



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH



THE SENIOR NEWS

DON'T LEAVE YOUR PURSE UNATTENDED IN GROCERY CARTS!



It's an all too familiar sight; a woman's purse just sitting unattended in the upper part of a grocery cart. In some cases, the woman is inside the grocery store and realizes she forgot an item at the other end of the aisle. Instead of pushing her cart and retrieving the item, she leaves her cart AND PURSE and walks to the

other end of the aisle to get the item. In other cases, the woman leaves her purse in the cart while she is bending over loading groceries in the trunk of her car. Do you see yourself in either of these examples? If so, you are taking a big risk with your purse and personal information.

In both of the above examples, the women are giving purse snatchers an easy opportunity. Purse snatchers are looking for easy targets. They are looking for women who are not paying attention to their surroundings. In many cases, the purse snatcher merely has to reach out the window of his or her car and pull the purse right off the cart.

Why are so many women careless with their purses? I suspect it's because many women are too trusting and just do not think about someone snatching their purse. Also, women who shop during the day assume that they are safe. This is simply not true. Most purses are stolen during the day in store parking lots.

While a victim of a purse snatching is not to blame for the crime (the criminal is to blame), let's not make it easy for purse snatchers by leaving your purse unattended. Always remember: Put your Purse in your Car and THEN unload your groceries! Never look away from your purse or walk away from your purse.

12 Safety Tips for the Holidays

1. Beware of phony charities.
2. Do not confirm your identity in emails.
3. Leave lights on when you are not home.
4. Keep your garage door closed at all times.
5. Get estimates and referrals for home repairs.
6. Take a friend or family member when shopping.
7. Don't talk on the phone while walking to the car.
8. Go through a licensed company for health care aids.
9. Check your finances regularly for fraudulent activity.
10. Do not give out personal information on the phone.
11. Get security to escort you to your car if you feel uneasy.
12. Don't answer the door if you are not expecting someone.

Look for us at the WAKR Holiday Luncheon!



*December 6, 2017
Tangier Restaurant
532 W. Market St., Akron
(330) 869-9800
\$14.00*

*Doors open at 11:00 a.m.; Lunch at 12:15 p.m.
Purchase tickets at WAKR, 1795 W. Market St., Akron,
Ohio 44313 or send check made out to WAKR Senior
Lunch with self-addressed stamped envelope to address
above.*

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



Chief Assistant Prosecutor Margaret Scott is talking to seniors at our booth at the Summit Senior Expo at Summit Mall.

HOLIDAY VISITS

The holidays are not only a good time for visiting family and friends, it is a time to check on the well-being of your elderly family members.

Are there noticeable physical changes such as bumps, bruises or cuts to their skin? Do elderly relatives seem uncomfortable around other family members? These could be signs of abuse. Many victims are afraid to report for fear of retaliation or embarrassment that a family member is mistreating them.



Does your family member appear dirty or malnourished? Talk to them about their medications. They could be experiencing side effects that cause confusion or fatigue. Dementia, depression, and alcohol abuse could also be contributing to this new trait and a professional opinion may be needed.

Is there a change in your family member's finances? It is not unusual for a family member to have a power of attorney over their loved one to make financial decisions and pay bills. My suggestion is to have another trusted family member or friend periodically check your finances to make sure your money is being used properly.

If you feel your loved one is being abused by another person or money is being stolen, contact your local police department. The Adult Protective Services of Summit County can also help with neglect and abuse cases. Their number is (330) 643-7217.

Below is a list of other agencies in Summit County who offer services for senior citizens:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Akron Police Department - | |
| Safety for Seniors | (330) 375-2552 |
| Alzheimer's Association | (800) 272-3900 |
| AARP | (888) 687-2277 |
| Area Agency on Aging, 10B, Inc. | (330) 896-9172 |
| Attorney General Patient Abuse & | |
| Neglect Hotline | (800) 411-2267 |
| Better Business Bureau | (330) 253-4565 |
| Job & Family Services | |
| (Public Guardian/Medicaid) | (330) 643-8200 |
| Mature Services, Inc. | (330) 253-4597 |
| Mobile Meals, Inc. | (800) 852-6325 |
| National Do Not Call Registry | |
| (www.donotcall.gov) | (888) 382-1222 |
| Ohio Senior Health Insurance | |
| Information Program | (800) 686-1578 |
| SCAT/Metro | |
| (transportation for older adults) | (800) 227-9905 |
| Senior Info Line | (330) 374-0333 |
| Summit County Office of | |
| Consumer Affairs | (330) 643-2879 |
| Summit County Prosecutor's Office | (330) 643-2800 |
| Summit County Sheriff | |
| Senior Services Division | (330) 643-2181 |
| Summit County Veterans | |
| Service Commission | (330) 643-2830 |
| Summit County Probate Court | (330) 643-2352 |
| Summit County Prosecutor's Office | |
| Take Me Home Program | (330) 643-8741 |