



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

## THE SENIOR NEWS



On April 27, 2012, my office participated in Walk A Mile In Her Shoes to benefit the Rape Crisis Center of Medina and Summit Counties. This fun event helps raise awareness about sexual violence against women. Although men are also victims, more than 90 percent of rape and sexual assault victims are female.

Age is no protection against sexual abuse, and it can happen in the victim's home, in nursing homes or anywhere else. A 2010 National Center for Victims of Crime publication found that in sexual abuse cases involving adults 60 years and older, only 15.5 percent reported their abuse to the police.

Perpetrators can be home health aides, nursing home staff or other nursing home residents. Shockingly, family members are responsible in more than half of these cases.

Take note of any changes in your friend or loved one, such as unexplained bruises, a change in attitude or any other suspicious behavior. Express your concerns to your loved one. If abuse is confirmed, seek emergency medical attention and contact Adult Protective Services. Summit County Adult Protective Services can be reached at (330) 643-8200.

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Thank you to my very generous staff for their contributions to the Harvest for Hunger Drive. My office collected a large amount of food through some very creative contests. In addition to six barrels of food items, we also collected a total of \$1,828.85. Every dollar donated provides four meals to the needy.

## CRIMES AGAINST THE ELDERLY BY HEALTH CARE AIDES!

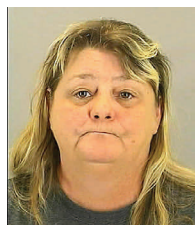


A 72-year-old Bath resident recovering from brain surgery was the victim of a violent home invasion planned by his home health aide worker, Samantha Furman. Furman received 18 years in prison and the driver of the get-away car was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Her three male accomplices were each sentenced to 20 years in prison.

The three men broke into the home, knocked the victim out of his wheelchair and proceeded to kick and stomp on his head. A Meals-on-Wheels worker found him two days later. The victim survived the assault and was able to attend the sentencing of these violent offenders.

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Mona Lynch provided health care to an 85-year-old man and his 80-year-old wife. She arranged for her son to rob the couple on a night she was working. Her son even held the gun to Lynch's head as he threatened the couple.

Lynch was sentenced to four years in prison; her son, Brandon Knoderer, received six years in prison.



House Bill 215, which designates June 15 as Elder Abuse Awareness Day in Ohio, was signed into law February 21. State Representative Mike Dovilla (R-Berea) introduced this legislation to increase public awareness of elder abuse.

## UNAUTHORIZED LAWN SERVICE

Summit County Consumer Affairs has received complaints from residents who received bills from lawn care companies for unauthorized work done on their yard. Consumer Affairs tells consumers not to be intimidated by these companies and recommends trying to resolve it with the company first. If that doesn't work, file a complaint with them at (330) 643-2879 or download the form from:

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

The National Institute of Justice has a new website with information about the financial exploitation of the elderly. It features statistics and publications. You can access this new website at:

[www.nij.gov/nij/topics/crime/elder-abuse/financial-exploitation](http://www.nij.gov/nij/topics/crime/elder-abuse/financial-exploitation)