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County of Summit

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## **ALERT!**



My office has seen an increase in cases involving burglaries and break-ins within the senior community. Criminals target the elderly, because they believe seniors are more vulnerable and weaker than other targets. Seniors don't have to be victims! Below are some tips to deter and prevent criminals from burglarizing your home.

- Tell friends and neighbors you trust if you plan to go out of town or are expecting deliveries. If they know, they will be more likely to notice if something is amiss and will spot unexpected visitors at your home.
- If you will be away, set timers to switch lights on and off at random. Also, put a hold on your mail or have a trusted neighbor collect your mail until you return.
- Do not hide spare keys in a planter, underneath a doormat, in the mailbox or above the door. Criminals know these common hiding spots and can gain easy access to your house. Instead, be sure to give a spare key to a trusted neighbor or friend.
- Be cautious about who you let in your home. If you are not expecting anyone, don't open the door until you have verified that they are genuine.
- Consider a home alarm system. Alarm system signs can deter criminals from breaking and entering into your home. If the criminal does get into your house, your alarm system will sound an immediate alert of a home burglary.
- Also, you should consider a system that is monitored 24/7 by a security company. The security company will notify law enforcement of any incident.

Stay Safe,

Sherrri Bevan Walsh  
Prosecuting Attorney