

# The Boyk Bulletin



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## We Have Six Offices to Serve You

### Downtown Toledo

405 Madison Avenue  
Suite 1200  
Toledo, Ohio 43604  
419.241.1395  
1.800.637.8170 Toll-free  
419.241.8731 Fax



### West Toledo

4032 Secor Road  
Suite A  
Toledo, Ohio 43623

### South Toledo

5241 Southwyck Boulevard  
Suite 108B  
Toledo, Ohio 43614

### Bowling Green

121 E. Wooster Street  
Suite 255  
Bowling Green, Ohio 43402

### Swanton

110 W. Airport Highway  
Suite 208  
Swanton, Ohio 43558

### Findlay

612 Main Street  
Suite 101  
Findlay, Ohio 45840

## Halloween safety more than just checking candy

Trick-or-treating on Halloween brings of kids out of their homes and into the neighborhoods in search of a coveted treat - candy.

But before the kids are out roaming the streets, it is important for parents to remind them what adults covet - their children's safety.

"Practicing good safety measures at Halloween is essential in order to prevent pedestrian car accidents," Attorney Chuck Boyk said. "I have seen cases where children were struck by motor vehicles, and the effects are devastating."

That is why it is imperative for kids to follow these tips to keep them free from acci-

### 2008 Trick-or-Treating

Toledo	6-8pm
Bedford	6-8
Bowling Green	6:30-8
Findlay Oct. 30th	6:30-8
*Parade Oct. 28th @ 7pm	
Fostoria	5:30-7
Maumee	6-8
Ottawa Hills	6-8
Perrysburg	6-8
Swanton	6-7:30
Sylvania	6-7:30

*\*All times are on Friday, Oct. 31st, unless otherwise noted.*

dents this Halloween.

• **Wear bright, reflective clothing.**

October days in northwest Ohio can turn dark quickly. Bright, reflective clothing

will ensure that other trick-or-treaters, and more importantly drivers, see you. Reflective clothing will stand out, decreasing your chance of being hit by a car.

• **Always use crosswalks to cross the street.**

When crossing at an intersection with a stoplight, make sure to wait until the pedestrian cross light reads "Walk," even if the stoplight for cars is green, since cars will often turn in a pedestrian's path. Never run across the street. Walking decreases the chance that you could fall and injure yourself, which could make it difficult to get out of the way of an oncoming car.

See **Halloween**, page 3



## Dale Emch defends Lucas County Dog Warden

A local group has launched a petition drive seeking to remove Tom Skeldon from his post of Lucas County Dog Warden because of his stance on pit bulls.

What's next - a campaign to toss Toledo Police Chief Mike Navarre out of office for enforcing Ohio's drug laws?

How ridiculous. Tom Skeldon is a law enforcement officer. It is his duty to enforce state and local laws. Even if the group succeeded in removing him from office, which is highly

*Dale Emch, author of Toledo Blade's "Legal Briefs," wrote this op-ed piece for The Blade. It is reprinted with their permission.*

unlikely given the amount of respect and support he has from city and county elected officials, the next dog warden would be under the same obligation to enforce Toledo's pit bull laws.

Let's be clear: The vast majority of the pit bulls that wind up at the pound have either attacked someone, were running free, or weren't kept by their owners in compliance with Toledo law. If

the owners follow the law, they should be OK.

I understand that Mr. Skeldon is a controversial figure. He always has been. He's an outspoken guy who is willing to take a stand, regardless of whether it's going to bring criticism.

That's why I wrote a lengthy story about him in 2005 when I was still a  
See **Dog Warden**, page 2



Attorney Dale Emch

## Don't jeopardize your case by exaggerating injuries

It is important remember that the success of your case depends on honesty, especially when it comes to your injury.

While the attorneys in our office stress consistent treatment to a full recovery, it is imperative never to embellish the seriousness of your injury to get more money from an insurance company.

If you are caught in a lie, you could end up with nothing.

"It's all about creditability," Attorney Mike Bruno said. "Whether it's trying to maximize recovery with an insurance company, or trying to convince a jury of eight people, you have to be credible in order for them to believe you."

Read the following excerpt from *The Ohio Accident Book* to learn Tip #9, **Don't Exaggerate the Impact of Your Injury.**

"You're entering a world you likely didn't know existed. As we've said ear-

lier in this book, insurance companies prosper by paying accident victims as little as possible. In an effort to do that, they'll resort to what you may regard as underhanded behavior. They may hire a private investigator to spy on you, they may have someone engage you in conversation about your injuries, or they may videotape you as you go about your day.

We know of one case – fortunately not one of ours – where an insurance company investigator placed a video camera in a gym bag to record a supposedly injured accident victim teaching an aerobics class. Needless to say, the attorney handling that case dumped it immediately – and should have. People like that aerobics instructor give insurance companies reason to be skeptical. The problem is they seem to be skeptical of everyone, even people with legitimate claims.

So, if you exaggerate the extent of your injuries by doing something like hobbling around on crutches when you can walk just fine, and then you're filmed running a marathon, don't be surprised when your case tanks. Don't play games when it comes to dealing with your injury case."

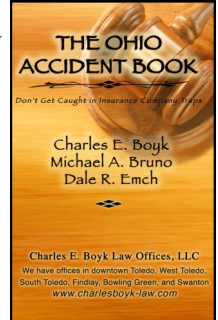
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## Dog Warden, *cont. from Page 1*

reporter at The Blade. I explored his positions, spoke with a number of pit bull advocates, and talked to his supporters. I've also had the opportunity to ride in the field with him a few times, which has been eye opening, to say the least. The number of pit bulls that are either running free or are improperly confined is truly scary.

I wrote a piece about Mr. Skeldon that was as much a personality profile as a look at the pit bull issue. But in the years since the story ran, I've become convinced of something - Tom is right. Pit bulls are inherently dangerous dogs, made more dangerous when kept by the wrong people. That's why state law classifies them as vicious dogs. Does that mean all pit bulls are dangerous? Of course not. But when the switch flips in pits, the damage can be remarkable.

Unfortunately, I've come to see this side of the pit bull controversy as a personal injury attorney who represents dog-bite victims. Of the dog-bite cases our office is handling, a disproportionate share involve pit bulls.

In my cases, the bites were unprovoked.

In one case, a West Toledo couple was pushing their little girl in a stroller when a pit bull jumped the fence, ran up to the toddler, and bit her on the forehead.

She wasn't squealing. She wasn't crying or laughing. She was just sitting in the stroller. The dog opened a gash three or four inches long and had it been slightly lower, she easily could have lost an eye. As it is, she'll have to have at least one plastic surgery, and possibly more, but she'll likely be left with a permanent scar.

In another case, my client was talking to a co-worker on a job site when a pit bull attacked him, opening a deep wound in his arm that required a surgery and left him hospitalized for three days.

Anecdotal evidence? Sure. Other dogs can cause serious harm too.

But a study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that pit bulls topped the list for breeds involved in fatal attacks from 1979 to 1998.

And insurance companies have certainly gotten the memo on pit bulls. They're starting to write homeowner policies that exclude coverage for pit bull bites. They wouldn't do that if they weren't having to pay out some major

claims attributed to pits.

Mr. Skeldon deals with the fallout from pit bulls every day. He's seen the injuries caused by these dogs and also has seen how they've become the dog of choice for dope dealers and gang bangers. In 1993, his office seized 50 pit bulls. In 2007, that number climbed to 1,354.

Given all that, it would be shocking if he didn't take the pit bull problem seriously.

Maybe in that scenario, a petition to remove him from office would be warranted, but not for enforcing Toledo's pit bull ordinance - which the Ohio Supreme Court ruled last year was constitutional.

I'll give the petition organizers the benefit of the doubt that they sincerely believe we should blame the deed and not the breed. I'll assume their motives are pure, albeit misguided.

But since the time I wrote my story about Mr. Skeldon, I've always believed that most of the people gunning for him are pit-bull fans who make money by fighting or breeding the dogs.

And in that fight, I'll side with Tom Skeldon and the other dog wardens throughout Ohio who have the courage to do their duty and tell it like it is.

Our communities are better off for their efforts.



**Have you or someone you know suffered a dog bite? Order your FREE copy of *The Ohio Dog Bite Book* to learn what to do. Call 800.479.8203 code 8225.**



## Employee Spotlight

### Anneke Kurt

**Y**ou've probably never met Anneke Kurt, but she tries hard to stay in touch with you.

As our office's marketing director, she's the person responsible for putting together the newsletter you're holding, sending out e-mail updates, and keeping our website full of new content.

Anneke, 24, has the demanding job of communicating with our clients and providing prospective clients with information about the legal services our personal injury attorneys provide.

"I try to let clients and prospective clients know that we're here to help them," Anneke said. "The more that we can teach them, the more we can help each other. Between all of our books, publications, and newsletters, we can help clients help themselves."

Attorney Dale Emch said Anneke has shaped the look and feel of the monthly newsletter the office launched last year.

"The newsletter allows us to stay in contact with clients who we might not have seen in years because their cases

have been closed," Dale said. Maintaining those relationships is important to us.

"Anneke has been responsible for developing a tone for the newsletter that we hope is both conversational and helpful. She started from scratch and has managed to develop a publication that a number of clients have told me they look forward to each month."

Our office benefits from Anneke's education in marketing. Last spring, she graduated with a marketing degree at Lourdes College, where she earned a place on the Dean's List. She hopes to one day become involved with international marketing because it would combine her professional aspirations with her interest in world affairs. She spent last summer studying in Europe, where she earned a certificate in European Culture & Identities from Utrecht University in Holland.

Anneke thinks her family heritage encouraged her to look beyond the borders of the United States and take a broader

view of the world. Her grandmother, Edwina Portier Van Druten, was born and raised in Indonesia and her grandfather, Carl Van Druten, grew up in The Netherlands. The two married in Indonesia and settled in the Toledo to raise their family.

A trip she made to her grandmother's homeland as a child made a lasting impression on her.

"No matter where you go – whether you're in Bali or the outskirts of Jakarta where children are bathing in rivers – people are smiling all the time," Anneke said. "I try to keep the same attitude of that welcoming culture."

While away from the office, Anneke enjoys traveling and spending time with her Oma (Dutch for grandmother) and sisters. She also enjoys reading memoirs and biographies.

*Employee Spotlight runs periodically in the Boyk Bulletin, as part of an ongoing feature highlighting our staff.*



Anneke Kurt

## Halloween, *Cont. from Page 1*

### • Never walk behind cars, even if they are parked.

Cars that appear to be parked may have drivers behind the wheel. Avoid backover accidents by always staying in clear view of a driver and never behind a vehicle. Never dart from behind a parked car to cross the street. Drivers don't expect to see people crossing in the middle of the road, and may not see you.

### • Stick to sidewalks.

When possible, always use sidewalks, and stay out of the road. If you must walk in the street, make sure to walk on the left side of the road, against traffic. That way you can see approaching cars, and they have a better chance of seeing you. Stay as close as possible to the shoulder of the road to avoid being struck by a passing car, and if walking in a group, walk single-

file.

### • Don't touch dogs that are unfamiliar with you.

Even the friendliest dogs get spooked on Halloween and have the potential to bite. Don't pet any dog before getting permission from the owner, and remember that just because you recognize a neighbor's dog doesn't mean he recognizes you, especially if you are in costume. The dog could see you as a threat and attack. If you have permission to pet the dog, allow him to smell your hand and clothing first.

### • Carry a flashlight.

The more noticeable you make yourself to cars, the better. Carrying a flashlight will not only help you to see where you are going, it will also help drivers to see you. In the event of an emergency, a flashlight could also aid in signaling for help.

### • Wear costumes that fit properly,

### including appropriate shoes.

Costumes should fit snugly, with no hanging fabric or objects. Loose material can cause a trick-or-treater to trip and fall. Durable, no-slip shoes should also be worn for the same reason, even if they don't match your costume.

Following these tips can help keep Halloween fun and injury free, but encourage your kids to also be smart if they are old enough to trick-or-treat without a parent. Here are a few common-sense guidelines: Never enter a stranger's house without a parent, no matter what reason the owner gives you. Wear a watch to keep track of the time, and check in regularly to let parents know you're safe. Never walk alone. Staying in a group will ensure that at least one person can help you if something happens. Remember, if something seems suspicious, trust your judgment. Leave the area and tell a responsible adult about it.



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Call Anneke at 419.720.4452 or email her at akurt@charlesboyk-law.com**

## Sweet & Spicy Pumpkin Seeds

2 cups clean pumpkin seeds

2 Tablespoons butter • 1 teaspoon salt

1 Tablespoon Worcestershire sauce

1 Tablespoon brown sugar

2 drops hot sauce

1. Mix all ingredients together.
2. Bake in single layer in 300°F preheated oven for 45 minutes. Enjoy!

## Easy-to-Make Carmel Apples

6 Granny Smith apples • 6 wooden sticks

1 (14oz) package individually wrapped caramels, unwrapped

2 Tablespoons water • 1/2 teaspoon vanilla

1. Insert wooden sticks 3/4 way into apples through stem. Place apples on lightly greased foil.
2. Combine caramels, water, and vanilla in saucepan over low heat, mix until melted & smooth.
3. Dip apples into caramel until covered. Place on foil, chill until ready to serve.

2008 College Football Schedule  
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Request your free Key Tag, Football Schedule magnet, or one of our three books! Send in a question for Attorney Emch's "Legal Briefs" for FREE movie tickets or a Gus the Dog stuffed animal!

## Cases of Interest our office is handling

**7-year-old girl needs surgery after suffering down-to-the-bone dog bite near eye after entering playmate's house.**

**31-year-old truck driver suffers severe neck injury and herniated disc, after a tire blows on passing truck, causing truck accident.**

**25-year-old worker and student suffers from seizures after he is struck in the back of the head with a forklift.**

**53-year-old man suffers fractured ankle and bleeding on brain after working with hazardous equipment at place of employment.**

**44-year-old man needs surgery on shoulder after tearing rotator cuff while lifting heavy object at work.**

**Harvest Party Favorites!**

