



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



# THE SENIOR NEWS

## Protecting the Elderly

Elder abuse is a very prominent crime throughout the U.S. and shows no signs of slowing in the future. Most of the time these crimes can be difficult to prevent due to factors such as lack of reporting crimes from victims, lack of information about the crimes against the elderly, and the trusting nature of elders towards those around them.



In response to the difficulties surrounding the prevention of elder abuse, law enforcement agencies around the country are putting forth more efforts and creating programs that will help reduce the victimization of elders throughout the U.S. Some of these programs include California's Patient Abuse Rapid Response Teams which respond to elder complaints 24 hours a day seven days a week, Iowa's "Senior Stingers" who are law enforcement personnel working undercover in fraud investigations against the elderly, and similarly, Missouri's Senior Sting program that investigates telemarketing scams against the elderly.

Locally, there have been efforts to protect the elderly community within Summit County. The Senior Watch program is provided by the Summit County Sheriff's Department and allows residents of the county to register to have deputies regularly visit their homes to ensure their safety and well-being. The Summit County Prosecutor's office provides free self-defense classes with certified instructors giving elders valuable self-defense techniques that could save their lives in a dangerous situation. Also, Prosecutor Walsh often presents Senior Safety Speeches to help educate the community of recent crimes and ways to avoid being a victim of these crimes.

## Look for us at these Upcoming Events!

**May 19, 2018  
9am-3pm**

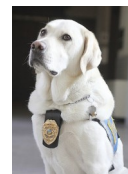
Senior Summit 2018 Expo  
Firestone Community Learning Center  
470 Castle Blvd. in Akron

**May 23, 2018  
WAKR Luncheon  
Todaro's**

1820 Akron Peninsula Rd. in Akron  
(330) 869-9800; \$14.00  
*Doors open at 11:00 a.m.; Lunch at 12:15 p.m.*  
*Purchase tickets at WAKR*

**June 2, 2018  
10am-4pm**

Pet Expo at Hardesty Park  
1615 W. Market St. in Akron  
(Come meet our facility dog, Avery)



**June 16, 2018  
6:00am-11:00am**

Autism 5K Run & Walk  
Firestone Stadium  
1575 Firestone Pkwy., Akron, 44301

**August 15, 2018  
WAKR Luncheon**

St. George Fellowship Hall  
3204 Ridgewood Rd., Fairlawn, 44333  
(330) 869-9800; \$14.00  
*Doors open at 11:00 a.m.; Lunch at 12:15 p.m.*  
*Purchase tickets at WAKR*

**August 28, 2018  
6:30pm-7:30pm**

Safety Speech at the Norton Library  
3930 S. Cleveland-Massillon Rd.,  
Norton 44203

## SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

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Visit our Senior Safety Website:  
[www.co.summit.oh.us/prosecutor](http://www.co.summit.oh.us/prosecutor)

## Elder Abuse Statistics



Did you know that approximately one in 10 elderly persons in the U.S. have been affected by elder abuse? Criminals look to take advantage of seniors because they view them as vulnerable. The elderly are associated with multiple risk factors that make them an easy target for someone wanting to take advantage of them such as social

isolation, cognitive decline, mental issues, and dependence on others. Elderly persons, 80 years or older are two to three times more likely to be abused than younger senior citizens.

Often the abuser of an elderly person is a family member or caregiver. According to the National Council on Aging, two-thirds of the perpetrators of elder abuse and neglect are adult children or spouses of the victim. Elder abuse covers a whole variety of crimes such as physical abuse, sexual abuse, financial deprivation, neglect, etc. Elder abuse can happen anywhere including your home, places of business, and even care facilities such as nursing homes and hospitals.

The biggest way to decrease the victimization of the elderly is to report any abuse to the local authorities immediately. Studies have shown that more than 50 percent of seniors who are victims of violent crime do not report the crimes to the police. Also, stay educated on elder abuse in your area and the common crimes and scams being targeted at elders.

Source: <https://www.ncoa.org/public-policy-action/elder-justice/elder-abuse-facts/>



Learn ways to defend yourself at our free women's self-defense classes. Bring your daughters and granddaughters!

## Summit County's Office of Consumer Affairs

The Office of Consumer Affairs is under the direction of Ilene Shapiro, Summit County Executive. The mission of the Office is to educate and protect the citizens of Summit County from deceptive sales practices. The Office receives and investigates complaints from consumers who have experienced an unsatisfactory transaction with a business. The Office works with local, county, state and federal agencies to ensure a safe and informed marketplace. In 2017, the Office investigated and returned over \$69,337.00 to consumers in the form of refunds, exchanges, repairs or product replacement.

The Office also provides referral services for individuals seeking foreclosure/housing counseling information and educates residents on ways to spot and avoid consumer targeted scams. They also provide workshop programs to assist people with money management issues, counseling for individuals on how to improve their credit scores, assistance with applications for utility assistance programs, guidance with understanding budgets and paying off and managing debts. Their financial education program, titled Smart Money Choices, assisted in educating over 7,000 consumers in 2017 who attended the many consumer education presentations, budget classes or clinics offered by Consumer Affairs.



## Office of Consumer Affairs

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