



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

THE SENIOR NEWS

MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH

A number of recent cases prosecuted by my office have highlighted the need for seniors to remain vigilant against violent criminals and fraudsters.

One case demonstrates the devastating result of being too trusting. A 73-year-old woman who was barely able to walk left the door to her apartment unlocked for visitors. She became the random victim of Devon Owens who walked into her apartment, raped and then murdered her. Owens received a life sentence for this crime.

Corey Buckley received ten years in prison for victimizing a 70-year-old woman. Buckley broke into her home in the middle of the night, held her in the bathroom for two hours while he ransacked her home and then stole her car. Fortunately, this victim was not harmed.

Remember:

- **Keep doors locked at all times. Give a key to a trusted neighbor or relative. In the second case, an expensive alarm system is not always needed. There are various gadgets you can put on a door handle to signal an intruder and even scare them away.**

Torey Kaley-Dolan robbed two elderly victims as they were finishing their shopping. As an 84-year-old woman was leaving Aldi's grocery store, Dolan pushed her to the ground and took her purse. The second victim, 75-years-old, was leaving Walgreens when Dolan wrestled her to the ground and took her purse. He was convicted of two counts of robbery and was sentenced to eight years in prison.

Remember:

- **Criminals often target victims who are not paying attention. Always pay attention to your surroundings.**

Billy Fullen had been hired to work on the plumbing in an 88-year-old victim's retirement community. The victim had a month's supply of Oxycontin but noticed shortly after work started that she only had five pills left. She suspected Fullen, who had done some plumbing in her unit. After she reported the theft, he came back to her porch claiming he needed to do some additional work. She let him in, but refused to leave his sight. During the investigation, he confessed to co-workers that he had taken some pills. He was convicted of burglary and theft, and sentenced to four and one-half years in prison.

Gina Gilberto was the cleaning lady for a 93-year-old victim's daughter. She began visiting the victim in his assisted living home in Twinsburg, and volunteered to take him to lunch and doctor's appointments. The victim's daughter came to believe Gina was doing this out of kindness, but in reality Gina had taken and forged a series of checks, amounting to \$29,000. She was convicted of forgery and theft from the elderly, and sentenced to three years in prison.

Remember:

- **Be aware of who has access to your home, your belongings, and your bank account. Keep visitors to your home in sight and report any suspicious activity to police.**

Visit our Senior Safety website:
www.co.summit.oh.us/prosecutor/srcitsafe.htm

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PROSECUTOR



WAKR Senior Luncheon at Prime at Anthe's
February 15, 2011

ARE YOU DONATING TO A LEGITIMATE CHARITY?

As the recent natural disasters hit Japan, many charities worldwide began seeking donations to offer support.

However, as we discovered through the Haiti earthquake and New Orleans hurricane devastations, many of these charities are not legitimate. In order to avoid your money from being wrongfully taken, be sure to ask for the charity's name, address, phone number and any other written information the charity has in order to test its legitimacy.

If you are unsure where to donate, go to the Better Business Bureau website at akron.bbb.org for a suggested list of charitable organizations for the Japan disasters.

Look for the Prosecutor's Booth at these upcoming events!

April 9, 2011

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Summit Mall

Child & Family Awareness Month

April 20, 2011

11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Senior Fair at Stonehedge Bowling Alley
580 E. Cuyahoga Falls Ave., in Akron

May 5, 2011

11:00 a.m.

WAKR Senior Luncheon
Sheraton Suites

1989 Front Street, in Cuyahoga Falls

The Take Me Home Program Helps Seniors Get Home Safely

The Take Me Home program was initiated in 2007 and is co-sponsored by our office and Summit County Sheriff Drew Alexander. The program allows for law enforcement to assist in the safe return of individuals who may not be able to communicate their name or address such as those with Dementia or Alzheimer's. If you are concerned that someone you know may become lost or separated from their loved ones or caregivers, the Take Me Home program is here to help.

Registration for the program is free and simple. Information consisting of a photo and identifying characteristics is collected and made accessible only to law enforcement.

For more information, contact Leslie Knoblauch at:

Knoblauch@prosecutor.summitoh.net
or (330) 643-2800.

You can also register on our website at:
[www.co.summit.oh.us/Prosecutor/
Take Me Home](http://www.co.summit.oh.us/Prosecutor/TakeMeHome)

