

# MAHONING COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE AND SHERIFF'S OFFICE SENIOR CITIZEN SAFETY AND RESOURCES CALENDAR

JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2024



# 2024

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[SouthwoodsHealthAtHome.com](http://SouthwoodsHealthAtHome.com)

# A LETTER FROM

## MAHONING COUNTY PROSECUTOR GINA DEGENOVA AND MAHONING COUNTY SHERIFF JERRY GREENE

The safety of our senior citizens is and has always been our top priority. Key to our success in protecting seniors is collaboration among law enforcement, county officials and other professionals in the community who specialize in meeting the needs of seniors through planning, education, communication, cooperative strategies, and supportive services. We remain committed to reducing victimization and to providing services to our senior population.

Initiatives developed in our offices provide support and resources to members of our senior community, particularly during their times of need. The Mahoning County Special Needs Registry managed by the Prosecutor's Office assists Mahoning County residents who may be in need of special assistance to get help and support they need in times of emergency or during interaction with Law Enforcement, Fire or EMS personnel. The Registry is a voluntary service open to all citizens with special needs who reside in Mahoning County. In addition, I, along with members of my staff, often speak to senior groups on issues such as scams and frauds.

The Senior Services Unit of the Sheriff's Office is designed to reduce victimization of Mahoning County's senior population. The Senior Services Unit works in cooperation with seniors and their families to help find the appropriate assistance or intervention. It also provides a wide range of specialized training on aging issues for public safety officers who may work with the elderly. The unit conducts assessments of seniors who have been victimized or are vulnerable to future victimization and refers them to numerous services available throughout the community. This referral system has been successful in preventing abuse, neglect, or exploitation of the elderly.

In 2023, we welcomed several furry friends to our staff to help service our community. Hope, the Prosecutor's Office service dog in training, joined our staff in February, 2023 and will provide comfort and assistance to victims and witnesses of crime. Jackpot, a cadaver dog working with the Mahoning County Sheriff's Office, joined the office in June, 2023 in an effort to help solve cold cases and other crimes.

If you would like to have members of the Mahoning County Prosecutor's Office or the Mahoning County Sheriff's Office speak at your next event, please contact the Prosecutor's Office via email at [alan.rodges@mahoningcountyoh.gov](mailto:alan.rodges@mahoningcountyoh.gov) or the Sheriff's Office at [bschaeffer@mahoningcountyoh.gov](mailto:bschaeffer@mahoningcountyoh.gov). We can also be reached by phone at 330-740-2330 (Prosecutor's Office) or 330-480-5078 (Sheriff's Office Senior Services Unit).



*Gina DeGenova*      *Jerry Greene*

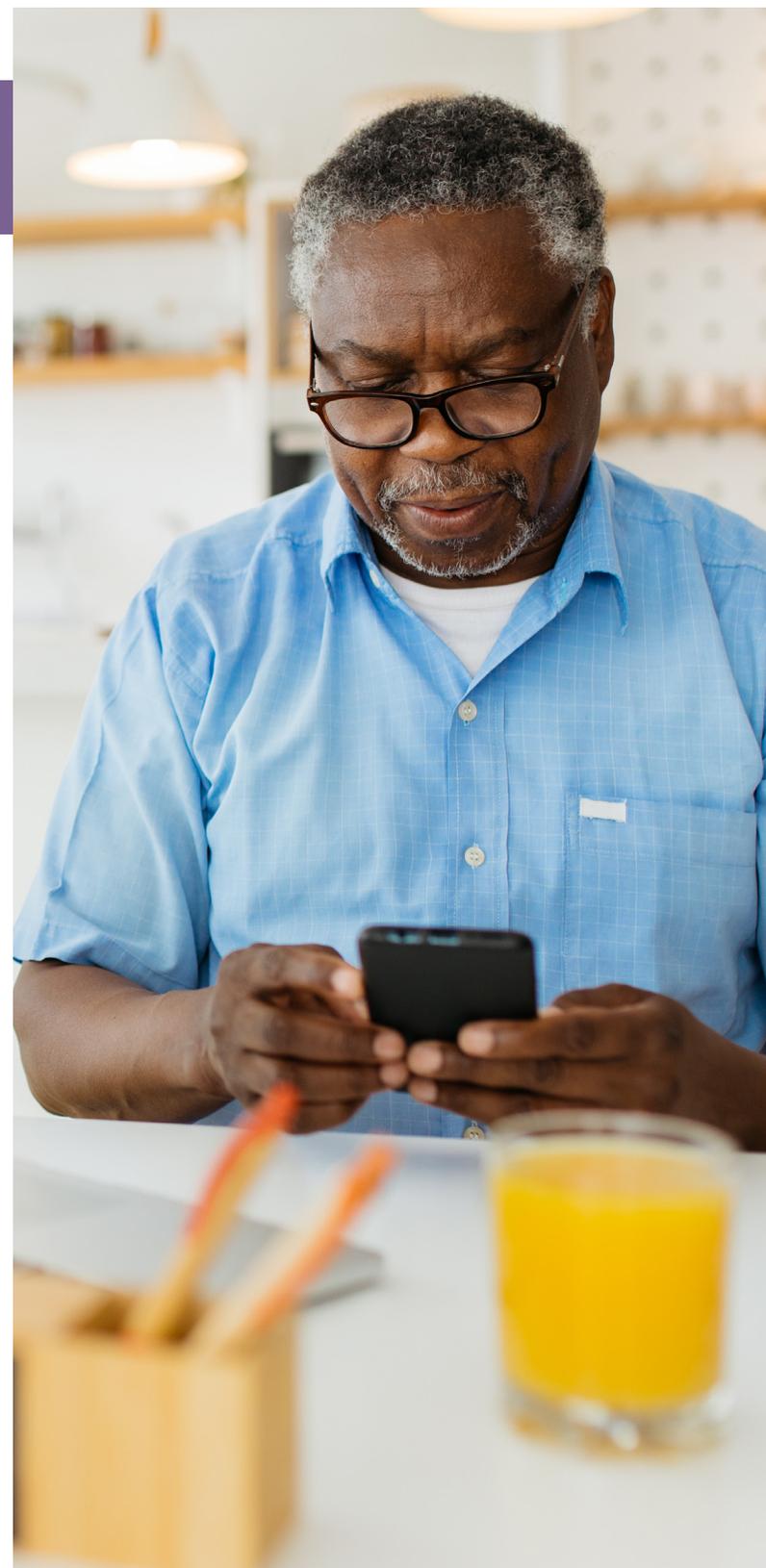
# ELDER FRAUD REPORT

In their Annual Elder Fraud Report, the FBI reported that in 2022 there were 88,262 victims of fraud over 60 years old, which resulted in \$3,100,000,000 in losses. This was an 84% increase from 2021, with an average loss of \$35,101 per victim.

The FBI reported that Ohio has the 6th highest number of fraud victims over 60 years old in the country, totaling \$51,041,223 in losses in 2022.

## General Tips:

- Destroy bank statements and credit card receipts
- Do not give any personal information when you receive an unsolicited call, text, or email
- Do not click on side-bar ads on Facebook or other websites
- If something feels suspicious, ask a family member or friend for advice
- Never pay for services with gift cards or wire transfer
- Avoid situations where you are being pressured to pay quickly or in secret



# JANUARY

National Glaucoma Awareness Month - National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

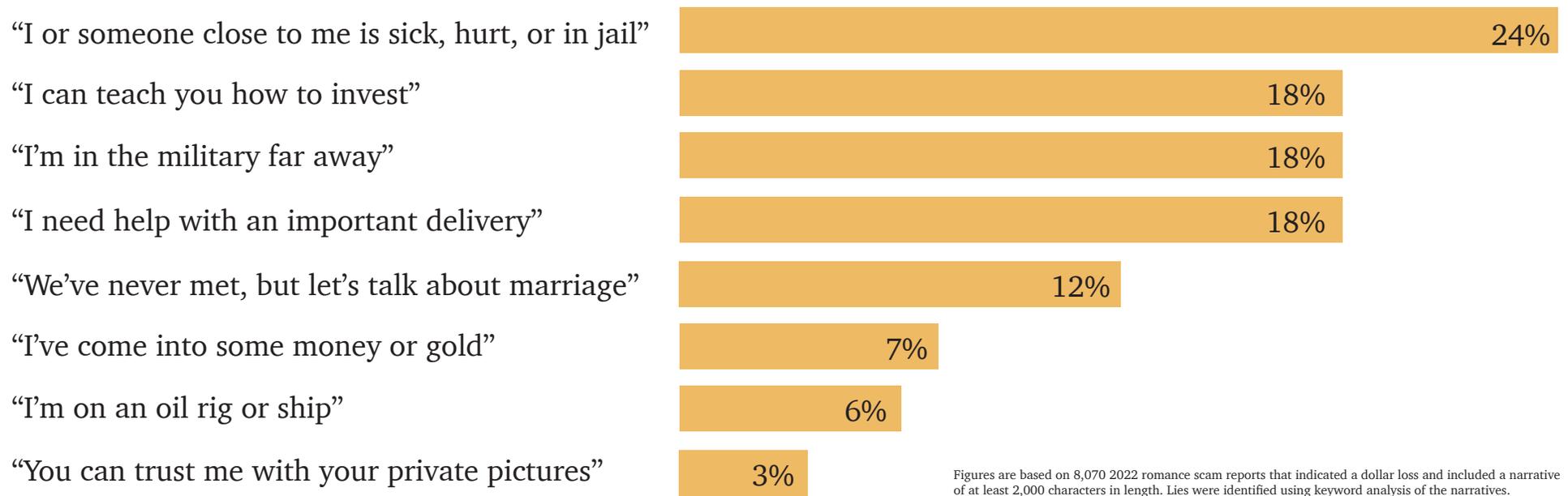
FRIDAY

SATURDAY

	<b>1</b> New Year's Day	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Orthodox Christmas	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> National Take the Stairs Day	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Orthodox New Year	<b>15</b> Martin Luther King Jr. Day	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> National Pie Day	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> National Spouses Day	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> National Puzzle Day	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			

# ROMANCE CATFISHING

Romance catfishing refers to a deceptive online practice where individuals create fake identities to lure unsuspecting victims into romantic relationships for personal gain, typically financial or emotional exploitation. Seniors are particularly vulnerable targets for these scams due to their potential isolation, trusting nature, and limited experience with online interactions. In 2022, nearly 70,000 people reported a romance scam, and reported losses hit a staggering \$1.3 billion. The median reported loss was \$4,400 according to the Federal Trade Commission. Scammers exploit emotions, seeking to establish deep connections and trust before manipulating victims into providing money or sensitive information. To prevent becoming a victim of romance catfishing, seniors should exercise caution when engaging with unknown individuals online, avoid sharing personal or financial details with strangers, and verify the identity of anyone they interact with on dating platforms or social media. The most common narratives/lies include:



Figures are based on 8,070 2022 romance scam reports that indicated a dollar loss and included a narrative of at least 2,000 characters in length. Lies were identified using keyword analysis of the narratives.

# FEBRUARY

Black History Month - National Senior Independence Month - American Heart Month

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 Groundhog Day	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 National Pizza Day	10
11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day Ash Wednesday	15	16	17 Random Acts of Kindness Day
18	19 Presidents' Day	20	21	22 Walking the Dog Day	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

# MAHONING COUNTY SPECIAL NEEDS REGISTRY

The Mahoning County Special Needs Registry is designed to give a voice to those individuals who have trouble communicating in an emergency situation due to a disability such as dementia, vision/hearing impairments, Alzheimer's and/or intellectual disabilities.

The registry, which is **free** and **voluntary**, is maintained within the County's E911 system and is only accessible by law enforcement.

Anyone who is interested in being placed on the registry can register themselves or be registered by a caregiver or loved one. The registry can be accessed electronically at [prosecutor.mahoningcountyoh.gov](http://prosecutor.mahoningcountyoh.gov) or can be requested by calling the Mahoning County Prosecutor's Office at 330.740.2330. Additional information can also be obtained by emailing [info@prosecutor.mahoningcountyoh.gov](mailto:info@prosecutor.mahoningcountyoh.gov).



# MARCH

Women's History Month

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 International Womens' Day	9
10 Daylight Saving Time	11	12 Plant a Flower Day	13	14	15	16
17 Saint Patrick's Day	18	19 First Day of Spring	20	21	22	23
24 Palm Sunday	25	26	27	28	29 Good Friday	30 Take a Walk in the Park Day
31 Easter						

# HOME IMPROVEMENT SCAMS

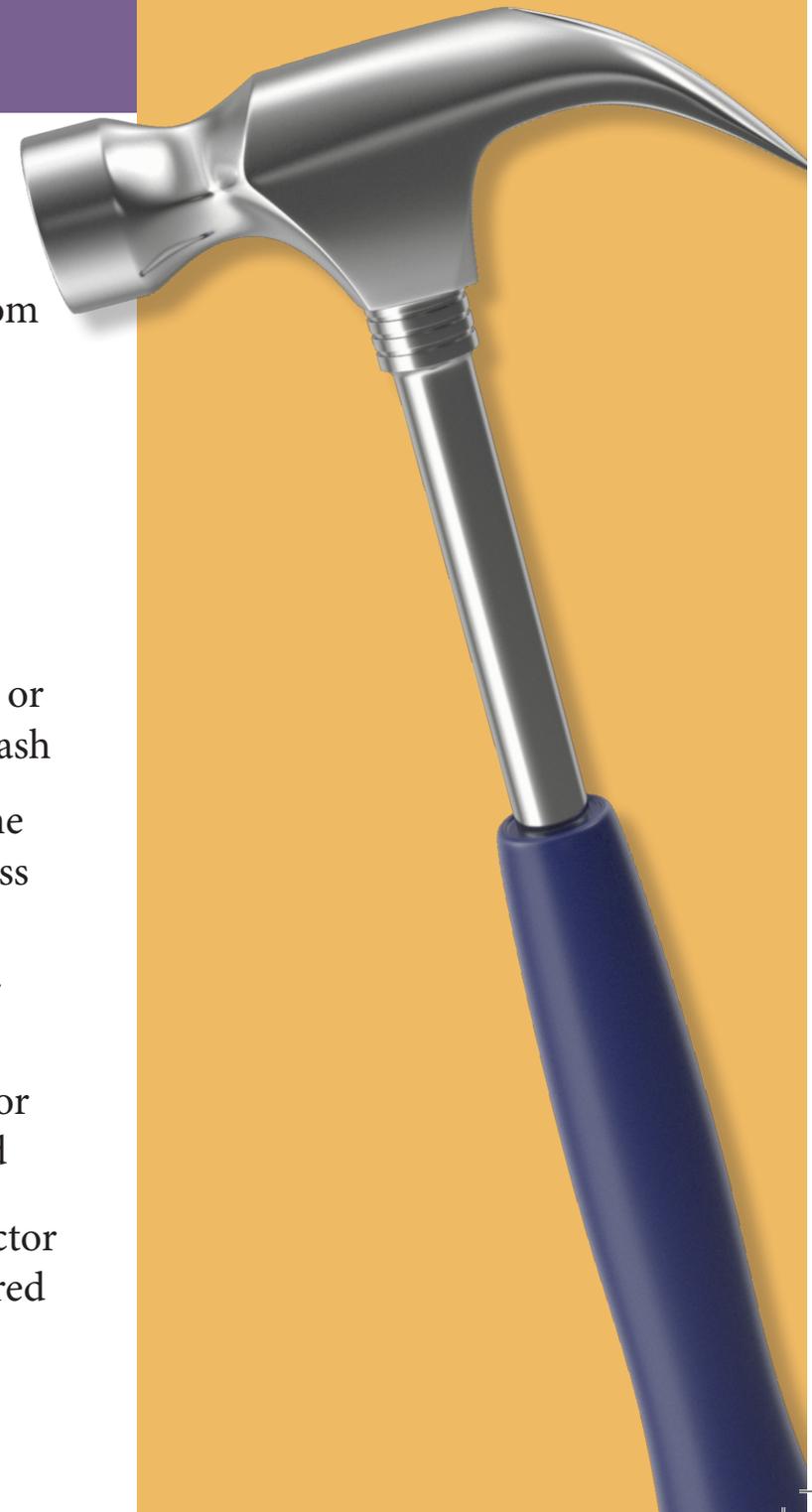
Fraudsters posing as contractors target potential victims by offering too good to be true quotes on repairs and renovations.

Red Flags to look out for:

- Individual contractors going door to door and offering their services, especially after natural disasters
- Bids for services that are low compared to the typical price or “too good to be true”
- Offering discounts but demanding payment quickly to qualify for the discount
- Requiring upfront payment or large deposits before work begins
- Upselling or adding on additional services and cost due to something else in your home that needs “immediate attention”
- Offers to connect you to a private lender for financing

Tips to avoid home improvement scams:

- Request referrals from friends or family, or ask contractors for references
- Ask multiple contractors for estimates
- Pay with credit card or check, rather than cash
- Check reviews online or the Better Business Bureau
- Have a hard copy of a bid and a contract before work begins or payment is provided
- Confirm the contractor is licensed and insured



# APRIL

Lawn and Garden Month - Stress Awareness Month - National Parkinson's Awareness Month - Autism Awareness Month

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> April Fools Day	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> National Walking Day	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> National Siblings Day	<b>11</b> National Pet Day	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> National Gardening Day	<b>15</b> Tax Day	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Volunteer Recognition Day
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Passover Earth Day	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				

# TRAVEL, LOTTERY, AND SWEEPSTAKES SCAMS

The FBI's 2022 Annual Elder Fraud Report found that over 2,300 incidents of fraud in Travel, Lottery and Sweepstakes scams, resulting in over \$70,000,000 in losses.

Fraudsters call, email, or message on social media congratulating potential victims on winning a lottery or free vacation. Often times, the scammers claim that you must pay the taxes or fees in order to claim the award. They may also request your personal information to “confirm your identity” so you can claim your prize.

Signs of a travel scam:

- Offering free trips and vacations and then asking for a fee
- Text messages and robo-calls requesting you select a number extension to speak to a representative
- Scammers pretending they have your credit card information and asking you to verify the number
- Offering a travel club or time-share at an extremely low rate

Signs of lottery and sweepstakes scams:

- Claiming that you won a large sum of money, but you must pay the taxes up front
- Texts and emails that have spelling errors or suspicious links
- Pressuring you to claim fast



# MAY

Older Americans Month - National Military Appreciation Month - National Mental Health Awareness Month

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5 Cinco De Mayo	6 National Nurses Day	7	8	9	10	11
12 Mother's Day	13	14	15	16	17	18 Visit Your Relatives Day
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day	28	29 National Senior Health and Fitness Day	30	31	

# TEXTING AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

According to the Federal Trade Commission, \$330 million dollars was lost to text scams in 2022.

Often these text messages impersonate well known businesses to make targets think that they either owe money or are receiving a free good or service. In other instances, the messages will say that there is suspicious activity in one of your accounts and prompt you to click a link to update your password. Be sure to verify all messages before ever clicking a link.



Red flags of fake scam texting:

- Amazon or other online merchant messages
- Messages from delivery services like USPS, UPS, and FedEx
- Messages promising free gifts and bills being paid
- Messages impersonating banks
- Messages offering deals on cryptocurrency
- Grammar or spelling errors in messages
- Messages coming from odd numbers or email addresses
- Messages sent to you in group texts

# JUNE

Pride Month - National Adopt a Cat Month

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5 World Environment Day	6	7	8 National Best Friends Day
9	10	11	12	13	14 Flag Day	15 Elder Abuse Awareness Day
16 Father's Day	17	18	19 Juneteenth	20 First Day of Summer	21	22
23 International Widows Day	24	25	26 Beautician's Day	27	28	29
30						

# MAHONING COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SENIOR WATCH PROGRAM



The Senior Watch Program identifies people that are 60 and older, living alone or with a spouse, who would benefit from periodic visits from law enforcement. Seniors participating in this program will be visited by a staff member who will provide informational material and assistance. In the event that the need or concern cannot be satisfied at that level, the matter is referred to the Mahoning County Senior Services Coordinator for further assistance.

Anyone who is interested in participating in this program should contact:

**Bob Schaeffer**

**Office:** 330-480-5078

**Cell:** 330-720-6545

**E-mail:** [bschaeffer@mahoningcountyoh.gov](mailto:bschaeffer@mahoningcountyoh.gov)

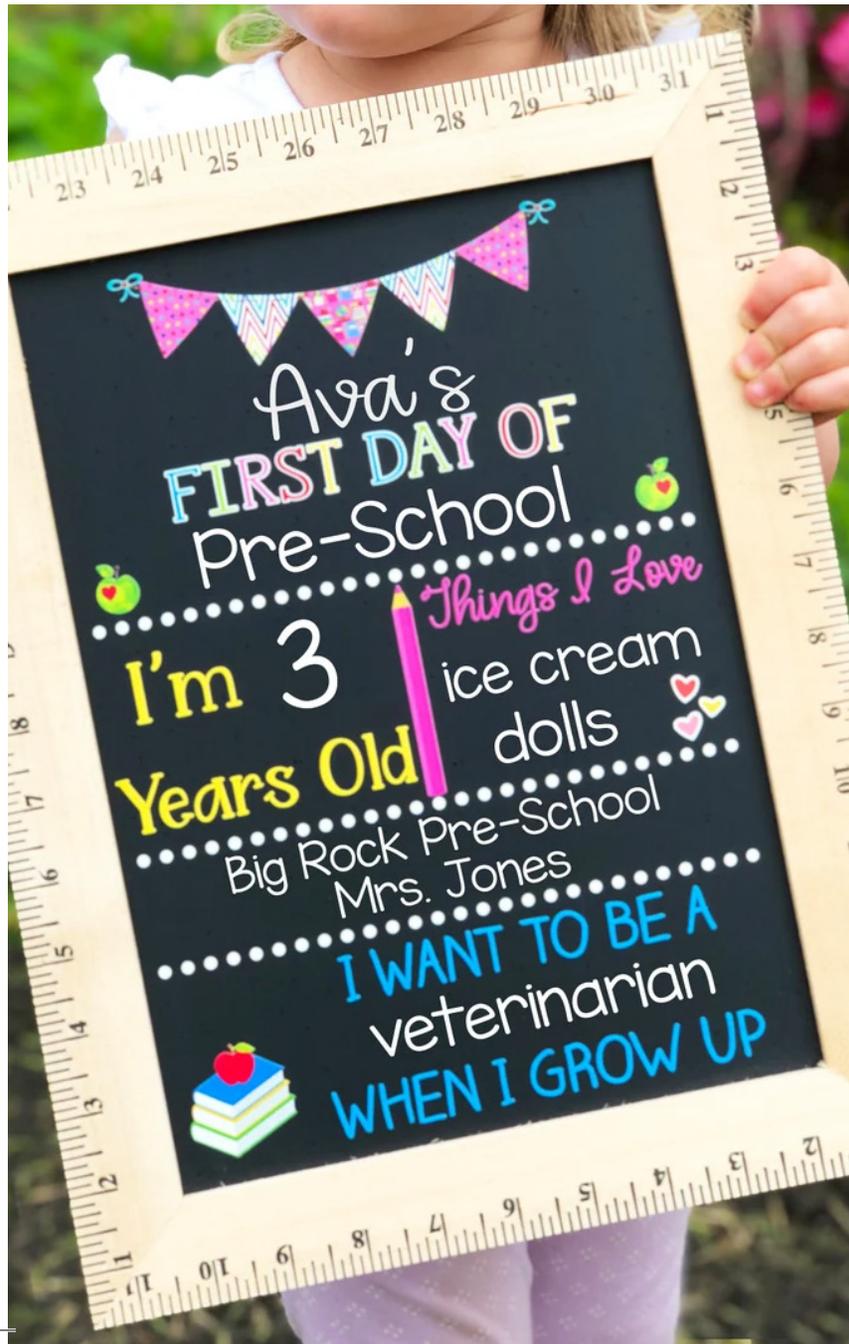


# JULY

Minority Health Awareness Month - Grilling Month - Ice Cream Month

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6
7 World Chocolate Day	8	9	10	11 National Culture and Senior Citizens Day	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 National Wine and Cheese Day	26 National Aunt and Uncle Day	27
28 Parent's Day	29	30 International Friendship Day	31 National Avocado Day			

# BACK TO SCHOOL ONLINE POSTING



Posting “back to school” photos of children or grandchildren on social media can inadvertently put them at risk of leaking important information. These seemingly innocent photos may contain identifiable details like the child’s school name, grade level, school uniform, or even their daily routines. Such information may be used by someone with ill intention to gain access to personal information and location details.

Tips for safety:

- Exercise caution to protect your children or grandchildren
- Ensure that your privacy settings are set appropriately
- Avoid disclosing sensitive identifying information
- Consider sharing such photos privately with close friends and family instead of posting them publicly

Being mindful of the potential risks associated with oversharing on social media can help safeguard the well-being and security of loved ones.

# AUGUST

Family Fun Month - National Eye Exam Month

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

				1	2	3
4 National Sister's Day	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 National Tell a Joke Day	17
18	19	20	21 National Senior Citizens Day	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 National Grief Awareness Day	31

# AI VOICE SCAMS

AI voice scams can target the senior population by using advanced technology to mimic trusted voices, such as those of family members or authorities. Scammers may use AI-driven voice bots to impersonate a relative or a government official, seeking to create a sense of urgency and manipulate seniors into divulging personal information or sending money. The convincing nature of these AI-generated voices can lead seniors to believe they are speaking to a genuine person, increasing the risk of falling victim to the scam.

To avoid AI voice scams, seniors can take the following precautions:

1. Be skeptical of unexpected calls: If someone claims to be a family member or an authority figure, verify their identity through another means of communication before providing any information or taking any action.
2. Do not share personal information: Avoid giving out sensitive details like social security numbers, financial information, or passwords over the phone, especially in response to unsolicited calls.
3. Enable call screening features: Use smartphone call screening apps or features to help filter out potential scam calls and unknown numbers.
4. Educate themselves about common scams: Staying informed about prevalent scams targeting seniors can help them recognize red flags and avoid falling for deceptive tactics.
5. Register on the Do Not Call list: Adding their phone number to the national Do No Call list can reduce unwanted and potentially scam-related calls.
6. Seek advice from family or friends: If unsure about a call's legitimacy, seniors can talk to a trusted family member or friend to get their opinion before taking action.

By staying vigilant and cautious when dealing with unexpected calls and adopting preventive measures, seniors can protect themselves from falling victim to AI voice scams and other forms of telephone fraud.



# SEPTEMBER

National Suicide Prevention Month - Senior Safety Awareness Month

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Labor Day	3	4	5	6	7
8 National Assisted Living Week Grandparent's Day	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 First Day of Fall	23	24	25 National Daughter's Day	26 Love Note Day	27	28
29 National Coffee Day	30					

# MEET HOPE COMFORT THERAPY DOG

Mahoning County Prosecutor Gina DeGenova has welcomed a new staff member, a 2 year-old golden retriever named Hope. Hope is training to serve as a comfort dog to assist victims and witnesses of crime.

Prosecutor DeGenova set out to find a dog from a local shelter to rescue. Prosecutor DeGenova teamed up with Jenny Falvey from Dogsmartz Unleashed, LLC out of Poland Township and Diane King, Chief Humane Officer of the Animal Welfare League of Trumbull County. The puppy was rescued on Christmas Eve by members of the Healthy Hearts and Paws Project. She was delivered to the Animal Welfare League of Trumbull County where her rescuers appropriately named her Hope! After weeks of testing, Hope was cleared for adoption by the Mahoning County Prosecutor's Office on Friday, February 3, 2023.

Comfort therapy dogs provide emotional support and comfort to victims of crime by easing anxiety and stress during interviews or court proceedings. A comfort dog's affectionate nature can offer companionship and healing, helping victims and witnesses navigate the challenging process of seeking justice.

Prosecutor DeGenova is especially thankful the partnership with Jenny Falvey of Dogsmartz Unleashed who has donated all training necessary for Hope's certification! Hope is also being sponsored by Blackwood Pet Food of Lisbon, Ohio who is providing food and treats throughout her training.



# OCTOBER

National Domestic Violence Awareness Month - Breast Cancer Awareness Month - National Diabetes Month

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 Rosh Hashanah	3	4	5 Do Something Nice Day
6 Get Organized Week	7	8	9	10 World Mental Health Day	11 Yom Kippur	12
13	14 Indigenous Peoples Day Columbus Day	15	16	17	18	19 Sweetest Day
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 National Mother in Law Day	28 National Make a Difference Day	29	30	31 Halloween		

# TECH SUPPORT AND CALL CENTER FRAUD

From 2021 to 2022, Tech and Customer Support fraud increased by 147% resulting in over \$587,000,000 in losses as reported by the FBI. Many times they will offer free trials, extended warranties, investment opportunities or advanced loans. Often, scammers will claim that they are representative of a tech company.

Tech Support Scammers may call and tell you that your computer has a virus and that they are calling from your computer company to help you download an anti-virus software. They often ask for you to pay for services by a pre-paid card, in cryptocurrency, or a money transferring app like PayPal. Some links, if opened, can allow a scammer to hack into your computer. Actual tech support services, such as Geek Squad or Microsoft Support, will not reach out to you unless you request it.



# NOVEMBER

National Family Caregivers Month - National Alzheimer's Disease Month - Elder Abuse Awareness Month

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5 Election Day	6	7	8	9
10	11 Veterans Day	12	13 World Kindness Day	14 World Diabetes Day	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving Day	29	30

# SHOPPING SCAMS

During the holiday season when the spirit of giving is at its peak, shopping scams become a prevalent concern, and unfortunately the senior population often finds itself as a prime target. According to FBI statistics and reports from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), these scams tend to surge during this festive period, with thousands falling victim to deceptive online schemes. Scammers employ a variety of tactics, such as fake online stores, counterfeit products, phishing emails, and fraudulent promotions to lure unsuspecting shoppers into their web of deceit. It is crucial for families and communities to raise awareness among seniors about the risks associated with holiday shopping and equip them with the knowledge and tools to spot potential scams. By doing so we can help protect this vulnerable group from falling victim to holiday shopping scams and ensure that their season remains joyful and free from fraud and deception.



# DECEMBER

Identify Theft Awareness Month

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 National Ugly Christmas Sweater Day	21 First Day of Winter
22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day Hanukkah Begins	26 Kwanza Begins	27	28
29	30	31 New Years Eve				

# LOCAL UTILITY COMPANIES

Never let utility workers into your home until you have verified with the company that they should be there!

## ELECTRIC

First Energy/Ohio Edison

1.888.LIGHTSS (to report outages)

1.800.633.4766 (general inquiries)

## GAS

Dominion Energy

1.877.542.2630 (gas emergency)

1.888.362.7577 (customer service)

Columbia Gas

1.800.344.4077

## TELEPHONE

AT&T

1.800.288.2020

SPECTRUM

1.833.224.6603

## WATER

Aqua Ohio

1.877.987.2782

Campbell Water Department

330.755.4822

Canfield Water Department

330.533.1101

Mahoning Valley Sanitary District

330.652.3614

Mahoning Valley Sanitary Engineer

330.793.5514

Youngstown Water Department

330.742.8749

Youngstown Waste Water Department

330.742.8820

# AREA AGENCIES OFFERING SUPPORT FOR SENIORS

Adult Protective Services

330.884.6931

Alzheimer's Association;  
Greater East Ohio Area Chapter

330.966.7343

Alzheimer Network

330.788.9755

American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)

888.687.2277

Attorney General Consumer Protection

800.282.0515

Attorney General Patient Abuse and  
Neglect Hotline

800.411.2267

Better Business Bureau

330.744.3111

Community Legal Aid Services

330.744.3196

Direction Home of Eastern Ohio

330.505.2300; 800.686.7387

Mahoning County Department of  
Jobs and Family Services

330.740.2600

Mahoning County Probate Court

330.740.2310

Mahoning County Prosecutor's Office  
(Special Needs Registry)

330.740.2330

Mahoning County Sheriff's Office  
(Senior Services Unit)

330.480.5078

Mahoning County Sheriff's  
(Non-Emergency)

330.259.1731

Mahoning County Veteran's Services  
Commission

330.740.2451

# AREA AGENCIES OFFERING SUPPORT FOR SENIORS

Jewish Family and Community Services

Mobile Meals

330.746.7929

Meals on Wheels of Youngstown

330.744.3583

National Do Not Call Registry ([www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov))

888.382.1222

## SENIOR CENTERS

Associated Neighborhood Centers of Youngstown

234.241.1600

Austintown Senior Center

330.953.1416

COMPASS Family and Community Center

Counseling and Senior Guardianship

330.782.5664

Jewish Community Center Senior Program

330.746.3251

Mahoning County Multi Purpose

Senior Center

330.744.5071

Transportation Services - Easter Seals

330.743.1168

Youngstown Metropolitan Housing Authority

330.744.2161

YMCA of Youngstown

330.744.8411

YMCA, Davis Center

330.480.5656

YWCA of Youngstown

330.746.6361

## REPORT FRAUD TO CREDITORS

Equifax ([www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com))

800.685.1111

Experian ([www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com))

888.397.3742

Trans Union ([www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com))

800.916.8800





**SOUTH RANGE**



Mahoning County Prosecutor's Office  
21 W. Boardman Street, 6th Floor  
Youngstown, OH 44503  
Website: [prosecutor.mahoningcountyoh.gov](http://prosecutor.mahoningcountyoh.gov)  
330-740-2330



Mahoning County Sheriff's Office  
110 Fifth Avenue  
Youngstown, OH 44503  
Website: [mahoningsheriff.com](http://mahoningsheriff.com)  
330-480-5000