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# News from the Criminal Division

## Message from Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh

How many times have you heard those of us in law enforcement bemoan the “snitches get stitches” culture? How many crimes have gone unsolved because no one saw or heard anything? How many cases has my office had to dismiss because of a lack of witness cooperation?

Ensuring justice is always our main goal. I know what it is to look a mother in the eye and tell her that we have to drop charges against the man who murdered her daughter because witnesses suddenly don't remember anything. I have spent hours trying to console a woman whose son's murder case went cold. These women know what I know: someone knows something about what happened but refuses to help bring a killer to justice.

These women and their families cannot find any closure knowing their children's killers are roaming the streets.

This does not have to be our reality.

I understand the reluctance to get involved. When crime happens in your neighborhood, you don't want to be the next victim, nor do you want to put those close to you in harm's way. So it feels safer to stay quiet, even if you know something pertinent that could put a criminal behind bars.

But what if you could provide law enforcement with the information they need to solve a crime without

that information ever being traced back to you? What if your identity could remain completely anonymous? Would you consider breaking the silence?

All it takes is a phone call.

Summit County CrimeStoppers is a nonprofit organization that runs an anonymous tip line. You can call CrimeStoppers at any time of day, any day of the week. No one asks your name, only what you know. You don't have to meet with police or go to court. Sometimes all it takes is a push in the right direction for an investigation to pick back up.



When you call CrimeStoppers, you are automatically given a unique code. This code is the only way of identifying you. You do not have to give your name, your number or even the town you live in. Your call will not be traced back to you, and the number from which you are calling will remain unidentified. Every two months, you call back to CrimeStoppers to see if your tip led to an arrest. If it did, you could receive up to a \$2,000 reward for your assistance. It is that simple.

Remember, it only takes a phone call to make a difference. If you have information about a crime, I urge you to call CrimeStoppers at (330) 434-2677. For more on CrimeStoppers, visit [www.SummitCrimeStoppers.org](http://www.SummitCrimeStoppers.org).

Stay safe,

*Sherri B. Walsh*

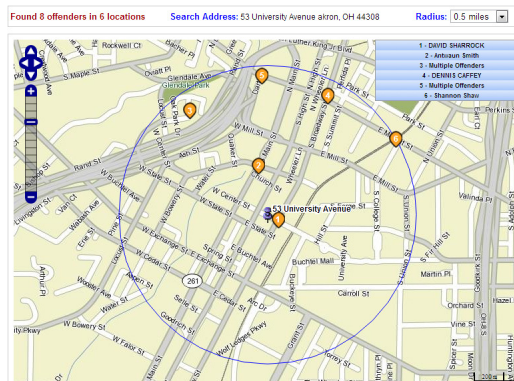
# Does a Sex Offender Live in Your Neighborhood?

Did you know you can find registered sex offenders at no cost through a database on the Summit County Sheriff's Office website? Using the database, you can locate offenders within a two-mile radius.

The database provides information including mug shots, physical descriptions and home and work locations, as well as details of their past sex crimes.

To conduct a sex offender search from the Summit County Sheriff's website (<http://www.co.summit.oh.us/sheriff>), select the "Registered Sex Offenders" option under the "Information" tab. Here you will find safety tips, legal classifications for sex offenders and

an option to search for sex offenders in your area. You can also register for email alerts.



Because the database is linked to the State of Ohio Attorney General's website, you can conduct a sex offender search for any location in Ohio.

Although this information continually changes, the Summit County Sheriff's Office is dedicated to keeping all information current. Staying informed is important to safety and crime prevention, so please review both your findings

and the safety tips available on the website with family members and children.

## Tough Prosecution

Here are a few defendants who will be out of our community for a lengthy period of time thanks to the hard work of my assistant prosecutors:

### **Chad Jay Cobb, age 31**

- Aggravated Murder
- Kidnapping
- Aggravated Robbery
- Felonious Assault
- Retaliation
- Tampering with Evidence
- Abuse of a Corpse
- Possession of Criminal Tools
- Domestic Violence
- **Sentenced to life in prison**
- **No parole eligibility**

### **Phillip Pope, age 24**

- Murder
- **Sentenced to life in prison**
- **Eligible for parole in 2031**

### **Paul Levan, age 81**

- Rape
- **Sentenced to life in prison**
- **Eligible for parole in 2023**

## Guilty at Trial in February

My office obtained guilty verdicts in every case we brought to trial in February. Congratulations to the following assistant prosecutors for obtaining guilty verdicts last month:

Mike Cody

Pete Daly (2)

Joe Dangelo

Felicia Easter

Elliot Kolkovich

Tom Kroll (3)

Greg Peacock (2)

Angela Poth-Wypasek

Mike Rickett

Jennie Shuki

Colleen Sims

Brian Stano

Mike Todd

Angela Walls-Alexander (2)

*Great job, prosecutors!*

# March Top Cop

**Top Cop: Akron Police Department Detective Aron Hanlon**  
**Nominated By: Assistant Prosecutors Jennie Shuki and Brian Stano**



On the evening of November 28, 2012, 21-year-old Will Lamon was driving on Fairbanks Place in Akron with his girlfriend and another friend. As they turned onto Buckingham Street, 24-year-old Akron resident Phillip Pope jumped out of some bushes and started shooting at the driver's side of the car.

Only Lamon was hit. He died later that night at Akron General Hospital.

A witness saw Pope jump into an SUV and drive away. The witness called 911 and gave the dispatcher the car's license plate number. The car was registered to Pope's girlfriend. Lamon's girlfriend identified the shooter as Pope, her ex-boyfriend.

Just a week before trial, Detective Aron Hanlon from the Akron Police Department located and met with Pope's girlfriend, who ultimately admitted that Pope came to her

house after the shooting and told her he accidentally shot someone. She told Det. Hanlon that Pope hid his gun in her pantry and informed her that someone would come to get the gun. Pope's friend Christopher Byrd showed up a few days later and retrieved the weapon.

Days before trial, Det. Hanlon learned Byrd was visiting Pope in the Summit County Jail. He hid in an adjacent storage closet and recorded Pope instructing Byrd to persuade the girlfriends of both Pope and Lamon to hide out, evade their subpoenas and not show up for court. Having just learned that Byrd removed the gun from her pantry, Det. Hanlon arrested Byrd as he left the Summit County Jail and charged him with Tampering with Evidence and Obstructing Official Business for disposing of the murder weapon.

After Byrd's arrest, but before Pope's trial, Det. Hanlon set up a meeting with Byrd, his attorney, assistant prosecutor Jennie Shuki and himself. Byrd gave a statement admitting to obtaining the murder weapon from Pope's girlfriend's house and throwing it in Summit Lake at Pope's direction. Byrd was willing to testify to this statement.

After learning of Byrd's statement and willingness to testify, Pope pleaded guilty to the charge of murder the next morning. He was sentenced to life in prison with parole eligibility after serving 18 years.

Det. Hanlon went above and beyond to ensure that justice was served in this case, particularly in the two weeks leading up to Pope's guilty plea.

**Way to go, Detective Hanlon!**

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## Agency Spotlight: Summit County CASA

My Juvenile Division works closely with Summit County CASA, an organization that advocates on behalf of abused and neglected children. Summit County CASA volunteers serve as court-appointed special advocates (CASAs) in juvenile court cases in which the child is alleged to be abused or neglected.

My office represents Summit County Children Services (SCCS) in abuse and neglect cases. SCCS caseworkers strive to determine what is in the best for the family as a whole with a particular focus on the children. This often means crafting a plan for family reunification when a child has been removed from the home.

CASAs interview the child, parents and other family members, social workers, school officials, health care providers and anyone else who is familiar with the child's situation. They then make a recommendation to

the judge or magistrate overseeing the case of where the child should live and what types of services would be most beneficial to the child.

In 2012, Summit County CASA served 858 children in 272 families. The organization trained 58 new volunteers.

Thank you to Summit County CASA and everyone who volunteers their time on behalf of the children in our community!

To learn more about Summit County CASA and what it takes to be a volunteer, visit [www.summitcasagal.org](http://www.summitcasagal.org).



# Meet an Employee: Debi Glinsek



**Hire Dates:** I worked for the Summit County Prosecutor's Office from 1973 until 1983, and then came back to the office in 1996.

**Title:** Grand Jury Coordinator

**Hometown:** Akron, Ohio

**Fun Fact:** I'm obsessed with running marathons – particularly the Akron Marathon. It's the best party our city throws every September.

**Education:** I graduated from the University of Akron with a degree in Legal Secretarial Science.

**Background:** I started working in our office for Prosecutor Stephan Gabalac in the Civil Division alongside Assistant Prosecutors Bill Schultz and Mary Ann Kovach.

Once a new form of government was in place for Summit County, I worked for Jane Bond, General Counsel for our new Summit County Executive. After taking on a different career as a stay-at-home mom to my newborn sons, I had the good fortune of returning to the Prosecutor's Office when the Direct Indictment Program began in 1996. For the last four years, I've been working in Grand Jury.

**Job Duties:** I assemble a new panel of Grand Jurors every two months, preserve and transcribe testimony, docket proceedings and greet witnesses and victims. Additionally, I gather information, process paperwork from scheduling to arraignment, compile statistics on cases and process payroll.

**Most Memorable Case:** Every case involving a child – a helpless, innocent victim – stays in my mind forever.

**The Best Part of my Job:** I love being of assistance to a group of citizens who, by no choice of their own, took on this task of being a Grand Juror. They sit daily, they hear heart-wrenching stories, they bond with each other, they're from all walks of life – and they do this because they were chosen. When they walk out of here at the end of their term, they have a new respect for our prosecutors, our law enforcement and each other. It's the best part of my job, and I feel privileged to be a small part of our system.



The Summit County Prosecutor's Office is now on Facebook!

Like our page to get the latest updates on sentencings, trial verdicts and plea agreements, photos, crime alerts, upcoming events and more.

[facebook.com/SummitCountyProsecutorOffice](https://www.facebook.com/SummitCountyProsecutorOffice)

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