mailto:watson@prosecutor.summitoh.net)



# Avery's Corner

# Keeping The Community Safe

November sure was busy! Everyone is preparing their Thanksgiving feast—too bad I can't have any. But it sure smells good.

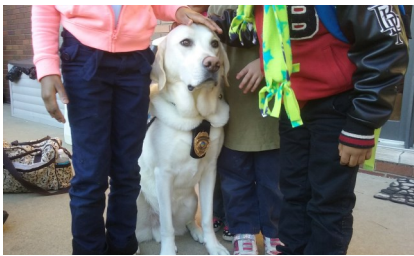


I got to visit some old friends at the Akron Crime Clinic. They learned everything about me, including how I help victims at the Prosecutor's Office. And they even gave my handler Mel a special plaque.

I also recently spent time at Akron's Haven of Rest Ministry. The organization serves



hundreds of homeless people and families in the Greater Akron area. It was great meeting everyone and spending time with the kids. I hope I was able to brighten their day—even just a little bit.



And I had a wonderful time at Summit Academy Schools. Summit Academy specializes in educating children with special needs, like Autism, Attention Deficit Disorder and other related disabilities. The kids got a chance to come say hi & pet me. It was so nice being with all the students.



**Follow Avery II on Facebook at:**

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## GUILTY VERDICTS

### November 2015

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

**Kassim Ahmed**

**Kevin Mayer (6)**

**Jay Cole**

**Jennie Shuki**

**Felicia Easter**

**Brian Stano**

**Great Job Prosecutors!!!!**



## Tough Prosecutions

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

**Scott Purk, 53**

- Murder
- Tampering With Evidence
- **LIFE IN PRISON**

**Maycon Alvarez, 30**

- Involuntary Manslaughter
- Trafficking in Fentanyl
- **8 Years in Prison**

**Jason West, 42**

- Telecommunications Harassment
- Intimidation
- Menacing by Stalking
- **10 Years in Prison**



**Help Us Go Green!**

Contact Melanie Hart at [hart@prosecutor.summitoh.net](mailto:hart@prosecutor.summitoh.net) to receive this newsletter by e-mail



# December Top Cop

## Akron Police Detective Scott Lietke & Members of APD Platoon 4 Nominated by Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh & Staff

In this month's issue, I recognize Akron Police Detective Scott Lietke and members of APD's Platoon 4 as December's TOP COP. All were involved in the investigation into the shooting death of Akron Police Officer Justin Winebrenner.

Platoon 4 was Officer Winebrenner's platoon. Those officers were among the first to respond to reports of shots fired at Papa Don's Pub.

Officers arrived to see their Brother in Blue on the ground, suffering from two gunshot wounds. Yet they acted professionally and quickly in a chaotic scene. The Officers organized and controlled the situation, assisted in identifying the defendant and followed his trail, helped other victims,

preserved evidence, and interviewed witnesses and victims.

Two members of Platoon 4 stood out that night. Officer Chris Crockett was first to arrive and took immediate control of the situation. Officer Jeff Edsall and K9 Bronson tracked and apprehended Kenan Ivery. Ivery was found lying on the ground in a nearby field. Bronson latched on to Ivery and prevented him from escaping. Sadly, Bronson died just three days before Ivery's trial began.

Officers Thomas Russell and Jeff Shields were both off-duty and at the restaurant when the shooting occurred. Officer Shields helped control the scene before responding officers arrived. And Officer Russell,

who was injured when a bullet grazed his torso, immediately began to assess and control the scene while giving aid to Officer Winebrenner.

Detective Lietke led the investigation. His thoroughness and attention to detail was paramount in helping convict Ivery. A heartfelt thank you to everyone involved.

### Rest In Peace

### Officer Winebrenner

### End of Watch

Nov. 16, 2014



## Hi-Tech Safety Jewelry

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office is always keeping an eye out for new ways to keep you safe. While we do not advocate for buying specific products, we did find this interesting device, scheduled to be made available next spring. The device is called "Athena" and is developed by an organization called ROAR.

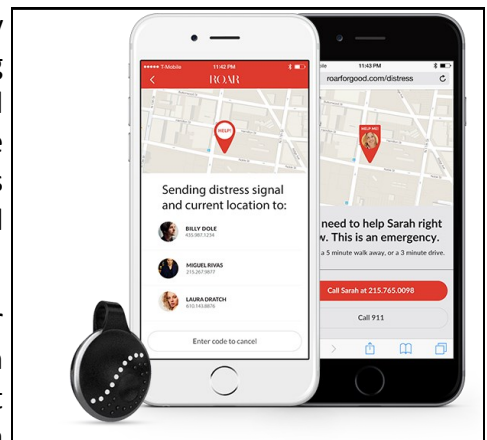
Athena is described as smart safety jewelry and is equipped with Bluetooth and an activation button. When the button is pressed, an emergency text message is sent to select contacts and notifies them of the wearer's location. Athena also emits a loud alarm. The company also says it is working on a function that makes an automated 911 call to notify emergency services once the button is pressed.

To prevent false alarms, the button is recessed and must be held down for three seconds to activate it.

ROAR is currently accepting funding to develop and market the Athena. It looks like Athena will cost about \$75.

There are other safety devices on the market, but many have a monthly fee and are more geared for medical emergencies. There is no information as to whether Athena will have a monthly fee associated with it. Consumers Advocate rated the Bay Alarm Medical device as its top rated safety alert product.

You can find more information at ROAR's website [www.roarforgood.com](http://www.roarforgood.com).



## Employee Spotlight

### Meet Our New Juvenile Prosecutor—Zachary Neumann

**Hire Date:** October 28, 2015

**Title:** Assistant County Prosecutor, Child Protection Unit

**Hometown:** Akron

**Education:** I attended St. Vincent-St. Mary High School (yes I went to school with LeBron and we even played basketball together!). I earned my undergraduate degree from Loyola University of Chicago majoring in History, Spanish, and Criminal Justice. And I graduated from The Ohio State University's Mortiz College of Law.



**Background:** I was a snow cone vendor at Sea World and was even a member of the Peace Corps serving in Honduras. I also was an intern with the Summit County Prosecutor's Office in the DV Unit.

**Fun Fact:** I rode a bull for eight seconds at a rodeo in Honduras—although I did use both hands.

**Comment to the Office:** Thank you for the opportunity. I will try to become worthy of the offer and become a lawyer who people respect.

## Akron General Medical Center's New SANE Unit

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office is very happy to join Akron General Medical Center as the hospital unveiled its new Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) Unit and PATH Center. The program began operating November 1st.



The new SANE Unit fills a void in the Akron area created when Akron Summa ended its program in 2013. Akron General's new unit has nearly two dozen specially trained nurses to properly care for, collect evidence from, and protect survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence who seek medical care.

The SANE examiners got through rigorous training and ongoing monitoring.

Having quality, expert medical care from highly trained and compassionate nurses in an organized SANE program

is vital to helping a victim and provides the foundation for a successful prosecution.

We are pleased to know survivors of sexual assault receive care which restores their dignity, and hopefully gives them the strength to tell their story so we can prosecute and hold the perpetrator accountable.

The fully trained SANE examiners are also educated on the judicial aspects of sexual assault, and may be called upon to actively participate in the criminal trials against the perpetrators.



We would also like to thank Akron General Medical Center President and CEO Doctor Tim Stover for his leadership in supporting this very important unit.

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