

From the desk of Don Sikkema, Senior Liaison Officer, Arvada Police Department



Senior Siren

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Special points of interest:

- The Arvada Police Dept. created the Senior Liaison Officer position to address the needs of our city’s senior population.
- Most crimes against seniors involve financial exploitation — that include frauds, scams, and cons.
- The Lockbox Program provides a house key for emergency medical responders in the event the senior cannot get to the door.

TELEMARKETING FRAUD

Warning Signs:

- You live alone and enjoy talking to anyone calling.
- You believe it’s rude to interrupt a caller or to hang up.
- You must pay money up front for taxes or fees to participate.
- You must make an immediate decision, before the call ends or the offer will be rescinded.
- You are called more and more frequently by a multiplying variety of telephone solicitors.

Preventative Steps:

- Never talk to strangers on the telephone—they are not calling to wish you a good day. They are invading your privacy—as though they have walked into your home.
- Use an answering machine, voice mail or Caller ID to screen calls.
- Never, under any circumstances, give any portion of your credit card, bank account or Social Security numbers to a caller. It doesn’t matter who they claim to be.

Be smart, think first and do the right thing.

The criminals are hunting for you via the telephone. Let’s beat them before they get any of your personal information.

(From the Case Partnership “Power Against Fraud” crime prevention program)

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Arvada Police Department Lock Box Program

Providing a house key for use by rescue personnel

The Arvada Police Department provides lock boxes similar to those used by real estate agents to hold a spare house key. The lock box usually hangs in a location outside the home other than the front door. If there is not a suitable location to hang the lock box, we can place it securely over the neck of the front doorknob. The presence of a lock box does not interfere with the normal use of the door or the lock.

Your address and the lock box combination are stored in a secured police computer file. If the police, ambulance or fire personnel are summoned to your home due to a concern about your well-being, the computer automatically notifies the police dispatcher of the location and combination of the lock box. The combination is given to rescue personnel only if no one answers the locked door.

This program is free to senior citizens who live inside the Arvada city limits. Call Officer Sikkema at 720-898-6724 for more information.

Colorado Life Trak

Safely returning those who wander

Formerly known as Project Lifesaver, this program uses nationally recognized technology to quickly locate an at-risk person who may wander and become lost. A person qualifies to participate in Colorado Life Trak if they, regardless of age, have a medical or cognitive condition that places them at risk to wander and become lost. Examples may be Alzheimer's Disease in older adults and Down's Syndrome or Autism in children. The participant wears a small transmitter about the size and shape of a wristwatch. This transmitter sends out a constant signal on a unique, individualized frequency. This signal can be quickly located by specialized tracking equipment thus returning the at-risk person to their home, usually within minutes instead of hours. This program is free to at-risk individuals who live inside the Arvada city limits. Call Officer Sikkema at 720-898-6724 for more information.

Upcoming Events -- An Invitation to TRIAD!

Meetings are held at the Jefferson County District Attorney's Conference Room, 500 Jefferson County Parkway, Golden

Avoid Funeral Planning Exploitation

Tuesday, November 22, 1:30 pm

Waiting until the end to plan your funeral can cause impulsive, emotional and expensive purchases. Planning funerals in advance is a wise step to help your family and friends know your final wishes. This sensitive topic can bring opportunities for exploitation, so come learn what red flags to watch for and learn important questions to ask as you go through the process. Find out about Colorado laws that protect you from being exploited.

Happy Holidays

December

No meeting this month. Please enjoy the Christmas season with friends and family.

Everyone is invited! Bring a Friend!

Share this invitation with your community.

TRIAD is an organization built on a cooperative relationship between **Senior Community Members**, the **District Attorney, Law Enforcement** and **Senior Service Providers** all concerned about the safety and security of seniors living in Jefferson & Gilpin Counties.

Looking for a FREE "911" cell phone? Call 303-271-6980

Come to a

TRIAD meeting!

It is a chance to

learn and share

valuable crime

fighting

information!

Stupid Criminals - they never cease to amaze me

Police in Los Angeles had good luck with a robbery suspect who just couldn't control himself during a lineup. When detectives asked each man in the lineup to repeat the words: "Give me all your money or I'll shoot", the man shouted, "That's not what I said!"

Scam of the Month



From the desk of Don Sikkema, Senior Liaison Officer, Arvada Police Department

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Government Cons

Uncle Sam wants you—to update your records? Scams purporting to be official business transacted on behalf of the federal or local government include some of the following:

Tax Man Trickery

An email, allegedly from the Internal Revenue Service, shows up in your inbox with the news that you are entitled to a tax refund, are exempt from paying taxes or must pay back taxes. The message directs you to a link that requests personal information such as Social Security, bank account or credit-card numbers.

The Big Brother Bamboozle

An email claiming to be from the FBI or the CIA warns that you are being investigated for visiting “illegal” sites, or that your help is needed to solve a crime. Often, recipients are then asked to answer the questions in an attachment. But when the attachment is opened, it downloads a computer virus that disables your firewall or other security software, giving hackers access to passwords, account numbers and other personal information stored in your machine.

Here With An Update

An in-person visit from someone claiming to represent the Social Security Administration or the U.S. Census Bureau leads to a request for you to assist the interviewer in “updating your personal records.” The scammer then asks you to produce a photo ID or some other proof of your existence, including a verification of your Social Security number. It’s all an elaborate but phony back story, meant to steal your identity for fraudulent activities.

The Jury Jumble

Someone claiming to be an agent of a federal, state or local court calls to say you have been selected for jury duty—or that you have failed to appear as scheduled. The caller then asks for personal information, such as your Social Security or driver’s license number. Some jury scammers are so bold as to ask for your bank account number or credit-card information as a way of “verifying your identity.”

Rip-off tip-off for government cons:

No federal agency or government bureau would ever ask for personal information via email or telephone. They already have it on file, and nothing could have alerted them that it might somehow need “updating.”

Social Security personnel do not appear in person to update your vital stats. Typically, government entities send only mailed correspondence, in which they ask you to contact the local office of that agency or department.

Jury-duty candidates are invariably summoned by mail, and they are the ones who must contact the court system to confirm their attendance. In summation, the courts don’t care about your Visa card—only about your presence.

Your protection: Do not open any email claiming to be from a government agency. Activating the caller ID feature of your telephone will verify the authenticity of any incoming caller, be it a government agency or a private solicitor. Any incoming calls marked “Private” do not originate within taxpayer-funded agencies; they should therefore be considered suspect.

Copied from the book, “Scam Proof Your Life” by Sid Kirchheimer.