



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

A Message From Prosecutor Walsh

Our Facility Dog Makes History

History was made in October in Ohio. And it involved the Summit County Prosecutor's Office and a key member of our staff who provides comfort and support to victims. I have always made helping crime victims my main objective. Being a victim of crime can be a traumatic experience. And that victimization can continue, as survivors tell investigators and prosecutors what happened. That's why I brought Avery II on board in August of 2013. The Summit County Prosecutor's Office remains the only one of 88 prosecutor's offices in Ohio to use a facility dog to help victims and their families.

The history making case involved Michael Jacobs. Jacobs is currently serving a four-year sentence after being convicted in 2014 of unlawful sexual conduct with a minor and corrupting another with drugs. Avery sat at the feet of Jacobs' victim while she testified. Avery's presence helped the victim tell jurors what happened. Jacobs appealed saying

Avery should not have been allowed in the courtroom.

Ohio's 9th District Court of Appeals disagreed. The judges ruled that courts can make a variety of special allowances for child victims of sexual abuse. And those allowances may include using a companion dog during the child victim's testimony. This is the first time in Ohio an appeals court has ruled on the use of a facility dog in a trial.



The crimes we prosecute are some of the worst imaginable. While we work hard to protect victims, the criminal justice system can inadvertently cause what is known as *secondary victimization*. Children and people with disabilities can be especially fearful and stressed when describing a traumatic situation in a courtroom. Avery

plays a vital role in how my office focuses on the needs of crime victims. He often sits with victims and their families as they tell their story to investigators and prosecutors.

Avery is a highly trained facility dog helping crime victims feel more at ease. My hope is that Avery makes the whole judicial process easier to handle. We also have great community support, including Canine Companions for Independence who trained Avery, Stow-Kent Animal Hospital which provides free health care for Avery, and free food and grooming from Pet Supplies Plus in Green.

Our goal is to get the truth out. Many times, a young victim won't speak about the horrible things that happened to them. But Avery gives them control – they pet him, play with him, and he calms them down. The interaction is incredible. And we are happy that interaction will continue.

Stay Safe,
Sherrri B. Walsh



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In The Community

Members of the Summit County Prosecutor's Office love to get involved in the community. And October was a busy month for us!

Assistant Prosecutors Elliot Kolkovich and Joe Dangelo spent time at the statehouse in Columbus advocating for your safety. Elliot testified before the Ohio House Judiciary Committee in support of Senate Bill 97.



Senate Bill 97 would create a Career Violent Criminal designation. The designation would add additional prison time for someone who has been convicted of at least two violent felonies within eight years of each other.

One of the main goals of the Summit County Prosecutor's Office is to keep the community safe, and help people not be victims of crime. We continued on that journey with stops at two local communities.

On Tuesday October 13th, Deputy Chief Prosecutors Margaret Scott, Joe Fantozzi, and John Galonski spent time at Roses Run Country Club in Stow, presenting our self-defense class and safety speech to about 50 seniors.



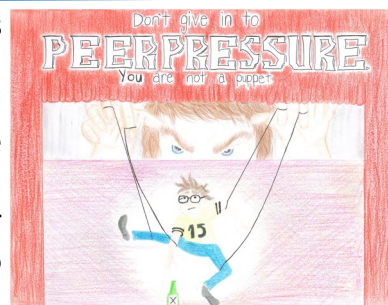
Then on Thursday October 15th, Deputy Chief Prosecutor Joe Fantozzi, and Assistant Prosecutors Joe Dangelo and Heaven Guest, spoke to about 40 members of

Cardinal Retirement Village in Cuyahoga Falls. They offered vital safety tips, including information on recent scams and crime.

If you would like more information on our self-defense classes or our senior safety speeches, please contact Jennifer Watson at 330-643-2800 or email her at watson@prosecutor.summitoh.net.



And congratulations to **Rory Murphy from Tallmadge Middle School** who was the grand prize winner in our 12 Rules for Staying Safe 2016 calendar contest.



Rory's drawing, which focused on not giving in to the demands of Peer Pressure, will be on the front cover of our 2016 Safety Kids Calendar.



Thank you to **Summit County Sheriff Steve Barry, Barbarton Police School Resource Officer Shannon Davis** (pictured above), and everyone else who helped judge the entries. 20 different Middle Schools from across Summit County took part, with a record 1,668 posters entered.

And remember, it's never too early to prepare for next year's event! If you would like a Safety Kids Calendar, please email Melanie Hart at hart@prosecutor.summitoh.net.

Avery's Corner

Keeping The Community Safe

I might be in a new book! Local author Angie Salisbury came by the office to meet with Prosecutor Walsh and my handler Melanie to discuss a new book she's working on. The book is all about the good things dogs can do! Angie already wrote a popular book about dogs called 'Dogs Know Best'. And she's right, we do! I'll let everyone know when the new book is due to be released.

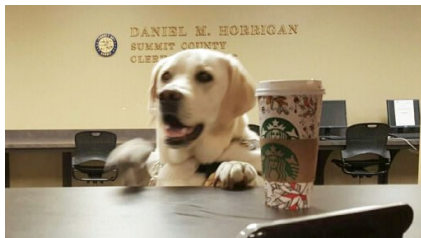


I also got to spend some time in the community. I had a great time meeting new friends at the annual Paw Fest in Stow on September 21st. We had a wonderful time at Bow Wow Beach (I love that name!) There was plenty of food, contests and local organizations who help rescue animals. Thanks to



everyone who helped put together and organize the event.

And this was fun too! I was able to take a break from the office and wander around. I stopped at the court records room and patiently waited my turn. Notice what's on the counter? Someone took a trip to my favorite place!



Follow Avery II on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/SummitCountyProsecutorAveryII

SummitCountyProsecutorAveryII

GUILTY VERDICTS

October 2015

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

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Jon Baumuel | Seema Misra |
| Nik Buckmeier | Dan Sallerson |
| Teri Burnside | Jennie Shuki |
| John Galonski | Angela Walls- |
| Kevin Mayer (3) | Alexander |

Great Job Prosecutors!!!!



Tough Prosecutions

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

Jeremy Scott, 35

- Rape
- Sexual Battery
- Gross Sexual Imposition
- **LIFE IN PRISON**

Daniel Forshey, 36

- Illegal Use of a Minor in Nudity Oriented Material
- Pandering Sexually Oriented Material Involving a Minor
- **10 1/2 YEARS IN PRISON**

Kenan Ivery, 36

- Aggravated Murder
- Murder
- Attempted Murder
- **LIFE IN PRISON WITHOUT PAROLE**



Help Us Go Green!

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



November Top Cop

Akron Police Department Officer David Zelenka

Nominated by the Summit County Prosecutor's Office Child Protection Unit

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office Child Protection Unit nominated Akron Police Officer David Zelenka as our TOP COP this month. Officer Zelenka is truly wonderful and prosecutors in the unit cannot say enough good things about him.

Recently, Officer Zelenka was the responding officer to a stressful, emotion-driven situation. A child was in the backseat of a moving vehicle when the mother began



assaulting the driver of the vehicle.

Officer Zelenka conducted a thorough investigation and had several meetings with the prosecutor assigned to the case. When it came time for trial, Officer Zelenka was prepared, confident, and tenacious. He answered questions on direct and cross-examination consistently with no waiver in his interpretation of the events.

This trial and trial preparation period was no different from past experiences with Officer Zelenka. In every experience the prosecutors of the Child Protection

Unit have had with Officer Zelenka, he has been thorough in his preparation and compassionate in his work. He truly cares about protecting the children of Summit County and his work is greatly appreciated.

He is always well prepared, responds to our subpoenas and phone calls, and has the best interest of the children he serves at heart!

**Congratulations
Officer Zelenka
and job well done!**

Senior Safety Calendar

Helping Seniors

**SENIOR SAFETY AWARENESS
2016 CALENDAR**

Meet Avery II, our facility dog.



Avery's primary job is to provide emotional support for crime victims and witnesses.

Calendar Sponsored by Summit County Prosecuting Attorney Sherri Bevan Walsh

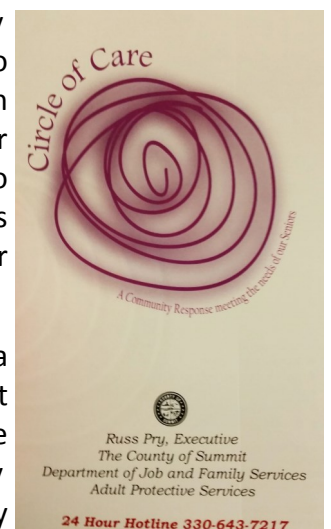
Our 2016 Senior Safety Awareness Calendars are here!
Lots of great information to keep you safe.

If you would like a calendar for yourself or your group,
please contact Jennifer Watson at 330.643.7915 or
watson@prosecutor.summitoh.net

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office is proud to be part of a newly signed plan of cooperation with 11 other Summit County agencies to help seniors who are victims of abuse, neglect and/or exploitation.

The partnership has created a **Circle of Care** booklet designed for seniors. The booklet details key information about county agencies which help the elderly.

The booklets are available at our office, or at the office of Summit County Executive Russ Pry.



Happy Trails Animal Sanctuary

Recently, Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh and several Assistant Prosecutors toured the Happy Trails Animal Sanctuary in Ravenna. Happy Trails has spent nearly 20 years rescuing neglected, abused, and abandoned farm animals in Ohio and nearby states.



Among the barns, stables, and pens on dozens of acres are survivors, some from Summit County. The sanctuary works in cooperation with county humane societies, animal protective leagues, and local law enforcement.

Workers and volunteers rescue, rehabilitate and provide an adoption program for abused, abandoned, and neglected farm animals. Horses, ponies, pot-bellied pigs, farm pigs, chickens, ducks – you name it – if the animal

suffered some form of abuse, the folks at Happy Trails work to give that animal the best care they can.

Happy Trails also has an Amish horse retirement program. The sanctuary accepts Amish-owned buggy and plow horses which can no longer serve their Amish families. The horses are then checked out and given updated vaccinations and an overall medical exam. Then they're made available for adoption.



If you would like more information, or would like to schedule a tour, please visit the Happy Trails website at www.happytrailsfarm.org

Angel Tree Ceremony

Since 1994, the Victim Assistance Program has grieved with hundreds of Summit County families who have lost loved ones as a result of violence. As a way to memorialize these individuals, Victim Assistance Program staff invites you to join them on Monday December 7, 2015 to participate in the annual Angel Tree ceremony and homicide memorial service.

This event is free and open to the public. Each year over 200 individuals attend and participate.

Family members and friends of homicide victims are asked to submit a photo of their loved one to display on the VAP Wall of Remembrance. These photographs remain on the wall throughout the month of December to honor those not forgotten.

When friends and family of homicide victims arrive at the event, they will be directed to a memorial



registration table which will hold Angels of the Deceased. Family members are encouraged to take the angels to their seats and hold them close during the ceremony. Those in attendance will be invited by VAP to address the audience and share messages to their loved one before adorning the tree with their angels.

Following the placement, VAP will present a slideshow with the 900+ names and pictures of those whose lives were taken as a result of violence during the last 20 years. Homicide victim angels who do not have any family or friends present will be hung on the tree by volunteers, police officers, and advocates.

This year's ceremony is scheduled to take place on December 7, 2015 at 6pm at the Akron-Summit County Public Library. For more information please visit victimassistanceprogram.org.

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