



SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

Summit County Prosecutor

Newsletter
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Message from the Prosecutor



Prosecutor
Sherrri Bevan Walsh

I often talk about my great staff, but most people do not realize that not only are they outstanding at their jobs, but they also go above and beyond their work to help support our community.

We have a number of initiatives that take us out of the office and courtroom and into the community that demonstrate our commitment to what we can do to help improve others lives in Summit County. Here are just a few:

Community Relations Committee: From collecting shoes and blankets for the homeless to gathering supplies for the Battered Women's Shelter, to volunteering as legal counsel at "Stand down for Homeless Veterans," the Community Relations Committee (CRC) is there. This group buys and serves pizza at Open M Ministries and adopts families at Christmas. Funded by employee casual days (we pay \$3 to participate) the CRC is made up of prosecutors, victim advocates, CSEA employees, secretaries and administration. So far this year, more than \$1,300 has been raised to support CRC's outreach initiatives, which doesn't count all the additional items donated by employees. *Thank you CRC and employees for supporting these efforts.*



Education Outreach to Schools on Sexting: Last year, and starting again this school year, our prosecutors have talked to more than 12,000 students all over Summit County about the legal and emotional consequences of minors sending nude (or partially nude) pictures of themselves or others on their cell phones. The practice is called "Sexting" and we found that while students are very aware of what it is, not as many knew that it was illegal. This outreach program has been very popular and is being expanded to include cyberbullying and Ohio's laws on bullying. *Thank you to the team of prosecutors who add these presentations into their already hectic court schedules.*

Dress Down Days: In addition to CRC, so far this year we have collected almost \$6,000 from casual dress days for causes such as Battered Women's Shelter, Victim's Assistance Program, Child Guidance, Haven of Rest, Akron Children's Have a Heart, Autism Society Greater Akron and other worthy charities. *Thank you everyone for your participation and donations!*

Safety Kids Calendar: This is the 10th year that I have sponsored the Safety Kids Calendar contest when middle-school students enter a drawing contest on 12 Safety Rules. More than 1,200 students competed this year to have their artwork and creativity printed in the 12 months of the calendar. **Kristen Arapp, the Director of my Victim Services Division, always does a great job organizing the schools, judges, awards ceremony and winning student posters! Join this year's awards ceremony at the downtown Akron Library on November 3, at 7:00 PM.**

Where in the world is... Assistant Prosecutor Maggie Tomaro?

Assistant Prosecutor and Army Major Margaret (Maggie) Tomaro was called to active duty this year from the U.S. Army Reserves and assigned to Afghanistan. Maggie is an Army JAG (Judge Advocate General) and has been serving as the Command Judge Advocate and Contracts Attorney. She recently was assigned to be Military Magistrate and is also the Foreign Claims Commission for Kandahar Airfield. We miss Maggie's laugh and quick wit, but are keeping her seat warm for when she returns.

Maggie keeps us posted on her tour in Afghanistan and we send her emails about what comparatively seems like our routine life events. Our Office enjoys doing our part by collecting items we take for granted — magazines, movies, chap stick — and shipping them over to send what comforts and entertainment we can.



A recent Army newsletter featured Maggie. The caption under this photo read "MAJ Margaret Tomaro prepares for movement to ECP 4." We have no idea what that means but it sounds impressive!

**Way to go, Prosecutor
and Major Maggie Tomaro,
and all service men and women
serving our Country! We appreciate your
commitment and sacrifice!**

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

We're on the Web!

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

Top Cops!

Top Cops: Sgt. Dave Woofter, Det. Doug Bohon, Officers Kenneth Pospichel and Jonathon Wright, Tallmadge Police Department



Nominated by: Prosecutors Brian LoPrinzi and Dan Sallerson

State of Ohio vs. Keith Lamont Adams

In 2004, Adams pled guilty to the murder of Don Talley and Attempted Murder of Jabreez Thompkins and was sentenced to 18 years to Life. Based on a technicality, Adams was allowed to withdraw his plea and the case was recently retried.

Sgt. Dave Woofter was in charge of the investigation and was a tremendous help in preparing the case for trial again after seven years. **Det. Doug Bohon** was instrumental in pointing out the evidence that discredited the Defendant's story and alibi. **Officer Jon Wright** was the first responding officer. His actions at the time of the incident were critical in proving this case seven years later. Officer **Kenneth Pospichel's** crime scene collection and documentation of evidence in 2004 made a complicated crime scene easier for the jury to understand in 2010.

The actions of the investigators in this case in 2003 was so complete and thorough that Adams pled guilty on the day of trial in 2004. After being granted a new trial, Adams refused to plead guilty again because he knew the only eyewitness to the crime could not be found. Without that witness, he didn't think the case could still be proven against him seven years later. Adams underestimated the **Tallmadge Police Department** and the persistence and dedication of these officers. During the re-trial Adams realized the error of his decision to go to trial and agreed to plead guilty to additional charges, and a harsher sentence than in 2004: 20 years to Life.

Hopefully the word will get around to the other inmates in prison to think twice before reopening their cases.

Way to go, Top Cops!

MEET ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR Angela Poth-Wypasek CRIMINAL DIVISION

Hire Date: September 2002

Hometown: Ashland, Ohio

Law Degree: University of Akron

Background: Bachelor in Criminal Justice, Tiffin University; Law Clerk, Slater & Zurz; Summit County Juvenile Court, Judicial Attorney



Little Known Fact: From kindergarten to second grade I was very shy and did not talk much at all. In fact, my report cards from that time have comments and inquiries from the teachers about whether something was wrong because I did not talk much. Little did they know how lucky they were.

Most Memorable Case: A 2006 Aggravated Burglary, Felonious Assault, and Domestic Violence case with defendant Robert Powers (aka "China," street name) with an uncooperative and recanting victim (girlfriend). Her mother luckily was cooperative, but was afraid of Powers. Powers had kicked in the girlfriend's apartment door and hit her with his gun. Early on, Powers squared up on me in a fighting stance in court. During his trial I played a jail call where Powers and his girlfriend rehearsed their "story." On another call the victim commented about him hitting her in the head with the gun and Powers' response was, "It wasn't a gun it was a scale! You're on the phone." His inflection was beautiful — a textbook abuser. When I played the call during trial, Powers nearly came out of his chair. He was convicted and sentenced to prison for many well earned years.



GUILTY at TRIAL!

Congratulations to Prosecutors **Jon Baumoel, Teri Burnside, Joe Fantozzi (2), Greg Peacock, Mike Rickett (3), Dan Sallerson, Jennie Shuki, Brian Stano** and **Mike Todd** who had

GUILTY verdicts at trial in September.

Great Work, Prosecutors!



Wishing everyone a safe and fun Halloween!