



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH

HOME SAFETY TIPS

Summertime usually means more time spent outside as families take part in fun excursions. People are running around, enjoying the warmer weather and soaking up the extra hours of sunlight.

We have so many things on our minds during all the summer fun. Sometimes that leads to forgetting about staying safe. Criminals are always looking to take advantage of those moments.

According to the Department of Justice, burglaries are highest during the summer time when houses are empty for longer periods of time.

During the summer months, criminals will watch and keep track of which houses are vacant. Follow these simple tips to keep you, your family, and your home safe.

- If you're heading out on vacation, leave a radio on in your home, keep your curtains closed, leave a car in the driveway, and place timing devices on your interior lights so they turn on and off throughout the day.
- Have a trusted neighbor keep an eye on your property, pick up your mail, and report any suspicious activity.

- Keep travel plans and photos off social media networks. I've mentioned it many times before. Posting those vacation pics when away is prime information for a thief.
- Prepare yourself for an emergency even when you're away from home. It's smart to learn CPR and the Heimlich maneuver, also assemble a first aid kit, and keep important phone numbers nearby.
- You might want to think about unplugging your automatic garage door opener to reduce the chance of someone breaking into your house through your garage. We've heard of criminals driving around with garage door openers hoping to find a garage which opens.
- Place a dowel rod or board into the track of sliding doors or windows to prevent them from moving.



Here are some additional simple home safety tips you can use year-round!

- Take time to inspect your home frequently to ensure windows are locked, smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors are properly maintained, and cleaning materials and medicine are stored away.
- When at home, always keep your car locked. Don't forget to remind your children they should never play in or around a car.
- Remind your child to be careful around things which can become hot like stoves and fireplaces, and to never play with matches or lighters.
- Never leave your child alone near a bathtub or pool; even for a few seconds. A drowning can occur in less than an inch of water.

Bedrooms are the most targeted rooms in a house during a robbery. Keep valuables out of sight and away from windows where it's easy to break in and steal items. Create a short list of your valuables or take a photo.

I hope you have a fun, and safe, summer.

Sherri B. Walsh



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IN THE COMMUNITY

CRIME & PUNISHMENT

June was full of events for the Summit County Prosecutor’s Office. Prosecutor Walsh provided safety information for residents at the new Hudson Meadows Retirement Community.

Tips included not leaving your door open or unlocked if you are doing yardwork. Also, be wary of people who come to your home unscheduled. You can answer the door without opening it to prevent someone from pushing the door open and barging into your home.

A wonderful crowd of about 40 people attended. They were very engaged and had some great questions!



Prosecutor Walsh helped people living in Akron’s Ward 2 stay safe during the community’s most recent meeting.

Along with Councilman Phil Lombardo, Prosecutor Walsh spoke with over 50 residents, providing them information on the best ways to avoid becoming a crime victim.

Tips included ways to avoid scams by not answering calls from phone numbers you don’t recognize. One simple tip is to just be more aware of your surroundings.



TOUGH PROSECUTIONS

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

- **Eddie Dukes, 63**
- Rape
- **LIFE IN PRISON**
- **Shawn Allen, 37**
- Murder
- **LIFE IN PRISON**
- **Terrian Wray, 22**
- Murder
- **LIFE IN PRISON**
- **Kelli Ray Clark, 53**
- Voluntary Manslaughter
- **21-26.5 YEARS IN PRISON**
- **Charles Deel, 26**
- Murder
- **LIFE IN PRISON**



GUILTY VERDICTS

June 2022

The Summit County Prosecutor’s Office had a 100% **CONVICTION RATE** at trial for June. Congratulations to the following assistant prosecutors for obtaining convictions at trial.

- Ben Carro**
- Jamila Mitchell**
- Joe Dangelo**
- Brian Stano**
- Matt Kuhn**

GREAT JOB PROSECUTORS!



AVERY'S CORNER

EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE

I had a great time at my good friend Tater Tot's 4th birthday. Tater Tot is a highly trained Border Collie mix who helps at Summit County Juvenile Court. He works with his owner and handler in the Summit County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program.

I got to meet a bunch of new hoomans. They had lots of treats (mostly for the hoomans) and fun things to do.

And I got to take a picture with some of my favorite hoomans—my boss, Prosecutor Walsh, and Judge Linda Teodosio, who oversees Summit County Juvenile Court.

Happy birthday Tater Tot!



I got a chance to hang out with some of my best friends at the recent WAKR Pet Expo at Akron's Hardesty Park.

Pictured with me are Prosecutor's Office Victim Advocate Alyse Ziga, Assistant Prosecutors Emily Hall and Joe McAleese, and my handler Melanie Hart.

I even got to meet some turtles and lizards!

Thanks to everyone who stopped by to say hi.



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As members of the Summit County Prosecutor's Office Ambassadors of Equity and Social Justice, we are many times faced with difficult topics and discussions.

Committee member Hayden Gilbert recently sat down with his good friend N.v.A. (his preferred name)

and discussed N.v.A.'s past as a Neo-Nazi. Here is a portion of their interview—titled "He Would Have Hated Me Back Then".

Hayden—You're such a great friend of mine, but why on earth would a person with former Neo-Nazi views agree to be interviewed by me for an article on white supremacy?

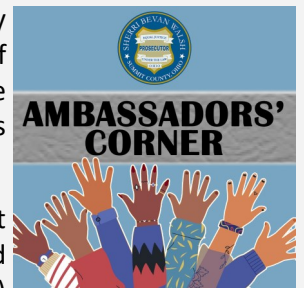
N.v.A.—*You are a good friend, and someone I trust. As I opened up to you about my past, not only did you not immediately cease to be associated with me, which would have been understandable, but you presented me with an opportunity to talk about it here.*

H— What would you like readers to understand about groups and individuals with these beliefs?

N— *Pragmatically speaking there are only two courses of action I know that have any shot at being effective at reaching someone who has fallen into this cycle of belief 1) Shun and ignore them. This has at least some chance of keeping the cancer from metastasizing, and maybe, depending on their personality traits, some self-reflection might give them an opportunity to reconsider their worldview.*

2) Let them get to know you and get to know them. I know this sounds insane and even painful, but I think it has the most efficacy. Some people are just irredeemable, but I think there are more people than we assume that carry the human trait of falling into groupthink until they start to get to know people as individuals. Walls start to come down, hearts start to change and hopefully everyone's life starts to get better.

You can read the entire interview on our website—www.prosecutor.summitoh.net



Help Us Go Green!

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



TOP COP AKRON POLICE DET. BEN SURBLIS

NOMINATED BY ASST. PROSECUTOR JOSEPH DANGELO

Crime scenes can be very chaotic. Evidence needs to be gathered. Victims and witnesses need to be interviewed. And everything needs to be documented.

We need a determined and organized investigator to ensure everything is gathered properly. That's why I nominate Akron Police Detective Ben Surblis.

The case dates back to October of 2018. Four people were shot in a bar parking lot, with one person killed.

None of the surviving victims were providing police with any information as to who was responsible. Det. Surblis worked with the family of one of the victims and found out there was information on their cell phone. Through text messages, Det. Surblis was able to identify the shooter, Joel Bowman.



Bowman at first denied knowing the victims or even being in Akron at the time of the shooting. Det. Sublis, with assistance from the FBI, was able to track Bowman through his cell phone. The evidence showed Bowman did indeed know the victim. Additional evidence directly pointed to Bowman as the shooter.

Earlier this month Bowman pled guilty to the charges and is currently serving a life sentence for the crime.

Det. Surblis was an incredible help throughout the case. He was also able to help track down uncooperative witnesses. His professionalism and expertise were vital in securing a conviction and providing justice for the victims.

Congratulations Det. Surblis & great job!

BARBERTON NAACP

We were proud to attend the Barberton branch of the NAACP's annual scholarship luncheon. The organization provided scholarships and stipends to several local college students.

Pictured from left to right are Prosecutor's Office secretary Judith Lee, Barberton NAACP President Kevin Hill, NAACP National Board Member Ophelia Averitt, and Meka Purdie, who works in the Prosecutor's Office Child Support Enforcement Agency.

Judith and Meka are also part of the Prosecutor's Office Ambassadors for Equity and Social Justice.



CAR THEFT PREVENTION

July is National Car Theft Prevention Month. Each year over 800,000 vehicles are stolen. That's about one every 40 seconds. And those numbers jump during the summertime.

According to the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration, about half of those thefts were due to owner error.

- Take your keys!
- Close and lock all doors and windows when you park
- If possible, park in well-lit areas
- Never leave valuables in your vehicle, especially if they can be seen from the outside.

PROTECT YOUR VEHICLE FROM THEFT *What You Should Know*



For more information on vehicle theft prevention and NHTSA, check out [NHTSA.gov/theft](https://www.nhtsa.gov/theft).

WHY I'M A PROSECUTOR

CHRIS DELISIO

"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.

Chris DeLisio who's an assistant prosecutor in our Criminal Division, talks about why being a prosecutor is so important to him.



We have some very bright attorneys who are committed to finding justice. It is very contagious to be around. Just as iron sharpens iron, good lawyers can sharpen each other. There are some great lawyers here and I feel like they've helped me grow.

• WHY DID YOU BECOME A PROSECUTOR?

I've been on both sides, with time spent as a public defender. I feel that practicing law is a privilege. I have found that through public service, including time in the military, time in the ministry, and time as a prosecutor, being a prosecutor is the most rewarding morally.

• WHAT'S THE BEST PART OF BEING A PROSECUTOR

The best part of being a prosecutor is the comradery. I really enjoy being part of a team, especially in this office.

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

You don't have time to dwell on the bad things. Short term memory is important. You can get what you thought was a bad ruling or a bad result on a case. You don't have the luxury of feeling sorry for yourself. For the good days and the bad days you have a moment to pat yourself on the back or brush yourself off, but then you have to go right back to work.

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

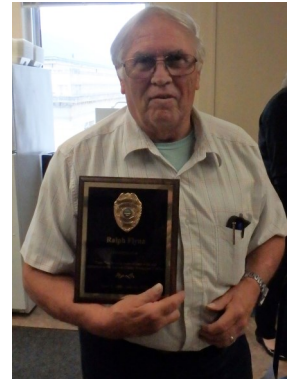
HAPPY RETIREMENT RALPH!

Congratulations and Happy Retirement to one of our very own—Investigator Ralph Flynn.

Ralph's last day at the Summit County Prosecutor's Office was June 29th. After working in law enforcement for nearly 50 years, Ralph decided it was time to relax and not worry about coming to work!

We will all miss Ralph's smile and energy. Ralph was always running somewhere and got things done quick!

Ralph worked for the Summit County Prosecutor's Office for 16 years. Prior to that, Ralph was with the Summit County Sheriff's Office. His most memorable incident was as the chief photographer taking pictures of the 1979 plane crash which killed Canton native and baseball great Thurmon Munson.



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