

Petaluma Police Department Presents

Smart Savvy Seniors



Petaluma Police Department Volunteers Arm Senior Citizens with Fraud-Scam Education.

It is not uncommon in this day and age for the media to highlight the enormous issues surrounding identity theft, phone scams and fraudulent mail campaigns. On an average, the Petaluma Police Department fields over 2,000 calls a year from citizens regarding this kind of exploitation. 75 percent of the calls received relating to telemarketing and/or mail schemes are reported from seniors in our community who have either become victims of this activity or who have been aggressively solicited.

Understanding that knowledge is power, the Petaluma Police Department Volunteer Program has spearheaded a Fraud/Scam Outreach Program in an effort to arm our residents with the tools to advocate for their own safety. While the PPD's initial focus is on assisting seniors, our long-term plan is to provide the free service in public venues to ensure the safety of all Petaluma citizens. Having designed and implemented the program, the four lead volunteer presenters, Paul Lounibos, Alice Condit, Bette-Jo- Reich and Judi Bowser, are committed to offering free workshops twice a month at locations in Petaluma that request our services. To date, the PPD Scam & Fraud Prevention Workshop has been presented at the Petaluma Senior Center, Leisure Lake Mobile Home Park and is slated for Springfield Place and Sunrise Senior Living facility next month. Presentation requests are taken on a first come first serve basis and all participants receive a comprehensive resource prevention packet for their own personal use.

For more information on how you can become a volunteer at the Petaluma Police Department, or to schedule a free Fraud/Scam Workshop, please contact Jennifer Pritchard –PPD-Volunteer Coordinator 707-778-4458, email jpritchard@ci.petaluma.ca.us or visit us on line at www.cityofpetaluma.net/police