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MEDIA ADVISORY: AARP, Helping Seniors to Host Brevard Scam Jam Feat. Federal Officials

1 message

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AARP Florida & Helping Seniors of Brevard Host Fraud Prevention Scam Jam and Shred Event in Brevard County to Combat Rising Scams Targeting Older Adults

PALM BAY, Fla. -- As identity theft and consumer scams continue to rise across Florida, AARP Florida is partnering with Helping Seniors of Brevard to host a free [Fraud Prevention Summit](#) and [community shred event](#) on Friday, Feb. 13, in Palm Bay. The event will equip residents with tools to recognize and avoid the most common scams targeting older adults in Brevard County from experts across the country, while also offering a secure drive-through shredding service to safely dispose of sensitive documents.

EVENT DETAILS:

What:

A free fraud prevention summit featuring AARP Florida, Helping Seniors of Brevard, and local and national fraud prevention experts presenting the top scams affecting Brevard County. A resource expo featuring AARP volunteers and local organizations will offer take-home fraud prevention materials.

A **drive-through shredding event** will follow, giving residents a safe way to dispose of bank statements, medical records, and other sensitive documents.

When:

Friday, Feb. 13

Fraud Prevention Summit: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Document Shredding Event: 2-4 p.m.

Where:

Glenbrook Senior Living

815 Briar Creek Boulevard, The Clubhouse
Palm Bay, FL 32905

Why:

According to the Federal Trade Commission, Florida ranks #1 nationally for fraud reports per capita, with over \$866.1 million in losses reported in 2024. Fraud remains a serious threat, particularly for older adults. Staying informed of popular scams and safely disposing of sensitive documents are simple yet effective ways to reduce the risk of fraud. This event is part of AARP's ongoing statewide campaign to educate and empower communities to fight back against scams. In Brevard County, this Scam Jam is the first of a series continuing throughout the year.

Details:

- Both events are free and open to the public.
- Experts include:
 - Melanie DeVoe – Acting Senior Advisor to the Director of the Office of Customer Education and Outreach (OCEO), Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Washington D.C.
 - Greg Schwendeman, Esq. -- Elder Law Attorney, Melbourne, Fla.
 - Jackie Erickson – Vice President of PNC Bank Palm Bay Branch
 - Karen Civitate – Lead AARP Florida Fraud Watch Volunteer
- Shredding event limit: Three boxes or bags of documents per vehicle.
- Drive-through format for convenience.

Visuals:

Fraud experts from AARP Florida, Brevard County, and Washington D.C. speaking with residents.

AARP volunteers and representatives from local organizations distributing educational materials at a fraud resource expo.

Local residents participating in the document shredding process, AARP volunteers assisting the process.

Members of the media are invited to attend and cover the event. Interviews will be available from the fraud experts and AARP/Helping Seniors staff.

To coordinate interviews or request additional information, please contact:

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AARP Fraud Watch Network™ is a free resource for all. We equip consumers with up-to-date knowledge to spot and avoid scams, and connect those targeted by scams with our fraud helpline specialists, who provide support and guidance on what to do next. We also advocate at the federal, state, and local levels to enact policy changes that protect consumers and enforce laws.

Maryanna Antoldi | Associate State Director of Communications