



SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

Summit County Prosecutor

Newsletter

August 2007

53 University Avenue
6th Floor
Akron, OH 44308
Phone: 330-643-2800
Fax: 330-643-8277

Message from the Prosecutor



Prosecutor
Sherri Bevan Walsh

As of August 29, the Summit County Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) helped 137 parents get their driver's licenses back as part of CSEA's Driver's License Reinstatement program. More importantly, those parents made \$44,102 worth of payments to their children.

Every year, we recognize August as **Child Support Awareness Month**. As part of this important month, we participated in the Driver's License Reinstatement Program with 11 other Ohio counties. In fact, throughout the month of August, my Office was active in a rigorous outreach program to engage parents, as well as legislators, to bring awareness to child support issues.

In addition to participating in the Driver's License Reinstatement program, we ran full-page ads in local newspapers announcing the program and had 20 billboards featuring parents who are considered fugitives for not paying their child support. We also wrote our Congressional representatives and thanked them for supporting House of Representatives bill H.R. 1386 and Senate bill 803, supported by Senator Sherrod Brown and Representatives Tim Ryan and Betty Sutton. Should it pass, it would repeal a provision of the *2005 Deficit Reduction Act* that eliminates matching federal funds for child support agencies.

My Office, as well as thousands of custodial parents, recognizes the importance of child support. Earlier this year, Congress called child support the second most important method of combating child poverty and if this bill passes, it will go a long way toward supporting collection efforts.

At Summit County CSEA, a division of the Summit County Prosecutor's Office, the impact of child support on families is evident. Since 2000, the child support collected annually has risen from \$85.4 million to \$97.3 million. We have one of the busiest – and most effective – agencies in the state, with more than 55,000 cases.

If you would like to contact Ohio legislators to encourage them to support H.R. 1386/Senate 803, I've posted their contact information and a sample letter on our CSEA Web site, <http://www.co.summit.oh.us/Prosecutor/childsupp>.

Child Support Enforcement Agency's Criminal Non-Support Unit (CNS)

Since I assumed office in 2001 (through July 31, 2007), there have been 2,179 felony indictments for criminal non-support in Summit County.

Of that amount, there have been 1,820 convictions and more than \$11 million collected from these defendants.

Thanks to the Criminal Non-Support Unit for their hard work!

GUILTY!

Congratulations to Assistant Prosecutors **Angela Poth-Wypasek, Mike Todd, Mike Carroll, Becky Doherty (two), Kim Kaplan, John Green** and **Shari Barton-Harrell (two)** who had juries return **GUILTY VERDICTS** at trials in July!

Summit CSEA Awarded Passport Denial, Highest Lump Sum Collection

On July 30, 2007, the Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) was recognized by the State's Ohio Job & Family Services for "**Passport Denial, Highest Lump Sum Collection**" (Fiscal Year 2006) at its 5th Annual Child Support Training Conference.



James B. Austin is a man who paid his back child support because he wanted to go overseas and was concerned that his passport would be denied. He therefore made a lump-sum payment of \$39,151.31 in February of this year. He has lived in Georgia for years, possibly as far back as 2001, and avoided authorities until this time. Mr. Austin is paid in full and his child support case is now closed.

Questions? E-mail Laurie Cramer:
cramer@prosecutor.summitoh.net

We're on the Web!

www.co.summit.oh.us/Prosecutor/Index.htm

Top Cops

**Detective Michael Shaeffer, Akron Police Dept.
Officers Chris Crockett & Donald Sears, Akron
Police Dept.**



Nominated by: Assistant Prosecutor Kim Kaplan

Officer Donald Sears responded to a call regarding a robbery with a gun on December 17, 2006. When he arrived, the suspects were gone. He gathered crucial, detailed information regarding the suspects and immediately broadcast it. **Detective Michael Shaeffer** arrived on the scene and also obtained evidence, including the detail that one of the suspects had gold around his face.

Once **Officer Chris Crockett** arrived, he was able to obtain a description of the male suspect from the victim's neighbor. That witness was able to pick Dwayne Ramsey out of a photo array. Officer Crockett then proceeded to the Barberton home of the female suspect, Amy Parker, and gathered information regarding Ramsey's vehicle, including the license plate number.

Ramsey was subsequently stopped, and Officer Crockett arrived on the scene and proceeded to search the vehicle. At that time, he recovered the victim's purse and a toy gun that had been altered to appear authentic. Officer Crockett interviewed the passengers and was able to locate Amy Parker in a drug house.

With the combined investigatory efforts of these fine officers, both Defendants were apprehended within three hours of the first call. At trial, these officers' extremely professional presentation on the stand went a long way in helping a jury render a guilty verdict within 15 minutes for robbery. Visiting Judge Judith Cross sentenced Ramsey on August 17 to seven years in prison.

In addition, Officer Sears went the extra mile and went to the victim's home the night before the trial to help calm her fears of coming to court. These officers did an incredible job!

Outrageous Crime of the Month



Renee Smith is outrageous for several reasons, but especially because she betrayed her position of trust as a school teacher in Springfield Township.

Smith, 37, pled guilty in July to Sexual Battery, two counts of Corrupting Another with Drugs, and two counts of Furnishing Alcohol to a Minor.

Smith was a special education teacher at Springfield High School and had been engaging in sexual activity with one of her students. She also provided alcohol and Xanax to him and another student.

As part of her plea, Smith agreed to surrender her teaching license. She will also be classified as a sexual offender. Judge Elinore Stormer will sentence Smith on August 31.

**Kudos to Assistant Prosecutor Kim Kaplan
for her hard work on this Outrageous Case!**

Meet Assistant Prosecutor Kevin Mayer

Position: Courtroom Prosecutor

Hire date: June 2000

Home Town: Parma, Ohio

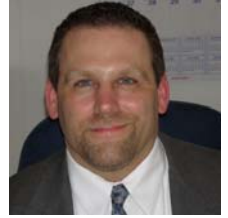
Personal: Married, one child

Law Degree: Ohio Northern
University College of Law, Ada, Ohio

Years experience: 14 years

Little Known Fact: The day after I graduated from college, I jumped on a plane to Alaska and worked on a ship for two months helping to clean up the Valdez oil spill.

Most memorable case: I claim to have the record for the fastest trial. On a breaking and entering case, Judge Unruh had a jury assemble at 9:45 a.m. We picked a jury, the State put on two witnesses, defense offered no witnesses and we went straight to closing arguments. The jury received the case at noon and was instructed to deliberate or go to lunch. I walked back to my office just in time to get a call that the verdict was in after only 10 minutes. By the way, it was guilty!



CONSUMER ALERT!!

If you've recently been bombarded with greeting cards in your e-mail inbox, don't get excited about having a host of secret admirers. They're the latest method of sending computer viruses.



You've probably seen one – or 100 – e-mail notifications that inform you that you've received a card from a "classmate" or a "friend." However, if you've ever received a legitimate e-card, you'll recall that the e-mail states "A Hallmark E-card from (name of sender)" or "I sent you an e-card from AmericanGreetings.com."

If a recipient opens the e-mail and clicks on the link, a variant of the Zapchast Trojan virus will launch. It installs an Internet Relay Chat client (IRC), which causes a computer to connect to an IRC channel, allowing hackers to remotely command the computer.

Just to be on the safe side, you should use the E-card pickup feature, which is available on both greeting card Web sites.

If you do receive one of these e-mails, do not open it. You can forward them to abuse@hallmark.com or security@americangreetings.com. You may also report it to the Internet Computer Crime Center at www.ic3.gov.