



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

## A Message From Prosecutor Walsh

# Don't Be A Victim Of A Scam!

You've worked hard your entire life. Now you've retired. Time to enjoy the good life, relax, spend time with family and maybe travel. Then it happens. A phone call which could change your life. Maybe it's someone claiming to be a grandchild and they're in trouble. Or you're being sued by the IRS. So you give your personal information and money. The problem is, the call was a scam.



Each year, thousands of people become victims of these types of scams. September is Senior Safety Awareness Month and I can help you not become a victim.

I recently received a phone message from someone claiming the IRS had filed a lawsuit against me. Right away I thought scam. I entered the number on Google to see if anything came up. Immediately several posts popped up saying the number was related to a scam. But I was curious.

Could we get any information to help prevent others from becoming victims? I had my office's Chief Investigator call to see if he could get any information.

A person with a thick accent answered, very eager to help. The person who answered the phone said we were in violation of three separate federal offenses against the IRS and that police were going to arrest us. Our investigator continued to play along, asking what his options were. We were told we could either fight the IRS in court, which would cost \$12,000, or take part in the 'OCR Program'. 'OCR' stands for 'out of court resolution'. We were transferred to the 'OCR Solutions Department' where another person with a thick accent asked for our last name. We responded by saying they should have that information since they had our IRS file. The person with the thick accent became aggressive and angry, and began making threats that the local police have an arrest warrant issued. When we said we would welcome the police, the caller responded with some profanity and hung up.

For the typical person, this phone call would be very intimidating. Remember, legitimate agencies DO

NOT CALL or EMAIL asking for personal information, such as account, credit card or social security numbers. Never give out personal information unless you initiated the contact.

The Federal Trade Commission now offers an online reporting system. [www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov](http://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov) has a direct link marked in red at the top of the page for individuals to click on if they believe they are being victimized by someone falsely claiming to be from the government, a business/debt collector or even posing as a family member. In addition to this immediate reporting link, the site also offers information and education on identity theft, current and common scams and rip-offs, unwanted telemarketing, texts and spam, credit and debt, and links to state and local agencies that can also help with consumer fraud and scams.

Don't be intimidated, and don't be afraid to ask questions! Don't assume you are at fault. And be aware of scams – so you don't become a victim.

Stay Safe,

*Sherrri B. Walsh*



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# In The Community

Thank you to everyone who came out to our free **Mother/Daughter self defense class** at the Redeemer Church Family Life Center in Cuyahoga Falls.



About 150 people participated in the event, sponsored by our office, **Summit County Sheriff Steve Barry**, and **University of Akron Police Lt. Chad Cunningham**.

Attendees learned key techniques which could save their life, including how to get out of a chokehold, plus what to do if someone grabs you from behind.



We have another Mother/Daughter self-defense class scheduled for Thursday September 24th at the Manchester Christian Church in Akron.

Make sure you 'like' our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/SummitCountyProsecutorOffice](http://www.facebook.com/SummitCountyProsecutorOffice) and visit our website [co.summitoh.net/prosecutor](http://co.summitoh.net/prosecutor) for additional information.

Our prosecutors are always out in the community, helping people understand how we help victims and put criminals behind bars. At



the **7th Annual Summit County Sexual Assault Symposium**, Assistant Prosecutor Jennie Shuki offered insight into how we prosecute sexual assault cases, specifically when the victim is a child.

More than 30 people from the Prosecutor's Office participated in the **4th Annual National Night Out Against Crime**. We had a great time in the community, working with Akron Police Officers and local residents.



The event helped showcase the positives in our neighborhoods and what each of us can do keep our communities safer. Thank



you to everyone who came out to support this annual tradition. Remember, you can take a stand against crime everyday.

On Friday, August 14, we held our 4th annual **Child Support Solutions Day** at The Ohio Means Jobs Center. Solutions Day is a one stop shop for people who owe child support. Whether



people were overdue with their payments, had their driver's licenses suspended, or wanted to go over their case, Solutions Day was the place to be.



We helped 187 people come out of hiding and become productive members of society. We also helped collect over \$2,500 for families. Thank you to everyone

who helped make Solutions Day a huge success!



# Avery's Corner

# Keeping The Community Safe

Wow, I had a great August. I just love those dog days of summer! I especially had a great time with Prosecutor Walsh at the Canine Companions for Independence DogFest at Hudson Springs Park. Those were the folks who trained me! I got to see old friends and made some new ones too. Thanks to everyone who came out and donated to CCI. It truly is a wonderful organization.



And just before DogFest, I got a chance to meet members of the Hudson Rotary Club. They invited me, plus my new friends Titus, Pepsi and Nike.



Pepsi just finished CCI's training program on August 14th, and Nike (he's the small dude) is currently with his puppy raiser. Our humans



were there too, to talk about the great things CCI does. It was fun to meet everyone. I hope to go back soon, the breakfast smelled really good!



I had such a great time on my birthday! I turned 4 (28 in human years) on August 1st. And look what my human friends did for me. A wonderful cake to celebrate! I even got a taste—it was yummy!

I can't wait for my next birthday. Maybe I'll get to wear a party hat!

## GUILTY VERDICTS

### August 2015

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

- |                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Kassim Ahmed (2) | Justin Richard (2) |
| Nik Buckmeier    | Dan Sallerson      |
| Teri Burnside    | Jennie Shuki       |
| Joe Dangelo      | Brian Stano        |
| Elliot Kolkovich | Jaime Syx          |
| Kevin Mayer      |                    |

**Great Job Prosecutors!!!!**



# Senior Safety Calendar



## 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 help you not become a victim.

If you would like a calendar, please contact Jennifer Watson at 330.643.7915 or [watson@prosecutor.summitoh.net](mailto:watson@prosecutor.summitoh.net)



**Help Us Go Green!**

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



# September Top Cop

## Akron Police Officer Eric McDonald

### Nominated by Assistant Prosecutor Greg Peacock

In the early morning hours of October 16, 2014, Mareshah Livingston stabbed David Hart to death. A violent argument between the two led to the stabbing.

After Livingston stabbed Hart, she called 9-1-1 and reported a domestic incident, but mentioned nothing of the stabbing or the man lying dead in the stairwell of her apartment building. Officer Eric McDonald was the first officer to arrive on the scene. There, he recognized Livingston, who was standing outside her building, along with the victim's brother, who at the time did not know his brother David, was critically injured. Both Livingston and the victim's brother told Officer McDonald that everything was fine and that the victim was just passed out from drinking too much.

Officer McDonald could have left the scene at that point. Instead, knowing that there were ongoing problems between Livingston and the victim, he decided to investigate further.



Officer McDonald walked into the building and found the victim collapsed on the stairwell, unresponsive. Paramedics arrived shortly thereafter and discovered Hart was actually dead from a stab wound.

What makes Officer McDonald the "Top Cop" is that because of his familiarity with his district and the people who live there, he was able to assess a situation and make good

decisions. Even when confronted with a dead victim and a lying suspect, he was calm and authoritative, and conducted himself in a professional manner at all times. Yes, that is what we should expect from all our officers: smart, thorough, and always in control.

So often the media focuses on officers who appear to be rude, harsh, and unfeeling. Officer McDonald proved to be just the opposite, and truly represents the police who protect our community every day. On July 17, 2015, Livingston pled guilty to Manslaughter and is currently serving a seven-year prison term.


## Congratulations Officer McDonald!

## Download The New CSEA App

## Free Self-Defense Class

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.



**SHERRI BEVAN WALSH**  
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR  
CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

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Our next Mother/Daughter self-defense class is Thursday September 24th at Manchester Christian Church on Nimisila Road in Akron.

The event is FREE and open to women of all ages. Registration is not required—so come by and bring a friend!

You'll learn potentially life-saving techniques as well as ways to get away from an attacker.

For more information, email Mackenzie Border at [border@prosecutor.summitoh.net](mailto:border@prosecutor.summitoh.net) or call her at 330.643.2295.




**FREE MOTHER-DAUGHTER SELF-DEFENSE CLASS**

Sponsored by  
**Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh**  
&  
**University of Akron Police Lt. Chad Cunningham**


No registration required!

Tuesday, September 24, 2015  
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Manchester Christian Church  
930 W. Nimisila Rd., Akron 44319



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



For more information, contact:  
Mackenzie Border  
330-643-2295  
[border@prosecutor.summitoh.net](mailto:border@prosecutor.summitoh.net)

# National Organization for Victim Assistance National Conference

Members of the Summit County Prosecutor's Office take part in extensive training throughout the year. Three of our Victim Advocates attended the National Organization for Victims Assistance (NOVA) conference in August. They took part in various workshops - from learning about stalking to understanding victim behavior to how we can be impacted by trauma.



They kept a log of what they learned and how they will use that information to help local victims. Here are some of the highlights of their experience at the conference.

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Tuesday, August 18, 2015

Danica Smith - Victim Advocate -  
Summit County Prosecutor's Office

**Two Victims Two Voices** was presented by Monika Korra from Norway and Courtney Underwood from Texas. They both told their stories of their sexual assaults and how those incidents drove them to change their communities. For example, in Monika's case, the largest newspaper editor in Norway

flew to her in Dallas (where she was in school) to interview her for his newspaper. It was the first story he'd ever published about sexual assault. Also, two of her offenders got life while one got 25 years. The maximum sentence for anything in



Norway is 21 years, not stackable. So the most these offenders were looking at, had this happened in Norway, was 3-4 years. So Monika's story is helping to change that and raise awareness. Courtney was assaulted by her pastor, and although she never reported to anyone outside of the church, she was a part of founding the first SANE program in Dallas among many other resources. This was my favorite workshop from the week.

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Sunday, August 16, 2015

Alyse Ziga - Victim Advocate -  
Summit County Prosecutor's Office

The second work shop I went to was about Vicarious Trauma. This was an excellent workshop. The presenter went through the different ways we can be affected by the people we are working for: distress, burnout, compassion fatigue, vicarious trauma.

She detailed each with examples and how stress and even burnout are somewhat normal and can be fixed if addressed correctly. As you move to compassion fatigue and vicarious trauma, the advocate has to be very careful because there can be serious physical, mental, and emotional problems that come with them.

This presenter is working on a study called the ProQOL5- quality of life scale that she asked us to take the time to go to the website and complete. I think it would be good for us to do it as well as send to the entire office. Not only would it help her in the study, but it would give those of us who work long, hard hours time to reflect on what we do and if we're taking enough time for ourselves and making sure we're okay.

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Monday, August 17, 2015

Danica Smith - Victim Advocate -  
Summit County Prosecutor's Office.

What To Do When The Police Leave was an amazing story told by a father whose sixteen year old son was shot and killed outside his job eighteen years ago. He told us how to handle the immediate aftermath of trauma and how to help the families in the most effective way. I think his checklist (for example to start gathering the support system, start an information tree so the immediate family makes as little calls as possible, and so on) is brilliant and something I will definitely carry with me in the future.

Office of Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh

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