

MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

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Men sentenced for Arsons in Akron, Ellet and Springfield that tormented communities

(August 26, 2010, Akron) ... Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan announced today that Gary Mallicoat, 29, of Akron, was sentenced to 26-and-a-half years in prison on August 18, 2010, after pleading guilty on July 8, 2010 to 11 counts of Aggravated Arson, two counts of Burglary and four counts of Arson. Eighteen months of the sentence was for a Domestic Violence conviction.

The Akron Fire Department spearheaded an investigation into multiple fires set around the Springfield, Ellet, and Akron areas from June 2005 to late 2009. The investigation eventually involved the Summit County Sheriff's Office and the Springfield Police Department and led to the arrest of Mallicoat and co-defendant Steven Moore, 26, also of Akron.

Mallicoat's span of fiery destruction left a wake of fear in the communities where the fires were set. The fires destroyed more than 16 properties (including a church shed, vacant and occupied homes, and trailers) and four automobiles. Mallicoat would set fire to piles of trash against a house, rear porches, or unattached garages. These fires would eventually spread to the homes where many victims lay helpless and asleep with their families.

On September 27, 2008, Mallicoat and Moore set fire to a shed on Russet Lane in Akron that spread to four occupied trailers and one unoccupied trailer. The defendants thought they may have killed someone. Both defendants kept up with the media reports about the fire and Mallicoat even drove by the site the next day. However, that did not stop Mallicoat's criminal actions because he continued to set fires after that day.

Mallicoat also burglarized his neighbor's house and stole their belongings. His Domestic Violence conviction stems from his slapping his wife after an argument about how much she knew about the arsons. He also threatened to kill her.

Steven Moore pled guilty on July 21, 2010 to one count of Aggravated Arson and three counts of Arson. Moore was sentenced to four years in prison on August 18, 2010. Moore was ordered to pay \$22,251.29 in restitution once released from prison. Moore's involvement with the arson was in 2008 where he participated in the Russet Lane fire and set some automobiles on fire. Moore was scheduled to graduate from college in December of this year and did not have a prior record.