



SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

Summit County Prosecutor

Newsletter

August 2010

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Message from the Prosecutor



Prosecutor
Sherri Bevan Walsh

A friend of mine recently emailed that when she went on her son's Facebook page she was shocked to read one of the posts to her (15-year-old) "little boy."

"I love how cute you are and how much you make me laugh. i like how you call me shawty and how you let me call you breh. i love how awkward you are and how amazing your hugs have gotten. i ...love our ice cream adventures and our encounters with hobos lol. i like our skype conversations and i like how you try to teach me drums and how i got a battle wound trying to teach you guitar :] i love that youre one of my closest friends and most of all i love you ♥."

My friend continued, "AND I DIDN'T THINK ABOUT HIM SKYPING!!!!!!!!!!!!!! DON'T BUY YOUR CHILDREN LAPTOPS WITH WEBCAMS!"

Well, if nothing else it reminded my friend why she monitors her son's Facebook page...so she can see the exchange of posts (and yes, they had a nice long chat after she saw this one). So, a few reminders as we go into the school year:

- **LEARN** how to create a **Facebook** page so you can be a friend and see what is being posted by your kid's other "friends;" OR, ask for their password so you can monitor their page. Also, know how to set security settings.
- **TALK** to your kids about **SEXTING** (sending or receiving nude photos of minors via cell phone). It is not only against the law and can have serious legal consequences, and it also can have heartbreaking social consequences when the pictures are sent all around school and the world.
- **MONITOR** your kid's behavior and look for changes. A child who doesn't want to go to school, complains about headaches and feeling sick, or has lost their appetite may be the victim of **bullying**.
- **REVIEW** appropriate **touching** boundaries. That is a conversation that becomes more complex as our children get older, but is an important conversation to continue to have with your kids.

It's near impossible to be on top of things as much as we want to be, but having a mental checklist of ongoing topics we want to discuss with our kids is always a good idea. A few good websites help, too. Google!

Don't know how to create a Facebook page? Look on the back of the newsletter for information about a workshop on how to create your own Facebook account.

September is Senior Safety Awareness Month

In addition to September being Back to School time, since 2001, it has also been Senior Safety Awareness Month. Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh declared September as Senior Safety Awareness Month nine years ago. Now, more than 8,000 senior citizens have benefited from hearing Prosecutor Walsh talk about how to avoid becoming a crime victim.

Look for the Summit County Prosecutor's Office at the following locations:

Senior Safari at the Akron Zoo

September 3, 2010

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

500 Edgewood Avenue, Akron

Seniors 55 and up—\$3 admission

Sponsored by Summa Health System & SummaCare

Summit Senior expo at Summit Mall

September 17, 2010

3265 W. Market St., Akron

8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

FREE Admission

Senior Luncheon at Tangier Restaurant

December 7, 2010

532 W. Market St., Akron

11:30 a.m. LUNCH

Sponsored by WAKR

Contact: Joyce Lagio 330-869-9800

Would your group like a self-defense class and speech on protecting yourself against crime? Call Lisa Holdt at 330-643-2800.

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

We're on the Web!

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

Top Cop!



Top Cop: Det. John Bell
Akron Police Dept.

Nominated by: Assistant Prosecutor Colleen Sims for *State v. Julian Debruce*

Det. John Bell of the Akron Police Department performed outstanding investigative work that helped convict a rapist. Julian Debruce kidnapped a woman and took her to the Summit Lake area and repeatedly raped her. He held her against her will over night and released her the next morning near a convenience store.

Det. Bell first had to develop trust with the traumatized victim, meeting with her at her home and driving her around so she could track the path of the kidnapping. He interviewed people who witnessed the crime to lock in their stories. He even took pictures of the Summit Lake area at night so that a jury could see how dark it is in that part of town.

Debruce was found guilty of two counts of rape and kidnapping and is now serving 25 years in prison.

Way to go, Top Cop!

GUILTY at TRIAL!



Congratulations to Prosecutors

Jon Baumuel, Teri Burnside, Jessica Didion, Mike Cody (2), Jay Cole (2), Brian LoPrinzi, Kevin Mayer, Angela Poth-Wypasek, Justin Richard, Dan Sallerson, Norm Schroth, Brian Stano, Ryan Stickel, Mike Todd, who obtained

GUILTY verdicts at trial in July.

Great Work, Prosecutors!

MEET ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR COLLEEN SIMS CRIMINAL DIVISION



Hire Date: February 1, 2001

Hometown: Pickerington, Ohio

Law Degree: University of Akron, 1998

Background: Calvin College, 1994 B.A. in Political Science. After law school I practiced civil law for a couple of years before being hired to work at the prosecutor's office in the juvenile division. In the Spring of 2002, I was transferred to the criminal division.

Little Known Fact: I love zombie movies.

Most Memorable Case: My first "RICO" case was in 2005. One of the top female defendants used a stolen credit card to pay for liposuction and a tummy tuck. But karma caught up with our vain criminal. About a week after the surgery her stitches became infected, but she wouldn't go back to the doctor for follow up care because she was afraid the doctor had figured out the scam. The stitches never healed right and it was a botched job. Her two co-defendants went to trial. They were charged with using stolen credit cards to purchase tires and other auto parts from various stores in Ohio, as well as items from Home Depot. They also used the stolen credit cards to pay for family and friend's electric bills, cable and phone bills. We had about 60 witnesses testify, which at times was very challenging to schedule. Judge Williams said at one point that the trial was the most boring trial he had ever sat through because we were talking at length about credit card numbers and transactions. However, after several co-defendants identified these two as the ones who set up the scams, one pled during trial and the other was convicted of engaging in a pattern of corrupt activity and related charges after a week-and-a-half long trial. They all received prison sentences.



**Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh
and Hudson PTA present**

Facebook, Twitter,
What's a Parent to do?

**Learn more at a workshop
designed just for parents!**

September 16, 2010

Hudson Library Flood Room, 7:00 pm

For more information contact Dr. Sarah Adams at sadams@hudson-pta.org or call 330-554-2137 to reserve your spot or visit www.hudson-pta.org.