



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

THE SENIOR NEWS

MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH

My office has handled many felony crimes committed against senior citizens such as assaults, home invasions, purse snatchings, money stolen by caretakers and even abuse in nursing homes.

My role as Prosecutor is not only to put bad guys in prison, but also to educate the community on ways to stay safe.

When you see our office booth at different events, stop by and visit us. We have a lot of useful information for senior citizens on scams involving the Internet, fake lotteries, phony companies demanding money, and telephone scams. Additionally, we can give you tips on how to avoid home invasions, purse snatchings and other felony crimes.

An important program started by my office is the Take Me Home program. This program features a database that helps police officers reunite missing persons who are unable to communicate their information. Visit our website for more information on this great program.

If you would like to be added to our e-mail list to receive alerts, newsletters and other helpful information, please call (330) 643-2796.

TOP 10 CONSUMER COMPLAINTS FOR 2009

According to the Summit County Office of Consumer Affairs, below is a list of the top ten consumer complaints they received in 2009.

1. **Home Improvements/Repairs** (Failure to start or complete a job, no three-day right to cancel, poor workmanship, etc.)
2. **Foreclosure Prevention Service** (Foreclosure assistance provided by the office to homeowners)
3. **Motor Vehicle** (Problems with the purchase or advertisement of new and used vehicles)
4. **Restaurants/Bars/Fast Food** (Not honoring gift cards/business failure)
5. **Foreclosure Rescue Scam** (Misleading distressed homeowners about saving their home from foreclosure)
6. **Health/Medical Services or Products** (Failure to deliver or refund)
7. **Collection Agency** (Harassing calls, collecting debts not incurred, unwillingness to verify debt, etc.)
8. **Sweepstake/Prize Offer/Contest** (Deceptive mail, e-mail or telephone solicitations claiming won money or prize)
9. **Motor Vehicle Repairs** (Complaints about motor vehicle repairs performed by shops or dealerships)
10. **Telemarketing** (Misrepresenting services, failure to deliver or refund, no call violations, etc.)

Visit our Senior Safety website:

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**

CENSUS ALERT

There are several known U.S. Census scams that have been occurring for about the last 10 – 12 months around the country.

Real U.S. Census Bureau sends you a 10-question census form in the mail; clearly identifies documents as coming from the U.S. Census Bureau; asks for your name, sex, age, race, phone number and date of birth. They do **not** ask for your Social Security number or bank account information. They also require their workers to wear an official badge on home visits and will **never** ask to enter your home.

Fake census scammers ask for your Social Security number, credit card or bank account number, ask you to send money, and ask to come inside your home.

HANDYMAN OR CON MAN?



An elderly retired school teacher and widow hired a handyman to help her around the house. She thought of herself as a mother figure to him.

Soon after their many friendly talks, 45-year-old Richard Rudy felt comfortable enough to begin asking to borrow money. Although he worked as a machinist, he claimed he needed to get back on his feet, pay for car repairs, car insurance, rent, medical bills, presents for his daughter, etc.

Mr. Rudy did not have a job, nor did he have a car. He had a daughter but never saw her. Mr. Rudy later told police he used the money to buy crack cocaine.

Mr. Rudy “borrowed” more than \$28,000 in a six month period. He pled guilty to theft from the elderly and was sentenced to three years in prison and ordered to pay back his victim.

In 2005, Rudy was also sent to prison for similar charges involving theft from the elderly.

SENIOR EVENTS

WAKR 1590 Radio presents a Senior Luncheon Series throughout the year. Their next luncheon is April 14, 2010 at the Sheraton Suites in Cuyahoga Falls. Tickets are available at the radio station, 1795 W. Market St. in Akron, Monday through Friday from 8:00a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or by mail with a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Stop by and visit our booth!



HELPFUL RESOURCES

Visit our website for information on:

- Crime Safety Tips
- Common Scams
- Monthly Crime Alerts
- Archived Senior News
- Published Articles
- Safety Awareness Month (September)
- Support Agencies for Seniors
- Helpful Links



**Charity Rating Guide
& Watchdog Report**

Volume No. 47, December 2007

Stop The Stealing!

*Charities Must Do A Better Job of Guarding
Our Donations*



Which Haiti Relief charity is legitimate? Which cancer organization is the best? How do I know if this charity will spend my donation wisely?

There are numerous organizations for every charity. So how do you decide which should receive your donation?

The American Institute of Philanthropy (AIP) has developed a Charity Rating Guide. For a listing of charities, their information rating, and other useful information, go to:

www.charitywatch.org