



Senior Siren

January - February, 2012

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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.

Secret Shoppers, one of the same scams that keep coming back again and again . . .

My dear friends, you can take it to the bank, no one is going to pay you to go shopping. I still continue to get the emails and calls from kind-hearted, trusting folks who see the “secret shopper” opportunities as easy money. It’s easy money alright, easy money for the criminals. Please remember, you and I are honest and would never do something like this to another human being. The scammers however, make a living stealing from you and people like you. Please ignore these alleged “work opportunities” and say it together with me, **“If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.”**

We can lower your interest rate. . .

That’s great as long as you do not have to give your credit card number out to a stranger on the phone. Please remember, just because someone claims to be with a credit card company does not mean they are. When you get this call just tell the caller to mail you the information and you will consider it then. Chances are good you will not receive anything in the mail. Another scammer rejected. Good job.

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Need a Handyman?

You can call the Safety of Seniors Handyman Program at 303-297-0408.

(Volunteers of America - Colorado Branch)

These amazing folks provide minor repairs and safety modifications in the homes of senior homeowners 60 and older. They provide services to those residing in Adams, Arapahoe, Denver, Douglas and Jefferson counties. Their primary goal is to help seniors remain safe and independent in their homes. This program is for low-income seniors who are homeowners. Cost of labor is always free. Cost of materials varies depending on client eligibility.

Senior Reach

Reaching Out * Meeting Needs

1-866-217-5808

Senior Reach is a community program that identifies older adults who may need emotional support and/or connection to community services. This program trains individuals and professionals in the community to identify and refer seniors in need. Care Management and counseling services are provided at no cost to the senior and can be offered, if desired, in the senior's home. Recently, in a desire to provide more comprehensive services, Senior Reach has added Wellness as a service that can be offered to adults aged 65 and older living in Broomfield, Clear Creek, Gilpin and Jefferson Counties.

Check out the new Seniors Resource Center - (located at W. 32nd Ave. and Chase St. in Wheat Ridge) - supportive services for older adult and crime victims in Jefferson and Gilpin counties. Call 303-238-8151.

Warning from the Water Department

A number of Arvada residents are reportedly receiving offers via the mail service concerning insurance policies for their water lines. Closer inspection by the Water Department revealed the policy does not cover anything in the line of repairing your waste water line if needed. If you have any questions concerning tree roots in your sewer line or replacement you can contact Arvada Wastewater at 720-898-7770.

Upcoming Events -- An Invitation to TRIAD!

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

Active Adult Learning, Adding Balance to Life

Tuesday, January 24, 2012, 1:30 pm

Keeping active physically, mentally, and socially not only adds years to your life, but adds life to your years. Join professionals from local active adult centers and learn the importance of safety, balance and other wellness classes. Attendees will have a chance to win door prizes!

Winter Safety

Tuesday, February 28, 2012, 1:30 pm

With winter and cold weather come new safety challenges. Scott Pribble of Arvada Fire will talk about indoor safety issues, and then representatives from home and auto stores will talk about gadgets that can make your winter navigation safer, including tire safety.

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!

Thank God . . .

Two very senior little ladies were discussing the ravages that time had wrought on their bodies. Said one "My arthritis has gotten so bad I can hardly grip anything, my cataracts seem to get worse every day, I have gout in my right leg and can't bend my knee, and I can't hear anything, but thank God I can still drive."

Scam of the Month



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

Criminal Investigations Unit
8101 Ralston Road
Arvada, Colorado 80002

Phone: 720-898-6724
Scam Hotline: 720-898-6739
Email:
dsikkema@arvada.org

“Kid” Candy & Magazine Sales

The scam: It’s one thing when a neighborhood kid you recognize knocks on your front door, selling candy, pizza or other items as a fundraiser for the local sports league, school play or good cause. But when a stranger shows up, you should assume that his appeal to your heart-strings is really aimed at loosening your purse strings.

In these scams, teams of children are recruited—often from the inner city—to go door-to-door (or at shopping centers) selling candy, magazine subscriptions or other merchandise under the pretense of collecting for scholarship funds, drug-prevention programs or other noble causes. The efforts they “represent” may not, in fact, exist. Or they may claim to be collecting for authentic charities but lack any real affiliation with them. Sometimes the children themselves are exploited, earning a paltry “commission” of pennies from the sale of each \$2 candy bar. Meanwhile the crew chiefs who chauffeur these half-pint hawkers to various neighborhoods enjoy the bulk of the profits, having bought the items at a steep discount.

Rip-off tip-off: Assume it’s a scam if an unfamiliar salesman asks you to make a payment by cash, check or credit card at the time you place an order—especially if you do not receive the goods on the spot. Typical items “sold” this way include candy bars or coupons for local stores. Check for any unfamiliar vehicles—especially cargo vans—parked on or near your street.

You can also look for adult strangers shadowing the door-to-door sellers. Magazine sales are a frequent vehicle for door-to-door scams by child or teenage vendors: At best, the subscriptions are overpriced; at worst, they are simply never processed.

And don’t be fooled by any ID badges or other documentation these salesmen brandish as proof of their legitimacy; such certificates are easy to fabricate using a basic computer graphics program and a high-end color printer.

Your protection: Legitimate fundraisers will leave behind printed information that cautious donors can use to verify the soundness of the cause being promoted. Do not, however, rely on any contact information a solicitor provides. If the seller claims to be selling items for the American Red Cross, for example, contact that organization’s local office to verify that it has authorized a door-to-door campaign. Magazine orders should also be checked out, but not through the “clearinghouse” listed on the promotional brochure. Two of these businesses to watch out for are All-Star Promotions and Subscriptions Services, Inc. — have a long history of non-delivery of placed orders. And never allow unfamiliar salesmen, no matter what their age, into your home: These door-to-door children and teens could be casing your home for a later burglary or other crimes.

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

