



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

# THE SENIOR NEWS



## SENIOR SAFETY AWARENESS 2015 CALENDAR

Senior Self-Defense Classes are Fun & Informative!



Calendar Sponsored by Summit County Prosecuting Attorney Sherri Bevan Walsh

## 2015 Senior Safety Awareness Calendars are here!

The most important feature of our senior calendar is the tips provided each month. These tips are related to actual crimes we see in our office. Please read these tips and share them with your family and friends.

Also be sure to read the Common Scams on the January page as all of them have resurfaced in Summit County. In June, a grandmother lost \$2,000 to the Grandparent Scam. In August, a criminal distracted a Tallmadge homeowner in his back yard with a claim of surveying the yard for a neighboring fence while his accomplice robbed the home.

False emails from banks are still circulating with the intent of getting your private information. There is actually computer software criminals can buy that copies a bank's website. Do not respond to these emails. Call your bank or delete the email.

Recently, an 85-year-old man lost \$28,000 to an ongoing fake lottery scam. After he sent a wire transfer for \$500 to claim his winnings, he kept receiving calls for more money. It is illegal in Ohio to require anyone to make a purchase or pay money to claim a prize.

## SENIORS BULLYING SENIORS IS A REAL PROBLEM!

When seniors are looking for a facility to move into, they often look for things like cleanliness and safety. Unfortunately, now they need to look into bullying policies as bullying in the senior community has become a big issue. Although some cases involve dementia where the person is unaware of their actions, other cases are people just being mean. Bullying is characterized as verbal abuse, physical abuse or isolating another person. Examples reported involve shunning, excluding another from games or groups or even going as far as to harass or assault someone.

If you are a victim or see someone being bullied, tell someone. Ask staff if there are policies in place on how seniors are to treat each other. Help your senior facility or community center start prevention programs on bullying. If you have a loved one in a senior facility, observe what is going on around them. Is your loved one being excluded or teased? Take steps to correct the problem immediately.

## LOOK FOR OUR BOOTH!



Senior Safari at the Akron Zoo  
September 5, 2014  
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Summit Senior Expo at Summit Mall  
October 3, 2014  
8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Zane's Foundation Walk & Fun Day  
Bolich Middle School  
September 13, 2014  
10:00a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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

Visit our Senior Safety  
website:

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



Encourage others to join your circle of friends.

### Watch out for Health-Aid Scams!

Often, senior citizens seek home health care givers to help with their day-to-day activities, such as general housekeeping, shopping, meal preparation and assisting with personal hygiene.

Although a level of trust is established with an aide, they are still a stranger to your home. My office has seen numerous cases where aides have stolen checks, bank cards and valuables. When hiring a health care aide, consider these tips:

- Go through a licensed company that does background checks.
- Consider installing cameras in your home to monitor any suspicious activities.
- Do not leave your valuables in plain sight and do not tell your home health aid where you keep your wallet, purse, checks or credit cards.
- Monitor your bank statements often for fraudulent or suspicious transactions.

### DON'T FALL FOR THIS SCAM!

A woman recently lost all of her \$30,000 savings to an IRS imposter. She received a call that she owed back taxes and if she did not pay it, she would be arrested immediately. She was told to withdraw the money from the bank and put it on GreenDot MoneyPak cards. When she read him the code numbers on the back of the cards, it was as if she handed him a bag of money.

These thieves also pretend to be utility companies threatening to shut off utilities if unpaid debts are not paid.

Don't fall for them! Hang up and call your utility company or the IRS directly. Also, call your local police and report it so they can warn others.

### September Speaking Engagements

Senior Speech for Ellet Development  
2525 Wedgewood Drive in Akron  
9/9/14; 2:00 p.m.

Senior Speech at the HUB Community Center  
1234 S. Cleveland-Massillon Rd., Akron 44321  
9/10/14; 1:30 p.m.

Senior Safety Speech  
Nordia Hills Senior Center  
10503 Valley View Road, Nordonia Hills  
9/17/14; 11:00 a.m.

Sutliff II Apartment Complex  
1860 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Cuyahoga Falls 44221  
9/22/14; 2:00 p.m.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Ohio Department of Aging asked residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities to rate their care. Nursing homes had an average satisfaction rating of 87.5 and assisted living facilities had a 92.3 rating.

You can access these surveys to help you decide which facility is right for you or your loved one at:

Assisted Living Facilities:  
[aging.ohio.gov/news/pressreleases/2014/  
2013RCFOverall.pdf](http://aging.ohio.gov/news/pressreleases/2014/2013RCFOverall.pdf)

Nursing homes:  
[aging.ohio.gov/news/pressreleases/  
2014/2013NHOverall.pdf](http://aging.ohio.gov/news/pressreleases/2014/2013NHOverall.pdf)