



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



# THE SENIOR NEWS

## BEWARE OF HOME REPAIR SCAMMERS

In December, an 82-year-old man hired a company to cut down a tree on his property. While cutting the tree, a large portion of the tree fell onto the man's back porch and crushed him beneath it. The elderly home owner suffered multiple injuries including broken hips, spinal fracture, broken shoulder, and a broken leg.

It was later discovered that the defendant's business was not licensed in the county to conduct door-to-door solicitation and he had forged documents to make the business look legitimate. The defendant also possessed business cards and documents of other businesses that were not legitimate or licensed. The Company's owner was eventually criminally charged.

**Be wary of any businesses going door to door offering services for extremely low prices. Also, do not hire any businesses that are unable or refuse to provide proof of licensure and registration.**

I would offer these tips when hiring anyone for home repairs:

- Get at least three estimates before hiring someone.
- Check the business with the Better Business Bureau ([www.akronbbb.org](http://www.akronbbb.org)) or call them at (330) 253-4565 to see if the company has a good rating. You can also call the Summit County Office of Consumer Affairs at (330) 643-2879 for guidance.
- Take pictures of the area needing repair before work starts, during and after work is completed to document the repair process.
- If someone starts repairs on your home without your permission, call the police immediately.

Many business scams are able to entice victims by offering services or products for a very low cost. While these offers might seem like a good opportunity at the time, they often can end up costing you way more in the long run such as the case involving the fake tree removal business.

It is important to report any suspicious businesses to the local authorities so others will not fall victim to their crimes.

## Look for us at these Upcoming Events!

**April 7, 2018—10am-5pm**

**April 8, 2018—11am-3pm**

Stow-Munroe Falls Community Showcase  
 Stow-Munroe Falls High School  
 3227 Graham Rd., Stow 44224

**April 27, 2018**

**5:00pm—8:00pm**

Walk of Heroes Awareness and Fundraiser Event  
 The Rape Crisis Center of Medina  
 and Summit Counties  
 Lock 3 Park, Akron, OH

**May 11, 2018**

1:00pm-2:00pm

Crime Safety Speech  
 Goss Memorial Church Seniors  
 2247 11<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Akron, 44314

**May 19, 2018**

9:00am-3:00pm

Senior Summit 2018 Senior Expo  
 Firestone Community Learning Center  
 470 Castle Blvd., Akron 44313

**May 23, 2018**

WAKR Luncheon

Todaro's Party Center  
 1820 Akron Peninsula Rd., Akron, 44313  
 (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

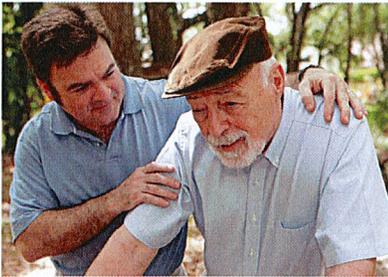
53 University Ave., 6th Floor  
Akron, Ohio 44308  
(330) 643-2800  
Fax: (330) 643-2137

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



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

### ARE YOU KEEPING SECRETS?



Two Akron men have recently been found guilty in very shockingly similar cases. In November of 2016, 24-year-old Akron resident, Nathan Huff, called

911 to report that he had found his 70-year-old grandmother stabbed to death in her home. Later in an interview with police, Huff confessed to stabbing and killing his grandmother himself. The suspect was a known user of methamphetamines and had been using the drugs the night of the killing. He was eventually sentenced to life in prison.

More recently, another Akron man, 49 years old, was charged with stabbing and killing his 78-year-old mother. The suspect was a recluse and was diagnosed with major depression and anxiety disorders. He was the sole caregiver for his mother, who suffered from Alzheimer's at the time of the murder.

These two cases are shocking reminders that even the ones closest to you might be capable of committing horrendous crimes or acts of violence towards you. It is always good to watch the behavior of those around you and look for warning signs that might result in violence, such as signs of drug use, temperament issues, antisocial behaviors, etc. If you notice any suspicious or odd behavior from those around you, do not hesitate to contact your local police. You can also reach out to other relatives or friends for help. Keeping secrets could put your life in danger!

### HERE IS WHAT SHERIFF STEVE BARRY DOES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

Community policing has become a big part of the Summit County Sheriff's Office. The Deputies are working to build relationships with people in the community and to form trust between the residents and law enforcement. The ultimate goal is for the community to feel safe and comfortable with law enforcement, to reduce the level of crime, and to make Summit County a safer place to live.

The Summit County Sheriff's Office provides many programs dedicated to accomplishing their goals of community policing. One program is their Senior Watch Program where deputies make visits to the homes of residents who are registered to ensure they are safe.

The Sheriff has also provided luncheons and holiday meals for seniors. If you would like more information about Sheriff Barry's Senior Watch, call (330) 643-8617.

