



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

THE SENIOR NEWS

In 2011, my office handled 277 cases in which the victims were at least 60 years old. These cases involved murder, burglary, domestic violence and assault.

In one case, an 84-year-old woman was enjoying a quiet evening at home with her son and daughter, ages 60 and 64. Around 11:00 p.m., four men armed with guns forced their way into the home. The gunmen locked the victims in the basement and stole money, credit cards, a computer, a checkbook and jewelry.

Although no one was physically hurt and the suspects have been caught, the trauma of the event has changed the victims' lives forever. They feel lost and violated. After 60 years in the home where she raised her children and created wonderful memories, the victim moved into an apartment because this terrifying ordeal has made her too afraid to live alone in her house.

I understand first-hand the feelings of despair, fear and utter shock that come from being victimized – particularly when the crime was a violent one. That is why my office places a high priority on victim services. The victim advocates in my office work closely with victims to ensure that they understand their rights and the judicial process. The victim advocates provide victims with the resources they need and try to empower them by helping them take an active role in their cases.

If you or someone you know has been the victim of a crime and want to know more about the resources available to help you, contact my Victim Services Division at (330) 643-2800.

September is Senior Safety Awareness Month!

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

August 7, 2012

*National Night Out Against Crime
In various neighborhoods in Akron
Visit our website for locations and times at
www.co.summit.oh.us/prosecutor*

August 18, 2012

*Summit for Kids
John S. Knight Center
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.*

August 22, 2012

*WAKR Senior Luncheon
St. George Fellowship Centre
3204 Ridgewood Rd.
Akron, Ohio*

*Doors open at 11:00 a.m.; Lunch at 12:15 p.m.
Purchase tickets beginning July 30 at WAKR,
1795 W. Market St. or send check made out to WAKR
Senior Lunch with self-addressed stamped envelope
\$12.00*

September 7, 2012

*10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Senior Safari at the Akron Zoo
Admission is \$3.00 for 62 and older*

October 5, 2012

*8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Summit Senior Expo
Summit Mall*

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

Visit our Senior Safety
website:

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



Prosecutor Walsh speaking at the House of the Lord about crimes, scams and safety issues.

Murderer's Parole Denied

Dale Collins violently murdered his elderly neighbor, Helen Shay, in 1975 and was sentenced to life in prison with parole eligibility after 20 years.

Collins, his brother and a friend murdered Shay on December 23, 1975. The trio ransacked Shay's home, after pushing her down the steps and choking her with a dog chain. Shay's sister, Julia Davis, found her body the following day.

The Ohio Parole Board recommended Collins be paroled in 2012. My Victim Services Division attempted to inform Shay's family of the parole hearing. However, their whereabouts were unknown. Feeling that the family should have an opportunity to express their opposition to Collins' parole, I appealed to the public to find Shay's family.

Within hours, multiple family members contacted my office. Shay's great nephew spoke on behalf of the family to the Board opposing Collins' parole. Afterwards, the Board reversed its recommendation for parole. Collins will be re-considered for parole in November 2015, after spending 40 years in prison.

Although the murder happened 37 years ago, Shay's family still felt strongly that Collins should pay for his actions. Losing a loved one to a violent crime is devastating, which is why the wishes of victims and their families are always a top priority in my office.

DEED SCAM

Several companies are sending letters to homeowners recommending they obtain a certified copy of their deed for proof of ownership. The company will send you a certified copy for \$89.



Summit County Fiscal Officer Kristen Scalise has warned homeowners in the past of this scam. Homeowners receive a copy of their deed at closing, but another one can be obtained any time from the Summit County Recorder's Office for \$4.00. They charge \$5.00 for a certified copy.

THANK YOU, NEIGHBORS!

In April, alert neighbors called 911 when they noticed strangers entering a home next door. The thieves claimed they were hired to do plumbing work for the homeowner. Police contacted the homeowner, who denied the thieves' story.

Get to know your neighbors or even start a block watch in your neighborhood. Let a neighbor know if you are going to be away for a while so they can watch for anything suspicious.

My office had a case several years ago in which criminals actually cut a hole in the side of a house to gain entry. Then



they backed up a truck and emptied the home. One neighbor thought they had hired contractors, so he never questioned what they were doing or notified anyone.