



FROM THE OFFICE OF  
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR  
**SHERRI BEVAN WALSH**

THE **SENIOR NEWS**



**BEWARE OF PRESCRIPTION  
THIEVES**

The opiate and heroin dilemma is such a huge problem in Summit County that people are going to extreme lengths to steal prescription medication to satisfy their addiction.

That is why the Summit County Prosecutor's Office wants to make sure you are aware of who comes into your home, and how to best secure your prescription medication, especially pain medication.

During a recent forum on heroin presented by Ohio Congressman Tim Ryan, the following situation was described by a local law enforcement officer. A real estate agent was holding an open house at a local home which was being sold. A young gentleman, possibly late teens or early 20's, dressed in a nice button down shirt and tie, walked in. Because of his appearance, the real estate agent did not pay a lot of attention to him. The young man walked into the home, went straight for the master bathroom, opened the medicine cabinet, and stole prescription pain medication.

It is vital that you keep your prescription medication out of sight, and secure. Those addicted to opiates will do anything they can to get the drugs they need. Think of your pills as money. You would never leave money lying around unattended or in easy reach. Take the same consideration when it comes to pain pills. Keep only a few pills in the original containers. The rest should be put in a non-descript and non-valuable looking container, like an old Tylenol bottle or a repurposed travel size shampoo bottle. You can also use safety deposit boxes, a lock box, or even gun safes to secure your medication.

Hopefully taking these simple steps will keep you, your family, and your belongings safe.



April 30th is National Prescription Take Back Day. The DEA, in cooperation with Operation Medicine Cabinet, will collect any unused prescription medication of which you wish to dispose.

This program is confidential, and personal information will not be collected. The Akron Police Department will be participating at METRO Regional Transit Authority Center in the visitors' parking lot, located at 631 South Broadway Street in Akron. All medication that is dropped off will be held by law enforcement until it can be disposed of properly.

Please help to decrease prescription drug abuse, and protect our children and our food and water supplies by dropping off unused medication for disposal. For a complete list of local drop-off sites, visit [www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov) or call (800)-882-9539. Please remove all prescription labels before arriving.

**DUMPSTER DIVING THIEVES**

Thieves look in garbage cans and elsewhere for discarded credit card statements and receipts to obtain card numbers. These papers can be used to steal your identity and set up credit in your name. We recommend that you shred sensitive papers.

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[www.co.summit.oh.us/prosecutor](http://www.co.summit.oh.us/prosecutor)



WAKR's Senior Luncheon was February 17, 2016.  
These ladies did a great job painting the town red!

## CRIMES AGAINST THE ELDERLY

Unfortunately, many of the elders in our community fall victim to crime, abuse, and neglect. Here are a few of the cases that my office has successfully prosecuted:

**Christopher Baron:** Baron was found guilty of **Theft from the Elderly and Failing to Provide for a Functionally Impaired Person** for the neglect of his mother, who cannot provide for herself, and for misusing her funds for his own personal use. During a welfare check by police, it was discovered the 87-year-old woman who was bedridden, blind, deaf and non-verbal was in extreme deplorable condition. Baron also used his mother's funds in excess of \$8,400 on gaming purchases. He was sentenced to **18 months in prison**.

**Thomas Moore:** Moore pled guilty to **Aggravated Robbery** and was sentenced to **8 years in prison**. Moore knew the victim had a lock box with cash and had an 18-year-old rob the wheelchair-bound man. The teen knocked him out of his wheelchair and robbed him at knifepoint. The teen co-defendant pled guilty to **Aggravated Robbery** and is awaiting sentencing.

**Jeffery Brown:** Brown was found guilty of **Aggravated Robbery with a gun specification** and was sentenced to **10 years in prison**. While the victim was in her driveway with her six-month-old grandson, Brown asked for a drink of water. When the victim went into the house to get it, Brown followed her and robbed her at gunpoint. Two weeks prior to this, Brown had been released from a Florida prison, where he was incarcerated on a burglary conviction.

**Allan Vertucci:** Vertucci was found guilty of **Theft from a Person in a Protected Class** and was sentenced to **three years in prison**. Vertucci was hired to do repairs to the victim's home and was paid in excess of \$80,000. Vertucci did not complete the work and what was completed was substandard.

## LOOK FOR OUR OFFICE AT THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!

### Senior Safety Speech

April 25, 2016, 1:15pm-2:15pm  
Patterson Park Plus 50 Group  
800 Patterson Ave., 44310

### Senior Safety Speech

April 26, 2016, 1:30pm  
Greensburg United Methodist Church  
2161 Greensburg Road  
Green, 44232

### YMCA Senior Expo

April 27, 2016, 8:00am-12:00pm  
University Park YMCA  
477 E. Market St., Akron 44304

### Women's Free Self-Defense Class

April 27, 2016, 6:00pm-8:00pm  
Akron Turner Club  
547 Munroe Falls Rd., Tallmadge 44278

### WAKR Senior Luncheon

May 5, 2016, 11:00am  
Todaro's Party Center  
1820 Akron Peninsula Rd., Akron 44313  
For tickets, email Joyce Lagios at  
[jlacios@rcrg.net](mailto:jlacios@rcrg.net)  
or call (330) 869-9800, ext. 134

### Senior Safety Speech/Fair

June 8, 2016, 11:00am-1:00pm  
Fairlawn Kiwanis Community Center  
3486 S. Smith Rd., Fairlawn 44333