



SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

Summit County Prosecutor

Newsletter

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Message from the Prosecutor



Prosecutor
Sherri Bevan Walsh

I can always tell when school is almost out in my house. My kids get geared up for camp and start counting the days until summer vacation. While summer is a time of swimming, vacations, and outdoor fun, it can also be a time for increased burglaries and related crimes.

According to the Akron Police Department's 2008 Annual Report, the Burglary Unit received over 3,800 reports of burglary and breaking and entering, and over 8,700 reports of theft, vandalism, and criminal damaging. Items most often stolen were lap top computers, large screen TV's and game devices that are easy to carry for a quick getaway.

During the summer it's easy to fall victim to a watchful burglar. We leave windows and drapes open, garage doors up, sliding glass doors ajar and generally leave our home less secured than winter months. Don't become a victim and keep these tips in mind:

- **Watch out for the "handyman:"** We've had cases where the very guy who "fixed" the shutters one week, broke into the house the next. They also were able to scope out the house when they went to the bathroom or delivered the new appliance. Be careful who you hire and be sure they are from reputable companies.
- **Yes, cancel the newspaper:** Everyone has heard to cancel the paper when you go on vacation because it's a flag that you aren't home, but did you ask a neighbor to also remove pizza and other door flyers? Those are flags, too, along with a full mail box.
- **Don't leave your door unlocked while working in the yard:** We're working outside and leave our doors wide open. Don't. Sneaking out the back with the kids gaming system would be very easy.
- **ALWAYS lock windows and close the drapes:** A wide-screen TV on display is one thing, but leaving your windows open to steal it makes it all the easier.
- **Beware of solicitors:** Good burglars may approach you looking like someone representing a lawn company, utility worker, cable guy or other service company. Don't take them up on their offer to work and certainly don't let them in your home!
- **The era of Facebook:** Don't announce your vacation on Facebook. It's easy to look up an address.

Having a safe summer begins with remembering that there are those who look at the season as a time when they don't have to cover their tracks in the snow anymore. Make it hard for them and you're less likely to be burglarized.

What we learned this year... On SEXTING

As prosecutors who spend most of their time in court and not in the schools, we learned a lot this year during our sexting education campaign.

Since last Fall, we have been to 25 Summit County middle and high schools, educated more than 11,000 students, and spoke to numerous parents and teachers about the consequences of "sexting." Sexting is sending a nude or partially nude photo of a minor via cell phone and it is illegal. In fact it is a felony and can lead a young person to stiff consequences, including having to register as a sex offender.



We asked students to fill out a very non-scientific survey that produced some interesting results:

- 12% of students responded that they had taken a nude or partially nude photo of themselves.
- 12% responded they had asked someone to take a nude or partially nude photo and send it to them.
- 9% said that they had a nude or partially nude photo on their phone at that moment.
- 8% said they told their parents; that is 92% of students who did not report it.
- Only 36% of students reported that their parents had talked to them about not sexting.
- 66% of students reported they knew it was illegal to send or receive nude photos, but only 40% said they knew they may have to register as a sex offender if they were convicted.

The good news is that 63% said that after hearing the presentation, they would tell a parent or teacher if they received a nude photo. The bad news is that 13% said they would still engage in sexting, even after hearing about the law and the consequences of doing it.

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. Mark Krieger,
Twinsburg Police Department

Nominated by: Prosecutor Teri Burnside
for *State of Ohio vs. Matthew Terrion*

One of the strongest characteristics of genius is the power of lighting its own fire.

John W. Foster

Prosecutor Teri Burnside found this quote that she believed summed up **Detective Mark Kreiger** of the Twinsburg Police Department. Det. Kreiger was named TOP COP for his tenacious attention to detail and fiery drive in the investigation and conviction of Matthew Terrion for the murder of his wife, Cherilyn.

Det. Kreiger coordinated an investigation involving three police agencies — Twinsburg, Glenwillow, and Aurora — and two crime scenes. He was successful in eliciting damaging statements from the defendant in a very methodical and patient manner. Det. Kreiger demonstrated great passion on this case by conducting a thorough investigation and conveying all relevant information to the prosecution so as to leave no stone unturned. He was also invaluable in the trial preparation phase in addition to providing input throughout the trial.

The combination of this Detective's intelligence, training, personality and *genius* served to bring true justice to Cherilyn and her family, and great gratitude from the prosecutors in our office.

Matthew Terrion is now serving 21 years to life for murdering his wife.

Way to go, Top Cop!



GUILTY at TRIAL!

Congratulations to Prosecutors **Teri Burnside, Mike Cody, Felicia Easter, Joe Fantozzi (2), Nick Palumbo, Greg Peacock (2), Mike Rickett (2), Dustin Roth (3), Colleen Sims,** and **Chad VanOrman**, who obtained **GUILTY** verdicts at trial in April.

MEET ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR DUSTIN ROTH

Hire Date: November 2007

Hometown: Sandusky Ohio

Law Degree: Cleveland Marshall College of Law



Background: I attended St. Mary's Central Catholic High School, a small school with less than 80 kids in my graduating class. I played football, baseball and basketball. Unfortunately, I tasted defeat more times than I would care to discuss, but it made those few and far between victories all the sweeter. I chose The Ohio State University for undergrad because it was the complete opposite experience of High School. I married my wife, Leigh, in my second year of law school. We have a son and are expecting a daughter in October.

Little Known Fact: When I was in 8th grade, I won the State Science Fair. My project was on home insulation. I won a \$50 savings bond and became the most popular guy in school.

Most Memorable Case: William Creel shot his niece's husband right between the eyes. Creel was living in a trailer behind his sister's house on Newton Street in Akron. The victim, Josh Simmons, was squatting next door at 1409 Newton. An eerie fact was this murder occurred in the same house where baby John Ross was killed by his father about two years ago. Creel is serving 20 years to life in prison.



THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS!

Is nothing sacred?

Michael Johnson of Cuyahoga Falls sent false billing statements to several area churches for maintenance work that was never performed. Unfortunately, some of the churches even paid the invoices.

Johnson, 33, pled guilty May 24 to Theft and Forgery and will be sentenced on June 28, at 1:00 p.m. in Judge Cosgrove's court. From October to December 2009, Johnson sent forged billing invoices to four New Franklin and seven Akron area churches for electrical, plumbing and other work that was never done. It is estimated that over 30 churches in the Akron area received the forged invoices. While several churches minimized their losses once the scam was discovered by stopping the payment on checks, a total of some \$400 was stolen.

Creep!

A 69-year-old man currently serving four-and-a-half years in prison after being convicted in Belmont County of Importuning and Disseminating Pornography, pled guilty in Summit County on May 25 to molesting a 10-year-old girl. William Love, of Twinsburg, was caught in a sting operation communicating online with a "13-year-old" girl, who was actually a Belmont County undercover cop. During that conversation he told the "girl" that he molested the 10-year-old, which Twinsburg Police investigated and then charged Love with the crime. **Judge Brenda Unruh sentenced Love to the maximum of 10 years in prison!** He next faces federal charges for the child porn found on his computer. **Great job Twinsburg and Belmont Police!**

Now that is outrageous!