



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH



THE SENIOR NEWS

Do You Have a Plan?

As the Summit County Prosecutor, I am very much aware of the crimes being committed in our communities. We all read articles in the newspaper and hear stories on the television news programs about crime. However, the crimes you read and hear about in the paper or on television represent only a very small number of the total number of crimes being committed. Last year, my office prosecuted to conclusion, 3,909 adult defendants who committed felony crimes in Summit County. Felony crimes are the most serious crimes such as murder, rape, robbery, kidnapping, drug offenses, child abuse and burglary.

Although most victims will blame themselves, they are NOT to blame. The criminal is to blame. However, because we live in a society where crime continues to occur, we must do everything possible to minimize our chances of becoming the next crime victim. Here are some tips I have shared over the years to help senior citizens stay safe:

- Rehearse a plan in your mind where you tell yourself what you will do if you are attacked. My office sponsors self-defense classes throughout the year where we demonstrate easy techniques to get out of a potentially dangerous situation. See back page for information on next class.
- If you are in a public place where other people are likely to hear you, scream as loud as you can and do anything you can to draw attention to the situation. Criminals do not want to get caught and most will panic if you are making a lot of noise.
- If you have a gut feeling that someone or something is not quite right, do not ignore that gut feeling because your instinct is probably right. Most victims of crime have told me that they had a bad feeling about the criminal and wish they had not ignored their instinct.
- Do not assume you are safe just because it is daylight and you are in a public place. There are just as many crimes committed during the day as there are crimes committed at night.
- Always lock your car door.

Look for us at these Upcoming Events!



March 6, 2019, 6pm

Highland Park block watch
Sam Salem CLC
1222 W. Waterloo Road

April 2, 2019, 2pm-3pm

Crime Safety Speech
Eagles Chase Condo Association
800 Eagles Chase Dr., Akron 44313

April 13, 2019, 10am-1pm

Hudson Preschool Parents Children's Fair
East Woods Elementary School
120 N. Hayden Pkwy., Hudson

April 26, 2019, 6pm-8pm

Walk of Heroes Awareness and Fundraiser Event
The Rape Crisis Center of Medina
and Summit Counties
University of Akron Field House
289 S. Union St., Akron, 44304

May 8, 2019

WAKR Luncheon
St. George Fellowship Hall
3204 Ridgewood Rd., Copley
(330) 869-9800
\$14.00

*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.*

SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

Summit County Prosecutor

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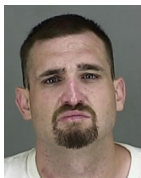
Fax: (330) 643-2137

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



WAKR sponsored Valentine's Day senior luncheon at St. George Fellowship Hall.

Crimes Against Seniors



On the night of September 7, 2018, Jack Godfrey broke into the home of his neighbor, a 65-year-old-single woman. He kicked in the front door, bound the woman's hands with tape and demanded money. When the victim attempted to run out the door, she was pulled back in and hit in the face with a metal pipe. Godfrey eventually ran off and the victim hid in the woods until police arrived. On January 16, 2019, Godfrey pled guilty to Aggravated Burglary and Felonious Assault. He will be sentenced on February 21.



Raymond Gates was sentenced on September 5, 2018 to **three years** in prison for sexually assaulting a 62-year-old mentally disabled woman. The victim was able to go to a neighbor's home for help. Gates was also labeled a Tier 3 sex offender which requires him to register his address with the local sheriff every 90 days for the rest of his life.



Crystal Hennacy received **nine years** in prison and Kevin Story received **four years** for the theft of \$600,000 from Story's elderly father. They used the money to buy a house, several vehicles, jewelry and even a second honeymoon. Meanwhile, Story's father died penniless in a nursing home. The elder Story died before seeing these two defendants sentenced in court.

FREE SELF-DEFENSE CLASS

Join our **FREE** Women's Self-Defense class sponsored by Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh and presented by Certified Instructor Chad Cunningham.

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Betty Jane CLC

444 Darrow Rd.

Akron, OH 44305



Learn simple techniques that could save your life!

- Verbal techniques
- Free yourself from a chokehold
- Learn the wrist breakaway
- Escape if pinned to the ground
- Practice kicks and slaps

For more information, contact:

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