



SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

Summit County Prosecutor

Newsletter

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Message from the Prosecutor



Prosecutor
Sherri Bevan Walsh

With the holidays upon us, many of us will be visiting family and friends and attending holiday parties. With holiday festivities come food and alcohol. Oftentimes, because it is the “holiday season,” people let their guards down when it comes to drinking because alcohol tends to flow more heavily and frequently.

As a result, there is an increase in drunk driving incidents, making the holiday season – Thanksgiving through New Year’s – an extremely dangerous time. Since 1981, the month of December has been recognized as National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month.

Drunk driving statistics are downright frightening: approximately 17,000 people are killed in alcohol-related crashes each year – or one approximately every 30 minutes. Another individual is injured roughly every two minutes. Alcohol-related crashes also carry a hefty price tag on Americans, costing tens of billions of dollars annually.

Please be careful this holiday season. If you observe a motorist who is driving erratically, call 911 immediately. Regardless of the reason for their erratic driving – be they impaired or ill – alerting the police may save someone’s life.

If you will be hosting a party, make arrangements beforehand in case you have to deal with a guest who becomes intoxicated. Under no circumstances should you allow them to drive home. One idea is for guests to drop their keys into a basket – which is in your possession – as they arrive, so you can monitor who drives and who does not. Should they be impaired when it is time for them to claim their car keys, you can make alternate arrangements for them to get home safely. Your guests should be appreciative that you’ve taken the time to ensure their safety.

If you find yourself drinking during the holidays, make plans ahead of time to get home safely. You could arrange for a sober ride home – either with a friend or a cab – or you could spend the night, if possible.

Let’s make this holiday season a happy and safe one for all of us.

Prosecutor Walsh’s Safety Tips

- While shoveling snow or setting up decorations, keep your doors locked! It might seem silly to lock your doors while you are right outside, but home intruders often look for these opportunities to help themselves to your purse or valuables while your back is turned.
- Be cautious when someone offers to shovel your sidewalk. In fact, don’t even open your door for them. Last year, robbers pushed their way in and robbed the resident after he answered the door and turned down their services.
- Do not leave holiday packages in your vehicle. Thieves know that shoppers often hide packages in their car, or leave them there because they have too much to carry. By the same token, when you go out, close your curtains. Overflowing piles of gifts are a tempting sight to the burglar who is peeking in windows in hopes of a holiday bonanza.



SAFETY KIDS 2009 WINNERS!

This year, almost 1,700 students in 24 Summit County schools participated in my annual Safety Kids Calendar Contest. The winners represented Goodyear Middle School, Holy Family School, Hyre Middle School, Lee Eaton Elementary School, Nordon Hills Middle School, Schrop Intermediate School, Spring Hill JR. High School, St. Barnabas, St. Hilary, St. Joseph, St. Paul, and Tallmadge Middle School.



The poster of the grand Prize winner, Joey Gironda of St. Joseph, will be featured on the cover of our 2009 Safety Kids calendar. His poster features the message of new Safety Rule 12: Violence in the home is never OK. If you would like a copy, please contact my Office at 330-643-2800.

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

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

Top Cop

Investigator Mark Anderson,
Summit County Prosecutor's Office



Nominated by: Summit County Assistant Prosecutors

This month, Assistant Prosecutors nominated one of our own, **Investigator Mark Anderson**. Mark has been with our office since 2005, after spending 30 years as a Wadsworth Police Officer and several in the Summit County Sheriff's Office. Mark has done a tremendous job for the Office and never ceases to fulfill the request of every Assistant Prosecutor, be it serving subpoenas, locating a vital witness, obtaining phone records, or investigating a case.

Assistant Prosecutor Susan Manofsky nominated Mark Anderson for "hanging in there and getting phone records on so many of our violent crime cases - too numerous to list. This type of evidence 'seals the deal' when we have to prove a call was placed or a text message sent. The best evidence on a cell phone would be for the investigating officer to take a photograph of the cell phone displaying the caller ID or the text message at the time the report is made. This is especially true since some of the phone companies do not maintain detailed records for very long. Mark Anderson has been educating us on these issues to help everyone act quickly to get the best evidence possible!"

Assistant Prosecutor Angela Walls Alexander considers Mark "crucial." She added, "He is always there when you need him, never complains, and he runs all over creation getting jail calls and finding victims."

General Counsel Mary Ann Kovach spoke highly of Mark's efforts in the investigation of rapist and murderer Earl Mann. "He and Bill Pfeiffer went all over interviewing people. He also went to the prison(s) for interviews of Earl Mann's fellow inmates and made initial contact with Mann, transporting him for the polygraphs, etc. Mark followed as many leads as we gave him and made his own leads talking to family members, witnesses, and transporting some of them to grand jury."

Way to go, Top Cop!



GUILTY!!!!

Congratulations to Assistant Prosecutors Jessica Didion, Becky Doherty (2), Felicia Easter, Charlene Hardy, Greta Johnson, Greg Peacock, Angela Poth-Wypasek, and Omar Siddiq, who each got convictions at trials in October. Assistant

Prosecutor **Angela Walls-Alexander** got the most convictions in October, with THREE!

Prosecutors obtained guilty verdicts in
11 of 13 trials last month!!

GREAT JOB, ASSISTANT PROSECUTORS!

MEET THE JUVENILE DIVISION

Our Juvenile Division, which consists of two sections, **Dependency/Neglect** and **Delinquency**, is housed on Dan Street in the Summit County Juvenile Detention Center.

Dependency/Neglect prosecutors represent Children's Services Board. Annually, they handle approximately 1,200 cases involving juveniles who may have been abused, neglected, or are dependent in some way.

Chris Mastran, Supervisor

Tiffany Bird

Chelsea Bollin

Naoibh Chaplin

Cheryl Green

Stephen Neumeyer

Every year, *Delinquency* prosecutors handle approximately 7,000 cases involving juveniles who commit traffic, misdemeanor, and felony offenses.

Teri Burnside, Supervisor

Bob Capes

Ron Clum

Catherine Loya

Nick Palumbo

Devorah Pasternak



THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS!



On November 7, Glen Van Kleeck, 70, of Mac Drive in Stow, was sentenced by Judge Robert Gippin to **15 years in prison** for six counts of **Gross Sexual Imposition**, a felony of the third degree.

Van Kleeck, a former police officer and Boy Scout Leader, admitted that his actions were wrong to Lieutenant Rick Myers of the Stow Police Department. He also told Lt. Myers that he cannot control himself.

Lieutenant Myers did a thorough investigation of Van Kleeck, uncovering information that indicated Van Kleeck had sexually assaulted other boys, who are now adults. Van Kleeck admitted to those crimes as well.

Van Kleeck pled guilty on October 2. Prosecutors requested 15 years, which he received.

Assistant Prosecutor April Keller Drumm handled this outrageous case. Good job!