



Scam Jam

By Kerry Fink, VP/Exec Director,
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According to the FBI, Older Americans Lost a Record \$4.9 Billion Through Fraud in 2024. AARP reports that the FBI revealed a 43 percent jump in annual reported fraud thefts - Tech support scams: \$982 million; Confidence & romance scams: \$389 million; Business email compromise (where criminals impersonate leaders of an organization to get employees to send money or data): \$385 million, for starters.

Cryptocurrency investment fraud, in particular, is a growing concern, notes Christopher Delzotto, section chief for financial crimes, FBI Criminal Investigations Division. Last year the FBI received more than 41,000 complaints with \$5.8 billion reported stolen. Scammers (often based in Southeast Asian scam centers) use financial grooming, known as pig butchering. They pretend to be the victim's friend or romantic interest before suggesting a "sure-bet" investment opportunity.

Helping Seniors of Brevard joins forces with AARP Fraud Watch Network to present another Chapter of "Scam Jam" - to help Seniors protect themselves, their Families and their Finances. November 21st, Addington Place of Titusville, at 497 N Washington Ave in Titusville, hosts Helping Seniors and AARP for a full-day free to the public (must RSVP - space is limited to just 50 "Scam-Jammers") of Scam Safety Training.

Speakers include Corporal Martinez, of the Brevard County Sheriff's Office, Elder Law Attorney Greg Schwendeman, of Rhodes Law P.A., and Karen Civitate, of AARP Fraud Watch Network as well as many others who bring specific and useful training to keep us safe from the Scammers. Helping Seniors will be on-site with information from our own experience of handling the County's Senior Information Helpline for 15 years and ALL who complete the program become "SCAM JAMMERS" and receive a Certificate of Course Completion.

The event is 930am-200pm on Friday November 21st and is free (including complimentary lunch provided by our friends at Addington Place) and so our classroom space is strictly limited to 50 participants - making RSVP's mandatory by calling Helping Seniors at (321) 473-7770 to secure your seat.

The event also features a free and open to ALL afternoon SHRED-IT event - with an onsite Shred Truck to help securely and safely dispose of those sensitive documents, returns, bank statements, etc.

We hope that you'll plan to join us! Our first Scam Jam event, held at The Brennity in Viera earlier this year, received great reviews from all who attended and Helping Seniors is committed to making this important information available in all corners of our County so Titusville is next! See you there! 📞



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SENIOR SCENE MONTHLY TRAVEL TIPS

Checklist for Traveling Abroad (Part 1)



Senior Travel Agent Chris Morse has over 35 years travel agent experience.

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Traveling to another part of the world? International travel takes a little more organization than putting clothes in a bag and hoping for the best. Forgetting your passport at home or realizing after your credit card is frozen that you never notified your bank about your travel plans can turn your trip into a disaster. That's why Senior Travel always tells you to be PATIENT when traveling abroad.

When working with Senior Travel most of the pre-trip stress can be avoided with a little planning around the real essentials—think health, safety, and money. To keep you from last-minute concerns or problems, please look at this handy international travel checklist.

Focus on Safety First

One of the easiest and most essential items on an overseas travel checklist is also arguably the most ignored. Travel insurance and State Department alerts can be critical in emergencies abroad. Many tourists bet they won't become

part of the small percentage of travelers who require evacuation assistance or protection from hotel or flight cancellations.

Subscribing to the State Department's STEP alerts for your destination can help you stay informed about upcoming and current travel restrictions, strikes, and areas of political unrest.

Travel insurance can cost as little as a few dollars per travel day and cover a wide range of expenses, from lost luggage to emergency medical attention, doctors' visits on board a ship (just to visit the center for service think \$350.00) saving you hundreds, even thousands of dollars. As of 2025, some countries are even making travel insurance mandatory for visitors to cover emergencies. You must show evidence of travel insurance!

Checklist for Traveling Abroad cont'd on pg 46

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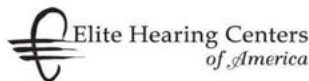


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