



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



THE SENIOR NEWS

Message from Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh

Summer has arrived and with the longer hours of daylight comes hope that this pandemic is finally coming to an end. Although safety protocols are softening, it is still important to limit your contact with others and to keep practicing physical distancing. Also, check in with friends to be sure they are still doing okay.

Supporting our senior population is even more essential during COVID. The number of scams during this time was overwhelming. I hope you read our safety tips and information on scams to avoid in our 2021 Senior Safety Awareness Calendar.

Since we were unable to meet personally with seniors, we distributed over 3,000 bags to senior facilities containing information on scams and crimes, newsletters, playing cards, puzzles, and other fun items. We also coordinated with churches to provide bags after services.



Please let us know if your senior group is beginning to meet again or if you would like a Zoom safety speech (330-643-7915). Events for seniors are being scheduled again and we look forward to seeing you in person.



Pictured above is the Zoom safety speech **Tania Nemer**, Community Outreach Director, presented to St. Mary's Church seniors this past March.

Look for us at the WAKR Senior sponsored luncheon:

August 11, 2021, 11am
WAKR Luncheon
St. George Fellowship Hall
3204 Ridgewood Rd., Copley
(330) 869-9800

Did You Know?

Summit County has designated the month of June as Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month. With an estimated 6.2 million Americans and 220,000 Ohioans living with Alzheimer's, there is a need to bring recognition to the diseases the elderly are struggling with every day.

Older people are not alone in their diagnosis of Dementia and Alzheimer's. It is a family issue in deciding the care and decision-making of the loved one.



My office's Take Me Home program has registered over 2,000 individuals. This program helps reunite caregivers with individuals who may wander or have trouble communicating in an emergency situation, such as those with cognitive disabilities, Alzheimer's or dementia. The Take Me Home database is maintained by the Prosecutor's and Sheriff's Offices, and it is only accessible to law enforcement. There is no charge to be registered. If you know someone who could benefit from registering in our Take Me Home Program, or if you want more information, please contact Leslie Knoblauch at Knoblauch@prosecutor.summitoh.net or (330) 643-8741.

Please join me in recognizing June as Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month!

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



My office has worked with Opportunity Parish Ecumenical Neighborhood Ministry (OPEN M) for almost 20 years. OPEN M is a Christian ministry in Akron providing its community with free lunches, a food bank, free

medical and dental care, as well as services for seeking employment. My office sponsors free lunches at OPEN M several times a year. This picture is from May 27th of this year. Lunches were packed and brought out to cars.

Giving Back to Our Community

My office was honored to say thank you to those in our community who give every day and worked tirelessly during COVID to ensure our well-being. Bagged lunches were delivered to three wonderful providers of healthcare in our community. Thank you for your generous commitment!

Stow Kent Animal Hospital

Stow Kent Animal Hospital provides free care to Avery, our facility dog. Avery serves as a calming presence for anxious and traumatized victims and witnesses. Thank you Stow Kent for taking care of Avery!



Pebble Creek Healthcare Center



Pebble Creek Healthcare Center in Akron is a facility for rehabilitation of seniors offering both long-term and short-term care. They have skilled nurses focused on seniors' physical and emotional well-being. Thank you Pebble Creek for your wonderful contribution to our community!

The Colony Healthcare Center

The Colony Healthcare Center in Tallmadge is dedicated to providing the best nursing staff for seniors recovering from a medical event. Long-term and short-term care is available. Thank you Colony Healthcare Center for your support for our community!



Crimes Against Seniors

The year 2020 brought many challenges in dealing with the COVID pandemic. The hardships caused by economic distress and unemployment brought on more scams and violence to our community.

Jarod Lauderdale is serving a prison sentence for five purse thefts of elderly women. In many of these cases, he opened the passenger side car door and grabbed the purse off the seat. In another, he took the purse from the back of the car as the victim was loading groceries.

In other purse snatchings, the criminal waited for an 89-year-old woman to leave a bank before grabbing her purse in the parking lot. Another victim's purse was snatched as she left the Dollar Store.

If you feel that you must carry a purse, please consider the following tips to avoid a purse snatching:

Purse snatchers are looking for easy targets---women who are dangling their purse from their hand, women who are walking with their head down, women who are not paying attention and will be easily surprised. Always walk with confidence. Look to the left, to the right, and behind you to make it clear to purse snatchers that you will see them coming. This includes when you are getting in and out of your vehicle. As soon as you enter your vehicle, lock the doors and leave the area.

Hold your purse firmly over your shoulder and make it obvious that you have a tight grip on your purse. Do not put your purse strap over your neck. Although a purse placed over your neck will make it more difficult for the purse snatcher, it can result in you being choked and knocked to the ground when the robber grabs your purse.

Be aware that Women Also Steal Purses!! Women tend to be in fear of the "man" who may be following them but rarely pay attention to a woman who may be following them in a parking lot. Almost half of the purse snatching cases my office has prosecuted have involved women purse snatchers.

If you think a man OR A WOMAN is following you, return to the store to find someone to walk you to your car.