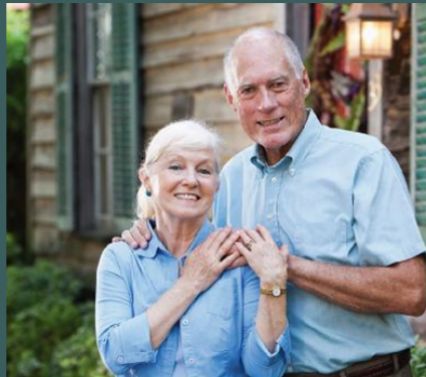


## Scams/Fraud...

- Be wary of unsolicited offers to make repairs to your home. Deal with only reputable businesses. If in doubt, research the company with the Better Business Bureau or Burlington County Consumer Affairs.
- Email, phone calls, or U.S. mail notifications are used as tools by criminals to contact potential victims for a variety of scams.
- Be wary of any claim that you “won a prize” especially if you did not enter a contest.
- Government agencies, especially the IRS, will not call you saying you owe them money. They also would not threaten to “issue a warrant” or send the police to your home.
- Be wary of any communications that attempt to rush you into action by creating a sense of urgency or fear. Scammers do not want you to take time to consider or ask another person for their opinion.
- If your gut is telling you something is wrong, it is probably true. Ask a friend, loved one, neighbor, or your local police department for advice.

## THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH UNIT PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING FREE SERVICES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS:

- Home Security Program
- Senior Citizens Police Academy
- Med-Info Program
- Senior Citizens Identification Cards
- Senior Citizen 911 Cell Phone Program
- Senior Expo
- Project Lifesaver
- Persons-At-Risk Registry



## CRIME PREVENTION TIPS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS



BURLINGTON COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
COMMUNITY OUTREACH UNIT  
SENIOR SERVICES  
(609) 265-5785

SHERIFF  
JAMES H. KOSTOPLIS

## HOW CAN YOU KEEP YOURSELF SAFE?

### *While Walking...*

- Always plan your route and stay aware of your surroundings. Use well-populated and well-lit streets.
- Look around and stay aware of your surroundings. Put your phone away and only use if you really need it.
- Have a companion accompany you. Don't be hesitate to have security, staff or a friend provide an escort.

### *Purse/Wallet Safety..*

- Carry your purse tucked under your arm like a football. Make sure the straps are not exposed.
- If someone tries to steal your bag, let it go. Your safety comes first and objects can be replaced.
- Carry your wallet, money, keys in a front pocket, especially in crowded areas.
- Never leave your purse unattended in a shopping cart or hanging from the back of a chair.

### *In Your Car...*

- Always keep your car doors locked, whether you are in or out of your car.
- Lock your car immediately after entering or exiting.
- Do not leave valuables out in the open. Secure them in the trunk, glove compartment, or take them with you.
- Always carry a cell phone incase of an emergency and keep a charger in your vehicle.
- Keep your vehicle well maintained and the gas tank at least half full to avoid getting stranded.
- If your car should break down, get far enough off the road, turn on your emergency flashers, raise the hood, get back into the car, lock the door, and wait for help. *The Sheriff's Office has a free 911 cell phone program for seniors.*



### *At Home...*

- Never open your door automatically. use an optical viewer (peephole) or window.
- At night, draw your blinds or draperies. Make sure no one can see past the sides into the house
- Always keep your doors and windows locked, even when you are in the yard doing chores.
- Keep an eye on your neighborhood. A concerned neighbor is often the best protection against crime. Check on your neighbors and report suspicious activity to the police.
- Leave lights on when going out at night; use a timer to turn lights on and off when you are away for an extended period.
- Notify neighbors and the police when going away on a trip. Cancel deliveries such as newspapers and arrange for someone - a neighbor's child perhaps, to mow the lawn if needed. Arrange for your mail to be held by the Post Office or ask a neighbor to collect it for you.