



SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

Summit County Prosecutor

Newsletter

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Message from the Prosecutor



Prosecutor
Sherri Bevan Walsh

In April of 2007, Sheriff Drew Alexander and I joined forces to launch **Take Me Home**. We never foresaw how this program would take off. We now have more than 1,100 Summit County citizens registered in the program who would need additional assistance in an emergency.

Take Me Home is a database for people with disabilities or senior citizens with Alzheimer's or dementia. The database contains a photo, contact information, and identifying characteristics that can be searched if a person is reported missing or is found wandering.

Our BIG news this month is that the database is now DIRECTLY accessible to Summit County law enforcement and 9-1-1 dispatchers through the secured Sheriff's Sentinel System, better known as the jail screen. Now, if an officer has a password for the jail screen and has a laptop, they have access to the **Take Me Home** database.



If you are a police officer or dispatcher in Summit County and wish to have a password into the system, please ask a supervising officer to contact Deputy Toth at the Sheriff's Office for a secured password. Only law enforcement has access to this database.

I want to thank County Executive Russ Pry for allocating money from a federal law enforcement grant to upgrade the system onto the jail screen. Without that money, we would not have been able to improve the system so that emergency personnel had immediate access.

My Outreach Coordinator, Leslie Knoblauch, goes into the schools and adult care facilities to register individuals in the program. If you know of someone who could benefit from this program and is not registered, please have them contact Leslie at knoblauch@prosecutor.summitoh.net, or 330-643-2800.

Did you know?

People with disabilities are often victims of crime.

- People with disabilities are **four times** more likely to be victimized, and are more likely to be repeatedly victimized.
- Children with any kind of disability are **more than twice as likely** as children without disabilities to be physically abused and almost twice as likely to be sexually abused.
- When interviewing a victim with a disability, **know what their disability is first**, and how that might compromise his or her ability to respond accurately.
- Victims with disabilities often **try to hide** the abuse or **may not be aware they have been victimized**.
- Like any victim, always remind them that **it is not their fault**.
- Get to know the **communication abilities** of the victim. Ask the victim to show you how they communicate. You may need to offer them a pencil and paper.
- **Speak** to a person with a disability the **same way you would anyone else**. No one likes to be talked down to and unless they are hard of hearing, speaking louder isn't effective.
- Establish early that the victim knows what **"telling the truth"** means.
- Never assume that people with disabilities somehow **suffer less emotional trauma and psychological injury** than other crime victims.
- **Be patient** and thorough. It may take a little longer.

Source: Network of Victim Assistance, PA

Questions? E-mail Laurie Cramer
cramer@prosecutor.summitoh.net

We're on the Web!

www.co.summit.oh.us/Prosecutor/Index.htm

Top Cop!



Officer Jeff Hagen, New Franklin Police

Nominated by: Sherri Bevan Walsh and Leslie Knoblauch

For Outstanding Work as a Take Me Home Partner

We are fortunate that all of our Summit County police departments are partners in our **Take Me Home** program. **Officer Hagen** is one of those partners who has from day one proactively been involved with our program. First, he always asked for and maintained a current list of the registrants in New Franklin's jurisdiction; he also assisted us with identifying people who could benefit from the program and put us in touch with them; and he worked with us to train his fellow officers in identifying people with disabilities and in the Take Me Home system.

For these and many other reasons, we are naming **Officer Jeff Hagen, New Franklin Police**, as our Top Cop!

Way to Go, Top Cop!



GUILTY at TRIAL!

Congratulations to Prosecutors **Teri Burnside, Mike Cody, Justin Richard, Norm Schroth (2), Brian Stano (2) Chad VanOrman, Mike Todd, Angela Walls-Alexander**, who obtained **GUILTY** verdicts at trial in March.



THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS!

Delford Lockett, 21, of Akron, will spend the next 11 years in prison for shooting a 24-year-old Cleveland man. The shooting left the victim paralyzed from the waist down and is another sad example of a victim's life forever changed over a bar fight.

Lockett is a known Hill Top gang member and pled guilty to Felonious Assault (with a gun specification) on April 15. Judge McCarty slammed him with the maximum sentence. When one of his fellow gang members was bumped leaving the Sky Lounge, they challenged the victim and his friends to a fight. Lockett cut any fight short by pulling out his gun shooting seven times, hitting the victim twice. The victim used to work with handicapped people, which he can no longer do because of his injuries.

Now that is outrageous!

MEET ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR MICHAEL CODY



Hire Date: February 9, 2009

Hometown: Tuscaloosa, Alabama (pronounced Tus-ca-loo-sa). Home of the University of Alabama, of which I am a proud graduate. Significantly, Tuscaloosa is home to both the State Mental Institution and the University. Frat Row and the Mental Hospital share the same fence line. On a good night, you couldn't tell the frat boys from the inmates and the great thing was, **NOBODY** cared!

Law Degree: University of Akron School of Law, 2006

Background: I've always relished the reality of being born black in the south during the Jim Crow era, and growing up to walk through the same doors at the University of Alabama from which President Kennedy ordered the Alabama National Guard to remove Governor George Wallace. That's neat, but not controlling of who I am. I reluctantly joined the Army when I was 21, and was too lazy to get out and find a real job; was allowed to go play with the Army's elite 82nd Airborne Division; designed a new method of instructing Army Officers in my field; met my wife; got married and stayed in the Army to feed our two children; lived in Germany twice; worked in the Pentagon – where there is **NO 36th Floor**; went to every Army school an officer can attend; acted in many regards like a magistrate & common pleas judge in the military's judicial system; co-authored a book on designing effective large organizations; guest Lectured at Taegu University (that would be in South Korea) and received an award from the South Korean Minister of Defense...and the reason this is so long is because I'm so old. I retired as a Colonel and went to law school to start my second career.

Little Known Fact: You wouldn't know it to look at me, but I've lived many people's worst nightmare. On several occasions I stood in the door of a jet aircraft while in flight and hung my body outside the door, hanging on by my fingertips and the heels of my boots. I was looking to make sure it was clear for my soldiers to jump. Unfortunately, I had to follow them.

Most Memorable Case: The case against the "Dog Murderer," State v. Lewis Napoleon, because it was my first case with so much media interest. I also really bonded with the victims.