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News from the Criminal Division

September 2012

Message from Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh

One of the rewarding aspects of my job is being able to teach community members how to protect themselves from becoming a crime victim. I especially enjoy giving safety speeches and self-defense classes to senior citizen groups.

We frequently hear about scams targeting the elderly. Older adults are often targeted because they tend to have assets (like homes and retirement accounts) and they are less likely than people in other age groups to report the crime.

One trend in crimes against the elderly that has been on the rise is crimes committed by caretakers. Nursing home staff and home health aides have easy access to valuables and personal information of the people for whom they are supposed to be caring. Unscrupulous aides can steal cash, identities, pills and other personal belongings.

Another unfortunate crime my office sees is elder abuse. Taking care of an elderly parent can be extremely stressful. It's an added responsibility and expense that not everyone is able to handle. Sadly, that inability to deal with the situation can lead to emotional or even physical abuse.

I named September *Senior Citizens Safety Awareness Month* to draw attention to the need for vigilance when it comes to the safety of our seniors. Although my staff and I sponsor crime safety

speeches and self-defense classes throughout the year, we are even more active in the fall. Check my website for updates on presentations and community events in which we are participating.

Being vigilant about senior safety is something we can all do.



If you're a senior, ask questions when a solicitor tries to convince you that you need what he's selling. Keep your personal information in a safe, secure location. If you have a bad feeling about a person or situation, walk away.

If you're not a senior, you can help your older friends and relatives. Check up on them. Conduct a background check on anyone who will have

extensive access to your relative's home or personal information. Make sure they have access to the resources they need to stay healthy and safe.

Remember, you're not alone. If you need help, call one of these local agencies:

- Ohio Area Agency on Aging: 800-421-7277
- Adult Protective Services: 330-643-7217
- Job & Family Services: 330-643-8200

Stay safe,

Sherri B. Walsh

Free Mother-Daughter Self-Defense Classes

Is your daughter starting to date or working a job at night? Is she in college or moving into her first apartment? Do you want to learn how to escape a chokehold or fend off an attacker?

I've partnered with Lt. Chad Cunningham of the University of Akron Police Department to offer four free self-defense classes for women.

In the class, you'll learn simple techniques that could save your life -- all in a fun and relaxed atmosphere.

Classes will be held on the following days, from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

- Sept. 18 in Stow
Stow Gymnastics Center
1531 Commerce Drive
- Oct. 2 in Tallmadge
Ritchie Memorial Shelter House
109 West Avenue
- Oct. 17 in Green
LifeStyles
1940 Town Park Boulevard
- October 24 in Akron
Dominion Family Church
90 W. Thornton Street

All classes are free and open to women of all ages. No registration is necessary.

For more information, contact April Wiesner at (330) 643-8386 or wiesner@prosecutor.summitoh.net.



Domestic Violence Conference

Are you an Ohio attorney, social worker or therapist who works with victims of domestic violence?

Do you want to learn about the first felony Domestic Violence Court in Ohio?

Are you curious about the effectiveness of batterer intervention programs?

My office, in collaboration with the Summit County Domestic Violence Coalition, is hosting a conference on domestic violence on October 12. For just \$20, you can earn six CLE or CEU credits while learning from some of Ohio's leading domestic violence experts.

Courses include:

- Physical Effects of Abuse/Strangulation
- Batterer Intervention: A Closer Look
- Working with Women Who Use Force
- Domestic Violence Court Specialized Dockets
- The First Anniversary of Summit County Felony DV Court: A Year of Progress
- Mind the Gap: Multidisciplinary Strategies to Improve Case Outcomes

Among the contributors are Battered Women's Shelter of Summit & Medina Counties, Victim Assistance Program, Ohio Supreme Court, Ohio Domestic Violence Network, Summit County Court of Common Pleas, Summit County Adult Probation Department, CHOICES, St. Thomas Hospital's DOVE Program, Dayton Municipal Court and Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault.

Space is limited, so register early! The deadline to reserve a seat is September 28.

For more information or to register for the conference, contact Lesley Walter at (330) 643-2792 or walter@prosecutor.summitoh.net.

Don't Forget!
Posters for this year's Safety Kids Calendar Contest are due September 28. See my website for more details.



September Top Cop

Top Cop: Akron Police Detective **Glenn Payne**

Nominated By: Assistant Prosecutor Greg Peacock



On January 10, Phillip Michael Anderson, only 24 years old, became Akron's first murder victim of 2012. He was with two friends in his car on Princeton Street when they were robbed by two men with guns. Anderson was shot and killed during the robbery.

Detective Glenn Payne and Sgt. David Garro were the lead investigators in Anderson's murder. Detective Payne and his fellow detectives followed up on every lead and left no stone unturned as they searched to find those

responsible for Anderson's death.

Payne and his colleagues were confronted with numerous road blocks, including uncooperative witnesses and a lack of physical evidence. Despite that, Payne was able to build a compelling case against Carr and Davis.

We were fortunate to have Detective Payne with us throughout the trial. He was a confident, likeable and sincere witness who represented the best of the Akron Police Department.

Demarcus

Williams pleaded guilty to Involuntary Manslaughter and Aggravated Robbery on June 11. On August 20, a jury found Rahsheem Carr guilty of Aggravated Murder and Aggravated Robbery and Robert Davis guilty of Murder.

On August 31, Carr was sentenced to life in prison with parole eligibility after 43 years, Davis to life in prison with parole eligibility after 15 years and Williams to 10 years in prison.

Way to go, Detective Glenn Payne!

Agency Spotlight: Battered Women's Shelter of Summit & Medina Counties

This year marks the 35th anniversary of the Battered Women's Shelter of Summit & Medina Counties. The Battered Women's Shelter is the only agency in Summit and Medina County that focuses solely on family violence prevention and intervention.

The Battered Women's Shelter does more than provide domestic violence victims with a safe place to stay. The organization takes a holistic approach to making families safer.

The Battered Women's Shelter provides education about domestic violence, healthy versus unhealthy relationships and the organization's programs and services through an active community outreach program. It hosts support groups throughout Medina and Summit Counties. Battered Women's Shelter advocates help victims file protection orders and help them understand and navigate the justice system. And while Battered Women's Shelter does provide emergency shelter, it also works to help victims get back

on their feet through a transitional shelter program.

Battered Women's Shelter provides the community, as well as those of us in law enforcement and the justice system, crucial resources for preventing and reducing family violence.

My office works closely with the Battered Women's Shelter on domestic violence

prevention, education and advocacy. Our collaboration

has helped to improve the services we provide victims of domestic violence.

Congratulations to the Battered Women's Shelter of Summit & Medina Counties and Executive Director Terri Heckman on 35 successful years! I look forward to the next 35.



Meet Assistant Prosecutor Nik Buckmeier



Hire Date: October 2010

Title: Assistant Prosecutor

Hometown: Cincinnati, OH

Education: I earned my undergraduate degree in Political Science at Eastern Michigan University and my Juris Doctorate at the University of Akron School of Law.

Background: I worked for the Medina County Prosecutor's Office in the child support division for three years before joining the Summit County Prosecutor's Office.

Fun Fact About Me: I played defensive end for Eastern Michigan University's Division I football team.

Job Duties: I prosecute felony cases in front of Judge Tom Parker.

Most Memorable Case: The most memorable cases I have had are ones that involve child victims. No one should ever be a victim of a crime, especially a child.

Why I Wanted to Become a Prosecutor: I am a prosecutor because I want to fight crime and fight for victims of crime. This is important work. It's a really good feeling to get up every day and know you're fighting for the truth and fighting on behalf of victims of crime and representing the people of the State of Ohio.

Guilty at Trial

ALL OF OUR JURY TRIALS IN AUGUST RESULTED IN GUILTY VERDICTS!

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

Jon Baumoel

Mike Cody (2)

Felicia Easter (2)

Tom Kroll

Brian LoPrinzi

Greg Peacock (3)

Angela Poth-Wypasek

Mike Rickett

Colleen Sims (3)

Angela Walls-Alexander

Help us go green!

If you currently receive this newsletter on paper and would like to receive an electronic version instead, email Melanie Hart at hart@prosecutor.summitoh.net.

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