



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

GIVING THANKS TO OUR HEROES

A Message From Prosecutor Walsh

As the weather starts to change and the leaves start to fall, we begin to prepare for the holiday season. It is a great time to reflect on what we are thankful for.

Of all of the things to be thankful for the "Rule of Law" probably isn't at the top of many people's list. If we think about it though, we just may realize how grateful we should be to live in a nation governed by the Rule of Law and the people who make it work.

The Rule of Law is the principle that all people and institutions are subject to and accountable to that is fairly applied and enforced.

This means that our government and our police cannot act arbitrarily or on their own. "We" the people are protected by the Constitution.

The government, at all levels, federal, state and local, must follow the rules and equally apply them to everyone.

This Thanksgiving I am very thankful for the founders that set the stage for the law that the Summit County Prosecutor's Office upholds.

I am so thankful for my all my employees. My support staff is the true back bone of our office. They have an immeasurable amount of dedication in what they do and a belief in the value of what our office does.

I am grateful for learning early on that one of the most important aspects of success is to surround yourself with great people. I am thankful that I have prosecutors with strong values, that believe in me and in my vision.

I am blessed with an exceptional team that helps guide us through



good times and difficult times. They have all been instrumental in our office's growth and success. And as our office grows I will continue to rely on them.

I have also been blessed with a wonderful group of victim advocates. Our advocates never cease to amaze me with the inner strength that it requires to successfully and calmly guide victims through the criminal justice system.

I am especially grateful for the strength and bravery of our law enforcement. These men and women risk their lives every day to preserve and protect our rights.

Sadly, the recent loss of Akron Police Officer Justin Winebrenner is the most recent example of the sacrifices our police officers make every day.

Officer Winebrenner demonstrated his loyalty and dedication to protecting the lives of others when he was shot and killed while off-duty. He didn't hesitate to confront a gunman in a local bar and his bravery saved many lives that night. Our hearts go out to his family and friends.

We are all lucky to live in a nation that has created a system to settle disputes in courthouses rather than the streets. We are lucky to be governed by a Rule of Law that people in other countries are literally fighting and dying to attain.

Our system of government is envied by the world. Sure, it is often complicated and hard to understand, but it does work. We should allow our system to continue to do its job and give thanks for our democracy this holiday season.

For this Thanksgiving, I share with you the blessings of America!

Stay Safe,

Sherri B. Walsh



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SCAM



Facebook Scams

Facebook provides exceptional opportunities for people to connect and share information; it also serves as a great platform for scammers. They hide behind special offers, exclusive content or new apps in order to obtain your account information or to spread viruses and other malware.

Here are some recent examples of viral scams. Maybe you have noticed them in your news feeds...

1. Profile Viewers and Profile Blockers - These scams promise to show you who has been looking at your profile or who has blocked you from theirs. NONE of these apps work.

2. Free iPads & iPhones – Don't be fooled by messages stating you can test and keep an iPad, iPhone etc. They are all marketing gimmicks. If it sounds too good to be true, it usually is.

3. Free Facebook Credits – Credits are used to purchase items in Farmville, Cityville, etc. Credits cost real money and you aren't going to receive a large sum for free.

4. Free Items, Gift Cards & Tickets – You will not get free airline tickets, Subway or Starbucks gift cards or a Facebook hoodie just by completing a survey.

5. Breaking News Stories – Anytime a major news story breaks, keep your guard up. Scammers love to trick unsuspecting users with promises of "exclusive coverage."

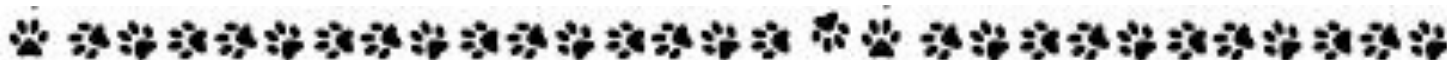
6. Phishing Attempts to Steal Your Login Info-If a scammer can get your login credentials, they can wreak all sorts of havoc before you are able to reclaim your account. Messages pretending to be from Facebook Security is a popular trick.

7. New or Extra Facebook Features - Dislike buttons, apps to change your Facebook color or see who unfriended you are some examples of these scams. While there are legitimate browser extensions that offer these features, scammers often insert adware or malware into the plugins. Only install apps and extensions from trusted, well-known developers.

8. Shocking & Sexy Headlines – Anything that starts out with "OMG" or "Shocking" is best left alone on Facebook. Victims are lured in with outlandish, steamy or perverted messages and usually end in a survey scam and a video that doesn't play.

9. "Help I'm Stranded and Need Money" – If you get a message from a friend saying that they are stranded in London or some other exotic locale, don't rush down to Western Union to send them cash. They have likely had their Facebook account hi-jacked by scammers.

Take control of your privacy settings and manage the privacy of your posts. Always verify the information you receive and don't spread messages just because they were shared by your friends. Check for scams on websites like FaceCrooks.com and Snopes.com.



Avery II's Corner



I am the Summit County Prosecutor's facility dog. Fall is one of my favorite seasons. I love the cool and colorful weather and trick or treating on Halloween. This month, I dressed up and spent time with many special kids, much like the ones that I comfort as they participate in criminal cases. I was also interviewed for Public Report on TCT TV about my role at the Summit County Prosecutor's Office. It was so much fun! Watch for me on December 13, 2014 at 2:30 pm on Time Warner, channel 13.

Follow Avery II on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/SummitCountyProsecutorAveryII>



Help Us Go Green!

Contact Melanie Hart at hart@prosecutor.summitoh.net to receive this newsletter by e-mail



November Top Cops

Sergeant Steve Dunton and Special Agent Brenda McNeely

Nominated by: Assistant Prosecutors Dustin Roth & Pete Daly



On March 20, 2014, Roxanne Buck was arrested for the murder of her roommate, Michelle Johnson. Johnson was stabbed in the throat several times, wrapped in a blanket, and placed in the backyard shed.



Special Agent Brenda McNeely led the crime scene investigation for BCI. She spent twelve and a half hours processing the crime scene, photographing and documenting all evidence. Special Agent McNeely conducted a full analysis of blood evidence at the scene, which showed where the murder had taken place and the efforts Buck had made to hide her crime by cleaning up. She thoroughly prepared for her testimony at trial, which enabled her to explain to the jury how her analysis coincided with the evidence at the scene.

Sergeant Steve Dunton of the Stow Police Department was in charge of the case and coordinated the investigation with the Bureau of Criminal Investigation. He conducted several interviews with the defendant in which he was able to lock Buck into a specific timeline and statements. The information that he gathered became essential for cross examination when Buck testified. Sergeant Dunton worked with prosecutors for several months to prepare for trial by following up on various parts of the investigation and ensuring all of the necessary evidence was sent to BCI for testing. After more than 35 years of service, Sergeant Dunton retired from the Stow Police Department while the case was awaiting trial, but he continued working on it to see it through to a conviction.

Thanks to the outstanding efforts of both Sergeant Dunton and Special Agent McNeely, Roxanne Buck was convicted of Murder and Tampering with Evidence on October 21, 2014. She was sentenced to life in prison and will not be eligible for parole for 18 years.

Way to go Top Cops!

Agency Spotlight: The Front Porch Cafe



South Street Ministries' Front Porch Café is in the business of creating more than just food. The café opened in May of 2011 with the mission to create jobs and provide job training to unemployed

and underemployed people in the Akron area.

South Street Ministries was founded in 1997 by Pastor Duane and Lisa Crabbs. The couple and their children moved to Summit Lake in order to invest in the Akron community and minister to its residents. The organization offers numerous youth programs and hosts several recovery meetings for people seeking sobriety. The Front Porch Café is only one of their many programs

designed to connect and serve people in the Akron area. The Front Porch Café provides employment and training to ex-offenders in order to help them provide for themselves and get back on their feet, while acquiring the basic skills necessary to join the workforce. The café prides itself in being a place of middle-ground. They work to serve and employ people of all races, genders, social classes, and belief systems.

It is a way for the public to invest in the Akron community and in its residents as well. Consumers of the Front Porch Café are investing time and money to the employees of the Front Porch Café, to South Street Ministries, and to the mission they are continuing to serve.

The café serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner and is open Monday through Friday from 7:00 am-3:00 pm. They are located at 798 Grant Street in South Akron.

Meet Assistant Prosecutor Jon Baumoel



Hire Date: January, 2009

Title: Courtroom Supervisor/Assistant County Prosecutor

Hometown: Shaker Heights, Ohio

Fun Fact About Me: My 16-year-old son is a starting outside linebacker for the Canton Central Catholic Crusaders. They are currently 10-0 and are the #1 ranked team in Ohio for Division V.

Education: I received a B.A. at Colgate University and a J.D. at the University of Cincinnati School of Law

Background: I was an Assistant County Prosecutor at the Stark County Prosecutor's Office for 14 years.

My Most Memorable Case: When I became a courtroom prosecutor I handled many drug cases, bar fights and shoplifting cases. The case that has always stuck with me was an Endangering Children charge that involved a 3 year old boy who was punished for wetting himself. The mother's boyfriend forced the boy's naked body into a tub of scalding hot water causing third degree burns on his hands, buttocks and feet. The defense hired experts, the defendant cried, but the jury found him guilty and he was sentenced to eight years in prison. It was a great feeling to help a family and see a child abuser punished.

News from The Supreme Court of Ohio



Our office was happy to hear that the convictions and death sentence that were on appeal for Ashford Thompson were affirmed. Thompson was found guilty on June 3, 2010, of the Aggravated Murder of Twinsburg Police Officer Joshua Miktarian.



Guilty at Trial October 2014



**Congratulations to these Assistant Prosecutors
for obtaining guilty verdicts at trial last month:**

Jon Baumoel
Pete Daly
Brad Gessner
Elliot Kolkovich
Brian LoPrinzi
Greg Peacock
Justin Richard
Dustin Roth

Great job, Prosecutors!

Tough Prosecution

These defendants will be locked up for a lengthy period of time thanks to our dedicated Assistant Prosecutors:

Jacob Umana, 38

- Murder with a Repeat Violent Offender classification
- Sentenced to **18 years to Life in Prison**

Ronald Bishop, Jr., 27

- Murder, a special felony
- Sentenced to **18 years to Life in Prison**

Roxanne Buck, 45

- Murder, a special felony
- Tampering with Evidence
- Sentenced to **18 years to Life in Prison**

Darnell Seccession, 23

- Voluntary Manslaughter
- Sentenced to a Maximum of **14 years in Prison**

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