



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH

ST. PATRICK'S DAY—ARRIVE ALIVE

Spring is here! With warmer weather, it's a time for many to gather and celebrate.

That includes heading to parties and bars for St. Patrick's Day. The holiday provides an opportunity to celebrate the Irish heritage, and partake in everything green! Included in that celebration might be a green colored adult beverage.

I hope you went out and had a good time. I think we all need some joy and fun now. Just don't rely on the luck of the Irish to get you home safely. A fun night out should not end in tragedy. That is why I brought back my Arrive Alive program for the St. Patrick's Day holiday.

For the past four years, Arrive Alive has helped Summit County residents get home safely. The program offers free or reduced rides home for people who should not get behind the wheel because they've had an alcoholic beverage.



With the assistance of co-sponsor Summit County Sheriff Kandy Fatheree, Summit County residents had a ride home—and it didn't cost you a dime!

375 Summit County residents downloaded the LYFT app and entered the promo code **SUMMITGREEN22**. The code gave them a 20-dollar credit for a free or reduced fare ride home.

Throughout my career as Summit County Prosecutor, I have fought for tougher penalties for drunk and impaired drivers. I have also been a voice for victims and sponsor many programs to help prevent crime.

Did you know about 400 people die each year on Ohio's roads because of a drunk driver. According to the Ohio State Highway Patrol, in 2021 in Summit County, 42 people died in crashes, with more than half because of a drunk or impaired driver. Drunk driving or driving while impaired impacts everyone, even if you're not the one who gets behind the wheel.

Remember to celebrate and enjoy the holidays responsibly and have a sober, designated



SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

Present

ARRIVE ALIVE

Celebrate the holidays responsibly!
Have a designated sober driver or use Arrive Alive.



SUMMIT COUNTY SHERIFF
KANDY FATHEREE

A FREE Ride Home in Summit County



From 6 am Thursday
Mar. 17
to 6am Saturday
Mar. 19

Use  for a FREE ride home in Summit County (up to \$20)
Use Code **SUMMITGREEN22** For St. Patrick's Day
(Limit 400 one-time use codes)

The life you save may be your own!

For more information contact:
Tania Nemer, Community Outreach Prosecutor
tnemer@prosecutor.summitoh.net or 330.643.7751

driver the next time you go out and drink alcohol.

Ask yourself this question. Is it worth the risk to get behind the wheel? Would you rather sit handcuffed in the back of a police cruiser and taken to jail, or get a free cab ride home? The decision is yours. The life you save might just be your own.

As always, be safe.

Sherry B. Walsh



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START BY BELIEVING

Every day, the Summit County Prosecutor's Office works hard to fight for the rights of victims. This includes informing the community of the best ways to respond to victims of crime, especially survivors of sexual assault.

In just a few weeks, you will hear radio ads and see billboards and bus ads throughout Summit County asking "when someone tells you they were sexually assaulted, what will your reaction be?" The goal is to bring awareness to survivors of sexual assault, and to encourage our community to Start By Believing.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. In 2019, Prosecutor Walsh launched Start By Believing in Summit County to end the cycle of silence and change the way our community responds to sexual assault. We have found that just by saying "I believe you", "I'm sorry", and "What can I do to support you" go a long way in helping survivors feel empowered to report what happened. By reporting what happened, we can hold offenders accountable.

Every 68 seconds, someone is sexually assaulted in the United States, but only 17-percent of sexual assaults are reported to police. We want to change that. Start By Believing is the first step.

Don't mistake the Start By Believing program as a desire just to believe everything someone says and put innocent people in jail. Local law enforcement will still begin each case with an open mind and conduct a complete investigation. They will follow the evidence wherever it takes them. That's why the word "START" is there. Start By Believing simply shows survivors and the accused that they will benefit from a thorough, evidence-based investigation.

The first Wednesday of April is Start By Believing day. It is followed by National Crime Victims' Rights Week, which is April 11th through April 15th, and sponsored by the Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime.

Many sexual assault survivors will first confide in a friend or family member. By being there and offering to help, and avoiding "why" questions, survivors can feel supported and potentially able to speak with investigators about what happened. **So what will your reaction be?**

WHEN SOMEONE TELLS YOU THEY WERE SEXUALLY ASSAULTED

What will your reaction be?

Start by Believing



RAPE CRISIS CENTER HOTLINE:
(330) 434 - 7273



PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH
CO.SUMMITOH.NET/PROSECUTOR

IN THE COMMUNITY

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office was back out in the community in February, spreading the mission of safety and how to avoid becoming a victim of crime.

Community Outreach Prosecutor Tania Nemer was joined by Assistant Prosecutor Heaven DiMartino and our facility dog Avery at the latest meeting of the Green chapter of the AARP.



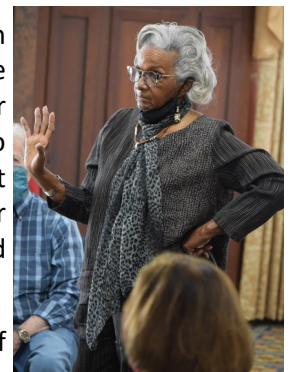
Tania discussed the latest scams and ways to minimize a person's chances of becoming a crime victim. Tips included not answering calls from unknown numbers as well as answering your door without opening it when someone unexpected knocks.



Tania Nemer, Melanie Hart, and Avery spent time with retirees from the University of Akron, providing safety tips to the group.

Tania spoke about increasing one's awareness when walking around or shopping and what to do to protect yourself from distraction crimes. That's when a stranger comes up to you and asks you a question to "distract" you while their partner steals your wallet.

Distraction crimes also occur when a person comes to your home pretending to be a water or sewer employee and requests access to your basement. As you escort them to your basement their partner enters your home and steals your personal items.



Do not let anyone in your home if you are not expecting them.



AVERY'S CORNER

EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE

I'm excited that warmer weather is on its way—but I do love jumping around in the snow. I know some of my hooman friends aren't fans.

That's why I love going to Starbucks with them! They always want hot drinks when it's cold outside. I don't really care since I get the same thing—a puppaccino!!!



I got to spend time with some of my favorite hoomans and met some new friends too!

That's me with my friends Mickey and Kayla. They both work at the Prosecutor's Office with me.



They talked at the University of Akron about a very important program we support. It's called "Start By Believing". The program teaches hoomans how to best support their friends and family if someone comes to them and says they're a survivor of a sexual assault. I do the same thing!

Hey—check me out!! How cute is that picture?!?!?!?! I got (and gave) lots of kisses during Valentine's Day!

That's me right after I went to my groomer Kelsey at Pet Supplies Plus. Kelsey is wonderful and takes such good care of me.



And did you know Pet Supplies Plus provides my food and grooming at no cost?

Pet Supplies Plus has been a wonderful supporter since I came to the Prosecutor's Office in 2013.

Follow Avery II on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/

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



The Summit County Prosecutor's Office Ambassadors of Social Justice is a group of men and women of all different races, beliefs and opinions. Everyone in the group wants the best for our community and wants to see positive change in the world we live in. The month of March is National Women's History Month. The Ambassadors thought it was very important to find out the purpose of this national month and why it's celebrated.

Why Do We Celebrate Women's History Month?

Women's History Month is a month dedicated to reflect on the often-overlooked contributions of women in United States history.



From Susan B. Anthony to Sojourner Truth to Rosa Parks, the timeline of women's milestones stretches back to the founding of the United States.

This year's theme is so fitting as it's "Women Providing Healing, Promoting Hope" This theme is both a tribute to the ceaseless work of caregivers and the frontline workers during this ongoing pandemic. The theme is also a recognition of the thousands of ways that women of all cultures have provided both healing and hope throughout history.

Understanding the true history of our country will help us to comprehend the need for full equality under the law for all our people. This goal can be achieved by ratifying the 28th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which states that "Equality of Rights under the Law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

However, the 28th Amendment is in limbo. First passed by Congress in 1972, it needed three-fourths of the states to approve. That happened in 2020, when Virginia became the 28th state to ratify. But that was nearly 40 years after a Congressional deadline for ratification. The future will most likely be decided in the courts.



Help Us Go Green!

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



TOP COP

DETECTIVE THOMAS ABER

NOMINATED BY ASST. PROS. ANGELA WALLS ALEXANDER

Domestic violence cases can be some of the most difficult cases our office encounters. From the bruising and scars to the emotional toll left behind, families can be impacted far beyond a single incident. That is why it is so important to have responding officers clearly show and state the evidence gathered to a jury.

That is why I am nominating Akron Police Detective Thomas Aber as this month's TOP COP.

Det. Aber's diligent work helped us secure a conviction against Marcellars Miller.

Miller faced a number of charges after shooting into a vehicle carrying his sister and her friend. The friend was seriously injured after being shot in the back.

In this case, Det. Aber went above and beyond. His persistence in getting fellow officers to arrive for court early was vital.



Det. Aber also spent most of the weekend prior to trial working with prosecutors to iron out details of the case and prepare for his testimony. His testimony was excellent.

At the scene, Det. Aber made sure to get the victim's statements on his body worn camera, which was a crucial part of the trial. It enabled jurors to see and hear what both young victims said shortly after being shot. In domestic

violence cases involving family members it is very difficult for them to testify. The use of his body worn camera allowed the jury to see and hear everything they told officers.

Congratulations Det. Aber— great job!

THANK YOU BECKY!!

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office would like to give a huge thank you to now retired Child Support Enforcement Agency employee Rebecca Stock.

Becky retired at the end of February as the agency's fiscal administrator. She worked for Summit County for over three decades!

During her career, Becky served in many capacities as clerical staff, supervisor, and the last decade as a manager over personnel and CSEA's fiscal team. The majority of Becky's time was dedicated to working with CSEA's AFSCME 3885 Bargaining Unit to resolve issues and assist in negotiating contracts and memorandums of understanding.

Becky will be greatly missed at CSEA, but we respect her decision to spend time being a new grandma to her granddaughter Rory!



CONSUMER PROTECTION

Each year, the first week of March is dedicated as National Consumer Protection Week. The week focuses on ways to help people understand their consumer rights and make well-informed decisions about money.

Even though it's just one week, you should spend time to focus on protecting your money and identity throughout the year. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought a series of new scams to our area.

NATIONAL CONSUMER PROTECTION WEEK

In recent editions of this newsletter, we've showcased COVID-19 vaccine scams, scams offering fake cures for the coronavirus, and scams targeting people purchasing items online.

Remember to never give out personal information including your bank account number or social security number.

WHY I'M A PROSECUTOR

TRISTAN SERRI

"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.

Tristan Serri who's an assistant prosecutor in our Criminal Division, talks about 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 being able to help people. In this line of work we deal with individuals who are sometimes at their worst. We have the ability and the opportunity to help ease their pain, help them

recover and just be there for them at a time when they might feel there is no one else they can turn to.

• WHY DID YOU BECOME A PROSECUTOR?

I became a prosecutor to give back to the community. I grew up in Akron and have been an Akron resident for most of my life and thought that becoming a prosecutor in Summit County was a way of giving back. I've received so much from the city of Akron and Summit County and after a short stint in the private sector, I just felt this was the best way to use my abilities to give back to the community.

I did not always want to be an attorney. I started out focusing on the medical field but quickly determined being in that field was not for me. I made a change and haven't looked back.

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

The most difficult part of being a prosecutor is also dealing with people at their worst. The toll it takes cannot be overlooked. However, I try to look at the silver lining and our ability to help them.

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

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

National Women's History Month in March annually encourages us to honor the women who came before us and fought for equality among all races and genders.

Following years of Presidents issuing proclamations declaring the second week of March as National Women's History Week, Congress in 1987 passed a law designating March as "Women's History Month".

While America is full of influential women today, hundreds of women came before to pave the way. Women's History Month serves as a way to not only remember them but keep carrying their torch onward.



The Summit County Prosecutor's Office salutes women trailblazers, past, present, and future!

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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