



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

A Message From Prosecutor Walsh Working For Our Community

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office fights for victims and works hard to improve the lives of the residents of Summit County. One of the goals during my time as Summit County Prosecutor is to prevent crime and give people the tools they need to empower them to not become victims. From sending out alerts about scams to organizing self-defense classes, I urge all people to become more aware. I also feel



strongly that we should help raise people up so they become productive members of society.

That's why I want to tell you about a newly formed organization in Summit County called the Community Works Connection. Run by Bob Titus, the CWC is a job recruitment program seeking to help those in poverty become economically self-sufficient through a holistic approach to job training, job placement and job retention. Participants are provided

with resource support including transportation, childcare, finance and budgeting, mentoring and more. Many of the organization's participants have never held a job, or even understood what it means to schedule time to work. I know that sounds foreign to many of you, but it's true. And the CWC is trying to break that cycle.

My office, and more specifically the Summit County Child Support Enforcement Agency, began working with the CWC earlier this year. CSEA Outreach Coordinator Lisa Dolan runs our Family Support Matters program within CSEA. Family Support Matters addresses non-payment of child support by trying to eliminate payment problems. Lisa has referred several people from Family Support Matters to the Community Works Connection. Many of them are now working and paying child support.

But there's more. After attending a recent CWC graduation, Lisa noticed something was missing. A true graduation feel. The participants did not have typical caps and gowns. Lisa strongly believed this was a key element to give these graduates the full experience. For many graduates, this is the first time they accomplished something positive. Lisa reached out

to Seth Yon at Greener Grads in Michigan. Greener Grads recovers, reuses and repurposes graduation



gowns in an effort to be more environmentally friendly. Seth was so moved by Lisa's story that he provided us with a discounted price for graduation caps and gowns. The Summit County Prosecutor's Office purchased 15 sets and presented them to Bob Titus at CWC just in time for the March 27, 2015 graduation.

This is just one example of how members of my office truly care about the community. Congratulations to the graduates of the Community Works Connection!

Stay safe,

Sherrri B. Walsh



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In The Community

Our commitment to the community also involved something very close to the hearts of people who work at the Summit County Prosecutor's Office. We had a large group of people take part in this month's walk & fun run for the **Autism Society of Greater Akron**.

5th Akron Autism
5k Run & Walk



June 20, 2015

The organization's goal was to raise \$125,000, and we are very happy to help the Autism Society of Greater Akron reach that goal.



The rainy weather could not keep our enthusiastic team from taking part!

We also continued our commitment to keeping the community safe. On June 9th, Deputy Chief Prosecutors Margaret Scott, John Galonski, and Joe Fantozzi gave key self-defense pointers to members of **Hudson's St. Mary's Parish**.



Participants learned how to be safe while out in the community, at the supermarket, or just walking around in the neighborhood.

Those who attended took part in a hands on self-defense demonstration, getting potentially life saving information. All who attended now have the knowledge of how to not become victims of crime.

And on June 17, Deputy Chief Prosecutor John Galonski presented safety information to members of the **Telephone Pioneers Club at Stow-Glen Retirement Village**.



Thank you to all who participated in these very important and informative events.

Our next self-defense class is set for July 14th at the **Senior Safety Fair at Roses Run Country Club in Stow**. Included will be a crime safety awareness presentation. The event is presented by the Summit County Prosecutor's Office and Summit County Sheriff Steve Barry.

If you would like more information about our self-defense classes or would like to schedule a class, please contact Jennifer Watson at 330-643-2800 or email her at watson@prosecutor.summitoh.net.

It was an honor to be a part of the **NAACP Akron Branch's** annual scholarship luncheon on Sunday June 14 at The Tangier.



The event raised money for the NAACP to be able to offer scholarships to two students from each of the seven Akron Public Schools high schools and two from parochial schools. The recipients are selected by their principal and senior counselors to receive the Carrie E. Simon NAACP Scholarship. Congratulations to all the recipients.

Pictured left to right are Assistant Prosecutors Joe Dangelo and Angela Walls-Alexander, NAACP Akron Branch President Judi Hill, Magistrate Jon Oldham, Deputy Chief Assistant of the Civil Division John Galonski, and Assistant Prosecutor Heaven Guest.

Avery's Hot Tip!

Keeping The Community Safe

The heat is on! So as you try to find a spot to cool off during the hot summer months, don't forget about your furry friend!

We say it often, but please keep an eye out for my friends. I enjoy going to the park and hanging out on a nice big lawn. But make sure pets, especially dogs,

have enough room to move around. Plus, leave out plenty of cold water. And make sure animals have



some shelter in case of bad weather. And under no circumstances should you leave an animal in a car with the windows up. Lowering the window by a small amount does not offer any relief on a hot day.

There is a new proposal to toughen Ohio's animal cruelty laws. My good friend, and animal rights activist Dick Goddard (you might know him for his weather forecasts!) is behind the idea.

It's called Goddard's Law, and would make the worst acts against companion animals a felony. Someone convicted of knowingly injuring or killing a companion pet, or depriving it of food, water, or shelter, would face between six months and a year in prison, plus a \$2,500 fine.

Ohio is one of only five states in the country where cruelty to pets is a misdemeanor.

So when the weather gets uncomfortable for you, just imagine what it's like for me and my friends! This fur is great in the wintertime, but can be uncomfortable once the temperatures rise. So please remember to be kind to your pet.

Follow Avery II on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/SummitCountyProsecutorAveryII>



GUILTY VERDICTS June 2015

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

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| Kassim Ahmed | Jaime Syx |
| Pete Daly | Mo Awadallah (special prosecutor) |
| Justin Richard | Brian Radigan (special prosecutor) |
| Brian Stano | Eric Foster (special prosecutor) |

Great Job Prosecutors!!!!



Tough Prosecutions

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

Shawn Ford, 20

- Aggravated Murder
- Aggravated Robbery
- Aggravated Burglary
- Felonious Assault
- **Sentenced to DEATH**

Devon Melton, 24

- Felonious Assault
- Child Endangering
- **10 years in Prison**

Michael Thompson, 30

- Sexual Battery
- Gross Sexual Imposition
- **4 Years & 11 Months**
- **Tier III Sex Offender**

Jamall Vaughn, 16

- Aggravated Murder
- Aggravated Burglary
- **LIFE in Prison**



Help Us Go Green!

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



July Top Investigator

Forensic Accountant Leo Fernandez

Nominated by Assistant Prosecutor Colleen Sims

We're changing things up a bit for July. Maybe it's the summer heat! But this month we're going outside the county for this month's Top Cop. The July Top Cop is Leo Fernandez.



Leo Fernandez is a certified public accountant who has devoted his professional career to investigating financial crimes for the State of Ohio. He has been a forensic accountant

with the Ohio Attorney General's Bureau of Criminal Investigation since 2005. Leo travels across the state to investigate and testify in cases involving financial corruption.

We appreciate the Canton native's assistance in sifting through thousands of financial records. He has devoted hundreds of hours to investigating two recent large financial crimes in Summit County. Fernandez analyzed many bank and IRS records to corroborate the theft reports of over 36 area businesses against Ronald Conte. Conte



was found guilty of scamming local businesses. He was hired to pay employee taxes for those businesses but diverted those tax payments to pay for his own purchases. Conte is currently serving a 59 month prison sentence.

Fernandez also poured through 30 months of bank records to expose Johnnie Byrd's practice of systematic food stamp fraud resulting in a loss of a million dollars. Byrd was found guilty and is currently serving a mandatory nine year prison sentence.

Both men are presently serving lengthy prison sentences because of the tireless work of Leo Fernandez.

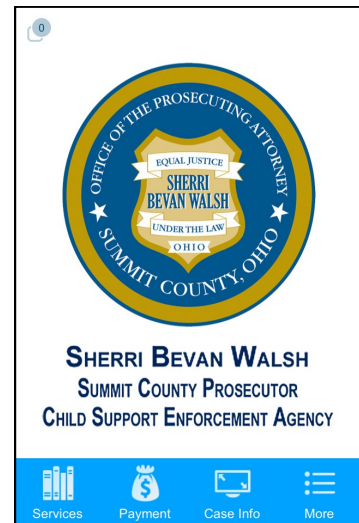
Thanks Leo & good work!

Download The New CSEA App

Front Porch Café & South Street Ministries

Don't forget to download the new CSEA app. It's easy to use and can help streamline the process for

families. Parents seeking child support can quickly find phone numbers, access forms, and get the agency's address and office hours. Plus you can find out the different ways to make child support payments. Just search CSEA in Google Play or iTunes.



A big thank you to the wonderful people at the Front Porch Café and South Street Ministries. In June, summer interns at the Summit County Prosecutor's Office got a first hand look at the café, which helps support the mission of South Street Ministries.

the community, from offering services to people just released from prison, to simply a place to sit, and get a cup of coffee.



Founder Pastor Duane Crabbs spoke about how the organization impacts

For more information, click on the following link: southstreetministries.org/

Meet our new employee:

Emily Piros—Assistant Juvenile Prosecutor-Delinquency

Hire Date: 6/8/2015

Title: Assistant Prosecutor, Juvenile Division

Hometown: Elyria, Ohio

Education: Received undergraduate degree at Bowling State University. Graduated from University of Toledo College of Law.

Background: Worked at the Richland County Prosecutor's Office as an Assistant Prosecutor. Also was Chief Law Clerk during law school at the Toledo Municipal Court.

Hobbies/Interests: Reading and taking care of my puppy Buster.

Fun Fact: I am licensed to practice law in South Carolina as well as in Ohio.

Comment to the Office: I am thrilled to be a part of the Summit County Prosecutor's Office and can't wait to get to know everyone better!



Agency Spotlight:

Community Works Connection

Something needed to be done to break the cycle of poverty in Summit County. So Open M CEO Dottie Archmoody proposed a new way of thinking to help people living in poverty to become self-sufficient. That is how the Community Works Connection was born last November.

Modeled after a similar program in Cincinnati, the Community

Works Connection, or CWC, is an intensive, month-long program geared to give those who are willing and capable a chance to break out of poverty.

Participants attend classes Monday through Friday, eight hours a day where they learn about financial literacy,



retention, and mentoring. After graduation, many get jobs with local companies. And they have to keep that job for one year.

CWC Executive Director Bob Titus says the organization is transforming lives as well as saving money for the county. Many of the nearly 40 people who have graduated from CWC since November are no longer receiving county benefits. And it's also a win for participating businesses, who get hard-working, loyal employees. That cuts down on having to train and re-train new workers.

For more information about the Community Works Connection, log onto their website—

<http://www.openm.org/community-works-connection/>

Office of Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh

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