



May 2014

# News from the Criminal Division

## Message from Prosecutor Sherrri Bevan Walsh

National Police Week is celebrated May 11-17. Locally, some of the more notable events are the Annual Police Memorial Services honoring Akron Police Officers who died in the line of duty and the Cuyahoga Falls and Silver Lake Police Memorial and Honor Guard at the Natatorium.

It can be easy to forget what a dangerous job police officers have. They do their job without

complaint because they believe so strongly in what they do that they are willing to accept great risk.

For those of us who do not spend our days chasing bad guys, police work may seem exciting. We do not often think about the dangers they face every day.

Even on our most stressful days, most of us do not have to worry about someone trying to attack us while we are at work.

For law enforcement officers, danger is inherent in a day's work.

Last year, 105 officers were killed in the line of duty. One of them was from Ohio.

Our men and women in blue bravely go to work each day with the singular goal of keeping the community safe. When responding to a residential burglary call or

initiating a traffic stop, they have no idea what they may encounter.

While most days police officers end their shifts unscathed, there is always the possibility that an officer won't come home. Like our men and women in the armed forces, police officers put themselves in danger to keep us safe.

Next time you see a law enforcement officer, please take a moment to thank him or her for making such a sacrifice. It only takes a moment to say "thank you," but it is a phrase too few officers ever hear.

Stay safe,

*Sherrri B. Walsh*

### Don't Forget!

Our final mother-daughter self-defense class until the fall is May 28, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. This is guaranteed to be fun and informative. And it's FREE!

WHAT: Mother-Daughter Self-Defense Class

WHEN: May 28, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

WHERE: RBC Middle School  
10270 Ravenna Road, Twinsburg



Need more information?  
Contact April Wiesner at  
(330) 643-8386 or [wiesner@prosecutor.summitoh.net](mailto:wiesner@prosecutor.summitoh.net).



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# New Payment Method for Child Support Coming

The Summit County Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) will soon accept credit and debit cards. CSEA currently accepts cash, check and money orders. By also accepting payment via credit and debit cards, CSEA aims to make it easier and more convenient for parents to meet their financial obligations.

CSEA will have one credit and debit card machine at its payment window at 175 South Main Street in Akron. It can also accept credit and debit card payments over the phone.

Additionally, CSEA will have a portable device to take payments at events and outreach programs around the community. This will allow people to make a quick and easy payment on the spot.

There will be a 2.75 percent fee added to each payment made via credit or debit card.

Summit County CSEA is number one in collections in the five largest metro areas of Ohio. That means more children are receiving the financial support they need.

In keeping with our commitment to ensure both parents provide children with the support and love they deserve, we are once again offering our two-day amnesty event this August.

Child Support Solutions will be held at the Ohio Means Jobs Center on Friday, August 22 and Saturday, August 23. We'll be teaming up with numerous partners to offer valuable resources to both

custodial and noncustodial parents. Stay tuned for more information.

Summit County CSEA is located at 175 South Main Street in Akron. It is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## Tough Prosecution

These defendants are out of our community for a long time thanks to the hard work of my assistant prosecutors:

### **Kenneth Henry, age 55**

- Rape (two counts)
- Gross Sexual Imposition
- **Sentenced to life in prison**
- **Tier III sex offender**
- **Eligible for parole in 2039, when he is 80**

### **Darelle Norwood, age 25**

- Aggravated Burglary (two counts)
- Aggravated Robbery (two counts)
- Having Weapons While Under Disability
- Carrying a Concealed Weapon
- Trafficking in Marijuana
- **Sentenced to 14 years in prison**

## Guilty at Trial in April

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

*Nik Buckmeier*

*Brian LoPrinzi*

*Joe Dangelo*

*Kevin Mayer*

*Felicia Easter*

*Jennie Shuki*

*Aaron Howell*

*Omar Siddiq*

*Elliot Kolkovich*

*Brian Stano*

*Tom Kroll*

***Great job, prosecutors!***

**Help us go green!**

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# May Top Cop

## Top Cop: Patrolman Eric Sawyer

Nominated By: Assistant Prosecutors Angela Walls-Alexander and Tom Kroll



On the morning of February 24, 2013 Glenn Wong brutally murdered his wife Tami inside their home on Abrams Drive in Twinsburg. The couple's two children were present as Wong used two knives to repeatedly stab Tami in their bedroom. The couple's 10-year-old daughter called 911 screaming that she needed help because her father was "murdering her mother."

Twinsburg Police quickly responded to the scene. Patrolman Eric Sawyer was among the first responders to enter the bedroom where the attack took place.

Officers found Wong still lying on top of his wife and immediately ordered him off of her. Patrolman Sawyer assisted in securing Wong before quickly turning his attention to Tami.

Tami had been stabbed by her husband more than 100 times. She was still conscious but quickly fading. The extent of her injuries was unknown at the time, but later examination would show that no life-saving measures would have been able to save her. Despite this, Patrolman Sawyer attempted to offer emergency assistance to control Tami's bleeding.

As the dire nature of Tami's condition became more and more apparent, Patrolman Sawyer activated his handheld voice recorder to capture some of Tami's final words. Patrolman Sawyer's quick thinking preserved Tami's account of the attack and identification of her killer. Tami's voice would later be heard as a powerful piece of evidence in her murderer's trial.

Patrolman Sawyer comforted

Tami, encouraging her to stay with him as he held her hand and spoke to her about her children. Sawyer did not leave Tami's side until emergency medical personnel arrived on scene.

At Glenn Wong's trial, Patrolman Sawyer provided compelling, passionate testimony, which helped convict Glenn Wong of all charges, including Aggravated Murder. Wong will be sentenced on May 30, 2014 and could face life in prison without the possibility of parole.

The conduct displayed by Eric D. Sawyer embodies the height of what could be hoped for by prosecutors, fellow officers and the community he serves.

**Way to go, Patrolman Eric Sawyer!**

## Agency Spotlight: Mental Health America of Summit County

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Summit County agencies offer a variety of services for people of all ages who are dealing with mental illness. One of those agencies is Mental Health America of Summit County. The agency is dedicated to promoting mental health, preventing mental disorders and educating the public through advocacy, research and service.

Mental Health America of Summit County offers a number of services to help people cope with a mental illness. One of the programs is geared towards suicide prevention and depression awareness for adolescents. A certified teacher will present a two or three day program to middle and high school students in Summit County. The program is also available for in-service meetings, professional organizations and parent education.

Additionally, the agency offers support groups and

programs for adults who are struggling with a mental illness.

The theme for the Month of May is "Mind Your Health." The goal for the month is to provide tips and tools for taking positive actions to protect mental health and promote whole health. On June 6, Mental Health America of Summit County is hosting the Second Annual Vegas Night Fundraiser. Jim Tressel, former Ohio State football coach, will be the emcee for the event.

To find out more about the event or the services offered by Mental Health America of Summit County, visit [www.mhasc.net](http://www.mhasc.net) or call 330-923-0688.





# Meet an Employee: Crystal Baker



**Hire Date:** April 2014

**Title:** Director, Victim Services

**Hometown:** I was born in Naples, Florida and grew up in Boulder, Colorado and Monticello, New York.

**Fun Fact About Me:** As a young child living in Boulder in the early '80s, I had a playmate who lived in the house on Pine Street that "Mork and Mindy" lived in. The show only used the outside of the house in their filming. I don't remember my friend's name, but I do remember playing at her house and everyone thinking it was a really big deal that her house was the "Mork and Mindy" house.

**Education:** I graduated from the University of Akron with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice/Political Science. I earned a master's degree in Justice Studies from Kent State University.

**Background:** I worked for the Battered Women's Shelter of Summit & Medina Counties for the past 10 years. In my final role with the Battered Women's Shelter, I served as Director of Services for both Summit & Medina Counties. I oversaw the community programs and three shelters, supervised the management staff and was responsible for all of the grant reporting.

**Job Duties:** I oversee the Victim Services Division, which includes the supervision of our Victim Advocates and ensuring that the rights of victims are being afforded to them as they navigate the criminal justice system. Other duties include grant writing and reporting, outreach to the community and establishing and/or maintaining collaborative partnerships with other victim service providers.

**My Most Memorable Case:** In my previous position, I worked with a woman who spent 14 years in an abusive marriage. He was abusive to her, the children and their pets. She wasn't permitted to work and she wasn't permitted to have a relationship with her own mother.

When she first called me, she wanted to leave the home and marriage and file a domestic violence civil protection order. She had just reunited with her mother after not seeing her for many years. She was scared and very shy. She looked down when she spoke, and she was wearing a hat to keep from being recognized when I met her in person.

It's been several years since then. There were many times it would have been easier for her to give in and go back. But she didn't give up. She utilized all the resources that were available to her.

When she left, she did it in a couple hours while he was at work. She started out with hardly anything except clothes and a few personal items for her and her children. She worked really hard and now she is very successful both professionally and financially. She's confident and happy.

She is an example to so many other victims experiencing domestic violence who think they can't make it on their own and think that they are not strong enough to leave. She inspires hope in others by speaking in public about her situation and how she was able to get out. Her children are also doing really well. One joined the military and the other two are going to college. I am still in touch with her today, and she still inspires me to want to help others.

**Why I Wanted to Join the Prosecutor's Office:** This office is very victim centered, and I admire that. It's so important to include the victim in the process and keep them informed during such a difficult time in their lives. The Victim Advocates in this office are doing such a fantastic job at that! Sherri Bevan Walsh and all of the staff who work here care very much about victims of crime. While I have been working with victims of domestic violence for many years, it will be new and challenging for me to work with victims of all types of crimes as well as learn more about the justice system. I look forward to becoming a vital part of the team at the Summit County Prosecutor's Office, working for victims of crime.

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**Office of Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh**

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