



**ATTORNEY GENERAL  
BILL SCHUETTE'S**

# Senior Brigade



The summer months offer local communities the opportunity to interact, buy and sell goods, and enjoy beautiful summer days.

Shopping at or hosting a yard sale is not thought of as a dangerous activity. But, it does include going to unknown areas, visiting strangers' homes, and sometimes going in their homes. Regardless of your role, the following recommendations will help ensure your safety while shopping.

## Shopper



- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Carry a cell phone.
- Know where you are. Consider turning on the GPS locators on your phone or in your car.



- Don't carry cash where it's visible.
- If you must go inside the house, don't get cornered. Move so that a person isn't between you and the door.

## Seller



- Lock all the doors leading to your home (unless the sale is inside).
- Keep exterior and garage doors locked before the sale starts. Some early birds are insistent on having the first look.



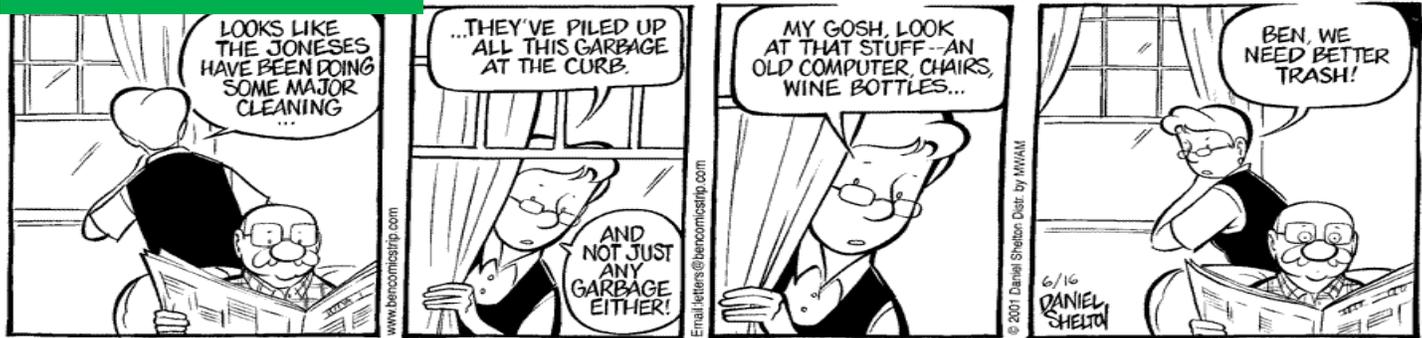
- Don't use a cash box unless you have a designated cashier.
- Don't let young children or pets roam freely.
- Don't leave your sale unattended.
- Don't allow strangers into your home to use the restroom. This could lead to theft or possible identity theft.



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Source: [about home](#)

# Senior Smiles



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## Michigan's Longest Garage Sale

From August 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015 garage/yard sale enthusiasts can search for hidden treasures along the 180 mile stretch (New Buffalo to Detroit) of US-12.

Along the trail, shoppers will find antiques, collectibles, furniture, dishware, homemade goods, live entertainment, and much more. For more information visit their website at: [www.us12heritagetrail.org/garage\\_sale.asp](http://www.us12heritagetrail.org/garage_sale.asp).



## 5 things to know about PROTECTING WHAT'S YOURS

Learn more about protecting what's yours by [visiting the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's website](http://www.consumerfinancialprotectionbureau.gov).

And, don't forget to attend one of our [free seminars](#) which cover: Home Projects; Identity Theft; Investment Fraud; Phone, Mail, & e-Scams; Online Safety; and Residential Care Choices.

**Find a seminar today!**

Older Americans continue to face financial challenges as they age. Many find that they have new opportunities and availability to spend time with family and friends. Unfortunately, scam artists work diligently to take away these special occasions.

Don't let scammers, take what's yours! When approached with a situation you find uncomfortable, consider the following:

1. It's your money. Don't be afraid to ask questions!
2. It's your information. Protect it! *Never give out personal information to someone unless you have initiated the contact.*
3. It's your retirement savings. Plan ahead!
4. It's your house. Keep it! *Time invested in doing your homework before a home repair project is a valuable investment for you and your family.*
5. It's your money. You can say no! *Scammers typically target polite people because they have a harder time saying no.*



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