



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH

SENIOR SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH

For over 20 years I have dedicated my time as Summit County Prosecutor to helping keep our community safe. Each year since taking my oath of office, I have declared the month of September as Senior Safety Awareness month to refocus my office's commitment to helping protect some of our most vulnerable residents.

Recently, old scams have resurfaced, attempting to steal money and identities from unsuspecting victims. The more seniors and their families know, the better prepared they are to not become a victim.

Scammers and criminals continue to target seniors with the belief that our older residents are not experts when it comes to using technology. The goal of Senior Safety Awareness month is to provide information to the community to help minimize their chances of becoming a victim of crime. Scammers and criminals are always thinking of new ways to steal your money and we have to be one step ahead. All year my office fights to keep the citizens of Summit County safe. September is a time to re-focus on seniors.

But anyone can fall for a scam. That is why my office is out in the

Senior Safety Awareness Month

1 in 24 cases of elder abuse is reported 12.4% of U.S. population is 65 years and older

See Abuse - Report It!

Your Reaction Makes A Difference

24 hour hotline:
Summit County Sheriff Senior Services Divisions:
(330) 643 - 2181



24 hour hotline:
Summit County Adult Protective Services:
(330) 643 - 7217

SHERRI BEVAN WALSH
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR

KANDY FATHEREE
SUMMIT COUNTY SHERIFF

community as much as possible to inform people about the latest ways criminals try to scam you out of money.

As part of this year's campaign you will see billboards and bus ads throughout Summit County with information to help keep you safe. My office is once again teaming up with the Summit County Sheriff's Office to provide this information. These ads also have the Sheriff's Office 24-hour hotline (330.643.2181) for people to call to report elder abuse.

This annual public awareness campaign also works in conjunction with my office's new Senior Protection Unit. The new Senior Protection Unit was established to combat abuse against adults aged 60 and older. An assistant Summit

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.

Never wire money or send cash based on a request made over the phone. Once you send it, you can't get it back.

County prosecutor is now dedicated to work with Summit County Adult Protective Services to review and prosecute criminal and civil cases involving abuse of seniors.

Whenever I speak to people about safety I always remind them to not answer the phone if they do not recognize the number. If it's important, the person calling will leave a message.

Also, pay attention to what's going on around you. Situational awareness can minimize your chance of being targeted by a criminal.

And don't forget to trust your gut. If you sense something isn't right, ask for help.

Stay safe,




facebook.com/SummitCountyProsecutorOffice
facebook.com/SummitCountyProsecutorAveryII

co.summit.oh.us/prosecutor



Follow us on Twitter
[@ProsecutorWalsh](https://twitter.com/ProsecutorWalsh)

IN THE COMMUNITY

CRIME & PUNISHMENT

The Summit County Prosecutor’s Office Child Support Enforcement Agency was proud to host a Community Appreciation day as Child Support Awareness Month wrapped up. The event, held at Akron’s House of the Lord Ministries, provided an opportunity for families to speak directly with case managers about their child support case, as well as opportunities to learn more about genetic testing, housing, and employment.



About 250 people attended the event, with close to \$3,000 collected in unpaid child support.

Community Appreciation Day also gave away 20 bikes to local children, as well as school supplies and gift cards.

The Prosecutor’s Office popular Senior Safety Awareness Calendar is also back.

The 2023 calendar has great safety information for anyone. If you would like a Senior Safety Awareness Calendar, please contact Tania Nemer, the Summit County Prosecutor’s Office Community Outreach Prosecutor, at tnemer@prosecutor.summitoh.net or 330.643.2800..

SENIOR SAFETY AWARENESS 2023 CALENDAR



Thanks to Hudson Meadows Retirement Community for this year’s cover photo

Calendar Sponsored by Summit County Prosecuting Attorney Sherri Bevan Walsh

TOUGH PROSECUTIONS

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

Antwane Foster, 35 Joel Bowman, 27

- Rape
- Murder
- LIFE IN PRISON
- LIFE IN PRISON



GUILTY VERDICTS

August 2022

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

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Jon Baumoel | Jamila Mitchell |
| Felicia Easter | Joe Mittica |
| Emily Hall | Tristan Serri |
| Lauryn Kitchen | Joe Vance |

GREAT JOB PROSECUTORS!



EVERY'S CORNER

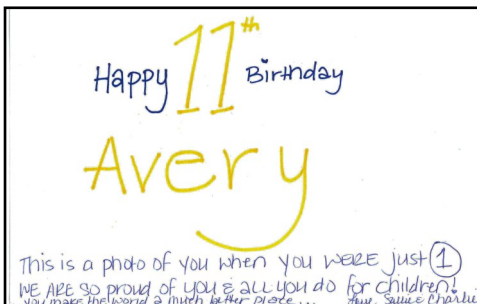
EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE

I have been very busy the past few weeks. I was very happy to help some hoomans in a place I don't normally go. I got to go to Summit County Juvenile Court to sit with some little hoomans.



They were going through a difficult time and I was there to help and comfort them. I'm glad I was able to be with them.

August is also the time I celebrate my birthday. I turned 11 on August 1st.



We had cake and I got to celebrate with my friends. I also got this great card from my puppy raiser Sallie!

Sallie always remembers to send me a birthday card and presents. I love it when she sends me cards and presents.

I got to meet a new special friend recently.

We got to play and then I got comfy on the floor so she could pet me.



She came to my office so she could talk with my nice hooman co-workers and tell them about what happened to her.

She went through some difficult times but I think coming here and sitting with me helped.

Follow Avery II on Facebook at:

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

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The Summit County Prosecutor's Office "Ambassadors for Equity & Social Justice" was formed to work toward bringing people of different backgrounds and cultures together. Each month the Ambassadors share thoughts in making our community a better place to live. Here is an article from one of the group's members.



"A Gap in Treatment"

The beginning of the 2020's has been anything but "roaring." We are still addressing issues from a global pandemic, political diversity and social movements including racial inequality and access to healthcare. Beneath it all lies a common stressor, mental health. Now more than ever, people are becoming aware of their mental health and the weight it can carry. Mental health is pertinent to many aspects of life, and that is no less true when it comes to understanding equality and diversity.

For decades, researchers have studied the role mental health plays on the population. Common mental health issues such as anxiety, obsessive compulsive disorder and post-traumatic stress affect more than 40 million adults.

Recent studies have begun to shed light on the racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic discrepancies related to mental health treatments. Some drastic examples according to "Foundations of Multicultural Psychology" by Timothy B. Smith and Joseph E. Trimble indicate that Asian Americans are 51-percent less likely to use mental health services than white individuals. Other minorities in the United States are less likely to use mental health services, with only 25-percent of Latinos and around 21-percent of African Americans seeking assistance.

The drastic effects mental health can have on society is well known. We must put a greater focus on providing resources and access to minority groups.

The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention has some insightful and helpful resources about mental health on the agency's website. You can find it here—

<https://www.cdc.gov/mentalhealth/>



Help Us Go Green!

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



TOP COPS

AKRON POLICE DET. RICHARD DONEY & OFFICERS MARK SEMBER & ANTHONY TRIMBLE NOMINATED BY ASST. PROSECUTOR JON BAUMOEL

Solving a murder can be extremely difficult. Gathering evidence, speaking to witnesses, and tracking down the suspect can sometimes take months, even years.



And that is why I nominate Akron Police Detective Richard Doney and Officers Mark Sember and Anthony Trimble as TOP COPS. We recently secured a conviction against five co-defendants in a murder from just over three years ago.

In August of 2019, Brandon Varner was shot and killed at an Akron home. Three others were shot but survived. Over a dozen shots were fired. The scene was quite chaotic.

After the shooting, officers were able to track down surveillance video which led them to a home where all five suspects were gathered. Investigators also discovered clothing which matched the description of those involved in the shooting.

As the investigation progressed, Det. Doney and Officers Sember and Trimble worked diligently to gather additional evidence which connected the five suspects to the crime.

Two guns used in the shooting had DNA from the co-defendants. Blood from the murder victim was found on a shoe belonging to one of the co-defendants. Cell phone data connected the co-defendants to the shooting.

The officers now had the task of putting all the massive amounts of evidence together, as well as interview the surviving victims. It took over three years to secure a conviction of the final co-defendant. All five received significant prison sentences, with three sentenced to life in prison. Justice delayed is not justice denied!

Congratulations Det. Doney & Officers Sember & Trimble

FREE WOMEN'S SELF-DEFENSE CLASS!

Thank you to the more than 130 people who came out for our FREE Women's Self-Defense class in Green!



We had such a great time teaching safety awareness and self-defense moves. This was the first self-defense class we held since the start of the pandemic in March of 2020! And, for the first time ever, we held it outdoors.

We also had some help from Akron Magistrates Kani Hightower and Jennifer Towell.



Our next FREE Women's Self-Defense class is Tuesday Sept. 27 at Akron's McEbright CLC.



FREE WOMEN'S SELF-DEFENSE CLASS

Sponsored by

**Summit County Prosecutor
Sherri Bevan Walsh**

and

**Akron Ward 7 Councilman
Donnie Kammer**

with Certified Instructor

Chad Cunningham



Learn simple techniques that could save your life!

- Verbal techniques
- Free yourself from a choke-hold
- Learn the wrist breakaway
- Escape if pinned to the ground
- Practice kicks and slaps

Tuesday, September 27, 2022
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
McEbright Community Learning Center
349 Cole Avenue
Akron, OH 44301



For more information, contact:
Tania Nemer
330-643-7751 or tnemer@prosecutor.summitoh.net

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED!

WHY I'M A PROSECUTOR

ASHLEE JAMES

"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.

The video series also helps the community have a better understanding of the hard work our prosecutors do.

Ashlee James, who is co-supervisor of the Child Protection Unit in our Juvenile Division, talks about why being a prosecutor is so important to her.



• WHY DID YOU BECOME A PROSECUTOR?

I became a prosecutor because I had a desire to work in the public sector and to help people in the community. Before I went to law school I worked in public service with a plan to work in the state legislature. But that turned out to be boring! I took a step back and re-evaluated my future in politics. I have found that being a prosecutor is definitely not boring. My husband is from Akron so we relocated here and I love where I am.

• WHAT'S THE BEST PART OF BEING A PROSECUTOR

The best part of being a prosecutor is that this is a very fast-paced environment. Being part of the Child Protection Unit allows me to work for and help kids. I'm very passionate about helping kids, so I really enjoy that aspect of my job.

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

One of the most difficult things about being a prosecutor is that shaking off a loss. If you have a decision which doesn't go your way, you have to learn how to quickly shake it off and be your best for the next hearing. You don't have a lot of time to dwell on the losses.

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

JAY COLE RETIREMENT

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office would like to wish Assistant Prosecutor Jay Cole a happy retirement.

Jay's last day was August 31st. Jay had a tremendous impact on the community and the Summit County Prosecutor's Office.

Jay was one of Prosecutor Walsh's first hires as he joined the office in 2001 just months after she was sworn in. He was involved in some very high profile cases, including the conviction of Willard McCarley. McCarley strangled and suffocated 26-year-old Charlene Puffenbarger in 1992. McCarley was convicted three times, but had his first two convictions overturned. Jay was the only prosecutor involved in all three trials.

Enjoy your retirement and your travels around the world! We will miss you!



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