



Sherri Bevan Walsh Summit County Prosecuting Attorney

Issue IV

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Message from the Prosecutor

Hot off the presses is the news that violent crime has dropped in Akron, but that burglaries have jumped 2.5 percent since 2009. We were having a discussion in the office the other day on this very topic. One of my assistant prosecutors commented that she is the "Queen of felony burglary prosecutions," referring to the dramatic increase in burglary cases she is prosecuting. She also commented that the majority of her burglary cases were happening in broad day light. Believe it or not, a high number of break-ins occur in the middle of the day.

With summer coming up it's a good time to review your security measures.

Don't...

- ✓ Run to the store and leave screen and other doors unlocked; you're making it easier for burglars to walk right in.
- ✓ Leave windows open when you are gone. That includes second story windows, where we sometimes think burglars can't reach. They can.
- ✓ Leave your garage door open. That's even easier access to your house than unlocked doors.
- ✓ Leave the house unlocked when doing yard work. Again, it's easy to be distracted and not see someone entering your home.
- ✓ Hire a "handy man" that does not come from a reputable company. Check a company's background with the Better Business Bureau.

Do...

- ✓ Install outdoor lights that have motion sensors. Burglars don't like to be "lit up."
- ✓ Purchase timers for indoor lights.
- ✓ Close your drapes and blinds during the day (and at night). It not only doesn't allow a burglar to scope out your home, it will also lower your air conditioning bill.
- ✓ Discontinue your newspaper when you go on vacation and ask neighbors to remove door hangers. Both are signs that you're not home.
- ✓ Beware of those solicitors who walk up while you're gardening to offer work. It's not a good idea to hire strangers.

GUILTY AT TRIAL

Congratulations Assistant Prosecutors **Nikolaus Buckmeier, Aaron Howell, Tom Kroll, Brian LoPrinzi, Angela Poth-Wypasek (2), Justin Richard, Dan Sallerson, and Ryan Stickel**, who obtained **GUILTY** verdicts at trial in April!

Contact Us

For information about the Summit County Prosecutor's Office, go to our website:

Prosecutor - Summit County

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Congratulations High Point Winners!



Prosecutor Walsh read the following when awarding the High Point Awards last week:

Chris Mellion has been with the Prosecutor's Office since 1985 and is a legal secretary. She is always professional; her quality of work is excellent; and she is one of the most pleasant people to know. Chris always demonstrates a high degree of knowledge in all areas of the office. For this reason, she was asked to assist in the office's transition to a new case management system, which she took on gladly. In addition to managing her assigned courtroom, Chris asked to handle Drug Court, which is in another courtroom, and extraditions, because she enjoys doing them. Chris gets rave reviews every year on her evaluations with comments from prosecutors that include, "Chris is the epitome of a good secretary. All my years working here, she is one of my favorites." "Chris is always without error!" Chris always goes beyond what is asked of her and her dependability and loyalty are what make her a great role model and a valuable asset to my office.



Ralph Flynn retired from the Summit County Sheriff's Office and joined the Prosecutor's Office as an Investigator/Evidence Officer five years ago. Ralph is always on the move – sometimes a blur as he carries out his various duties. Ralph cleaned up the evidence room and now keeps, secures, or returns evidence to various police departments. He never slows down and is always willing to take on any assignment without complaint and with a smile. Ralph also makes helpful suggestions and never says "it can't be done." His versatility makes him an asset to the office.

Thank you High Point Winners for all you do!

Top Cop



State vs. Larry Adams and Delwin Isaac

Top Cop: **Det. John Ross**, Akron Police Department

Nominated by: **Assistant Prosecutors Brian LoPrinzi and Colleen Sims**

On November 5, 2010, Larry Adams and Delwin Isaac went to the home of Darnell Roper to rob him of his marijuana and drug money. A gun fight ensued and Isaac was killed. Several others were in the home at the time and left once the gun shots were fired. Roper, injured, left and did not seek medical treatment. Adams also left the scene.

When Det. Ross arrived all of the witnesses had disappeared. The Detective had to begin piecing together what had happened. He sought the assistance of the U.S. Marshalls to find Roper and promptly interviewed him. Next he had to track down the scattered witnesses, which he was able to do. Det. Ross also conducted multiple interviews with the surviving defendant and painstakingly obtained the true facts in order to lock him in on a story.

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Email Melanie Hart at
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As a result of his hard work and dedication, Larry Adams, 25, of Akron, was sentenced to 17 years to life by Judge Tom Parker after being found guilty by a jury on May 3 of Murder, Aggravated Robbery, Burglary, Tampering with Evidence, and Having a Weapon Under Disability (having a prior conviction).

Nice job, Top Cop!

That's Outrageous: Two for One



We couldn't decide on which case was best for ***That's Outrageous*** so ... we have two!

An interesting thing happened on the way to jail the other day. Rodney Hackney, 25, of Akron, pled guilty to Possession of Heroin and Tampering with Evidence. As he emptied his pockets before going to jail for the night, he pulled out a wad of cash: \$4,193.10 to be exact. Assistant Prosecutor Joe Fantozzi, whose keen eye was trained in the legal division of the Child Support Enforcement Agency, was aware that Hackney's driver's license was suspended for being in default on his child support. He quickly contacted CSEA attorneys, who contacted the judge in Domestic Relations Court, who ordered the money seized for back child support. Hackney's mother and girlfriend both tried to claim that the money belonged to them so it couldn't be seized, but the judge knew better. His children got the money!



And another thing: how is it that a man who has a court appointed free lawyer and owes \$12,395 in back child support is just walking around with thousands of dollars in his pocket?

Something doesn't smell right here...

Now for the "self-control" case

We recently prosecuted a case that became the source of water cooler discussion because of the irony of the name and the absurdity of the defense.

The trial of *State vs. Temperance "I have a temper" Wright* ended with Wright being found guilty of two counts of Felonious Assault, Vehicular Assault, Obstructing Official Business, and Unlawful Restraint.

Wright will be sentenced on June 16. Last May, Wright and her boyfriend were arguing when the boyfriend went next door and asked to use the phone. The neighbor was outside of her house with her three-year-old daughter and told Wright's boyfriend that he could not use the phone. Wright had previously told the neighbor not to allow her boyfriend to use her phone.

Wright at that time pulled out of her driveway and flew up the neighbor's driveway, slamming into the neighbor and pinning her leg against a front porch. The child was thrown against the porch. The victim's leg was almost completely severed and has since required seven surgeries. Thankfully, the child was not physically harmed.

The punch line: Wright said it was an accident and that she thought the car was in REVERSE when it was actually in DRIVE. Really?

Now these cases are outrageous!