



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

September is Senior Safety Awareness Month

A Message From Prosecutor Walsh

Senior citizens have a lifetime of experiences, but they also face a unique set of challenges and issues that certain criminals will try to prey on. However, with the proper information seniors can avoid becoming a victim. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

Too Good To Be True

Senior citizens have many financial issues to face such as health insurance, social security, fixed income decisions, and the state of their investments. Criminals often use these issues to take advantage of them. Always keep in mind that if something sounds too good to be true, it usually is. When presented with an unsolicited opportunity, be wary and do some homework. Check into the company on the Internet. Ask friends and family if they have any experiences with the company. Call other companies to see if they offer anything similar or better.

Control Your Telephone Conversations

Senior citizens are often bombarded with unsolicited calls. These phone calls are often meant to pressure people into making a decision. However, always remember that you get to control all of the information they receive, so be careful not to give anyone your social security number, bank information, or make any promises to make payments. Be an active listener and take down the caller's information - their name, phone number, company name, and the terms of their offer. Research the company later to find out if what the caller is offering is the real deal. It is always a good rule of thumb to never commit to a business deal like this the first time someone calls and never make a decision because the seller is pressuring you.

Protect Your Home

What most people do not know is that just as many home burglaries occur during the day as at night. If you are not expecting anyone, don't answer the door and never open your door before knowing who is there. However, if you want to answer the door, yell through your door or use a peephole. Another good tip is to lock your house while working in the yard. My office has seen many cases where the homeowner was working in the back yard and someone entered the home through the front door and robbed them.

Stay Safe,

Sherrri B. Walsh

September Events

Zane's Foundation

5th Annual Special Needs Awareness Walk & Fun Day

September 13, 2014 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Bolich Middle School
2630 13th St., Cuyahoga Falls
stacy.youssef@zanesfoundation.org

Canine Companions DogFest Walk 'n' Roll

September 13, 2014 at Noon
Volunteer Park
21410 Lunn Rd., Strongsville
www.cci.org

Senior Safety Speech

September 17, 2014 at 11 a.m.
Nordonia Hills Senior Center
10503 Valley View Road, Nordonia
For Information:
holdt@prosecutor.summitoh.net

Senior Safety Speech

September 22, 2014 at 2 p.m.
Sutliff II Apartment Complex
1860 2nd Street, Cuyahoga Falls
For Information:
holdt@prosecutor.summitoh.net

20th Anniversary Violence Against Women Act: Responding to Domestic Violence

September 26, 2014 at 1 p.m.
Akron General Wellness Center
4125 Medina Rd., Akron
RSVP by Sept. 22: kathyb@scmcbws.org



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Tip from our Chief Investigator Online Gaming and Safety

The video game industry is a multi-billion dollar industry that provides entertainment to people of all ages and backgrounds.



Chief Investigator Ben Bergeron

In the past decade, video games have exploded from single player home console systems to multi-player online games like *Call of Duty*, *Halo*, and *World of Warcraft* where people across the world can play against each other.

With an ever-growing industry, video game companies reach out to younger players and these younger players find themselves immersed in an online multiplayer virtual world which can present a great deal of fun for the player, but some concern for parents.

While this landscape is constantly changing, parents can be proactive in monitoring and protecting their children.

Some simple things a parent can do to monitor a child's online gaming activity are:

- **Keep a Clean Machine**
Before your kids start playing, make sure the computer has a firewall, anti-spyware software, and anti-virus software.
- **Make Passwords Strong**
A password should be at least eight characters and use upper and lower case letters, numbers, and symbols.
- **Check the Rating**
Before letting your child play a game, log on to the Entertainment Rating Software Board's rating to see how violent the game may be at www.ERSB.org.
- **Empower Your Children**
Make sure your child knows how to block and report a cyber bully, and tell them to keep a record of any conversation if they're being harassed.
- **Protect Personal Information**
Make sure your child's username does not give away their real name, location, gender, or age.

- **Keep Your Computer Out in the Open**
Many problems can arise when children are left to their own devices to play their games in their room without any supervision. By keeping the game in a central location, it will be easier to keep an eye on what the children are playing and how often.
- **Enable Parental Controls**
Use whatever built in software the computer or gaming system has to control the device's access to various Web sites or games. No matter how much a parent may try, a child will use computers and game consoles. If not at their own house, then at a friend's house. It is best not to ignore the problem and prohibit everything, but to educate yourself and engage your child in these kinds of issues to make sure they are prepared.

Although online gaming is a great form of entertainment and may even increase a child's cognitive abilities, there are certain risks that exist just like any other online activity. Preventative measures and parental awareness will help your child enjoy it safely.

There are two informative websites dedicated to helping families navigate online security with their computers and gaming consoles.

Violence Against Women Act

**The Summit County Domestic
Violence Coalition invites you to join us as we**

Kick off Domestic Violence Awareness Month

by commemorating The Violence Against Women Act

When: Friday, September 26, 2014 1:00pm–4:00pm
Where: Akron General Wellness Center, 4125 Medina Rd., Akron, 44333
Please: RSVP to Kathy Bean @ 330 860-5627 or kathyb@scmcbws.org

As spacing is limited, please RSVP prior to September 22, 2014



Help Us Go Green!

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





September Top Cops: Facility dogs



For this month's Top Cop, we have selected a group of unsung officers - the Summit County K-9 Law Enforcement Officers and their handlers. They were nominated by Avery II, the Summit County Prosecutor's Office Facility Dog.

There are currently 32 facility dogs at work throughout Summit County. The Summit County Sheriff's Office as well as the Police Departments of Akron, Stow, Barberton, Cuyahoga Falls, Monroe Falls, Norton, Reminderville, Twinsburg, and the University of Akron have all committed financial resources to using these dogs to protect the citizens of Summit County.

There are "traditional" patrol dogs trained to "find and detain" a suspect. Others are trained as "specialty scent dogs," the bloodhounds of years past that will sniff a missing person's clothing and lead officers to evidence by their highly sensitive sense of smell. There are even "detector" dogs who have been trained to detect drugs, narcotics, explosives and even dead bodies. A bomb dog could walk past a pile of illegal narcotics without a care in the world but give him a suitcase with a trace of

nitroglycerin and he will stop, alert and wait for further commands. This is how specialized their training is!

These K-9s are instinctively selfless. They will surrender their lives for their handlers without hesitation. In August, Oklahoma City K-9 "Kye" was killed in the line of duty while apprehending a known fugitive. His handler's video tribute has gone viral and demonstrates that these K-9s are an integral part of law enforcement today.

Here at our office, we have been able to see up close how invaluable Avery II is in helping victims and witnesses feel more comfortable at our office and in the courtroom.



We salute all of the Summit County K-9 Law Enforcement Officers as well as their handlers for being our "Top Cops" this month.

Follow Avery II on Facebook at:
[facebook.com/SummitCountyProsecutorAveryII](https://www.facebook.com/SummitCountyProsecutorAveryII)

Agency Spotlight: Alzheimer's Association

The Greater East Ohio Area Alzheimer's Association was founded by a group of caregivers and family members in 1984. It serves 17 counties in Ohio and is among the 78 chapters nationwide to offer support to individuals affected by Alzheimer's disease.

They do this through community programs and services, such as care consultation, information and referral, support groups, education, and have formed an alliance with MedicAlert + Safe Return program, which provides callers with support 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



The Association is a tax-exempt, nonprofit, donor supported organization. The programs and services are made possible through contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations. Seventy-five percent of the funds raised are used for programs, services, and research.

The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's is the world's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support, and research. It is held annually and will be coming to Summit County on Sunday, October 5, 2014. Those interested in participating may register online at www.alz.org.

Meet Our Employee Samantha Lisy



Hire Date: June 29, 2014

Title: Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, CSEA

Hometown: Solon, Ohio

Fun Fact About Me: In high school I was a member of the Varsity Bowling team! I am also getting married in less than a month!

Education: I hold a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education (grades K-3) from Ashland University and received my Juris Doctor from the University of Akron School of Law in 2010.

Background: Before attending law school, I taught preschool to three and four year olds. After graduating, I worked at Baker Hostetler LLP as a Staff Attorney assigned to the Bernard Madoff bankruptcy estate. Additionally, I worked as a Staff Attorney for the Stark County Public Defender's Office in both the juvenile and misdemeanor divisions.

My Most Memorable Case: While working in Stark County, I had a client who was a single mother of two sons. Her oldest had been diagnosed with severe learning disabilities and behavior management issues. He was eventually found to be dependent. Through her case plan, I was able to provide her with the resources she desperately needed and eventually custody was restored. It was amazing for me to witness the transformation this had for my client and her family.

Comments to the Agency: I am so excited to be a part of the Summit County Child Support Enforcement Agency! Please feel free to stop by and say "Hello!"



Guilty at Trial

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

Kassim Ahmed
Mike Cody
Jay Cole
Joe Dangelo
Elliot Kolkovich
Tom Kroll
Brian LoPrinzi
Greg Peacock
Margaret Scott

Great job, Prosecutors!

Tough Prosecution

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

Greg Lamont Clark, 36

- Rape
- Attempted Rape
- Arson
- Sentenced to **19 years in prison**

Dashaun Spear, 18

- Aggravated Murder
- Attempted Murder
- Sentenced to **life in prison**
- Eligible for parole in 2055

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