



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

## A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH STAYING AWAY FROM SCAMS!

Throughout my more than 20 years as Summit County Prosecutor I am always amazed at the tenacity of scammers trying to get our personal information and money.

Scammers are persistent in developing ways to catch us off-guard and prey on our emotions. I talk about it often during our safety speeches to the community and I've mentioned it here in our monthly newsletter.

This time of year can be especially difficult for many of us. The COVID-19 pandemic put a pause on many family gatherings. We have seen loved ones significantly impacted over the past 18 months. The holidays are supposed to be a joyous time. However, the emotions associated with the holidays can leave us vulnerable to people who want to take advantage of us.

Thieves thrive this time of year. My office is seeing an increase in reports of scam calls, emails, and letters. That is why I speak often of the latest scams and how to avoid them. The more you know, the better prepared you are to protect yourself and your family.

**PROTECT  
YOURSELF  
FROM SCAMS**

I have seen an increase in a number of different scams. One of the new ways thieves are targeting their victims is by "spoofing" numbers of either law enforcement or a trusted business. "Spoofing" is when scammers "steal" a phone number of someone you know or a local government agency you trust to get you to answer.

We received word that a local couple got a call they thought was from their local police department, and were told they owed nearly \$2,000 and a warrant was out for their arrest. Needless to say, the couple was quite upset. The number which came through on their caller ID was, in fact, the number for their local police department. Thankfully they did not fall for the scam.

The other scam making the rounds again is the one where you are contacted by a bank to say you are the sole beneficiary of a long-lost relative who recently passed away. The letter says there is a bank account with \$47.5 million dollars! Wouldn't that be great to get. Well, it's a scam. Do not contact the person who sent the letter.

Because of the pandemic, many of us are purchasing items online and having them delivered to avoid going to the store. Scammers are even claiming to be Amazon workers calling to alert you of a fraud on your account. But it's all fake.

The phony caller claims to be from Amazon's fraud department and says multiple suspicious charges have been made to your account. They ask for access to your computer or phone to "fix" the issue and provide a refund. But they give too much of a refund and ask you to return the difference. Other Amazon scam calls ask you to buy gift cards and provide the numbers to "return the refund". Again—this is fake! You can never pay a bill or provide a refund with a gift card.

If you do not recognize a phone number calling you, don't answer it. If you do, do not provide personal information.

And please remember to stay safe and have a happy holiday!

*Sherri B. Walsh*



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# IN THE COMMUNITY

## SAFETY KIDS CALENDAR

Since being elected Prosecutor more than 20 years ago, Prosecutor Walsh has made it her mission to keep the community safe.

As part of that mission, Prosecutor Walsh has sponsored the annual Safety Kids Calendar contest. Each year, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students in Summit County design, draw, and color posters relating to our 12 Rules of Safety. They are:

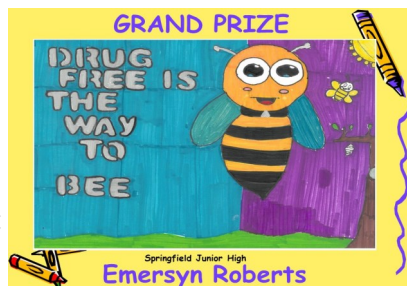
- Don't Give in to Peer Pressure
- Don't Do Drugs
- Don't Use Alcohol
- Never Play With Guns
- Don't Vape or Smoke
- Safeguard Your Personal Information Online
- Don't Talk With or Go With Anyone You Don't Know
- Say NO to Unwanted Touch
- Never Tell Anyone You Are Home Alone
- Say NO to Gangs
- Stop Bullies in Their Tracks!
- Violence at Home is Never OK!



The Prosecutor's Office received around 1,100 posters from students at 13 different schools.

This year's Grand Prize winner is Emersyn Roberts for her poster telling kids that **DRUG FREE IS THE WAY TO BEE!** Congratulations Emersyn!

Emersyn, along with the 12 other first place winners, get their posters placed on billboards throughout Summit County each month during 2022.



Thanks to all who submitted—great job!

## CRIME & PUNISHMENT

### GUILTY VERDICTS October 2021

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

**Ben Carro**

**Devorah Pasternak**

**Zachary Neumann**



## TOUGH PROSECUTIONS

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

**Stanley Ford, 62**

- Aggravated Murder
- **LIFE IN PRISON**

**Gerry Simmons, 40**

- Rape
- **20 YEARS IN PRISON**



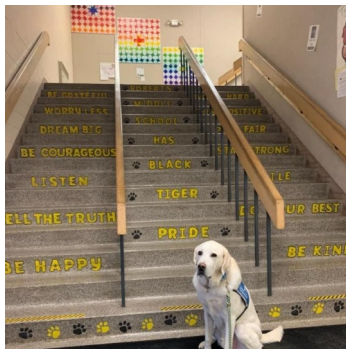


# AVERY'S CORNER

# AMBASSADORS' CORNER

The weather is getting chilly but I love this time of year. I get to see some of my favorite hoomans!

I went back to school! That's me at Roberts Middle School. The school has this wonderful staircase with some inspiring words. I had to take a picture in front of it!



I met so many nice big and small hoomans there. They showed me around the school and let me visit some classrooms. Thanks for having me at the school!

Thank you to the Twinsburg Fire Department for inviting me to the annual open house.

I got to meet so many new friends—and they even let me dress like a firefighter!



There were so many fun things to do. But they didn't have a dalmatian. I was hoping to meet a new furry friend. Maybe next time!

I can't forget about my visit to the very nice hoomans at the Barberton Kiwanis.



It was so nice and quiet that I decided to rest and lie down as my hooman Melanie told them all about me.

I really like visiting new places—especially if there is a spot for me to lie down!

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As we approach Christmas and we think about the birth of Jesus, have you ever thought about the similarities of the social climate of the times then and now? The Ambassadors of Equity and Social Justice invite you to read "The Tale of Jesus' Birth," and how it provides a look at the social climate of the times:



It's a cold Mediterranean night nearly 2,000 years ago. Joseph and a pregnant Mary are trudging through rough terrain on donkey and foot, making the 100-mile trip from Nazareth to Joseph's hometown, Bethlehem.

It was for tax reasons that Mary and Joseph headed to Bethlehem, according to the story of Jesus' birth in the Gospel of Luke. Mary and Joseph, scholars say, lived in an oppressive society.

They were heavily taxed by local and faraway rulers who, some scholars believe, demanded as much as 50-to-60 percent of what the common people grew and owned. Unlike the American system, which uses taxes to help the less fortunate, Mary and Joseph's taxes were used to boost the wealth of rulers.

The fight over taxes and how much each individual pays has been a battle for thousands of years.

We invite you to download the link from Religion News Service, to finish reading about the similarities of the social climate of the times then vs now.

<https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1994-12-24-me-12520-story.html>



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

## DETENTION OFFICER ANTONIO HAMMONS

### NOMINATED BY ASST. PROSECUTOR MAUREEN WALSH

To Protect And Serve. Law enforcement through Summit County work hard every day to make our community a safer place to live.

However, many times, people who are in custody accused of a crime also need protection. Detention Officers are the unsung heroes in our Juvenile Detention Center. That is why I nominate Detention Officer Antonio Hammons as this month's TOP COP.

The Summit County Juvenile Detention Facility consists of seven main housing units plus two annex units, making the total capacity for 100 juveniles. The Detention Facility staff is responsible for providing a safe and secure environment for juveniles, staff, and other persons while also assisting with the security of the facility.

Those under 18 are held in the Detention Center for a variety of reasons. Some face severe charges including acts of violence toward others.



*Turning lives around one child at a time*

The Court Staff and members of the Judicial System strive to keep all youth safe. Detention Officer Hammons was a witness in a case which came before the Court.

I had the opportunity to view video of Officer Hammons' conduct while at the Detention Center. I saw him protect a juvenile who was being attacked. Officer Hammons laid on top of the youth to shield him from harm. He took the blows, so the youth did not have to. His actions went above and beyond his job description. What I witnessed was heroic. Although he would not think that he was a hero. I would beg to differ.

Thank you for your outstanding work!

## Great job and congratulations Detention Officer Hammons!

## ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS

This time of year can be especially dangerous for people who have specific conditions such as Alzheimer's, dementia, and Autism, which may lead them to wander away from home.



November is national Alzheimer's Disease Month. Over five million Americans suffer from Alzheimer's Disease and ranks as the sixth leading cause of death in the U.S.

It's also a good time to remind you about our Take Me Home program.

Take Me Home is a secure database, accessible only by law enforcement, which is used to help reconnect caregivers with children and adults who have a difficult time communicating and may wander from home.

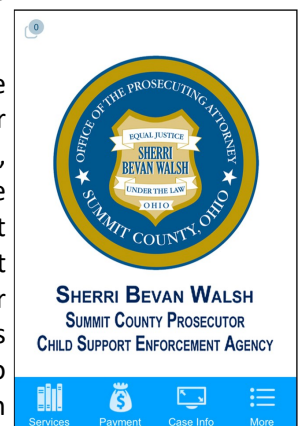
For more information, contact Leslie at [knoblauch@prosecutor.summitoh.net](mailto:knoblauch@prosecutor.summitoh.net), or 330-643-2800.

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

In her four years at the Summit County Prosecutor's Office Child Support Enforcement Agency, Carrie Schrader has become an integral part of the Establishment Team.

The families Carrie serves have greatly benefited from her professionalism, kindness, empathy, and expertise. Carrie serves as the first point of contact for newly created cases. In recent months, Carrie has proved her immeasurable value as she has effectively balanced working two full caseloads due to a vacancy on the team.

According to our CSEA management staff, Carrie's work is stellar and her attitude is contagious. Thank you Carrie, you are truly an asset to the Child Support Enforcement Agency.



Services Payment Case Info More

# WHY I'M A PROSECUTOR

## ASST. PROSECUTOR MARVIN EVANS

Each month one of our Assistant Prosecutors discuss why being a prosecutor is so important to them. "Why I'm A Prosecutor" gives them a chance to tell their own story.

Assistant Prosecutor Marvin Evans, who works in our Civil Division, provides insight into why being a prosecutor is so important to him.



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

The best part of being a prosecutor is the variety of the job. We do so many different things in the civil division. I'm always having to learn new things. You really have to be a jack of all trades in this position. We're always addressing things we've never addressed before.

### • WHY DID YOU BECOME A PROSECUTOR?

I didn't set out to work as a prosecutor, I kind of somewhat stumbled into it. I worked in accounting and finance for about 17 years before coming to the Prosecutor's Office. In 2002 I was looking for a job and a friend suggested I apply for a job in the tax division at the Summit County Prosecutor's Office. I figured I'd work in the office for a few years—and that was nearly 20 years ago and I'm still here! I didn't grow up wanting to be an attorney. While working for a big company I wanted to get a graduate degree in something. Frankly, in finance and accounting, a law degree is quite helpful.

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

The most difficult part of being a prosecutor is associated with the best thing, because it can be challenging to constantly have to learn new things. Sometimes the research can be daunting, especially some of the more unusual questions we get. We always have to follow the law. We do our best to work with our clients but sometimes it can be frustrating when the law won't allow someone to do something positive in their community.

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

## HOLIDAY SHOPPING SAFETY

As the holidays approach, many of you are heading to the stores to get loved ones that perfect gift—and perfect bargain! Before you head out, remember these important tips so a criminal doesn't target you.

- Try to shop during daylight hours. If you must shop at night, take a friend or family member.
- If possible, do not carry a purse or wallet. If you do carry a wallet or purse, be extra careful. They are the prime targets of criminals in crowded shopping areas.
- Stay alert to your surroundings.

- Keep a record of all of your credit card numbers in a safe place at home in case you lose your credit card.
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.



Follow these simple tips to keep you and your family safe when hitting the stores during the holiday season.

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