



FROM THE OFFICE OF  
 SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR  
**SHERRI BEVAN WALSH**

## A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH KEEPING SENIORS SAFE

20 years of helping people and keeping the community safe. When I take a moment to stop and think about it, I'm amazed it has been that long.

This month marks the 20th year I have declared September as Senior Safety Awareness Month. Each month serves as a reminder of why I became Summit County Prosecutor. My passion is to protect the most vulnerable in our community and to support and fight for the rights of victims.

That also means providing vital information to help people minimize their chance of becoming a crime victim.

As part of this year's campaign, Summit County Sheriff Kandi Fatheree and I are teaming up to have billboards, bus ads, and newspaper ads which will be seen throughout Summit County. These ads provide the 24-hour Sheriff's Office hotline (330.643.2181) for people to call to report elder abuse. The newspaper ads also provide information on some of the more popular scams which target seniors as well as tips to avoid becoming a victim.

Throughout the entire month of September, my office will also educate as many senior citizens as possible about scams, criminal activity, and how to protect their home. If you would like to have a prosecutor speak with your group about those topics, please contact Tania Nemer, the Summit County Prosecutor's Office Community Outreach Prosecutor, at [tnemer@prosecutor.summitoh.net](mailto:tnemer@prosecutor.summitoh.net).

According to recent studies, just over one in ten elderly people in the U.S. fall victim to a financial crime with an overall total loss of close to \$150 billion dollars. In Ohio, seniors lose over six-billion dollars annually in elder fraud cases.

That includes falling victim to scams. Many scams are through phone calls where you get a call from someone demanding money or someone pretending to be a family member in trouble. These calls prey on your emotions and want you to make quick decisions. We urge people who get these calls to stop, wait, and think before acting. Get actual proof before providing

any personal information to someone on the phone. Taking a minute now could save you a lot later.

In this newsletter you will find helpful tips on ways to protect yourself and not give criminals the chance to prey on you—so you can be safe.

*Sherri B. Walsh*

### Report Elder Abuse

**Your Reaction  
 Makes a Difference**

**SHERRI BEVAN WALSH**  
 SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR

**KANDY FATHEREE**  
 SUMMIT COUNTY SHERIFF



**24 Hour Sheriff Hotline  
 (330) 643 - 2181**



### Grandparent Scam Warning

*Avoid Calls from People Claiming to be Your Grandchild*

- **Resist the pressure to act quickly**
- **Try to contact your grandchild or another family member to determine if the call is legitimate.**
- **New wire money or send cash based on a request made over the phone. Once you send it, you can't get it back.**



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# IN THE COMMUNITY

We had a blast at last month's Soap Box Derby Senior Days. Community Outreach Prosecutor Tania Nemer represented the office at Derby Downs, where seniors were given an opportunity to ride down the nearly 1,000 foot long track.



Many who attended actually competed in the Soap Box Derby as kids! They shared wonderful stories as well as learned about the services the Prosecutor's Office and many other local organizations provide.

It was great hearing all the stories and watching everyone go down the hill.

Akron's Derby Downs has hosted the Soap Box derby since 1936.



## CRIME & PUNISHMENT

### GUILTY VERDICTS August 2021

Congratulations to the following assistant prosecutors for obtaining convictions at trial.

- |                      |                               |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Jon Baumuel</b>   | <b>Jennie Shuki</b>           |
| <b>Nik Buckmeier</b> | <b>Angela Walls-Alexander</b> |
| <b>Matt Kuhn</b>     | <b>Joe Vance</b>              |
| <b>Joe McAleese</b>  | <b>Dan Sallerson</b>          |

## Prosecutor High 5

We want to send out a Prosecutor High 5 to retired Barberton Police Chief Claude Collins. Chief Collins was instrumental in our office's successful attempt in keeping convicted killer Bert Bombe locked up in prison.

Bombe was scheduled for a parole hearing in August. Chief Collins provided the Prosecutor's Office with detailed information and testimony about the crime. The information was presented at the full board hearing and the Ohio Parole Board denied Bombe parole.



In 1979, Bombe was sentenced to life in prison for the brutal murder of his then neighbor, 77-year-old Elise Etling.

According to the Parole Board, Bombe is next eligible for parole in 2024.

## TOUGH PROSECUTIONS

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

- Larry Miller, 64**
- Aggravated Vehicular Homicide
  - **7 to 10.5 Years in Prison**

- Stacey Roper, 29**
- Rape
  - **16 Years in Prison**

- Melvin Terry, 22**
- Murder
  - **LIFE IN PRISON**





# AVERY'S CORNER

# AMBASSADORS' CORNER

I celebrated my 10th birthday on August 1st! My hooman friends threw me a big birthday party. But after the party was my favorite part.



I got to open up my gifts! It seemed like my birthday lasted all month! I got so many fun things from my hooman friends.



Thank you to everyone who came to my party and gave me a special gift. I loved every one of them.

I also had a great time with my new friends on FOX8 News. They actually interviewed me!

Well, as you can see by this picture I wasn't very talkative. But that's my friend Tania helping tell FOX8 viewers about me. They asked about why I love helping people and what my typical day is like. My handler Melanie was with me too.

To watch the video head to <https://bit.ly/3hOuMuk>



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[www.facebook.com/SummitCountyProsecutorAveryII](http://www.facebook.com/SummitCountyProsecutorAveryII)



On Friday September 24, 2021, the Ambassadors for Equity and Social Justice gladly invite you to join us in celebrating **National Heritage Day**.

Heritage Day celebrates South Africa's roots, and rich, vibrant, and diverse cultures. South Africa is called the "Rainbow Nation" due to its color and diversity, and therefore Heritage Day exists. Its goal is to nurture and embrace South African culture for what it truly is, accepting all races and genders.



The day is usually celebrated with a cookout known as a **braai**. We suggest that you celebrate with a feast of your own or just take the time to read more about National Heritage Day or learn about other cultures. We, the Ambassadors for equity and Social Justice, embrace diverse cultures and reaching out in acceptance of everyone regardless of race, creed or color.



## NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

September is National Preparedness Month. This year's theme is "Prepare to Protect".

- **MAKE A PLAN** —Talk with your friends and family about how you will communicate before, during, and after a disaster.
- **BUILD A KIT** —Gather supplies to last for several days.
- **PREPARE FOR DISASTERS** — Know the risk of disasters in your area and check your insurance coverage.
- **TEACH ABOUT PREPAREDNESS** —Talk to your kids about preparing for emergencies and what to do in case you are separated.

For more information on preparing for any disaster visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)



**Help Us Go Green!**

Contact Melanie Hart at [hart@prosecutor.summitoh.net](mailto:hart@prosecutor.summitoh.net) to receive this newsletter by e-mail



# TOP COP

# DETECTIVE STACY CLARK

## NOMINATED BY ASST. PROS. ARIANA ZIMCOSKY

As mentioned earlier, September is Senior Safety Awareness month. I want to thank someone who watches out for seniors year-round.

I am nominating Summit County Sheriff's Office Detective Stacy Clark for her work with Adult Protective Services. Adult Protective Services helps protect seniors from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office recently had a case where a woman who was previously convicted of theft from the elderly was at it again. This woman became involved with an elderly gentleman and started taking him to the bank everyday to have him withdraw funds.

We filed an emergency protection order to freeze his accounts. While we were waiting for the order, Det. Clark went to all the local bank branches to inform them of



what was going on and ask them to note the account. Det. Clark put in countless hours to make sure this man was protected and didn't lose his life savings. She also worked with another Summit County Sheriff's Detective to get a search warrant. Deputies found the woman to be in possession of \$24,000 in cash.

Det. Clark's testimony at a hearing was critical to ensuring there was a restraining order filed against this woman. Det. Clark's efforts, as well as Adult Protective Services and the Sheriff's Office, helped put an end to this woman's criminal activity.

If you would know a senior who might need assistance or you think they are being abused or neglected, call Summit County Adult Protective Services at 330.643.7217.

**Great job and congratulations Det. Clark!**

## AVOIDING SCAMS

Recently, scammers have claimed to be agents with the U.S. Marshal's Service. The more seniors and their families know, the better prepared they are to not become a victim.

- Be aware of scams targeting the elderly. A common one is the "Grandparent Scam". This is when a person receives a call from someone claiming to be their grandchild. The caller says they're in trouble – either they were arrested or in a car crash – and need cash quick. They will usually ask to have the money sent by purchasing gift cards. The caller also asks to not tell "mom and dad".

- Another common scam is the IRS Scam. In this scam, a caller claims the person owes taxes and will be arrested if they don't pay immediately. Again, the caller will ask to make the payment by purchasing gift cards. The IRS never calls to demand an immediate payment.



- Never send money or give out personal information such as credit card numbers, bank account numbers, dates of birth, or Social Security numbers to unfamiliar companies or unknown persons.

- Many scams involve victims purchasing iTunes Apple gift cards. Utilities and companies will not accept payment with iTunes Apple gift cards. If someone calls demanding the purchase of iTunes Apple gift cards to pay a bill, it is a scam.

- Check out unfamiliar companies with your local consumer protection agency, Better Business Bureau, the National Fraud Information Center, or other watchdog groups.

The more you know the better you can protect yourself.

# WORDS OF WISDOM

## ASST. PROSECUTOR TIM WALSH

This space of our monthly criminal newsletter is typically set aside for our "Why I'm A Prosecutor" interview where our assistant prosecutors have the chance to tell their own story and why being a prosecutor is so important to them.



This is a little different as Assistant Prosecutor Tim Walsh is retiring. Tim has worked in the Prosecutor's Office since 1984—most recently in our civil division. Tim discusses his nearly 40 years on the job.

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

The best part of being a prosecutor is basically you're given a goal but you're not told how to get there. Prosecutors are given a lot of independence and as long as you're following the rules you can be very successful. I tell people that no matter what you do, good people are needed everywhere. It might not be the most glamorous, and glamor or not, I am going to make it better.

### • WHY DID YOU BECOME A PROSECUTOR?

I became a prosecutor because there is pretty much a law for just about everything. I knew I would be able to find something which I enjoyed doing. I was a business major and figured that would be a good way to start. My father was also an attorney.

### • LOOKING BACK ON YOUR CAREER, WHAT ARE YOU PROUD OF THE MOST?

When I began my career with the Prosecutor's Office, I first started in our Child Support Enforcement Agency. Back then it was called the Bureau of Support. I eventually became the supervising attorney and helped create and design state law to comply with federal regulations and statutes.

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



# CITIZENS ACADEMY

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office Citizens Academy is back!



If you've ever wanted to learn more about the criminal justice system, sign up for our citizens academy. Applications are being accepted through September 30th.

The Academy begins October 6 and runs weekly from 6p-8p through zoom. Topics include: Police Shootings and Body Cams, Sex Crimes, Human Trafficking, Gun Violence, Ethical Decisions and many more! The link for the application is <https://prosecutor.summitoh.net/pages/Citizens-Academy.html>

**PROSECUTOR  
SHERRI BEVAN  
WALSH  
PRESENTS  
2021 CITIZENS  
ACADEMY**

"Criminal justice touches our lives in ways that most people might not think about."  
- SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

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**TOGETHER WE THRIVE**

Learn how we balance the scales of justice. Be a part of the Citizens Academy! Remote classes will begin October 6, 2021 and cover:

- Gun Violence**
- Police Shootings & Body Cams**
- Child Support**
- Sex Crimes**
- Human Trafficking**
- Grand Jury**
- Domestic Violence**
- Ethical Decisions**

**For more information on how to be part of this free program, contact:**

**Tania Nemer**  
Community Outreach Prosecutor  
[tnemer@prosecutor.summitoh.net](mailto:tnemer@prosecutor.summitoh.net)  
330.643.7751

**Go to [prosecutor.summitoh.net](https://prosecutor.summitoh.net) to register  
Registration ends September 30, 2021**

Office of Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh

53 University Avenue

Akron, Ohio 44308

330-643-2800

# **Sherri Bevan Walsh**

**Summit County Prosecuting Attorney**

**53 University Avenue, 6th Floor**

**Akron, OH 44308**

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