



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 September edition of Anne Arundel Justice!

I hope everyone is staying well and continuing to adhere to the local safeguards that have been put in place to keep us all safe and healthy. On Monday, Aug. 31, the State's Attorney's Office entered phase four of the judiciary's five-phase progressive reopening plan where the Circuit and District courts will resume non-jury trials, criminal motions hearings and other in-person hearings. It's been quite a challenge to argue cases in court while wearing a mask and remaining six feet apart from others but we are soldiering on and hope these measures will protect both the public and courthouse personnel. Jury trials are set to resume on October 5, and the court is planning ways to protect jurors by increasing the space for the jury assembly areas.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

In this month's newsletter, you'll learn how a recovered gun, shell casings and cellular tracking data lead to the conviction of a killer, who was sentenced to 55 years for the murder of a father of 6; the successful prosecution of a Stevensonsville man who pled guilty to felony animal cruelty charges; and the Glen Burnie woman who received the maximum sentence for the drunk-driving death of a teen. We will also invite you to participate in Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) virtual walk and more.

Please be sure to share our newsletter with your family and friends. And, for the latest up-to-date information, visit our website or follow us on our social media channels:

AnneArundelSAO on Instagram and Twitter

Anne Arundel County State's Attorney's Office on Facebook

I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable Labor Day weekend!

Recovered Gun, Shell Casings and Cell Phone Location Information Leads to 55 Year Sentence of Annapolis Man

Calum Thomas, 23, of Annapolis was sentenced to 55 years in prison by the Honorable Mark W. Crooks for second degree murder and related firearm charges, with five years

of supervised probation upon release, announced Anne Arundel County State's Attorney Anne Colt Leitess.

"This is truly heartbreaking," said State's Attorney Anne Colt Leitess. "Mr. Terry Crouse was an innocent victim and thriving member of our community and his life was snatched away by Thomas because of his extreme disregard for human life. I hope this sentence provides the family and friends of Mr. Crouse with a sense of peace as they continue to heal from such a tragic event. Additionally, I would like to thank the Anne Arundel County Police Department and the FBI for contributing to this successful prosecution."

Deputy State's Attorney Brian Marsh and Assistant State's Attorney Glen Neubauer prosecuted the case on behalf of the citizens of Anne Arundel County.

On Monday, January 2, 2017, Anne Arundel County police officers responded to the 1800 block of Kimberwicke Place in Annapolis for a report of shots heard in the area. The responding officers arrived at the scene and located the male victim, later identified as Terry Crouse, suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. Lifesaving procedures were administered by Anne Arundel County Fire Department personnel but ultimately, Mr. Crouse succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased at the scene. Detectives and evidence technicians checked the scene and recovered multiple shell casings located near Mr. Crouse.

During the investigation, Calum Thomas was linked to Mr. Crouse's son. After speaking with Mr. Crouse's son, Anne Arundel County Police detectives learned that Thomas may have been disgruntled over a debt he believed Mr. Crouse's son left town to avoid. On January 13, 2017, the Maryland State Police executed a traffic stop on the vehicle being driven by Thomas who was the only person in vehicle. During a search of the vehicle, troopers located a loaded firearm that was consistent with the type of firearm that discharged the aforementioned shell casings. Additionally, the unspent ammunition recovered from the firearm matched unspent ammunition recovered from the scene of Mr. Crouse's murder.

Thomas was arrested and subsequently interviewed by an Anne Arundel County police detective where Thomas admitted to being the only one in possession of the firearm at the time of the murder. On January 16, 2017, a ballistic examiner viewed the recovered shell casings from the crime scene and confirmed that the shell casings found at the scene matched the firearm found in the vehicle driven by Thomas.

Additionally, Thomas' cell phone was recovered during his arrest and examined by the Digital Forensics Unit of the Anne Arundel County Police Department. Investigators learned that Mr. Thomas had searched the internet in an attempt to purchase the same caliber of firearm recovered as well as the same brand and caliber of ammunition used to murder Crouse.

Finally, with the assistance of the FBI's Cellular Analysis Survey Team, it was determined that Thomas' cell phone was utilizing a cellular tower in close proximity to, and within approximately one hour of, Crouse's murder.

Pasadena Man Receives 35 Years in Prison for Death of Inmate in Correctional Facility

The Honorable Mark W. Crooks sentenced Joseph Patrick Soule, 31, of Pasadena to 35 years in prison for second degree murder in the death of David Stephenson.

"Protection of the community does not stop at a prison cell door. Soule viciously murdered Mr. Stephenson and for that he was found guilty," said State's Attorney Anne Colt Leitess.

Assistant State's Attorney Glen Neubauer and Luke Clippinger prosecuted the case on behalf of the citizens of Anne Arundel County.

On November 2, 2018, correctional officers with Jessup Correctional Institution learned that a window to a jail cell was covered with an object blocking the view inside the cell. Officers ordered the occupants to remove the object but initially they failed to do so. Although the cell was occupied by two individuals, only one occupant, the defendant, Joseph Patrick Soule, responded to the officer's request. Upon entering the cell, officers found Soule's cellmate, David Stephenson, lying face down in a pool of blood on the floor of the cell. His body was cold and correctional officers noted that he had been bound by an electrical cord which was tied around his neck, hands and feet. Soule was taken into custody. Medical personnel attempted to attend to Mr. Stephenson injuries but were unsuccessful. Stephenson was pronounced deceased at the scene. His death was ruled a homicide by means of blunt force trauma, sharp force trauma and strangulation.

During the trial, Soule testified that the victim attacked him from behind but prosecutors countered with forensic evidence presented that refuted those claims.

Office of the State's Attorney for Anne Arundel County Secures Guilty Plea in Felony Animal Cruelty Case

The Office of the State's Attorney for Anne Arundel County recently secured a conviction of one felony count of aggravated animal cruelty against Ethan R. Fowler, 21, of Stevensville for tossing a duckling out of a moving vehicle while on the Lane Memorial Bridge (Bay Bridge), announced Anne Arundel County State's Attorney Anne Colt Leitess. The prosecutor requested that the Court impose an active period of incarceration, along with five years of supervised probation, based on the serious nature of the offense.

"Abusing defenseless animals is an intolerable act," said Anne Arundel County State's Attorney Anne Colt Leitess. "I take these crimes seriously and those who commit cruelty to animals, like this defendant, will be held accountable for their actions."

On April 19, 2020, the Maryland Transpiration Authority Police received information regarding an animal cruelty case that occurred at the Lane Memorial Bridge. The information they received included a Twitter link of a video of the incident. On the video, the defendant, later identified as Ethan Fowler, was seen holding a duckling in his hand while driving over the Lane Memorial Bridge. Fowler then, laughing, threw the duckling out of the window of the moving vehicle and over the side of the bridge. During the investigation, police met with Fowler who admitted to his role in the crime.

The State's Attorney's Office obtained the services of a local veterinarian, Dr. Benjamin Reichenbach, who would have been offered as an expert in veterinary medicine and veterinary science. Dr. Reichenbach indicated that the duckling likely died as a result of being thrown out of the window while traveling in an automobile on the Bay Bride.

The Honorable Mark Crooks, who presided over the case, sentenced Mr. Fowler to one year of incarceration, all of which was suspended, and placed the defendant on five years of probation with other ordered conditions that he must complete.

Assistant State's Attorney Maria Stamidis prosecuted the case on behalf of the citizens of Anne Arundel County.

Drunk Driver Receives Maximum Sentence in Death of Passenger, Endangering Minors

The Honorable Mark W. Crooks sentenced Tashya Johnson, 34, of Glen Burnie to 14 years in prison for one count of negligent manslaughter for the death of 16-year-old Tyrese Glenn and for driving while intoxicated and endangering the lives of two other teenagers, including her own child who was in the vehicle. Judge Crooks noted that this was one of the most reprehensible cases and sentenced Johnson to the maximum sentences for her crimes.

"The defendant is solely responsible for the death of Mr. Glenn," said Anne Arundel County State's Attorney Anne Colt Leitess. "The defendant made the deliberate and selfish decision to drive while intoxicated showing a complete disregard for the lives of the minors that were in her vehicle as well as other motorists on the road. I would like to extend my deepest condolences to the Glenn family as they heal from this tragic event."

On June 21, 2018, the Maryland State Police responded to a single vehicle collision on I-97 just before the Generals Highway exit. Troopers located a 2004 Mercury Grand Marquis turned over on its roof in a heavily wooded area. Various motorists described witnessing the vehicle being operated in an erratic fashion, speeding and making improper lane changes. Tashya Johnson lost control of the vehicle, drove off the roadway and flipped multiple times before landing on the roof. While doing an inventory of the vehicle, police located an open container of an alcoholic beverage, Mad Dog 20/20, in the defendant's leather handbag. Later, a police officer made contact with Johnson in the hospital and observed that her eyes were bloodshot and glassy. While speaking with the police officer, Johnson admitted to having a couple of alcoholic beverages prior to driving. Blood test results later revealed that Johnson had a blood alcohol content of 0.24, three times over the legal limit. At sentencing, the court was presented with a recording of the defendant stating that the brother of Tyrese Glenn needed to grow up and get over it because it was nobody's fault that the accident occurred.

Johnson entered a guilty plea to the charges on February 11, 2020 and was sentenced on August 20, 2020.

Assistant State's Attorney Carolynn Grammas prosecuted the case on behalf of the citizens of Anne Arundel County.

Maryland Virtual Walk Like MADD 2020

Mark your calendar!

On September 12, 2020, join the Office of the State's Attorney for Anne Arundel County and Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) for their signature fundraising event to help us raise both awareness and funds to eliminate drunk and drugged driving.

Click [here](#) to participate in the virtual walk.

www.aacounty.org/departments/sao

