



FROM THE OFFICE OF  
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR  
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

# THE SENIOR NEWS

## MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH

We are once again approaching our annual Senior Safety Awareness Month - September!

In the ten years since I took office, I have spoken to more than 8,000 senior citizens about ways to better protect themselves.

Criminals perceive senior citizens as vulnerable and easy targets. In 2009, there were over 100 cases of theft committed against senior citizens in Summit County. There were 45 cases of criminal damaging and 46 cases of breaking and entering. Establishing simple habits can go a long way in keeping you safe.

Below is a list of changes you may want to consider:

1. Do your door and window locks need replaced?
2. Do you have deadbolts and a peep hole on your door?
3. When leaving your home, tell a family member or trusted friend where you are going.
4. Keep screen doors locked during the day.
5. Consider carrying a cell phone for emergencies.
6. Don't open your door to strangers. If you don't know them, don't let them in.
7. Leave your purse at home.
8. If you don't recognize the phone number calling, don't answer it.
9. Have your social security or pension check directly deposited into your account.
10. Have your keys ready when you approach your car.

## 2010 SENIOR SAFETY AWARENESS EVENTS

Look for our office booth at these 2010 events:

**Senior Safari at the Akron Zoo**  
500 Edgewood Ave. in Akron  
Sponsored by Summa Health System  
& SummaCare  
September 3, 2010  
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Seniors 55 and up - \$3 admission

**Summit Senior Expo at Summit Mall**  
3265 W. Market St. in Akron  
September 17, 2010  
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Free Admission

**Senior Luncheon at Tangier Restaurant**  
Sponsored by WAKR  
532 W. Market St. in Akron  
December 7, 2010  
11:30 a.m. lunch  
Contact: Joyce Lagios - (330) 869-9800

### TRY THIS INEXPENSIVE SECURITY SYSTEM



When sleeping, keep your car keys on your nightstand. If you hear a noise outside your home or someone trying to break in, press the panic button for your car. Your car alarm will go off and scare away the thief.

Visit our Senior Safety website:

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

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

holdt@prosecutor.summitoh.net

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.CO.SUMMIT.OH.US/  
PROSECUTOR



Over 2,000 people attended the Akron Zoo Senior Safari last year. It was a great event and we hope to see you at our booth on September 3,

## VICTIMS' SCREAMS SCARE OFF CRIMINALS

On October 26, 2009 at 11:45 a.m., a 68-year-old woman was walking down an Akron Street when she noticed a driver honking his horn at her. As she was cutting through the parking lot of a local business, the driver got out of his car and ordered her to get into his car. The victim began shouting, drawing the attention of a nearby worker. The man jumped in his car and quickly drove away.

On August 5, 2010, a 90-year-old man was awakened at 3:00 a.m. by two men who broke into his home. After a brief struggle, the victim began shouting, scaring off the burglars.

The victims in these two cases reacted immediately, preventing a horrifying ending. By immediately drawing attention to the incident, they avoided further harm.

However, if you find yourself in the below situation, I don't have any tips for you!



## SENIOR SELF-DEFENSE



You don't have to know karate to be able to defend yourself.

Lt. Chad Cunningham of the University of Akron Police

Department has taught many seniors simple techniques to avoid a dangerous situation.

Lt. Cunningham suggests shouting first to bring attention to your predicament. If that doesn't work, use your cane, keys, heel of your shoe and even your knee to defend yourself.

## DID YOU KNOW?

According to the Ohio Attorney General, between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009, Ohio County Departments of Job and Family Services received about 16,370 reports of abuse, neglect and exploitation against individuals over 60.

Check on your elderly family members and neighbors. Report any suspicions to your local police department.

## CRIMES AGAINST SENIORS

Johnnie Cook, 32, was sentenced to life in prison for the murders of an 85-year-old woman and her 43-year-old son in their home.

In another case, an elderly woman was sexually assaulted and murdered in her Akron home.

In both of these cases, the victims left a door unlocked, giving the criminals easy access to their home. In the second case, the woman left her door unlocked for visitors as she was unable to walk to the door. Her murder occurred during the day.

**Doors and windows should be locked at all times of the day.**

**Give a key to your home to a trusted family member or neighbor. They can let your visitors in for you.**

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Mike Peyakov was speechless when he learned his brother, Mark Peyakov, 45, stole their parents' life savings, over \$120,000. They were raised the same so how could this have happened?

The parents have since passed away but not before Mr. Peyakov found out what his son had done.

Mark was sentenced to four years in prison.