



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH



THE SENIOR NEWS

Message from Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh

Our annual Senior Safety Awareness Month has arrived! Unfortunately, all senior events that usually take place this month have been cancelled. Therefore, activities from our office for the month of September will be handled a little differently. Just as our office has made changes to how we operate, we too had to think of creative ways to reach our seniors.

In the past months, I conducted some senior safety speeches by ZOOM. They went well and the audience was very receptive to the alternative means of getting safety information from my office. If your group has ZOOM, call my office to schedule your safety speech.

SENIOR SAFETY AWARENESS 2021 CALENDAR



Calendar Sponsored by Summit County Prosecuting Attorney Sherri Bevan Walsh

Our Senior Safety Awareness calendars will be in any day. We will get them to your group leaders to distribute. If your group needs help from our office distributing them, please let us know how we can help - contact Lisa Holdt at (330) 643-2796.

During September, we will be visiting senior apartments and leaving bags on the door handles of each tenant. Our bags will have a 2021 calendar, newsletters, list of COVID scams, playing cards and other goodies. If your senior facility would like us to deliver bags to your tenants, please call Lisa Holdt at (330) 643-2796.

If your group would like for us to set up a table and pass out bags, let us know. You can drive up and we will come to your car with the bags. Masks and gloves will be worn by my staff to ensure everyone stays safe. If you would like to park and come talk to us, you are welcome to practice safe distancing with us.

My office is scheduled to pass out our office materials and talk to our seniors at the below events. If you belong to these groups, look for us. If you would like a table for your group, let us know.

September 14, 2020, 5:30pm
Eagles Activity Club Bingo
89 E. Waterloo Rd., Akron 44319

September 19, 2020, 4:00pm
St. Matthews Parish
2603 Benton St., Akron 44312

September 27, 2020, 10:00am
Tallmadge First Congregational Church
85 Heritage Dr.
Tallmadge, 44278

Summit County Community Partnership has been collecting items from various businesses and organizations throughout Summit County for seniors. The items are then sent to Meals on Wheels and AMHA for distribution. Our donations have included playing cards, brochures, medicine pill boxes and more.

I miss all of you! Please continue to practice safe distancing and I will see you soon!

Sherri B Walsh

United Way merged with Info Line

United Way of Summit County is available to help senior citizens 24 hours a day, seven days a week! They recently merged with Info Line and use the same 2-1-1 number to reach Summit County residents. They can connect citizens to services that provide food, housing and shelter, utilities, transportation, health care, mental health care, clothing, household items, and more.

SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

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



This picture is from our free self-defense class in Stow from last Fall. We cannot wait to start the classes again once it is safe.

Look for our Senior Safety Calendar coming soon and check out our Facebook page. We regularly post recent scams and crimes against the elderly.

Report Elder Abuse

**Your Reaction
Makes a Difference**

24 Hour Sheriff Hotline
(330) 643 - 2181



SHERRI BEVAN WALSH
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR

Last year, we began our billboard campaign for the elderly, "Protect Our Seniors: See Abuse - Report It! You will see our billboards again this September all over Summit County. It is so important to report abuse to not only stop the cycle of abuse but to bring justice to the victims.

As a community, we must take responsibility to prevent and report abuse against the elderly. Please work with me to get this message out to everyone. Our elderly should not suffer alone in silence.

Be Aware of these Scams

New COVID-19 scams are spreading every day. It is so important you take every precaution to protect your safety and your life savings.

I hope you were able to read last quarter's newsletter that provided a list of COVID-19 scams. With so many scams circulating, I would recommend you do not respond to any emails or texts from persons you do not know. There are no known cures or a vaccine yet for the virus.

If you are a frequent Amazon shopper like me, you might be tempted to click on a link sent by Amazon. Don't!!! Scammers can duplicate websites so you think you are on Amazon's site, but really you are on their fake site giving them your personal information.

I have written about the Grandparent scam many times. It keeps resurfacing and did recently in a most unusual way. Recently, an 18-year old man crashed with a gasoline tanker on the highway. That same day, an 83-year-old woman was contacted that her son was being held in jail on \$18,000 bond for causing the

crash. She was persuaded to give a courier \$6,000 cash so he could be released.

She later talked to her grandson and found out she had been scammed. Although she felt something like this would never happen to her, she could not resist the urge to help her grandson.

This scam also recently happened to my friend's mother-in-law. A woman called claiming to be the woman's granddaughter. The scammer told the victim she sounded different because she had a sinus infection. The woman said that while she was at the store getting medicine, she did something wrong and was arrested. She then claimed her best friend's dad, who is an attorney, was also on the line. He proceeded to tell her that if she sent \$14,500 cash, her granddaughter would be released from jail.

Several things concerned me about this call. Thanks to social media, criminals can gain more insight into their victims' lives. This caller knew the name of her granddaughter's best friend and also that her dad was an attorney. Also, grandma had to go to three banks because each bank told her they did not have the total amount to give her. Usually banks will red flag cases of an elderly person making large withdraws and call police. I was surprised to find out not one of these banks thought anything was suspicious. It was five days later when grandma saw her granddaughter and learned she had been scammed.

What to do if you have been scammed. The financial losses in these cases can be substantial. We recommend contacting your local police department if you think you have been victimized.

And, our advice to avoid being victimized:

- Resist the pressure to act quickly.
- Try to contact your grandchild or another family member to determine whether or not the call is legitimate.
- Never wire money or send cash based on a request made over the phone. Once you send it, you can't get it back.

For more information on scams, Like us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/SummitCountyProsecutorOffice/>