



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH

SENIOR SAFETY!

Each year, millions of elderly Americans fall victim to some type of financial fraud or scheme. These include romance scams, lottery scams, phone scams, computer scams, and sweepstakes scams.

Our seniors are also targeted by criminals who see them as frail or too trusting.

My goal as Summit County Prosecutor is to empower and help residents better understand how criminals act and to learn the best ways to protect themselves and minimize their chances of becoming a crime victim.

That is why I declare each September as Senior Safety Awareness month. The public awareness campaign helps us refocus our efforts to help protect seniors.

You will see billboards and bus ads throughout Summit County urging people to report elder abuse. People can call the Summit County Sheriff's 24-hour hotline at 330.643.2181 or Adult Protective Services at 330.643.7217. The campaign also provides information to help people recognize and avoid scams which target the elderly.

Report Elder Abuse	AVOID SCAMS
Your Reaction Makes a Difference	BEWARE OF CALLS DEMANDING YOU TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION
	Resist the Pressure to Act Quickly
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR	
KANDY FATHEREE SUMMIT COUNTY SHERIFF	You Cannot Pay Utility Bills with Gift Cards
24 Hour Sheriff Hotline (330) 643 - 2181	Adult Protective Services (330) 643 - 7217
	Check with Family Members or Trusted Friends Before Taking Action

Criminals are always looking for new ways to scam you out of money and possibly steal your identity. Artificial Intelligence, or AI, is becoming more prevalent. Criminals can now copy a person's voice to convince a family member or friend that they need help.

One thing I always tell people is do your best to double-check things. If a phone call is from a number you don't recognize yet the caller claims to be a family member or friend, you should then call that family member or friend to verify that something is indeed wrong and they need help.

Unfortunately, the old scams seem to pop up time and again. Scammers use your emotions against you to make a rash, immediate decision.

Scams like the jury duty scam, social security scam, romance scam, grandparent scam, charity and lottery scam have been around for years.

You can protect yourself by recognizing these attempts and resisting the urge to act quickly. And remember to never give any personal information, money, or gift cards to unverified businesses or people.

My hope is that you will not be one of the millions of people who fall victim to these scams.

Check on your friends and family members. Make sure they are ok—and stay safe!



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co.summit.oh.us/prosecutor



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

IN THE COMMUNITY

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office works hard every day to provide information to the community to help residents stay safe.

That's why we are so honored each year to take part in National Night Out!

This year Prosecutor's Office employees were at numerous locations throughout Summit County, including Akron, Stow, and Cuyahoga Falls.



Prosecutor Walsh joined Stow Police Chief Jeff Film with prosecutor's office employees as they greeted people during the event.

Our commitment to keeping Summit County safe is strong! We recently held our FREE Women's Self-Defense class at Nardon High School.

Attendees learned simple techniques to minimize their chances of becoming a victim of crime.

People also learned about the trachea notch push off and how to escape if someone grabs your arm as well as ways to escape a choke hold.



We hope you can make our next class at Stow-Munroe Falls High School on Tuesday, October 24 at 6pm.

We had a great time at this year's Senior Day at the Soap Box Derby.

The event includes a senior safety fair and provides seniors an opportunity to ride down the iconic Derby Downs in a Soap Box!



It was wonderful meeting new friends and seeing old ones!

GUILTY VERDICTS

August 2023

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

Dan Sallerson **Emily Hall**

Joseph Mittica (2) **Matt Kuhn**

Jon Baumoel **Amanda Koren**

GREAT JOB PROSECUTORS!

TOUGH PROSECUTIONS

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

Christopher Mason, 39

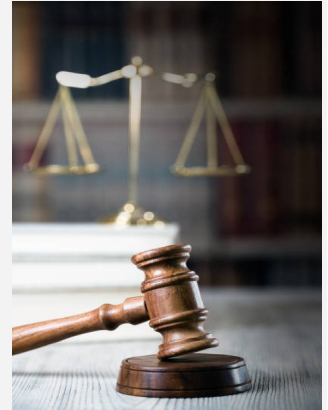
- Murder
- **LIFE IN PRISON**

Calvin Thompson, 20

- Aggravated Murder
- **LIFE IN PRISON**

Deangelo Preston, 23

- Murder
- **LIFE IN PRISON**





INTRODUCING ADAM!

EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Hi. I'm Adam and I am the Summit County Prosecutor's Office new facility dog!

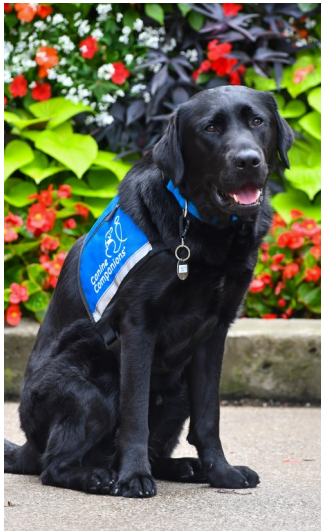
Don't worry, Avery still works here. But he's getting older and the smart hoomans here know that he might soon retire. So they applied to get a new dog to help with crime victims. And that's me!

I'm a black Labrador-Retriever and just turned two-years-old. I was trained by the same organization which trained Avery, Canine Companions. And Stow-Kent Animal Hospital will take care of my veterinary care. Pet Supplies Plus will take care of my food and grooming.



My hooman handler is Alyse. She's a victim advocate in the office. She works with me every day, then takes me home.

My main job will be to sit with children when they come to the office for meetings. I can even go with them to court for hearings and testimony. I can also sit with adults when they meet with prosecutors in the office.



I'm excited about getting started and helping

hoomans



Follow Adam & Avery on Social Media at:

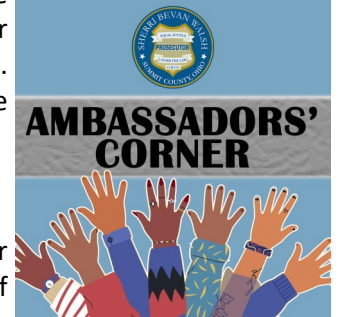
Adam—<https://www.facebook.com/AdamVIISCP0>

Instagram—@SCPOAdam

Avery—<https://www.facebook.com/SummitCountyProsecutorAveryII>

Instagram—@AverySCPO

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.



History is a valuable part of our education and a requirement of high school graduation. We are taught that we must study the past so that we can learn from its mistakes, continue its successes, improve on its shortcomings, and build on its promises. Yet today there are some in our society who are looking to exclude certain segments of our population and even attempting to erase particular events from being taught.

Think back on your time in school. Did you ever learn about The Nicholas Brothers? Did you study Mary Jackson? Were you taught about the work of Severo Ochoa, MD? Did you read about the accomplishments of Mamie Phipps Clark? What about the Tulsa Massacre? The role of African American soldiers in the American Revolution? If you don't recognize these names or events, take a minute to learn how these Americans contributed to the fabric of our society.

History is meant to be shared in its entirety, not picked over and topics chosen to just teach what makes us comfortable. Teachers and school districts are under mounting pressure to eliminate topics being taught.

It has become more and more difficult to get a complete understanding of the impacts minorities have had on our country. It is up to us to seek out knowledge, to look for opportunities in every corner, in every open door. Ask questions and listen. Be curious about the world around you. Then pass on that knowledge to your children, grandchildren, neighbors, and friends. We all bear the responsibility of passing on what history has left behind: the good, the bad, AND the ugly.

As Maya Angelou says, "Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better."



Help Us Go Green!

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



TOP COP

AKRON DETECTIVE WALTER MORRIS

NOMINATED BY ASST PROSECUTORS DAN SALLERSON & JOSEPH MITTICA

In this modern world, with constantly changing technology, cell phones have become a key component to investigating crimes. Further, it requires law enforcement and prosecutors to stay ever vigilant on the changes in both technology as well as apps, social media, and other means of communications through cell phones. Just staying in-step with criminals can be a daunting task.



However, Det. Morris is not being nominated for just extracting information from the defendant’s phone, but rather his tireless work before and during the trial, going over the details of what was pulled from the phone.

Moreover, Det. Morris spent extensive time with the prosecutors handling the case to make sure they understood how to access, retrieve, and

That is why we nominate Akron Police Detective Walter Morris as this month’s TOP COP.

utilize key information from the phone to present to the jury. He then followed all this up with a whole afternoon of testifying so that the jury understood how the information was obtained from the phone and how we knew it was Christopher Blue’s phone.

Detective Morris was involved in the investigation into the murder of 19-year-old Owen Barzal. 19-year-old Christopher Blue was arrested, charged, and eventually convicted in the case.

It is because of this incredible attention to detail that a Summit County jury found Christopher Blue guilty. Blue is now serving a life sentence.

During the investigation it was discovered that Christopher Blue left his cell phone behind in the vehicle where he had shot and killed Owen Barzal. It was a key piece of evidence leading to Blue’s conviction.

**Great job and congratulations
Detective Morris!**

SUICIDE PREVENTION

September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. The hope is to increase awareness about suicide and hopefully prevent tragedies.



According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), suicidal thoughts, much like mental health conditions, can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, or background. Visit their website at <https://namisummit.org/> or www.nami.org/ for additional information.

Also, call the following numbers for support:

- NAMI Summit County Helpline—330.252.1188**
- Summit County ADM Crisis Hotline—330.434.9144**
- Crisis Text Line—TEXT 4hope to 741741**

SENIOR SAFETY CALENDAR

Looking for a way to organize your days and track your appointments—plus learn vital safety information?

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

The 2024 calendar has great safety information for everyone. If you would like a Senior Safety Awareness Calendar, please contact Elliot Kolkovich, the Summit County Prosecutor’s Office Community Outreach Prosecutor, at ekolkovich@prosecutor.summitoh.net or 330.643.2800..

SENIOR SAFETY AWARENESS 2024 CALENDAR



Calendar Sponsored by Summit County Prosecuting Attorney Sherri Bevan Walsh

WHY I'M A PROSECUTOR

PATRICK KABASINSKI

"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 Patrick Kabasinski, 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, after a case is over, when a victim calls or says thank you. They don't have much control in the courtroom and what happens and we are there to advocate for them and present evidence and the facts and hopefully get a positive outcome.

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

The most difficult part of being a prosecutor is that the community will sometimes not think very highly of the prosecutor's office. There is a belief prosecutor's won't listen and want to put everyone in jail. I always try to find an opportunity to help not only the victim in the case but see if there is a solution which can benefit both the victim and the defendant.

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

• WHY DID YOU BECOME A PROSECUTOR?

I became a prosecutor because my family has a long history of working in law enforcement and helping people. That help might be from a police department, or teaching in the community, or volunteering, or from the Prosecutor's Office. I've always been pulled and driven to help anyone that I can.

HALLOWEEN SAFETY

Halloween is nearly here—and if your little ghost or goblin is heading out for a night of costumes and candy, there are some things you should remember to keep everyone safe.

Remember these simple tips, and check out the graphic, if you or your kids are on the hunt for some tasty sweets—or if you are handing out candy.

- Go with friends only in well-lit areas.
- Teach your children to never go into a home for candy.
- Use reflective tape on your child's costume so drivers can see them.
- Have children carry a glow stick or flashlight.

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

<p>WHEN WALKING</p> <p>CROSS THE STREET AT CORNERS</p> <p>USE TRAFFIC SIGNALS AND CROSSWALKS</p> <p>LOOK LEFT, RIGHT, AND THEN LEFT AGAIN BEFORE YOU CROSS</p> <p>PUT YOUR PHONE DOWN AND HEAD UP WHEN CROSSING</p> <p>HAVE CHILDREN LEARN TO MAKE EYE CONTACT WITH DRIVERS BEFORE CROSSING IN FRONT OF THEM</p> <p>WALK ON SIDEWALKS, NOT THE STREET</p> <p>KEEP A LOOKOUT FOR CARS THAT ARE TURNING OR BACKING UP</p>	<p>WHEN DRIVING</p> <p>DRIVE SLOWLY AND STAY ALERT</p> <p>TAKE TIME TO LOOK FOR CHILDREN AT INTERSECTIONS, MEDIANS AND CURBS</p> <p>BACK YOUR VEHICLE UP SLOWLY AND TRIPLE CHECK TO MAKE SURE NO ONE IS AROUND</p> <p>ELIMINATE DISTRACTIONS</p> <p>AROUND THE HOURS OF 5:30 TO 9:30 THERE WILL BE A LOT OF CHILDREN OUT. DRIVE EXTRA CAREFUL AT THESE HOURS</p> <p>STOP FOR ALL CHILDREN AND ALLOW THEM TO CROSS IN FRONT OF YOU TO ELIMINATE THE RISK OF THEM DARTING OUT</p>
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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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