



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH

SENIOR PROTECTION UNIT

We all do our best to try and protect the ones we love. However, no matter how hard you try, those closest to us can become victims. That is why my office spends so much time in the community offering safety information, especially to our most vulnerable citizens. Since taking office in 2001, I have sponsored or hosted close to hundreds of senior safety speeches and events.

Now I'm taking that mission one step further. I have established a new Senior Protection Unit geared toward protecting and fighting for the rights of seniors.

The new "Senior Protection Unit" was established to combat abuse against adults aged 60 and older.

According to the National Council on Aging, approximately one in ten people aged 60 or older has experienced some sort of elder abuse. Elder abuse includes the following:

- **Physical abuse** means inflicting physical pain or injury upon an older adult.
- **Sexual abuse** means touching, fondling, intercourse, or any other sexual activity with an older adult, when the older adult is unable to

understand, unwilling to consent, threatened, or physically forced.

- **Emotional abuse** means verbal assaults, threats of abuse, harassment, or intimidation.

- **Confinement** means restraining or isolating an older adult, other than for medical reasons.

- **Passive neglect** is a caregiver's failure to provide an older adult with life's necessities, including, but not limited to, food, clothing, shelter, or medical care.

- **Willful deprivation** means denying an older adult medication, medical care, shelter, food, a therapeutic device, or other physical assistance, and exposing that person to the risk of physical, mental, or emotional harm—except when the older, competent adult has expressed a desire to go without such care.

- **Financial exploitation** means the misuse or withholding of an older adult's resources by another.

Seniors are also the targets of scams, like the Grandparents Scam, the IRS Scam, and the Jury Duty Scam.

The Senior Protection Unit will have an assistant Summit County prosecutor dedicated to work with Summit County Adult Protective Services to review and prosecute criminal and civil cases involving abuse of seniors.

The Senior Protection Unit will also collaborate with local leaders and organizations to provide safety information, trainings, and self-defense classes for the community.



May is also designated as "Older Americans" month. Older adults play vital, positive roles in our communities – as family members, friends, mentors, volunteers, civic leaders, members of the workforce, and more. Just as every person is unique, so too is how they age and how they choose to do it – and there is no "right" way.

My hope is this new unit will keep seniors and their loved ones safe and send the message that anyone who targets our most vulnerable will be held accountable.

Sherri B. Walsh



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SCAMS TARGETING THE ELDERLY

CRIME & PUNISHMENT

As mentioned on page 1, May is “Older Americans” month. Our elderly neighbors continue to be targets of people who want to scam them out of money. Here are some recent scams reported so you can protect yourself.

Akron Police say scammers used a company name to scare and defraud victims. They’re calling saying they’re from “Litigation Services Group” and there is an outstanding debt from an old collection bill. The conversation continues with the threat that if you do not pay the bill, plus attorney fees and Bail Bondsman fees, a court order will be filed and you will have a felony arrest warrant issued. The caller demands thousands of dollars to make things right.



We also learned a 77-year-old Northeast Ohio woman told police she had called a phone number from an email she had received and spoke with someone claiming to be with Amazon’s fraud department. She said the man told her she was being scammed by Russian hackers and told her to purchase gift cards to safeguard her information.

She subsequently bought \$1,000 worth of gift cards from Target and provided the redemption codes to the unknown man.

Another Northeast Ohio woman reported she received a call from someone claiming to be a First Energy employee.

The unknown man told her she hadn’t paid her energy bill for several months. He said someone was headed out to the home to shut off her services until the \$396 debt was paid.

The woman was unable to confirm prior payments had been automatically withdrawn from her bank account. She created a Zelle account using her bank debit card and transferred the funds. The following day the woman contacted First Energy, which, unfortunately, alerted the resident to the fact she had been scammed.

It turned out her paid bills were up to date. The bank card was cancelled.

Remember, any request to pay a bill with a gift card is a scam! Also, independently verify any request for payment.

TOUGH PROSECUTIONS

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

Jordan Dehaven, 38

- Murder
- LIFE IN PRISON

Bryan Esters, 35

- Murder
- LIFE IN PRISON

Jason Shockley, 32

- Murder
- LIFE IN PRISON

Joseph Pinckney, 34

- Murder
- LIFE IN PRISON

Osiris Khalfani, 21

- Murder
- LIFE IN PRISON



GUILTY VERDICTS

April 2022

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

Rimma Avanesyan

Matt Kuhn
Kevin Mayer

Jon Baumoe

Jamila Mitchell

Ben Carro

Greg Peacock

Michelle Cordova

Charles Roman

Elliot Kolkovich

GREAT JOB PROSECUTORS!



AVERY'S CORNER

EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE

I love it when I can meet new friends and celebrate their accomplishments.

I got to meet James. James is part of a special program run by Akron Municipal Court Judge Ron Cable.

James was the first graduate of Judge Cable's "Connect Program".



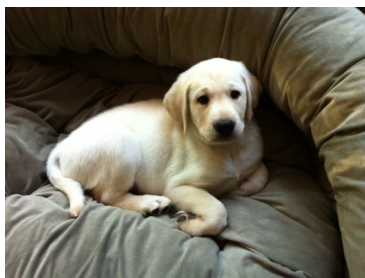
"Connect" is a court-sponsored program to help developmentally disabled individuals in the criminal justice system.

In order to graduate, participants need to stay out of trouble, attend hearings and meetings, and follow a treatment plan put together by the court.

James did a great job and I am so proud of him!

My puppy raisers were looking through old pictures of me and found this!!

That's me as a baby! My puppy raiser Sallie took the picture.



They took such good care of me and helped me become the dog I am today.

Sallie still sends me birthday cards and presents on my birthday!

Since first being recognized in 1949, every May has been designated as Mental Health Awareness Month. This national month of awareness and action is intended as a time for intentional focus on the very real issue of mental health struggles.

The stigma of mental health issues has been slowly decreasing thanks to the determination and bravery of many who have used their voice and platforms to spread and share that mental health is just as real, and just as important, as our physical health. Still, though, there is much more work to be done.



We all can be part of this important work and cultural shift, and we can begin by asking ourselves one simple question: How can I be a mental health advocate? One way is to consider your story and how mental health has impacted your life. Did you or a loved one struggle with depression or other issues? If so, can you share your story? Talking about your own journey and experiences can be empowering for both you and others who are suffering. Your story could become an inspiring source to someone. It can also show others that harmful stereotypes are not true and only further the pain and struggle. When we bravely speak up we encourage and advocate for others to speak up, seek help, and find the healing and wholeness everyone needs and deserves.

There are even opportunities to learn and grow in mental health awareness and advocacy right here in Summit County. Among them, the City of Stow has begun offering a free training program for suicide prevention by the QPR Institute. (QPR stands for: Question, Persuade, Refer.) Similar to CPR and First Aid training, this skilled based training teaches how to effectively respond when someone is in distress, carefully and compassionately ask if they are thinking about suicide, and then how to successfully persuade them to stay alive all while making a quality referral for help.

We all know the effects the pandemic has had. The past two years have only exasperated the mental health crisis we find ourselves within, which is why all of us, now more than ever, need to acknowledge this crisis and ask ourselves how we can help.

Summer Safety with your pet

Protect your pets from heat stroke

Heat stroke occurs when the body cannot maintain its temperature in a safe range!

Heat stroke in dogs can occur in situations such as:

- Being left inside a parked car
- Strenuous exercise in hot weather
- Being muzzled while under a hair dryer
- Being housed on concrete or asphalt
- Being housed without shade or water in hot weather

Normal body temperature of a dog is within 100° to 102.5°F	Moderate heat stroke: body temperature from 104° to 106°F	Severe heat stroke: body temperature over 106°F	A dog can suffer brain damage at 107° and die at 120°
	Animal recovery can occur if body temperature can be lowered		Immediate veterinary care is needed, can be fatal

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Help Us Go Green!

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



TOP COP

AKRON POLICE DET. PATRICK MAZZEI

NOMINATED BY ASST. PROS. JOE MCALEESE

The Summit County Prosecutor’s Office works closely with local law enforcement to ensure justice is served for the victims and for the community.

I nominate Akron Police Detective Patrick Mazzei as this month’s TOP COP. Det. Mazzei was the lead officer in a recent case where jurors found the defendant guilty of felonious assault. Det. Mazzei’s efforts were key in securing a conviction.



Det. Mazzei acted quickly in order to ensure the information obtained from witnesses and the parties was fresh and did outstanding work when interviewing the defendant.

Because of his efforts in following the evidence and remaining detailed in his interviews, we were able to prove the case.

Greenstreet is scheduled to be sentenced June 7th.

Jurors convicted Garrett Greenstreet of stabbing his roommate several times following an argument.

Detective Mazzei took on the investigation with an open mind, and was unbiased in his investigation of the case, even when information was presented to police in a potentially confusing manner.

Congratulations Det. Mazzei.
Great Job!

SKIN CANCER AWARENESS

The weather is getting warmer. That means more time outdoors! But before you head outside, we want to make sure you are safe.

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!

MEMORIAL DAY HISTORY

Originally called Decoration Day, from the early tradition of decorating graves with flowers, wreaths and flags, Memorial Day is a day for remembrance of those who have died in service to our country.



Memorial Day was first widely observed on May 30, 1868 to commemorate the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers.

During that first national commemoration, Ohio Congressman James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, after which 5,000 participants helped to decorate the graves of the more than 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers who were buried there. In 1873, New York was the first state to designate Memorial Day as a legal holiday.

In 1971, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act and established that Memorial Day was to be commemorated on the last Monday of May

WHY I'M A PROSECUTOR

MARISSA PAPPAS

"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.

Marissa Pappas who's an assistant prosecutor in our Criminal Division, talks about why being a prosecutor is so important to her.



• WHY DID YOU BECOME A PROSECUTOR?

I became a prosecutor because it's important work. When you think about all the different practice areas an attorney can choose to specialize in, criminal law is different, particularly criminal prosecution. It affects people's lives in such a real way. We have one client, the State of Ohio and our community. I'm really proud to have the responsibility of representing our community in the capacity that I do.

I knew I wanted to be an attorney. I have a number of family members who are attorneys but I'm the only one who practices in criminal law.

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

The best part of being a prosecutor, from my unique perspective working in grand jury, is seeing the system work. I get a great deal of satisfaction out of seeing the system work fairly, efficiently, and consistently. I think we do an excellent job here in Summit County.

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

The most difficult part of being a prosecutor is just seeing what people are capable of. A lot of terrible things happen and we have a front row seat for all of it. It can be a little disheartening.

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

FAREWELL & GOOD LUCK!

We want to thank two Prosecutor's Office employees who recently left the office after years of service.

Assistant Prosecutor Colleen Sims and Direct Indictment Investigator Bob Saraceno said goodbye to the office last month.

Colleen worked in our Juvenile, Criminal, and Civil Divisions, serving Summit County for nearly two decades as an Assistant Prosecutor.

Bob was a Direct Indictment Investigator for nearly ten years, coming to the Prosecutor's Office after working with the Summit County Sheriff's Office.

Good luck to both of you!



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