



OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND



Anne Colt Leitess, State's Attorney

Anne Arundel Justice

A Monthly News Digest from the Office of the State's Attorney for Anne Arundel County

A Message from Anne Arundel County State's Attorney Anne Colt Leitess

Greetings!

Welcome to the October edition of Anne Arundel Justice!

This month, we recognize National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and honor the many Americans who were impacted by intimate partner violence and continue to raise awareness about this critical issue. Nearly 40 years ago, in 1981, a Day of Unity was established to unite advocates and raise awareness about domestic violence. Eight years later, in 1989, October was formally recognized as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and, in 1994, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) was passed. This was the first U.S. federal legislation acknowledging domestic violence and sexual assault as crimes and provided federal resources to encourage community-coordinated responses to combating violence. Each of these milestones and the landmark piece of legislation – as well as necessary resources – are instrumental in our office's ability to effectively prosecute abusers and safeguard the livelihoods of victims and their families. VAWA funds pay a portion of the salary for a victim witness advocate in the State's Attorney's Office dedicated to serving domestic violence survivors.

In this month's newsletter, you'll learn about the role of our devoted team of victim witness advocates who support victims of domestic violence, the additional 30 year prison sentence of two white supremacists who killed a fellow inmate and the bravery of two cousins whose courageous voices led to a 35 year sentence of a former Annapolis resident who abused them.

For the more information, visit our [website](#) or follow us on social media at AnneArundelSAO on Instagram and Twitter and Anne Arundel County State's Attorney's Office on Facebook.

I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable Halloween!

Severna Park Voice: Domestic Violence Advocates Serve

Community

During the month of October, survivors, family members, supporters and community advocates recognize National Domestic Violence Awareness Month to support survivors and honor the lives lost to domestic violence. Last year in Maryland, 29 people were killed by their abuser and nationally, 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men aged 18 and older were impacted by domestic violence, according to the National Domestic Violence Hotline.

In the Office of the State's Attorney for Anne Arundel County, we take violence against any individual very seriously and have a dedicated team of victim/witness advocates who are trained to support crime victims by providing emotional support, advising victims' of their rights, accompanying them to court appearances and providing timely information and assistance for their case. Through this client-centered approach, our advocates take a central role in helping survivors navigate their case from start to finish, and even in the months and years that follow. Our advocates focus on serving the varying needs of each individual during one of the most challenging times of their lives.

"During these unprecedented times, as domestic violence cases have increased in our community, we do not want any survivor to hide behind a mask or feel isolated," said Joan Stammnitz who serves as the Director of Victim/Witness Services in our office. "Our advocates help guide victims through the criminal justice system and they will listen and offer support and resources and referrals every step of the way."

Click [here](#) to read more.

White Supremacists Sentenced to 30 Years in Death of Fellow Prisoner

Vincent Bunner, 27, and Calvin Lockner, 39, were each sentenced to 30 prison sentences by the Honorable Stacy W. McCormack for the second degree murder of another prisoner, John O'Sullivan, 43. Bunner and Lockner were already serving time for violent crimes when they killed O'Sullivan at the Maryland Correctional Institute in Jessup, Md. The Judge McCormack imposed the maximum sentence consecutively to Bunner's current life sentence and Lockner's current 30 year sentence.

A jury convicted the defendants of O'Sullivan's stabbing murder on January 20, 2020.

Investigators learned that O'Sullivan had been attacked as retribution for a gang-related assault at another prison. Bunner, Lockner and Hare were all members of the Aryan Brotherhood, a white supremacist gang.

"John O'Sullivan had tried to make peace with the rival gang members. In return, they savagely attacked him in retribution for an incident between members of their opposing gangs and made him pay with his life," said State's Attorney Anne Colt Leitess, who prosecuted the case on behalf of the citizens of Anne Arundel County. "The defendants' savagely murdered Mr. O'Sullivan and will likely be spending the rest of their lives in jail. Both

men have demonstrated during the course of their lives their extreme dangerousness to the community.”

Click [here](#) to read more.

Repeat Child Sex Offender Receives 35 Years for Sexually Molesting Cousins

Former Annapolis resident, Fidel Reyes-Viveros, 54, was sentenced to 90 years suspended all but 35 years in prison by the Honorable Stacy W. McCormack, announced Anne Arundel County State’s Attorney Anne Colt Leitess. Reyes-Viveros was extradited from Missouri where he was serving five years on child molestation charges.

Reyes-Viveros pled guilty in two separate cases to Sex Abuse of a Minor Continuing Course of Conduct and Sex Offenses against the two child victims on September 25, 2020. The victims were cousins and lived in the same home.

“The children’s families were trying to help the defendant by giving him a place to stay only for him to prey upon their children and sexually molest them. This is truly sad,” said State’s Attorney Anne Colt Leitess. “I want to commend these young victims for bravely coming forward to report this abuse. This case is a reminder that we, as parents, must not allow unsupervised access to our children and at the same time, teach them that no one has the right to touch them in ways or places that make them feel uncomfortable and that they have a right to say no. Open conversations with a trusted adult are what give children the ability to tell when these things happen to them. Unfortunately, this abuse went on for some time and it was only revealed long after it had harmed the victims.

If someone you know is a victim of sexual abuse, please encourage them to tell a trusted adult, guidance counselor at school or call the Anne Arundel Department of Health Sexual Assault Crisis Center and Hotline at 410-222-6800.”

Assistant State’s Attorney Mary-Ann Burkhart prosecuted the case on behalf of the citizens of Anne Arundel County.

Click [here](#) to read more.

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