



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

THE SENIOR NEWS



The holidays are approaching! It is not only a special time with family and friends, it is also a time when criminals prey on distracted and vulnerable people.

Remember these tips for a safe and happy holiday:

- Don't assume you are safe because it is daylight. Crime occurs just as often during the day as during the night.
- Stay alert to your surroundings. Constantly look to your left, to your right and behind you to see if anyone is following you.
- Shop with a family member or friend when possible and park near an entrance.
- Have your keys ready when you leave the store.
- Follow your instincts! If you get a bad feeling about someone while walking to your car, don't ignore it. Return to the store and find someone to escort you to your car.
- Don't fight with a purse snatcher. Let go of your purse. Your safety is more important.
- If wearing a coat, carry your purse over your shoulder and under your coat.
- Never leave your purse unattended in a shopping cart.
- Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. It could be a means of distracting you to steal from you.
- Donate money and items only to a recognized charitable organization.
- Never open your door to someone you do not know.

IF TRAVELING OVER THE HOLIDAYS:

- Set timers for lights and appliances to go on at different times. A lived-in house is less likely to be targeted.
- Stop newspaper and mail deliveries.
- Keep vehicle locked at all times.
- Keep valuables in the trunk or a covered storage area.
- Keep your cell phone charged and accessible at all times.
- Ask your hotel clerk or travel agent about unsafe areas to avoid.
- If you are alone in your car and someone bumps you from behind or if your car breaks down, stay in your car. Ask a passing motorist to call for help if you do not have a cell phone.



LOOK FOR OUR BOOTH!

WAKR Holiday Senior Luncheon

December 4, 2013

Tangier Restaurant

532 W. Market St., Akron

(330) 869-9800

\$12.00

*Doors open at 11:00 a.m.; Lunch at 12:15 p.m.
Purchase tickets at WAKR, 1795 W. Market St.,
Akron, Ohio 44313 or send check made out to
WAKR Senior Lunch with self-addressed
stamped envelope to address above.*

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

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

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Purses are often snatched by criminals in moving vehicles. When driving, keep your purse on the passenger floor where it is more difficult for someone to grab.

A LARGE NUMBER OF CRIMES HAPPEN DURING THE DAYTIME

The unusually warm fall this year has not only given us more time to clean up the leaves, it gave **Michael Rardon** an opportunity to burglarize four elderly women. The women, who lived in the Ellet area, ranged in age from 79 to 94. Rardon broke into one woman's home while she was doing yard

work in the back. In the other three cases, he gained entry to the homes by offering to



perform yard work for the women. He gained access to the homes and stole credit cards, purses and wallets. Rardon was sentenced to **nine years in prison** for these crimes.

Remember:

- Keep your house locked during the day while doing outside projects.
- Keep first-floor windows locked when you are not home or while sleeping at night.
- Never open your door before knowing who is there. If you are not expecting anyone, do not open the door.
- Consider having an alarm installed.

In another Ellet case, a mother/son team targeted a 66-year-old woman walking home from the Ellet ACME store. Although the victim noticed the car driving slowly nearby, she did not see the woman jump out of the car and head toward her. The mom grabbed her purse and when she would not let go, she knocked the woman to the ground and punched her in the face until she let go. The victim was not seriously injured. Nearby witnesses followed their car and called police. **Sandra Ober** was sentenced to **six years in prison**.

Remember:

- Don't fight for your purse. You could be seriously injured.
- Scream and draw attention to your situation.

Daniel Spiegel was sentenced to **10 years in prison** for burglarizing a 92-year-old woman and a 97-year-old man. Spiegel occasionally did odd jobs for the older woman. He showed up one day demanding money he felt was owed to him. When she refused to pay him, he forced his way in and took money from her wallet. While this case was pending, police linked him to the robbery of the 97-year-old man. In that case, Spiegel kicked in the back door and stole his wallet.