



July 2014

# News from the Criminal Division

## Message from Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh

**H**appy summer! Here in Northeast Ohio, we have to take advantage of the warmer weather while we can. As you enjoy another beautiful summer, please remember that criminals don't take a vacation from crime.

Here are some tips to safeguard you, your loved ones and your home this summer:

- Do not leave your home unlocked during the day while doing outside projects. Roughly one-third of all burglars get in the house through unlocked doors and windows.
- Do not leave first floor windows open during the day if you're not home or at night when you're asleep.
- Always close and lock your garage door-- day or night. By leaving the garage door open, you allow perpetrators to hide and wait for you to come home.
- Install security lights with motion sensors around the perimeter of your home. If you have existing lights, you can buy battery operated add-on motion sensors that are cheap and easy to install.
- Encourage your neighbors to look out for one another and to report suspicious activity to the police. By looking out for your neighbors, you are helping the police keep your neighborhood safe.
- If you are leaving for vacation, do not announce it on social media websites like Facebook and Twitter. Burglars search for families who they



know are not going to be home.

- Check references and compare estimates before having any work done on your home or yard and be wary of door-to-door home improvement solicitors. If it sounds too good to be true, it usually is.
- If you plan to be out of town for a few days, stop your newspaper and mail delivery or ask a trusted friend to pick up your mail and papers.
  - When travelling, limit the amount of cash you carry. Keep your purse or wallet close to your body so that it's harder for a thief to grab.
  - Let your neighbors know if you go on vacation and ask them to keep any eye on your home.
- Going to a barbecue? Limit your alcohol intake or make sure you have a designated driver.
- If you're going boating, don't forget to wear a life jacket. And leave the alcohol at home. Boating while under the influence of drugs and alcohol isn't just dangerous -- it's illegal.
- Leave the fireworks displays to the pros. Although you can legally purchase fireworks in the State of Ohio, it is illegal to set them off here.

Stay safe,

*Sherri B. Walsh*



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# Fugitive Safe Surrender

On June 25 - 28, my office partnered with the Summit County Court of Common Pleas, Summit County Sheriff's Office, Akron Police Department, Ohio Attorney General's Office and many other agencies and community organizations to present Fugitive Safe Surrender.

Fugitive Safe Surrender, which took place at The House of the Lord in Akron, provided people with nonviolent misdemeanor or felony warrants from Summit County an opportunity to turn themselves in. In exchange, they were given favorable consideration for taking responsibility.

Prior to the event, there were approximately 6,000 felony warrants and 16,000 misdemeanor warrants outstanding in Summit County. More than 1,500 people surrendered, thus clearing more than 3,600 warrants.



*Assistant Prosecutor Pete Daly presents a case to Judge Amy Corrigan Jones.*

Of the more than 1,500 people who surrendered, 52 had felony warrants. Because some people had multiple warrants, the people with felony warrants cleared 58 felony and 67 misdemeanor warrants.

Events like Fugitive Safe Surrender are an important public safety tool. When law enforcement has to search for people with warrants, they are putting not only themselves in danger, but also the defendant and the community in general.

Additionally, providing a nonthreatening atmosphere makes it more likely that a defendant will turn themselves in. Many of the people who surrendered said they never took care of their warrants because they were afraid. Now that they've taken the first step toward addressing their legal issues, they can move on and improve their lives.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time!

## Tough Prosecution

These defendants are out of our community for a long time thanks to the hard work of my assistant prosecutors:

### **Danny Carpenter, age 57**

- Rape (three counts)
- Gross Sexual Imposition
- **Sentenced to life in prison**
- **Tier III sex offender**
- **Eligible for parole in 2029**

### **Kyle Spy, age 24**

- Murder
- Firearm specification
- **Sentenced to life in prison**
- **Eligible for parole in 2035**

### **Christy Frymyer, age 30**

- Illegal Assembly (2 counts)
- Aggravated Possession of Drugs (2 counts)
- Illegal Manufacture of Drugs
- **Sentenced to nine years in prison**

## Guilty at Trial in June

Congratulations to the following assistant prosecutors for obtaining guilty verdicts at trial last month:

***Jon Baumel (2)***

***Brian LoPrinzi***

***Teri Burnside***

***Kevin Mayer (2)***

***Nik Buckmeier***

***Dustin Roth***

***Mike Cody***

***Dan Sallerson***

***Joe Dangelo***

***Jennie Shuki (2)***

***Aaron Howell***

***Omar Siddiq***

***Elliot Kolkovich***

***Great job, prosecutors!***

**Help us go green!**

Contact Melanie Hart at [hart@prosecutor.summitoh.net](mailto:hart@prosecutor.summitoh.net) to receive this newsletter by email.



# July Top Cop

## Top Cop: Sgt. Brian Harding

Nominated By: Assistant Prosecutors Jennie Shuki & Brian Stano



At the end of May, a dangerous sexual predator was permanently removed from our community. Jeffery Burks, 54, was sentenced to four consecutive mandatory terms of life in prison without parole, plus an additional 20 years in prison.

Burks has a lengthy history of sexually abusing young girls, which includes him serving nine years in prison for raping two children in 1997. Burks continued his predatory pattern when he was released from prison.

In 2012 and 2013, Burks sexually abused two young girls multiple times. The abuse came to light when their mother noticed one of the girls seemed uncomfortable in her bathing suit after spending the night at Burks' home. The girl disclosed that she and her sister had been

sexually assaulted by Burks, and their mother immediately notified the police.

Sgt. Brian Harding, an officer assigned to Akron Police Department's Juvenile Division, was the lead detective on the case. A dedicated officer, Sgt. Harding remained in close contact with the assistant prosecutors assigned to the case. He even met with prosecutors prior to the case being indicted to ensure that they could present the strongest case possible.

One of the strongest pieces of evidence in this case was the DNA. Because one of the young victims disclosed that she and her sister were assaulted over the course of an entire weekend, Sgt. Harding didn't stop at submitting a rape kit for DNA testing. He asked the mother for all of the clothes the girls wore that

weekend and sent them to the lab at BCI. Several items came back with DNA that matched Burks.

As Sgt. Harding and the prosecutors worked the case, they discovered that this was not the first time Burks was accused of sexually assaulting someone. Sgt. Harding researched Burks' criminal past, uncovering convictions for Gross Sexual Imposition and Rape involving three young victims. Prosecutors then learned of even more accusations.

Sgt. Harding's diligence in uncovering Burks' past helped lead to Burks being deemed a Sexually Violent Predator following his trial. This designation enhanced Burks' penalty, resulting in four life sentences without chance of parole.

**Way to go, Sgt. Harding!**

## Agency Spotlight: Hattie Larlham

Hattie Larlham serves 1,500 children and adults with developmental disabilities throughout Northeast Ohio. The organization believes everyone deserves respect, joy and the ability to follow their dreams.

Hattie Larlham offers a wide variety of services. These include medical services, residential care and vocational opportunities.

Many people are likely familiar with Hattie's Cafe & Gifts. With locations throughout Northeast Ohio, including right here in the Court of Common Pleas, Hattie's employees learn career skills and social skills while serving up delicious sandwiches, salads, ice cream and coffee, as well as gift baskets for any occasion.

That's not the only vocational program. Hattie's Doggie Day Care & Boarding provides day care, boarding,

grooming and a retail area for all of your canine needs. Hattie's Gardens teaches gardening and the benefits of a healthy diet. Hattie's Creative Arts allows participants to creatively express themselves. Proceeds from the artwork benefits the artist.



Hattie Larlham operates several group and community homes throughout Northeast Ohio, as well as a residential center in Mantua. Residents are encouraged to contribute to household duties, which follows the organization's goal of empowering those with disabilities.

For more information on how you can get involved, visit [www.HattieLarlham.org](http://www.HattieLarlham.org).

# Meet an Employee: Chelsea Bollin



**Hire Date:** December 2006

**Title:** Assistant Prosecutor

**Hometown:** I grew up in Hudson and recently moved to Green.

**Fun Fact About Me:** My husband and I were married on New Year's Eve.

**Education:** I earned my bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University in 2002 and my Juris Doctor from the University of Dayton School of Law in 2005.

**Background:** I worked as an attorney in a foreclosure and bankruptcy firm in Hudson, where I was one of two attorneys assigned to represent creditors on their foreclosure actions in Cuyahoga County. When I joined the Summit County Prosecutor's Office in 2006, I started in the Dependency-Neglect Division. I transferred to the Delinquency Division in the fall of 2013.

**Job Duties:** I prosecute criminal offenses committed by those under the age of 18.

**My Most Memorable Case:** I had a case in the Dependency-Neglect Division in which Summit County Children Services (SCCS) worked with a mom for almost the entire two years the case was permitted to be open. Throughout the case, mom was working on addressing drug addiction, homelessness, a mental health diagnosis and concerns with her parenting skills. She had made a huge improvement, in large part because of her new husband, who was a solid source of support for her.

Based on her improvements during the case, the baby was returned to the mom's custody. However, SCCS remained involved with an order of Protective Supervision in order to ensure continued progress.

The day before we went to court to terminate Protective Supervision and close the case, the social worker and Court Appointed Special Advocate went to the mom's home for an unannounced visit. When they pulled into the driveway, they were shocked to see multiple police cruisers. Mom was being arrested for attempting to hire a hit man on Craigslist to kill her husband. We eventually also learned that mom had stopped most of her services, had moved out of the home the social worker thought she lived in and was living with a sex offender.

Everyone was shocked mom was able to cover her ulterior plans so well, but I couldn't get over what a close call that was! We were one day away from closing the case and sending a baby into a disastrous situation.

**Why I Wanted to Join the Prosecutor's Office:** After my first year of law school, I had an internship with the City of Cincinnati Prosecutor's Office. After that summer I knew I wanted to work in a Prosecutor's Office. I thought it was so exciting to see those attorneys split their day between going to court and getting ready for the next thing coming around the bend, how they worked so closely with law enforcement and the subject matter of the cases they handled. Since joining this office seven years ago, I have found that I still enjoy those things. But I truly love that our role in the legal process allows us to "stick up for" the victims that we encounter on our cases and how much of a team approach prosecution is.

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## Child Support Solutions 2014

Have you fallen behind on your child support payments? Child Support Solutions can get you back on track.

WHEN: August 23 & 23, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

WHERE: Ohio Means Jobs Center  
1040 E. Tallmadge Avenue, Akron

**FOR MORE INFO**

[www.SummitCSEA.org](http://www.SummitCSEA.org)  
330-643-2800

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