



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH

WARM WEATHER WARNINGS

The Memorial Day holiday weekend is the unofficial start of lots of outdoor activities. Many families are putting the final touches on vacations plans, especially with many trips cancelled last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

But before you head outside, I want to make sure you and your home are safe! Whether you're just working on your house or doing some gardening, or leaving on vacation, there are simple things to do to minimize your chances of becoming a crime victim.

The warm days and cool nights are a perfect time to open those windows and let in those wonderful breezes. Unfortunately, open windows can also be an invitation for criminals. Please make sure you close and lock your first floor windows, sliding glass doors, and garage doors when going to sleep or when you leave home.

Also be aware of what's happening in your neighborhood when you're working in the yard

or walking the dog. Does something seem out of place? Maybe you notice the same vehicle slowly driving up and down the street for several minutes. We've heard of criminals just walking into a home through an open garage while the homeowner is busy in the yard. It may sound simple, but being more in tune with your surroundings could keep you from becoming a victim. Also, if you are outside working in your yard, close your garage door or at least lock the entrance to your home. This is especially important if you're distracted or using loud equipment.

And as more people come outside to enjoy the nicer weather, so do scammers. People may approach you saying they have leftover materials from a nearby job and notice you need some work done. Or they offer to do a quick repair job as a way to look for valuables to steal. Never pay upfront for

unsolicited work and check who you are hiring by calling the Better Business Bureau. And if a deal seems too good to be true, it probably is.

If you're heading out on vacation, don't leave behind an opportunity for criminals to take advantage.

Suspend newspaper and mail delivery. Also, let a neighbor know that you'll be gone. Plus, hold off buying anything online. You don't want those items delivered when you're not home. Or, if you have to order something, maybe have it sent to a Post Office Box or secure location.

Let's all have a wonderful summer and enjoy those much needed vacations!

And as always, stay safe.



Sherri B. Walsh



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IN THE COMMUNITY

They are sworn to serve and protect the community. Law enforcement officers throughout the country take that solemn oath, knowing that they put their lives on the line on a daily basis to fulfill that duty.



Each May, that sacrifice is remembered as many communities take part in National Police Officers Memorial Week. Usually falling during the second week of the month, National Police Officers Memorial Week is a time to honor and pay tribute to officers who gave their lives to help protect us and make our community better.

Employees of the Summit County Prosecutor’s Office were honored to attend the annual Akron Police Officers Memorial Day as part of National Police Officers Memorial Week. The week culminated on May 13th with the 33rd annual candlelight vigil which pays tribute to law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty.



The Summit County Prosecutor’s Office sends a heart-felt thank you to all members of the law enforcement community and their families for their hard work and dedication to making Summit County a great place to work and live.

In our office we work with hundreds of officers on a daily basis. We currently have 89 homicide cases pending. We see the reports, we see the arrests, but we do not see the trauma our law enforcement officers see every day in doing their job. The crime scenes, the traffic crashes, the notification of family members, the split second decisions that can forever change lives in the blink of an eye are just part of their job.

Each day they say goodbye to their families not knowing what they may deal with during their shift. Blogger Doug Wylie once paraphrased Ronald Reagan to describe how officers continue to do their job day after day saying that “bravery is not the absence of fear, but a resilience despite that fear.”

TOUGH PROSECUTIONS

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

Craig McClellan, 50

- Rape
- Gross Sexual Imposition
- **31.5 Years in PRISON**



WATER SAFETY MONTH

Warmer weather is here. That means lots of people are looking for ways to cool off. Maybe a trip to the beach or the pool is in your future.

We also want you to be safe. May is National Water Safety Month. Established in June of 2003, National Water Safety Month highlights water awareness and swim safety.

If you’re headed to the water this summer, remember these simple safety tips:

- Ensure members of your family know how to swim
- Use life jackets and other protective devices
- Pay close attention to children
- Learn CPR to help save a life





AVERY'S CORNER

AMBASSADORS' CORNER

By now most of you know I love to help hoomans. It's my favorite part of what I do.

I get to sit with them as they tell their story. They get to hold my leash or pet me. I think it helps comfort and calm them. I even get to go with them to court.



I'm sitting here with my new friend who had some bad things happen to her. I was able to sit with her as she talked with my prosecutor friends.

If you don't know, I'm what's known as a "facility dog". That means I work in an office and help hoomans. I'm like a service dog—we know the same things.

I love to look good. This is my friend Kelsie. Kelsie works at one of my favorite places — Pet Supplies Plus.



I go there and they take very good care of me. Kelsie gives me a bath and cuts my hair and even my nails.

Thank you Kelsie for making me look so good!

There are so many good hoomans where I work. I know they fight for those who are hurt.



This is one of my favorite hoomans. Her name is Heaven. She plays with me and takes me to one of my favorite places—Starbucks!

You can see my big smile when I'm with her. I just wanted to say thank you for being my friend.

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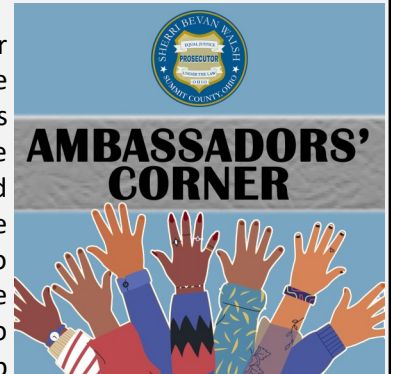
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The Summit County Prosecutor's Office "Ambassadors for Equity & Social Justice" was formed to work toward bringing people of different backgrounds and cultures together. Each month the Ambassadors will share thoughts in trying to make our community a better place to live.

We teach our children to be curious and to discover. The wonders of the world are out there if the child is taught to ask questions and explore. The magic of the world awaits...Do we as adults still have curiosity? Are we still willing to discover, or are we so set in our ways that we dismiss anything not in line with our own understanding?

Curiosity can expand our empathy. We all know that we should "put ourselves in other's shoes" but when we understand the history and experiences of others, we become better able to understand views not in line with our own. The way to do this is to ask questions! Keep the phrase "approach with curiosity" in mind the next time you are speaking to ... anyone. This can work on all levels.



Did your neighbor mow over the property line? We could be angry and allow resentment to take over; but if we approach with curiosity, we may learn that they cannot afford to replace broken eyeglasses and can't tell where their property ends and yours begins.

Maybe your boss was angry today. We don't have to complain and rant behind their back. If we approach with curiosity, we may learn that there was perhaps logical explanations to your boss' anger.

Did a friend make a comment about a hot-button issue? We can disagree and roll our eyes, or we can approach with curiosity. You don't have to state your position, but we can ask why they feel that way, where they received their information, or what experiences led them to that conclusion. Show others that you are interested in their side of the story, and we can become better able to understand.

There are a lot of hard questions to be asked in our society right now. How willing are we to approach them with curiosity? We will never gain empathy and understanding if we aren't willing to be curious.



Help Us Go Green!

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



TOP COP

BARBERTON POLICE LT. BRIAN JAMISON

Our TOP COP nominations usually honor members of law enforcement who go above and beyond on a specific case which we prosecute.

This month, we would like to honor the work of Barberton Police Lieutenant Brian Jamison. Lt. Jamison is retiring at the end of the month after 33 years of service.



Assistant Summit County Prosecutor Matt Kuhn has had a number of cases involving Lt. Jamison. Matt adds that Lt. Jamison would immediately respond whenever he had a question and that he goes above and beyond in everything he does.



Lt. Jamison has made a significant impact on the Barberton community as well as all of Summit County. His investigations led to many convictions, including several high profile cases. Without Lt. Jamison's hard work and perseverance we would not have been able to hold two brothers accountable for a horrible triple murder on New Year's Eve in 2013. Both brothers are serving life sentences.

Barberton Police Chief Vince Morber described Lt. Jamison's work as the gold standard of police officers. "He's the best," said Chief Morber. "He has mentored all of the department and leaves behind a legacy of caring about the community he served."

Samantha Bloom, who heads our Juvenile Delinquency Division, said Lt. Jamison is AMAZING! She adds "he always made himself available to walk through cases, conduct follow up investigations, and gets everything needed for prosecution."

Matt Hudak, an investigator with our Child Support Enforcement Agency, says Lt. Jamison was always "calm cool, and level-headed. To put it simply, he's the best!"

Congratulations Lt. Jamison and enjoy your retirement!

SKIN CANCER AWARENESS

Building a safe and healthy community is one of the main goals of the Summit County Prosecutor's Office. That includes informing residents of ways to avoid dangerous situations outside of your home.

One way to do that is to have sun screen with you. May is Skin Cancer Awareness Month. It's a good time to remind people about preventative skin care habits.



Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States—and it's also the most preventable.

Before you head outside, grab sunscreen, even on cloudy days! Find some shade, and wear sun-protective clothing. Also, have your doctor check moles on your skin to see if they're cancerous.

Be safe as you enjoy the wonderful summer weather!

HAMBURGER MONTH

Summer-like weather is here! Warm temperatures and lots of sunlight means hanging out at the park and in backyards. What better way to spend it than with a hamburger!

May is National Hamburger Month! Something very special for Akron.

As the legend goes, Akron natives Charles and Frank Menches developed the hamburger at a fair in Hamburg, NY, a town just outside of Buffalo, in 1885.

National Hamburger Month is just the start of grilling and barbecuing season. And there are so many options available. You can even get meatless burgers!

We love burgers. And with restaurants re-opening, we can enjoy a hamburger inside and out! Find a spot on a nearby patio and chow down!



WHY I'M A PROSECUTOR

JOHN GALONSKI

"Why I'm A Prosecutor" gives our prosecutors the chance to tell their own story and why being a prosecutor is so important to them.

John Galonski, who is the Chief of our Civil Division, talks about why being a prosecutor is so important to him.



• WHY DID YOU BECOME A PROSECUTOR?

I became a prosecutor because I wanted to become engaged in public service. I am very blessed that I grew up in Summit County.

I wanted to give back to my community and a way to do that is through public service. Being an attorney and working in the Prosecutor's Office is an ideal fit. It gave me an opportunity to be a voice for my neighbors and my community and I've never regretted it. I've always wanted to be an attorney because I wanted to be an advocate and a voice for those who didn't have a voice. Once I became an attorney, it logically flowed to the Prosecutor's Office.

• WHAT'S THE BEST PART OF BEING A PROSECUTOR?

The best part of being a prosecutor is you do get to be an advocate for your community and for those who don't have a voice. You stand up and get to argue for what's right and what's just. Being a prosecutor gives you a platform where you

can do good.

• WHAT'S THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF BEING A PROSECUTOR?

The most difficult part of being a prosecutor is when you believe in what you're advocating for and have done everything you possibly could to get the result you want but it doesn't happen. You then have to look someone in the eyes and let them know that, through no fault of their own, you did not get the result you wanted.

You can watch John's complete video on our website, Facebook and YouTube page.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken its toll on many of us. From sickness to job loss, the impact will be felt for months, and potentially years to come.

Mental health is also a concern during this unprecedented time. May is National Mental Health Awareness month—a time to bring greater attention, support, and education about the impact of mental illness.

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office works closely with the Summit County Court's Mental Health Court. "Hope Court" is dedicated to providing offenders who have been diagnosed with a serious mental illness which contributed to their arrest with access to treatment and resources to help improve their overall quality of life. "Hope Court" is the first felony specialized court for people diagnosed with a mental illness.



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