



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH

SUMMER SAFETY!

Summer is here! That means longer days—and taking those long awaited vacations. Maybe you're heading out on a long family drive. Or you're hopping on a plane headed to that dream destination.

Before you get in vacation mode, I want to make sure you are in safety mode!

According to AAA, more people than ever before are taking part in a summertime vacation. A recent poll shows nearly 219 million American adults intend to travel this summer. That's five-percent more than last year.

That means more people on the roads and in the air. Expect the possibility of record crowds—and with that the potential of you becoming a crime victim.

I have some great safety information, some you might already know. But it's always a good reminder.

Your safety checklist doesn't start when you get to your destination. Before you even leave your home, make sure you take these simple steps to protect your home from an intruder.

VACATION CHECKLIST—HOME

- Plan for vacation by having your mail and newspapers stopped or having a neighbor pick them up. Leave inside lights on timers to create the impression that your house is occupied. Be sure to set your alarm system. Have a lawn service or neighbor mow your lawn.
- Make sure to lock your doors and windows!

VACATION CHECKLIST—AWAY FROM HOME

- Always be aware of your surroundings.
- Paying attention to who's around you and where you are can significantly minimize your chances of becoming a crime victim.
- Never put your home address on your luggage tags. Write your phone number instead. That way if your luggage gets lost or stolen, strangers don't know where you live.



- Make copies of all important documents, like your credit cards and passport. Take one copy with you (pack it separately from the cards themselves) and leave one copy at home.

- Stay off social media. Don't tip off criminals by sharing too much information on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram (kids too!) Try not to post photos, status updates, or "check in" while on vacation.

My hope is you have a wonderful and restful summer—and to stay safe!

Sherri B. Walsh



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IN THE COMMUNITY

Summertime is here. That means outdoor fun and gatherings.

July 4th is also coming up. The holiday is always a favorite as people come together to celebrate our country's independence. That includes barbecues and, of course, fireworks. The gatherings and parties might also include an adult beverage. The Summit County Prosecutor's Office wants to make sure you celebrate responsibly.

That's why we are once again teaming up with the Summit County Sheriff's Office for Arrive Alive—which provides FREE or reduced rides home during the July 4th holiday.



ARRIVE ALIVE
Celebrate the holiday responsibly!
Have a designated sober driver or use Arrive Alive.

A FREE Ride Home in Summit County



From 12 pm Sunday July 2nd to 9 am Wednesday July 5th

Use **LYFT** for a FREE ride home in Summit County (up to \$20) Use Code **ARRIVEALIVEJULY4** For July 4th (Limit 600 one-time use codes)



FOR MORE INFORMATION

The life you save may be your own!

For more information contact:
Elliot Kolkovich, Community Outreach Prosecutor
ekolkovich@prosecutor.summitoh.net or 330.643.7751

Just download the LYFT app on your smart phone or device - go to the "payment" section and add the code "ARRIVEALIVEJULY4" under LYFT PASS.

That will get you a \$20 credit to use on LYFT within Summit County from noon on Sunday July 2nd through 9am Wednesday July 5th.

Don't drink & drive - use ARRIVE ALIVE. The life you save might be your own.

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office is focused on keeping our children safe.

Assistant Prosecutor Patrick Kabasinski, who works in the Prosecutor's Office Juvenile Division, spoke with over 100 fifth and sixth graders at Akron's I Promise School.

Patrick discussed internet safety and cyberbullying.

Thanks to the I Promise School for having us come by and promote safety.



GUILTY VERDICTS

May 2023

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

- Emily Williams
- Wyatt Nolker
- Joseph Mittica
- Greg Peacock
- Jamila Mitchell
- Joe McAleese

GREAT JOB PROSECUTORS!

SENIOR SUMMIT

Prosecutor Walsh was honored to take part in a panel discussion at the annual Senior Summit put on by the Summit County Probate Court.

The panel included Summit County Sheriff Kandy Fatheree, Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro, Deputy Director of Summit County Job & Family Services Cathi Rufener, and Summit County Probate Judge Elinore Stormer.

The panel was led by Retired Deputy District Attorney Paul Greenwood, who specializes in the investigation and prosecution of elder abuse.

The annual Senior Summit brought together over 300 people involved in highlighting the needs of local seniors and who are focused on keeping our local seniors safe.



CONNECTING WITH CITIZENS

EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Summit County Prosecutor's Office Employees were out and about in the community during May.



Several attended local law enforcement events during National Police Week, including memorials in Akron and Cuyahoga Falls.



Dozens of Summit County residents came out to the Springfield Jr. High School gym to learn about staying safe and self-defense.

Participants learned about ways to minimize their chances of becoming a crime victim as well as easy-to-learn moves to help them get away from an attacker.



The next FREE Women's Self-Defense class is coming up in August—stay tuned for details!

A wonderful time was had at the WAKR Senior Luncheon. We met close to 300 people who attended the event and came to our table to learn about our safety programs and community outreach.

And Carolyn Hairston was the winner of our giveaway—a beautiful floral arrangement—just in time for the warmer weather!



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.



June is Pride Month, and Committee member Hayden Gilbert recently spoke with a friend who is transgender and asked them several questions.

Hayden—What is your name, what pronouns do you go by?

Jill—I'm J but I also go by Jill, or even Jillian! My primary pronouns are they/them but all are welcome when used respectfully!

H—Are there any misconceptions or stereotypes about being transgender that you would like to address?

J—I find myself plagued by the rhetoric that trans people are "born this way." Not all trans folks knew as children due to the way they were raised or otherwise identify. For example, many nonbinary people didn't realize their gender-queerness until they read somewhere it was even possible.

H—Have there been any particular support systems or resources that have been helpful to you in your journey?

J—I am lucky enough to have been supported by my family immensely throughout my life, and specifically medically I was helped by Planned Parenthood and their adherence to the informed consent model.

H—How can allies in our community and society, overall better support and advocate for transgender individuals?

J—Your primary job as an ally to trans folk is to either give your physical, mental, or financial support directly to the trans community, whether in person or online. Whatever facet of your life in which you have the most power and energy, direct that at least partially towards those who need you. Specifically trans women of color are in imminent danger. Your money, time, and words of kindness may mean the difference between someone's life and death.



Help Us Go Green!

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



TOP COP

RICHFIELD POLICE DET. RYAN KELLACKY

NOMINATED BY ASST. PROS. JAMIE MORRIS



Protecting the elderly and preventing them from becoming victims is a priority for the Summit County Prosecutor’s Office. That’s why Prosecutor Walsh started the Senior Protection Unit.

Thankfully local law enforcement also works diligently to protect seniors. That’s why I nominate Richfield Police Detective Ryan Kellackey as this month’s TOP COP.

In a recent case two defendants were charged with stealing from an elderly victim. Det. Kellackey was great. His investigation was thorough and was vital in securing a conviction.

Two people who knew the victim stole jewelry, household items, and tens of thousands of dollars from her. It happened as the victim was in the hospital, recovering from a series of medical issues. Det. Kellackey went step by step, speaking with a neighbor of the victim who saw the defendants move items from the home to a van, as well as employees at the victim’s bank. Det. Kellackey also drove the victim to meet with bank representatives as she could not drive herself.

Detective Kellackey’s work helped the victim obtain restitution for the \$85,000 loss with monthly payments ordered from each defendant.

The two defendants had drained her entire inheritance from her father. The victim is also a widow. These defendants preyed on the victim by offering help and rides during medical emergencies then ended up stealing from her financial accounts.

Detective Kellackey obtained surveillance footage from several banks, tracked down some of her missing belongings at pawn shops and went over and above to help this elderly woman.

Thank you to Detective Kellackey for your hard work and assistance in getting a conviction in this case.

Great job and congratulations Det. Kellackey!

OPEN M SERVICE

The Summit County Prosecutor’s Office is dedicated to making our community a better and safer place to live.

As part of that mission, employees volunteer at many local events. Recently, employees served lunch at Akron’s Open M Ministries.

Volunteers served around 100 people. The Summit County Prosecutor’s Office will be back at Open M in July!



KICK-OFF TO SUMMER!

It’s finally summer! The Summit County Prosecutor’s Office Wellness Committee organized a fantastic event for employees and their families.

Prosecutor’s Office employees and their families met up at the Pond View Shelter at Liberty Park in Streetsboro for a day of fun and food!

Activities included fishing with people taking part in games like cornhole.

The Wellness Committee’s goal is to organize events for employees to gather and have fun.

We’re looking forward to the next event!



WHY I'M A PROSECUTOR

JOSEPH LAATSCH

"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 Joseph Laatsch, who works in our Juvenile 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 is when I can go to court and everyone involved, from the court to the parents, to the advocate for the child, are all in agreement.

I also love the camaraderie of working in the Summit County Prosecutor's Office. The support of my co-workers is fantastic.

• WHY DID YOU BECOME A PROSECUTOR?

I became a prosecutor because no matter what I was going to do with my life I knew that I had to help people. When I went to law school I knew I was going to use my skills in helping people.

I started in private practice and personal injury and I did help people, but I felt like I could do something more. I jumped at the chance to work for the Prosecutor's Office.

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

The most difficult part of being a prosecutor is not knowing what the future holds for those involved. There are no guarantees. We do our best to advocate for a position that we feel good about.

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

RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF VICTIMS

SAVE THE DATE! Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh is proud to announce her office's 8th annual conference—"Responding to the Needs of Victims" on Friday, September 29, 2023.

The conference is for professionals who come in contact with victims of crime including law enforcement, victim advocates, social workers, therapists, medical personnel, and attorneys.

This year, the conference focuses on investigating homicides and features two nationally recognized experts. Ryan Backmann brings his unique experience as the son of a homicide victim and Jennifer Spears is a Florida Department of Law Enforcement Special Agent who brings nearly 20 years of experience investigating both homicides and cold case homicides.

We will provide a registration link in the next few weeks.

Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh Presents

Eighth Annual Conference

Responding to the Needs of Victims

 **Cost: \$40⁰⁰**

Featuring Nationally Recognized Experts

<p style="text-align: center;">Jennifer Spears</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Florida Dept. of Law Enforcement Special Agent</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Jen is currently a Special Agent with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. She has over 15 years' experience investigating both homicides and cold case homicides. She is an experienced instructor, lecturer, and conference presenter. She is current President of the Southeastern Homicide Investigators Association.</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Ryan Backmann</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Homicide Survivor/Founder and Executive Director of Project: Cold Case</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Ryan Backmann is a survivor of homicide his father was murdered in 2010 and it resulted a cold case. He is Founder and Executive Director of Project: Cold Case. He has spoken at NIFA and many other conferences. Years of working closely with Florida lawmakers and establishing relationships with law enforcement was instrumental in establishing a Florida Cold Case Advisory Committee and a statewide Cold Case Database.</small></p>
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Friday, September 29, 2023
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Registration 8:00 am - 9:30 am
Hilton Akron / Fairlawn 3180 W Market St. Akron, OH 44333

Continuing Professional Training by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission - Pending Approval

Continuing Legal Education & CEU's with CSWMFT Board - Pending Approval

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