



FROM THE OFFICE OF
 SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH



THE SENIOR NEWS

Danger Comes From More Than Just Strangers

While it is an unfortunate subject to think about, sexual assault and rape are a real and dangerous threat to individuals of all ages and genders. What's even more concerning is that while many people think the offender of these crimes would be a terrifying stranger, this is often not the case.

According to the National Sexual Assault Hotline, roughly 70% of all rape/sexual assault victims knew their offenders prior to the crime being committed. The same study shows that while 45% of rapes are committed by acquaintances, roughly 25% come from current or former spouses, boyfriends or girlfriends.

These are not just statistics either. It is an unfortunate reality that we do see cases like this, far too often. We have had cases recently that involved the rape of a 72-year-old woman and an 85-year-old woman. Both victims knew the offenders prior to their assault. One offender was the neighbor's 18-year-old grandson, who the victim had known since he was nine years old.

While it should be noted both offenders in these cases did receive serious prison time, it is a tragedy that this happened in the first place. If something about your interaction with someone feels strange or if they make you uncomfortable, the best thing to do is to tell someone about it. Together, you and a trusted friend can create a plan to increase your safety. Take steps to make sure you are not alone with that person. Don't answer the door and certainly don't allow them to get you alone in your house. These steps can help ensure your safety.

For more information about safety planning, contact a local domestic violence and/or rape crisis program at 1-877-907-7273 or 1-888-395-4357.

Look for Us at these Upcoming Events

WAKR Luncheon

August 9, 2017, 11:00 a.m.
 St. George Fellowship Hall
 3204 Ridgewood Rd., Akron
 For tickets, email Joyce Lagios at jlagios@rcrg.net
 or call (330) 869-9800, ext. 134

Akron Zoo Senior Safari

September 1, 2017
 10:00am-2:00pm
 Seniors (62+) - \$6

Senior Safety Speech

September 6, 2017, 1:00pm
 Senior Safety & Holiday Scams
 West Akron & Highland Square Seniors
 Family Rec Center
 1730 Shatto Ave., Akron 44313

Senior Safety Speech

with special guest Mayor Don Walters

September 7, 2017, 11:00am-1:00pm
 Cuyahoga Falls Natatorium
 2345 Fourth St., Cuyahoga Falls 44221

Stow Paw Fest with Avery (our facility dog) at Bow Wow Beach

September 17, 2017, 10:00am-4:00pm
 Stow's Silver Springs Park
 5027 Stow Road, Stow

Senior Safety Speech

September 21, 2017, 11am-2pm
 Norton Community Center
 4060 Columbia Woods Drive
 Norton, 44203

53 University Ave., 6th Floor
Akron, Ohio 44308
(330) 643-2800
Fax: (330) 643-2137
E-mail: holdt@prosecutor.summitoh.net

Visit our Senior Safety Website:
www.co.summit.oh.us/prosecutor



Chief Assistant Prosecutor Margaret Scott at the WAKR Valentine's Day sponsored senior luncheon at the St. George Fellowship Hall in Fairlawn.

Stealing Your Trust

Theft has been a very common topic for this newsletter, especially theft by the people you trust and love. I want to remind you again to be aware of those you entrust with your finances.

In 2014, we had a case of a step-daughter, who had been put in charge of managing the bills of her 85-year-old stepdad, "misappropriating" nearly \$50,000 dollars to go on trips to Vegas and Florida. We have also seen cases where caretakers stole \$31,000 and \$44,000 from the 85 and 89-year-old women they were taking care of.

Cases like these happen far too often unfortunately, and they are always difficult on families. Rarely does someone want to bring a criminal charge against a family member or someone who they've been trusting to help them, but crimes like these shouldn't be ignored. They are still a criminal act, and the offender should have to face the justice system to protect your rights and your life savings.

In order to protect yourself from these crimes, or to at least stop them early on into the process, the best thing you can do is to double-check everything. It is perfectly understandable to want to have someone manage things like your bills and taxes, but make sure you or another trusted friend or relative continually examine your financial accounts and bank statements to ensure everything checks out. This way you can be confident that your finances are being used as they should, and you are protecting yourself from fraud.

We all have retirement goals we work toward our entire lives. Don't let someone take it from you.

Free Self-Defense Class

A **free** Senior Citizen Self-Defense class sponsored by The Summit County Prosecutor's office is being offered. No registration required!

September 26, 2017

1pm-2pm

Joy Park Community Center
825 Fuller St.
Akron 44306



Learn simple techniques that could save your life!

For more information, contact:

Jennifer Watson

(330) 643-7915

Watson@prosecutor.summitoh.net

Zoos are not just for kids!



Over 700 people attended the Senior Safari at the Akron Zoo in September 2016. The 2017 Senior Safety Awareness calendar cover was taken on the Carousel at the Akron Zoo. Stop by and see us September 1, 2017 to get your 2018 calendar.