



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH HELPING VICTIMS

I have spent my career as Summit County Prosecutor fighting for the rights of victims.

From demanding stronger sentences for repeat offenders to supporting Marsy's Law in Ohio. Marsy's Law was passed in 2017 and is a constitutional amendment which gives specific rights to crime victims.

I am always looking for innovative ways to help crime victims and professionals who work with victims of crime, such as law enforcement, social workers, therapists, medical personnel, and attorneys.

That's why I am so proud to have my office's eighth annual "Responding to the Needs of Victims" conference on Friday, September 29 at the Akron Hilton.

This all day event will bring in over 300 professionals to learn about ways to assist victims of crime.

This year we will feature two nationally recognized experts on homicide—Jennifer Spears and Ryan Backmann.

Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh Presents

Eighth Annual Conference Responding to the Needs of Victims

Featuring Nationally Recognized Experts

Florida Dept. of Law Enforcement Special Agent
Jennifer Spears

Jen is currently a Special Agent with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. She has over 18 years' experience investigating both homicide and cold case homicide. She is an experienced instructor, lecturer, and conference presenter. She is current President of the Southeastern Homicide Investigators Association.

Homicide Survivor/Founder and Executive Director of Project: Cold Case
Ryan Backmann

Ryan Backmann is a survivor of homicide (his father was murdered in 2009 and it remains a cold case). He is Founder and Executive Director of Project: Cold Case. He has spoken at NOVA 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 Commission and a statewide Cold Case Database.

Friday, September 29, 2023
8:00 am - 4:30 pm
Registration 8:00 am - 8:30 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 CSMWFT Board - Pending Approval

Ryan Backmann brings his unique experience as the son of a homicide victim. Ryan has presented at several conferences about his experience and works closely with law enforcement. Also presenting at the conference is Jennifer Spears, a Florida Department of Law Enforcement Special Agent. Jennifer brings nearly 20 years of experience investigating both homicides and cold case homicides.

Crime victims, families, and friends can experience extreme trauma. When people experience trauma, they undergo changes which they may not understand. Because of that trauma, our minds may not fully recognize or record events.

That could cause victims to have difficulty remembering the information, making it tough for investigators. Spears and Backmann are experts in providing investigators and advocates information to help them break through and unlock information vital to solving the crime.

If your profession has you interacting with or assisting crime victims, we urge you to attend this conference.

You can click on the QR code on the image above or follow this link to register for the conference—

<https://bit.ly/3PGNzcZ>

We are looking forward to another exciting event. We are expecting over 300 people to attend and learn more about how to respond to the needs of victims.

As always, stay safe,



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co.summit.oh.us/prosecutor



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

IN THE COMMUNITY

Employees with the Summit County Prosecutor’s Office were out and about in the community throughout the month of June, meeting new friends and having a great time!

We had a great time at the Autism Society of Greater Akron annual walk as we discussed many of the great services the



Prosecutor’s Office provides, including Take Me Home.

Take Me Home is a secure database, accessible only by law enforcement, which is used to help reconnect caregivers with people who have a difficult time communicating and may wander from home.

The database contains a photo, contact information, and identifying characteristics if a person is reported missing or is found wandering.

If you know of someone who could benefit from this program, please contact Leslie Knoblauch at knoblauch@prosecutor.summitoh.net, or 330-643-2800.

Community Outreach Prosecutor Elliot Kolkovich spoke about the Take Me Home program to about 100 local social workers.

The social workers learned how Take Me Home can help the people and families they work with throughout Summit County, including at different facilities like nursing homes and senior apartments..



It was game night for the Summit County Prosecutor’s Office!

The Office Wellness Committee organized the event to bring employees together for a fun night out!

More summer fun is ahead.



GUILTY VERDICTS

June 2023

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

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Chris Delisio | Jamila Mitchell |
| Kevin Mayer | Wyatt Nolker |
| Seema Misra | Greg Peacock |

GREAT JOB PROSECUTORS!

TOUGH PROSECUTIONS

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

Anthony Fowler, 44

- Murder
- **LIFE IN PRISON**

Alexander Quarterman, 49

- Murder
- **LIFE IN PRISON**

Jason Conrad, 39

- Trafficking in Cocaine
- Escape
- **18 to 25.5 YEARS IN PRISON**





AVERY'S CORNER

EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE

I hadn't been feeling well recently so I went to see my good friend Dr. Paroff at Stow Kent Animal Hospital.



They take real good care of me. They checked me out and said I have something called diabetes.

I guess a lot of my hooman and furry friends have it too.

Thankfully my hooman mom takes real good care of me. Plus I have a monitor attached to my body which sends information to my hooman mom's phone. She keeps checking on me to make sure that I'm feeling ok.

I have good news from my eye doctor!



I recently spent time with Dr. Mark Bobofchak, who said my eyes looked great!

I did have a sty removed from my left eye. Dr. Bobofchak did it with what's called a laser.

It was pretty cool and everything came out ok!

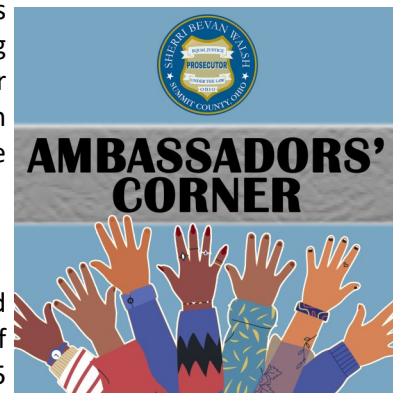
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[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/SummitCountyProsecutorAveryII)

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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.



In 2021, it was estimated that only 39 percent of African American Adults, 25 percent of Asian American adults and 36 percent of Hispanic/Latino adults who had any mental illness were treated, compared to 52 percent of non-Hispanic white adults. July is National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month. This month we strive to increase the resources available to all.

Peer support specialists are becoming more common. They have a "lived experience" and have been trained to support those who struggle with mental health, trauma, or substance abuse. Personal experience combined with training can provide an expertise that years of schooling may not. Some organizations known for their use of this mutual help model are Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Narcotics Anonymous (NA), and SMART Recovery. These programs and groups may be more accessible to our communities due to the financial and insurance barriers of a mental health diagnosis. There are also long histories of discrimination in medicine which make it difficult for some people of color to form trusting relationships with medical providers. Peer support services are gaining traction to help meet unmet needs.

Research is still being done to examine the role peer support specialists have on providing engaging and culturally competent care to minorities and youth. As research progresses, peer support specialists are proving to be more and more appealing for their accessibility, empathy, and trust. Researchers and mental health professionals are hoping this is one of the possibilities for a remedy to the discrimination which is all too prevalent within the mental health system.

SUMMER Pet Safety Tips

- DO NOT LEAVE PET IN CAR
- PROVIDE ENOUGH WATER
- PROTECT FROM SUNBURN
- AVOID HOT PAVEMENT
- CHECK FOR TICKS
- WATCH TEMPERATURE
- GIVE A HAIRCUT
- SHOWERING / BATHING

LONG BEACH ANIMAL CARE CENTER



Help Us Go Green!

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



TOP COP

AKRON POLICE DET. PATRICK ARMSTEAD

NOMINATED BY ASST. PROS. BRIAN STANO

Sexual assault cases can be difficult even under the best of circumstances. But when they are over twenty years old, the challenge can be even more daunting. Evidence may no longer exist, witnesses' memories may have faded, and dredging up decades-old trauma can be very difficult for victims. Yet these circumstances did not deter Akron Police Detective Patrick Armstead.



He painstakingly combed through old case files, re-interviewed witnesses, and re-examined evidence for DNA.

Det. Armstead's hard work paid off when Suhoza was charged, 20 years later, with several counts of rape and sexual battery. While the case was pending, Det. Armstead worked closely with prosecutors to strengthen the case. The case went through the courts for several years, slowed by a global pandemic and court shutdowns. Yet Det. Armstead kept working. This hard work was ultimately rewarded when Suhoza recently pled guilty to his crimes and was sentenced to nearly ten years in prison.

Det. Armstead was assigned to the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) Unit in the Akron Police Department, a specialized task force dedicated to solving rape cases which had gone cold. The goal is to bring justice to victims who had all but given up hope that their attackers would be held accountable.

Det. Armstead was assigned the case of Kevin Suhoza, who had been accused of sexually assaulting several female victims while working as a bartender in the early 2000s. With hard work and determination, Det. Armstead slowly began building a case against Suhoza.

Kudos to Det. Armstead for his persistence that ultimately resulted in justice and closure for the victims in this case

Great job and congratulations Det. Armstead!

FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office was a proud sponsor of the 25th Annual International Fatherhood Conference held at the Football Hall of Fame Village in Canton.

Attendees discussed significant issues, research, policy, and practice developments over the last 25 years.

Thank you to everyone who helped organize the event.



ARRIVE ALIVE—RESULTS!

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office works hard to protect the community and make Summit County a better and safer place to live.

As part of that mission, the Office re-launched Arrive Alive for the July 4th holiday, providing 600 codes for a FREE or



ARRIVE ALIVE

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

A FREE Ride Home in Summit County

discounted ride home in Summit County via LYFT. The goal was to keep drunk or impaired drivers off the road by providing an alternative to get home.

We provided 430 FREE or reduced fare rides home for people who used the code.

Thanks to **Summit County Sheriff Kandy Fatheree** for co-sponsoring the event.

WHY I'M A PROSECUTOR

JEFFREY DAVIS

"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 Jeffrey Davis, 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 is helping people. You get to meet people at probably the worst part of their lives. We do what we can to help the victims, and hold the defendant accountable, whether that's treatment or prison.

• WHY DID YOU BECOME A PROSECUTOR?

I became a prosecutor because of an interaction I had with a neighbor growing up in the 1970's. Their father was abusive and ended up being prosecuted. One of the things my friend told me was how much the prosecutor had helped his family. That left a lasting impression on me and basically started my career in motion. I saw how much the prosecutor helped my friend as well as help people in general. Even though I didn't initially go to college to study law, I did eventually end up going to law school and have been an attorney now for close to 30 years.

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

The most difficult part of being a prosecutor is that it can be frustrating. While we hold defendants accountable, we also want to see changes made so they don't break the law again and again. Sometimes it doesn't work out that way. We also see people being victimized in a number of ways, which can be hard. It's difficult to see people at the worst times of their lives.

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

REMEMBERING JOSH

July can be a time for celebration. But for many in Summit County, this time of year brings back memories of a tragedy.

Fifteen years ago, on July 13, 2008, Twinsburg Police Officer Joshua Miktarian was shot and killed during a traffic stop. The man convicted of killing Officer Miktarian is currently on Ohio's Death Row.

Officer Miktarian was not only a compassionate public servant, he was a husband and father of a young girl. He was just 33-years-old when he was killed in the line of duty.

Each July, we remember Josh and thank him and his family for their sacrifice. Thank you Officer Miktarian and our law enforcement community for keeping us safe.



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