



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & CHILD SUPPORT

My office is always looking for new and innovative ways to help the residents of Summit County. For my entire career as an attorney and prosecutor I have fought for the rights of victims. I have also worked hard on behalf of families in getting much needed child support.

But many live in fear of violence if they file for child support. Parents and their children survive under the cloud of domestic violence. That is why my office is starting a new "Safe Access Unit" to provide safeguards for people seeking child support.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness month. Started in 1987, the month focuses on informing the community on the warning signs and how you can help.

Understanding some of the many reasons victims stay in an abusive relationship helps raise awareness and minimizes the amount of victim blaming which can happen.

- Many victims fear the abuser's actions will become more violent and may become lethal if the victim attempts to leave.
- Victims understand the difficulties of single parenting with reduced financial circumstances.

- Victims fear losing custody of their children if they leave their abuser. They also fear the abuser will hurt, or even kill, their children

The last two points are the main reasons for the new program.

The "Safe Access Unit", through the my office's Child Support Enforcement Agency, will work with survivors of domestic and intimate partner violence to provide safe access to child support services. If a parent feels that seeking child support would put themselves and their children in danger, the "Safe Access Unit" can offer safeguards.

Safeguards include conducting administrative hearings by telephone, which allows parents to access child support services without having direct contact with the other parent. The Prosecutor's Office Child Support Enforcement Agency also takes steps to keep parents safe when going to court, including providing an advocate to accompany parents if they are concerned about their safety.

One in four women and one in seven men have been victims of severe physical violence. Also, one in 15 children are exposed to intimate

partner violence each year, with 90% being eyewitnesses to the violence.

If you are seeking a child support order and are a victim of domestic violence or are worried about enforcing a child support order due to a violent experience with the other parent, please contact CSEA's Safe Access Program at (330) 643-2765.

You can also help break the cycle of violence. Listen without judging and let them know the abuse is not their fault. You may be the first person to tell them that.

Summit County's Hope and Healing Survivor Resource Center is great resource to learn more about domestic and intimate partner violence. Information can be found on the agency's website at - <https://hopeandhealingresources.org/battered-womens-shelter/>.

Or call Hope and Healing at 330.374.0740 or the agency's hotline at 330.374.1111.

As always, stay safe.



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IN THE COMMUNITY

Representatives of the Summit County Prosecutor’s Office were very busy during the month of September—spreading safety information.

Leslie Knoblach, who runs our Take Me Home program, spent time at the Akron Zoo’s Senior Safari as well as the Senior EXPO at the Raintree Golf and Event Center in Green.

Leslie provided safety information and lots of great giveaways at both locations.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by our table at both events.



Safety was the main point as Prosecutor Walsh and Community Outreach Prosecutor Tania Nemer spoke with seniors in separate events in the Macedonia and Nordonia area.

Prosecutor Walsh spoke about avoiding scams and staying safe with seniors from Nordonia.

About 60 seniors attended the safety speech.

Community Outreach Prosecutor Tania Nemer spoke with about 50 seniors from the Macedonia AARP group.

If you would like a representative from the Summit County Prosecutor’s Office to speak to your group about staying safe, contact Tania Nemer at tnemer@prosecutor.summitoh.net.



CRIME & PUNISHMENT

TOUGH PROSECUTIONS

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

Coley Richardson, 45

- Murder
- LIFE IN PRISON

Dreshawn Shepard, 26

- Voluntary Manslaughter
- 20-24 YEARS IN PRISON



GUILTY VERDICTS

September 2022

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

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Ben Carro | Jamila Mitchell |
| Michelle Cordova | Devorah Pasternak |
| Emily Hall | Charles Roman |
| Amanda Koren | Jennie Shuki |
| Joe McAleese | Brian Stano |

GREAT JOB PROSECUTORS!



AVERY'S CORNER

EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE

I got to meet some new friends recently. That's me and my hooman Melanie Hart saying hi to lots of nice hoomans at an event in Tallmadge.

It was a speech to help seniors stay safe. I got to walk around and say hi to everyone.

I really like going to these events. Everyone seems so happy to see and pet me.

I really like bringing lots of joy and comfort to everyone I meet.



I had a great time at this year's Summit County Children's Services annual picnic.

It was a beautiful day to be outside and have a picnic.

It was so nice to meet new friends and see old ones!



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.



October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. "Domestic violence is the willful intimidation, physical and sexual assault, battery, and/or other abusive behavior as part of a systematic pattern of power and control perpetrated by one intimate partner against another," (*National Coalition Against Domestic Violence*).

Much work has been done to educate the public on what makes up the power and control wheel of domestic violence in American culture. Beyond the physical and sexual violence, we hear about perpetrators using tactics like threats and coercion, intimidation, emotional abuse, isolation, economic abuse, and even using their children to gain control over their partner. But did you know that domestic abuse can be influenced differently based on cultures and ethnic origins?

Different countries and cultures have their own values and beliefs toward women, social expectations, family, marriage, sex, and divorce. Often women are viewed as subservient to men in many cultures and forbidden to work making them financially dependent. Victims of domestic violence who are immigrants or refugees live in fear that reporting their abusive partner may result in deportation and subsequent loss of their children.

Cultural barriers may prevent victims from seeking help. As a result, domestic violence among culturally diverse populations is grossly under-reported leaving victims in dangerous cycles of abuse.

To learn more about domestic violence, visit the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence at www.ncadv.org. The National Domestic Violence Hotline is available 24/7/365 with free confidential help at 800-799-7233 or text START to 88788.

HALLOWEEN Pet Safety Tips

- NO SWEETS FOR YOUR SWEETIE**
Keep your pets away from candy (especially chocolate); avoid placing bowls on the ground.
- KEEP PUMPKIN AWAY FROM THE PUMPKIN**
Decorative plants can be toxic; candle-lit jack-o-lanterns are fire hazards if tipped over.
- COSTUMES ARE OPTIONAL**
Don't force on an unwanted costume. Most pets prefer birthday suits.
- NO TRICK OR TREATER GREETERS**
The front door is a high traffic area. Doorbells and knocks can upset even the friendliest pets.
- MUST SHOW I.D.**
Spooked pets can get lost. Microchip and tag them in case they get out.
- PARTY POOPERS ARE OK**
Some pets are happier in a quiet room away from the party.

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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 OFFICER ZACHARY SNADER

NOMINATED BY ASST. PROSECUTOR GREG PEACOCK

In law school we are taught, among other things, what can and what cannot be used as evidence in a trial. In general, as prosecutors we can't admit into testimony what someone said outside of court.



However, there are exceptions. One is when a person makes what is known as a dying declaration. That is a statement made while a person believes they are dying. That happened in a recent case and one of the reasons why I nominate Akron Police Officer Zachary Snader as this month's TOP COP.

The case involved the horrific murder of Sarah Stubbs. Sarah was stabbed close to 20 times by Rochelle Paul. As police and paramedics tried to save Sarah's life, Officer Snader had the presence of mind to have Sarah face his body worn camera to record her last words. Sarah turned to the camera, and when asked who did this to her, she responded "Rochelle".

That statement, caught on Officer Snader's body worn camera, was used in Rochelle Paul's trial and helped us secure a conviction against her.

On October 5, 2022, a Summit County jury found Rochelle Paul guilty of murder. The 38-year-old is currently serving a life sentence in the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections.

I also want to point out the heroic work the first responders did to try and save Sarah Stubbs' life. She suffered significant injuries to her chest, back, neck, and face. Although Sarah succumbed to her injuries, the group of paramedics and police officers did all they could in trying to save Sarah's life.

Thank you to everyone involved, and especially Officer Snader.

Congratulations Officer Snader!

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS THANK YOU!

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Health advocates use the month to raise awareness about the disease and urge people to take a closer look at their health.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, an estimated 255,000 women are diagnosed with breast cancer each year, and 42,000 women die from the disease.



Men can also get breast cancer, however it is not very common. About one out of every 100 cases of breast cancer diagnosed in the U.S. is found in a man.

Early detection is key to survival.

To learn more about free breast cancer screenings call the Ohio Department of Health Breast and Cervical Cancer Project at 1.800.381.2489.

A big thank you and good luck to three former Summit County Prosecutor's Office employees.

After 50 years in law enforcement and service to the community, Mike Kelly retired. Mike was an investigator for the Prosecutor's Office for over 25 years.



And Prosecutors Joe Dangelo and Elliot Kolkovich are now working for the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Good luck to everyone!



WHY I'M A PROSECUTOR

MICHELLE CORDOVA

"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.

Michelle Cordova, an Assistant Prosecutor in our Criminal Division, talks about why being a prosecutor is so important to her.



• WHAT'S THE BEST PART OF BEING A PROSECUTOR

The best part of being a prosecutor is getting justice victims are looking for. Also, getting help a defendant needs. Not every victim wants to see the defendant go to prison. Some want treatment and rehabilitation. That can be very gratifying. I'm happy making a difference in people's lives.

• WHY DID YOU BECOME A PROSECUTOR?

I always knew I wanted to be an attorney. When I was in law school I was preparing to leave for an internship opportunity in Washington DC when a storage facility where I kept nearly everything I owned was broken into and burglarized. I lost a lot of personal items. During the prosecution I had an opportunity to testify at grand jury. The victim advocates walked me through the process. I was so impressed with the prosecutors on my case. Having my sense of safety disrupted like that impacted me tremendously.

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

The most difficult part of being a prosecutor is not getting the results we hoped for. We consider the best outcome for everyone involved and that can be very challenging.

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

FREE WOMEN'S SELF-DEFENSE

We had a blast at our FREE Women's Self-Defense class at Akron's McEbright Community Learning Center.

Attendees learned simple moves to minimize their chance of becoming a victim—everything from how to break away from someone who grabs your wrist to escaping a choke hold to the proper way to kick an attacker in the groin..

We will announce our next FREE Women's Self-Defense class on our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages—so keep an eye out for it!



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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