



FROM THE OFFICE OF  
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR  
**SHERRI BEVAN WALSH**

**A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH  
PROTECTING YOUR IDENTITY—  
AVOIDING SCAMS**

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.

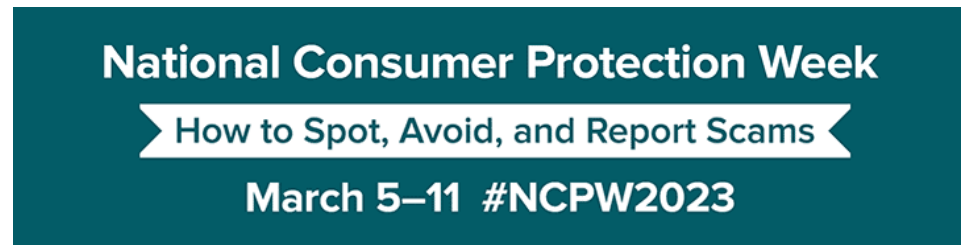
Even though National Consumer Protection Week covers just one week, you should spend time throughout the year to focus on protecting your money and identity.

My office works hard to follow the latest scams and inform the public of updated information to be safe. But it can be difficult as criminals use any means they can to scam you out of your money and information.

We have seen many old scams resurfacing, like the Jury Duty scam, the Grandparents scam, Lottery scams, and scams involving fake Amazon information.

Scammers do their best to trick you into providing information by clicking on links and providing information which takes you to fake websites.

Maybe it's a text with a link telling you there's an issue with your Amazon account. Or it's a phone call demanding money to avoid an arrest



warrant because you missed jury duty. Or an email from your bank with a link to a website to assist you in fixing an issue.

They all might sound legitimate, but these are just three examples of ways scammers try to entice people into providing personal information or money. The one thing they all have in common is that they all demand an immediate response and have an emotional impact. That should be the very first red flag to alert you that these are scams.

I've mentioned these tips before but it's always a good reminder:

- Never send money or give out personal information such as credit card numbers, bank account numbers, dates of birth, or Social Security numbers to unfamiliar companies or unknown persons.

- Many scams involve victims purchasing iTunes Apple gift cards. Utilities and companies will not accept payment with iTunes Apple gift cards. If someone calls demanding the purchase of iTunes Apple gift cards to pay a bill, it is a scam.

- Regularly check your finances and bank statements for any unusual activity. Many banks have fraud alerts to let you know about any issues.

If you do get a phone call, text, email, or some other message telling you about a problem, think before you click. It could save you a lot of trouble—and a lot of money!

As always, stay safe!

*Sherri B. Walsh*



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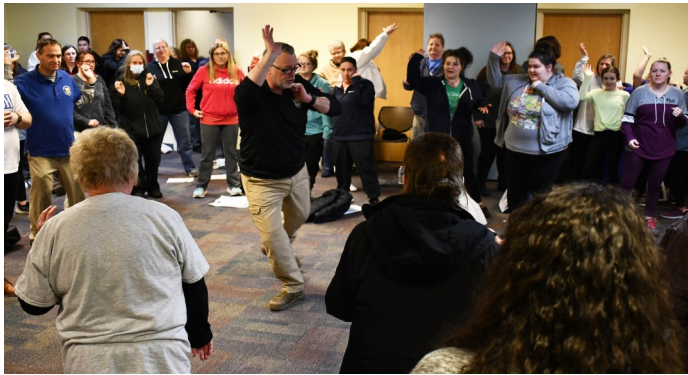
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# IN THE COMMUNITY

A big thank you to everyone who came out to our FREE Women’s Self-Defense class at the Barberton Library.

We had a huge crowd learn simple self-defense techniques to help minimize a person’s chance of becoming a victim of crime.

Participants also learned about the best ways to help reduce crime in their neighborhood.



Representatives from the Prosecutor’s Office were in Hudson, speaking with members of the Hudson Senior Network about ways to stay safe.

John Galonski, head of the Civil Division, and James Pollack, Director of Communications, provided safety information and the best ways to avoid scams.



Prosecutor Walsh attended the most recent WAKR Senior Luncheon at St. George Fellowship Hall.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by our table to say hi and to pick up information about our office and tips about staying safe.



We hope to see you at the next luncheon on May 10th!

## GUILTY VERDICTS

### February 2023

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

- Felicia Easter    Matt Kuhn**
- Emily Hall        Brian LoPrinzi**

## GREAT JOB PROSECUTORS!

## TOUGH PROSECUTIONS

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

### Darnell Robinson, 28

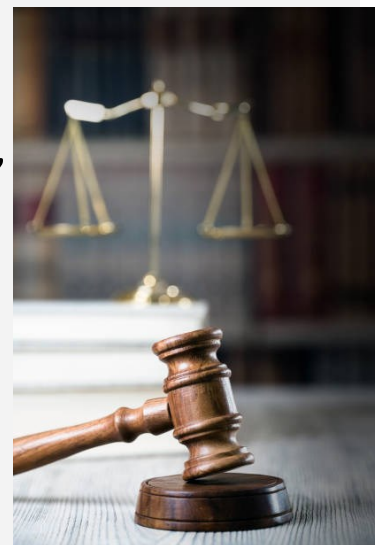
- Rape
- **LIFE IN PRISON**

### D’Lawrence Scott, 20

- Murder
- **LIFE IN PRISON**

### Robert Yost, 69

- Rape
- **LIFE IN PRISON**





# AVERY'S CORNER

# EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE

February was a very special month for me. I got to go on a new adventure to help a small hooman.

I travelled all the way to place called Trumbull County where I met a new friend.

They were very nice and I got to sit with them when we went to court together.

I sat beside them the entire time we were there.

It was nice to help them and provide comfort.



It's been a "ruff" month.

I need time to lie down and relax. You might need the same too!

It's always good to take care of yourself and rest.

Maybe you can do what I did—find a comfy place to lie down!



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## MARCH CELEBRATIONS

Each month there are plenty of ways to celebrate and bring awareness to certain causes and issues. March has plenty of those opportunities. Here are a couple of designations:

• **NATIONAL PEANUT MONTH**

National Peanut Month had its beginnings as National Peanut Week in 1941 but later morphed into a month-long celebration in 1974. Humans have been consuming the peanut since around 1400 BC.

• **NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH**

National Nutrition Month is an educational campaign focusing on the significance of physical fitness as well as eating nourishing meals. Taking charge of your health contributes to overall well-being.

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.



For this month's Ambassador's article, we are going to take a look back and a look ahead at the same time.

February is over as Black History Month just wrapped up. March is here—a time to continue to celebrate different cultures. March is also National Women's History Month.

As Ambassadors, we are worried about the potential cancelation of history, specifically attempts to prevent topics from being taught in schools. It appears that those coming from a place of privilege are trying to erase history from the classroom.

We might want to consider the following quotes:

"Those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it" – Sir Winston Churchill

"If you don't know where you've come from, you don't know where you're going. I have respect for the past, but I'm a person of the moment." – Maya Angelou

"If you don't know where you're going, you could end up someplace else" – Yogi Berra

"The only thing necessary for evil to triumph is that good men do nothing" - Unknown

"Time is always right to do what is right" – Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Ambassadors challenge you to search yourself and consider what will you stand for? Is your love for your fellow man based on the color of their skin?

One final quote, from Martin Luther King, Jr., "We must learn to live together as brothers and sisters, or perish together as fools". Peace to us all!



**Help Us Go Green!**

Contact Melanie Hart at [hart@prosecutor.summitoh.net](mailto:hart@prosecutor.summitoh.net) to receive this newsletter by e-mail



# TOP COP

## STOW POLICE DET. JEFF SWANSON

NOMINATED BY ASST. PROS. JAMIE MORRIS & DEVORAH PASTERNAK

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office handles cases which can show the worst of humanity. We've prosecuted horrendous murders, horrific sexual assaults, and other heinous crimes.



Thankfully we have hard working investigators and officers who follow the evidence and do a thorough review of the facts of a case to help prosecutors secure a conviction.

That is why we nominate Stow Police Detective Jeff Swanson as TOP COP. Detective Swanson's work on a recent rape case was vital in having a defendant plead guilty to the rape of a girl who was under ten years old.

Det. Swanson conducted a thorough investigation with a lengthy follow up and even worked with Ashland County to secure the arrest and to retrieve important evidence. Det. Swanson followed up on key forensic evidence including DNA results which connected the defendant to the victim.

Detective Swanson was highly professional and exceptionally sensitive with the family. His work helped us secure a conviction and a life sentence for the defendant Noah Kyle.

The Judge also designated Kyle a Tier III sex offender. That means if Kyle is ever released from prison, he would have to register with the local sheriff every 90 days for the rest of his life.

Also, Det. Swanson is retiring in April after 30 plus years of serving the community. We wish Det. Swanson the best and thank him for his dedication.

### Great job and congratulations Det. Swanson!!!

## BEWARE OF TAX SCAMS

It's tax season, and with the deadline to file your taxes about a month away, we wanted to make sure you are aware of tax scams.



### AVOIDING TAX SCAM\$

- File your return promptly—less likely an imposter will file a return in your name.
- Don't respond to threatening robocalls—remember, these are most likely scams.
- Check a tax preparer's credentials—on the IRS online directory <http://irs.treasury.gov/rpo/rpo.isf>.
- Protect your information online—use a secure internet connection.

## NATIONAL POISON PREVENTION WEEK

Each year, over 2-million people are poisoned in America, with 90% occurring in the home. The majority of these potentially deadly incidents can be prevented.

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office would like to remind you the week of March 20th is National Poison Prevention Week.

Young children are at the highest risk of poisoning because of their natural curiosity and tendency to put almost anything in their mouth. Please keep all cleaning solutions and medications locked up and out of reach.

Please take note of the toll-free number in the graphic, and keep it handy in case of an emergency. You can even save it in your cell phone to have it at a moments notice. You can also visit [webpoisoncontrol.org](http://webpoisoncontrol.org) for more information.



# WHY I'M A PROSECUTOR

## RYAN CASH

"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.

As we continue into 2023, their dedication to the community, and to finding justice, hasn't changed.

Assistant Prosecutor Ryan Cash who works 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 has to be representing those who have been affected by crime. We have a direct impact on how a case is handled and work closely with our victim advocates. It allows us to stand in court and give a voice to those who have not had an opportunity to stand up for themselves.

### • WHY DID YOU BECOME A PROSECUTOR?

I became a prosecutor to help our community, to protect those who may not have a voice for themselves, and to work with others to make sure those people can seek justice.

I started my career in the developmental disabilities field. Through many of my experiences with cases of abuse and neglect and exploitation, I got to see a different side of our society and how victims from at-risk populations are affected.

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

The most difficult part of being a prosecutor is having to view what are often terrible crimes. For me, the worst is juvenile or child victims and the impact being a victim has on them and their families.

You can watch Ryan'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".

Summit County is unique as women hold several major political positions as well as all Summit County Common Pleas Court Judgeships. 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!



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