



SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

Summit County Prosecutor

Newsletter

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

Message from the Prosecutor



Prosecutor
Sherri Bevan Walsh

September is Senior Safety Awareness Month

I have been declaring September as "Senior Safety Awareness Month" since 2002. Seniors can be a vulnerable group in our society, falling victim to scams, robberies, assaults, and other crimes aimed at those who are perceived to be weak. I declare this month every year to bring awareness to senior citizens so they arm themselves with the facts and knowledge on staying safe. Those facts are:

Take a Self-Defense Class: I give speeches to senior groups and work with the University of Akron Police Department to teach seniors self-defense tips to defend themselves against attackers;

Keep up with current scams: Sign up to receive updates on current scams happening in Summit County by going to our Website at www.co.summit.oh.us/Prosecutor.

Be aware of common crimes: I have a calendar that reviews 12 safety tips about common crimes aimed at seniors, such as deceptive lending practices, home repair scams, telemarketing scams, identity theft, and others. The 2009 calendars are in, so call our office for a calendar (330) 643-2800.

Know your rights: If you believe you are being taken advantage of, even by a family member, call my office for referrals to the appropriate agency or authorities.

I am here to protect all of our citizens from crime. Seniors, however, present a unique challenge be financially stable, in need of assistance, and physically frail. Those things do not have to translate into being victims of crime. Through awareness, we can make a difference.



Prosecuting Attorney Sherri Bevan Walsh

tells seniors how they can avoid becoming a victim of crime.

984 PARENTS TAKE THE RIGHT STEP!!



On August 22-23, 984 parents met us at Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church to participate in Child Support Days. Child Support Days was a collaborative effort among the Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) and other county and state agencies to provide a one-stop opportunity for clients to clear up

outstanding child support problems. It was the first time CSEA offered this opportunity and we were very excited about the results:

Total clients: 984

Total child support payments collected: \$25,314

Largest amount collected: \$2,492 paid on credit card

Total Warrants: 105 (including 68 child support-related warrants, misdemeanors, and other felony warrants)

Driver's licenses: 415 individuals had the child support suspension lifted from their driver's license (some still had other reasons for having their licenses suspended; and/or, many had to pay BMV fees to be reinstated)

Employment and training: 92 people sought information from the Department of Job and Family services on employment and training

The remaining 464 individuals came in for various child support-related issues they wanted to resolve. Thank you to all of our partners, especially Job and Family Services, which funded this opportunity.

THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS!!



On July 2, Jerelyn Estright, 60, of Barberton, was convicted by a jury of **Theft from the Elderly**, a felony of the second degree.

By misusing her Power of Attorney over her 85-year-old mother's financial affairs, Estright treated herself to almost \$100,000 in vacations, meals, and shopping binges. Her purchases included a \$1,600 color copier, dog steps, and Irish figurines. Her mother questioned her daughter's spending habits because Estright is unemployed.

Judge Thomas Teodosio sentenced Estright to two years in prison.

Assistant Prosecutors Margaret Kanellis and Mike Todd handled this outrageous case. Good job!

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

We're on the Web!
www.co.summit.oh.us/prosecutor

Top Cop

Detective Dave Chocola
Tallmadge Police Department



Nominated by: Assistant Prosecutor Charlene Hardy (and Sgt. Scott Christopher, Tallmadge Police Department)

This month's Top Cop, Tallmadge Police **Detective Dave Chochola**, was recommended by an assistant prosecutor and the Detective Bureau Sergeant at the Tallmadge Police Department. Det. Chochola worked on the case of Troy Anderson, who was charged with Aggravated Robbery of Rocky's Skating Rink.

Det. Chochola worked diligently on this investigation, rereading the file in search of new evidence which he was successful in finding. He conducted an excellent interview with the co-Defendant, gaining her trust without making her promises, which resulted in her cooperation. That testimony was critical, considering that Anderson wore a mask and gloves in the crime.

Det. Chochola stayed in constant contact with my Office, assisting in any way he could.

On June 2, Anderson was sentenced to **16 Years in prison**, for Aggravated Robbery with a Firearm Specification as well as Having Weapons Under Disability.

Way to go, Top Cop!

BE ON THE ALERT!

Once again, criminals are exploiting our natural instinct to help a person in need.

Recently, a man knocked on the door of a home claiming he was a pizza deliveryman who had just been robbed. The homeowner instinctively opened the door to let him in to call police. The intruder then pulled a gun on the group of four men and one woman and opened the back door for his partner in crime. Fortunately, those victims only lost their personal possessions and were unharmed.

It is hard to resist the urge to help someone in need. My best advice would be to keep your doors closed and locked. If you open your door, make sure your screen door is locked and tell the person you will call 9-1-1 and then close your door.

MEET ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR CHARLENE HARDY

Position: Assistant Prosecutor

Years as an Assistant Prosecutor: 10

Hometown: Canton, Ohio

Law degree: University of Akron

Little known fact:

I am very proud to say that I am a former police officer. My life is an open book.



Most memorable case: State v. Jermaine Baker

Baker, along with two co-defendants committed a home invasion, duct-taped the Victims and shot two of them, a man and his granddaughter, on her 16th birthday. There were 32 counts in the indictment and numerous specifications, including Repeat Violent Offender, Body Armor, and Firearm specs. I did the trial (with Becky Doherty) while in a wheelchair because of a broken leg. When the many guilty verdicts were read, the Defendant's mother screamed that I would next break my neck because I was such a bad person for going after her innocent son. Her son's photo had been in the newspaper after being led out by police following a lengthy stand-off. He got 32 years in prison.

GUILTY!

*Congratulations to Assistant Prosecutors Tom Bown, Jessica Didion, Felicia Easter, John Green, April Keller-Drumm, Greg Peacock, Angela Poth-Wypasek, Jennie Shuki, Omar Siddiq, Brian Stano (2), Mike Todd (2), Maggie Tomaro, and Angela Walls Alexander (3) who each had juries return **GUILTY VERDICTS** at trials in July! WOW!*

GREAT JOB, ASSISTANT PROSECUTORS!

Tough Prosecution



In December 2007, Terrance Feaster, 19, of Stanton Avenue in Akron, went to the Cuyahoga Street residence of Dustin Cline, 18. When Cline opened the door, Feaster shot at him, striking him numerous times. Cline shot back, striking him in the groin area. Cline died from his wounds. Feaster also shot a woman who was at the residence.

Feaster was convicted on July 8 of **Murder**, a special felony, as well as **Felonious Assault**, a felony of the second degree. The following day, he was sentenced by Judge Brenda Burnham Unruh to **26 Years to Life**.

Great job on this conviction, Assistant Prosecutors Greg Peacock and Jennie Shuki!