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Local News - Monday, June 18, 2007

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In Shredding We Trust: AARP offers seminar on investment fraud, ID theft

By **KATIE DUNN**
The Times
GAINESVILLE

It doesn't take much. A discarded credit card application or a stolen wallet can give someone enough access to steal a person's identity.

Details

- AARP Georgia: (866) 295-7281
- James Baggett: (770) 869-7150

The American Association of Retired Persons, AARP, will focus on this danger at its free "Shred-It" Investment and Identity Theft event Saturday.

The Gainesville/Hall County Senior Center will be hosts of the event, which will offer two 30-minute presentations about investment fraud and identity theft, beginning at 10 a.m.

"We have trained 50 speakers to go out and do presentations so we can tell our attendees how they might protect themselves from being victimized," said Ernest Arceneaux, associate state director for AARP Georgia.

James Baggett, regional volunteer leader for the AARP of Northeast Georgia, will discuss identity theft on a "broad scale."

In addition, the public will have a chance to destroy personal and confidential documents that they no longer need.

"At 11 a.m., we will open up a commercial shredder truck and people are invited to bring their documents that they want to shred," Baggett said.

Baggett stressed that "for security reasons" it is important to shred any mail that may have personal information enclosed, as this can be a gold mine for identity thieves.

According to the Federal Trade Commission's Web site, an estimated 9 million Americans become victims of identity theft each year.

Contact: kdunn@gainesvilletimes.com; (770) 718-3419

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