



News from the Criminal Division

September 2013

Message from Prosecutor Sherrri Bevan Walsh

I believe that senior citizens deserve to enjoy their golden years. Unfortunately, some elderly people are victimized specifically because of their age.

Besides falling prey to scammers, seniors can be the victim of physical abuse and theft. These crimes are often committed by those most trusted to care for them -- caregivers and even their own family members.

When it comes to crimes against the elderly, a lot of attention is paid to scams and prescription thefts. However, seniors are also susceptible to physical and emotional abuse and neglect.

Caring for a loved one is not easy. It takes a mental toll on everyone involved. You are faced with the mortality of a family member. Many times, you now have another person living under your roof. This often results in a financial burden, as well.

Sadly, some people take out their frustrations on those for whom they are supposed to be providing care.

Regularly checking in on elderly loved ones is a good way to ensure your friends remain safe and healthy.

When visiting with an elderly friend or relative, keep your eyes open for warning signs such as:

- Unexplained bruises
- Change in appetite
- Sudden weight loss or gain
- Change in personality
- Fearfulness
- Untreated medical conditions



If you're concerned that a loved one might get confused and wander from home, consider enrolling him or her in our Take Me Home program. A joint program of my office and the Summit County Sheriff's Office, Take Me

Home can help reunite participants with a caregiver if they get lost. You can learn more about Take Me Home by visiting my website or calling my office.

If you think a loved one may be the victim of abuse, neglect or exploitation, contact Adult Protective Services at (330) 643-7217 or call your police department.

Stay safe,

Sherrri B. Walsh

Upcoming Self-Defense Classes

We have two self-defense classes scheduled in September. If you're a senior citizen or a woman who wants to feel more secure when alone, if you're moving into your own home, if you're starting college, then this class is for you.

Both classes are absolutely free. No registration is required.

For senior citizens:

*Thursday, September 19
10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Firestone Park Community
Center
1480 Girard Street, Akron*

For women of all ages:

*Monday, September 23
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Gus Johnson Community Center
1007 S. Hawkins Ave, Akron*

For more information, call my office at (330) 643-2800.



Safe Neighborhoods

On May 9, I joined Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine and other community leaders to announce the Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, which seeks to reduce violent crime through a strengthened partnership between law enforcement agencies and community organizations.

This statewide program is starting in Akron because Akron has the third-highest rate of violent offenders and fifth-highest number of weapons offenders in Ohio.

While this may lead you to believe that Akron is overflowing with criminals, only 10 percent of the entire population commits crimes. Of that group, not even 10 percent is responsible for almost all of the violent crimes committed in our area. Safe Neighborhoods targets that 10 percent.

Safe Neighborhoods partners include not only my office

and the Attorney General's Office but also the Sheriff's Office, Akron Police Department, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Agency and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Additionally, community organizations such as the Summit County Reentry Network, NAACP, Man2Man and House of the Lord are offering support to those who want to leave behind their life of crime.

Our group will periodically meet with members of that 10 percent to tell them two things. First,

that we will not tolerate violent crime in Akron. And second, that we can help them if they want to turn their lives around.

Other cities, most notably Boston and Cincinnati, have seen a marked improvement from programs like this. We are all hopeful that Safe Neighborhoods will have a similar result.



Tough Prosecution

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

John Muzic, age 28

- Rape
- Kidnapping
- Gross Sexual Imposition
- **Tier III sex offender**
- **Sentenced to 15 years in prison**

Alejandro Partee, age 41

- Rape
- Unlawful Sexual Conduct with a Minor
- Sexually Violent Predator status
- **Sentenced to life in prison**
- **Eligible for parole in 2043**

Guilty at Trial in August

Congratulations to the following assistant prosecutors for obtaining guilty verdicts at trial last month:

Nik Buckmeier

Joe Dangelo (2)

Mike Rickett

Dan Sallerson

Colleen Sims (2)

Ryan Stickel

Great job, prosecutors!

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.



September Top Cop

Top Cop: Detective Edward Carlile, Northfield Village Police Department

Nominated By: Assistant Prosecutors Joe Dangelo and Dan Sallerson

In late January, 28-year-old Northfield Village resident John Muzic raped a teenage babysitter who was at his neighbor's house. Muzic had brought the girl to his house after she asked to see his dogs. Muzic dragged the girl to his bedroom and threatened to kill her. Then he raped her.

Northfield Village Detective Edward Carlile was the investigating detective in this case.

As soon as he was assigned the case, he interviewed the victim and then went straight to the defendant's home, which was the crime scene. Det. Carlile quickly asked the Bureau

of Criminal Investigations to send an expert crime scene technician to conduct a thorough examination of Muzic's house.

While BCI was scouring Muzic's house, Det. Carlile interviewed Muzic. Det. Carlile did this while Muzic was in the back of his car because he thought Muzic would refuse to talk if he were at the police station. The jury later said that interview was a crucial piece of evidence for the prosecution.

What makes Det. Carlile's work stand out on this case was his desire to make this the strongest case possible. He put ego aside and called

in an expert to examine the crime scene. He asked throughout the case how he could help.

And after the trial, he asked the prosecutors what he could do to make his next case even better.

A jury found Muzic guilty of Rape, Kidnapping and Gross Sexual Imposition. Judge Alison McCarty sentenced Muzic to 15 years in prison.



Way to go, Detective Carlile!

Special Thanks To...

I'd like to give special thanks to Lt. Rich Munsey of the Bath Police Department for his outstanding work on a recent domestic violence case.



Lt. Munsey has been recognized as a Top Cop many times over the years. His determination in our case against Contrell Lamar Alford shows why.

Alford was charged with Burglary, Domestic Violence, Violation of a Protection Order, Grand Theft and Theft.

In the course of his investigation, Lt. Munsey reviewed approximately 15,000 text messages, 500 Summit

County Jail calls, 31 court orders for various records and hundreds of pages of investigative supplements.

Additionally, Lt. Munsey worked with the Akron Police Department to obtain two interviews with Alford's cell mate, who provided important information.

Because of Lt. Munsey's thorough investigation, Alford pleaded guilty to a Bill of Information, which means that he accepted guilt before the case was even presented to our Grand Jury.

Alford was sentenced to four years and 11 months in prison. And he agreed to pay restitution of more than \$26,000.

Thank you, Lt. Munsey, for your continued good work!

Meet Our Facility Dog: Avery II



Hire Date: August 2013

Title: Facility Dog

Hometown: Born in California, but raised in Delaware, Ohio

Fun Fact: I know approximately 40 commands and love learning more. I just learned how to get ice from the fridge at work! I also have my own Facebook page: www.Facebook.com/SummitCountyProsecutorAveryII.

Education: I underwent two years of intensive training with Canine Companions for Independence.

Job Duties: I provide comfort and love to victims and witnesses. I especially like working with children. When victims and witnesses come to a meeting in our office and are anxious or upset, I sit with them. If a child is scared to testify, I can sit in the witness stand.

Most Memorable Case: Your first case always sticks with you. On one of my first days in the office, I visited with a teenage rape victim while she waited to testify. We sat for hours in my interview room, until the prosecutor told the girl the trial was moving very slowly and she'd have to come back in two days to testify. It's bad enough having to wait around all day to do something you're dreading, but it's even worse to be told you'll have to come back and do it all over again in a few days. Instead of getting upset, the girl asked if she could visit with me again before she testified. She said she would be ok as long as I was there. The girl's rapist was ultimately found guilty and sent to prison for 15 years.

Why I Wanted to Join the Prosecutor's Office: The criminal justice system can be a scary place. The victims our office help are often very nervous to relive in front of a courtroom of strangers the worst moment of their lives. Even telling their story to a prosecutor and victim advocate can be nerve-wracking. I want to help people who have experienced a significant trauma by putting them at ease and helping them get through trial.

Agency Spotlight: Mobile Meals, Inc.

Mobile Meals, Inc. ensures clients throughout Northeast Ohio eat healthy, delicious food. The agency does this through a meal delivery service, seven dining centers in Summit County, nutrition education and a grocery shopping program.

In 2012, Mobile Meals provided hot, frozen, therapeutic and kosher meals and nutritional supplements to more than 740,000 children and adults in Northeast Ohio.

Mobile Meals strives to ensure optimum health for the children and adults they serve. A registered dietitian designs all of the meals to be nutritious and delicious. The meals can be modified to meet dietary and religious needs.

Additionally, licensed social workers assess and support

their clients. This can involve referring clients to other community services.

A secondary service of Mobile Meals is a daily safety and security check. Mobile Meals drivers are not allowed to leave food or supplements without speaking to the client in person. That is often the only person the client speaks to during the day.

Thank you to the more than 200 volunteers and 65 staff members who make Mobile Meals possible!

For more information about Mobile Meals, call (330) 376-7717 or (800) 852-6325 or visit them online at www.MobileMealsInc.org.



Contact the Summit County Prosecutor's Office
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330-643-2800