



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

THE SENIOR NEWS



SENIOR SAFETY AWARENESS 2014 CALENDAR



After 34 years of service, my Chief Counsel Mary Ann Kovach entered the Retirement Club!

Senior Safety Awareness Month is here, and so is the 2014 calendar. Every September is recognized by my office as Senior Safety Awareness Month. I dedicate a large portion of my time this month to educating seniors on how to minimize their chances of being targeted by criminals.

I speak to senior groups about scams and other crimes, such as purse snatchings and burglaries. Additionally, I sponsor self-defense classes that are geared towards the elderly.

I value our seniors and want to arm them with the knowledge and skills they need to prevent themselves from being victimized. The Senior Safety Awareness calendar has a lot of helpful tips.

To get your 2014 Calendar, be sure to stop by my booth at these upcoming events:

Senior Safari at the Akron Zoo
September 6, 2013
9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Summit Senior Expo at Summit Mall
October 4, 2013
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

MEET AVERY, THE SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE FACILITY DOG!



On August 19, my newest employee joined my office. His name is Avery II, and he is a two-year-old Labrador-Golden Retriever mix. Donated and trained by Canine Companions for Independence (CCI), Avery helps victims, particularly children, feel at ease in our office and the courtroom.

The criminal justice system can add stress to crime victims, especially young children. Having to describe a traumatic event in front of a courtroom full of strangers can be painful. Sometimes even meeting with a prosecutor can be scary. Avery's calming presence and unconditional love help crime victims overcome their fears and anxiety.

As an added bonus, Avery is also helping my staff when they are feeling stressed.

Avery is a highly trained assistance dog who knows approximately 40 commands. He spent two years training with Canine Companions for Independence for this position, and was carefully matched with our office based on his easygoing temperament and ability to sit quietly for long periods of time.

Stow Kent Animal Hospital is providing all of Avery's medical care at no cost. Pet Supplies Plus is providing his food, grooming and other supplies.

Want to know what Avery is up to? Follow him on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SummitCountyProsecutorAveryII>

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Visit our Senior Safety
website:

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

WOULD YOUR GROUP LIKE TO LEARN TIPS FOR STAYING SAFE?



Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh has spoken to thousands of senior citizens on scams, recent crimes against seniors and prevention tips. If your group would like to schedule a class, please contact Merle Payne at payne@prosecutor.summitoh.net or (330) 643-7915.

DON'T BECOME A VICTIM OF HEALTH CARE FRAUD

According to FBI.gov, health care, health insurance and Medicare fraud have become more common throughout the elderly community. Unfortunately, senior citizens are frequently the targets of these scams. Below are some tips on ways to protect yourself against these scams.

Never sign blank insurance claim forms and do not give complete authorization to any medical provider to bill for services provided.

Door-to-door or telephone salespeople might tell you that their services or medical equipment are "free," in exchange for your Medicare number. Do not do business with these people and do not give out your Medicare number.

Be suspicious of anyone who calls or visits you claiming to represent Medicare or the federal government.

Your medical records include very important information. Only allow medical professionals to review your medical records or recommend services.

Review your payment notices for errors. Your notice will show what Medicare was billed, what Medicare paid and what you owe. Be sure Medicare was not billed for services or medical supplies and equipment you did not receive.

Be sure to keep records of all of your doctor's visits, tests and procedures.

Always ask questions if you do not understand your bill. Also, ask questions if you think the service was unnecessary or you do not think you received a service listed.



FREE SENIOR SELF-DEFENSE CLASS

Hosted by

Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh
&
University of Akron Police Lt. Chad Cunningham

Thursday, September 19

10:00-11:30 a.m.

Firestone Park Community Center
1480 Girard Street, Akron

Class is free,
no registration required!



Learn simple techniques that could save your life!

- Free yourself from a chokehold
- Disable an attacker
- Use everyday objects as weapons

For more information, contact: Lisa Holdt at (330) 643-2796



Another great resource for seniors is the Take Me Home program. The program is maintained by the Prosecutor's and Sheriff's Offices and helps to reunite caregivers with individuals who may wander such as

those with dementia and Alzheimer's. For more information or to register someone you know, contact Leslie Knoblauch at Knoblauch@prosecutor.summitoh.net or (330) 643-2800.