



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

A Message From Prosecutor Walsh

The Role Of A Prosecutor

Many of you have no doubt read about or watched the recent events around the country involving police officers and the deaths of several people. These tragic events have struck an emotional chord with people on all sides of the issue.

Thousands have protested. Cities had buildings burned, and businesses vandalized. We've seen the images. We've felt the frustration, the anger. So how can we keep our community together, and make sure all voices are heard? If it can happen there, could it happen here?

That is the concern following two recent incidents in Cleveland. People want their voices heard. We are passionate. We protest. But the one thing we don't do is hurt each other. We help each other. We hold each other close and celebrate our victories. We do not let trouble-making outsiders define us. My hope is people's voices are heard, without any violence. When people speak out, solutions are found.

Race is never taken into consideration in any of our cases. We look at all the facts of what happened. Facts do not lie. Malcolm X once wrote, "I'm for truth, no matter who tells it. I'm for justice,

no matter who it's for or against." Remember, justice is blind.

Crimes occur around the country every day. Prosecutors are the ones who represent justice. Prosecutors



are the sole voice for crime victims. In doing our jobs, we embrace the fight for victims.

Each month, my office conducts training so prosecutors get the latest information on law enforcement and any new techniques used during investigations. We continuously look at anything that can help us do our jobs better and get justice for victims. This is how seriously we take what we do.

Former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Byron White once wrote: "Prosecutors have the obligation to convict the guilty and to make sure they do not

convict the innocent. They must be dedicated to making the criminal trial a procedure for the ascertainment of the true facts surrounding the commission of the crime." Basically, prosecutors have an obligation to present the truth, no matter what.

In my office's mission statement, we state we are committed to upholding the laws and statutes of the State of Ohio. But being a prosecutor is more than that. We also strive to protect the community through various programs, and work to prevent people from becoming crime victims.

My hope is the community remains calm and respectful following a judge's decision. I would hate to see what happened elsewhere happen here. I know there might be anger and frustration. People are passionate, and are allowed to voice their opinions and protest. That's what makes our country great. But please do so peacefully.

Stay safe,

Sherri B. Walsh



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In The Community

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office takes pride in our community and is involved in making our community a better place to live.



On May 8th, we were honored to attend the police memorial paying tribute to **Officer Justin Winebrenner**.



Officer Winebrenner's name was added to the stone memorial outside the Akron Police Department. His family also placed a wreath on top of the stone memorial. It was a touching and emotional ceremony, paying tribute to a man who gave his life while protecting others.

We also continue our commitment to keeping the community safe. On Saturday May 16, members of the Summit County Prosecutor's Office helped teach local Girl Scouts basic self-defense techniques, such as breaking away from an arm grab and paying attention to your surroundings. The classes were part of the **Girl Scout's Cadette Summit weekend at Camp Ledgewood**.



A big thank you to the 40 girls who took part in the event.

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



My office also helps people safely navigate the internet. Deputy Chief Assistant Prosecutor John Galonski spoke to about two dozen people on Saturday May 23rd at the Safety Day for the City of Joy Life Enrichment Center. John's presentation focused on cyber safety.



Summit County has many incredible employees, many of whom were honored



at the County's **High Point Awards** ceremony. We would like to congratulate three members of the Prosecutor's Office who received High Point Awards. **Colleen Sims** is an Assistant Prosecutor with the Civil Division and has worked with my office for over 14 years. **Annie Spitali** began her career in the Child Support Division in 1996 and is currently a Child Support Supervisor. And **Heaven Guest** has been with my office since 2003 and is currently an Appellate Prosecutor. Your awards are well deserved!



It was also an honor to take part in the annual **Summit County Chiefs of Police Dogs-N-Suds** event at Lock 3 on May 20th. It was a great time and a wonderful way to kick-off the holiday weekend. All the money raised benefited the Mike Kallai Law Enforcement Scholarship Fund. Mike Kallai was Chief of Police in Barberton for 13 years and worked for the city's police department for 32 years, before passing away in 2010.



June is National Safety Month

Keeping The Community Safe

June is here, and that means warmer weather and longer daylight hours. It also means more kids will be outside. So a friendly reminder to please be



aware when you're outside, especially when you're behind the wheel.

Summer is the most dangerous time of year for kids, according to a study released by the National SAFE KIDS Campaign. In fact, the period of time between Memorial Day and Labor Day is referred to as the 100 Deadliest Days. National statistics show that period is the deadliest time for teen crashes.

Here are some alarming statistics from the nationwide report:

- Nearly half (42%) of all unintentional injury-related deaths occur during the summer months, a 25% increase above average.
- Drowning is the greatest risk for children ages 14 and under, 96% above average during the summer.
- The majority of unintentional deaths (two-thirds) from 1991 to 1996 were the result of bike, pedestrian, motor vehicle occupant injury, falls and drowning.

Remember, leave the fireworks to the experts. Setting off fireworks in Ohio is illegal. Make sure you are aware of your surroundings, even during a sanctioned fireworks display.

And if you have a child who has difficulty communicating, please make sure they are registered with our Take Me Home program. Take Me Home is a program offered by my office and the Summit County Sheriff's Office. 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. For more information, contact Leslie Knoblauch at 330.643.2800 or knoblauch@prosecutor.summitoh.net.

GUILTY VERDICTS

May 2015

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

Kassim Ahmed

Angela Poth-Wypasek

Nick Buzzy

Justin Richard

Pete Daly

Dan Sallerson (2)

Jon Hart (3)

Ryan Stickel

Elliot Kolkovich

Colleen Sims (3)

Joe Miller (2)

Great Job Prosecutors!!!!



Tough Prosecutions

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

Dwayne Fain, 18

- Sexually Violent Predator
- Rape
- Kidnapping
- Tampering with Evidence
- LIFE in Prison

Dequante Moorer, 21

- Kidnapping
- Burglary
- Aggravated Burglary
- **11 Additional Years** added to previous LIFE sentence

Frederick Smith, 34

- Rape
- Felonious Assault
- **17 years** in Prison

David Brown, 40

- Aggravated Vehicular Homicide
- DUI
- Maximum sentence of **Five Years** in Prison

Johnnie Byrd III, 45

- Food Stamp Fraud
- Mandatory **Nine Years** in Prison

Deandre Scott, 26

- Aggravated Burglary w/ firearm
- **15 Years** in Prison



Help Us Go Green!

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



June Top Cop

Akron Police Detectives Ben Surblis, Aron Hanlon, James Pasheilich Nominated by Assistant Prosecutor Joe Dangelo

The case involving Dwayne Fain is a difficult one to read about. A woman was raped at knife-point, by a man dressed in a mask and cape. Those details pushed investigators to pursue every lead and find the person responsible.



force for a few weeks. They did an excellent job gathering information, which they passed on to Detective Hanlon. That information helped Detective Hanlon search Fain's home, a search which resulted in the discovery of the bloody knife used in the attack as well as the victim's hair extensions.

Akron Police Detectives Ben Surblis, Aron Hanlon, and James Pasheilich deserve special recognition for their role in the investigation.

It was a case where teamwork truly paid off. It all began with the officers who responded to the crime scene, William Culver, Patrick Didyk, Derrick Jackson, and Jeremy Sosenko. Culver and Jackson had only been on the

Detective Surblis met with the victim at the hospital, obtaining crucial information, which included a description of what her attacker wore. That information was passed along to Detective Pasheilich who was able to get Fain to confess to the crime. That was the decisive factor in resolving the case.

The communication between all three detectives, as well as the officers who first responded to the scene, helped our office see that justice was served.



Dwayne Fain pled guilty and is currently serving a life sentence. Fain was also determined to be a sexually violent predator, as well as a Tier III sex offender.

It was textbook police work in one of the best investigations I have ever seen.

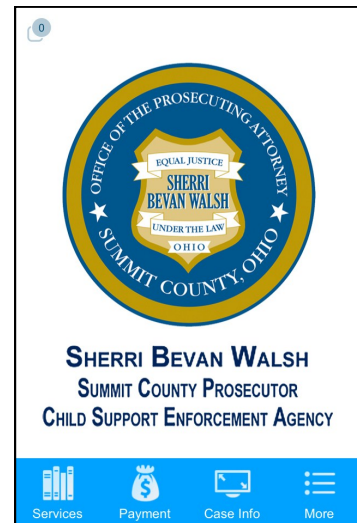
Way to go!

Download The New CSEA App

Avery's Corner

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.



Avery had a busy May, meeting with a number of victims as well as greeting new graduates of our Valor & Drug Courts.



Avery plays a huge role in helping victims feel more at ease when they meet with prosecutors and testify in court.

He recently sat with a rape victim as she faced her attacker during sentencing.

Follow Avery II on Facebook at:

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



Meet our new Juvenile Prosecutor: Maureen Walsh

Hire Date: May 11, 2015

Title: Assistant Prosecutor, Juvenile Division

Hometown: Boardman, Ohio

Education: Maureen received her JD with Distinction, from Ohio Northern University in 1985. She received her undergraduate degree from Seton Hall University in 1982.

Background: Maureen has an extensive background, working in private practice, was the House Counsel for Progressive Insurance, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Criminal Division, Stark County, and Assistant Attorney, Stark County Public Defender's Office.

Hobbies/Interests: I love to read and spend time with my family.

Fun Fact: I took a stroll on the Great Wall of China.

Comment to the Office: I am so happy to be a part of the Juvenile Division and work with such an amazing team. Please feel free to stop by and say hello.

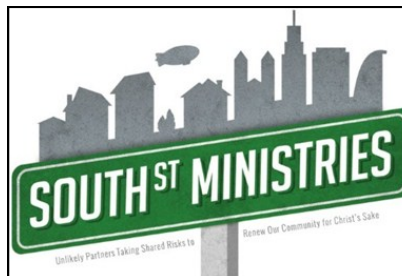


Agency Spotlight: South Street Ministries

In 1997, Duane Crabbs and his wife Lisa moved their family into the distressed neighborhood of Summit Lake and formed South Street Ministries.

Over the past eighteen years, South Street Ministries has been dedicated to the physical, socio-economic, and spiritual prosperity of the South Akron/Summit Lake neighborhood. South Street's mission statement is: Unlikely partners taking shared risks to renew our community for Christ's sake.

The organization's main programs include after-school tutoring, summer youth camp, urban gardening, bike



shop, jail ministry, open gym basketball, South Street Studio (for teenage girls), and youth sports scholarships. Many have had pastoral counseling, emergency food and shelter assistance, and a positive and caring neighborhood presence.

South Street Ministries is currently looking for urban servants and neighborhood friends to carry out weekly summer service at the South Street Bike Shop and Summer Camps. If you are interested in donating your time visit their website at <http://southstreetministries.org/>.

Office of Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh

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